

FRENCH CONNECTIONS: The Bourbons and Bohemia *from Louis XIV to the Princes de Rohan in Sychrov and Charles X in Prague*



French royal
portraits adorn
the walls of
Castle Sychrov

FRIENDS' LECTURE

given by

DR PHILIP MANSEL

on Tuesday 26th April 2022

at 6.30pm

in the Embassy

of the Czech Republic,

26-30 Kensington Palace Gardens,
London W8 4QY

EVENT ORGANISED WITH THE
CO-OPERATION OF THE
EMBASSY OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Louis XIV was a life-long enemy of the Holy Roman Emperors and Kings of Bohemia, Leopold I and Charles VI. The armies of his successor Louis XV occupied Prague in 1741. Thereafter, however, the Bourbons became allies of the House of Austria. During the French Revolution the resort of Teplitz/Teplice in Bohemia became a residence of many emigrés, including Charles-Joseph, Prince de Ligne, and the Princes de Rohan. The Rohan family later lived at Castle Sychrov, north east of Prague, which still contains 250 Rohan and Bourbon portraits. The most famous French exile in Bohemia was the Bourbon King Charles X after the revolution of 1830. He lived at Prague Castle from 1832 to 1836, when he had to leave as the castle was needed for the coronation of the Emperor Ferdinand I of Austria as Ferdinand V, King of Bohemia. The best account of the coronation, a moment of exceptional harmony between the Czechs and the Habsburgs, is by the French ambassador, the Comte de Sainte-Aulaire.

Dr. Philip Mansel, a historian of France and the Middle East, has lived in London, Paris, Beirut and Istanbul. His books include *lives of Louis XVIII* (1981) and *the Prince de Ligne: Prince of Europe*, (2003); *Dressed to Rule, a study of the politics of clothes* (2005); *a history of Paris as the capital of 19thC Europe*, *Paris between Empires* (2001); and most recently *King of the World: the Life of Louis XIV* (2019). He writes for *The Spectator*, *The Art Newspaper* and the *Times Literary Supplement* and is a co-founder of the *Society for Court Studies*.

Price £15 including a glass of wine. Booking through www.czechfriends.net/friends-events
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