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Liechtenstein in European History

Ad Honorem Peter Geiger

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Abstract

In its first part, the present article presents the role of Peter Geiger as an historian and as co-chairman of the Liechtenstein-Czech Commission of Historians. PD Dr. Peter Geiger has been the co-chairman of the Liechtenstein-Czech Commission of Historians for the last ten years. Between 2010 and 2020, he was one of its basic building blocks. In the commission, Associate Professor Geiger dealt mainly with the modern history of Liechtenstein and selected aspects of Liechtenstein-Czech relations. He prepared a crucial article on how frequently Czechoslovak and Czech topics figured in the pages of the Liechtenstein press, and thus what impression the ordinary citizen of the Principality of Liechtenstein could form of the original homeland of their princes. In the context of his research into Liechtenstein continuities and discontinuities, he again described the transformation of Liechtenstein from a somewhat marginal territory within the Liechtenstein states into the centre of life of the princely family. Peter Geiger's professional interest in the Liechtenstein-Czech Commission of Historians was divided between the history of the family and the history of the country and its inhabitants, especially in the area of property gains and losses. He therefore wrote two fundamental studies on the topic of the "Liechtensteins, Liechtenstein and Czechoslovakia in the 20th Century". The first of these deals with the efforts of the Liechtenstein family from 1938–1945 to regain and save the property they lost in connection with the so-called first land reform. Geiger's articles on the expropriation of Liechtenstein citizens living in Czechoslovakia after 1945 can thus be considered a fundamental topic. In the second part of the article, other contributions are then thematised and contextualised; these included in this "Liechtenstein" volume of the Studia Historica Brunensia journal.

Keywords

Days of Liechtenstein History in the Czech Republic, Principality of Liechtenstein, Peter Geiger, Modern History, European History, Czech-Liechtenstein Commission of Historians, Liechtenstein-Czech relations, Liechtenstein-Swiss relations, Liechtenstein-Institut, Vaduz, constituting of the Principality of Liechtenstein, diplomacy

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PD Dr. Peter Geiger has been the co-chairman of the Liechtenstein-Czech Commission of Historians for the last ten years. Between 2010 and 2020, he was one of its basic building blocks. He jointly determined research topics and played a significant role in the organizational side of the Commission's operations.

In the Commission, Associate Professor Geiger dealt mainly with the modern history of Liechtenstein and selected aspects of Liechtenstein-Czech relations. As part of the "Places of Liechtenstein's Memory" topic, for example, he prepared a crucial article on how frequently Czechoslovak and Czech topics figured in the pages of the Liechtenstein press, and thus what impression the ordinary citizen of the Principality of Liechtenstein could form of the original homeland of their princes.[1] In the context of his research into Liechtenstein continuities and discontinuities, he again described the transformation of Liechtenstein from a somewhat marginal territory within the Liechtenstein states into the centre of life of the princely family. This is what Rhineland Liechtenstein became, especially after the princely family moved here after the Second World War II, transferring their archives and art collections, and combining their business, banking and economic activities with Liechtenstein. The relationship between the centre and the periphery is, after all, one of the most important phenomena that determined the life of the Liechtenstein royal house even at the time of its activities in the Austrian and Czech lands. As can be seen, Peter Geiger's professional interest in the Liechtenstein-Czech Commission of Historians was divided between the history of the family and the history of the country and its inhabitants, especially in the area of property gains and losses. He therefore wrote two fundamental studies on the topic of the "Liechtensteins, Liechtenstein and Czechoslovakia in the 20th Century". The first of these deals with the efforts of the Liechtenstein family from 1938–1945 to regain and save the property they lost in connection with the so-called first land reform.[2] Within the same topic, however, Associate Professor Geiger also raised another question, which he considered to be critical in the context of his research within the commission. This is the issue of the confiscation of the property of the German-speaking inhabitants of the Czech Lands, of Liechtenstein citizenship, which occurred on the basis of the Decrees of the President of the Republic and other Czechoslovak laws after 1945 and 1948. On the basis of documents stored in the Liechtenstein Provincial Archives in Vaduz, Peter Geiger compiled a basic list of these persons and their original property located in the territory of the-then Czechoslovakia.[3] He later returned to this material on several occasions. He elaborated his

1 Geiger, Peter: *Das Bild der bohmischen Länder, der Tschechoslowakei und Tschechiens in den liechtensteinischen Medien*. In: Liechtensteinisch-Tschechische Historikerkommission (Ed.): Liechtensteinische Erinnerungsorte in den bohmischen Landern. Vaduz 2012, pp. 215–242.

