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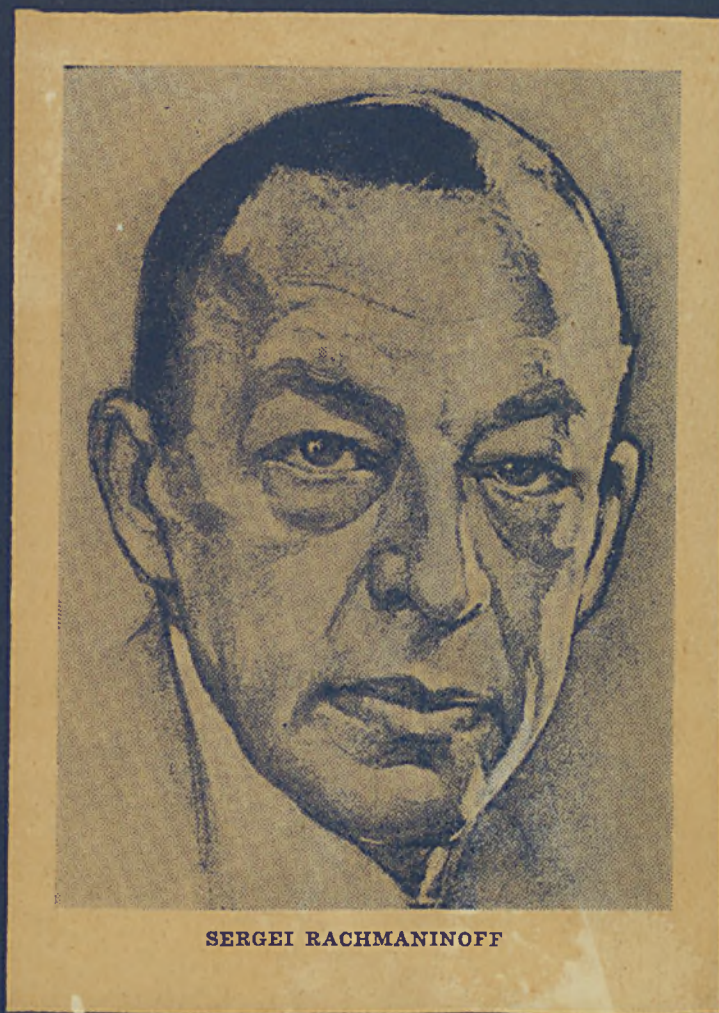
AMERICAN

SLAV

*June*  
*1939*

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SERGEI RACHMANINOFF

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family of white people on  
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FIRST NATIONAL MAGAZINE  
OF UNITED SLAVS IN AMERICA



## THE AMERICAN SLAV

First National Magazine of United Slavs in America.

JOHN H. PANKUCH, Jr., Editor

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# The American SLAV

Vol. F.

June, 1939

No. 6

## Echoes From Coast To Coast

The response to our article "Duty Calls" has been overwhelmingly wonderful. Our call has echoed from coast to coast. Reassuring pledges of moral support and goodwill, and sincere promises of cooperation are reverberating throughout the country from Canada to the Gulf, and from sunny California to the rock-bound coast of Maine. But most reassuring of all has been the material help we have received from our readers in the form of new subscriptions. We are truly grateful for this generous response. It will serve to fortify our confidence in the ideals of the AMERICAN SLAV, and to inspire us with fresh courage and more ambition to make the AMERICAN SLAV the outstanding magazine of its kind in the world.

We are especially proud of the type of readers our magazine is attracting — the cream of the Slavic World. We consider it an honor to be identified with the members of this distinguished American Slav Family. It is in reality one big family whose members have been scattered in all four directions of the compass. And yet, when we receive a letter from an American Slav, whether it be from California or New York, from Louisiana or Pennsylvania, or Ohio, they all seem to express the same lofty Slavic ideals, the same fervent hopes for Slavic success, and the same fiery ambition for the eventual union, cooperation and complete understanding among all Slav peoples. They corroborate our contention expressed in an earlier issue of the AMERICAN SLAV that, "the Slavs all mean well but they don't understand each other." This then is the purpose of our AMERICAN SLAV, to furnish that missing connecting link — a medium through which, at least, all of our American Slavs can meet on a common ground of understanding, contacting each other, exchanging ideas, and discussing our problems in the English language which we all understand, using this medium of intercourse as a means to the end that there finally be a better understanding and a closer cooperation among all Slavs.

The greatest weakness of the great Slav Family has been and is today, its inability to translate its dreams and ambitions into practical and direct everyday action. Through centuries of oppression and servitude they have become accustomed to just dream and patiently wait for better days to come, meanwhile doing little or nothing in a practical way to speed the coming of that happy day. For this reason it is doubly gratifying to see the awakening of that spirit of action on the part of so many of our American Slavs. A spirit which is driving them out of their ages-old lethargy into wide-awake practical action aiding them to really do something concretely constructive to help the Slavs attain their place in the sun. If you, dear reader, are one among this awakened and inspired group, accept our congratulations and thanks again, and resolve to carry on in your good work. If, however, you are still among the dreamers, resolve to shake off this lethargic curse of centuries and join the active loyal group of Slavs who are boosting the AMERICAN SLAV so that it in turn can help to boost all Slavs. Show a copy of the AMERICAN SLAV to your friends. Ask them to subscribe.

The AMERICAN SLAV has now reached a point in its circulation where you can honestly and conscientiously recommend it to your friends and acquaintances in business as an advertising medium. This is especially true of Slavic men in business, many of whom advertise in periodicals where as high as 75% of the reader coverage is actually prejudiced against a Slavic trade name, and where, therefore, they reach only 25% or less of readers who might be prospective customers. Whereas, an advertisement in the AMERICAN SLAV reaches a field 100% sympathetic to the Slavic businessmen and every reader of this choice Slavic field is most definitely a prospective customer.

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## Sergei Rachmaninoff

The close-cropped head, the sad face crisscrossed into a thousand wrinkles, the depressed stoop, the dragging walk from the wings to the piano, and then the sudden release of pent-up power at the keyboard,—Rachmaninoff!

That his audiences are everywhere except in his native land, Russia, is one of the primary causes of the melancholy which cloaks Rachmaninoff. Exiled since the Revolution, of which he can hardly bear to speak, he "cannot sing the songs of joy," as he laments in one of his compositions. "Music," he says with his sad half smile, "must express the emotions. It must come not from here," touching his forehead significantly, "but from here." He taps his heart with two delicate fingers. "And to play well one must first suffer. Suffering is absolutely essential to the artist."

His own far from happy life may have led him to this conclusion. Born of aristocratic parents, he inherited from his forebearers musical talent, and a pair of long slim hands apparently designed by heaven for the piano. He inherited not enough rubles, however, to pay for the usual aristocrat's education, so he went instead to Moscow and Petrograd Conservatories, where he distinguished himself in composition, winning a gold medal for his opera *Aleko*.

His youth was clouded by the death of Tchaikowsky, whom he admired above all men. The cold reception accorded to several of his early compositions froze his inspiration, and even undermined his health for three years. Financial reverses added to the burden of his woes. Finally he decided to seek his fortune on the concert stage, although by that time his piano concertos and preludes and the symphonic poem "The Isle of the Dead" were bringing him fame as a composer. And then came the Revolution which drove him from Russia, never to return. With his wife, he makes his

home in New York, sailing every summer to Switzerland to visit his two married daughters and grand-daughter Sophie, the apple of his eye.

His first American tour was in 1910. Once, in those days of obscurity, as he was practicing at a piano in Steinway Hall, a workman began to hammer, to his great annoyance. When he asked the man to wait, he received the astonishing reply, "Why should I? I was here first. Besides, what would Mr. Steinway say if he came in and found me loafing on the job?" So on this occasion the great pianist waited for the humble carpenter, to be rewarded

## A Slavonic University of America

By Michael Andrejck

When the great struggle was being made to establish democracy in France in the last decade of the Eighteenth Century, the new leaders of the French people proclaimed that "next to bread, education is the first need of the people." To satisfy this need, they prepared elaborate schemes for public education, but wars and lack of funds prevented these public education. In 1871, the for magnificent cultural achievement had to be abandoned, and soon were forgotten.

Years later the French nation again acquired a keen interest in public education. In 1871, The France whose armies had once overwhelmed almost the whole of Europe, found itself conquered by a newly-born German nation. By this conquest the glory of French arms was destroyed, and the proud French nation was disgraced.

But the new republican government which was finally set up determined that one day this disgrace should be wiped out, that the honor and power of France must be restored. Searching for the cause of the German victory,

later when his meekness proved of the kind that inherits the earth and fills its concert-halls.

