

Sdružení Čechů a Slováků pro Uchování Národních Odkazů  
Združenie Čechov a Slovákov pre Zachovanie Národných Odkazov

*A quarterly publication of the Czech and Slovak Heritage Association of Maryland*

---

## Alfons Mucha

1860-1939



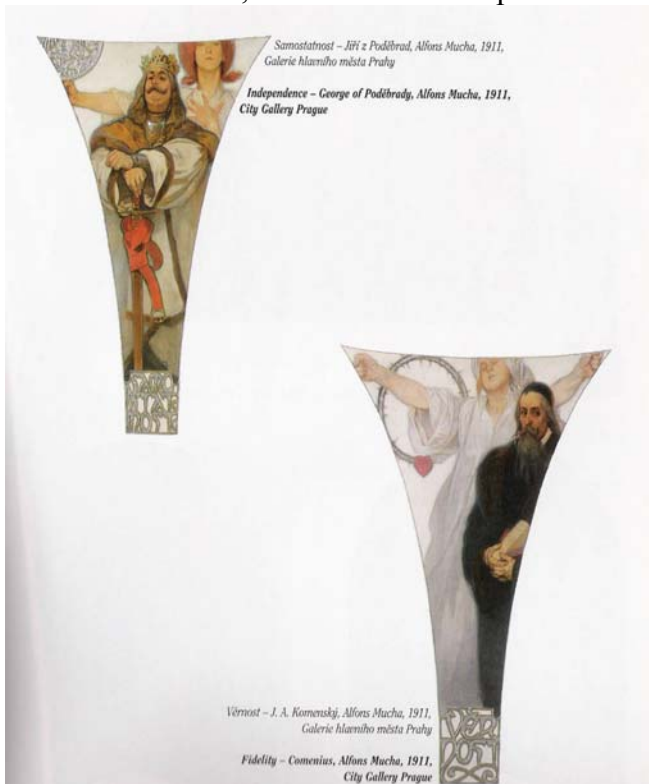
*Samuel Orgelbrand's Universal Encyclopedia with illustrations and maps*

July 14, 2009 marks the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Alfons Mucha at the hands of the Nazi Gestapo. Mucha, who was nearly eighty when the Gestapo arrested him, was interrogated, imprisoned and broken in health. Eventually he was released, only to die of pneumonia a few days later – a result of the mistreatment and wretched conditions in the Nazi prison in which he was held.

Why would the Nazis even bother with an eighty-year old artist whose work seemed to have fallen out of fashion? The answer lies with that artist's devotion to the causes of Slavic separatism and Czechoslovakia both of which conflicted with Nazi determination to wipe out all traces of nationalism in the lands they overran. Alfons Mucha embodied Czechoslovak nationalism. His devotion to his homeland permeates his later works and made him a threat to Nazi occupation.

It was in Paris at the close of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century that Mucha made his name and his fortune as a designer of posters, costumes and stage sets, as well as jewelry, furniture, magazines and book covers in the style known as *Art nouveau*, or in his homeland, *secese*. Despite his success in Paris and a four-year stint in America, where he enjoyed great acclaim as a teacher and portraitist, he never forgot his Czech origins. (He was born July 24, 1860 in the southern Moravian town of Ivančice.) When Mucha returned to Prague in 1910 he devoted his time almost exclusively to painting the Slav Epic, twenty monumental canvasses depicting the history of the Slavic people.

Called upon in 1911 to decorate the Mayor's Salon in the *Obecní dům*, one of the most important



Two Virtues from the walls of the Mayor's Salon

spaces in the building, he filled the walls and ceiling with monumental allegorical figures depicting the virtues as Slav historical figures. Wisdom is represented by Eliška Přemyslovna who shelters the child Karel IV beneath her cloak; Jan Hus represents Justice; Jiří z Poděbrad, Independence and Jan Amos Komenský, Fidelity. A huge rondel, Slav Unity, with a soaring falcon in its center decorates the dome.

In 1918 the new nation of Czechoslovakia called upon Mucha to design its banknotes, many official documents as well as postage stamps.



In 1928 Mucha completed and presented his Slav Epic to the people of Czechoslovakia and to the City of Prague. The 20 monumental canvasses,

several of which were exhibited in the US, were not met with much critical acclaim in Europe, although they were much appreciated in New York where the Art Nouveau style was enormously popular. Because of the size of the canvasses, they were not all displayed together until 1963 when they were installed in the castle at Moravský Krumlov.

