



ANNUAL SELECTION 2022

NEWSLETTER '22

Czech-Liechtenstein Society

Member of Europa Nostra



Liechtenstein's popular winter resort Malbun © Liechtenstein Marketing

WINTER 2022

■ Honorary Chairwoman's Address

The Czech Republic and the Principality of Liechtenstein join forces in helping Ukraine

2022 was in many ways a challenging year for the whole world, particularly for the European continent. With Russia's war in Ukraine, our societies were faced with many of its consequences. The people of our two countries responded with great empathy to the plight of Ukrainian people. On the state level, both, the Czech Republic and the

Principality of Liechtenstein, took up their responsibilities in responding swiftly to these challenges by giving political support and humanitarian aid to Ukraine and by granting refuge to an unprecedented number of people. The Liechtenstein government has furthermore decided to support the remarkable work of the Czech NGO "People in Need" in favor of Ukrainian refugees in Georgia.

Czech-Liechtenstein relations benefitting from the Czech leadership in the European Union

By presiding over the European Union in the second semester of 2022 the Czech Republic was particularly well placed to provide leadership in meeting these considerable challenges. Czech leadership over the past six months was greatly appreciated and widely recognized. For Czech-Liechtenstein relations the EU Presidency meant even closer contacts between the two countries and many visits of Liechtenstein members of Government to Prague.



The Czech Republic and the Principality of Liechtenstein are closely linked by the Europe-an Economic Area by which both countries share a common market and the so-called Four Freedoms. Furthermore, both countries are members of the Schengen/Dublin Agreements. Via the Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Area (EEA) Liechtenstein contributes to a whole set of cohesion projects in the Czech Republic ever since the country has joined the European Union.

Upon invitation by Prime Minister Fiala the Head of the Liechtenstein government, Dr. Daniel Risch, attended the first meeting of the European Political Community, an important initiative bringing together more than 40 European states willing to join forces in upholding democracy and the rule of law in international affairs. This important meeting was held in Prague in October.

Earlier in the year Dominique Hasler, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Liechtenstein, travelled to Prague in order to meet with her Czech counterparts, Jan Lipavský, as well as with the Czech Minister for European Affairs, Mikuláš Bek. The ministers led an in-depth ex-changed on matters pertaining to European affairs and to Czech Liechtenstein relations. They agreed to further extend the work of the Czech-Liechtenstein Commission of histori-ans. The ministers also coordinated their positions on the Russian war in Ukraine on which both countries are like-minded and share a deep concern.

A year rich in content and activities

Despite these challenges, Czech-Liechtenstein relations and the Society looks back on a year rich in content and activities.

The Society once more initiated own and participated in a whole set of activities through-out the country and in properties of the Princely Family in Austria. Among these events are the visit of Prince Constantin von Liechtenstein, CEO of the Prince of Liechtenstein Foundation, to Hrušky, badly hit by the 2021 summer tornado, in April where he handing over a check of the Foundation for the restauration of playground of the local kindergar-ten and the subsequent trip to the Sparbach Nature Park in Lower Austria.

During the summer months, two „Liechtenstein Days“ were held at two prominent Czech cultural festivals. As part of the „Smetana's Litomyšl Festival“, a Liechtenstein Day was held in Litomyšl in June, including the opening of an exhibition of the Princely Collections as well as lectures on the rich common history of the two countries. The second „Liech-tenstein Day“ took place in July as part of the „Meeting Brno“ cultural festival. Honorary Consul, Daniel Herman, Johann Kräftner, Director of the

Princely Collections, as well as Michal Růžička provided visitors with insights to the history and present of Czech-Liechtenstein relations. Both „Liechtenstein days“ and their lectures rich in content were met with great interest by the broad public.

The Autumn started with an important jubilee. On 23rd September, South Moravia cele-brated the 1.200th anniversary of its first documentary mention. On this occasion, Gover-nor Jan Grolich invited the Liechtenstein Ambassador to a festive concert in Brno. This anniversary also reminded us of the far-reaching ties between Liechtenstein and Moravia. In 1249, Ottokar II Přemysl, later King of Bohemia, transfered Mikulov to Heinrich von Liechtenstein.

Mourning the loss of Ambassador Kateřina Fialková

On November 1st Ambassador Kateřina Fialková, Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Switzerland and Liechtenstein, suddenly passed away at the age of 55. During her 3 years in office as Czech ambassador to Liechtenstein, she gained an excellent reputation in Liechtenstein and was highly valued by the government and by her colleagues for her out-standing commitment. She explored every possible inch to create new areas of coopera-tion between the two countries. Only back in October she held the first reception ever for the Czech National Day in Liechtenstein and skillfully placed the Czech EU Presidency at the service of Czech Liechtenstein relations. Her work was comprehensive and included the area of culture as well as economy. She successfully explored opportunities of coop-eration in the field of blockchain technology. Ambassador Kateřina Fialková will be re-membered as an outstanding ambassador of the Czech Republic to Liechtenstein and as lovely and humorous colleague. *RIP Kateřina*

Thank you!

