

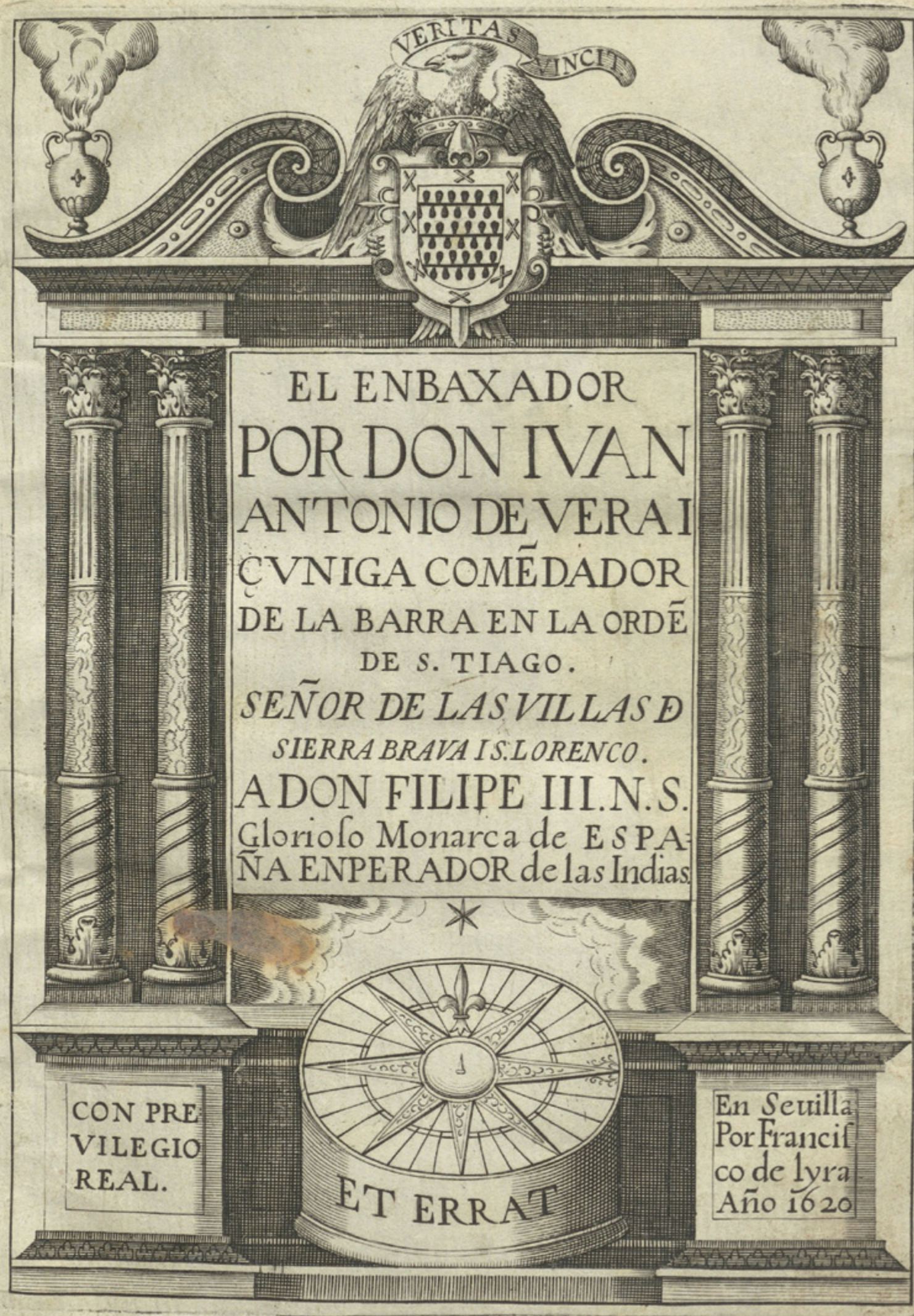


NATIONAL  
HERITAGE  
INSTITUTE

# THE NOBLES OF THE CZECH LANDS IN EUROPEAN DIPLOMACY

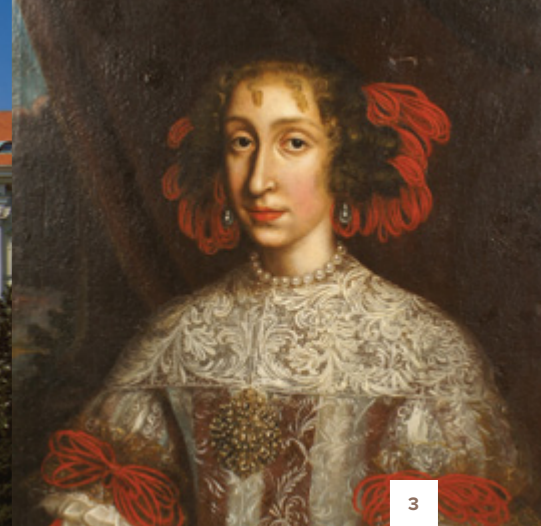
project proposal





# the project

*The Nobles of the Czech Lands in European Diplomacy* is part of the long-term programme of the Czech National Heritage Institute entitled *In the Footsteps of Noble Families*. The aim of this programme is to research and present the cultural historical heritage of the noble families whose former residences fall under the care of the National Heritage Institute. Annually, the project focuses on either a particular family (for example, the Rosenbergs in 2011; the Lords of Kunštát in 2014), or reflects a certain theme associated with nobles (Year of the Renaissance Aristocracy, 2017).



In the year of 2018 the project is to focus on the theme of nobles within diplomacy, and for three essential reasons:

1. Due to their privileged social position nobles have naturally participated in diplomacy since as far back as the middle ages and important aristocrats have worked in the diplomatic service even in the era of civic society beginning in the 19<sup>th</sup> century including the period of the Czechoslovak Republic after 1918.
2. The National Heritage Institute has in its care an exceptionally valuable and extensive collection of artefacts, documents, and other materials associated with the diplomatic activities of nobles.