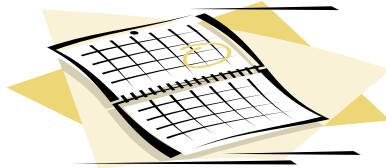


One of Mucha's last commissions was for a stained glass window in the Cathedral of St. Vitus which he completed in 1931.

Alfons Mucha rests now among the Czech heroes and notables in

the cemetery at Vyšehrad.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:



Sunday, July 19:

at 2 pm Our Annual CSHA Picnic at Christ the King Church\*, 1102 Hart Road, Towson. \* Please take note - this is a **new location**. Christ the King Church is very close to Belvedere Christian (last year's picnic site) and very easy to get to. Take Providence Rd. to Hart Rd. About half a mile after turning on Hart, you will see the church's sign on the left. For more directions, you can call Margaret at 410-662-6094.

Sunday, October 25, 2009:

from noon to 6 pm at Baltimore 45 (Tall Cedars) Hall

The TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL CZECH AND SLOVAK FESTIVAL. Good music by Joy of Maryland, good food from Clementine, baked goods, dancing, beer and more... Don't miss it!

## Sokol Washington Hosts Successful Slavic Festival

On Saturday, May 16, the Czech and Slovak Heritage Singers traveled to McLean, Virginia to perform at the SS. Cyril and Methodius Slavic/American Festival held at St. Luke Orthodox Church. The day long Festival, jointly sponsored by the church and Sokol Washington, featured traditional Slavic foods, pastries, and of course, beer for sale.

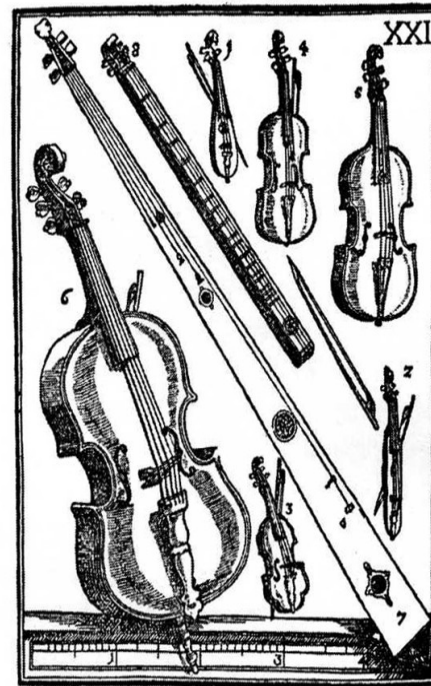
Costumed children, students in Sokol Washington's language school, performed several dances and folk songs which they had learned in their language classes. A Slavic men's choir sang a set of liturgical pieces in Old Slavonic. Their black monks' robes were a perfect compliment to the haunting sonorities of these ancient hymns. A later set of lively folk songs in several Slavic languages contrasted nicely with the solemn mood of their first set. Bob Rychlik played the *fujara* and sang some Slovak folk songs. Sokol Washington will dedicate its share of the proceeds to their language school for children.

## October Performance by Tomáš Najbrt

Betty McGinnes of World Artists Experience has for Tomáš Najbrt, internationally acclaimed performer on ancient instruments, to make several concert appearances in the Baltimore-Washington area. CSHA will sponsor one of his concerts in our area during the week of 5 October.



Mr. Najbrt performs on the lute, Baroque guitar, theorbo, dudy (Czech bagpipe) and the hurdy gurdy.



*Old musical instruments  
Staré hudební nástroje.*

He has made a number of recordings including one of the children's opera *Brundibar*, which was composed and first performed by child prisoners at the infamous concentration

camp at Terezin. This recording and another, *Brabec, Stivín, Hudecek play Vivaldi*, are available from Amazon.com.

Details of time and place for Mr. Najbrt's Baltimore appearance have not yet been finalized. Look for specifics in the next issue of **HLAS**.

## Two Local Organizations to Receive Czech Government Grants

We have received unofficial notification from Dr. Nora Jurkovičová of the Cultural Section of the Czech Embassy in Washington DC that CSHA and the Bohemian National Cemetery will be awarded generous monetary support from the Czech government. Due in part to the continuing worldwide financial uncertainty, the exact dollar amount of the gifts has yet to be determined.

