



Winter 2021

NEWSLETTER

Czech-Liechtenstein Society

Member of Europa Nostra



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The Word of a Guest: Year 2021 in a pocket version

January:

Dr Max Schaffgotsch, who lives with his family in a castle inherited after his ancestors in Niederles in Lower Austria, told me that recently several younger people from the surroundings had returned him precious items. In the post-war chaos, their grandfathers took them from the then abandoned castle. *"I apologize for my relatives... when they were alive, I did not want to shame them but now the blame would fall also on me,"* one of them reportedly said.

Valtice are located about fifty kilometres northeast from Niederleis. I received a message from that place: *"My father bought here a house after the war. He had*

never looted in the castle, but the house was full of various precious things. It's been a long time since our family does not own that house, but I still keep a painting which surely once hung on the castle's wall. In my opinion, it is an unsigned Rubens. How much would the prince pay for it?"

February:

A group of experts and one lawyer were strolling in the Lednice castle park. The lawyer represented Prince Hans Adam II who received an invitation from the National Heritage Institute for an "on-site inspection" which was performed to find out whether the plan of gardeners to cut and replace trees in the



park is acceptable. Rather than by the fact that the Czech authorities summoned the prince as a possible owner of the Liechtenstein properties for the first time, the media sought the reactions to the transfer of the lengthy lawsuit to Strasbourg. The Liechtenstein Minister of Foreign Affairs said: *"The Czech Republic requires Czech courts to treat the citizens of Liechtenstein as Germans and the Czech courts do so. The Czech Republic does not respect the sovereignty of Liechtenstein and its equality within the international community. No country can tolerate such a conduct."*

March:

Although the Prince of Liechtenstein Foundation claims only those properties which has been so far owned by the state, for some municipalities the lawsuit means a complication in constructing important infrastructure. In Lednice, it is the construction of a pavement leading to the nursery school, in Břeclav it is a city bypass road, in other places it includes an electric line, waterpipes, cycling tracks. The lawyers of the Foundation issued many deeds on behalf of the Prince stating that he agrees with the constructions. Despite the fact, the constructions are stopped in many places. It is because of the fact that the state, or the Forests of the Czech Republic, do not approve these agreements.

April:

Investigative journalists start to be active. What do you know about the exchange of huge forest areas between the Czech Forests and the Military Forests? Could it be a kind of tactics because of the lawsuit? Sorry, but we know nothing about that. It's been the first time we hear the information. The first time but not the last time. The swap indeed happens a few months later. No matter what the motive was, the Military Forests are now richer with hectares of historical Liechtenstein forests (and poorer in other places). Is now the argumentation going to be: the military area is strategic for the defence of the country and therefore it cannot be released even if it should be released? We will see but it seems more like a fabulation created by journalists.

May:

Roman Smetka, a judge of the District Court in Hodonín, rejected the motion filed by the Liechtenstein family against the Czech state. Still, his verdict reads: *"The court has no doubt about the fact that the*

confiscations done pursuant to Decree of the President of the Republic no. 12/1945 Coll. would have no chance to pass a test of constitutionality and compliance with the basic human rights as they are generally seen today in a democratic legal state. It cannot be overlooked that the confiscations were done generally, based on ethnicity, same as the fact that the legal predecessors of the plaintiffs were treated selectively in a different way than German-speaking citizens of other neutral states, especially German-speaking Swiss whose properties were not confiscated. The court does not doubt that this approach was purely purpose-built, obviously based on the fact that the confiscation of properties of citizens of the Switzerland as an important European state would have caused significantly more troubles than the confiscation of properties of the citizens of Liechtenstein – a state small in area, number of inhabitants as well as influence."

June:

A tornado raged in Moravia. Prince Constantin Liechtenstein, the youngest son of Hans Adam II, issued a statement on behalf of the Princely family which, among other, reads: *"The Prince of Liechtenstein Foundation is ready to cooperate closely with the competent Czech authorities to identify and support sustainable projects especially focused on the needs of children."* It was in the time when he had no idea that the affected municipalities were historically "the Liechtenstein ones." For example, Hrušky which, in the end, were chosen by the princely family for their help. The form of the mutual project of the Prince of Liechtenstein Foundation and the municipality of Hrušky was being prepared for six months and its details will be published in January or February 2022. *"The care of the princely family for Hrušky moves me to tears,"* said Ms. Filipovičová, the mayor of Hrušky, in December.