"When I am playing in concerts, I cannot compose; when I am composing I cannot play in concerts. I shut myself up in the country all alone, without a telephone, family or friends, and write, write, write, all day from nine in the morning until eleven at night. On tour, I practice every spare moment." In such concentration lies some measure of the secret of this artist's power, but by far the greater part is in the depth of his spirit, the enigmatic quality of his mind, and the universality of his experience of human suffering, which he translates with ineffable power and insight into the language of the piano.

French leaders noted that education was far more advanced in Germany than in France, and that whereas German soldiers were schooled and intelligent, the French army was composed of ignorant peasants. So they proceeded to establish an educational system unexcelled by any in the world. The new generation of Frenchmen was to preserve and cultivate its intelligence, rather than allow it to decay.

The Slavonic peoples, however, living in the far more complex society of Twentieth Century America, have not yet learned the lesson that education is power, the lesson learned by France almost seventy years ago. There are thousands of Slavs in America, but of these thousands, how many are engineers, doctors, lawyers, writers, teachers, or political leaders? True, many of our fellow Slavs have entered the professions, but these are few indeed when we consider the size of the Slavonic population in the United States. And when we consider also the unparalleled facilities that this country offers for the acquisition of learning,

## BOOK REVIEW

### THE POLITICS OF THE BALKANS

By Joseph S. Roucek  
New York University

McGraw-Hill Studies in Political Science  
171 pages, 6 x 9. \$1.50

Coming at a time when the anxious eyes of the world are again turned toward the Balkans, this book is particularly opportune in that it clarifies the internal problems of the various Balkan countries in relation to the international movements.

This book is much more than just another historical, legalistic, and descriptive work in political science. The author describes and analyzes the politics of the countries within their environmental and geographical setting, through a presentation of social forces and generalizations based upon methods recently developed in the field of social sciences.

#### Special Features of the Book:

1. While most general studies treat the Balkans almost entirely as a problem of international relations, this book places the primary emphasis upon the internal politics in relation to the foreign policies of the Balkans.
2. This is a distinctly new approach, in that politics are placed within the framework of the social forces of the region, and as part of the dynamics of each country.

cultural heritage of his people at the same time, for such a university is the Slavonic road to power and respect in America.

If other groups have done the same, surely the various Slavonic groups in America, uniting with each other, can build their own university. A Slavonic university, developing the best Slavonic brains in America, whether rich or poor, would eventually reward its founders many times over for their effort. But all this would depend upon whether the Slavs in America possess leaders intelligent enough to realize, as the French did in 1871, that the modern road to power is education.

3. The author analyzes the situation mainly from the standpoint of power politics, and considers underground and other terrorist movements in the Balkan as part of the general picture.

After Austria and Czechoslovakia, the Balkans have again become the high-tension zone of European power politics. The author's familiarity with Balkan problems makes him especially qualified to place the fundamental conflicts in sharp relief. His analysis covers the following scope, as indicated by the chapter headings: The Balkan Gateway, The Political Pattern, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Albania, Greece, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Balkan Foreign Policies.

### CONTEMPORARY WORLD POLITICS

Focused on the crisis spots of the world. Edited by Francis James Brown, Charles Hodges, Joseph S. Roucek. — The work of Thirty-four Distinguished Experts.

The growing complexity of world problems, and the accelerating rate with which international politics change, make it increasingly difficult for the student of foreign affairs to orient himself in the maze of international happenings.

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Since the mass of available knowledge can best be mastered by specialists, this symposium, each chapter written by an authority in his respective subject, aims to synthesize the available material in world politics for those who are looking for a foundation to this all-embracing and all-important field today.

It offers keen, well-integrated discussion, understandable and discerning, and a wide range of historical data extremely pertinent to today's headline news. An authoritative introduction to the forces which underlie the swiftly-moving events on the world stage. Published by John Wiley & Sons Inc., 440 Fourth Ave., New York, N. Y. \$5.00.



## Slavic Racial Contribution to American Culture

### The American Slavs

By Dr. P. R. Radosavljevič  
New York University.



SLOVAK CUSTOMS FROM THE VICINITY OF TRNAVA, SLOVAKIA

**I. Introduction.** The Slavs are found in every state of the Union and in Alaska. At least 10% of the U. S. population is composed of the Polish, Czech, Slovak, Russian ("Ukrainian"), Yugoslav (Serb, Croat, and Slovene), and Bulgar immigrants and their progeny. They are the last of the great European racial units to settle in the U. S. in huge numbers. Many Slavs had come to America, however, long before the railroads were built, for there has been many isolated examples even long before our independent national government was formed.

**II. Pre-colonial, Colonial, and Post-colonial Slavic Immigration.** It was often claimed, and historical deductions offered to support a tradition which links Dubrovnik (or Ragusa), with the discovery of America, i. e., that among Columbus' crew were sailors from the Dalmatian coast, situated along the eastern shore of the Adriatic Sea (now a province of Yugoslavia). This tradition is also found most recently by an American, Myrtle Hague Robinson when she examined antiques in the shop of Lujo Kraja on the main street of Dubrovnik. Here she talked with Mr. B. Radmili, a scion of one of Dubrovnik's old patrician families. He told her: "If we believe tradition, two Ragusan sailors were among the crew that sailed with Columbus on his first voyage to America. You see our peo-

ple have been always navigators and seafarers and especially in the early centuries. Our mariners went forth to America with the Conquistadores in their expeditions to the new world. Our old Ragusa Republic led the world in shipbuilding, and her argosies, laden with merchandise, traded with the Orient and distant points of the then known world. To India they went and Egypt as well as Italy, France and Great Britain. The old Slav cemetery at South Hampton, England, testifies of a colony of Ragusan merchants established there. The word *argosy* is derived from the name of the city of Ragusa, whose ship yards manufactured vessels for Cromwell of England. It is not surprising that two of our sailors from Dubrovnik should have accompanied Columbus on his first voyage of exploration and discovery. One of the sailors returned, according to tradition, having acquired a large fortune in gold and treasure. He built the palace known now from the name of the later owners as the Palace of Bonda. Is it not a strange turn of affairs that two of our citizens should have assisted Columbus to discover America in 1492, and 573 years later, one of your American citizens, President Woodrow Wilson, should have assisted us and South Slav neighboring states to become a nation?"

Mr. Ivan Mladineo, wrote (1934) the

following about early immigration of our Yugoslavs: "This year American history is celebrating the 350th anniversary of the discovery of Roanoke Island recalling the establishing of the first English settlement in the New World. North Carolina is building a shrine to this first colony within the present confines of the state. The colony was, in fact, twice settled a full score of years before Jamestown and thus takes the Anglo-American history back into the sixteenth century. Sir Walter Raleigh's second colony (the first being established on July 29, 1585) under John White, arrived on July 22, 1586, intending certainly to be a permanent one, for it consisted of 95 men, 17 women and 9 children. In August the first white child was born in British Colonial America and named Virginia. Nine days later the child's grandfather, Governor White, sailed away to England, and from that day to this there is no certain word of what happened to the company he left behind him, or of the infant which was the youngest member.

Not until spring of 1590 was White able to come to Roanoke. "At the place where they were left in sundry houses (White writes) we found the houses taken down and the place very strongly enclosed with a high palisade of great trees, with curtains and flankers, very fort-like; and one of the

chief trees or posts at the entrance had the bark taken off, and five feet from the ground in fair capital letters, was graven *Cratan*, without any cross or sign of distress."

This is the first recorded history connecting America with Yugoslavs or, rather, with the Croatian branch. It is believed that a Croatian ship, stopping at this first permanent settlement in America, left its imprint on the big tree, and, consequently, gave its name to one of the islands of North Carolina — "Cratan."

The first known mass movement of the Yugoslavs to America dates back to the early eighteenth century. After the unsuccessful and bloody uprisings of the peasants in Croatia and Slovenia against their feudal lords in 1573, and of the Reformation movement, ruthlessly crushed by the edict of the Archduke Ferdinand in 1598, many Yugoslavs found refuge in Prussia, having gone there upon the invitation of King Frederick William, who favored the Protestants. A century later their descendants decided to find a haven in the New World. During the first half of the eighteenth century they set their sails toward America. One group, composed of 1200 persons, went to Georgia. There they settled on the right bank of the Savannah River at the confluence of a small creek, which they named *Ebenezer*. Pastors Gronau and Bolcius led the group. These early immigrants introduced the cultivation of the silk worm in Georgia, an industry engaged in by many in their original native land before they moved to Prussia. Soon after the Civil War the settlement was abandoned and only the cemetery remains as a monument to a once thriving colony of the first Yugoslav settlers in America.

Dalmatian sailors were world renowned for their seamanship, courage and love of adventure. Long before the discovery of America their ships navigated all the known sea routes. Only a few years ago a seamen's guild in Dalmatia celebrated its thousandth anniversary. It is recorded that a Dalmatian ship sailed to America by way of India at the beginning of the eighteenth century (a vessel from Dubrovnik entered New York harbor around 1790 shortly before the subjugation of the old Republic); they were old-timers in California when the first Yankee got there.

