



The National Gallery in Prague has presented a logo of the 700th anniversary of birth of Charles IV.

Festivities will dominate the programs of cultural, academic and research institutions

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Charles IV will dominate the year 2016 as May 14 will mark 700 years since his birth. The cultural academic and research institutions prepare many commemorative events and activities ranging from thematic exhibitions to special tours and events in the historical sites linked with the emperor. A logo of these festivities designed by Studio Najbrt for the National Gallery in Prague and their program were presented at a press conference in the St Agnes Convent.

People who love history, art, architecture and music as well as students and professional public can look forward to a variety of events organized in cooperation with the Czech public institutions. *“The logo of this historical anniversary of special importance, which was designed by the National Gallery in Prague in cooperation with Studio Najbrt, will be used by the majority institutions participating in the festivities with their programs,”* says Jiří Fajt, General Director of the National Gallery in Prague.

Exhibitions and different points of view

The international exhibition *Emperor Charles IV 1316–2016* in the Wallenstein Riding School Gallery and the Karolinum historical premises of Charles University in Prague will be one of the National Gallery’s major exhibition projects next year. In a rare selection, it will present artistic and cultural artefacts from Charles IV’s era. Many of them will be displayed in the Czech Republic for the first time. *“The exhibition seeks to show Charles IV devoid of distorting layers of ideological prejudice and offer to the public a multi-faceted portrait of the historical figure with his positive as well as negative qualities,”* says Jiří Fajt, chief author of the international exhibition project. As the first joint Czech-Bavarian exhibition, it will travel from Prague to the Germanisches Nationalmuseum in Nuremberg. It will be held under the auspices of the Prime Ministers of the Czech Republic and Bavaria, Bohuslav Sobotka and Horst Seehofer, respectively, as well as Cardinal Dominik Duka. Rare exhibits of all disciplines of art and arts and crafts and cultural-historical and archival documents loaned by more than a hundred prestigious museums and church and private collections will show not only the personality of Charles IV, his sources of inspiration, motivation and psychology, but also the life at the imperial court in Prague and a role, which the emperor assigned to arts and artistic glorification of the ruler’s majesty in the imperial policy. The exhibition will be accompanied by a rich international program interconnecting some fifty royal sites *in situ*

between Prague and Nuremberg. Nuremberg – in cooperation with the National Gallery in Prague, GWZO Leipzig and the University of Bamberg – will host a conference called *Nuremberg in the Luxembourg Era*. Popular tours guided by curators and many other accompanying programs will attract the visitors.

The anniversary of birth of Charles IV, a major figure in the history of Bohemia and Europe, was inscribed on the UNESCO anniversary list. The institutions commemorating it with exhibitions in 2016 include the **National Technical Museum**. Starting from May, an exhibition called *Vita Caroli. Building in the Gothic Period* in the museum's large hall will present the art of building at a time of building boom spurred by Charles IV. A number of contemporary building elements and procedures will be shown. *"We are going to present a functional replica of the mediaeval wooden human-powered crane, which was assembled on the basis of depictions in the Bible of Wenceslaus IV. This machine had been produced exclusively by mediaeval manual carpenter's and blacksmith's technologies and its efficiency was successfully tested on the lifting of heavy loads during construction work – among others, when roof beams were restored in the castles of Točnik and Kost. A fully functional replica of the Gothic pile driver, which was used to drive wooden piles into the ground when foundations of structures were laid or bridges were constructed, will be another large building machine on display,"* describes Karel Ksandr, General Director of the National Technical Museum.

The Municipality of Prague will participate in the festivities especially via the City of Prague Museum and the Prague City Tourism agency, which has recently launched the website KarlovaPraha.cz. *"In March, the City of Prague Museum will open a permanent exhibition. Besides, a permanent exhibition called Charles IV, Prague and the House of Luxembourg in the House at the Gold Ring, which will show the emperor as a ruler as well as a man of daily routine, will be a major event of the autumn. The Municipality of Prague will also support the best projects of private and non-profit organizations with grants and partnerships,"* says Jan Wolf, Councillor for Culture, Conservation, Exhibitions and Tourism. After many years, the premises of the Church of Assumption and St Charlemagne in Prague's quarter of Karlov will see a major overhaul.

The Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, too, will re-create the period of Charles IV at several exhibitions. In cooperation with the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic, the Academy will prepare an exhibition *The Legacy of Charles IV in the Course of Centuries*, which will show, among others, an impact of Charles' activities on the contemporary Bohemian and European societies. The Academy's exhibition projects will also explore arts and culture and learning, architecture or daily routine in Charles IV's period. The Academy's projects will include events for both the broad public and experts – an international conference focused on Charles IV's foreign policy, a colloquium dedicated to literature and literary languages of Charles IV's era, a summer school with the theme *Literature, Learning and Art of Charles IV's Era* and cycles of lectures. Students will get an interactive educational aid in the form of application, which will acquaint the user with the period of Charles IV by means of a game. The majority of the Academy's activities linked with the anniversary of Charles IV will be part of the research programs Strategy AV21, whose motto is "Top Research in the Public Interest".