With the year 2022 coming to its end I want to wholeheartedly thank the Czech-Liechtenstein Society and its dedicated board for all the interest and hard work that is put into the numerous and well thought through activities of the Society. Your commitment to foster the still young but historically strong relationship between our two countries is profoundly appreciated and has great value. ■

**I WISH YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES
A BLESSED CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR 2023!**

*HSH Maria-Pia Kothbauer Liechtenstein
Ambassador of the Principality to the Czech Republic*



Listeners are gathering in the HAMU Gallery Hall

■ Lecture on Liechtenstein in Prague's Liechtenstein Palace

This year's series of lectures on Liechtenstein and the princely family was rounded out stylishly in the premises of the Liechtenstein Palace in Malostranské náměstí in Prague, whose individual parts were architectonically united by Prince Charles I of Liechtenstein (1569–1627).

The last lecture was held on the evening of November 22 in the hall of the Liechtenstein Palace Gallery, which is the current seat of the Music and Dance Faculty (HAMU) of the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague. The courtyard of the palace serves as a summer stage for concerts, dramatic and opera performances.



The first part of the lecture was given by Honorary Consul of the Principality of Liechtenstein in the Czech Republic
Daniel Herman



The evening programme was opened by
a short musical performance

Musical introduction with a Romantic Liechtenstein composer

The lecture was held under the auspices of Professor Ivan Klánský, the HAMU dean. Together with Petr Svoboda, the chairman of the Czech-Liechtenstein Society, they delivered the opening speech in turns and welcomed the guests.

The opening speech was followed by a short musical sample of a work by the Romantic Liechtenstein composer and music teacher Josef Gabriel Rheinberger, played by Professor Klánský and his son, which certainly attuned the listeners to the subsequent lecture on Liechtenstein.

In the traces of the Liechtensteins

Just like with the previous lectures called *"Liechtenstein: You either don't know it or you admire it"*, the first speaker of the evening was Daniel Herman, the honorary consul of the Principality of Liechtenstein in the Czech Republic. He spoke in particular about the historic context and the intertwined histories of the Principality of Liechtenstein and Czechia. Michal Růžička, spokesman for the Prince of Liechtenstein Foundation and the princely family for the Czech Republic, then introduced contemporary Liechtenstein. After the lectures, listeners had the chance to ask questions. They used the opportunity to ask both lecturers on further facts and matters of interest.

This was the end, for this year, of a successful series of lectures in Bohemian, Moravian and Silesian cities, held in places with a Liechtenstein trace. ■



SPRING 2022

Chairman's Address

Covid. Tornado. Ukraine. Three words that make other issues look like a trifle. Three words that have gradually dominated the public space so strongly that each of us asks practically every day: how will we settle down in this new world?

The Czech-Liechtenstein Society has been asking this question by means of its members for the past three years. Of course, Covid-19 in particular has temporarily restricted our programme and comfort. But I am happy to say that we have never allowed these three words to corner us, we have not forgotten one or the other for the third, and, above all, they have never made us forget why we as an Association were established and why we are still active despite the turbulences brought by time. The Czech-Liechtenstein Society has stood up to all three challenges: because of Covid, we have modernised mutual communication; after the tornado, we helped a school in the badly-hit village of Hrušky, and we have supported Ukraine with a financial gift used for the protection of this shelled and insidiously attacked country.

Naturally, none of the three words representing serious threats to our society and civilisation will cease to affect our lives in the days to come. We will monitor their manifestations, we will keep reacting to them if necessary or useful, but in the meantime we will be happy to get back to our original mission, that is, doing our best to help improve relations between the Czech Republic and Liechtenstein, spread further the information about the historic Liechtenstein legacy in our lands. In this context, I believe that 2022 will be rich in programme, interesting, spread in a varied way across our country and beyond, and that the broader public will also take note of our activities.

Daniel Herman, a member of the CLS Board and Honorary Consul of the Principality of Liechtenstein in the Czech Republic, led participants at the General Assembly held in Brno in March to a brief prayer for an end to the horrors in Ukraine. In today's opening text for this Newsletter, besides calling for a prayer for the victory of the good over the evil, I would like to present a wish: Covid, Tornado, Ukraine. Let's not allow these three words and the related suffering to veil the purpose of our meetings and common work. Let us wish each other to stay ourselves, to retain our identity and integrity. Each of our members and the Association as a whole. ■

Petr Svoboda

Chairman of the Czech-Liechtenstein Society

Exhibition & Anniversary: The Constant Prince. Joseph Wenzel and his art

Prince Joseph Wenzel of Liechtenstein (1696-1772) - a diplomat, commander, strategist, but also art lover and collector, who expanded the Liechtenstein art collection by many outstanding works of art. We could admire some of them at the recently concluded exhibition on Joseph Wenzel of Liechtenstein at the Garden Palace in Vienna. It was organised

to commemorate the 250th anniversary of his death, and it also opened the annual series of exhibitions called "March at the Palace".