## In Silence, by Louis Sanjek

This is a fascinating book, conceived and executed in a most unusual manner. An extremely interesting autobiography, it, at the same time, contains a wealth of historical lore and of philosophical thought; gives you the psychological background of a people and the beauties of the country (Croatia) from which the author comes.

Bound up with what is actually the history of a great people, you will discover the personal story of one of its finest men.

Louis Sanjek comes from Croatia and since the World War has been a citizen of the United States. After years spent in working among his people, a throat affliction has confined him to the hospital where he is allowed no visitors and can talk to no one. "IN SILENCE" is the result of his stay there.

It is so seldom that a man of Louis Sanjek's calibre is willing or has the time to write a book about himself, it is truly a great privilege to be able to read "In Silence." It is absorbing, well written and has every fine quality one could possibly ask for in literature.

It is published by Fortuny's, Publishers, 67 West 44th Street, New York, N. Y.

A port of call for most of the Yugoslavs sailing to the New World was New Orleans. Until the middle of the nineteenth century this was the chief settlement of the Yugoslavs in America. They were engaged in the oyster industry, controlling it for many a decade. From there they wandered throughout the length and breadth of the country. When gold was discovered in California they also joined the famous "Gold Rush." Most of the Yugoslav "Forty-niners" set out from New Orleans. They advised their relatives and friends in the Old Country of the fortunes made in the "shiny metal" with the result that several ships sailed from their native shores carrying new prospectors to the Golden Gates. California has always had a special attraction for the Dalmatian immigrants, and naturally so. Clima-

tally and topographically it reminds them strongly of their own lovely Adriatic coastland. Upon the shores of the Pacific they were unusually successful.

Yugoslav immigrants are recognized today as the pioneers in apple, grape and fishing industries in California and along the whole Pacific coast. It is recorded that one "Mark Rabasa, apple dealer," a native of Dalmatia in Yugoslavia, was the first man engaged in apple business in Watsonville, Pajaro Valley, in the 70's. This date marks the beginning of this universally known industry. Jack London (in his novel *The Valley of the Moon*) describes at length and with great admiration the result of the "tenderness and love," which transformed the 12,000 acres of the Pajaro Valley into "one of the most wonderful demonstrations of the United States." He calls it "New Dalmatia," and credits "those first rugged Adriatic Slavs" for making it "Apple Paradise."

Others began to cultivate grapes, and fishing. Large fleets of fishing boats in San Pedro, in Monterey, and on the Columbia River are manned and owned by Yugoslav fishermen. A fleet of 200 modern fishing boats on the Columbia River alone represent an investment of several millions of dollars and are the property of the Yugoslav immigrants. The largest sardine, tuna and mackerel cannery in California belongs to the Yugoslavs. Most famous restaurants in San Francisco, until recently, were owned and operated by them.

Though New Orleans is the oldest existing Yugoslav settlement in the U.S., their first organization, however, was formed in San Francisco in 1857, as "The Slavonian Mutual and Benevolent Society." Its purpose was social and beneficial, helping its members in times of illness and distress. The official languages were "English and Slavonian." Only in 1874 the New Orleans Yugoslavs organized themselves in the "United Slavonian Benevolent Association of New Orleans." The first organization on the Atlantic Coast was founded in New York in 1880, and is now known as "The First Croatian Benefit Society." Two years later the Slovenes organized their first association, "The Independent Society of St. Joseph," in Calumet, Mich. Thus the first four organizations were



established on the four extreme points of the U. S. These pioneer associations, which still exist, can proudly point to 5,000 of their offsprings in all sections of the country."

It is interesting to note that a son of the American Revolution and a signer of the Declaration of Independence, William Paca (1740-1799) was of Slavic blood. It is more than likely that there were Poles among the early settlers of Jamestown, Va., in the beginning of the 17th century. A Czech who arrived here a few years later was Augustine Herrman of New Amsterdam and later of Bohemia Manor, Md. There were certainly Czechs among the settlers of the Moravian communities at Bethlehem, Pa. During the American Revolution we all know of the services of the two Polish leaders — Tadeusz Kosciuszko and Kazimierz Pulaski. The first one was engaged as a chief engineer in construction of the fortification at West Point, N. Y., and later became adjutant to Washington. Kosciuszko, the trained tactician and military expert, when presented to Washington was asked: "What can you do?", replied without affectation or hesitation: "Try me and see." This so pleased Washington that he made him an aide and a military advisor, entrusting with him much of the arduous work of organizing his troops. And Kosciuszko made good, for within the eight months Congress appointed him chief engineer of the Continental Army with the rank of Colonel. In speaking of Kosciuszko, Thomas Jefferson said: "His deeds in our behalf have naturalized him as an American. He is no foreigner." Pulaski came to America at the start of the Revolutionary War and soon after was assigned to Washington's personal staff. Later, for gallant service at Brandywine, he was made a Brigadier-General. He was mortally wounded at an unsuccessful attack on Savannah (Oct. 9, 1779) and died two days later on board ship. Congress voted a monument to his memory and though this vote has never been carried into execution, Lafayette laid the corner-stone of a monument in Savannah in 1824, and this was completed in 1853. No doubt, a very considerable number of Poles and other Slavs followed these two leaders and many like their chief laid down their lives during the Revolutionary War.



MONUMENTS TO THE MEMORY OF GEORGE FANDLY  
AT TRNAVA, SLOVAKIA

## Archipenko Shows Latest Sculpture

By Nan Lubas

During March at Katherine Kuh Galleries at 540 N. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, the main point of interest was the latest piece of sculpture, "Moses", by the world famous Ukrainian, Alexander Archipenko. Critics say he is the greatest sculptor since Rodin and one of the first abstract sculptors of his time.

It has been said that ever since terror has been raging throughout the world Archipenko has been thinking of making a figure to represent justice. His work, called the "good will statue," represents all that he ever tried to portray.

The statue is representative of modern art. It is streamlined in manner with head thrown back and a huge tablet of the Ten Commandments in the figure's arms. The lines are extremely flowing and appear restive to the eye. The statue is seven feet in height with the head small in proportion to the rest of the body. The eyes are sharp and piercing. The left hand points to the tablet in an appeal to man to realize what is taking place in the world.

"Moses" is Archipenko's latest work to be exhibited, but there are also other pieces in terra cotta, marble, bronze and polychrome which are worth seeing.

## Summer Sports Among Slavs

By Mickey Hamalak, Exec. Sec.  
Slav. Ath. Federation.

Most of us look forward to the Summer as the season for Baseball, Swimming or Picnics and Boat Rides. Some of us who are athletically inclined find the Summer Season a blessing as one can play softball, golf, tennis, track and field and various other outdoor sports while Winter restricts one to bowling, basketball and possibly swimming. Those who feel that Summer is for picnics, rides or other outdoor social functions, are really missing a lot of Summer if they don't undertake at least some one certain sport purely as a recreation and not for competitive purposes.

The Slav is known as an athletic person. America is noted for being highly Sports conscious even to the extent of having tens of thousands of spectators at games and in these games the Slav has proven him or herself, tops among athletes. I specifically mention herself in this case because I am thinking of Stella Walsh, that Polish girl from Cleveland who has been a top-notch in Girls track and field events for years. I can truthfully say that she is the most outstanding Girl Track Star ever developed in this country. Let us go on into Diving and we find none other than Al Patnik, the Pittsburgh Slovak who holds every Championship in the A.A.U. at the present time, both indoor and outdoors.

Going into College Baseball we find none other than Hank Borowy, the Bloomfield, N. J. Pole who has made Fordham a power in Eastern Baseball. Moving into Intercollegiate Track we find Nick Vukmanic of Penn State as the winner of the Penn Relays, Javelin Throw for the second successive year and a favorite for the coming National Intercollegiate Meet as well as the A.A.U. meet.

Let us move into Weightlifting, an unknown sport to many but we find none other than Johnny Terpak, Mayfield, Pa.,

Russian, on top in the Light-Division. I must admit that we do not have any topnotch Tennis or Golf player in the Amateur ranks but we do have many foreign-born Slavs who are among the best in the International Field such as Perenc of Yugo-Slavia and Roderick Menzel, the Czech as well as his fellow countryman and adopted American, Karl Kozeluh, one of the greatest to ever hold a racquet.

My last example of an American Slav who has made a name for himself is none other than Al Simmons, the Milwaukee Pole, whose hitting has made a contender out of the lowly Boston Bees this year. "Al" is turning 35 and 10 years ago led the American League in batting yet today finds him a Star on a Major League team.

