



Summer 2022

NEWSLETTER

Czech-Liechtenstein Society

Member of Europa Nostra



CONTENTS

- Prince Constantin presented a financial donation to Hrušky
- Liechtenstein Day at Smetana's Litomyšl
- Meeting Brno, a multi-genre festival
- Europa Nostra – European summit of cultural heritage
- How to spend summer in Liechtenstein
- From the media



Exhibition of watercolours at Zámecký pivovar (former Castle brewery) in Litomyšl ©Jaroslav Plocek

Foreword from the Board

To understand the continuity of European history, one needs to start with the Roman Empire, which used to spread from northern Africa to Anatolia and the British Isles. When the Western Roman Empire ceased to exist, before 500 A.D., it was not the end of the world, but the beginning of a period of building bridges between the fading classical era and the so-called "Barbarian" nations. The main bridge was Christianity. In 800, Charlemagne was crowned as the emperor of a newly established European formation – the Holy Roman Empire. This was the period of Christianisation of the Czech lands by Irish and Scottish missionaries, the era of the Přemyslids, who laid the foundation of Czech statehood. Also, the relationship between the Czech lands and the family of Liechtenstein begins in the time of the

Přemyslids. In the middle of the 13th century, Ottokar II of Bohemia, the Iron and Golden King, invited the Liechtenstein family to cooperate. The Liechtenstein presence in the Czech territory, especially in southern Moravia, dates back to that time. In the 14th century the family of Liechtenstein bought the Valtice estate; in the 16th century Lednice. The Liechtenstein involvement began to be very significant in the Czech lands already in this historical period. Several outstanding personalities appeared on the princely throne, influencing the course of history. At the turn of the 17th and 18th centuries, Hans Adam I, the Prince of Liechtenstein at that time, bought the two indebted Alpine estates of Schellenberg and Vaduz where an independent state was established



in 1719, within the borders maintained until these days and under the name of the family. Thus, the Principality of Liechtenstein appeared on the map of Europe. The new state was the last one to join the Holy Roman Empire. It was, however, destroyed by Napoleon at the beginning of the 19th century. However, even Napoleon recognized the sovereignty of Liechtenstein. The small Alpine state closely cooperated with its big eastern neighbour, Austria-Hungary, which until 1918 included also the Czech lands. Despite the existence of their own state, the princes of Liechtenstein resided mainly in Valtice in Moravia and in Vienna, Austria.

After World War I, when the Habsburg monarchy ceased to exist, neutral Liechtenstein started a close partnership with Switzerland that was crucial for its later development. In 1938, the acute danger of Nazism and the looming war resulted in the reigning Prince Franz Josef II leaving Czechoslovakia and Austria for Liechtenstein for the first time in the family's 800-year-long history. Elsa Gutmann, the wife of the previous Prince Franz I, surely played an important part in his decision as she was of Jewish origin. After the annexation of Austria by the Reich when strict anti-Semite laws started to apply, Princess Elsa left for Czechoslovakia and later for Switzerland where she survived the war.

During World War II something similar happened as during the Napoleonic wars. Neither Napoleon nor Hitler occupied Liechtenstein. After World War II, the influence of Communists grew in Central Europe with the arrival of the Red Army. Democracy was step by step replaced by a new dictatorship. Like most of the society, prominent noble families such as the Schwarzenbergs in Bohemia and the Liechtensteins in Moravia, were strongly affected by various illegal acts. In the case of the Liechtenstein family, it was done by the presidential decrees of Edvard Beneš, which, however, should not have been applied on the family at all.

As I have already mentioned, Princess Elsa was of Jewish origin, the Liechtensteins were not Germans and they did not collaborate with the Nazis. There was no legal cause to apply the Beneš Decrees. However, the Communists were growing and they

wanted to deprive these aristocratic families of their influence and properties. It is the burden of those decades, of the second half of the 20th century. Before that, there was about three quarters of a millennium of excellent and fruitful cooperation and it has been much stronger and more intensive and it should be continued. The Liechtenstein family are very wise people. It has been proven by the economic miracle as the Principality might be called.