Giovanni Antonio Canal, nicknamed Canaletto (1697-1768): Venezia Grand Canal, 1723/24, loan from the Thyssen-Bornemisza National Museum in Madrid



Unknown Italian master: The arrival of Prince Joseph I of Liechtenstein to Parma on September 3, 1760, painted after 1761 © LIECHTENSTEIN. Princely Art Collections. Vaduz–Vienna

Prince Joseph Wenzel of Liechtenstein was a man of many talents and pastimes, as was typical of an educated Baroque nobleman of the time. By means of the exhibits on display, the “Constant Prince” exhibition introduced to the visitors a personality that made an indelible mark in the history not only of his family, but of Europe as a whole.

One of the roles he played with success was his diplomatic career. First in Berlin, at the court of the Prussian king, later at the court of French King Louis XV, where he worked on an assignment from Emperor Charles VI in 1737–1740. His Paris mission required huge expenditures on representation which he could only afford owing to his wealth. One of its symbols is a golden Rococo coach, one of five made for this occasion by French architect Nicolas Pineau and by which the prince of Liechtenstein ceremonially arrived as the imperial ambassador to Paris and Versailles. However, the coaches were also used later on for different representative occasions. In 1760, for instance, Prince Joseph Wenzel set out for Parma, following a request by Empress Maria Theresa, to pick up Isabella of Parma, the future wife of her son, later Emperor Joseph II. The entourage with coaches was depicted in the main square in Parma by an unknown Italian artist. Today, this only preserved coach welcomes visitors in the entrance hall of the Garden Palace in Vienna.

A portrait of Joseph Wenzel with the Order of the Golden Fleece also comes from France. It was painted by Hyacinthe Rigaud, the most famous portrait painter in Paris at the time, following an order from the prince.

Diplomacy, however, did not always suffice. From his youth, Joseph Wenzel, following the example of his father and many other family members, decided to pursue a military career, and during his lifetime he took part in several European wars as a member of the Austrian army. During military campaigns, he noticed how poorly equipped and little efficient the Austrian artillery was. Even though he himself had no experience with the artillery, he launched a radical reform of the Austrian artillery of his own initiative and with authorisation from Empress Maria Theresa. With the help of the prince, the artillery was promoted to an



The exhibition also featured two paintings by Italian Bernardo Bellotto depicting the Garden Palace in 1758. One of them shows Prince Joseph Wenzel himself with his servant

independent army unit besides the cavalry and infantry. He invested immense financial means from his own resources in modernisation and the education of artillery men.

Results were quick to come. The defeat of the Prussian army at Kolín in 1757 was memorable. The modernised artillery troops made a significant contribution to Austria’s victory. However, Prince Joseph Wenzel also made a mark in history as a keen art collector. Owing to him, the princely collections were enlarged with many valuable works of art. The first catalogue also emerged during his life. The exhibits on display comprised not only works of art, but also books, letters and documents. For instance his correspondence helped unveil the personal relationship between Prince Joseph Wenzel and Empress Maria Theresa, who described him as “*an outstanding citizen and a faithful friend*”, as well as the lifetime bond to Prussian King Friedrich the Great, for whom Joseph Wenzel was “*a faithful prince*”. ■

Interview with Johann Kräftner, director of the Princely Art Collections

1. Prince Joseph Wenzel was known, among other things, as a great art collector. What did he focus on?

On the one hand, Prince Joseph Wenzel collected great works of art by famous masters of the past eras, I would mention for instance the enamels depicting the Trojan War or the equestrian statuette of Ferdinando I de Medici by Giambologna. On the other hand, he was extremely fond of contemporary art, which is obvious from his orders and acquisitions: from Bellotto and Canaletto in Venice, Chardin and Rigeaud in Paris, to Batoni in Rome. He also made an intensive use of all his travels and diplomatic missions to procure works of art.



2. What was on display at the exhibition and which must-see exhibits would you recommend to visitors?

The most important works at the exhibition were undoubtedly two large "Liechtenstein Canalettos" loaned by the Thyssen Museum in Madrid, which once used to be exhibited on the walls of the Garden Palace in Vienna alongside two other similarly large and 14 smaller paintings by the Italians Canaletto and Bellotto. These were sold in the 1950s, with the exception of Bellotto's two views of the Garden Palace commissioned by Prince Joseph Wenzel in 1758 when the artist was passing through Vienna.

3. Did all the artwork on display come from the Liechtenstein art collections?

As has been said, the exhibition also comprised some outstanding loans. I have already mentioned two paintings by Canaletto from the Thyssen collection. Four paintings by French painter Jean Simeon Chardin from the National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa and the National Gallery in Washington are equally important. We should not forget about the monumental painting by Franz Anton Palko, depicting Prince Joseph Wenzel with Emperor Joseph II and his second wife. This was an

important loan from the Valtice castle. I will also mention a bust from the Belvedere by Balthasar Ferdinand Moll, which used to be a part of monumental wall decorations in honour of Prince Joseph Wenzel of Liechtenstein at the imperial armoury in Vienna. It was commissioned by Empress Maria Theresa in 1758.

