

Thomas Capek Collection Relating to Czechoslovakia and Czech Americans

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the
Library of Congress

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assistance of Paul L. Horecky
Revised by Margaret Martin and Patrick
Kerwin



Manuscript Division, Library of
Congress

Washington, D.C.

2009

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Collection Summary

Title: Thomas Capek Collection Relating to Czechoslovakia and Czech Americans

Span Dates: 1619-1953

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1851-1953)

ID No.: MSS15008

Creator: Capek, Thomas, 1861-1950

Extent: 6,000 items; 14 containers plus 4 oversize; 6.8 linear feet

Language: Collection material largely in Czech

Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Abstract: Correspondence, memoranda, journals, writings, printed matter, maps, photographs, and other papers assembled during Capek's research on the immigration, organizations, institutions, and activities of Czech Americans. Also includes material concerning Czechoslovakia, Czechs in Great Britain, Slavic Americans, and Slovak Americans.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People

Bayard, Thomas F. (Thomas Francis), 1868-1942.

Bittner, Bartoš.

Borecký, Jan.

Buňata, Josef, b. 1846.

Capek, Anne Vostrovský.

Capek, Thomas, 1861-1950.

Capek, Thomas, b. 1895.

Herrman, Augustine, 1621-1686.

Jonáš, Christina.

Jonáš, Frederic.

Jonáš, Karel, 1840-1896.

Klácel, František Matouš, 1808-1882.

Kořízek, František.

Maresh, Henry R. (Henry Rudolph), 1890-

Masaryk, T. G. (Tomáš Garrigue), 1850-1937.

Masaryková, Charlotta G. (Charlotta Garrigue), 1850-1923.

Massoch, Stephen C.

Palda, Lev J., 1847-1912.

Philipse, Frederick, 1626-1702.

Rosický, Jan, 1845-1910.

Rosický, Rose, 1875-1954.

Snajdr, Vaclav, 1847-1920.

Čapek family.

Subjects

Czech American newspapers.

Czech Americans--Colonization--Russia.

Czech Americans--Genealogy.

Czech Americans--Periodicals.

Czech Americans--Societies, etc.

Czech Americans.

Czech newspapers--Foreign countries.

Czech periodicals--Foreign countries.

Czechs--Great Britain.
Slavic Americans.
Slovak Americans.
Utopias--Russia.

Places
Czechoslovakia--Emigration and immigration.
Czechoslovakia.
United States--Emigration and immigration.

Occupations
Authors.
Businessmen.
Lawyers.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The Thomas Capek Collection Relating to Czechoslovakia and Czech Americans was given to the Library of Congress by Anna Vostrovský Capek between 1953 and 1955.

Additional Guides

A brief press release on this collection was issued by the Library on Apr 15, 1954. A notice appeared in the Library's *Information Bulletin* on Apr. 12, 1954, and the May 1954 issue of the *Library of Congress Quarterly Journal of Acquisitions* (vol. II, no. 3) also carried a report on the collection.

Transfers

Items have been transferred from the Manuscript Division to other custodial divisions of the Library. Maps have been transferred to the Geography and Map Division. Posters and prints have been transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division. Some printed material has been transferred to the general collections of the Library Division. All transfers are identified in these divisions as part of the Thomas Capek Collection.

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Thomas Capek in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.

Access and Restrictions

The Capek Collection is open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Thomas Capek Collection Relating to Czechoslovakia and Czech Americans, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1861	Born, Czechoslovakia