Everyone of these people began their athletic careers playing for the fun and recreation they derived from Summer Sports. Most of them were first or second generation Americans of foreign parents who had been taught the wonderful slogan of Sokolism . . . "A Sound Mind In A Sound Body." They began playing games to build their bodies and minds yet received the thrills of competition making the effort so much more enjoyable. As they reached their 'teens, ability combined with hours of practice made them outstanding among their fellow athletes and started them off on professional careers. Others developed their athletic abilities to such an extent that College Scholarships made College educations possible to those who would otherwise not have been able to receive a chance to better themselves in this New World.

Fraternal Organization should undertake the sponsorship of Youth Athletic Activities. During the vacation periods from school, Summer Sports programs could be used to keep our Ameri-

can Slavs unified socially as well as athletically. Note that the American Legion, Kiwanis Clubs, Rotary Clubs, Y. M. C. A. and Y. M. H. A. are organizing the younger boys and girls and making them "Play For Fun." That is the motto of all America. Most of us remember that old saying of "All Work and No Play, Makes a Man Flabby Around the Bay." Let us use the Summer to eliminate the extra weight and develop our bodies as well as minds.

In conclusion let us all decide upon one certain Sport to play. Join your friendliest Fraternal Order at once and get into the fun of playing with your fellow Slavs. Summer and Winter, you should exercise and play for health and fun.

Join A Fraternal Lodge Now.

### FARRELL, PA., AMERICAN RUSSIAN SOKOLS WIN SLAV BASKETBALL TITLE

The Farrell, Pa., American Russian Sokols won the Second Annual Slav A.F., Basketball Tournament for the second time in succession when they defeated the Bethlehem, Pa., Slovak Catholic Sokols in the finals. The Tournament was played in New York City over the weekend of April 1st and 2nd with six Slav Fraternal Societies sending their National Champions to represent them in this All-Slav Tournament of Champions.

During the past few years basketball has been recognized as the major sport of many Fraternal Societies with National Tournaments as the highlights of the season. Each organization sponsored various leagues and through eliminations among league champions and National Tournaments selected National Championships these same teams entered this Slav Athletic Federation sponsored Tournament under the auspices of their society. The six entries in the latest tournament were the representative teams of a total of more than 100 Slav Lodge teams that began the season six months ago, a season climaxed by the crowning of the ALL-SLAV CHAMPION.

The first tourney was held at Homestead, Pa., in 1938 with but two entries namely, First Slovak Catholic Union and the American Russian Sokols, Farrell, Pa., winners of the ARS title



defeated Lakewood, Ohio, champions of the F.S.C.U. Farrell repeated in the ARS again this year and went on to win the Slav Crown for the second time in two tries. Cleveland, F.S.C.U., Berwick, Pa., Ukranian Nat'l, Assn., Duquesne, Pa., Slovak Evangelical Union, Pittsburgh, Pa., and New York City D. A. Sokols completed the roster of teams in the tourney.

Officers for 1939 were elected with Ed Minarcak, F.S.C.U. Pres., Gregory Herman, U.N.A. Vice President, Mickey Hamalak, ARS, Sec., John Tomaskovic, S.C.S., Treas., and Paul Sturman, S.E.U., Publicity Director.

## The Light That Never Fails

By Michael Kraykovic

It was a beautiful day in late summer. The sun, resplendent in all its glory, dipped beyond the flaming western horizon. A vast crowd was gathered on a campus 'neath the spreading branches of stately oaks and maples, already tinged russet and gold with the advent of autumn. The occasion was an open-air concert, but a most unusual one in local music circles.

From an ivy-clad doorway, two young men were led down a narrow, flagstone walk to an elevated platform, and seated in their respective positions at two pianos. A burst of spontaneous applause rose from the audience for these two talented, but comparatively unknown, musicians. They stood up and bowed gracefully in response to their ovation.

The conductor mounted the dais, tapped his baton then poised it over a score in front of him. As he raised his hand a concord of strings, woodwind and brass vibrated and inundated the calm, twilight atmosphere. Rhythmic chords swelled, and liquid melody drifted heavenward, unimpeded by faulty acoustics of enclosures. Aptly the two young men followed — but unseeingly; for they were blind.

The orchestra modulated, as the conductor rapped, signally. It was their duet queue, now. Slender fingers glided nimbly over glistening white keys into the opening measures of Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata, guided only through sound and a sixth sense. What inspiring music was rapturously re-

leased from imprisonment from those twin consoles. High over head, a vesper-thrush regaled in song, seemingly vieing for honors with an ethereal harmony of these two young men. Living in a world of darkness, a spiritual happiness was theirs — far surpassing our earthly ways. What a moral is contained therein, I mused, departing at the close of that memorable interlude.

Out in the street, away from the serenity of restful surroundings, I entered a zone of noise and confusion. Bells clanged and horns blared, amid the careening traffic of a teeming metropolis. A blind man tapped his way through throngs of laughing, jostling humanity bent on pleasure in theatres and smart cafes, their ears east to the winds, cautiously avoiding and sidestepping this forlorn creature. Though only so in the eyes of an unmindful lot for Providence guides him through eternal night. What a kindly expression is ironically graven in his furrowed countenance. He does not complain; only sings his way through life and light now denied him. But he, too, is on his way to a greater banquet hall beyond the stars.

Children of the dark, known and unknown, their ranks are legion and, citing a few, their achievements are lasting and noble. Homer, the blind poet of Ancient Greece, recited in the streets for the amusement of town-folk; posterity recorded his ILLIAD and ODYSSEY for our pleasure and enlightenment. Milton, in his blindness, soared to Elysian heights dictating PARADISE LOST to his two daughters burdened with their father's sublime labours and, at times, dishearteningly objectionable to his will. Helen Keller, denied a vision of the color and loveliness in nature, is content and happy in her world of spiritual beauty, teaching others to 'see' the light and scattering happiness everywhere.

In our Institutions for the Blind, a commendable work is unceasingly carried on. New vistas are opened for countless numbers who are guided in their efforts by patient and sympathetic tutors, and taught to be self-sustaining through the various arts and crafts — an incentive for a more purposeful life. They personify a grim and heroic determination of the afflicted in triumphing over great odds, with an admirable stoicism.

Shakespeare, in "As You Like It" says: "All the world's a stage, and all the men and women mere'y players." Each has a role — an insignificant one — in this mortal drama, interspersed with comedy and tragedy. What miserable actors the lot of us are, gestulating in our sham and pretense, flaunting our creeds and greeds, and flinching from a duty to our fellow man and to ourselves.

Fortunate children of light, visioning the breathless iridescence of dawn and sunset, awed with the benediction of a full moon in the haunting summer night and ever complaining of the whims of destiny, or some trifling injustice wrought us. While the less fortunate, dwelling in a strange world amongst us, yet apart from us, uncomplainingly journey on through an eternal night, with a song in their hearts. For, beyond the shadowy hills of time and space, where the echoes of this life are borne and where life is born anew, they 'see' another light — A light that never fails.

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## For Slavs About Slavs

### SLAV VIOLINIST SCORES TRIUMPH IN MAKING DEBUT

Presenting his first recital last month, William Pisarchik, talented young violinist of Johnstown, Pa., made his debut before a large and appreciative audience in the auditorium of Joseph Johns Junior High School, Johnstown, Pa.

The concert was a marked triumph for the young musician who scored well-deserved success. The nature of the response Pisarchik got from his audience was an indication that few persons in the auditorium had remained untouched by his performance which was good in its simplicity, freshness, and balance.

As Pisarchik demonstrated his right to take his place among the talented musicians of the country, his performance reflected months of painstaking rehearsal under the direction of his instructor, Lester Druckenmiller. Much of the credit for the success of last month's performance is given to Mr. Druckenmiller, who had been preparing his student especially for the concert since last September.

The audience included many of the city's keenest and best-known appraisers of musical talent, and unanimous praise was heard regarding the unusually able manner in which the young musician rendered various difficult passages.

His first number was the De-Beriot Concerto in G Major in which Miss Bronwen Cooper, his accompanist, shared the honors in a splendid interpretation. The pianist during the rest of the program further proved her fine artistry and innate feeling and sympathy in the way of some unusually skillful and satisfying accompaniment.

Pisarchik followed with two melodic compositions, "On Wings of Song" (Mendelssohn) and "Schon Rosmarin" (Kreisler), which clearly showed his tonal

resources. He presented "Leibesfrued" by Kreisler and "Caprice Viennois," also by the same composer, in a very capable and splendid manner.

### Insistent Ovation

An exceptionally insistent ovation followed his rendition of Schubert's "Ave Maria" and he followed with a brilliant execution of "From the Canebrake" by Gardner. "Perpetuum Mobile"



WILLIAM PISARCHIK

(Reis) and "Valse Bluette" (Drigo) also were enthusiastically received.