4. Did you personally have a favourite item at the exhibition?

I really liked the last work on display: Messerschmidt's bust of Prince Joseph Wenzel, created probably posthumously in 1773. It reduces the prince's face to his impressive visage as an old man, with sharp lines of the eyes, mouth, ears and hair, without adding anything else.

5. The Joseph Wenzel exhibition opened a series of annual exhibitions called "March at the Palace". Can you already tell us what to look forward to next year?

The princely Liechtenstein collections also comprise the most important collection of statues in private hands. Therefore, the next exhibition will focus on the works of Adrian de Vries made in Prague, bronze statues by Antico, Soldani and Dusquesnois, and probably also marble sculptures by Alessandro Algardi, Domenico Guidi and Antonio Canova.

Anniversary: Maria Theresa of Savoy (11. 11. 1694-20. 2. 1772)

Up to now, people in Kostelec nad Černými lesy have referred to Maria Theresa of Savoy as "our Savoyard", a remarkable woman who contributed to the development of the entire region. Her legacy reflects her great personal piety corresponding to the waning, spiritually exalted Baroque era. With her progressive reforms which she introduced in her domains, she anticipated the breakthrough Enlightenment period. The duchess of Savoy, princess of Liechtenstein, which are only some of her many titles, died 250 years ago.

Maria Theresa, born princess of Liechtenstein, was the daughter of Prince Johann Adam I of Liechtenstein and Maria Edmunda Theresa of Dietrichstein. She was born in Vienna as their sixth child. At age 18, and following the death of her father, she took over the Liechtenstein domains in central Bohemia. Besides Kostelec nad Černými lesy, which is mentioned the most frequently in relation to her activities in the Czech Lands, she also owned the domains of Škvorec, Uhříněves and Plaňany (she later also bought the domains of Kounice and Rataje).

In terms of her wedding perspectives, it is obvious that the Liechtenstein princess and wealthy heiress Maria Theresa was a great match. The family therefore started to look for a bridegroom. They chose Thomas Emmanuel, the Duke of Savoy-Carignan, the nephew of famous commander Eugene of Savoy, who also personally took part in preparatory work for the wedding. In 1713, Kostelec nad Černými lesy witnessed a magnificent wedding held at the Castle Chapel of St Adalbert. A year later, their only child was born - son Eugene Johann Franz. However, the family happiness did not last long. In 1729, at age 34, Maria Theresa of Savoy became a widow after her



The pious duchess had a number of religious buildings built or repaired in her domains, including the single-nave Baroque Church of Holy Guardian Angels in the Kostelec nad Černými lesy square

husband had died of smallpox. Another tragedy followed shortly afterwards when her son died during a military campaign in France.

On the subjects' side

After the death of her husband, the duchess focused her attention on the management of her domains in Bohemia and Austria, although the Czech domains were managed remotely from Vienna. As a widow, Maria Theresa of Savoy no longer visited the Czech Lands. However, as proven by preserved written orders and other documents issued by her office, lively correspondence was under way between the Liechtenstein palace in Vienna and the domain authority in Bohemia. The owner of the domain, however, was well aware of the cons of her absence for her subjects and in a resolution from 1766, she stated, via local priests, that *"...subjects oppressed illegally by our managerial officials or those who could not see their just demands settled without bribery and who are now afraid... are to address their complaints directly to us as the most merciful highness, either in writing or in person, and the door shall remain open to them at all times."* And since it was largely Czech-speaking citizens who lived in her central Bohemian domains, the duchess permitted her subjects to address her in Czech instead of the official German.

Enlightenment pioneer

Owing to her care, the then-Liechtenstein domains in central Bohemia finally recovered from the aftermath of the Thirty Years' War and started to flourish again. This was undoubtedly also due to the wise social policy of the duchess. Great steps taken by Maria Theresa of Savoy included the abolition of serfdom, a revolutionary move in the context of the era. The introduction of free schooling was equally important for her subjects and their children. In a resolution from 1755, the duchess ordered that teachers receive fixed wages from the local authority. This freed her subjects from mandatory



Meytens, Martin van (1695–1770), A Portrait of Maria Theresa of Savoy © LIECHTENSTEIN. Princely Art Collections. Vaduz-Vienna



payments and supplies to keep teachers at schools. This all happened several decades ahead of the great Enlightenment reforms of her namesake, Austrian Empress Maria Theresa, and her son, Emperor Joseph II.