3. The diplomatic activities of nobles have left an indelible footprint in European and world history, and so represent an exceptionally appropriate theme for 2018, the European Year of Cultural Heritage, as announced by the European Commission.

**1** Hermann Czernin of Chudenitz, 1576–1651, in a red kaftan. In the years 1616–1618 and 1644–1645 he was the ambassador of the Austrian rulers to the Ottoman Empire, State Castle and Chateau Jindřichuv Hradec, Czech Republic. **2** The Czernin Palace, Loreta Square, Prague. The imperial diplomat Humprecht Johann Czernin of Chudenitz, 1628–1682, had the palace built after 1664. Since 1934 it has served as the headquarters of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Czechoslovakia and following that of the Czech Republic. **3** Johanna Terezia of Harrach, 1639–1716, the daughter of the important statesman Johann Maximilian of Lamberg and later the wife of Ferdinand Bonaventura of Harrach, Austrian statesman, diplomat, and Knight of the Order of the Golden Fleece, State Chateau Hrádek u Nechanic, Czech Republic. **4** Humprecht Johann Czernin von Chudenitz, 1628–1682, wearing the Order of the Golden Fleece, Governor of the Kingdom of Bohemia, in the years 1660–1663 ambassador of Emperor Leopold I to Venice, State Chateau Manětín, Czech Republic. **5** The Turkish Tent, received as a gift by Hermann Czernin of Chudenitz in 1664 from diplomats of the Ottoman Empire, State Castle and Chateau Jindřichuv Hradec, Czech Republic.



