

The Princely House of Liechtenstein in the History of the Lands of the Bohemian Crown

Introduction

MAREK VAŘEKA – ALEŠ ZÁŘICKÝ

The history of the Liechtensteins, princes from 1608, is inextricably connected with the history of the Lands of the Bohemian Crown. The activities of this dynasty can be traced continuously from the Middle Ages to 1945, when they were interrupted for a time until their revival in the present day – based on new, democratic principles in an emerging integrated Europe. The main aim of the international conference *The Princely House of Liechtenstein in the History of the Lands of the Bohemian Crown* was to present and discuss the history of this dynasty in the widest possible range of contexts – not only in relation to the Czech lands but also in connection with the Habsburg monarchy and Europe as a whole. The conference – the first Czech-Liechtenstein academic event after the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries – took place on 24–26 November 2010 in the impressive surroundings of the Archdiocesan Museum in Olomouc; it was organized by the Centre for Economic and Social History at the Faculty of Arts, University of Ostrava in conjunction with the Historical Society of the Principality of Liechtenstein. The event featured 45 academics from 7 European countries, and was held under the auspices of the Prince of Liechtenstein Hans Adam II, the Archbishop of Olomouc and Metropolitan of Moravia Mons. Jan Graubner, and the Auxiliary Bishop of Olomouc and Titular Bishop of Thunodrum, Mons. Josef Hrdlička.

The individual panel discussions at the conference traced the history of the dynasty, individual figures, their political, economic and cultural activities, and aspects of their everyday lives. A particularly important topic of discussion was the process by which the family's property and assets were created, accumulated and then lost – including the family's relocation to the Principality of Liechtenstein. Participants also focused on issues of relevance at the regional level – especially the history of the estates, cities and villages owned by the Liechtensteins in the Czech lands – as well as examining the traces left by the Liechtensteins in culture, architecture and art.

We are confident that this publication will contribute to a deeper understanding of the history of the Princely House of Liechtenstein – a family which has made a huge contribution to forming the space in which we live today.