

March 16, 2007

Dear Reader,

With this newsletter you will certainly **gain knowledge** to **impress your clients, colleagues and friends.**

Here are interesting facts and news you may, or may not know:

Until May 13, 2007, the **Albertina Museum in Vienna** presents the **basics of modern design** with 350 works of art: the simple and clear forms of the time around 1820. **Furniture, arts and crafts, graphic arts, and paintings** demonstrate the idea of the **Biedermeier era**, which has influenced art and design down to the present day by dint of its natural beauty.

At the beginning of the nineteenth century, the bourgeoisie asked for what until then had been reserved to a small circle of consumers: its **own language of forms and the choice of different materials, made possible by cheaper means of production.** Thus, a large range of products was created, from expensive luxury items to cheaper substitutes.

The **simple, clear contours between abstraction and decoration** as well as the **natural materials** are mirrored in numerous objects of daily use, such as silver, china, textiles, and tapestries. Highlights among the 350 exhibits at the Albertina are **paintings by Caspar David Friedrich, Karl Friedrich Schinkel, and Friedrich von Amerling** and numerous sofas, chairs, and desks.



Berlin's authorities and the city's Jewish community have launched a campaign to put **Europe's biggest Jewish graveyard** on UNESCO's World Heritage List. The **Weissensee Cemetery**, in an eastern suburb of Berlin, contains 115,600 graves spread over an area equal to 86 football pitches. The graveyard, which opened in 1880, includes art-nouveau graves, mausoleums designed by **Ludwig Mies van der Rohe and Walter Gropius** (renowned architects who taught at the Bauhaus design school), and an Italian Renaissance-style entry hall. Perhaps most moving of all are 400 urns which contain the ashes of **concentration-camp victims**, and headstones atop hollow graves in memory of those whose remains were never found or identified.

Whether Weissensee is accepted for **UNESCO's list** will not be decided until 2016. Even if the campaign is successful, UNESCO will not provide much-needed funds for the site's preservation. The move is designed to raise public awareness of this **historic treasure** in Berlin's midst and to attract public donations (very necessary, given Berlin's indebted status) to halt further decay.



> **Young Design of 1820: Biedermeier. The Invention of Simplicity. at the Albertina Vienna**

> **A vanishing world in Berlin, Germany**

> **Parts of Disney's Chronicles of Narnia to Be Shot in Slovenia**

Millions of film lovers around the world will get a glimpse of the magic beauty of **river Soca**, often called the emerald river, as parts of "**The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian**" are to be **filmed in Slovenia**, daily Delo reports.

According to the report, director Andrew Adamson chose the confluence of the **river Soca and its tributary Gljun in northeastern Slovenia** for the setting of the final scenes of the film.

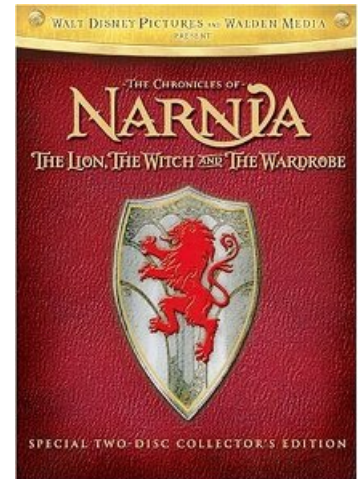
The parts filmed in the Bovec region will feature scenes of 300 soldiers running over a bridge and its spectacular destruction. According to the daily, the shooting on the emerald river is to take place in the first part of June. The crew that is to prepare the setting is to arrive in Slovenia already in April.

Its members will build a wooden beam bridge, **resembling the bridges built by Julius Caesar** and his legionaries during the Gallic War.

The shooting of the "Prince Caspian" started in New Zealand in February and will continue in the **Czech Republic**.

The film, a production of the Walt Disney Pictures and Walden Media, is to be **released in May 2008**.

"The Chronicles of Narnia" series, based on Clive Staples's books, hit the film screens in December 2005 with "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe".



> **Malév Hungarian Airlines join oneworld**

Japan Airlines (JAL), together with **Malév Hungarian Airlines** and Royal Jordanian Airlines will start offering oneworld® services and benefits from 1 April 2007 in the **biggest expansion of the world's leading quality global airline alliance** since its launch eight years ago today. So, from 1 April 2007 some 20 million frequent flyers from all of these airlines will be able to earn and redeem mileage awards on all other oneworld carriers. Top-tier members (Emerald and Sapphire) will also have access to the 400 airport lounges worldwide offered by the alliance's airlines. Eligible members of these three programmes will soon be sent new membership cards, bearing the oneworld logo, to ensure they receive their **alliance benefits from 1 April**.

