

THE AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN DIPLOMAT JOHANNES  
PRINZ VON SCHÖNBURG-HARTENSTEIN AND HIS PRE-  
WORLD WAR I TENURE AS ENVOY TO THE HOLY SEE

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This contribution deals with the biography of Austro-Hungarian diplomat Johannes Prinz von Schönburg-Hartenstein (1864-1937) and focuses in particular on Hartenstein's work as an envoy to the Holy See in the period immediately preceding the first world war. The political relations between the Habsburg monarchy and the

Holy See make up the wider context. For Schönburg-Hartenstein, the position as envoy to the Holy See, which he occupied during the period 1911-1918 as Austria-Hungary's final representative, was the apex of his diplomatic career. His religious and personal profile made him an ideal candidate for this top-ranking position in the career of a professional diplomat of the great Roman Catholic power. Schönburg-Hartenstein was not without links to the Bohemian Lands either: After the death of his father, Josef Alexander Fürst von Schönburg-Hartenstein, at the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, he inherited two modest estates in Southern Bohemia: Lžín and Červená Lhota, which today holds the family archives.