The wheel of history cannot be turned back. Something happened and, unfortunately, cannot be „unhappened“. But over 30 years we have been building a state of law in this country and therefore we cannot close our eyes before big injustices that happened in the past. If we really want to settle the heritage of Communism, and this is one of its manifestations, it is necessary to judge these issues honestly and independently. Lawsuits are going on because if they were not, deadlines would have expired, and it would not have been possible to turn back and deal with the open issues. The Liechtenstein family feel a great responsibility for the heritage of their ancestors, which, as good managers, they continue to develop. It is especially apparent as regards to Liechtenstein, but also in the motivation to repair the situation that happened in this country, which was against the law, and this could open the way to further intensive cooperation. In the past, this cooperation brought many and good fruits. Even today, Liechtenstein remains a great inspiration as a country that does not have to waste its energy on repairing mistakes caused by reversals and revolutions. On one hand it is deeply rooted in its history, on the other it feels the pulse of the current time and belongs among the most developed countries of the world. Let us be inspired by this small-in-size but big-in-significance European country with which we have so much in common. If we are able to gather the positive energy, it will be beneficial not only for both our countries but for the whole common European home. ■

*From a speech given by Daniel Herman
during the Liechtenstein Day
at the Smetana's Litomyšl Music Festival.*



■ When tradition is obliging: Prince Constantin presented a financial donation to renovate the garden of the nursery school in Hrušky

On Thursday 28 April, the south Moravian village of Hrušky witnessed an unusual visit. Prince Constantin, the youngest son of the reigning Prince Hans Adam II came to present a financial donation of CZK 5 million to the municipality to renovate the nursery school garden destroyed by a tornado. *“The expected cost of the construction is almost ten million crowns. The family of Liechtenstein has become the main donor and patron of pre-school education,”* Mayor Jana Filipovičová said in her thank you speech. It is not the first time that the Liechtensteins helped here – already in the past, the family helped several times to build facilities for school education in this, historically Liechtenstein, municipality.

It has been almost one year since the devastating tornado hit and the life in Hrušky has returned to normal at least at first sight. However, the omnipresent remnants of the last-year tragedy are still visible in the village, either when chatting with local people or when walking down its streets: one can hear hammering from houses which are being renovated, the damaged church tower is temporarily covered with a plastic sheet and the facade of the empty school is covered with scaffoldings. Children returned to the building of the nursery school after a profound renovation already in February this year. However, the garden, where a playground used to be, remained closed for children during the spring due to its devastated state. And it was there, where the Prince of Liechtenstein Foundation, together with the municipality, founded a project for children that needed financing but was missed out by the state authorities and other sponsors.

The Prince of Liechtenstein Foundation offered its help almost immediately after the tornado

The determination to help and find a suitable form of support in the affected region was declared by the family immediately after the tragedy in a statement published on behalf of the family by Prince Constantin Liechtenstein on 25 June 2021: *“An immediate help is needed, especially to children who are usually affected the most and who cope with difficulties with what actually happened – and what has substantially changed their lives in several minutes. The Prince of Liechtenstein Foundation is ready to immediately and closely cooperate with the competent Czech authorities to identify and*



Prince Constantin Liechtenstein, Daniel Herman and the youths of Hrušky in their traditional folk costumes which caught the attention of the Prince. *“Very nice clothes”,* he commented.

support sustainable projects with special focus on the needs of children.” (an abbreviated version, the whole statement was published in Newsletter Autumn 2021). Let us remember that not only the princely family participated in the help but also the Liechtenstein government, which donated 20,000 Swiss francs already in September last year, i.e. three months after the tornado, to renovate the stained glass windows of the damaged church in Moravská Nová Ves (more about that in Newsletter Autumn 2021).

Responsibility for the work of ancestors

After several months of preparations and discussions between the Prince of Liechtenstein Foundation and the municipality, the project had its concrete shape which



After months of discussions, the time came to present the project officially, on the occasion Prince Constantin presented a financial donation on behalf of the Prince of Liechtenstein Foundation. A small press conference was held in the garden of the nursery school with the participation of Prince Constantin, the Mayor of Hrušky and the authors of the project.

was ready to be officially presented by Mayor Jana Filipovičová together with Prince Constantin and two authors of the design of the new educative garden. And where else to present it than directly in the ruined garden of the nursery school in Hrušky?

