



LOBKOWICZ

AUGUST 2012

From the Foundation: Last 18 Months See Goals Achieved and Milestones Met



The Inigo Jones-designed 17th-century Queen's House at Royal Museums Greenwich (London)

© Neel Walker

First-Ever Fundraiser Raises Crucial Funds for The Collections

The first-ever fundraiser for The Lobkowicz Collections foundation, Lobkowicz Collections, o.p.s., was held in London on 18 June under the auspices of Royal Museums Greenwich (RMG), where Antonio Canaletto's masterpiece **London: The Thames on Lord Mayor's Day** (c. 1750) is on loan through 9 September 2012. After enjoying a private viewing of the painting and the exhibition *Royal River: Power, Pageantry and the Thames*, attendees continued on to a gala dinner in the historic 17th-century Queen's House, where the exceptional Brodowski Quartet performed excerpts from Beethoven's *Opus 18 String Quartets*. The generosity of RMG has allowed the full amount of the funds raised to be committed to the special projects and educational programs of Lobkowicz Collections, o.p.s.

Piranesi Conservation Project Fully Funded and Only Weeks from Completion

Ten individual donors have contributed 91,000 Czech crowns (approximately 4,500 USD) to Lobkowicz Collections, o.p.s. for the conservation of the 18th-century prints by Giovanni Battista Piranesi. Eighteen of the twenty-six prints have already undergone conservation and hang once again in the Piranesi Room at Lobkowicz Palace. The remaining eight prints are currently at the conservator's studio and are due to be reinstalled at the Palace in mid-September.

By the Numbers: 1 January 2011 – 30 June 2012

- 47: Collections objects that have been returned to excellent condition following conservation work
- 33: Works of art that have been loaned to domestic or international art institutions
- 8: Exhibitions in which The Collections have participated in the Czech Republic and abroad
- 4,500: Musical sources from The Lobkowicz Library prepared for cataloging over the next three years
- 5: Temporary exhibitions that have been organized at Lobkowicz Palace and Nelahozeves Castle

You Are Invited: Wine Harvest Festival at Roudnice Castle!



Roudnice Castle in Roudnice nad Labem

© Věra Čupřová

Join the Lobkowicz team at Roudnice Castle as we celebrate the grape harvesting season at the 4th annual **Wine Harvest Festival** on Saturday, 15 September. Organized by Lobkowicz Events Management and the Roudnice nad Labem Cultural Center, the Festival has something for everyone, from an amusement park and pony rides for younger

visitors, to live music and tours of the Castle for adults. A day of good fun, good food and of course good wine from the Roudnice Lobkowicz Winery awaits! For more information about the Festival, including directions to the Castle, please visit our [website](#).

Canaletto Products Arrive in the Museum Shop



Whether you are in search of a unique gift or looking for the perfect memento by which to remember The Lobkowicz Collections, look no further than the newly arrived range of products inspired by Antonio Canaletto's **London: The Thames on Lord Mayor's Day**, the Collections painting that memorably served as inspiration for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's Thames Diamond Jubilee Pageant in London on 3 June of this year. Products include a silk scarf, a wooden jigsaw puzzle, personal notecards and sumptuous dark chocolates. To inquire about these products, visit the Museum Shop at Lobkowicz Palace or write to toms@lobkowicz.cz.



For more information, please write to info@lobkowicz.cz or visit www.lobkowicz.cz.





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Spotlight On: Lobkowicz-Pernštejn House Altar

Among the many evolutions in the artistic world during the Renaissance was the development of new ways of incorporating natural materials into the decorative arts. One such innovation was the “Florentine mosaic”, or *pietra dura*, an inlay technique that uses finely cut minerals and semi-precious stones to create colorful mosaics. A fine example of this art form can be seen in the Lobkowicz-Pernštejn house altar, which Rudolf II gave to Zdeněk Vojtěch, 1st Prince Lobkowicz (1568–1628) – then the High Chancellor of Bohemia – and Polyxena Pernštejn on the occasion of their marriage in 1603.



© The Lobkowicz Collections, Czech Republic

A wedding gift from Rudolf II to the High Chancellor of Bohemia – Zdeněk Vojtěch, 1st Prince Lobkowicz (1568–1628) – and his bride, Polyxena Pernštejn

The Lobkowicz-Pernštejn altar was almost certainly made in the workshop of Florentine artist Giovanni Castrucci, who played an important role in the artistic court of Rudolf II. Measuring just over half a meter high, a size that allowed for its portability, the altar was fashioned from ebony and embellished with a kaleidoscope of minerals, including amethyst, chalcedony and jasper. The right third of the central mosaic, with its tranquil scene of a countryside and a church tower, lies in stark contrast to the menacing dragon emerging from a cave on the left. At the heart of this image, Saint Margaret of Antioch, her hands clasped in prayer, kneels before a cross encircled by a

crown of thorns and canopied by the Latin phrase “*in hoc signo vinces*”, meaning “in this sign you will conquer”. Three further smaller images created using the *pietra dura* technique can be seen on the altar’s base. These depict an imaginary town (center) and the Lobkowicz and Pernštejn coats of arms (left and right, respectively). The Lobkowicz arms were clearly later adapted to incorporate the chain of the Order of the Golden Fleece, which the 1st Prince was awarded some twenty years after his marriage.

The decorative features of the altar are not limited to inlay work alone. The architectural details of this important example of the period’s prevailing Mannerist style are also significant: scrolled modillions and vases enhance the base, while two columns stand on either side of the central image, and a two-tiered gable tops the superior part. A similar house altar can be found in the treasury of the Kremsmünster Abbey in Upper Austria. Likely created by Ottavio Miseroni, another great artist in the court of Rudolph II, the central scene shows a mosaic of Saint Jerome.

The Collections altar is exhibited in Lobkowicz Palace to the right of [this portrait](#) of Rudolf II, who, in a highly unusual decision for a person of his elevated status, chose to attend the wedding of the 1st Prince and his betrothed, a decision that reflected the importance he attached to the Lobkowicz and Pernštejn families’ many generations of service to their Habsburg forebears. The altar, which would have been used for private devotions, can be seen in the Lobkowicz Rožmberk Room.

New Children’s Program at Nelahozeves Castle Aims to Bring Lobkowicz History to Life

Now through the end of August, a new children’s program designed for ages 4–12 will take young people on an adventure through the time of Polyxena, Princess Lobkowicz (1566–1642). Participants will have their courage tested as they strive to complete a series of seven challenges in order to rescue Polyxena from the lair of an evil dragon...



For more information about this program, please call +420 315 709 111 or write to nelahozeves@lobkowicz.cz. Please note that the program is conducted in Czech only.

Don’t Miss...!

The Salm Palace (Prague) exhibition *The Pernštejns and Their Time*, where nine Collections objects are on loan: extended through Sunday, 2 September 2012

Antonio Canaletto’s **London: The Thames on Lord Mayor’s Day**: on exhibition at London’s [National Maritime Museum](#) now through Sunday, 9 September 2012

The 2012 **Wine Harvest Festival** at Roudnice Castle on Saturday, 15 September 2012 from 10:00 to 23:00 – read more on page 1!

Two exhibitions featuring [Jagiellonian-era](#) books from The Lobkowicz Library: at **Lobkowicz Palace** and **Nelahozeves Castle** now through Wednesday, 31 October 2012



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London: The Thames on Lord Mayor’s Day (c. 1750) is the centerpiece of the National Maritime Museum’s *Royal River* exhibition (detail)



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