Malév Chief Executive Janos Gonci said: "Following almost two intensive years of preparation for joining oneworld, my team and I are thrilled that the big day is almost upon us and we can't wait to be fully fledged members of the alliance. We are convinced that oneworld membership is a **win-win-win for Malév**, for oneworld and, most importantly, for all our customers the world over."

Malév Hungarian Airlines, is one of the highest quality carriers in Central and Eastern Europe. Its **Budapest base** provides oneworld with one of the best hubs in that region, which is one of the fastest growing worldwide for air travel. The airline's network will considerably expand oneworld's presence in that part of the world. It **adds ten cities to the oneworld network**, all of them in Central and Eastern Europe, and one country, the Republic of Macedonia.



The skills of Czechs working in the film industry, particularly with regard to film sets, decoration, props and costumes, have always been highly respected and valued.

By the 1990s the Czech Republic was chosen as the location for **Brian De Palma's Mission: Impossible**. The movie starring Tom Cruise was a classic American big-budget blockbuster and was to become the first of many. Other films shot at Barrandov Studios include **A Knight's Tale**, a film adaptation of Allan Moor's comic series **From Hell**, and the spy thriller **The Bourne Identity**. More recent films worth mentioning include the first part of the **Chronicles of Narnia** (the sequel is also planned to be filmed in the Czech Republic), **The Illusionist** and the most recent addition in the James Bond franchise, **Casino Royale**.

People working at Barrandov are very busy and obviously aren't kept idle for very long. In December **the new soundstage was opened and is now the largest in Europe**. The complex is actually comprised of three studios. Two of the studios are 1000 square meters and twelve meters high, while the third – and largest – studio is 2000 square meters and some fourteen meters high. The whole complex can be transformed into one massive studio 98.5 meters long with an area of 4000 square meters. The studios are of course equipped with the latest technology for sets, decorations and lighting.

"The new complex is without doubt **the largest investment** in Czech film in the past sixty years. Thanks to the expanded capacity, Barrandov Studio has again established its earlier position among film studios in Europe and elsewhere," says Tomáš Chrenek, chairman of the supervisory board of Barrandov Studios. He adds that the equipment and facilities cater to even the most demanding cinematographic requirements.

Another unique aspect of the Czech film industry is its **stuntmen**, namely Filmka Stunts, which currently brings together around **one hundred Czech stuntmen and stuntwomen**. In the past year, Czech stuntmen have worked on more than one hundred feature films, television films and television series and have established a solid reputation for themselves. Their services are used not only by crews filming in the Czech Republic, but are also sought after abroad. Czech stuntmen, for example, were featured in **James Cameron's Titanic**.



> **Czech Republic:
Filmmaking in
the Heart of
Europe - part 2**

Austrian Airlines hosted a final farewell function for industry partners in Sydney last night, and introduced its new Country Manager who outlined plans for the airline's future in Australia.

The airline will cease operating direct flights into Australia and New Zealand from 1 April, but have set up a strategic **code-share alliance with Thai Airways** to maintain its presence in the region.

From April, it will be represented by World Aviation but the industry can expect to see some Austrian staff in newly created positions which will be dedicated to the airline.

According to Austrian's outgoing Country Manager AU/NZ, Herbert Koschier, the airline had an **extremely successful year in 2006** with the sales team achieving the "best results ever".

"The first three months this year is also exceptionally good," he said.

Mr Koschier will stay with the airline and transfer to Mumbai after his tenure is completed at the end of the month.

Austrian Airlines New Country Manager AU/NZ, Morten Skaar said he expected a smooth transition for the industry with as little disruption as possible.

The cancellation of the route has been blamed on the **increasing competition in the region**, as well as the **growing costs** of operating two long haul services.

"It is absolutely not your fault or our fault. It is unfortunate the environment of the airline industry has changed dramatically and operating flights from Australia to Austria was like operating two long haul flights which meant having twice the high burden of costs," Austrian Airlines Director Network and Sales Longhaul, Herbert Liess said.

Mr Liess made special mention of **Gulf carriers including Eithad** entering the market combined with the arrival of the A380 saying it would become increasingly difficult to maintain passenger levels for Austrian.

"We would not have been able to achieve a positive result so we have decided to stay in the market and stepped into a close co-operation with Thai because this is still an important market for us," he said.

Austrian Airlines have been flying into Australia since 1988.

I am looking forward to hearing from you with feedback or group requests in the near future.

Kind regards,

Birgit Kraus