2 German language version Geiger, Peter: *Bemuhungen um Ruckgewinnung und Rettung furstlicher Guter 1938 bis 1945*. In: Liechtensteinisch-Tschechische Historikerkommission (Ed.): Das Fürstenhaus, der Staat Liechtenstein und die Tschechoslowakei im 20. Jahrhundert. Band 4. Vaduz 2013, pp. 63–80. Czech language version Geiger, Peter: *Snahy o znovuzískání a záchranu knížecích statků v letech 1938–1945*. [*Efforts to regain and save the princely estates in 1938–1945*.] Journal of the Matice moravská 132, 2013, Supplementum 6, pp. 63–80.

3 German language version Geiger, Peter: *Alle enteigneten liechtensteinischen Staatsangehörigen: Wer, was, wo?* Was wurde aus dem enteigneten Besitz? In: Liechtensteinisch-Tschechische Historikerkommission (Ed.):

Peter Geiger. (Foto: Elma Korac.)

research in a study he published in a special issue of the Journal of the Matice moravská, in which contributions were published from the Brno workshop entitled „Lichtenštejnové: konstrukce obrazu, stereotypy, propaganda“ [“*The Liechtensteins: image construction, stereotypes, propaganda”*], where he talked about the application of the Presidential Decrees

Das Fürstenhaus, der Staat Liechtenstein und die Tschechoslowakei im 20. Jahrhundert. Band 4. Vaduz 2013, pp. 185–198. Czech language version Geiger, Peter: *Všichni vyvlastnění občané. Kde, co, kdo? Co se stalo s vyvlastněnými majetky? [All the expropriated citizens. Where, what, who? What happened to the expropriated property?]* Journal of the Matice moravská 132, 2013, Supplementum 6, pp. 181–196.

to the Liechtensteins.[4] He then transformed his conclusions into a relevant chapter in a group-authored book, published under the title *Czech-Liechtenstein Relations. Past and Present. A Summary Report by the Czech-Liechtenstein Commission of Historians*. This publication is based on a synthesis report of the commission, prepared for both Ministries of Foreign Affairs at the end of the commission's first mandate in January 2014. The report was published in book form first in German and Czech versions and a few years later also in English.[5]

Peter Geiger's work in the Liechtenstein-Czech Commission of Historians has grown from two roots. The first of these is his previous work in an analogous commission, which examined the issue of Liechtenstein-Swiss relations, or more exactly, the role of Liechtenstein during the Second World War, and completed its activities after a number of years with the publication of the Final Report 2009 under the title *Questions concerning Liechtenstein during the National Socialist period and the Second World War. Refugees, financial assets, works of art, production of armaments.*[6] The second root is Geiger's long-term interest in the fate of Liechtenstein and its inhabitants during the 19th and first half of the 20th century,[7] but especially in the period before and during the Second World War II.[8] Peter Geiger cultivated this interest primarily as a researcher at the Liechtenstein-Institut in Bendern, an institution known for its research programme focused on interdisciplinary research in the social and legal sciences. This research programme places modern Liechtenstein society in the broad context of development in the area defined by the neighbouring Swiss Confederation, within the economic and legal framework of the European Union, but also as specific component of the western Euro-Atlantic civilization.

4 Geiger, Peter: *Application of the decrees of the President of the Republic to Liechtenstein citizens*. Journal of the Matice moravská 134, 2015, Supplementum 7, pp. 35–48.

5 German language version Geiger, Peter – Knoz, Tomáš – Fučíková, Eliška – Horák, Ondřej – Horel, Catherine – Kräftner, Johann – Županič, Jan – Winkelbauer, Thomas: *Liechtensteinisch-tschechische Beziehungen in Geschichte und Gegenwart: Synthesebericht der Liechtensteinisch-Tschechischen Historikerkommission.* Vaduz 2014. Czech language version Geiger, Peter – Knoz, Tomáš – Fučíková, Eliška – Horák, Ondřej – Horel, Catherine – Kräftner, Johann – Županič, Jan – Winkelbauer, Thomas: *Česko-lichtenštejnské vztahy v dějinách a v současnosti. Souhrnná zpráva Česko-lichtenštejnské komise historiků. [Czech-Liechtenstein Relations Historically and in the Present. Summary Report of the Czech-Liechtenstein Commission of Historians.]* Brno 2014.