Mayor Jana Filipovičová reminded of the traditional Liechtenstein support for the education in the village and expressed her thanks to the princely family. Prince Constantin continued, saying how pleased he was by the fact that his family can support a renovation of the garden: *"It seemed to us logical to remember this responsibility of our ancestors and remain responsible towards you even today."* He referred to the cultural heritage created in the region by the presence of the Liechtenstein family and also to his family tradition of donations in the field of education and arts. In the village of Hrušky alone, which fell under the Liechtenstein administration in the past, the princely family financed the constructions of several school buildings during the 19th century (more about the history of the school in Hrušky in Newsletter Autumn 2021).

New garden: a playground with climbing frames but also a fire ring and a tepee

And what the new educative garden will look like? The standard was set very high by the Liechtenstein side as the main sponsor of the project: *"We did not want the project we support to be just another nursery school garden. Our ambition was to help Hrušky to have a solution which could become an example for the whole of southern Moravia. Therefore, we were interested in the design from the very*



Accompanied by the representatives of the municipality, Prince Constantin visited the damaged garden of the nursery school which cannot be currently used by the children because of the remnants of dangerous waste. The Prince also met the kids in the nursery school during his short visit. The whole event was very friendly and relaxed.

beginning," explained Constantin Liechtenstein. The design was prepared by two architects from Kroměříž, Miroslava Beňová and Jitka Jiříčková, who were working on the project for six months. Symbolically, a new start is the main theme of the garden. *"Our objective was to create a space which will be exceptional. As the tornado destroyed everything around, it was important for us to make the garden a place of harmony. We hope that children will enjoy it here,"* said Jitka Jiříčková for journalists who were present. The architects managed to include two worlds, that of games and that of education, into the educative garden. The first one is composed of classic playground elements in the front part of the garden, the educative part will be represented in the natural part with full-grown trees, a tepee and a fire ring. In this part, children will help take care of high beds and learn, for example, how water appears in nature. We can only hope that the new garden which should open this autumn will please the kids. We are looking forward to the result! ■



From the left: the Honorary Consul of Liechtenstein in the Czech Republic Daniel Herman, Prince Constantin Liechtenstein and Chairman of the Czech-Liechtenstein Society Petr Svoboda



Lecture of Daniel Herman and Michal Růžička was attended mainly by grammar school students



■ Liechtenstein Day at Smetana's Litomyšl: When a state and a town find a common accord

A bit of education during a lecture on Liechtenstein, a great cultural experience at the opening of the exhibition of watercolour paintings from the Liechtenstein Princely Art Collections and also an evening concert of Ensemble Esperanza, a Liechtenstein-based international music ensemble. But above all, many inspiring meetings and thoughts. In short, it was the Liechtenstein Day at Smetana's Litomyšl music festival. Among others, the Day was visited by Maria-Pia Kothbauer, the Ambassador of Liechtenstein to the Czech Republic, Johann Kräftner, the head of the Liechtenstein Princely Art Collection and the curator of the exhibition, and Daniel Herman, the Honorary Consul of Liechtenstein in the Czech Republic.

Lecture on Liechtenstein

What is the present Liechtenstein like, who are the princely family of Liechtenstein and what are their connections to this country, all this was explained by the lecture entitled "Liechtenstein. One either does not know the country or one admires it", given by Daniel Herman, the Honorary Consul of Liechtenstein in the Czech Republic, and Michal Růžička, the spokesperson of the Prince of Liechtenstein Foundation in the Czech Republic. The lecture took place in the Litomyšl Castle riding hall, a modern multi-purpose

venue designed by HŠH Architects, who gave the whole interior a unique character thanks to its laminated elements. This time the audience mainly consisted of more than a hundred curious students of the local Alois Jirásek Secondary School, who listened carefully and asked various questions in the end. It was the first one of a series of lectures on this topic planned to take place in various cities this year and next.