1



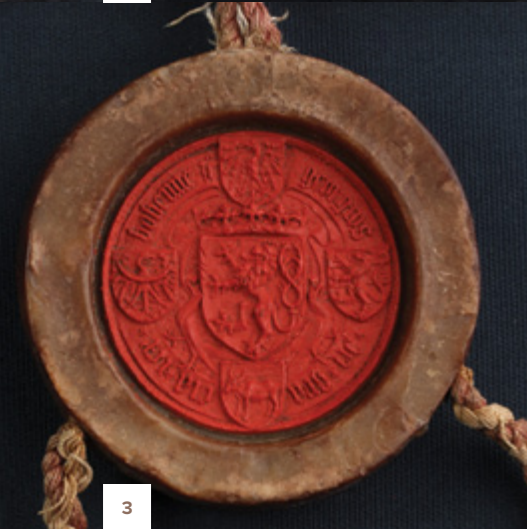
2



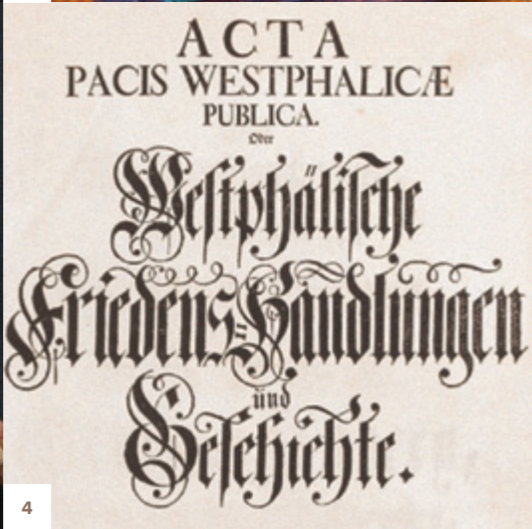
1



2



3



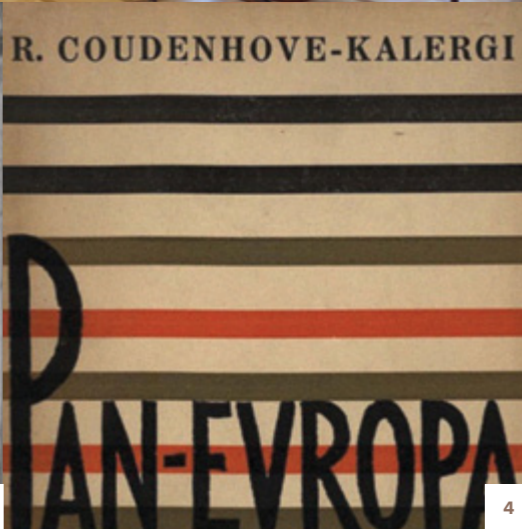
4



5



3



4



5

## basic structure and content of the project

### A. Initial activities of the project

The project will be initiated in March of 2018 with an inaugural presentation in the Czernin Palace in Prague, the former residence of the diplomatically active Czernin family, and at present the headquarters of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. The project will be initiated in parallel in Brussels, the stage of important historic diplomatic events and the centre of contemporary European diplomacy.

In Brussels, the project will be introduced by an inaugural event in the form of a panel display and a one-day thematic colloquium with the working name of *Four Visions of European Peace*. The theme of this event will be four significant European peace projects initiated or organised by nobles connected to the Czech lands:

1. The project of the Czech King George of Poděbrady concerning the peace organisation of Christian states (1462–1464).
2. The Peace of Westphalia (1648) – a peace settlement project in Europe after the Thirty Years War. In the position of chief diplomat negotiating for the Habsburg monarchy was Count Maximilian Trauttmansdorff. His former residence in Bohemia, the chateau of Horšovský Týn, in the care of the National Heritage

**1** Maximilian Trauttmansdorff, 1584–1650, wearing the Order of the Golden Fleece, imperial diplomat, in the years 1645–1647 he took part in the negotiations of the Westphalian Peace, State Chateau Horšovský Týn, Czech Republic. **2** The pen with which the Westphalian Peace was signed in 1648, State Chateau Horšovský Týn, Czech Republic. **3** The seal of the King of Bohemia George of Poděbrady. **4** Acta Pacis Westphalicae Publica, 1734, the documents of the Westphalian Peace selected and arranged by Johann Gottfried Meiern, German lawyer, historian, and university professor, State Chateau Horšovský Týn, Czech Republic. **5** George of Kunštát and Poděbrady, 1420–1471, King of Bohemia, State Castle Karlštejn, Czech Republic.

