

## 1. CIAT in Kromeriz (Czech Republic) from September 27<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019

It was a long way...not only to Tipperary but also to the setting up of an Association for Traditional Drivers in the Czech Republic. But all's well that ends well, eventually the newly established association managed to organizing its first CIAT in its first year! And a great success it was, too!



On September 27<sup>th</sup> eight turnouts from Poland, ten from the Czech Republic and –last but not least – one turnout from Italy gathered in a remote corner of the park at Kromeriz Palace, where temporary stabling and a car park for trucks and trailers were prepared for them. It was very practical that one had just to cross the street, to get to the school for gastronomy, which runs the hotel where the participants were accommodated. The Polish drivers were a great help to the organizers, as so many took part in the CIAT or brought their experience. Marek Doruch took on the job of technical delegate while Tadeusz Kolacz was one of the judges. Traditional driving is still a new sport in the Czech Republic and there were still a few turnouts typical of FEI-competitions, but the drivers were eager to present their horses, harness and carriages as well as they could. A few drivers presented good carriages but when talking to them it became clear that it is difficult to find historic carriages in that country. This is strange since we know that Moravia, formerly part of the K.u. K. Monarchy, was home to so many carriage makers of quality, such as Schustala, Nesselndorf, near Kromeriz, which was one of the greatest producers of carriages in its time.

The presentation took place in the small formal garden (the park has been converted to a romantic garden following the English fashion in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century) in front of the palace on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup>. The judges were Baron Christian de Langlade (F), President of AIAT and President of the jury, the said Tadeusz Kolacz (P) and Hartmuth Huber (D). The festive dinner at the palace's banqueting hall in the evening was a masterly performance by the students of the school of gastronomy. Everybody enjoyed the magnificent ambiance and the delicious meal.

Even early Saturday morning there were many on-lookers strolling in the park discussing the turnouts with much interest. Benches and catering for the public had been prepared and Milan Novak, a member of the board of the association, introduced the turnouts to the audience.



The competent commentators, Milan Novak and Lenka Gotthardova

On Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> at eight o'clock in the morning the first participant started for the *routier*. The route was quite normal with the exception that there were five PC's to drive. The Kromeriz police force and volunteers from the surrounding villages' fire brigades were very helpful on the *routier*.



Dr. Olejnicek, director of Tlumacov Stud sent his best horses and drivers

The cone driving in the afternoon was as well organized as the *routier* in the morning and had computer timing. The show ring was surrounded by the park's beautiful mature trees and decorated with pretty trees in buckets and flowers, all set up by the palace gardeners. The course was not too difficult in view of the fact that most of the drivers were beginners and many of the carriages were historic types built for town use. It turned out to be exactly the right level for this mixture of participants. Along with many balls down there were a few clear rounds.



Mr Gasienica-Siezka's victorious horse

The prize giving ceremony had to be postponed for about half an hour as the person responsible for Kromeritz Palace, the Archbishop of Olomuc, had promised to hand over the cups but for professional reasons was late. The participants waited patiently for the ceremony, as did the horses, who hung their heads: they were so tired after a long day's work. The drivers were all grateful for the hospitality of the Archbishop, as he had permitted the CIAT to be held in his palace and its grounds.



Jiri Hladik's hunting turnout

As the organizers thought it proper to give a large number of participants many prizes the ceremony was long. The repeated playing of anthems and congratulations by the judges took time but ended in several laps of honour, and faces glowing with pride and the waving of hands and promises to come again to enjoy the friendship of the international drivers and the festive atmosphere of the CIAT in Kromeriz.



Battista Battiston's Gelderlander and Tandem Cart

The winners were:

Single

1. Maciej Gasienica-Siezka (PL)
2. Battista Battiston (I)
3. Czeslaw Trzos (PL)

Pairs

1. Jiri Hladik (CZ)
2. Jazek Janton (PL)
3. Krzysztof Idzikowski (PL)

Three abreast

1. Justyna Przyborowska (PL)

Pony Single

1. Ferdinand Ritter (CZ)

Pony Pairs

1. Jana Ondrejova (CZ)

Overall Winner  
of their class

1. Maciej Gasienica-Siezka (PL)
2. Jiri Hladik (CZ)
3. Justyna Przyborowska (PL)



Jazek Janton's pair of Silesians and American Phaeton

Report: Hartmuth Huber

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