6 Geiger, Peter – Bankier, David – Brunhart, Arthur – Michbab, Dan – Moos, Carlo – Weinzierl, Erika: *Questions concerning Liechtenstein during the National Socialist period and the Second World War. Refugees, financial assets, works of art, production of armaments. Final Report of the Independent Commission of Historians Liechtenstein / Second World War (ICH).* Vaduz – Zurich 2009. Cf. also the German language version Geiger, Peter – Bankier, David – Brunhart, Arthur – Michbab, Dan – Moos, Carlo – Weinzierl, Erika: F*ragen zu Liechtenstein in dr NS-Zeit und im Zweiten Weltkrieg: Flüchtlinge, Vermögenswerte, Kunst, Rüstungsproduktion.* Schlussbericht der Unabhängigen Historikerkommission Liechtenstein Zweiter Weltkrieg. Vaduz – Zürich 2005. In this context, it should be remembered that Peter Geiger had concerned himself earlier with the international relations and international position of Liechtenstein. See for example, Geiger, Peter: *Geschichtliche Grundzüge der liechtensteinischen Aussenbeziehungen.* In: Waschkuhn, Arno (Ed.): Kleinstaat, Grundsätzliche und aktuelle Probleme. Vaduz 1993, pp. 321–340.

7 E.g. Geiger, Peter: *Geschichte des Fürstentums Liechtenstein 1848 bis 1866*. Jahrbuch des Historischen Vereins für das Fürstentum Liechtenstein 70, 1970, pp. 5–418.

8 Geiger, Peter: *Liechtenstein im Jahre 1938*. Jahrbuch des Historischen Vereins für das Fürstentum Liechtenstein 88, 1990, pp. 1–36; Geiger, Peter: *Die Rolle Feldkirchs und Vorarlbergs für Liechtenstein 1938/39. Rheticus. Vierteljahresschrift der Rheticus-Gesellschaft.* Feldkirch 1998.

Peter Geiger. (Foto: Anna Pecková.)

At the Liechtenstein-Institut, Peter Geiger has been involved in several major grant projects. First came the "Peter Kaiser als Politiker, Historiker und Erzieher" project, which concerned an important figure in Liechtenstein's modern history.[9] The second project: "Liechtenstein in den Dreissigerjahren und im Zweiten Weltkrieg" was related to the author's interest in the Second World War.[10] The third project, called "Kleinheit und Interdependenz", was a major interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary comparative research task involving many researchers in the form of a round table – not only historians but also representatives of related humanities and social sciences.[11]

9 The project is described on the Liechtenstein-Institut website: https://www.liechtenstein-institut.li/forschungsprojekte/peter-kaiser-als-politiker-historiker-und-erzieher-1793–1864. Within the project, several publications were issued: Peter Geiger himself: Geiger, Peter: Politisches Wirken Peter Kaisers und Nachwirkungen im 20. Jahrhundert: In: Geiger, Peter (Ed.): Peter Kaiser als Politiker, Historiker und Erzieher (1793–1864). Vaduz: Verlag der Liechtensteinischen Akademischen Gesellschaft (Liechtenstein Politische Schriften, Bd. 17), 1993, pp. 27–41. Most recently on the topic: Brunhart, Arthur: *Peter Kaiser und Wilhelm Beck – Aspekte der Demokratisierung Liechtensteins.* In: Liechtenstein Institut – Historischer Verein für das Fürstentum Liechtenstein (Ed.): *Geschichte erforschen – Geschichte Vermittlen.* Festschrift zu 75. Geburtstag von Peter Geiger und Rupert Quaderer. Bendern 2017, (Liechtenstein Politische Schriften, Bd. 59), pp. 63–82.

10 The project is described on the Liechtenstein-Institut website: https://www.liechtenstein-institut.li/forschungsprojekte/geschichte-liechtensteins-im-zweiten-weltkrieg. Downloaded 21 October 2020.

11 Liechtenstein-Institut website: https://www.liechtenstein-institut.li/forschungsprojekte/kleinheit-und-interdependenz. Downloaded 21 October 2020. Compare book output: Geiger, Peter – Waschkuhn, Arno (Ed.): *Liechtenstein. Kleinheit und Interdependenz*. Vaduz 1990. (Liechtenstein Politische Schriften 14.)