July:

A lawyer who has been representing the Czech Republic in a lawsuit between the Czech and Liechtenstein parties: *"The Prince of Liechtenstein was not loyal to this country before World War II. It is proven by the fact that unlike the representatives of other noble families, he did not go to the Castle to swear loyalty to President Beneš."* A question: May any other head of a state swear with impunity the loyalty to the head of a different state?

August:

Her Serene Highness Marie Aglaë Liechtenstein, née Kinský, the wife of Prince Hans Adam II, passed away.



Winter has arrived at the castle in Valtice © NPÚ



September:

Liechtenstein opened its first ever honorary consulate in the Czech Republic. It is seated in Brno and the government of the Principality chose Daniel Herman, a former Czech minister of culture, for the position of the honorary consul. On the occasion of opening the consulate, Mr. Herman said: *"If I look back at my involvement in the Church, politics and public administration, my way to the Liechtenstein themes makes sense. No matter if I dealt with human rights, Nazi and Communist crimes, the reconciliation of Czechs and Germans, Roma issues or the settlement of own Czech history in general, I have always attempted at one thing: not to let historical prejudices divert us from the truth, justice and thus the successful future. In the case of the relations between the Liechtenstein family, the Principality and the Czech lands it is the same: not to close the cooperating and prospering future because of a lack of knowledge, black and white view of the world and demagogy."*

October:

The District Court in Česká Lípa stated that all members of the Liechtenstein family were Germans because in the past the Principality of Liechtenstein was part of the *"Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation"*. A question: According to this logic, aren't we all Germans? The Kingdom of Bohemia was part of the same Empire from the times of Ottokar I of Bohemia and "the biggest Czech", Charles IV, even ruled over the *"Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation."*

November:

In the East Bohemian Museum, a Rudolphinian exposition "Art for the Emperor" ended. The MF DNES newspaper described the exhibition as follows: *"The exhibition is dominated by the only loan from abroad, a unique portrait of Rudolph II by Lucas van Valckenborch. The painting arrived from Vienna."* Although the precious painting arrived from Vienna, it was lent by the Liechtenstein Princely Collections; which,

however, the newspaper did not mention. It would be hardly possible to conceal the loan of an outstanding Rembrandt's painting from the princely art collections for the exhibition "Rembrandt: Portrait of a Man" which was on display in Prague

until March. The National Gallery used the painting on loan also for the cover of the catalogue and a poster. Roughly at that time, an idea occurred to Dr. Kräftner, the head of the Liechtenstein Princely Collections. What if he borrowed two paintings from Valtice for an exhibition which is being prepared in the Liechtenstein Garden Palace in Vienna for spring 2022? The answer: Only if Austria guarantees that the Prince will return the paintings.

December:

The Technology Agency of the Czech Republic announced a tender for a study titled: „Historical-legal and foreign policy aspects of the position of the Liechtensteins in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia during World War II“. The winner will get CZK 1.5 million and according to the assignment, the work should be used by the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs to formulate a defence strategy against Liechtenstein at the court in Strasbourg. A question: Is the Czech-Liechtenstein Commission of Historians established in 2009 and financed by the governments of both the countries going to research only the Middle Ages?

Every end of year includes some hope. Hope for the next year. Today I see the most concrete one in the words of three mayors of historically „Liechtenstein“ municipalities who, independent of each other, have recently said the same thing: Maybe it is the time to show the authorities that the cooperation with the Liechtenstein family is not only possible but also beneficial. Maybe it is the time to stop using different tactics and say that the future is not in courtrooms but in an agreement. ■

I am grateful to the CLS for giving me the floor and I wish all the best to all its members!

Michal Růžička

The author is the spokesman of the Prince of Liechtenstein Foundation and the princely family for the Czech Republic.



Rector of Charles University professor Tomáš Zima awarded HSH Hans Adam II Commemorative Historical Medal
© Eddy Risch

■ Another university award for Prince Hans Adam II

Professor Tomáš Zima, the rector of Charles University, awarded Prince Hans Adam II a Commemorative Historical Medal

It has been already the third medal which the representatives of Czech universities awarded to a member of the princely family of Liechtenstein - either to the reigning prince HSH Hans Adam II, or the hereditary prince HSH Alois of Liechtenstein. Following the Masaryk University and Mendel University in Moravia, also Charles University has recently appreciated the heritage and merits of the family in the development of Czech lands. These official awards from Czech highest educational institutions are the more precious because they were awarded in the context of the ongoing lawsuit with the Czech state.