Exhibition opening

This year the Litomyšl Municipal Gallery and the Liechtenstein Princely Art Collections successfully collaborated to prepare a unique exhibition of watercolour paintings entitled "Rudolf von Alt, Josef Höger, Franz Richter. The beauties of the Czech lands in watercolour paintings from the Liechtenstein Princely Art Collections", presented within the Smetana's Creative Litomyšl festival. For the first time, this exhibition gives the Czech audience a chance to meet a more complete set of works from this famous collection.

The exhibition opening was part of the afternoon programme on Liechtenstein Day. The event was launched at the courtyard of the Castle brewery, where the exhibition is situated, by Pavel Kysilka, the president of the Smetana's Litomyšl Festival, who said he was delighted that this exhibition can be seen in Litomyšl and expressed his thanks to all those involved in its organization, primarily to the Liechtenstein Princely Collections. Daniel Herman, who took the role of the host, then gave the floor to Daniel Brýdl, the Mayor of Litomyšl. In his short speech, the Mayor stressed the things that connect



From the left: H.S.H. Maria-Pia Kothbauer Liechtenstein, the Princely Collection's director and curator of the exhibition Johann Kräftner, the director of the City's Gallery of Litomyšl Martina Zuzánková and the Mayor of Litomyšl Daniel Brýdl
©Jaroslav Plocek



From the left: Daniel Herman, the president of the Smetana's Litomyšl Festival Pavel Kysilka and H.S.H. Maria-Pia Kothbauer Liechtenstein ©Jaroslav Plocek

his native town of Litomyšl with Liechtenstein – not only the names beginning with the same letter but also rich culture and European values.

The visitors of the exhibition can expect a collection of fifty remarkable aquarelles from prominent painters of the 19th century depicting various buildings and corners of the Liechtenstein estates in Bohemia, Moravia and Austria. As Johann Kräftner, the curator of the exhibition, said, the watercolour technique had been a popular way before photography was invented for (not only) the Liechtenstein family to accurately document their properties and record their contemporary shapes for future generations. And thus, we can today see the scenes from the period towns, castles, gardens and various other corners of the countryside. Some of the places do not exist anymore, like e.g. the Chinese Pavilion in the castle park in Lednice, others were substantially changed, e.g. we could hardly recognize the Lednice castle before the rebuilding on a painting by Rudolf von Alt if there were no explanatory card, but we are still able to recognize many others even today. Each painting tells its own unique story, often touching the present and often offering surprising details, like e.g. the painting of the Bučovice castle in which a careful eye can reveal running pigs in the courtyard and washing drying out on lines stretched between the arcades. In short, if you happen to travel through Litomyšl, you should definitely visit the exhibition and make the remarkable journey to the past hidden in the watercolour paintings from the Princely Art Collections.

Aquarelles not only help art historians and architects to study places and buildings that have often vanished but they can offer the general public facts from a historical period without any decorations or artistic licence. That



You want to study watercolours attentively and in detail...
©Jaroslav Plocek

was the reason why HSH Maria-Pia Kothbauer Liechtenstein, the Ambassador of Liechtenstein to the Czech Republic, mentioned in her speech that those paintings came from the period in which Bedřich Smetana lived (who was born in the Litomyšl castle brewery and whose name this outstanding music festival bears). *“It is symbolic that thanks to this exhibition of watercolours the festival visitors can see in what world Bedřich Smetana lived and worked.”* HSH Maria-Pia Kothbauer Liechtenstein said. She thanked to the mayor for inviting her and for maintaining the rich cultural life in the town. She also stressed the significance of the town where the EU presidency was handed over. *“Liechtenstein admires the Czech Republic for its approach to the war in Ukraine, for the help its residents offered and how they accept refugees,”* she said. *“That is also the reason why Liechtenstein is looking forward to the Czech EU presidency.”* *“For my family,”* she added, *“these aquarelles are dear memories of places where we used to live, worked and where our ancestors left rich cultural heritage.”*

Concert of Ensemble Esperanza in the Smetana House

Covid-19 delayed by two years the planned concert of the string ensemble of the Liechtenstein International Music Academy, which gathers the best young generation musicians from the whole world. However, it was very much worth the wait. The concert this year was outstanding and it perfectly framed the last programme part of the Liechtenstein Day. The audience was especially enthusiastic after the interval when Ástor Piazzolla's “Four



String Ensemble Esperanza impressed the whole audience
©Smetanova Litomyšl František Renza

You can still see the exhibition in Litomyšl!