Woman with deeply rooted trust in God

Not only her faith in progress, typical of the future Enlightenment reformers, but also considerable personal piety and care of the spiritual life of her subjects are reflected in the legacy of this remarkable personality. She helped reorganise the parish administration of the time, she built new churches, chapels and parish houses. She had statues of St Donatus, the Bishop of Arezzo and patron saint protecting believers from storms and hail, erected in all her central Bohemian domains. They became the target of regular pleading processions seeking to avert bad weather and the related natural disasters. Bells bought for each municipality in the domain upon the duchess's order were due to fulfil the same task.

Sponsor and supporter of the poor

Besides bad weather, subjects in the individual cities and villages of the domain also suffered from frequent fires. The duchess therefore established a special fund to help people affected by a fire or another natural disaster. She also helped her subjects when the great famine broke out in 1755 – Maria Theresa ordered the opening of feudal granaries.

The Baroque building of a former hospital with a poorhouse situated underneath the castle in Kostelec nad Černými lesy still recalls Maria Theresa of Savoy's care of the poor and the ill. This house was built in 1726–1728 next to an existing hospital built by the previous owners of the domain, the Smiřický of Smiřice family. Unlike in



The building of a Baroque hospital with a poorhouse, built directly under the castle by Maria Theresa of Savoy. The centre of the main façade with a triangular gable is decorated with a relief of the Savoy-Lichtenstein coat of arms

the past, the hospital treated both men and women from the time of Maria Theresa's governance.

The good duchess did not neglect her subjects in her last will: she forgave their debts to authorities and donated several thousand golden coins to each domain for the needs of the poor. Duchess Maria Theresa of Savoy, Duchess of Liechtenstein, died in Vienna on February 20, 1772. She is buried next to her husband and son in the Savoy Tomb of St Stephen's church in Vienna, which she had commissioned.

Savoyard's legacy is still alive

On February 20 this year, exactly on the 250th anniversary of her death, Cardinal Dominik Duka commemorated Maria Theresa when he celebrated a requiem in the Church of Holy Guardian Angels in Kostelec nad Černými lesy, also commissioned by Maria Theresa of Savoy. Participants in the mass included Petr Svoboda, chairman of the Czech-Liechtenstein Society, and Pavel Juřík, a member of the CLS Board and co-organiser of the mass. ■

■ Liechtenstein stands behind Ukraine

News of Russia's military invasion of Ukraine sparked a shock and condemnation in the Principality of Liechtenstein. It joined the vast majority of the world as its top state representatives strongly denounced this aggression against a sovereign state.

A day after the Russian military invasion of Ukraine, on February 25, the Liechtenstein government approved an immediate release of extraordinary financial aid worth CHF 500,000, both for people affected by the war directly in Ukraine and for refugees fleeing the country. Several days later, the government asked parliament to approve an additional financial sum of CHF 1.8 million to help

Ukraine.

Following steps taken by the European Union, the government also gradually approved sanction packages against Russia and, later on, against Belarus. They hit both organisations and specific individuals with ties to the Putin regime. Liechtenstein also restricted payments for some Russian financial institutions and financial



A meeting of the Liechtenstein government, February 25, 2022: Deputy Prime Minister Sabine Monauni and Foreign Minister Dominique Hasler tell ministers about the sanctions adopted © Government Information and Communication

transactions and investment activities involving Russia. Similarly to other European countries, the Principality of Liechtenstein also saw a large wave of solidarity with Ukraine. Both individuals and organisations started to

help financially or materially by means of humanitarian organisations including Charity Liechtenstein, the Red Cross of Liechtenstein and Refugee Aid Liechtenstein. Besides, as the conflict continues, since the beginning of March refugees from Ukraine have also been seeking asylum here, in the Alpine principality that is relatively remote from the conflict. They are getting a special protective status for refugees activated by the Liechtenstein government. Within international relations, Liechtenstein also cooperates in handling the refugee crisis with Moldova, which is currently overburdened with refugees from neighbouring Ukraine. At the end of March, therefore, Liechtenstein received 20 refugees from Moldova. ■

From a speech delivered by Foreign Minister Dominique Hasler, "Freedom and Self-Determination in Times of Aggression" at Princeton University in the United States on March 16, 2022

"We have witnessed a frontal aggression against Ukraine, a founding member of the United Nations, and an assault on the international rule of law of historic gravity. This has also been a direct attack against the founding principles of the United Nations – the ultimate guardian of State sovereignty also for Liechtenstein. The Liechtenstein government has strongly condemned this aggression. Together with our partners in the United States and Europe we will be steadfast and persistent in our solidarity with Ukraine, and in our resolve to ensure accountability for the crimes committed in this illegal war. I am shocked by the reports of atrocious war crimes committed by the Russian armed forces. But Liechtenstein is also keen to see the prosecution of the decision itself to launch the invasion of Ukraine – the crime of aggression."