Commemorative Historical Medal of Charles University

On Tuesday, 2 November, Charles University awarded Prince Hans Adam for *“the merits of his family in the development of Moravia, Silesia and Bohemia and his personal contribution to support science, education, nature protection, direct democracy, social and health project in the current world.”* The Commemorative Historical Medal of the University was awarded to Prince Hans Adam II at the Vaduz castle by Professor Tomáš Zima, the rector of Charles University, and Professor Jan Royt, the university vice rector. Professor Zima explained the reasons to award this outstanding university award to Hans Adam, the reigning prince of Liechtenstein, in his speech: *“Our university awards historical medals to outstanding figures. It is a rare occasion on which it is possible to express thanks to HSH Prince Hans Adam II and his ancestors for the cultural heritage which*

“I see the award, which I received today from the representatives of Charles University, as a gesture of our mutual understanding. Firstly, as a manifestation of understanding of the fact that our family have always considered Moravia, Silesia and Bohemia as their home and cared for these regions accordingly: with a diligent care, in a sustainable way, respecting the landscape, nature and people. And secondly, as the understanding of the fact, that a successful future is not possible without education, science, art and cooperation.”

HSH Hans Adam II

they left in the Czech lands as well as for their current projects in the world. It has been an honour and pleasure to meet him today and present him the medal in person.”

The award also continues the mutual cooperation from the past: HSH Hans Adam II visited the oldest central European university ten years ago on the occasion of the Czech publication of his book „The State in the Third Millennium“ and besides meeting Václav Hampl, the university rector at that time, he also participated in a discussion with students. In 2014, Charles University hosted the “Liechtenstein Day” with the participation of Dr. Thomas Zwielfelhofer, then the vice-Premier of the Liechtenstein government and the current honorary consul of the Czech Republic in Liechtenstein.

Grand Golden Medal of Masaryk University

However, HSH Hans Adam II received his first university award, and the highest one, already a decade earlier: in 2011, when visiting South Moravia, he received the Grand Golden Medal of the Masaryk University for his contribution to the development of Czech-Liechtenstein relations. It is interesting that **the Prince received this highest university award from the hands of the rector at that time and currently the new Prime Minister, Professor Petr Fiala.**

Golden Medal of Mendel University

The second university award came again from Moravia with which the family of Liechtenstein had been inseparably connected for centuries. In 2019, **HSH Hereditary Prince Alois of Liechtenstein was awarded Golden Medal of the Mendel University in Brno by its rector and possible future presidential candidate Danuše Nerudová.** He was awarded the medal symbolically on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the university, to which the family of Liechtenstein largely contributed, for the contribution to the development of science and education, sustainable agriculture, forestry and rural culture. ■



■ “Begegnungen” (Encounters) exhibition in Vienna: Old masters in modern times

In one of the previous issues of the newsletter, we announced the special exhibition “Begegnungen” (Encounters) which was under preparations for the occasion of the 100th anniversary of LGT Bank. And in October, the members of the Czech-Liechtenstein Society had a unique chance to see the exhibition during their tour of the Liechtenstein palace.

The “Begegnungen” exhibition offered a slightly different view of the biggest gems from the princely collections which belong among the biggest private art collections in the world. A new dimension was added to the exposition by an application using augmented reality which was the result of the cooperation among ETH Zürich, LGT Bank and the princely art collections.

Thanks to the application, the visitors were able to submerge into paintings from different art periods and discover the works of old masters in a new way. A mobile or tablet with the application completely replaced the traditional labels with descriptions at each art piece – after pointing the mobile device on an artwork, a user had a chance to learn also other information and the details. The exhibition was situated in three rooms of so-called Ladies’ Apartments on the ground floor of the palace and presented about 200 works from the princely collections.

The art of portrait

The first room was dedicated to portrait art; next to the child portraits by Ferdinand Georg Waldmüller, Peter Paul Rubens and Friedrich von Amerling there were other portraits of nobility and townspeople from different periods. For example, the portrait of Marie de Tassis, whose family invented the first postal system in Europe in the 15th century, belongs among the top works of the Flemish Baroque painter Anthonis van Dycke. The exhibition also featured “Portrait of a Man” in black-and-grey colour shades by Frank Hals.