The exhibition of watercolour paintings from the Liechtenstein Princely Collections "The Beauties of the Czech Lands" is open to public in the Litomyšl castle brewery daily **from 10 am to 5 pm until 31 August 2022**. With fascinating details, Rudolf von Alt, Josef Höger and Franz Richter offer an insight into the life and world of the middle of the 19th century.



Seasons in Buenos Aires" was performed. Chouchane Siranossian, a Swiss violin player and the artistic leader of the orchestra, gave a zealous performance in her solo parts, helped by the precise orchestra. No wonder that the audience did not want to let the string ensemble go and required several encores.

"Music is a language," says Chouchane Siranossian, "a way of communication among people. Each member of the Ensemble Esperanza brings some knowledge, some background of his home country... Also, every composer says a different story. And we as musicians are the bridge between him and people. It is an amazing experience to discover all these cultural impulses

and share them with the audience," she said in describing the principles of the academy and her ensemble.

The International Music Academy is strongly rooted in the Principality of Liechtenstein, however, it endeavours to occupy one of the leading positions in the international music scene. As an ensemble with a strong reputation, it tries to form young people and devoted music elites through their contacts with masters in different music areas.

"We are surely a real orchestra but at the same time each member is able to play as a soloist. It gives us a strong feeling of respect and mutual trust. We do not listen only to our own individual sound but we build the sound together," says the Swiss violinist. ■

■ Meeting Brno 2022 – "Liechtenstein is meeting Brno"

Between 22 and 31 July 2022, the 7th multi-genre festival Meeting Brno will be held, offering space for meetings of people of different ideologies, cultures and religions. The programme of the festival consists mainly of discussion forums featuring inspiring speakers and many artistic performances developing the main festival theme – Crossing Places.

Within this year's programme, particularly on Tuesday 26 July, visitors can participate in a programme day dedicated to Liechtenstein. The programme entitled "Liechtenstein is meeting Brno" will offer three main events. The first one will be a lecture on Liechtenstein titled "Liechtenstein: one either does not know the country or admires it" which will be given by Daniel Herman, the Honorary Consul of the Principality of Liechtenstein and a patron of the festival, and Michal Růžička, the spokesman of the Prince of Liechtenstein Foundation. It will be followed by a lecture in the Museum of Applied Arts of the Moravian Gallery given by Dr Johann Kräftner. The head of the Princely Art Collections will speak about the personality of Johann II, Prince of Liechtenstein, whose collections and donations have been enriching Moravian museums

until the present day. And invited guests, including the members of the Czech-Liechtenstein Society, will have the chance to finish the whole day at a reception with Princess Maria-Pia Kothbauer, the Ambassador of Liechtenstein to the Czech Republic.

The Meeting Brno festival developed from a happening in which the city of Brno made a gesture of reconciliation, expressing its pity for the events of 1945, including the wild expulsion of the German-speaking residents, the so-called Brno death march. ■



Augustinian Abbey in Brno ©brno.city.cz



■ The European Cultural Heritage Summit organised by Europa Nostra will take place in Prague in September

The annual European Cultural Heritage Summit will take place in Prague this autumn, from 25 to 27 September 2022. The government of the Czech Republic included the summit among the outstanding events of the programme of the Czech presidency of the Council of the European Union, which falls on the second half of this year.

Europa Nostra is a pan-European federation of non-government organizations focused on the care and protection of the European cultural heritage. It was established in 1963 by seven European countries and over time it has become one of the most outstanding organizations in the field of the care and protection of the cultural heritage across the European continent.