In answer to applause the violinist offered as encores "Moments Musicales" (Schubert) and "Rondino" (Kreisler). He climaxed his performance with "Czardas" by Monti and further enhanced his triumph by combining technical mastery with tonal quality.

Following the recital Mr. Pisarchik was requested to present a concert in Pittsburgh some time in the near future, probably in Syria Mosque. A representative of a Pittsburgh civic organization is said to have made the request and will contact Mr. Pisarchik later concerning details.

Paul Payerchin

### HRDLICKA HONORED

The American Association of Physical Anthropologists met in Philadelphia to honor their colleague, Dr. Hrdlicka, the distinguished scientist and founder of physical anthropology in America.

Dr. Hrdlicka is Bohemian by birth, educated in America and it is here that he has carried on his brilliant scientific career of more than 40 years. His co-scientists gathered to honor his seventieth birthday.

Dr. Hrdlicka is curator of physical anthropology at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington. His is the largest collection of human skulls in the world, representing nearly all races, epochs and regions of the earth. It is mainly from the study of these skulls and other bones of the body that Dr. Hrdlicka sees hope for the final attainment of a real civilization. He has spent 40 years in this arresting quest.

### SLAVIC CHAMPION

A description of Miss Mary Florence Humanic, our first Slav queen of rubber band duckpin bowling in America:

She's five feet, two inches tall, has hazel eyes and blonde hair, weighs 103 pounds and is of Slovak extraction. The champion was born in Duquesne, Pa., 30 years ago . . . Her parents are Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Humanic, of Munhall . . . Miss Humanic has two sisters, Helen and Ann, and two brothers, Stephen and Michael . . . The Humanics have lived in Munhall, Pa., for the last 18 years.

Miss Humanic is a veteran of the duckpin game . . . She's been rolling for 10 years and has held a high ranking among the district stars for the past five years . . . The Munhall miss is a quiet, reserved person with a very pleasing personality.

Miss Humanic won the National duckpin championship against the toughest competition in the tournament held recently in Pittsburgh.



## BENES IN PITTSBURGH

Speaking before more than 3,000 persons in Syria Mosque, Dr. Benes discussed "Is European Democracy Going to Collapse?"

He expressed a sincere belief that Europe is now entering a "new fight for democracy and freedom."

Instead, he predicted the "inevitable and decisive defeat of dictatorships," and a "new period of liberty to my country, Czecho-Slovakia." He said:

"Dictatorships is always a temporary regime. History confirms this sociological fact. Generally a dictatorship creates a situation which very soon appears worse than it was in the previous regime.

"My impression is that politically, morally, economically and socially these regimes are approaching today their culmination point.

"The only section of their policy which continues to give them new force and power is their apparent success in their violent international and military policy.

## PREDICTS RESTORATION

He said:

"Temporarily—as I am profoundly convinced—they have destroyed a prosperous, democratic state, subjugated a free nation and declared cynically that Nazi Germany needs this territory.

"Economically and financially the dictatorships, in contrast with the democratic states, use methods and means which push them toward inevitable downfall or violent social and economic downfall."

Speaking on the appeasement policy and the Munich Pact, Dr. Benes said:

"During the September crisis, Czecho-Slovakia was asked to make a sacrifice for the sake of general peace. My people were prepared to make sacrifices.

## Polish Radio Club Celebrates Its Tenth Anniversary

The Polish Radio Club of Pittsburgh is celebrating its Tenth Anniversary this year. From its first program, broadcast over station KQV in 1929, the Polish Radio Club broadcasted over 1000 programs, at one time sponsoring three programs a week.

The Polish Radio Club is sponsoring an afternoon and evening Excursion on Sunday June 4, on the steamer St. Paul to celebrate its 10th anniversary. All Pittsburgh Slavs and their friends are invited to attend.

The Polish Radio Club of Pittsburgh for ten years, endeavored to give its



LOUIS PILLART

listeners enjoyable and educational programs. These programs were composed of Polish music and songs, short educational, political and economic talks of various speakers, as well as, of commercial announcements of our merchants.

The Polish Radio Club of Pittsburgh, for the past ten years, has served the interests of the Polish community of this district well, acquainting its listeners with the programs and projects of the various societies and organizations in this district.

The Polish Radio Club of Pittsburgh was instrumental in the organization of the Polish Merchants in 1932, which organization is known today, as the "White Eagles Stores."

The Polish Radio Club of Pittsburgh was first to sponsor the Radio Orchestra under the direction of Henry Zienetek, the first steady orchestra to appear on the air. This same orchestra appears on our programs now.

The Polish Radio Club of Pittsburgh in the future will endeavor to organize the Polish youth of this section and will strive for establishment of recreational centers for them. This is possible and can be accomplished with the full hearted cooperation of all the Poles of Pittsburgh. In 1938, the Polish Radio Club, was first to hold a Polish Youth Day at the West View Park, drawing over 25,000 people.

The Polish Radio Club is under the direction of Louis Pillart, its organizer and regular announcer of the Sunday Polish Hour over KQV at noon.

"We, of course did not foresee such an agreement as was finally made at Munich. It was an unjust agreement imposed on us, which gave more than 1,200,000 Czecho-Slovaks to other countries."

Dr. Benes concluded with his watchword:

"We were, and we will be."

The chairman of the meeting was Attorney Edward O. Tabor, civic committee chairman, who sponsored Dr. Benes' Pittsburgh appearance. He described the former president, as the "cham-

panion of human freedom under law."

## ACCOMPANIED BY WIFE

Madame Benes accompanied her husband, and was presented on the stage.

Mayor Scully extended his greeting and sympathies to the former president. He described him as the "greatest little man in Europe."

Dr. Benes also visited the University of Pittsburgh to inspect the nationality rooms and speak in the Foster memorial.

## THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVAKIA'S NEW POSTAGE STAMPS

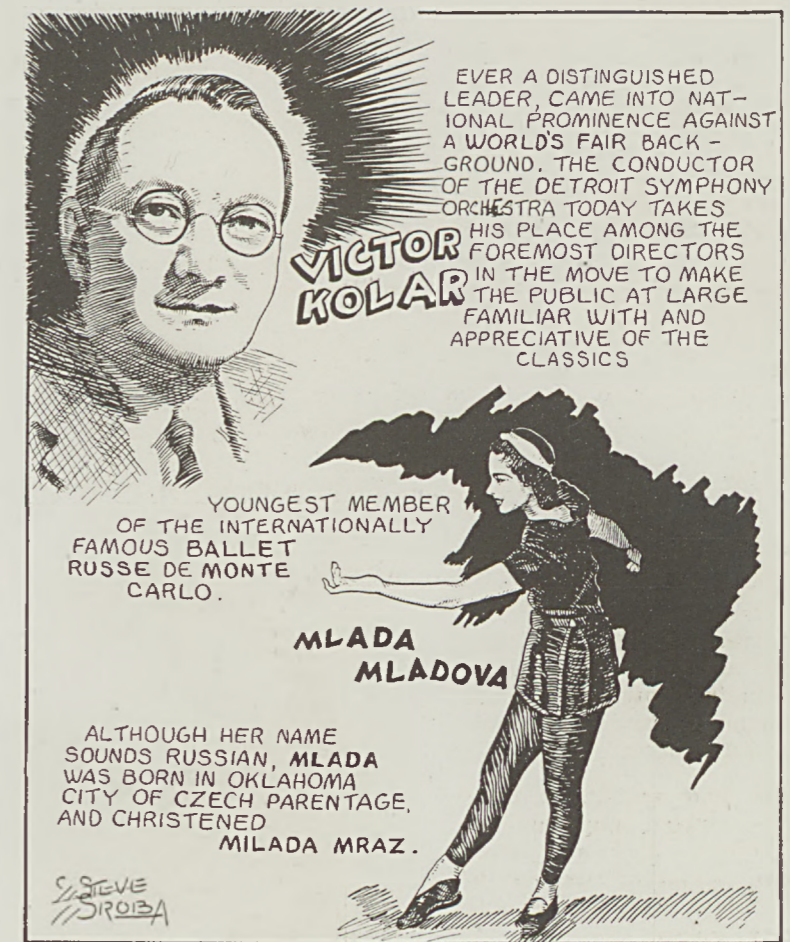
During the 20 years of existence of the Czecho-Slovak Republic very little was known of the Slovaks in the realm of philately.

This scribe had often lamented the lack of representation of Slovak characters on the stamps of the Czecho-Slovak state. Now with the evolution of a new Slovak state things will of course be different.

One source of information on the subject of stamps to this writer has been the "New York Herald Tribune" literary section of this valuable paper. In its section entitled "Books" is a worthy column edited by R. C. Barry dedicated to stamps. I will quote from Mr. Barry's timely article on the new Slovak commemorative postage stamps. "When Germany established a "protectorate" over all of Bohemia, Moravia and Slovakia a new constitution, promulgated shortly after March 16, stating the Reich takes charge of the post and telegraph system," according to "Stamp Collecting" of London.