The charm of ancient landscapes

The second room was dedicated to landscapes. At the first glance, the eyesight was immediately caught by the large-size mountain landscape, by the Flemish painter Joose de Momper from the first half of the 17th century, which virtually invites the viewer to enter the wild nature scenery. As counterparts in size, there were smaller landscape paintings from the Biedermeier style period, including vedutas from Vienna of the first half

of the 19th century by the German painter Jakob Alt and so-called capriccios, i.e. architectural fantasies inspired by Italian landscapes and monuments.

Stories hidden in paintings

And finally, the last, third, room gave the space to artworks which even nowadays tell their viewers interesting stories. One of these stories was also hidden in the impressive oil painting “Sea Fruits” by the Antwerp-based 17th century painter Jacques Jordaens. This painting belongs among the latest acquisitions to the princely collection – it was bought by the princely family in 2020. The Mannerist allegory “The Earth” by the Italian painter Giuseppe Arcimboldo, who worked as a painter at the Habsburg court, was conceived as an allegorical profile portrait and was another dominant of the exposition. A story of tax collectors was told by the painting of the same name by Quentin Massys. This masterpiece was created after 1520 in Antwerp, the most important business center in Europe at that time. The artist perfectly depicted the temptation of cupidity and greed in the two figures of tax collectors.

The exhibition “Begegnungen” was on display in the Liechtenstein Garden Palace in Vienna from 11 October to 1 November 2021 and was open for only a limited number of visitors. We are pleased that the members of the Czech-Liechtenstein Society were among them.

Thank you! ■



Massys, Quentin: Tax collectors, after 1520 © LIECHTENSTEIN, The Princely Collections, Vaduz – Vienna



Baroque opera *Farnace* performed by ensemble Musica Florea in Valtice castle theatre © Pavel Kristian ml., LVHF



ce Music Festival could take place. I was especially pleased by the beautiful prologue in the Liechtenstein Garden Palace in Vienna on 23 September which in a splendid way revived the historical consequences of our regions." It was the Hercules Hall in the Liechtenstein Garden Palace which provided a magnificent scene for the charming music performed by Collegium 1704 and Collegium Vocale 1704 conducted by the ensemble leader Václav Luks. The programme included three sacred compositions by Antonio Vivaldi as well as a piece by his younger contemporary, the Austrian composer Johann Melchior Pichler.

Vivaldi's opera *Farnace* in the castle theatre

Same as in previous years, even this year the festival bore a Liechtenstein trace: the third festival weekend was opened on Friday, 15 October, in the Baroque theatre at the Valtice castle with the Pavia version of the opera *Farnace* which, according to the inscription in the libretto, was dedicated to Josef Jan Adam Liechtenstein who was a Vivaldi's sponsor. As Jiří Balaštík, the honorary chairman of the Czech-Liechtenstein Society, said it had been a thrilling music experience.

The final concert was held in the Riding Hall of the Valtice castle

On Saturday, 16 October, the festival came to its grand finale, which was the closing gala concert in the Riding Hall of the Valtice castle. The full hall resounded with four Vivaldi's concerts from the so-called "Collalto" collection performed by the famous Italian orchestra Europa Galante lead by the conductor and outstanding violinist Fabio Biondi. The members of the Czech-Liechtenstein Society were represented at both the musical events of the last weekend of the Lednice-Valtice Music Festival. Their programme also included an informal party in the wine bar of the Valtice castle where the chairman Petr Svoboda gave a short speech about the activities of the association.

And what to look forward to in the next year?

Although those who were at the concerts still hear Vivaldi's melodies in their head, the art director Jiří Partyka has been long way through planning the programme for the next year of the festival. It will focus on temperament Balkan melodies and the story of the minority of Moravian Croats who have been for centuries an integral part of the heterogeneous cultural mosaic of the region and whose arrival to South Moravia was initiated by the family of Liechtenstein. ■

■ **LVMF 2021:** The biggest European festival of Vivaldi's music in the new millennium

This year's Lednice-Valtice Music Festival (LVMF), already the sixth one, was totally dominated by Antonio Vivaldi's music. Mainly thanks to the festival art director Jiří Partyka, people who came to the concerts during three weekends in October had the opportunity to listen to various pieces by this Baroque genius performed by leading Czech and foreign performers. And also: the festival was opened by the special Prologue concert which was held in the Liechtenstein Garden Palace in Vienna already on 23 September. The Liechtenstein princely family provided the room in the palace free of charge. The members of the Czech-Liechtenstein Society were there.