In this context, he focused mainly on the micro-history of the region in the Alpenrhein, on the questions of the specifics and sovereignty of Liechtenstein in the 19th and the first half of the 20th century, and especially on the contextualized biographies of the individual inhabitants of Liechtenstein.[12] He focused on specific people living in the Rhine Valley rather than on personalities from the princely family. In this regard, we might mention at least his interest in the remarkable story of Russian soldiers in German Wehrmacht uniforms fighting against the Red Army. In his work, Peter Geiger repeatedly came back to the fates of soldiers who found temporary refuge in Liechtenstein.[13] The culmination of this type of research by Peter Geiger is the aforementioned project conducted at the Liechtenstein-Institut under the title "Liechtenstein in den Dreissigerjahren und im Zweiten Weltkrieg".[14] The main result of the project was most certainly a pair of extensive, two-volume monographs, which were published in Vaduz and Zurich under the titles *Crisis* and *War time.*[15] In them, the author tries to make use of relatively small and in their way specifically Liechtenstein specifics to depict large and small structures, the actions of princes and ordinary citizens, political and military events and the deeds of individual citizens, their inclination towards the Third Reich and their aversion to it. This is the "grand" European history of the crisis period of the 20th century, which is not only the history of states, the history of offices or large industrial corporations, the history of social structures and social interactions, but also which is also imaginable as the history of individuals and their life stories.

*

Associate Professor Peter Geiger is not only a former leading researcher at the Liechtenstein-Institut in Bendern, but also a long-term member of the Historischer Verein für das Fürstentum Liechtenstein in Schaan. The circle of his collaborators and colleagues was also recruited from these two institutions; they were involved in the preparation of individual topics, to be used to present major events and phenomena in the history of Liechtenstein as part of the "Days of Liechtenstein History in the Czech Republic". The "Days of Liechtenstein History" took place in Brno in November 2019 as a reciprocal event for the "Days of Czech History in Liechtenstein", organized by the Liechtenstein-

12 Compare too with this Frommelt, Fabian: *Die liechtensteinische Souveränität zwischen Rheinbund und Wiener Kongress im Spiegel der Geschichtsschreibung.* In: Liechtenstein-Institut, Historischer Verein für das Fürstentum Liechtenstein, Kunstmuseum Liechtenstein (Ed.): „Wer Bescheid weiss, ist bescheiden". Festschrift zum 90. Geburtstag von Georg Malin. Bendern 2016, pp. 147–172.

13 For example Geiger, Peter: *Das Leben von Josef Salamaj, Mitglied der Holmston-Armee 1945.* Jahrbuch des Historischen Vereins für das Fürstentum Liechtenstein 115, 2016, pp. 81–120; See also Vogelsang, Henning Freiherr von: *Nach Liechtenstein – in die Freiheit. Der abenteuerliche Weg der „1. Russischen Nationalarmee in der Deutschen Wehrmacht" ins Asyl im Fürstentum Liechtenstein.* Schellenberg 1980; Geiger, Peter – Schlapp, Manfred: *Russen in Liechtenstein. Flucht und Internierung der Wehrmacht-Armee Holmstons 1945–1948. Mit der Liste der Internierten und dem russischen Tagebuch des Georgij Simon*. Vaduz – Zürich 1996.

14 The project is described on the Liechtenstein-Institut website: https://www.liechtenstein-institut.li/forschungsprojekte/geschichte-liechtensteins-im-zweiten-weltkrieg. Downloaded 21 October 2020.

15 Geiger, Peter: *Krisenzeit. Liechtenstein in den Dreissigerjahren 1928–1939.* 2 Bände. Vaduz – Zürich 2000; Geiger, Peter: *Kriegszeit. Liechtenstein 1939 bis 1945*. 2 Bände. Zürich 2010.

Czech Commission of Historians a year earlier in Vaduz. The main part of the Brno festival, which also included special lectures and presentations, several exhibitions and a contribution by the Liechtenstein writer Sabine Bockmühl, as well as a meeting of the management of the historical societies Historischer Verein für das Fürstentum Liechtenstein and Matice moravská, was a one-day seminar "Liechtenstein in European History" organized by the Commission in cooperation with the Moravian Regional Archive in Brno. The seminar featured several papers by leading Liechtenstein historians.

The areas covered during the Brno meeting became the basis for professional articles published in this present issue of Studia Historica Brunensia. Dr. Paul Vogt, Director Emeritus of the Liechtensteinisches Landesarchiv in Vaduz here presents two important historical themes. The first of these is the question of the historical development of the territory on the Upper Rhine in the period before the arrival of the Liechtensteins. It shows that the small area between Schellenberg and Vaduz, whose history took place in connection with the space of the Holy Roman Empire, was even then subordinate to the important aristocratic families who jointly determined the history of this part of Europe, such as the Werdenbergs and Hohenems.[16] Vogt's second article occupies a key place in the present issue of the Journal, in view of the current three hundredth anniversary. It is devoted to the remarkable process of the takeover of the area under consideration by the Liechtenstein princely family and the constituting of the Principality of Liechtenstein. Both of Vogt's contributions in the present issue of Studia Historica Brunensia are thus a fundamental follow-up to research into the building of the modern Liechtenstein state, whose 300th anniversary was celebrated in Liechtenstein in 2019, including *inter alia* the publication of a number of professional and popular historical publications. In this context, let us recall at least the representative so-called "golden book" *300 Jahre Fürstentum Liechtenstein 1719–2019*, published by Rainer Volkommer, Director of the Liechtensteinisches Landesmuseum, capturing the history of the country and the history of the family, as well as the broadly contextualized nature of the period of the establishment of statehood, the first quarter of the 18th century.[17]