Before the "protectorate" was established Slovakia had declared its independence of the other two states on March 14, and immediately got out an issue of stamps. Prior to this the Slovaks issued a "Slovak Parliament Issue" to commemorate the inauguration of a separate parliament for Slovakia. The 10-kr. Bratislava stamp of 1936 overprinted in red with an inscription which may be translated "Opening of the Slovak Parliament January 18, 1939." Also included is the Slovak coat-of-arms and a new value "300-H." This stamp is also known as the "Red Overprint."

The designs pictured on this new series of stamps include the late Father Hlinka, and the issues are a 5-heller ultramarine, 10-H brown, 20-H brick red, 30-H violet, 50-H olive, 1-crown carmine, 2-c 50-H blue and 3-c dark brown. The stamps printed in Bratislava were issued to com-



memorate Slovakia's autonomy. Another series of seven stamps has appeared made by overprint in "Slovenský Stát 1939" on current Czecho-Slovak issues. Little is known at this writing about this issue except that copies have come through on cancelled covers.

Ruthenia the easterly province of the former Czecho-Slovakia under the name Carpatho-Ukraine also enjoyed a brief period of autonomy. A new capitol was set up at Chust in a grammar school there, but almost before its autonomy was declared Hungary overran the country. In the meantime, however, a series of stamps had been prepared, but became obsolete at about the time they were ready to go into circulation. The series had evidently been designed before the fall of Czecho-Slovakia as that country's name appears at the top with "Carpatho-Ukraine" in Russian script direct-

EVER A DISTINGUISHED LEADER, CAME INTO NATIONAL PROMINENCE AGAINST A WORLD'S FAIR BACK-GROUND. THE CONDUCTOR OF THE DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA TODAY TAKES HIS PLACE AMONG THE FOREMOST DIRECTORS IN THE MOVE TO MAKE THE PUBLIC AT LARGE FAMILIAR WITH AND APPRECIATIVE OF THE CLASSICS

YOUNGEST MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONALLY FAMOUS BALLET RUSSE DE MONTE CARLO.

MLADA MLADOVA

ALTHOUGH HER NAME SOUNDS RUSSIAN, MLADA WAS BORN IN OKLAHOMA CITY OF CZECH PARENTAGE, AND CHRISTENED MILADA MRAZ.

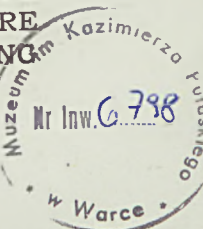
ly below. It is possible that a few of the stamps were issued before Hungary took over the country."

It has been my privilege to view the "Hlinka" commemorative stamps and it is a beautiful series. The set is designed in bright colors and is a credit to Slovakia, achieving a high standard for the artistic value of its first official stamps. May her other commemorative issues do equal justice to Slovakland.

Joseph Kotcka

## TO OUR READERS

BEFORE BUYING ANYTHING CONSULT YOUR AMERICAN SLAV MAGAZINE AND PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN SECURING YOUR PATRONAGE.





## SLAV INVENTOR

An entirely new principle is being used to open clogged pipes — and to keep them clean.

Water Hammer is now utilized to clear the blocked pipelines and sewers.

A patented appliance invented by a Slav, Stephan M. Mattich, of Cleveland, O., delivers a sharp blow to the water in a clogged pipe. The impact breaks up obstructions — and tears loose all sediment.

This is done without any danger to the pipe itself, because water hammer exerts its force longitudinally — not on the side walls.

:o:

**NATIONAL SERB TOURNEY  
HELD IN JOHNSTOWN, PA.**

Twenty-three basketball teams from throughout the country played in the fourth annual National Serbian basketball tournament which climaxed the 1939 cage campaign.

Wierton, W. Va., was the winner of the National Serbian title.

:o:

**SIKORSKY THE MAN**

The name of Igor Sikorsky stands for such outstanding attainments and is held in such esteem by the whole world as a recognized inventive genius that it must fill with pride the heart of every Russian, of every Slav. His brilliant mind of a scientist and inventor is enriched by genuine spirituality and by a keen reverence for matters beyond the world of material actuality where his practical intuition has asserted itself so productively.

His personality is to a marked degree an embodiment of some of the most worth while traditional characteristics of a cultured Russian. By his broadmindedness, versatility of interests combined with singleness of purpose, his sympathetic understanding of modern problems, and by his universality of vision he belongs not only to his race but to mankind at large as an earnest seeker of truth.

The late Emperor Nicolas II

## Gdynia American Line Placing Four New Ships Into Service

The MS SOBIESKI and MS CHROBRY in the South American trade and MS LODZ and MS BIELSK, plyable between Gdynia and Gulf ports.

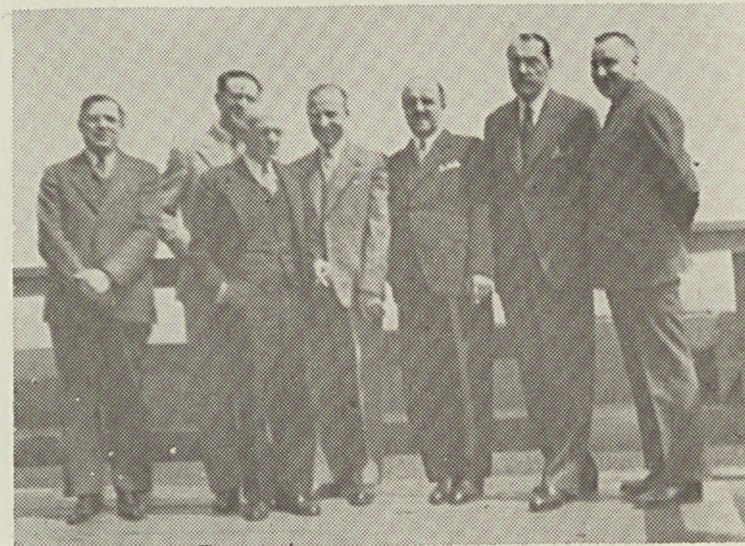
This announcement was made by the Managing Director Aleksander R. Leszczynski of the Gdynia American Line Head Office at Warsaw who stopped in Pittsburgh on his way from Chicago on an inspection trip of the Lines' offices with the Resident Director for United States and Canada Roman Kutylowski.

Mr. Leszczynski further announced that the only Slav Line in the trans-atlantic service is

rapidly growing and that the Slav bookings in 1938 were greatly increased over 1937. The Slovak League of America composed of Slovak organizations in America has chosen the Gdynia America Line for their annual excursion and the American Olympic Committee has chosen the MS PIL-SUDSKI as the official ship for the transportation of the Olympic team to Finland in 1940.

They were guests of the Falcons who held dinner in their honor at the William Penn Hotel.

Immediately after the dinner the guests left by plane for New York.



Picture — from left to right:  
J. S. Swierezynski, manager Gdynia America Line in Pittsburgh.  
V. L. Alski, publisher of the Pittsburgher Polish Daily.  
Col. T. A. Starzynski, president of the Polish Falcons of America.  
Heliodor Sztark, Consul General of the Consulate of Poland in Pittsburgh.  
Aleksander R. Leszczynski, Managing Director of Gdynia America Line Head Office in Warsaw.  
Roman Kutylowski, Resident Director of the Gdynia America Line Main Office in New York.  
M. Wasilewski, editor of the Polish Falcons of America.

rewarded Sikorsky with unusual honors. In his twenties the young inventor held the rank of Actual State Councilor, corresponding in military ranks to Major-General, and was promoted to Commandership of the Order of St. Vladimir for his eminent

services in the development of multiple-motored airplanes.

During his stay in America Sikorsky was actively engaged in a number of branches of the Russian National Movement and lent his support to the cause of the Russian Church.

# Letters from Our Readers

### From James Rozich

Gentlemen:

I received a few days ago a copy of the April issue, of the American Slav. I am enclosing herewith one dollar for one year's subscription. I am full of enthusiasm for this new idea of yours, because I firmly believe that not only young and old here, but our Slav people abroad as well should all work hand in hand for our better advancement and a greater Slav future.

I believe that by helping the American Slav we are helping ourselves. Yours for a bigger and better magazine.

MCDONALD, OHIO

### From J. Matasovsky

Sirs:

I find it difficult to fully express my enthusiasm upon first seeing the "SLAV." Pan-Slavism has always been my ideal, as the one thing that can enable the Slavs to give to God, to each other, and to the world, that which is best in them. And, indeed, the "SLAV" might well be one of the forces which will awaken a new and glorious renaissance of true and democratic Pan-Slavism.