The Prologue concert in the Liechtenstein Garden Palace

The Prologue concert held in Vienna started the next programme of the festival in a grandiose way. Eleven members of the Czech-Liechtenstein Society were present, including the Czech Ambassador in Austria Ivana Červenková and the Liechtenstein Ambassador for the Czech Republic and Austria HSH Maria-Pia Kothbauer who also welcomed the Lednice-Valtice festival on behalf of the princely family: *"For a long time it was not possible to meet and organize common events. The more we are pleased that thanks to the successful fight with the pandemics the Lednice-Valti-*



How to care for European forests in relation to climate change – this was the main theme of the Lieco Forum at the Liechtenstein Garden Palace

■ Lieco Forum to confirm a European dimension of the princely company

The visionary ideas of Prince Hans Adam II stood at the very beginning. Today, Lieco seated in Kalwang, Styria, gradually buys foreign competition, cooperates with many scientific institutions and universities, uses own approaches and patents, initiates scientific discussions. The small company, which at its beginnings modified tree seeds „on a shoestring“, has grown in one of the most important seed and seedling producer in Europe. Lieco Forum took place in the Garden Palace in Vienna on 11 November.

The conference was truly dynamic and topical. The keynote speaker Tom Crowther from Wales, who works in the Institute of Integrative Biology in Zürich, came to Vienna directly from Glasgow where he gave a lecture to the panel of global leaders about how ca 10 million trees disappear each year out of 3 billions on our planet, which represents a big burden in terms of carbon dioxide accumulation.

Research results were among others presented by Bo Karlsson from the Swedish Forestry Research Institute, Silvio Schüler from the Forestry Research Center in Vienna, Thomas Knoke, a professor from the Technical University in Munich and Hubert Hasenauer, the rector of the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences in Vienna. As far as Central Europe is concerned, all experts agreed: if the average temperatures increase by 2 °C, the spruce tree forests in the Czech Republic will remain only in the border mountains and partly in the Highlands, if the average temperatures increase by 4 °C, the spruce tree will disappear from the territory completely except the higher Alpine areas. A solution? Oaks should become the dominant European trees before 2100, however not as monocultures. “The diversity of species” was probably the most pronounced term at the Lieco Forum. According to Tom Crowther, different tree species can cooperate to acquire nutrients in mixed vegetation while in a monoculture the trees of the same species are rivals competing for nutrients.

The conference was opened by Elisabeth Köstinger, the Austrian Minister for Agriculture, Regions and Tourism, and, of course, by Prince Constantin of Liechtenstein who came with his father, Prince Hans Adam II. Their arrival amazed the present reporter of Hospodářské noviny in such a way that this detail appeared in the prestigious Czech newspaper: Prince with his son were queuing in front of their own palace, with Covid passes prepared in their mobiles, patiently waiting for the guards to check them. No bodyguards, no side entrances. Only one thing can be said as a comment: perhaps HN should follow the Prince more often... ■



The Lieco Forum conference was also attended by HSH Hans Adam II and Prince Constantin of Liechtenstein

100 Jahre Liechtensteinische Verfassung 1921-2021



HSH Prince Alois of Liechtenstein speaking on the anniversary 100 years of the Liechtenstein Constitution
© Information and Communications Unit of the Government



News from Liechtenstein

100th anniversary of the Liechtenstein Constitution

This year the Principality of Liechtenstein commemorates an outstanding state anniversary: on 5 October 1921, Prince Karl of Liechtenstein and the princely counsellor Josef Ospelt, on behalf of the reigning Prince Jan II of Liechtenstein, signed the new constitution. This, at the first sight unremarkable, document constitutes today the firm legal base for the good performance of the state and the prosperity of whole Liechtenstein.