Institute, contains exceptionally valuable artefacts such as the pen with which the Peace of Westphalia was signed, an eight-volume edition of the Peace of Westphalia in book form, and personal possessions of Count Trauttmansdorff.

3. The Congress of Vienna (1815) – a peace settlement project in Europe after the Napoleonic Wars chaired by the representative of the Habsburg Empire in the negotiations Prince Klemens Metternich. His former residence in Bohemia, the chateau of Kynžvart, which contains exceptionally valuable personal possessions of the prince, and the former monastery at Plasy along with the Metternich Tomb, are in the care of the National Heritage Institute.

4. Paneuropa (1923) – a European unification project. The initiating document of the project is the eponymous book by Richard Coudenhove-Kalergi, son of the Austrian ambassador to Japan Heinrich Coudenhove-Kalergi and his Japanese wife Mitsuko Aoyama. Richard Coudenhove-Kalergi conceived his European project at, among other places, the chateau of Poběžovice in the west of Bohemia, the mobiliary of which, including the personal possessions of the Coudenhove-Kalergi family, is in the care of the National Heritage Institute.

**1** The office of the Austrian Chancellor of State Klemens Metternich at the chateau of Kynžvart, Czech Republic, at lower left is the table on which the documents of the Vienna Congress were signed in 1815. **2** Klemens Metternich, 1773–1859, Austrian politician and diplomat, from 1821 Austrian Chancellor of State, State Chateau Kynžvart, Czech Republic. **3** Heinrich Coudenhove-Kalergi, 1859–1906, Austro-Hungarian ambassador to Tokyo with his Japanese wife Mitsuko, wedding photograph, Tokyo, 1895. **4** A detail of the cover of the Czech edition of *Pan-Europa* by Richard Coudenhove-Kalergi, 1926, cover by Josef Čapek, forward by Edvard Beneš, then Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czechoslovak Republic. **5** Richard Coudenhove-Kalergi, 1894–1972, the son of Heinrich and Mitsuko, writer, politician, founder of the Paneuropean Union, and author of the book *Pan-Europa*.



### B. Main activity of the project

The main aim of the project is the creation of a new exhibition at the chateau of Jindřichův Hradec with the title of *The Perfect Diplomat* and the subtitle of *The Czernin Family – Ambassadors, Travellers, Collectors*. The title of the project comes from the eponymous book *The Perfect Diplomat*, which from the 17<sup>th</sup> Century onwards was the foundational textbook of diplomacy. Its Italian edition from the year 1649 was dedicated to Humprecht Johann Czernin, the ambassador of Leopold I to Venice and the builder of the Czernin Palace in Prague, the present headquarters of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The exhibition presents the diplomatic and associated travel and collecting activities of the Czernin family, the former owners of the chateau of Jindřichův Hradec. One of the main exhibits is to be the unique Turkish Tent, a gift received by Hermann Czernin of Chudenitz in 1644 from diplomats of the Ottoman Empire.

### C. Further project activities

At chosen premises of the National Heritage Institute further activities connected to “the year of diplomacy” will take place according to the character of preserved artefacts and themes associated with the respective locations.

For example, at the chateau of Český Krumlov there will be a new presentation of the story of the Eggenberg Golden Carriage which the imperial diplomat Johann Anton I of Eggenberg had built in 1638 for the ceremonial procession of the diplomatic mission to Rome on the occasion of the announcement of the election of Ferdinand III of Habsburg as Holy Roman Emperor to Pope Urban VIII.