- 1880 Immigrated to the United States
- 1886 Naturalized as a citizen
- 1888 LL.B., University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.
- 1890-1891 Practiced law, Omaha, Nebr.
- 1890-1891 Member, Nebraska Legislative House of Representatives
- 1894 Married Anna Vostrovský. One son, Thomas Capek
- 1895-1910 Practiced law, New York, N.Y.
- 1906 Published *The Slovaks of Hungary, Slavs and Panslavism*. New York: Knickerbocker Press
- 1907 Published *Památky Českých Emigrantů v Americe*. Omaha: Nakl. Narodni tiskarny
- 1910-1912 Vice president, Bank of Europe, New York, N.Y.
- 1912-1932 President, Bank of Europe, New York, N.Y.
- 1915 Published *Bohemia Under Hapsburg Misrule*. New York, Chicago, etc.: Fleming H. Revell Co.
- 1918 Published with Anna Vostrovský Capek *Bohemian (Czech) Bibliography*. New York, Chicago, etc.: Fleming H. Revell Co.
- 1920 Published *The Čechs (Bohemians) in America*. Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Co.
Published with son, Thomas Capek, *The Czechs and Slovaks in American Banking*. New York, Chicago, etc.: Fleming H. Revell Co.
- 1921 Published *The Czech Community of New York*. New York: The Czechoslovak Section of America's Making, Inc
Published *Jan Vratislav Čapek*. New York
- 1930 Published *Augustine Herrman of Bohemia Manor*. Praha: [State printing office]
- 1935 Published *Moje Amerika*. Praha: F. Borovy
- 1939 Published *Ancestry of Frederick Philipse, First Lord and Founder of Philipse Manor at Yonkers, N.Y.* New York: Paebear Co.
Published *Czechs and Slovaks in the United States Census*. New York: Paebear Co.

- 1940 Published *American Czechs in Public Office*. Omaha: Czech Historical Society of Nebraska
Published *Návštěvníci z Cech a Moravy v Americe v Letch 1848-1939*. Chicago: Tiskem Color Printing Co.
- 1943 Published *Slavs in the United States Census, 1850-1940, with Special References to Czechoslovaks*. Chicago: Czechoslovak National Council of America
- 1950, Mar. 28 Died, New York, N.Y.

Scope and Content Note

The collection of Thomas Capek (1861-1950) relating to Czechoslovakia and Czech Americans spans the years 1619-1953, with the bulk from 1851 to 1953. The collection consists of correspondence, memoranda, journals, writings, printed matter, maps, photographs, and other papers assembled during Capek's research on the immigration, organization, institutions, and activities of Czech Americans. Also included is material concerning Czechoslovakia, Czechs in Great Britain, Slavic Americans, and Slovak Americans.

Among the items collected by Capek are newspapers and periodicals published by Czech Americans or by Czechs in Europe; biographical files on Augustine Herrman, T. G. Masaryk, Charlotta G. Masaryková, and Frederick Philipse; genealogical material on Capek's family and others; and the papers and journals of Czech Americans who attempted to establish a utopian colony in Russia in the mid-nineteenth century. Other individuals featured include Thomas F. Bayard, Bartoš Bittner, Jan Borecký, Josef Buřata, Anna Vostrovský Capek, Thomas Capek, Jr., (b.1895), Christina Jonáš, Frederic Jonáš, Karel Jonáš, František Matouš (Ladimir) Klácel, František Kořizek, Henry R. Maresh, Stephen C. Massoch, Lev J. Palda, Jan Rosický, Rose Rosický, and Vaclav Snajdr.

Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in nine series:

- [Czech Americans, 1828-1953](#)
- [Slav, Slovak, and Czech Immigration to the United States; Czech Organizations, Institutions, and Activities in the United States, 1851-1953](#)
- [Czech Newspapers, Periodicals, and Clippings, 1838-1953](#)
- [Thomas Capek and Family, 1852-1953](#)
- [Augustine Herrman of Maryland Bohemia Manor, 1651-1953](#)
- [Charlotta G. Masaryková and Tomáš G. Masaryk, 1891-1950](#)
- [Frederick Philipse of Yonkers, New York, 1928-1929](#)
- [Czechs in Great Britain, 1619-1932](#)
- [Oversize, 1619-1953](#)