Another of the authors represented in the volume is the Liechtenstein historian and long-time teacher of history Rupert Quaderer-Vogt, one of the leading experts on the history of Liechtenstein sovereignty in the 19th and 20th centuries,[18] as well as on

16 For the latest thematisation of this problem up to the end of the Middle Ages, see Frey, Stefan: *Von der Grabschaft Rätien zu den Herrschaften Vaduz und Schellenberg. Die Entwicklung ds Herrschaftsgefüges im Raum Liechtenstein bis zum Ende des Spätmittelalters.* Jahrbuch des Historischen Vereins für das Fürstentum Liechtenstein 119, 2020, pp. 9–86; On the period of the early modern period and the takeover of the Liechtenstein region, see, for example Seger, Otto: *Von Hohenems zu Liechtenstein.* Jahrbuch des Historischen Vereins für das Fürstentum Liechtenstein 58, 1958, pp. 91–134.

17 Volkommer, Rainer (Ed.): *300 Jahre Fürstentum Liechtenstein*. Vaduz 2019. An article dedicated to the establishment of the Principality of Liechtensteinis completely fresh Schmidt, Georg: *Aus Vaduz und Schellenberg wird Liechtenstein. Fürsten und Untertanen im Mehrebenengefüge des Alten Reiches.* Jahrbuch des Historischen Vereins für das Fürstentum Liechtenstein 119, 2020, pp. 143–162. In czech historigraphy see Županič, Jan: *Vznik Lichtenštejnského knížectví. [The Formation of the Principality of Liechtenstein]*. Časopis Národního muzea A 179, 2010 (Nr. 3 –4), s. 3–2.

18 Quaderer's bibliography on this topic is rich, the following is an example: Quaderer, Rupert: *Neutralitäts – und Souveränitätsprobleme Liechtensteins im Umfeld des Ersten Weltkrieges*. In: Kleinstaat und Menschenrechte.

modern Liechtenstein's economic and financial history.[19] Quaderer questions the significance of the changes that took place in this country on the Rhine after the end of the First World War. He describes how it was with the forced change of the country's international political and economic orientation from the Austro-Hungarian monarchy towards Switzerland. The crisis brought about by the First World War brought several modernization impulses to the small territory of Liechtenstein. Customs and economic union with Switzerland. Of course, a number of Liechtenstein's steps after the First World War were aimed at the most important goal, namely the recognition of the country as a sovereign state and its membership of the League of Nations. In order for this to happen, the young country had to deal with various obstacles.

Peter Geiger also remains faithful to one of his key themes, the history of Liechtenstein on the threshold of World War II and during it. It describes the complex political and strategic situation within the country and in relation to the policies of the Nazi Third Reich. There is also the question of to what extent little Liechtenstein could have resisted possible German aggression and what role the princely family played in protecting the country during the difficult times of the war. Here also are topics that Peter Geiger repeatedly asks in connection with the end of the Second World War. He deals with the options for a small country that relied not on weapons but on its neutrality. It reopens the story of the fate of Russian soldiers in the uniform of the German Wehrmacht, who at the time of the final defeat of the Third Reich sought asylum in neutral Liechtenstein. Although the post-war Decrees of the President of the Czechoslovak Republic, Edvard Beneš, do not seem at first sight to belong in this historical context, they play an irreplaceable role in Peter Geiger's interpretation. On the one hand, they connect the history of the princely family and its citizens, and on the other hand, they connect the war period with the following post-war period. And they are also an exposition of injustice against a small neutral country.[20]