I am sorry that I hadn't sooner come upon the "SLAV." And might I add a prayer? Gentlemen: By All that is Holy, please, keep the "SLAV" a truly idealistic, a truly pan-Slav journal — for God, for Slavs, for all men. If the magazine should become untrue, or corrupt, or profiteering, my ideals and those of thousands, perhaps millions of others would receive a crushing set-back — perhaps to permanent injury.

I am well aware that many of us will make it difficult for you by lack of support, but if the "SLAV"'s ideals remain pure in spite of all, certainly hundreds of thousands of new supporters will come to your aid.

Someone has said that these are the most historic times since the fall of Rome. How significant that the "SLAV" should be born now! It seems to fly straight to the mark, and yours, Gentlemen, is the tremendously heavy task of keeping it flying true to

the mark till our ideal is fulfilled — and after!

Enclosed please find subscriptions.  
UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

\* \* \*

### From M. Andrejeik

Dear Sir:

More than ten years ago the newspapers reported a project for the establishment of a Slovak college in Pennsylvania. Although the plan was never carried out, it remains one which deserves the attention, not only of the Slovaks, but of all Slavs in America. As demonstrated by the success, for illustration, of Yeshiva College in New York, a Jewish institution, the idea of the maintenance by individual language groups of separate institutions for higher education, is both useful and practicable.

To bring this before the mind of the American Slavonic world, I am submitting the adaptation of an article of mine appearing in the "VOSTOK" of Perth Amboy, N. J. in August, 1938, in the hope that you will be able to publish it.

With earnest wishes for your success, I am, respectfully yours,  
ASTORIA, L. I., NEW YORK

Editor's Note: Thank you for your gracious cooperation and your excellent article which appears in this issue.

\* \* \*

### From Paul Sturman

My dear Mr. Pankuch:

I read with great interest the May issue of the American Slav, but though the contents are excellent I can not quite agree with the statement on page 12 of the May issue relative a PERMISSION granted by Nazi Officials for the opening of the Czechoslovak Pavilion at the New York Fair.

This item in your magazine is not based on truth, as the Nazi authorities did everything possible to take over the Pavilion and make a Nazi display out of it; held up some of the exhibits shipped after the Munich disaster, and it is only through the valiant efforts of the Mayor of New York in cooperation with the Czechoslovak authorities in charge that the Pavilion is being

completed under the auspices of the Czechoslovak government, which is recognized by America, England, Poland, France and Russia, or the so-called democratic block of states.

To avoid any unfavorable criticism of the magazine, no matter on what small scale, and to clarify the standpoint of the Editor on this political issue a retraction in the June issue will be in order, as otherwise such innuendoes and inferences may become the characteristics of the American Slav, to its great detriment.

Sincerely yours,  
PITTSBURGH, PA.

Editor's Note: No offense was meant. We are sorry if the statement in question is not true. Mr. Pinkovsky the author of the article "Slav Echoes" gives as his authority for the statement in question reports of the Associated Press and the United Press. However, we are truly grateful to you for the information you have so kindly provided us with anent this matter.  
— Editor.

\* \* \*

### From Charles M. Prechal

President Czech-American  
National Alliance  
Chicago, Ill.

To the Editor of the  
American Slav Magazine,  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dear Sir:

We find the American Slav magazine, a very valuable and fine source of information, not only for Americans of Slavic descent but for all Americans.

We wish to draw your attention however, to the mis-statement made in your May, 1939 issue on page 12, which asserts that the permission for the Czechoslovakian pavilion at the World's Fair was granted by the Nazi officials.

As far as we know the Nazi officials were trying either to take the pavilion over or prevent its opening under the Czechoslovak flag. It is thru the efforts of our New York Committee, Mayor La Guardia and the representatives of the Czechoslovak government, especially Col. Hurban that this pavilion will be opened as a shrine of democracy.



# SLAV ECHOES

By Michael Pinkosky

**Jadran Croatian Singing Society of Aliquippa, Pennsylvania.** About six years ago a group of Croats assembled together for the purpose of organizing a Croatian cultural and educational society. Fifty-five members were present. First officers elected were: Stephen Horvatich, president; John Robash, vice-president; Frederick Stanicak, secretary and Emilia Yardich, treasurer. The very appropriate name Jadran, meaning Adriatic sea, was suggested by M. Krnjevich. The first concert held by the group was very successful, it was directed by Michael Holovach choir master of the Holy Ghost Russian Orthodox Church of Ambridge. Soloists in the mixed choir are, Frederick Stanicek, tenor; Mary Mikovich, soprano; Stanley Sekovich, baritone and John Serbich, bass. Soon after the successful venture was launched, the singing group opened their new club room on Khiel street. Stepping forward bravely a new home was purchased on Sheffield avenue. At present, there are fifty active members and four hundred supporting members. Eleven concerts were presented by the choir. Last year steps were taken towards organizing a singing federation in the tri-state area of New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania, which met with huge success. Ten choirs are enlisted in the federation. In September the Croatian Fraternal Union Jubilee will be held in Pittsburgh, with ten singing groups participating. Rudolph Matz, great Croat composer of Zagreb, who is president of the Singing Federation will make his first visit here to conduct a Concert Festival. Jadran choir has eight hundred folk songs, its great Croat composers are Vilhar, Spoljar, Zganec, Jankovic, Faller, Podravino, Krnic, Matz and many others. Present officers are, John Robash, president; Frank Dutkovich, vice-president; George Curaj, secretary; Emilia Radulovich, treasurer and

Zdenka Stanichak recording secretary.

**Ukrainian Center Campaign.** A drive to rebuild the Ukrainian Center, at South Eighteenth St., Pittsburgh, has been launched by the Ukrainian American Educational Institute of America. The organization, which has as its aim perpetuation of American ideals and the disregard of foreign "isms", has obtained possession of the old Saint Mark Guild House, a South Side landmark. Ilko Slobodian is treasurer; Vasy Shabatura is financial secretary and Reverend Eugene Korolyshyn of Saint Vladimir Church, Ambridge is secretary.

**Robert Kitain, Russian violinist** who recently made his American debut in Carnegie Music Hall, returned to present works of Handel, Mozart, Debussy, Kreisler, Paganini and Wieniawski. Kitain again disclosed a prodigious ability augmented by a good range of tonal dynamics. Performs with considerable spirit and vigor.

**World's Fair Folk Festival.** Scores of well-known and talented artists participated in dance recitals to foster community spirit, encourage tolerance and acquaint Americans with culture, as exemplified in songs and dances of the world. Beloved songs and dances of every nationality on earth were beautifully rendered. The dashing dances of the Poles, spirited dances of the Ukrainians, and Russians. Poland was represented by the Polish Junior League of Stamford, Connecticut led by Adam Goscienski; Folk Art and Dance group led by Lola Rom; singing society Symphonia presided over by Carl Schmidt, National Alliance, was led by Jadzia Danielik. The Poles have developed many remarkable cultural societies in America. Their activities have been in the main,

educational. They are a proud and sensitive people, their songs and dances express the deathless spirit of the Poles.

**Ignace Jan Paderewski,** the gifted pianist, presented the manuscript to the only opera he ever composed to the University of Pittsburgh for its Polish Room in the Cathedral of Learning. Quite naturally the University and in a broad sense all Pittsburgh, is genuinely touched at this great tribute. But perhaps more important than the gift itself, valuable as it is, was the message he sent with it. In his own hand, the man who excelled in two worlds — in music as an unmatched genius at the piano, and in statesmanship as premier and liberator of Poland, wrote . . . "In a deplorable epoch of materialism and of glorification of brutal force into which lately a large part of the so-called civilized world has been dragged by unscrupulous leaders, in an epoch which builds altars for low instincts of domination by force, of suppression of liberty and democracy, the only possible reaction and salvation is deemed to come from the younger generation.

"I believe in the final triumph of what is of God in our immortal souls. With His help out of the present turmoil will emerge a new and better world, a new and better mankind." Paderewski's words, like his music, should become a permanent inspiration to men with visions of finer things in life everywhere.

**Foremost Czech composer,** Antonin Dvorak, medium height . . . short iron grey beard . . . a high forehead and penetrating eyes . . . from lowly roles of inkeeper's son and street musician . . . was born at Nehalozevic . . . learned to play violin and sing, at Zlonitz . . . had his first instruction in organ and piano playing there . . . In 1857 went to Prague, to study organ under Petzch . . . became a member of the National Theatre orchestra . . . was appointed organist at St. Adalbert Church,

## Bulgaria's Leading Writer, Elin Pelin

By Stoyan Christowe

in Prague . . . his works, "Wanda," "The King" and the "Charcoal Burner," "Hard Heads," "Dimitrij," "The Jacobins," won him recognition . . . In 1892 came to America, as Director of the National Conservatory in New York City . . . fifty-one years old, completed his first works in America, a cantata "American Flag."

