Guide to the Bedrich Vaska Papers 1875/1978

Special Collections & University Archives

Overview of the Collection
Collection Title: Bedrich Vaska Papers
Dates: 1875-1978
Identification: MS-0262
Creator: Vaska, Bedrich, 1879-1979
Physical Description: 2.50 linear ft
Language of Materials: English
French
German
Russian
Polish
Dutch
Flemish
Serbian
Croatian
Hungarian
Ukrainian
Finnish
Repository: Special Collections & University Archives
5500 Campanile Dr. MC 8050
San Diego, CA, 92182-8050
URL: http://library.sdsu.edu/scua
Email: seref@rohan.sdsu.edu
Phone: 619-594-6791
Note:
Other Information:
Bedrich Vaska's family tree is available in the Louis A. Kenney Reading Room.

Biographical Information:
Cellist Bedrich Vaska was a native of Czechoslovakia who resided in the United States from 1911 until his death in 1978. He was a pupil of Antonin Dvorak, and studied at the Prague Conservatory where he met three other pupils of Dvorak -- Oscar Nedbal, Josef Suk, and Vitezslav Novak. Vaska became the last living pupil of Dvorak. He was the founder of, and had a long association with the Sevcik Quartet, 1899-1911.

Access Terms
This collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Genre/Form of Material:
Personal Papers
Publications

Personal Name:
Smetana, Bedřich, 1824-1884. Má vlast
Vaska, Bedrich, 1879-1979 -- Archives
Vaska, Bedrich, 1879-1979 -- Correspondence

Title:
Violoncellists -- Czechoslovakia -- Biography -- Sources Violoncellists -- Czechoslovakia -- Correspondence Violoncellists -- United States -- Biography -- Sources Violoncellists -- United States -- Correspondence

Accruals:
December 1986

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Preferred Citation:
Identification of item, folder title, box number, Bedrich Vaska Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, Library and Information Access, San Diego State University.

Related Materials:
Lida Brodenova Papers
Jan Lowenbach Papers

Arrangement of Materials:
The collection is arranged chronologically.

Scope and Contents
The collection primarily consists of correspondence, but it also includes postcards, newspaper clippings, and photographs. Especially notable is Vaska's explanation of Bedrich Smetana's innermost, most personal feelings of Ma Vlast, which Vaska used to better explain the scores to performing musicians. This From My Life is written in Vaska's hand in Czech, Finnish, German, French, and Polish languages, as he conducted Ma Vlast in those countries.