Baronesa Jana Germeris-Hildprandt, opera singer and conductor Maestro Plácido Domingo, opera singer Cecilia Bartoli, Petr Svoboda and Europa Nostra Secretary General Sneška Quaadvlieg-Mihailovic
©Marco Borelli_Salzburg Whitsun Festival



From the left: Minister of Culture Martin Baxa, Europa Nostra Secretary General Sneška Quaadvlieg-Mihailovic and Chairman of the Czech-Liechtenstein Society Petr Svoboda ©MK ČR

Today, Europa Nostra gathers 239 member organizations and 111 associated organizations from 37 countries as well as over one thousand of individual members. The Czech Republic is represented in Europa Nostra by eight member organizations, they are: Association of Castle and Manor Houses Owners, Czech-Liechtenstein Society, European Association of Archaeologists, Institute for Monuments and Culture, Club for Old Prague, Civic Forum Foundation, Association of Historical Residences of Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia and The Friends of Czech Heritage (based in the United Kingdom), associated members are the National Heritage Institute and Charles University.



From the left: Minister of Culture Martin Baxa, Europa Nostra Secretary General Sneška Quaadvlieg-Mihailovic and Chairman of the Czech-Liechtenstein Society Petr Svoboda ©MK ČR



Europa Nostra has its own representation in 17 European countries. The 17th and youngest representation is in the Czech Republic, where the task was taken by the Association of Castle Owners and Manor Houses (AMHZ). Petr Svoboda, vice-president of AMHZ and chairman of the Czech-Liechtenstein Society who also represents the Czech Republic in the Europa Nostra Council, was entrusted with the task to lead the representation of Europa Nostra in the Czech Republic.

This year in May, Cecilia Bartoli, a world-known Italian opera singer, was elected the new president of Europa Nostra, leading the federation for the next five years. *“As a citizen of Europe and a person who dedicated most of my life to cultural heritage, I feel rather privileged to be appointed the*

new president of Europa Nostra and I accept this honour with the biggest pride! I am also pleased that I may continue the work of the last president Plácido Domingo,” said Bartoli.

As mentioned above, the European Cultural Heritage Summit organised by Europa Nostra will take place in Prague at the end of September this year. Registered participants and invited guests may look forward to an interesting programme. Apart from the awarding of the European Cultural Heritage Awards/Europa Nostra Awards, which are the peak of each annual summit, there will be a chance to admire the beauties of Prague monuments and interesting buildings, for example the National Museum, the Wallenstein Palace, Prague’s Castle Gardens or the Old Sewage Treatment Plant in Bubeneč. ■

An interview with Petr Svoboda, a member of the Europa Nostra Council and the Head of the Representation of Europa Nostra in the Czech Republic:

Cecilia Bartoli, a world-known opera singer, was elected the new president of Europa Nostra this year in May. What do you think about the choice?

I believe it is an excellent choice. It is good that it is again somebody from the music field because music is a unifying element. You do not have to know different languages, music is one language. I am also pleased that Maestro Plácido Domingo is followed by a female as the president of Europa Nostra, it is important. He himself said during an informal hand-over of the presidency in Salzburg that he believed the presidency of Europa Nostra was in the right hands.

What part of the Prague Summit in September will be the most interesting for you?

The climax will be surely the European Cultural Heritage Award/Europa Nostra Award ceremony which will be held on 26 September in the State Opera, that will be the highlight of the whole meeting. Another interesting meeting will be, in my opinion, the Agora forum (European Heritage Policy Agora) which will be held on the final day, on 27 September in the Žofín Palace. The

theme for the forum is still being prepared but one of the ideas is to debate about the role of municipalities in the cultural heritage care.

What is, in your opinion, the real impact of the activities of the Europa Nostra federation?

Its main role is to show that cultural heritage is important for us. It is important for Europe and for our Europeanness. I dare to quote a big European and a long-standing member of the European Parliament, Otto von Habsburg, who used to say: *“One who does not know from where he comes, does not know where he goes, because he does not know where he is.”* Cultural heritage is our anchor in the past which helps us in heading further.