**Slav Story Lovers,** should read the following worthy books: "Betrayal In Central Europe," by G. E. Gedye, foreign correspondent, The New York Times. A book that everyone should read; truth with the lid off. All America is reading this book, by the newspaper man the Nazis hate. Read the startling facts he has dared to reveal.

"The Holy Terror," by famous author, H. G. Wells, a novel about a world dictator, just published. Lively, penetrating, humorous and entertaining.

"North Of The Danube," by Erskine Caldwell. Human quality of Czecho-Slovakia, the land, people and culture. Magnificent photographs.

"Stalin's Secret Operations In Spain." For the first time, the amazing story by W. G. Krivitsky, former head of Stalin's secret service in Europe, unmasks the major mystery of the Spanish war, reveals a reign of terror never before suspected. A remarkable story.

"A Wayfarer In Yugoslavia." The land and the people, rich store of dramatic and picturesque . . . country of the present and the past . . . Dalmatian islands visits . . . Dubrovnik, Zagreb and Belgrade . . . customs, history and legends by Lovett Fielding Edwards.

"**Marusia,**" a Ukrainian musical film based on an old folk drama, featuring Nicholas Stehntzky, Stephenie Melnyk, as the peasant lovers was shown recently, in Lithuanian Hall, Southside, Pittsburgh. The picture was filmed in New Jersey, but its authentic costumes, dances and scenery accurately reflect the Ukraine. Sub-

In times like these it is gratifying to note that people can stop to take off their hats in honor of some calm genius whose work cannot be destroyed though the map of his country were changed a dozen times. The tragedy which befell the Czech people last Fall did not blunt their feelings to the loss which Czech literature sustained in the death of Karl Capek.

Last year all Bulgarians mourned the untimely death of Yordan Yovkov, gifted author of many plays and stories. Now the same people are celebrating the sixtieth birthday anniversary of their greatest living author. Newspapers and magazines are devoting entire issues to the life and work of Elin Pelin, a name so widely known that there's hardly a literate person in Bulgaria who has not heard of it. For the work of Elin Pelin has already attained the stature of a folklore. He is a blood-brother of those

titles are in English. An appreciative audience was present. Slavs should not miss seeing this grand entertainment.

**Her Father Leads Poland.** The daughter of President Moscicki of Poland arrived in New York with her husband, Alexander Bobkowski, who is vice-minister of the Polish ministry of communication and a delegate to the New York World's Fair.

**Polish Rally To Combat Nazis.** The Polish Community in Pittsburgh united for two demonstrations of solidarity against German aggression against their native land on the occasion of the fourth anniversary of the death of Poland's first Marshal, Jozef Pilsudski, the Poles celebrated in his honor. The Polish Falcons and the Polish Army Veteran's Association of America sponsored a mass meeting. The speakers were, Heiodor Sztark, Polish consul in Pittsburgh and Colonel Teofi Stazynski, president of the Polish Falcons of America.

nameless makers of ballads and folktales, which are the Bulgarian people's most valuable treasure and which the Ministry of Education has collected in twenty-eight huge volumes. Had Elin Pelin, too, been born in the dark centuries of the past, his name might not have survived, but his tales would surely have spun themselves into the pattern of the national folklore.

Elin Pelin is a master story-teller, and his stories are a crowning achievement in contemporary Bulgarian prose. The author agrees with Maxim Gorky that the short story is the most difficult of the literary forms, and yet he has written nothing but short stories. The short story, Elin Pelin believes, is best suited to his talent and is the shortest route from the author to the wide world of art and life.

Perhaps it is because he has always been trying to find the shortest route that Elin Pelin has not been a prolific writer. He has been publishing stories for forty years, and there are all sorts of collections and editions of his tales, yet all of them can be gathered in a single large volume. Since, as in the United States, and perhaps elsewhere, there has been in Bulgaria in recent years a vogue for quantity in literature, some Bulgarian critics have chided Elin Pelin for his niggardly output. Others have defended him on the ground that literature should not be measured by the bushel, like some vegetables, but by the earat, like gold and diamonds. The greatness of an author, they say, should be gauged by the quality and not the quantity of his work, by the poetic power with which his work was created. In this connection, Elin Pelin himself says, "I enjoy writing when I have something to write and when I know beforehand the end of what I am to write."

Another criticism that has been leveled against this eminent Bulgarian author is that he is not a public man, not a social writer. Whenever an author and his work come up for discussion and appraisal these days this question seems naturally to arise. And so, perhaps with some justification, Elin Pelin has been chastised by his more



public-spirited and social-minded colleagues for his serene isolation and detachment from questions and problems that stir his people. "He is a great artist," say his critics, "but not a public man."

It is true, strictly speaking, that Elin Pelin is not a public man. He makes no speeches, delivers no lectures, does not read his stories in public, gives no statements or opinions on this or that, writes no prefaces, joins no committees, defends nobody and denounces nobody. And that indeed may be a defect. And yet, looking at it in another way, all of the characters which Elin Pelin has created are social beings, flesh and blood people whose joys and sorrows he seems to share and with whom he identifies himself and regards himself as their equal, so much so, in fact, that to him it seems presumptuous to step out from their midst and become their leader or their champion.

And so while he may not be a public man, Elin Pelin is certainly a writer of the people. His enviable position as the greatest writer in his country he owes not to any fantastic stories he has imagined, or even to the efforts of a personal ambition, but to the recreation of his people's soul, which, as one Bulgarian critic has put it, "can see its image in the works of Elin Pelin as in a limpid spring."

Elin Pelin was born in a village in Bulgaria and spent his boyhood and youth in the country. For the past forty years he has lived in Sofia, where he is now curator of the Museum Ivan Vazoff, the residence of the patriarch of Bulgarian literature which the government has turned into a national shrine. But though living in the capital, both personally and in his work Elin Pelin has remained faithful to the countryside. He loves the outdoors and is a passionate hunter and fisherman. Often he accompanies King Boris on his hunting expeditions through the country.

Nature, therefore, plays a vital part in the writings of Elin Pelin. His stories are full of magnificent and inspiring glimpses of the Bulgarian landscape. Yet this intrusion of nature into the writings of Elin Pelin is not merely an external decoration. The landscapes are superbly integrated with the tone and action of the stories. The participation of nature in his work has, as a matter of fact, a profound emotional basis. Without it the characters

would lose much of their reality and identity, and the author could hardly convey that earthly power which stirs his creative world. Elin Pelin humanizes nature and binds it up with the fate of man.

Elin Pelin has also written many stories for children. He deserves sole credit for elevating this kind of writing to an art in Bulgaria. Before his children's stories were written as if in fun. He was the first to show the way to serious children's literature. Both in his stories for children and in the general body of his work, Elin Pelin approaches the child with fitting dignity and seriousness.

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by Thomas R. Supe

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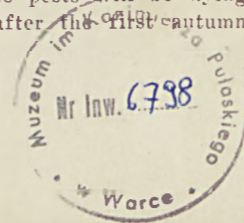
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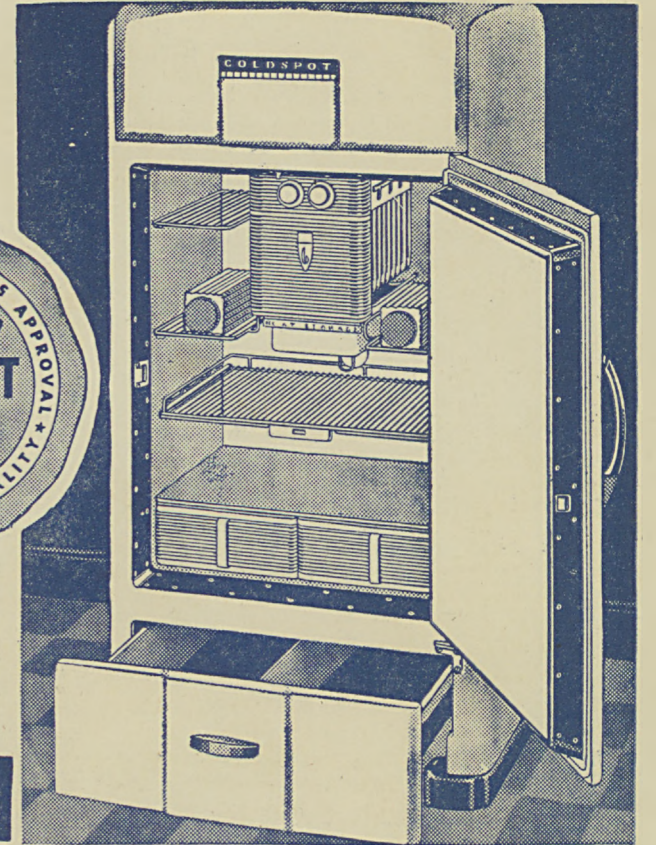
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