Festgabe für Gerard Batliner. Basel – Frankfurt/M.1993, pp. 43–61; Quaderer, Rupert: *Jahre der Retardation, Liechtensteins innenpolitische Entwicklung 1815–1848.* In: Brunhart, Arthur (Ed.): Liechtenstein und die Revolution 1848, Umfeld – Ursachen – Ereignisse – Folgen. Zürich 2000, pp. 61–76. Quaderer, Rupert: *Liechtenstein im 19. Jahrhundert (1806–1914).* In: Birrer, Patrik (Ed.): Bauen für Liechtenstein, Ausgewählte Beiträge zur Gestaltung einer Kulturlandschaft, (Herausgegeben aus Anlass des 50-jährigen Bestehens des Europarates). Vaduz 2000, pp. 10–29. Quaderer, Rupert: *Reflexionen zur liechtensteinischen Identität.* Schweizer Monatshefte, 80. Jg., Heft 11, November 2000, pp. 12–16; Quaderer, Rupert: *Ein „Annex Österreichs" oder ein souveräner Staat? Liechtensteins Beziehungen zur Tschechoslowakei nach dem Ersten Weltkrieg. Jahrbuch des Historischen Vereins für das Fürstentum Liechtenstein 105*, 2006, pp. 103–127.

19 Quaderer, Rupert: *Von der Krone zum Franken: Die Wärungsfrage nach dem Ersten Weltkrieg.* In: Merki, Christoph Maria: Im Wandel beständig. Festschrift zum 150-Jahr-Jubiläum der Liechtensteinischen Landesbank. Vaduz 2011, pp. 49–72; Quaderer, Rupert: *„Die Sehnsucht nach Deinem Geld ist unermesslich". Das Fürstenhaus als finanzieller Nothelfer Liechtensteins in den Jahren nach dem Ersten Weltkrieg.* In: Liechtensteinisch-Tschechische Historikerkommission (Ed.): Das Fürstenhaus, der Staat Liechtenstein und die Tschechoslowakei im 20. Jahrhundert. Band 4. Vaduz 2013, pp. 25–42. Czech language version Quaderer, Rupert*: „Touha po tvých penězích je nezměrná". Knížecí rod jako pomocník Lichtenštejnska ve finanční nouzi po první světové válce. ["The desire for your money is immeasurable." The princely family as a helper to Liechtenstein in financial distress after the First World War.]* Journal of the Matice moravská 132, 2013, Supplementum 6, pp. 25–40.

20 Knoz, Tomáš: *Předmluva [Preface].* In: Knoz, Tomáš (Ed.): Lichtenštejnové: konstrukce obrazu, stereotypy,

Christoph Maria Merki has in the past worked as an associate professor of modern history at the universities of Bern and Zurich. In 2002, he began a research residency at the Liechtenstein-Institut in Bendern, where he worked as Director from 2008 to 2010. This shifted Merki's research interest from specific topics in the economic and cultural history of Switzerland (a dissertation on the history of confectionery, articles on tobacco production, monographs on the history of motoring)[21] to the economic and constitutional history of Liechtenstein.[22] Like Rupert Quaderer-Vogt, Christoph Maria Merki has long been concerned with the modern economic history of Liechtenstein. Undoubtedly the most important place in his bibliography on this topic is occupied by his book monograph *Wunderchaftswunder Liechtenstein* from 2007, in which he discussed the transition of the rather poor Liechtenstein agrarian society of the Alpenrhein area into a modern state municipality, with an emphasis on the banking sector and highly developed technologies.[23] The article now being published is close to the original monograph not only in title but also in content, but the more concise format offered the author the opportunity to formulate his conclusions in a more compacted and concise form.

The specialist section of the "Liechtenstein issue" of Studia Historica Brunensia is drawn to a close by an article by the Liechtenstein political scientist, long-time diplomat and current president of the Kulturstiftung Liechtenstein Roland Marxer, devoted to Liechtenstein-Czech diplomatic relations from 1945 to 2009. It is connected to the article by Christoph Maria Merki by its *contemporary history* nature, bringing the story to the up-to-date present. And with the contributions of Rupert Quaderer-Vogt and Peter Geiger then the fact that the history of the state of Liechtenstein is viewed through the lens of Liechtenstein-Czech relations, or more exactly, from the perspective of the Beneš post-war Presidential Decrees. Roland Marxer describes history through documents deposited at the Office for Foreign Affairs (Amt für Auswärtige Angelegenheiten) in Vaduz. It is clear that, as a senior diplomat and as the head of the said office, he has personally participated in the creation of part of these documents and in the negotiations which gave rise to these materials. His article can therefore be seen not only as a contribution from the field of political science and the history of diplomacy, but also as an ego-document *sui generis*, expressing the attitudes and approach of Liechtenstein diplomacy. The article traces the events up to 2009, when diplomatic relations were established between the Principality of Liechtenstein and the Czech Republic. In this context, Roland Marxer speaks of a new beginning in mutual relations.

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propaganda. [The Liechtensteins: image construction, stereotypes, propaganda.] Journal of the Matice moravská 134, 2015, Supplementum 7, pp. 3–7.