Within Europe, Europa Nostra is the most important and most respected non-government organization which promotes the preservation of cultural heritage and at the same time draws attention to the examples of potential loss due to bad care by its programme of 7 Most Endangered. On the other hand, it rewards the best projects in the preservation of cultural heritage, which is done through the European Cultural Heritage Award/Europa Nostra Award in five categories. ■



News from Liechtenstein

“Our initiative is not directed against Russia. It will make the work of the United Nations more efficient,” says Christian Wenaweser, the Liechtenstein ambassador to the U.N.

The Principality of Liechtenstein, as one of the smallest European states, has recently introduced the Veto Initiative at the U.N. In practice, the initiative would mean that if any of the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council uses its right of veto, the U.N. General Assembly must discuss it. *“The only duty which follows from the initiative is a meeting of the General Assembly followed by a discussion,”* explained Christian Wenaweser, the ambassador of Liechtenstein to the U.N. The initiative was mainly motivated by disagreements among the permanent members of the Security Council, i.e. the U.S., U.K., France, Russia and China, which led to less efficient reactions when world peace and security were in danger. *“For more than five years, Liechtenstein has been demanding a stronger position of the General Assembly within the U.N. This initiative is therefore an important step in that direction,”* added Wenaweser.

The initiative should have been originally published in March 2020, however, due to the coronavirus pandemic it happened only now. Wenaweser therefore refuses any connection to the current Russian invasion to Ukraine although he admits that recently Russia has been the country which vetoed the resolutions most often. *“Our initiative is not directed against Russia, it is focused clearly on the possibility of the veto right and balance within the whole organization,”* he said. The resolution will ensure that the countries which used their right of veto in the Security Council would have the chance to explain their decision, as well as why they believe their veto was in accordance with the United Nations Chart. However, it is only a possibility, not a duty. According to Liechtenstein, there is no danger that the countries which applied their veto would misuse their space in the General Assembly for their benefit, or that other countries with the veto right would use the space for political fight.

The current situation in Ukraine, the conduct of Russia and the inactivity on the side of the Security Council only prove that the initiative is a right step to move the General Assembly into the “centre of activity” of the U.N.



©detektiv-trails.com

Otherwise the U.N. will stop being a relevant body on the international scene, the ambassador believes. *“It will be a resolution of the General Assembly which will adopt it for itself. It will have this mandate permanently and it will be applied automatically. It will mean a change,”* added Wenaweser. The initiative has a significant support in the United Nations, Wenaweser therefore believes that nothing should stand in way to its adoption.

Liechtenstein again acquired the highest AAA rating with stable prospects from Standard & Poor's

The Principality of Liechtenstein has kept its excellent rating by the Standard & Poor's rating agency which again gave the country the AAA rating with stable prospects. The agency especially stressed strong economy with high degree of resistance and wide diversification as well as reliable financial position in terms of the public budget. According to Standard & Poor's, even the Liechtenstein economy will be influenced by the war in Ukraine which will be particularly apparent in problems with supply chains and increasing product prices. *“However, Liechtenstein should be able to balance the negative short-term effect of the war in the following two years without any adverse economic consequences,”* added the agency which rates the country every six months. According to Prime Minister Daniel Risch the excellent rating proves the attractiveness of Liechtenstein as a safe and stable place for business.

How to spend summer in Liechtenstein

Detective trail: a treasure hunt in Malbun
Start an exciting treasure hunt in the picturesque mountain village of Malbun in south-eastern part of the country and explore the Liechtenstein mountains in summer!

The whole route starts in the Malbun Information Centre where you can buy a map of the trail - you can also hike using a mobile application. And it is in the Information Centre where the first quiz is waiting for you, when solved you can use the map or app to set out for a 3-hour hike around Malbun and its mountain beauties. You will solve puzzles on your way and if you solve all of them you can open a treasure chest at the end of your trip ■



... take a look at our Instagram account @czechliechtensteinsociety

We continue our Instagram activities! Join us and follow @czechliechtensteinsociety!