Historical sites will come to life

The *Luxembourg Year* will be launched by the **National Conservation Institute** as part of the project *In the Footsteps of Aristocratic Families*. Karlštejn Castle will be the project's centre, where an exhibition of mediaeval silver and gold objects found during the Mocker reconstruction of the castle in the 19th century will open in the spring. The Karlštejn Trove, which is deposited in the collections of the Museum of Decorative Arts in Prague, will thus temporarily return to its place of origin. At the end of the summer, the traditional *Hradozámecká Night* will take place in Karlštejn Castle. More mediaeval sites administered

by the National Conservation Institute, such as the castles of Točnick, Velhartice or Veveří, will also play a role in commemorating the major anniversary.

Charles University in Prague, too, prepares many events and festivities. Among others, it co-organizes the exhibition of the National Gallery in Prague. *“There will be a ceremonial gathering in the Karolinum’s Large Hall; the university also prepares a conference and representative publications, an exhibition called *The Other Life of Charles IV* in cooperation with the National Gallery in Prague, a meeting of chancellors of European and other universities, a cycle of lectures for the public or a reconstructed coronation of Charles IV,”* explains Jan Royt, Vice-Chancellor for Creative and Editing Activities, Charles University in Prague. Besides, the University prepares a documentary cycle about Charles IV in cooperation with Czech Television and – in cooperation with the Archdiocese of Prague – thematic tours in monasteries and churches founded by Charles IV in Prague’s New Town, which will be guided by students of history. **The Archdiocese of Prague** will serve ceremonial masses in the cathedrals built by Charles IV, including a pontifical mass, which will be attended by the representatives of the state, churches and foreign guests. A St Wenceslaus Pilgrimage will take place in Stará Boleslav and the reconstructed coronation will be organized as mentioned above in cooperation with other institutions.

Music events

Besides visual culture, the anniversary of birth of Charles IV will also include music. *“The most prominent Czech orchestra wants to commemorate Emperor Charles IV with a concert in the St Vitus Cathedral. Our program seeks to honour the memory of this great ruler in a dignified, majestic but sensitive manner. Jiří Bělohlávek, Chief Conductor of the Czech Philharmonic, will therefore conduct a composition called *A Tribute to Charles IV* by Petr Eben, the symphonic poem *Praga* by Josef Suk and *Te Deum* by Antonín Dvořák,”* says David Mareček, General Director of the **Czech Philharmonic**.

In connection with the exhibition *Emperor Charles IV 1316–2016*, David Eben and Schola Gregoriana Pragensis will play a newly arranged composition from Charles’ court milieu in a concert cycle as well on a CD. The City of Prague in cooperation with the Spejbl and Hurvínek Theatre and The Tap Tap troupe prepares benefit concerts. A composed musical program with the theme of the House of Luxembourg will be launched in May at the Old Town Square in cooperation with the FOK Prague Symphony Orchestra.

The Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic will organize an international music conference called *Music of Charles IV’s Era* in November 2016. *“Compared with other countries of Christian Europe, the music culture of the 14th and early 15th centuries had a unique development in the lands of the Kingdom of Bohemia. Emperor Charles IV did not cultivate the sophisticated polyphony in the fashionable French Ars Nova style. He liked liturgy and unison Gregorian chant. Yet Prague became a major centre of development of polyphony in central Europe owing to the activities of the newly established university,”* explains Eva Semotanová, Director of the Institute of History of the Czech Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic.

Charles IV abroad

The presentation of this key historical anniversary abroad is organized in cooperation with the **Czech Centres**, the National Gallery in Prague and Charles University. An exhibition presenting thirteen different points of view of Charles IV and his achievements will acquaint the visitors with this major European ruler: the anthropological research of the emperor’s semblance, the family policies of his ancestors, written documents from the period of his rule and echoes of Charles IV and his reign in the following centuries. In this way, the visitor will be offered a comprehensive view of the 14th century and the rise of the Luxembourg dynasty in Europe in politics, culture and arts. *“The Czech Centres cooperate in organizing the presentations with the embassies. As of the spring 2016, the exhibitions will be launched in*

Berlin, Germany; The Hague, Netherlands; Madrid, Spain; Milan, Italy; Munich, Germany; Moscow, Russia; Sophia, Bulgaria; Seoul, South Korea; Warsaw, Poland; New York City and Tokyo, Japan. No less attractive are the following destinations of the exhibition next year – Los Angeles, U.S.; St. Petersburg, Russia; Washington D.C., Geneva, Switzerland, or São Paulo, Brazil,” says Petra Jungwirthová, spokeswoman for the Czech Centres. The exhibition will include a mobile version in several languages and a program of discussions, lectures or round tables with experts.

The **Czech Tourism** agency will play a major role in general promotion of the festivities of Charles IV's birth. The places linked with Charles IV's era will be the main attraction for foreign and local tourists. Photographs and commercial spots filmed in the well-known places such as Karlštejn Castle, Karlovy Vary (Carlsbad), Prague Castle or Loket Castle will offer “royal” experience. Czech Tourism began to promote the anniversary this year but the campaign will gain speed at the beginning of the 2016 tourist season when also a “micro-website” with places and stories linked with Charles IV and itineraries will be launched.

Press materials and pictorial accompaniment

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