And precisely 100 later, on 5 October 2021, in the Vaduz Hall there was an official state ceremony held on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Liechtenstein constitution which embedded Liechtenstein as *“a hereditary constitutional monarchy on democratic and parliamentary foundations.”* Members of the princely family, the representatives of the government, parliament, justice and municipalities were all present at the ceremony. HSH Hereditary Prince Alois of Liechtenstein gave a speech. He stressed the significance of this most important state document for the monarchy as well as its exceptionality – on contrary to constitutions of all other states the Liechtenstein constitution integrates the principles of parliamentary democracy as well as strong principles of monarchism and direct democracy in a unique way. During the ceremony, two monuments related to the anniversary were unveiled in front of the Parliament building in Vaduz. One of them is formed by a transparent panel with an inscription – quotation from the Constitution *“The utmost task of the state is to support the general well-being of people”* which

has been symbolically installed in between the neighbouring buildings of the government and parliament. The importance of the Constitution from 1921 is also commemorated in front of the parliament by a sculpture titled “Consilium” made by the Liechtenstein artist Heinz P. Nitzsche.

Liechtenstein at the climate conference in Glasgow

The Principality of Liechtenstein, represented by HSH Hereditary Prince Alois of Liechtenstein and the Liechtenstein vice-premier Sabine Monauni, was among almost 200 participating countries at the U.N. climate summit in Glasgow. At the meeting of the top representatives of the participating countries which was held at the beginning of the conference on 1 and 2 November, HSH Prince Alois stressed the necessity to adopt sufficient measures against the climate change on international level: *“We have a moral commitment to give the future generations a planet on which they can live, with untouched environment. If we fail to reduce global warming to 1.5 °C, there is a threat of a new conflict about resources and forced migration. At the conference, we should not just talk about the climate change, but we should continue our statements by acts.”* In this relation, Prince Alois also announced that **Liechtenstein would like to be climate neutral before 2050.**

The negotiations at the 26th U.N. conference on climate change resulted in a “historical” agreement, as called by Frans Timmermans, the negotiator for the EU, about a gradually reduced coal consumption for energy production. The original proposal expecting gradual ban



The sculpture “Consilium” in front of the Parliament building was created on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Liechtenstein Constitution © Information and Communications Unit of the Government



Also this year, in mid-November, the popular ice rink surrounded by refreshment stands "Vaduz on Ice" opened its gates © Liechtenstein Marketing

of coal was weakened under the pressure of China and India. Liechtenstein, too, expressed its consent to the agreement, however together with the Switzerland they criticized the limited space which was given to small states for negotiations.

Digital Day in Liechtenstein

Vaduz, particularly a cafe in the recently re-opened Art Museum, was one of the venues of the Swiss Digital Day on Saturday, 6 November. Various interactive installations and attractions showed how the digital future was going to look like in the private as well as professional life. Among others, the visitors could try an old timer driving simulator which enabled an authentic ride in a classical automobile set in realistic scenery or take a virtual flight over the Vaduz castle. The development of digitalization belongs among the key topics and priorities in Liechtenstein. The organizer of the event, the digital-liechtenstein.li organization, which gathers over 50 Liechtenstein companies and organizations, enjoys the patronage of the Liechtenstein government and the princely family.

University of Liechtenstein among the best 25

The University of Liechtenstein ranked **among Top 25 universities in the category "The most cited expert publications"** in the U-Multirang chart. And the competition was indeed huge: the total of 1900 universities from 96 countries were evaluated. The success is mainly the result of top-quality research and also extensive international cooperation of the university.

Advent in Liechtenstein

The time of Advent in Liechtenstein has its unique charm also this year: people can visit Christmas

fairs (although the biggest one in Vaduz was cancelled), a Christmas tree was lit in front of the government building and the area with an ice ring and stands "Vaduz on Ice" has been open with necessary epidemiologic measures. And the lovers of winter sports were also pleased when, thanks to favourable snow conditions, the season in the famous ski resort Malbun was started already on the first weekend in December.