10 May 2022 - This spring marks the 60th anniversary of Naturpark Sparbach, the oldest nature reserve in Austria, founded in 1962 by the Princely family of Liechtenstein. The Czech-Liechtenstein Society, headed by its Chairman Petr Svoboda and the Honorary Consul of the Principality of Liechtenstein in the Czech Republic Daniel Herman, also took part in the festive programme at the invitation of Hans Jörg Damm, the director of Liechtenstein Farming and Forestry Company in Wilfersdorf. ■



3 June 2022 - The original Gothic castle, which was successively rebuilt into a chateau. At the end of the 19th century, the great patron and collector Prince Johann II of Liechtenstein (1858–1929) founded a forestry and hunting museum here, which still operates today. Its exhibitions contain a unique collection of this kind in Central Europe.

However, the castle area was also once used for education: even before the museum itself was founded, the oldest forestry school in Moravia was located here for several years from 1852. It was also established at the initiative of the Liechtenstein family. Forestry and hunting have always been an important part of the management of all Liechtenstein estates, and the Princely House has consistently paid attention to their development. ■



16 June 2022 - ÚSOV. A spa historically linked to the Princely House of Liechtenstein? Yes! Just go to the Thermal Spa in Velké Losiny. This spa, famous for its healing sulphur springs, is one of the oldest in Moravia. They were founded in the 16th century by the Žerotín family, who contributed to their great development. This continued after 1802, when the spa and the whole estate were bought by the Liechtensteins. The spa area was expanded with many new buildings and a large spa park with exotic trees was established. Visitors to the spa can still admire the beautifully blooming rhododendrons in spring. ■



©National Technical Museum in Prague

■ From the media

The exhibition “Hardtmuth: From Charcoal to a Pencil Empire” in the National Technical Museum in Prague focuses on the figure of Joseph Hardtmuth

28 June 2022 | Czech Press Agency

The figure of Josef Hardtmuth (1758–1816) whom many people connect mainly with the invention of pencil is introduced by a new exhibition in the National Technical Museum. It is called “Hardtmuth: From Charcoal to a Pencil Empire” and the visitors will also learn about his designing and building activities in the service of the Liechtenstein princely family which left traces in southern Moravia and northern Austria.

“Hearing Hardtmuth, many people mainly think about pencil and also the Minaret in the Lednice castle park. I believe that the figure of Josef Hardtmuth and his followers deserve a wider introduction because he was not only a princely architect but also an inventor and businessman. The case of the company Hardtmuth Koh-i-noor which has been successfully working for over 230 years is a typical example of a family company based mainly on the patents of its founder and managerial skills of his offspring. Also this business history is the subject of a new exhibition of the National Technical Museum in Prague,” said Karel Ksandr, the head of the museum.

The authors dedicated the first part of the exhibition to Hardtmuth as architect. Many Joseph Hardtmuth’s designs related to existing as well as non-existing buildings are on display. Hardtmuth is known mainly for his buildings like the Minaret and aqueduct in the Lednice castle park or the Belveder hunting lodge near Valtice.

The authors of the exhibition did not omit his cooperation with garden architects when composing the landscape that is visible for example in the Lednice-Valtice Complex listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site but also in the integration of

You can visit the exhibition “Hardtmuth: From Charcoal to a Pencil Empire” in the National Technical Museum from 29 June 2022 until 26 March 2023.

buildings in different types of urban environment in the Austrian-Moravian borderland. The exhibition is an output of a several-year-long project by experts from three institutions: National Technical Museum, National Museum of Agriculture and National Heritage Institute. Another part of the exhibition is focused on Hardtmuth as a businessman, inventor and founder of the company in Vienna which was transferred by his son to České Budějovice, where it has been in operation since. It will take the visitors through the history of the company Koh-i-noor Hardtmuth from its beginnings in 1790 until the end of the 20th century. The name of the company is derived from the famous diamond. In 1802, the company had a recipe patented for the production of pencil lead from a mixture of fine clay and graphite. In yet another part, the exhibition introduces Hardtmuth’s son Carl who transferred the factory founded by his father to České Budějovice in 1848. In the beginning Carl was assisted by his older brother Ludwig and therefore from 1828 the factory bore the name L. & C. Hardtmuth. The company which throughout its history changed its name several times, won fame worldwide and became one of the most important companies of the Czech and later Czechoslovak industry, say the authors of the exhibition. ■



©National Technical Museum in Prague