From an interview of HSH Hereditary Prince Alois of Liechtenstein on the war in Ukraine for the Liechtensteiner Volksblatt daily, March 3, 2022

Prince Alois strongly condemned the Russian attack on Ukraine: *"I strongly condemn the Russian invasion of Ukraine. This is an unacceptable violation of international law. In this difficult time, I am thinking above all of the Ukrainian people. Liechtenstein can stand behind Ukraine and its citizens at the diplomatic level on the one hand, and support them through humanitarian aid on the other."*

On the economic impact of the conflict on Liechtenstein:

"The war will have a negative impact on the international economy, especially in Europe. Liechtenstein as a most internationally oriented business locality will feel it too. Companies for which Russia and Ukraine are important markets will be hit the hardest. In general, however, we must also reckon with a growth in the exchange rate of the Swiss franc, higher spending on energies and other problems in the segment of supplier chains."

On the possibility of a great war in Europe: *"I am convinced that NATO and other relevant political actors will do their best to prevent a great war in Europe."* In spite of this, Prince Alois sees the path towards peace as thorny.

From a statement by HSH Adam II for the 1FLTV channel, February 28, 2022

On the occasion of an opening of an exhibition on Prince Joseph Wenzel I of Liechtenstein at the Garden Palace in Vienna, the ruling Prince Hans Adam II made a clear statement on the war.

On the current situation in Ukraine: *"We are witnessing a dangerous development and I'm asking myself how it will evolve."*

Liechtenstein itself can only do little here. However, Hans Adam II has welcomed the economic sanctions, labelling them as a convenient tool *"because they concern Russia above all"*. Prince Hans Adam II would probably go a step further in the energy sector, which has largely been left out of the sanctions so far. *"You can buy oil and gas elsewhere. We don't need Russia for that and we don't have to buy anything from them,"* said Prince Hans Adam II.



SUMMER 2022

■ 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



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

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



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 with the participation of Prince Constantin, spokesperson for the Foundation and the Princely Family for the Czech Republic Michal Růžička, the Mayor of Hrušky and the authors of the project



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

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 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 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 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! ■



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



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



From the left: HSH 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 Zuzáňáková and the Mayor of Litomyšl Daniel Brýdl © Jaroslav Plocek

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 his native town of Litomyšl with Liechtenstein - not only the names



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

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 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 symbolical 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 thank you 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."*



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



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



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 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. ■

AUTUMN 2022

■ Reflections by the Honorary Chairman

In the Lawyers and Business magazine, issue 3/2022, which was distributed to all CLS members, I read with interest a partner interview called "The Czech Republic versus the Liechtensteins Case" with Dr. Maximilian Schaffgotsch, a legal adviser to the Prince of Liechtenstein Foundation. I was thoroughly attracted by his erudite and refined legal arguments which made me reflect on the issue. I would like to share my thoughts with you.

The goal of the association set out in the articles of association is to promote and cultivate Czech-Liechtenstein relations. At the same time, we are most interested in seeing the ongoing dispute between the Czech Republic and Liechtenstein resolved as soon as possible, and we herein express our clear standpoint on this.

The joint history of Czech-Liechtenstein relations, established almost 800 years ago, is quite clear and much has been written about it. Between the middle of the 13th century and the beginning of the 20th century, the princely Liechtenstein family obtained a territory spanning around 1,600 square kilometres in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia (Liechtenstein's area is about 160 square kilometres). On this territory, it built, rebuilt or reconstructed dozens of castles,

schools, hospitals, churches, old people's homes etc. With the expropriation of the princely assets after the First World War (against a partial compensation in cash), the Liechtensteins lost about 1,000 square kilometres of land, including all that stood on it. On the basis of the Beneš Decrees in 1945, they lost the rest of their assets through confiscation without compensation.

At first sight, the legal nature of mutual relationships and the court disputes seem to be very complicated even in the eyes of experts, let alone the lay public. However, I dare say their nature is in fact very simple.

In my opinion, it is beyond doubt that the Beneš Decrees, which only concerned Germans, Hungarians, collaborators and traitors, should in no way have been applied to ruling Prince Franz Josef II, who was the head of a sovereign state, or the other 36 Liechtenstein citizens. It should be clear to everyone at first sight that the Liechtensteins are not and have never been Germans (which is the only, and fabricated at that, reason that Czechoslovak authorities used to justify the confiscation after 1945), and that the property seizure was unlawful from the start. It is quite obvious that the state committed wrongdoings vis-a-vis the citizens of Liechtenstein, which must be put right as soon as possible.

The princely Liechtenstein family has been seeking a remedy for all Liechtenstein citizens continually since 1945. First it used legal means which were rejected by the communist authorities after 1948, and then it tried to reach an agreement, especially after 1989. To no avail up to now. On the contrary, the disputes have recently been taken to courtrooms for different reasons.