Visiting the Christmas exhibition of the Liechtenstein Regional Museum is a way how to get in the forthcoming holiday mood in Liechtenstein. The exhibition annually brings a new theme related to the time of Advent and Christmas. This year it was inspired by a verse from the Gospel of Luke: *"And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger"* (Luke 2:12). All attention is focused on the new born baby Jesus and his clothes. Exposed figurines and other smaller works depicting the Baby Jesus were created between the 18th and early 20th century mostly in monasteries. As rarities there are wax figures of baby Jesus tightly wrapped from the head to toe in a piece of cloth (so-called "Fatschenkinder"), typical for the region of South Germany, Austria and also Liechtenstein. The exposition offers its visitors about 50 exhibits from the collections of the Liechtenstein Regional Museum which are remarkable examples of folk religiosity. ■

Exhibition „Little Jesus, a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes – folk religiosity during Christmas“

21 November 2021 – 9 January 2022, Liechtensteinisches LandesMuseum, Vaduz



Swaddled baby Jesus in a wooden box with a curtain, 2nd half of the 18th century, an unknown author © Liechtensteinisches LandesMuseum



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

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

29 October 2021 – Breathing new life into the historicist Havlíček's villa in Poštorná is the main goal of the Moravian Glory Foundation, which reconstructed it and runs a socio-cultural centre there. The villa was built between 1908 and 1909 by Prince Johann II of Liechtenstein according to a design of the Liechtenstein court architect Karl Weinbrenner. This three-storey building, like the famous Church of the Visitation nearby, was built from red bricks from the former local Liechtenstein brickyard. If you have a way around, try to stop by and perhaps in addition to valuable architecture you will also be interested in the exhibition Memoryscape. It presents photographs taken in region Podluží created using 170 years old wet collodion process by photographer Honza Sakař, two-time winner of the Czech Press Photo contest. ■



10 November 2021 – Daniel Herman, Honorary Consul of the Principality of Liechtenstein in the Czech Republic, during his visit to the Lednice-Valtice area. At the Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary in Valtice, he discussed with representatives of the municipality and parish the possibility of securing funding for the planned restoration of the church, which was last reconstructed before World War I under Prince Jan II of Liechtenstein. ■



26 November 2021 – Experience the Christmas atmosphere in a former nobleman's mansion and still learn about the history of the princely family of Liechtenstein? This is possible from this weekend at the North Moravian Baroque castle in Kunín, which the family owned in the 18th century. As part of the Advent tours, festively decorated rooms in the piano nobile await visitors. A freely accessible part of the tour circuit is also the exhibition **“Firm and Clear – The Liechtensteins in the Service of the Monarchy”**, which includes about forty original exhibits from the collections of the Museum of Nový Jičín. These are mainly collections of uniforms and headwear originally owned by the Princely House of Liechtenstein. The unique exhibits are mainly military Hulan uniforms of children from the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries. The exhibition aims to remind the importance of the family for the Czech lands. Open: 27. 11. to 19. 12. 2021 ■





Alice Stori Liechtenstein © Lupispuma

Media Roundup

The Lady of the Castle

27. 10. 2021 | Forbes | Bibiana Beňová

In The Leopard, for which Luchino Visconti, a star of Italian post-war cinematography, won the Golden Palm at Cannes, they ask the young Alain Delon (aka Count Falconeri) how many rooms there are in his family's castle. "Nobody has an idea, not even my uncle. Why, a palace where you know each room is not worth living in," Falconeri replies.

"I loved the scene as a little girl," Alice Stori Liechtenstein smiles over the childhood memory. Twenty years later, the young Milan University graduate in design and architecture asked her future husband the same question. It was the first time that Alfred Liechtenstein took Alice to the family seat. The Schloss Hollenegg chateau in the eastern Austrian hills belonged to the Liechtensteins for a good 200 years and Alfred inherited it after his aunt's death when he was 26. "He answered that he had probably never been in all its rooms," the charming dark-haired lady says with her contagious laughter that sparkles through the room. Her Italian temperament is obvious from each gesture she makes. "When I met Alfred, I was just finishing my post-graduate studies at Barcelona and living in a rented flat with a single bedroom. I definitely was not planning to move to a countryside chateau with 52 rooms," she adds, sipping mint tea. These days, Alice Liechtenstein can recount the whole nine-century-long history of Schloss Hollenegg in less than

60 seconds. "The first preserved mention of the chateau dates back to 1163," the lady of the castle begins. "The outer walls are medieval. The two towers date from the 14th century. The first courtyard is Renaissance. The church and the banqueting hall are Baroque. The terrace was added in the 19th century," she says to conclude the sprint through centuries. But a perceptive listener will immediately realise that she could spend endless hours talking about the layers of history deposited in the limestone staircases, Flemish tapestries and canopied beds. Still, as the previous paragraph suggests, she definitely did not fall in love with Schloss Hollenegg at first sight. The more so that the family seat was rather neglected, just like hundreds of other private castles in Austria.