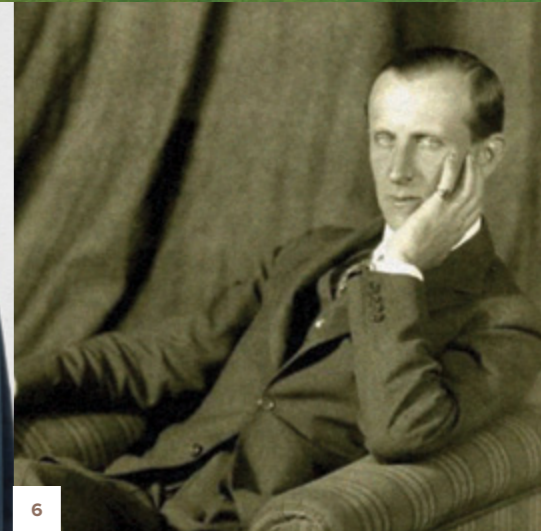
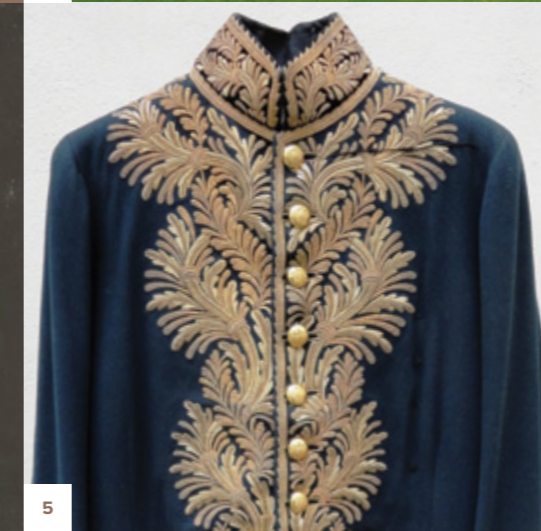
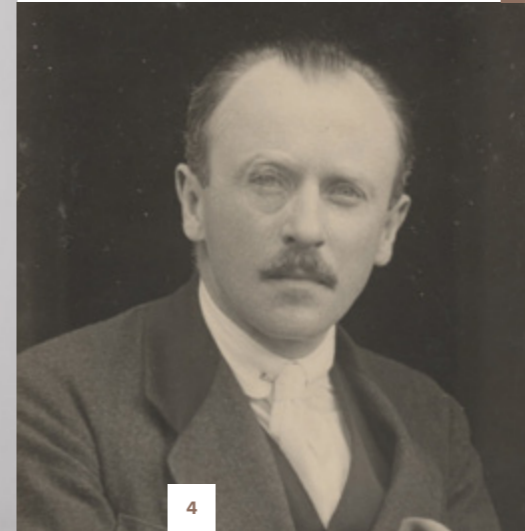
At the chateau of Kynžvart there is to be a homage to the work of Prince Klemens Metternich, at the chateau of Lysice an exhibition focused on the diplomatic activities of Count Erwin Dubský is to be held. Similar activities will take place at more than thirty premises of the National Heritage Institute.

Apart from events taking place in the Czech Republic there will also be events held abroad, particularly at locations where significant diplomatic activities of nobles from the Czech lands took place. At these locations the National Heritage Institute will, in cooperation with heritage institutes abroad, organise panel displays,

---

**1** View of the Adam's Building and the Grand Arcades of the State Castle and Chateau of Jindřichův Hradec, in the years 1693–1945 the residence of the Czernin family of Chudenitz. In 2018, in the upper floor of the Adam's Building, a new exhibition entitled *The Perfect Diplomat, The Czernin Family – Ambassadors, Travellers, Collectors* will be opened. **following double-paged photograph** The Eggenberg Golden Coach, 1638, built for the imperial diplomat Johann Anton I of Eggenberg for a ceremonial procession of the diplomatic mission to Rome on the occasion of the announcement of the election of Ferdinand III of Habsburg as Holy Roman Emperor to Pope Urban VIII.





workshops, and colloquia in order to research and popularise the theme of diplomacy. At the same time the National Heritage Institute will use this opportunity to present the theme of cultural heritage care in the Czech Republic. In this further sense of the project, and in the context of the European Year of Cultural Heritage, the National heritage Institute aims to present itself as an “ambassador” of cultural heritage care in the Czech Republic.