CSHA's grant is to be used so that we can bring a dance troupe to Baltimore for the annual Festival and to provide support for the Czech and Slovak Heritage Singers. The Cemetery will use the grant money toward major repairs needed to the historic crypt which was built as temporary winter storage for caskets which could not be buried while the ground was frozen too hard for digging a grave.

We are touched and very grateful to the Czech government for their generous support in helping us to maintain our cultural heritage here in Maryland.

## Concert by Slovak Virtuosi



*photo: Aleš Vanický*

On Friday, April 17, three young musicians from the Conservatory in Bratislava spent a busy day in Baltimore. After a quick tour of the Inner Harbor by water taxi, a close look on board the Pride of Baltimore, a stop at the Katyn Memorial on President St. and many regrets that time and finances prevented a visit to the National Aquarium, brothers Karol and Norbert Daniš, Pavol Kubáň, their accompanist Iveta Sabová and

advisor Dr. Daniela Sliacka gathered at Towson Unitarian Universalist Church to perform for a small, but appreciative audience.

The three young men, violinist Karol Daniš, age 16; his 18 year old brother Norbert, a pianist and 19 year old baritone Pavol Kubáň, delivered polished performances which held the audience spellbound and wondering aloud... "they're SO young!" All three are accomplished musicians whose performances equaled or surpassed what could be expected from performers twenty years their senior. CSHA was privileged that Baltimore was included on their 2009 concert tour of the US.

## Czech Language School for Children

While details have yet to be worked out, we are trying to organize Czech language classes for children here in Baltimore. Possible locations for the Thursday or Friday evening class are the School of the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen or St. Margaret Episcopal Church. Marketa Traband is leading this effort. Those who are interested can contact her at [marketa.traband@gmail.com](mailto:marketa.traband@gmail.com) or Margaret Supik at 410-662-6094.

## EU Open House 2009

Since its inception three years ago the European Union Open House has become increasingly popular. This year Saturday, May 9 was EU in US day and thousands turned out to visit the embassies of participating nations. The 27 participating embassies reported more than 76,000 visits during the six hour event.

Since the Czechs held the chairmanship of the EU Council from January to June this year, the organizational responsibilities for EU Day devolved on the Czech Embassy. Counselor Dr. Nora Jurkovičová and her staff organized a fleet of twelve busses on three routes to carry visitors between Metro stations and the embassies. More than fifty volunteers served as guides shepherding visitors onto busses and offering advice as to which embassies had the best food or the shortest entry line. The Czech Embassy recorded 2500 visitors...possibly lured there by the fame of Czech beer and the promise of a free sample?

## New WebSites For *Krajane*

The following emails were received in May and June and seemed to be something which might interest some of our members. The first website appears to be mostly in Czech and oriented to recent emigrants. The second would most probably be of interest to students.

1.  
Dobry den,

chteli bychom Vas informovat o nove pripravovanych internetovych strankach pro krajany zijici v Severni Americe, ktere budou provozovany na adrese [www.krajane.org](http://www.krajane.org).

Tento portal je urcen pro informaci a vzajemnou komunikaci Cechu a Slovaku v obou severoamerickych statech – USA a Kanade. Nabidne prostor pro krajanske spolky a instituce a jejich aktivity. Bude rovnz prinaset zpravy z kultury, predevsim ze zivota krajanu. Jeho soucasti bude i prehled pripravovanych akci. Radi bychom, aby se stranky staly take mistem pro vymenu nazoru a zkusenosti ze zivota v cizine i pripadne pro ziskani rady ci pomoci.

Portal [www.krajane.org](http://www.krajane.org) vznikla ve spolupraci s ceskym nadacnim fondem Dotek, ktery se venuje kulturni a vzdelavaci cinnosti, podpore socialnich projektu a rozvoji vztahu mezi Cechy a Slovaky zijicimi v zahranici a institucemi v Ceske republice a na Slovensku.

Pred zahajenim „ostreho“ provozu pripravujeme demoverzi stranek, kterou bychom Vam chteli na ukazku zaslat. Protoze bychom byli radi, aby nove stranky slouzily co nejlepe svemu ucelu, privitame i Vase pripominky a podnety.