Most of the correspondence is written in Czech, but some is also written in German, Russian, Polish, Dutch, French, Yugoslavian, English, Hungarian, Ukrainian, and Finnish.
Box 2, Folder 2 | Gusta Vaskova to Bedrich Vaska March 9, 1905 - June 19, 1905
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Box 2, Folder 3 | Bedrich Vaska to Gusta Vaskova March 7, 1905 - August 2, 1905
Box 2, Folder 4 | Family Correspondence January 6, 1905 - November 26, 1905
Box 2, Folder 5 | Gusta Vaskova to Bedrich Vaska January 23, 1906 - November 19, 1906
Box 2, Folder 6 | Family Correspondence June 18, 1906
Box 2, Folder 7 | Bedrich Vaska to Gusta Vaskova January 27, 1906 - December 6, 1906
Box 2, Folder 8 | Postcards of Europe and business January 28, 1906 - December 19, 1906
Box 2, Folder 9 | Gusta Vaskova to Bedrich Vaska January 21, 1907 - May 27, 1907
Box 2, Folder 10 | Bedrich Vaska to Gusta Vaskova March 7, 1905 - August 2, 1905
Box 2, Folder 11 | Business Postcards July 15, 1907
Box 2, Folder 12 | Postcards of Europe only January 11, 1907 - December 10, 1907
Box 2, Folder 13 | Business and personnel postcards January 12, 1907 - October 29, 1907
Box 2, Folder 14 | Gusta Vaskova to Bedrich Vaska January 10, 1908
Box 2, Folder 15 | Bedrich Vaska to Gusta Vaskova January 27, 1906 - December 6, 1906
Box 2, Folder 16 | Postcards of Europe only January 7, 1908 - December 11, 1908
Box 2, Folder 17 | Business postcards January 24, 1908 - December 9, 1908
Box 2, Folder 18 | Business Postcards January 29, 1909 - November 22, 1909
Box 2, Folder 19 | Gusta Vaskova to Bedrich Vaska June 6, 1909 - November 18, 1909
Box 2, Folder 20 | Bedrich Vaska to Gusta Vaskova June 30, 1909 - December 3, 1909
Box 2, Folder 21 | Bedrich Vaska to Gusta Vaskova February 18, 1910; March 24, 1910
Box 2, Folder 22 | Business Postcards January 1, 1910 - October 12, 1910
Box 2, Folder 23 | Gusta Vaskova to Bedrich Vaska January 9, 1911 - March 23, 1911
Box 2, Folder 24 | Bedrich Vaska to Gusta Vaskova January 26, 1911 - January 27, 1911
Box 2, Folder 25 | Family and other correspondence March 15, 1911 - November 14, 1911
Box 2, Folder 26 | Family Correspondence April 17, 1912 - November 18, 1912
Box 2, Folder 27 | Family Correspondence March 12, 1913 - November 2, 1913
Box 2, Folder 28 | Family Correspondence January 19, 1914 - December 8, 1914
Box 2, Folder 29 | Family Correspondence February 12, 1915; November 2, 1915
Box 2, Folder 30 | Family Correspondence April 16, 1916
Box 2, Folder 31 | Family Correspondence February 5, 1917
Box 2, Folder 32 | Family and Other Correspondence May 7, 1918 - September 12, 1918
Box 2, Folder 33 | Bedrich Vaska to Gusta Vaskova September 3, 1919 - December 7, 1919
Box 2, Folder 34 | Family Correspondence March 29, 1919 - December 19, 1919
Box 2, Folder 35 | Family Correspondence August 30, 1919
Box 2, Folder 36 | Gusta Vaskova to Bedrich Vaska January 22, 1920 - September 7, 1920
Box 2, Folder 37 | Bedrich Vaska to Gusta Vaskova January 1, 1920 - May 5, 1920
Box 2, Folder 38 | Family Correspondence February 3, 1920 - April 17, 1920
Box 2, Folder 39 | Bedrich Vaska to Gusta Vaskova September 22, 1921 - December 9, 1921
Box 2, Folder 40 | Gusta Vaskova to Bedrich Vaska June 28, 1921 - July 11, 1921
Box 2, Folder 41 | Family Correspondence June 8, 1921 - November 30, 1921
Box 2, Folder 42 | Bedrich Vaska to Gusta Vaskova March 3, 1922 - July 21, 1922
Box 2, Folder 43 | Family Correspondence January 9, 1922 - December 2, 1922
Box 2, Folder 44 | Family Correspondence January 13, 1923 - November 12, 1923
Box 2, Folder 45 | Family Correspondence June 30, 1939, November 4, 1941, September 3, 1945, November 1, 1945
Box 2, Folder 46 | Family Correspondence May 10, 1946 - December 31, 1946
Box 2, Folder 47 | Family Correspondence September 14, 1951
Box 2, Folder 48 | February 20, 1964 - February 23, 1964
Scope and Contents
Summary of Bedrich Vaska's Musical Life, J. Vlach's Quartet in USA - news clipping from "Svobodne Slove" on February 20, 1964
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Box 2, Folder 49 | December 22, 1978
Scope and Contents
"The Evening Gazette": -A Giant in the World -Great Cellist's Life Ended in Obscurity of a City
Box 2, Folder 50  
**Correspondence of Gusta Vaskova, Bedrich Vaska, their family members and their friends**  
n.d.  

Box 2, Folder 51  
**June 1876 - February 2, 1910**  

*Scope and Contents*

- Business postcards mostly in French  
- Envelopes, stamps, 2 unused postcards and one incomplete letter in German language addressed to Bedrich Vaska  
- "Ma Vlast," Vaska’s handwritten explanation of the musical feeling of Smetana’s symphony of the same name.  
- Written in Czech, Finish, German, French, and Polish, and intended to help Vaska explain the symphony to the performing musicians.