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-4	<u>Czech Americans, 1828-1953</u> Correspondence addressed to Capek, biographical material, and other material relating to the history of Czech Americans in the United States. Arranged by topic or type of material.
BOX 4 BOX 5-7	<u>Slav, Slovak, and Czech Immigration to the United States; Czech Organizations, Institutions, and Activities in the United States, 1851-1953</u> Correspondence, memoranda, notes, photographs, postcards, maps, organizational material, textbooks, clippings, travelogues and printed matter. Arranged by topic or type of material.
BOX 7 BOX 8-12	<u>Czech Newspapers, Periodicals, and Clippings, 1838-1953</u> Newspapers, pamphlets, playbills, and other printed matter published in the United States and Europe. Arranged by topic or type of material.
BOX 12 BOX 12-14	<u>Thomas Capek and Family, 1852-1953</u> Correspondence and writings by Thomas Capek and biographical material relating to the Capek family. Arranged by topic or type of material.
BOX 14 BOX 14	<u>Augustine Herrman of Maryland Bohemia Manor, 1651-1953</u> Correspondence, articles, and reproductions of ecclesiastical records and maps relating to Augustine Herrman. Arranged by topic or type of material.
BOX 14	<u>Charlotta G. Masaryková and Tomáš G. Masaryk, 1891-1950</u> Correspondence and printed matter relating to Charlotta G. Masaryková and Tomáš G. Masaryk. Arranged by topic or type of material.
BOX 14	<u>Frederick Philipse of Yonkers, New York, 1928-1929</u> Biographical material about Philipse, a Czech immigrant of the seventeenth century. Arranged by topic or type of material.
BOX 14	<u>Czechs in Great Britain, 1619-1932</u> Reproductions of title pages, photographs, and other material relating to Czechs in Great Britain. Arranged by topic or type of material.

BOX OV 1-OV 4

Oversize, 1619-1953

Oversize correspondence, printed matter, facsimiles, and other reproductions of documents.

Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders which the material was removed.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-4	Czech Americans, 1828-1953 Correspondence addressed to Capek, biographical material, and other material relating to the history of Czech Americans in the United States. Arranged by topic or type of material.
BOX 1 FOLDER 1-4	Assorted letters to Thomas Capek from American scholars, ethnic organizations, and institutions regarding Czech (Bohemian) immigration and settlement in certain areas of the U.S. A considerable amount of biographical information about prominent individuals is included. 1885-1953
BOX 2 FOLDER 1	Typed copies of letters to Capek from Vaclav Snajdr, prominent American journalist of Czech origin, with some letters to Snajdr concerning his study of Czechs in the U.S. 1874-1920
BOX 2 FOLDER 2	Typescript and manuscript letters from Jan Borecký to Thomas Capek and his brother. Borecký was one of the earliest Czech settlers in the U.S. and a prolific writer. 1886-1911
BOX 2 FOLDER 3	Manuscript letters from Lev J. Palda and Josef Buňata to Thomas Capek. The writers were settlers in the U.S. in the 1850s. 1889 1926
BOX 2 FOLDER 4	Letters from Karel Jonáš and his brother, Frederic, and wife, Christina, to Thomas Capek and to the father of Capek's wife, Anna Vostroveský. Jonáš was lieutenant-governor of Wisconsin and U.S. consul to St. Petersburg, Russia, and Prague, Czechoslovakia. He committed suicide at his diplomatic post in Germany. 1885-1920
BOX 2 FOLDER 5-6	Typed and manuscript letters from Jan Rosický and his daughter, Rose Rosický, to Thomas Capek. Rosický was an immigrant and journalist in Omaha., Nebr. His daughter is the author of the "History of the Czechs in Nebraska." 1884-1953
BOX 2 FOLDER 7-8	Biographies and histories of Czechs in Milwaukee, Wis. Typescripts with illustrative photographs. 1936
BOX 2 FOLDER 9	Typed letter and photographs from Henry R. Maresh to Thomas Capek, Feb. 3, 1958, about Czechs in Texas and the Southwest. Also an offprint of an article by Maresh. 1938, 1946
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BOX 2 FOLDER 11	Biographical materials on Ladimír Klácel. Clippings and a handwritten letter. 1881, 1908
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Czech Americans, 1828-1953

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BOX 4 BOX 5-7	Slav, Slovak, and Czech Immigration to the United States; Czech Organizations, Institutions, and Activities in the United States, 1851-1953 Correspondence, memoranda, notes, photographs, postcards, maps, organizational material, textbooks, clippings, travelogues and printed matter. Arranged by topic or type of material.
BOX 5 FOLDER 1	Photographs and postcards of miscellaneous Czech monuments in the U.S. Includes a written list of some monuments. 1851-1931
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Slav, Slovak, and Czech Immigration to the United States; Czech Organizations, Institutions, and Activities in the United States, 1851-1953

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Czech Newspapers, Periodicals, and Clippings, 1838-1953

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Facsimiles of title pages of early British books on Czechs and of portraits of prominent Czechs in Great Britain and British subjects of Czech origin. 1619-1932 (Container 14)