Uprimne se tesime na spolupraci  
Jaroslav Ruzek [info@krajane.org](mailto:info@krajane.org)

Hi!

My name is Jan Patrman and I organize the 12th International Student Symposium in Prague, June 21st – 26th, 2009 ([www.student-symposium.com](http://www.student-symposium.com)).

The conference is for students who want to work in international organizations like UN, European Parliament, International courts and etc. or as ambassadors. The Symposium is focused on practical skills development under the superior guidance of professional leaders, Ambassadors and experts in the field (many case studies, simulations etc.).

I would like to offer you a cooperation. We organize student events in Prague every year and would love that some of your either your member or your relatives had a chance to participate at these venues under condition since you are related to Czech and Slovak community. We would be able to reserve a certain number of place to your community and offer a scholarship to applicants from your community. If it looks interesting to you. Please, let me know that we could develop the idea.

Yours sincerely,

Jan Patrman Cultural Bridge [www.student-symposium.com](http://www.student-symposium.com)



Greetings,

We would like to let you know about a new website prepared for Czechs and Slovaks living in North America, which will be accessible at [www.krajane.org](http://www.krajane.org).

This portal can be used for obtaining and providing information and communicating with Czechs and Slovaks in both North American countries – the USA and Canada. It provides space for Czech and Slovak associations and their activities. At the same time, it will be providing cultural news mainly from Czech and Slovak expatriate life. It will also include listings for forthcoming events. We would also hope our site becomes a place for exchanging opinions and experiences of life abroad, as well as for obtaining help and advice.

The [www.krajane.org](http://www.krajane.org) site has been set up in co-operation with the Czech charitable foundation "Dotek" (Touch), which supports cultural and educational activities, social projects and the development of relations between Czechs and Slovaks living abroad and institutions in the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

Before full operation begins, we are working a demo-version of the site which we would like to send you to have a look at. As we would like the new site to serve its purpose as best it can, we welcome your comments and suggestions. With very best wishes and looking forward to our co-operation

Jaroslav Ruzek  
[info@krajane.org](mailto:info@krajane.org)

2.

## CSHA Philadelphia Family Picnic

Fort Washington State Park, Saturday, May 30, 2009



photo: Mirek Oborny

This picnic was well attended by members, newcomers who just learned about it from the internet, as well as a couple of old-timers – Carmen Mayerova, Stella Gabuzda, etc. All together, there must have been at least 50 people including many kids plus two dogs. The weather was great – sunny and warm and the picnic location – Parking lot 1, Pavilion – perfectly accommodated all our needs.

People started gathering at around 2 pm, bringing delicious dishes ranging from potato salad, pork, cevabcici, pork chops, pasta and vegetable salads to various desserts including cheesecake, jello, baklava and homemade blueberry cake. Children enjoyed the outdoors, exploring the surroundings of the pavilion, catching caterpillars and frogs, playing with a ball or just running around with the dogs. Even a few adults joined in the fun and chased the ball along with the kids (Lenka Zivkovic, Miro Bohac, etc.). Everybody else engaged in

conversations both English and Czech-Slovak, while taking advantage of the ample buffet table. Some people suggested meeting again on Labor Day, going camping or canoeing. We will see if any of these ideas materialize.

Many of the newcomers expressed interest to attend our monthly gatherings at Otto's Brahaus. Mirek O. collected their names and email addresses. Hopefully, our numbers will grow. All in all, we all had a great time and can't wait to meet again.

By Alena Bezanis

## Special Envoy for Czech Communities Abroad visits Baltimore

On Wednesday, June 3, Ambassador Vladimir Eisenbrook, Special Envoy of the Czech Foreign Minister for Czech Communities Abroad, made a special trip to Baltimore to visit two of our historic Czech sites. Accompanied by Dr. Nora Jurkovičková of the Cultural Section of the Czech Embassy, Mr. Eisenbruk had a quick lunch at the home of Charles and Margaret Supik before setting off to tour St. Wenceslaus Church. The pastor, Rev. Peter Lyons welcomed the party to the church.

Joined by former CSHA presidents, Mike Krumpholz, Mike Rokos and Charles Supik, the group viewed the interior of the church as well as the adjacent buildings, *Česká škola* and *Katoličká budova* (the school and the Lyceum). Mike Rokos also pointed out the location of the original Slavic Savings and Loan at the corner of Madison St. and Collington Ave.