This includes above all the so-called Říčany case, a dispute over about 600 hectares of land entered in line with regulations in the Land Registry as the property of Prince Franz Josef II and subsequently of the Foundation, which inherited it in accord with the law. However, the Czech state had the land transferred into its hands following a lawsuit filed in 2014. Once again, the relevant courts including the Czech Constitutional Court based their decisions on the argument that the Liechtensteins are of a German nationality, without taking any steps to offer evidence. As a result, and since the Liechtensteins are perceived in the same way in other disputes too, the Liechtenstein government decided to file an international complaint against the Czech Republic with the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) in Strasbourg. This is not the Foundation's dispute over the return of confiscated or otherwise seized property, but a dispute between two countries with the statement that the Czech Republic violated the 1950 European Convention on Human Rights through courts after 2014, in particular by neglecting the prohibition of discrimination, the rights to protection of property, to a fair trial, to respect for private and family life, and to an effective remedy. Czechoslovakia initialled the Convention in 1992. If the ECHR does not reject the complaint, it can only state in its verdict that the relevant articles of the Convention have been violated, and then it will be up to the relevant Czech authorities to arrange a remedy in the Říčany case.

However, a positive verdict of the ECHR should have a crucial, though indirect, influence on other disputes over the return of property confiscated from Liechtenstein citizens. The Foundation and other Liechtenstein citizens had to start these disputes against the Czech Republic at 26 Czech courts at the end of 2018 to protect their rights within a deadline for the adverse possession of real estate in line with paragraph 196 and paragraph 3066 of the Civil

Code, otherwise all those confiscated or seized assets of Liechtenstein citizens would most probably have become the property of the Czech Republic for good.

These are and will be drawn-out court trials lasting many years. It is possible that after all ordinary and extraordinary types of remedy have been exhausted, they will end up at Strasbourg again. I am convinced that in these trials, the state should offer a legal reason forming the basis for its occupancy/ownership. In other words, the courts should aim at proving whether the confiscation based on the Beneš Decrees should have affected the Liechtensteins or not (hence, this is not an attack on the Decrees as such: the Foundation does not question their existence and validity), and whether the seizure was not an invalid, or even negligible (legally non-existent), legal act, given the fact that the confiscation was merely based on the statement that the Liechtensteins are Germans in the sense of the Decrees, which they are definitely not.

With more than forty years of an attorney's career under my belt, I am fully aware that as long as lower-instance courts are bound by the legal opinions of higher-instance courts including the Constitutional Court, it is not easy for Czech judges to deal with the lawsuits filed by the citizens of Liechtenstein, especially as there are different explanations of some legal institutions such as the passage of time (*ratione temporis*). However, if we acknowledge that a wrongdoing has been committed, it is always possible, and in this case necessary, to start out-of-court negotiations in order to put things right and ensure justice, and to close the affair with a bilaterally advantageous peaceful solution, which the Liechtenstein government and the Foundation have repeatedly proposed. I would really like this to happen as soon as possible, also with respect to our association's activities.

*Jiří Balaščík, Honorary
Chairman of the Czech-Liechtenstein Society*

■ Liechtenstein Day at the Meeting Brno festival: When the Past Meets the Present

Within the seventh edition of the multi-genre festival Meeting Brno, titled *The Merging Places*, a day focused on Liechtenstein and called *Liechtenstein is meeting Brno* was held on Tuesday, July 26. The afternoon programme of the day in the building of the Museum of Applied Arts at the Moravian Gallery in Brno comprised two interesting lectures. The programme was hosted by the festival president and Czechoslovak Hussite Church friar Martina Viktorie Kopecká and festival vice-president, politician, sociologist and psychotherapist David Macek. Both lectures were attended by so many visitors that the decorated hall of the Moravian Gallery was literally bursting at the seams.



A lecture on Liechtenstein and refreshments from a robot

The first lecture called *“Liechtenstein, a Country You Either Do Not Know or Admire”* dealt with Liechtenstein in general and with the past and the present of the Liechtenstein family. It was delivered by Daniel Herman, the honorary consul of the Principality of Liechtenstein in the Czech Republic and patron of this year’s edition of the Meeting Brno festival, together with Michal Růžička, the spokesman for the princely Liechtenstein family for the Czech Republic and spokesman for the Prince of Liechtenstein Foundation. The light yet educative lecture told listeners about today’s Liechtenstein and its links to our country. It was one in a series of planned lectures on this topic, which will take place in different towns and cities of Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia this and next year.

Between the Brno lectures, visitors could mingle in the hall of the Museum of Applied Arts with a glass of wine in hand. The hall is decorated with the magnificent work *“The Demon of Growth”* by Křištof Kintera. Those in need of a cup of coffee could go to a ground floor room called Café robot, where this popular drink – as its name suggests – was prepared by a unique robotic arm. If you think this is not enough, you should know that you can have a “selfieccino” – your own portrait or that of your friend – imprinted into the froth via an application here. Those attending the lectures also had the opportunity during the break to see art exhibitions in the museum building for free. Since the new concept of the Museum of Applied Arts, which is the work of renowned Czech designers including Maxim Velčovský, Eva Eisler and the



Listeners had an opportunity to discuss their perceptions and impressions between the lectures © Jakub Šnajdr

Olgoj Chorchoj studio, is called ART DESIGN FASHION, the permanent displays offer above all Czech design works ranging from teapots via chairs to the iconic works of the renowned Czech fashion designer Liběna Rochová. The exhibition also comprises for instance an open case with glass, ceramics and china, whose survey certainly helped visitors pass their time there.