In August 2018 the chateau of Kynžvart, the former residence of the Austrian chancellor Klemens Metternich, will become the centre of a *Castle and Chateau Night* with an event programme focused upon the role of the Metternich family in European diplomacy.

In tandem with the exhibitions and presentations popular publications and publicity materials will be issued, the theme of the diplomatic activities of nobles in relationship to the premises and artefacts in the care of the National Heritage Institute will be summarised in a special publication issued by the National Heritage Institute in cooperation with renowned academics and university experts.

**1** Samurai armour Joroi, 16<sup>th</sup>–17<sup>th</sup> Century, Japan, a souvenir from the diplomatic mission made by Kuno Des Fours Walderode to Japan, State Chateau Hrubý Rohozec, Czech Republic. **2** A malachite vase, beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, a diplomatic gift from the Emperor of Russia Alexander I to the Austrian chancellor Klemens Metternich, State Chateau Kynžvart, Czech Republic. **3** State Chateau Kynžvart, Czech Republic, in the years 1623–1945 residence of the Metternich family. **4** Kuno Des Fours Walderode, 1879–1956, diplomat, Chef de Cabinet in Tokyo, Istanbul, Beijing, and Stockholm. **5** The diplomatic frock coat of Johann Schönburg-Hartenstein, 1864–1937, Austrian diplomat in London, Romania, and the Vatican, Military History Institute Prague, originally State Chateau Červená Lhota, Czech Republic. **6** Max Lobkowicz, 1888–1967, lawyer, politician, and diplomat, during World War II ambassador of the Czechoslovak Republic to Great Britain. He died in exile. Photograph: František Drtikol.



1



2



3



4



1 Mechtilda Lichnovská, 1879–1958, authoress, patroness and muse of artists, wife of Karel Maxmilián Lichnovský, diplomat, German ambassador to London, and owner of the chateau of Hradec nad Moravicí, Czech Republic, salon of the German embassy in London, 1914. 2 Erwin Dubský, 1836–1909, frigate captain, traveler, diplomat, painter, and the creator of an extensive collection of artefacts from Japan, China, and North America, stylised self-portrait, 1908, State Chateau Lysice, Czech Republic. 3 State Chateau Hradec nad Moravicí, Czech Republic. 4 Japanese Girl, Raimund Stillfried–Ratenicz, 1875, the collection of Erwin Dubský, State Chateau Lysice, Czech Republic.

front cover A detail of the decoration of the diplomatic carriage of Johann Anton I of Eggenberg, 1638, State Castle and Chateau Český Krumlov, Czech Republic. inside of front cover The title page of the first edition of the book *Ambassador* by Juan Antonio de Vera y Figueroa. In the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries the book served as the foundational text book for the study of diplomacy. Its Italian edition of 1649, under the title *The Perfect Diplomat*, was dedicated to Humprecht Johann Czernin of Chudenitz, imperial ambassador of Leopold I to Venice and the builder of the Czernin Palace, the present headquarters of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. back cover A detail of a chess table belonging to Klemens Metternich, diplomatic gift.



© National Heritage Institute 2018  
 Project proposal: Petr Pavelec / Graphic adjustment, typesetting: Jindřich Hoch, Sandstudios / Photography: Archiv NPÚ, Ladislav Pouzar, Aleš Motejl / Print: TISKÁRNA PROTISK, s.r.o. , Rudolfovská tř. 617, České Budějovice 4, 370 01

The National Heritage Institute is the largest heritage organisation of the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic. It is entrusted under current laws with a range of expert tasks concerning state heritage care and the management of 111 heritage premises, in particular castles and chateaux.