The second and final stop on the ambassador's whirlwind tour of Baltimore was *Česko-Narodní Hřibtov*, the Bohemian National Cemetery on Horner's Lane. Several of the visitors remarked that walking among the grave stones here was almost like walking in a cemetery in the Czech Republic because so many of the names and inscriptions are so similar and familiar.

As he was leaving, Mr. Eisenbruk expressed his pleasure for the work that CSHA and ČSPS are doing to preserve and protect our Czech history in Baltimore.

## Pamětní stříbrná mince českého předsednictví ČR v Řadě EU

Česká národní banka vydala dnem 7. ledna 2009 do oběhu první letošní pamětní stříbrnou dvousetkorunu u příležitosti předsednictví České republiky v Řadě Evropské unie. Dvousetkoruna má průměr 31mm, hmotnost 13g a vydává se ve dvojitým provedení, běžném a zvláštním (proof) s leštěným polem a matovým reliéfem. Na líci dvousetkoruny je 12 hvězd symbolizujících Evropskou unii, kompozice heraldických zvířat, návez státu, označení nominální hodnoty mince se zkratkou peněžní jednotky a značka mincovny. Na rubu dvousetkoruny je 12 hvězd symbolizujících Evropskou unii, státní vlajka České republiky, opis "PŘEDSEDNICTVÍ ČESKÉ REPUBLIKY V RADĚ EVROPSKÉ UNIE", rok ražby 2009 a iniciály autora mince, Mga. Josefa Oplištila.



photo [srdce Evropy](#)

## Silver Coin Commemorates Czech Chairmanship of EU Council

On January 7, 2009, the Czech National Bank put into circulation a silver two hundred koruna coin to mark the Czech chairmanship of the Council of the European Union. The two hundred koruna coin measures thirty-one millimeters, has a weight of 13 grams and is available in two forms - the ordinary (circulating) and the proof (for collectors) with a polished field and matte relief (design). On the face of the two hundred koruna coin can be seen the twelve star symbol of the European Union surrounding a heraldic beast, as well as the name of the issuing state, the value of the coin and a mint mark. Appearing on the obverse of the two hundred koruna coin are the twelve star symbol of the EU,

the Czech flag, the inscription "Czech Presidency of the Council of the European Union," the year of the coin's minting 2009, and the initials of the designer of the coin, Master of Art Josef Oplištil.

## Od Júna sa budú vydávať na Slovensku pasy s dvoma biometrickými údajmi

Bratislava (TASR) Po približne jeden a pol roku od zavedenia biometrických pasov na Slovensku sa začnú 22. júna vydávať cestovné pasy s dvoma biometrickými údajmi. Pasy s prvým biometrickým údajom – digitálnou mapou tváre, vydávajú od 15. januára 2008, druhým budú od júna odtlačky prstov. Druhý biometrický údaj malo Slovensko do pasov zaviesť podľa nariadenia Európskej únie (EÚ) do 30. júna tohto roku. Po zavedení digitálnej mapy tváre začiatkom minulého roku Slovensko čakalo na schválenie technológie od EÚ.

## After June Slovak Passports Will Carry Two Pieces of Biometric Information

Beginning June 22, nearly a year and a half after the introduction of biometric passports, Slovakia will issue passports with two pieces of biometric data. Passports with one type of biometric data – a digital facial image – were issued after January 15, 2008. After June 2009 a second piece of data – a fingerprint – will also appear. By decree of the European Union, this second piece of information must be included on Slovak passports after June 30 of this year. After the inclusion of the digital facial map at the beginning of last year, Slovakia awaited authorization of the technology from the EU.



# **HLAS**

The VOICE of The Czech & Slovak  
Heritage Association  
Post Office Box 20261  
Baltimore, MD 21284-0261  
[www.czslha.org](http://www.czslha.org)

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE **PAID**  
PERMIT NO. 5543  
Baltimore, Maryland

**LETO 2009**

**SUMMER 2009**

**CSHA OFFICERS AND CHAIRPERSONS 2008:**

President	Margaret Supik
Vice President	Steve Sabol
Secretary	Lois Hybl
Treasurer	Richard Pazourek

Chairpersons

Membership	Charles Supik
Education	Lois Hybl
<b>HLAS</b> Editor	<i>position open, please apply...soon</i>