Johann II of Liechtenstein and his donations to Moravian museums

The second lecture was presented to the visitors by Johann Kräftner, the director of the princely Liechtenstein art collections. The lecture was somewhat more expert, focused on the personality of Prince Johann II of Liechtenstein, whose collections and donations have enriched different Moravian museums to the present day. Listeners could learn for instance that the prince, nicknamed “the Good”, supported the industry, founded hospitals and orphanages in his domains, and that he also helped establish the first wildlife reserve in Moravia, known as the Šerák-Keprník National Park these days. At the end of the second lecture, Czech-Liechtenstein Society chairman Petr Svoboda was given room by the



The event’s moderators were friar Martina Viktorie Kopecká and politician, sociologist and psychotherapist David Macek © Jakub Šnajdr



Michal Růžička, spokesman for the princely Liechtenstein family for the Czech Republic and spokesman for the Prince of Liechtenstein Foundation, presented information not only about the princely family © Jakub Šnajdr



Curious listeners filled up the beautiful hall of the Museum of Applied Arts at the Moravian Gallery in Brno
© Jakub Šnajdr

moderators to briefly introduce the association's activity and objectives and possibly address listeners interested in joining. A short discussion with the audience on the lectures they had just heard followed. Visitors on that day included several famous faces such as Eva Lustigová, the daughter of the writer Arnošt Lustig, who currently works on maintaining her father's legacy.

Reception at the end of a fine day

The afternoon lectures were followed by an evening reception for invited guests and members of the Czech-Liechtenstein Society at the restaurant and lounge of a nearby hotel. The present guests enjoyed full tables with refreshments and a meeting over a glass, during which they could discuss the lectures they had attended at the Moravian Gallery, but also the future of the Czech-



Daniel Herman welcomes guests and members of the Czech-Liechtenstein Society at the evening reception
© Jakub Šnajdr

-Liechtenstein society and Czech-Liechtenstein relations in general. Although Liechtenstein Ambassador to the Czech Republic, Her Highness Maria-Pia Kothbauer Liechtenstein, could not personally take part in the reception because of a sudden illness, the reception still nicely rounded out a pleasant day dedicated to Liechtenstein. ■

■ The Liechtenstein National Day

On Monday, August 15, the citizens of the Principality of Liechtenstein celebrated their National Day. This happened after two years during which the celebrations were restricted because of the coronavirus pandemic. The more the people of Liechtenstein could enjoy the fully-fledged celebrations of this year.

The official programme started in the morning with speeches by Hereditary Prince Alois of Liechtenstein and Parliament Speaker Albert Frick. At 2pm, a large music festival followed in the capital Vaduz. After 9pm, people started to light fires and set out on the popular Alpine tourist track Fürstensteig with torches in hands. The Liechtensteins finished the day-long

celebration at 10pm by singing the national anthem in Vaduz together.



His Highness Ruling Prince Hans Adam II with other family members descends from the Vaduz castle
© Daniel Schwendener / Liechtenstein Marketing



The National Day celebrations were held in sunny weather
© Daniel Schwendener / Liechtenstein Marketing

History of the Liechtenstein National Day

The Liechtenstein government first labelled August 15 as the national holiday in 1940. The date has twofold significance for the citizens of Liechtenstein. First, August 15 was already at that time a public holiday commemorating the Ascension of the Virgin Mary, and then it recalls the birthday of Prince Franz Josef II, who was born on August 16, 1906 and was the father of the current ruling prince, Hans Adam II of Liechtenstein. The holiday was unique in that it was introduced during the war. Only a few days before the holiday was officially declared in one of the smallest countries in the world, Adolf Hitler said in his speech that “*small countries have no right to existence*,” and therefore the introduction of this national day can be understood as an act of patriotism as well as resistance. After Franz Josef II's death in 1989, it was decided that the National Day would still be celebrated on August 15, even though the current head of state, Prince Hans Adam II, was born on February 14. The reasons be-



The Vaduz castle was illuminated with Liechtenstein's national colours for the celebrations
© Daniel Schwendener / Liechtenstein Marketing

hind this decision are mainly practical — celebrating the National Day in the summer is definitely better than in winter when the feast may be hampered by weather. Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Great Britain have taken a similar standpoint to the ruler's birthday celebrations.

In 1990, the National Day was legally acknowledged as Liechtenstein's state holiday and since that time, state ceremonies have taken place annually on a meadow near the Vaduz castle. On August 15 in the afternoon, the capital is always full of people of different ages enjoying the traditional celebrations and a funfair. The National Day is then rounded out magnificently by 30-minute fireworks right next to the princely castle. ■

More information about the Czech-Liechtenstein Society can be found on the website.

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