After the wedding, the couple settled down in Graz, less than an hour's drive from the chateau. The family gradually grew with three children born, and in parallel, Alice built an international career as a design curator. "I often travelled around art studios and festivals across Europe during the week, and then we spent weekends at Schloss Hollenegg," she says about the hectic lifestyle, less and less compatible with ageing and with the demanding requirements for the maintenance of the family property that swallowed up a significant part of the income from Alfred Liechtenstein's wood company. "The kids loved the castle. My German gradually improved to the extent that I could afford to live in the countryside. And I also wanted to get a horse," she says to sum up the arguments that finally led the family to move to Schloss Hollenegg permanently. But the new lady of the castle did not want to be merely a wife following her husband. "I simply needed to find a project of my own to contribute to the multi-layered mosaic of Schloss Hollenegg."



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Six years ago, the renowned curator invited young designers to the chateau and made them create site-specific projects inspired by the local atmosphere. “They could open any drawer, look into any wardrobe and ask any question,” Alice Liechtenstein says to describe the two-week holiday project. She was excited by the outcome. The Verona-based studio Dossofiorito designed transparent glass vases inspired by antique ceramics – a tribute to Alfred’s grandmother, Princess Ludmila, who loved gardening. Austrian designers Mischer and Traxler designed an object consisting of a table top placed underneath a huge pendulum. The pendulum, with its permanent circular movement, brushes the table top, revealing the individual layers of the material and slowly transforming it into a bowl. And Scottish designer Dean Brown installed a kind of an etagere bookcase set to visualise the complex network of relations in the chateau’s history. “It depicts the family legacy as a never ending story in which you permanently choose what to keep and renew, what to get rid of, and what new things you can add yourself,” Alice Liechtenstein says to describe the work, which is a perfect expression of the curatorial concept of her Schloss Hollenegg for Design project. Every year since then, Alice has invited three new guest authors to the chateau, and the next year in May she presents the outcome from the residential stays at an exhibition alongside the work of an international selection of designers. The topics of these exhibitions are always very personal for her: ‘Morphosis’ referred to minor yet important changes in our lives, which we often ignore.

‘Legacy’ made her and the designers probe into the personal and collective meanings of this word. And for ‘Slowness’, Alice found inspiration in the pace of her own life. “When you live in a city, everything is concentrated on you: your flat, your work,” she says. After moving to Schloss Hollenegg, Alice gained a broader context. “I see life on a broader scale. It’s not about me or my children, but about many generations which have made an imprint in history at this place.”

Talking about time and its slow movement, it stopped completely for long months last year, not only at Schloss Hollenegg. “Truth is, we enjoyed a very privileged lockdown in 52 rooms,” says the host. Still, she would prefer not to return to those times. Exhibition openings with guests from all over the world mingling with local villagers under the panel ceilings and dancing to the music of a DJ from Ibiza under the supervision of ancestors looking down from oil paintings were replaced with online streams and virtual tours. However, when choosing the topic, Alice could not have been more fortunate. Within the fifth edition of the Schloss Hollenegg for Design project, she called on artists to consider the return of nature into everyday life. Not from the standpoint of guilt, as debates on the environment are often led, she rather wanted the archetypal call of the wild to be heard at the chateau surrounded by hectares of deep forests. She herself then spent a year with the artist Maria Jensen building a huge ceramic shell for the local garden. “For many designers, last year’s lockdown was an immensely productive period. They were rid of the usual vortex of fairs and presentations, so they could really focus on their work.” Besides practical topics including social distancing and security, global design also focused on issues with a greater reach. What is really relevant in life? How shall we find the balance between work and private life? Or, for instance, the healing role of humour. “When I recently sat on the jury of the Diploma Selection show at the Designblok festival in Prague, I really enjoyed the work of Monika Markytánová,” says Alice Liechtenstein. The student of Prague’s Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design introduced china figures depicting anti-Covid measures within the competition. “These are banal moments that everyone has experienced, ranging from walking the dog during curfew to hairdressing at home. The designer attributed a new function to the old-fashioned kitsch and showed that even small details may gain importance at difficult times.” Next year, this witty Czech voice may quite well become a part of the conversation that Alice Liechtenstein leads with history at Schloss Hollenegg. Via design. ■