21 Merki, Christoph Maria: *Zucker gegen Saccharin. Zur Geschichte der künstlichen Süßstoffe*. Frankfurt a.M. – New York 1993; Merki, Christoph Maria – Hengartner, Thomas (Ed.): *Tabakfragen. Rauchen aus kulturwissenschaftlicher Sicht.* Zürich 1996; Merki, Christoph Maria: *Der holprige Siegeszug des Automobils, 1895–1930. Zur Motorisierung des Straßenverkehrs in Frankreich, Deutschland und der Schweiz*. Vienna – Cologne – Weimar 2002.

22 Cf the biography and treatise on the research interests of Christoph Mario Merki on the University of Bern website. Online:_https://www.hist.unibe.ch/ueber_uns/personen/merki_christoph_maria/index_ger.html. Downloaded 18 October 2020.

23 Merki, Christoph Maria: *Wirtschaftswunder Liechtenstein. Die rasche Modernisierung einer kleinen Volkswirtschaft im 20. Jahrhundert.* Zürich 2007.

The annex of the present publication is then made up of the texts of two lectures, which were not an immediate part of the "Liechtenstein in European History" conference, but were nevertheless an important part of the "Days of Liechtenstein History in the Czech Republic". The first case is the text of a public lecture by the Liechtenstein Ambassador, Her Serene Highness Maria-Pia Kothbauer-Liechtenstein, who gave it under the title *Liechtenstein in Today's World* in the Historical Hall of the Moravian Museum in the Dietrichstein Palace in Brno. In her presentation, Maria-Pia Kothbauer focuses in particular on the economic and international-political characteristics of the country. And, of course, also on Liechtenstein-Czech relations. Ferdinand Trauttmansdorff, the former Ambassador of the Republic of Austria to the Czech Republic and the holder of the Order of the White Lion, awarded for his contribution to the development of Austrian-Czech relations, also addressed similar topics. In the first part of his presentation of projects addressed by the Czech-Liechtenstein Commission of Historians, he spoke about the publication entitled "Fürstenhaus Liechtenstein – Böhmische Länder – Fürstentum Liechtenstein", issued by the Studia Historica Brunensia journal.[24] The second part was devoted to the presentation of a newly published English-language version of a collectively authored monograph entitled *Czech-Liechtenstein Relations. Past and Present,* whose text contains *Summary Report by the Czech-Liechtenstein Commission of Historians*, prepared by the members of the commission as a summary of the commission 's activities in 2010–2013, and presented to both Ministries of Foreign Affairs.[25] Ferdinand Trauttmansdorff emphasizes that this is a synthesis of 800 years of Czech-Liechtenstein relations. He describes the third chapter as being the most important, depicting the places of memory and the construction of the historical image of the Liechtensteins.

If we were to try to find the fundamental connecting points of all the preceding articles and lecture and presentation recordings, we would probably have to look for them in Trauttmansdorff's places of memory, historical stereotypes, continuities and discontinuities and constructions of the image of Liechtenstein and Lichtensteiners, both in relation to the space of the Czech Lands, as well as in relation to the Rhineland Liechtenstein, and even in their interconnections. It is possible to note the strong connection between the family and the state to which the family gives its name and which at the same time respects the head of the family as the head of state.[26] Let us note in

24 Knoz, Tomáš (Ed.): *Fürstenhaus Liechtenstein – Böhmische Länder – Fürstentum Liechtenstein.* Studia Historica Brunensia 64, Nr. 1, 2017.

25 Geiger, Peter – Knoz, Tomáš – Fučíková, Eliška – Horák, Ondřej – Horel, Catherine – Kräftner, Johann – Winkelbauer, Thomas – Županič, Jan: *Czech-Liechtenstein Relations. Past and Present. Summary Report by the Czech-Liechtenstein Commission of Historiens.* Vaduz 2020. Cf. Czech language version Geiger, Peter – Knoz, Tomáš – Fučíková, Eliška – Horák, Ondřej – Horel, Catherine – Kräftner, Johann – Županič, Jan – Winkelbauer, Thomas: *Česko-lichtenštejnské vztahy v dějinách a v současnosti: souhrnná zpráva Česko-lichtenštejnské komise historiků [Czech-Liechtenstein Relations Historically and in the Present. Summary Report of the Czech-Liechtenstein Commission of Historians].* Brno 2014 and the German language version Geiger, Peter – Knoz, Tomáš – Fučíková, Eliška – Horák, Ondřej – Horel, Catherine – Kräftner, Johann – Županič, Jan – Winkelbauer, Thomas: *Liechtensteinisch-tschechische Beziehungen in Geschichte und Gegenwart: Synthesebericht der Liechtensteinisch-Tschechischen Historikerkommission.* Vaduz 2014.

26 The current Liechtenstein constitution contains an article under which power in the state derives from the prince and from the people. A similar formula is proposed by Prince Hans-Adam of Liechtenstein in

this regard the specifics that are typical both of the Czech Republic and Liechtenstein: The Czech Republic associates its identity with the establishment of a state that today no longer exists. Liechtenstein associates its statehood with the purchase of territory into its own ownership by an aristocratic princely family. Nevertheless, both state identities rely on historical events. If we read the individual articles, we find that relations between Liechtenstein and the Czech Republic are actually triadic relations between two countries, or rather states, and a family that connects the history of both these territorial units and which can be perceived as a subject of both Czech and Liechtenstein history. As is clear from the texts, the so-called Beneš Decrees as a medium of a certain historical trauma are also part of the "great narrative" of the Czechs and Liechtensteins to this day. A trauma connecting the past and the present and incorporating Liechtenstein-Czech relations into the context of the more general Central European, European and global historical context, in which relations between the Czechs and Liechtensteins (with some measure of simplification) are characterized by the relations of both entities with Germans and Germany in the cataclysms of the 1930s and 1940s.[27]

Resumé

Lichtenštejnsko v evropských dějinách. Ad honorem Peter Geiger

Předkládaný článek ve své první části charakterizuje roli Petera Geigera jako historika a jako spolupředsedy Lichtenštejnsko-české komise historiků. PD Dr. Peter Geiger působil posledních po deset let jako spolupředseda Lichtenštejnsko-české komise historiků. Mezi lety 2010 a 2020 byl jedním z jejích základních stavebních pilířů. Geiger se v komisi zabýval především moderními dějinami Lichtenštejnska a vybranými otázkami lichtenštejnsko-českých vztahů. Připravil zásadní stať o tom, nakolik byla československá a česká témata frekventována na stránkách lichtenštejnského tisku, a tedy jaký obraz si o původní vlasti svých knížat mohl utvořit běžný občan Lichtenštejnského knížectví. V souvislosti s výzkumem lichtenštejnských kontinuit a diskontinuit zase popsal proměnu Lichtenštejnska od do jisté míry marginálního území v rámci lichtenštejnských držav po středobod života knížecího rodu. Odborný zájem Petera Geigera v Lichtenštejnsko-české komisi historiků byl rozkročen mezi dějiny rodu a dějiny země a jejích obyvatel, a to především v oblasti majetkových zisků a ztrát. Pro téma „Lichtenštejnové, Lichtenštejnsko a Československo ve 20. století" proto

his model for the possible future constitutions of other states (here from the prince or the president). See Liechtenstein, Hans-Adam von: *Der Staat im dritten Jahrtausend.* [1]Triesen 2010. Czech translation Liechtenstein, Hans-Adam von: *Stát ve třetím tisíciletí [The state in the third millennium]*. Prague 2011.

27 See Seibt, Ferdinand: *Deutschland und die Tschechen. Geschichte einer Nachbarschaft in der Mitte Europas.* Zurich 1992 (Czech translation by Seibt, Ferdinand: Německo a Češi [Germany and the Czechs]. History of a neighbourhood in the middle of Europe. Prague 1996); Brandes, Detlef: *Die Tschechen unter deutschem Protektorat*. I–II. Munich 1969, 1975. In: Liechtenstein, the topic of „Volksdeutsche Bewegung in Liechtenstein" has been very popular in recent years for example, Geiger, Peter: *Der Kleinstaat in der Ära der Weltkriege*. In: Dieter Langewiesche (Ed.): Kleinstaaten in Europa. Schaan: Verlag der Liechtensteinischen Akademischen Gesellschaft (Liechtenstein Politische Schriften, Bd. 42), pp. 137–174, in particular pp. 167–168.

napsal hned dvě zásadní studie. První z nich se zabývá snahou rodu Lichtenštejnů z let 1938–1945 o znovuzískání a zachránění majetků, o které Lichtenštejnové přišli v souvislosti s tzv. první pozemkovou reformou. Za zásadní téma je možné považovat Geigerovy stati o vyvlastnění lichtenštejnských občanů žijících na území Československa po roce 1945. Ve druhé části stati jsou potom tematizovány a kontextualizovány další příspěvky, zařazené do předkládaného „lichtenštejnského" svazku časopisu Studia Historica Brunensia.