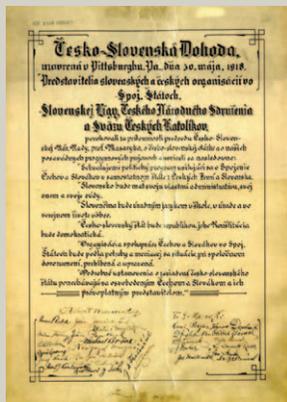


Murgaš was one of the most highly educated Slovaks of his time. He was not just a scientist and artist, however, but also an exceptionally charitable man. He founded a Slovak weekly magazine on cultural and spiritual matters and helped to build a church, school, library, gym, sports fields, park and spa in Wilkes-Barre. He himself made significant financial contributions to these projects, using earnings from his patents and inventions, and he also supported Slovak immigrants who had fallen into poverty. Murgaš was a founding member of the Slovak League of America and co-author of its Memorandum. During the First World War, he raised funds for the Czechoslovak resistance and later was one of the signatories of the Pittsburgh Agreement (May 1918), in which Czech and Slovak representatives approved the establishment of an independent Czechoslovak state in which Slovaks would have a large degree of self-governance.

In 1920, Murgaš arrived in Czechoslovakia with the intention of settling there and teaching electrical engineering, but was prevented by official regulations that required teachers to have a relevant degree. Deeply disappointed, he returned to the United States and spent the rest of his life at Wilkes-Barre, where he died on 11 May 1929.



Participants in the transmission from Murgaš's radio station



Pittsburgh Agreement with Jozef Murgaš's signature



Jozef Murgaš memorial in Wilkes-Barre, the United States

Coin details

Denomination: €10

Material: Ag 900/1000, Cu 100/1000

Weight: 18 g

Diameter: 34 mm

Incuse edge inscription: PRIEKOPNÍK BEZDRÔTOVEJ

TELEGRAFIE (PIONEER OF WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY)

Mintage: limited to a maximum of 15,000 coins

(brilliant uncirculated and proof)

Designer: academic sculptor Ivan Řehák

Engraver: Dalibor Schmidt

Producer: Mincovňa Kremnica / Kremnica Mint

The obverse side of the coin depicts the antenna mast that Murgaš used for his first successful radiotelegraphy transmission in Wilkes-Barre. The mast is accompanied by lines representing radio waves. Along the edge of the design is the name of the issuing country "SLOVENSKO". The issuing year "2014", appears in the centre, and the coat of arms of the Slovak Republic is on the left-hand side.

The reverse design features a portrait of Jozef Murgaš, which is set against a background of field lines shaped to represent a globe and by extension the global impact of his inventions. In the lower part is the name "JOZEF MURGAŠ" with the first name above the last name. To the left of the portrait is the denomination and currency, "10 EURO", and to the right are his years of birth and death, "1864" and "1929". On the left-hand edge of the design are the stylized initials of the designer, Ivan Řehák ("IŘ"), and the mint mark of the Kremnica Mint.



Published by: © Národná banka Slovenska, January 2014

Photo: Progress Promotion

<http://www.nbs.sk/en/banknotes-and-coins/euro-coins/collector-coins>



Jozef Murgaš 150th Anniversary of the Birth

Silver Collector Coin

A world-class scientist and inventor, Roman Catholic priest, political activist and organiser, Jozef Murgaš contributed significantly to the early development and refinement of radiotelegraphy. He is widely credited as the first person to transmit speech using this technology.

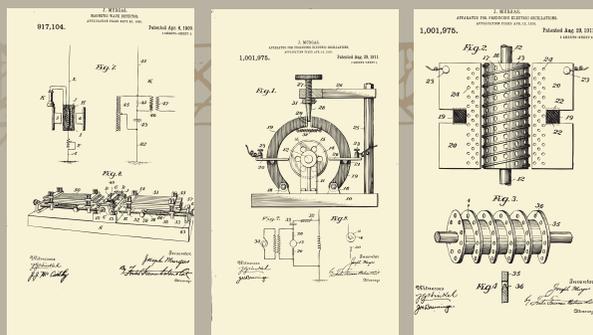
Jozef Murgaš was born on 17 February 1864 to a farming family in Jabříková (part of present-day Tajov village in Slovakia). As a child he showed a talent for drawing and was precocious in technical skills. At grammar school in Banská Bystrica, he was interested in natural sciences, physics and especially electricity. At that time he also met painters Jozef Božetech Klemens and Dominik Skutecký, who noticed his talent and encouraged him to study painting.

As a young man he was drawn to technical science, but decided instead to study at a Catholic seminary, where no tuition fees were required. He was ordained in 1888 and became a chaplain in Dubová. At the same time he continued to paint, and between 1889 and 1893 he went to study painting, first in Budapest and then in Munich, where he privately attended university lectures on physics. Owing to disputes with the Church authorities, he was unable to finish his studies in Munich and had to return to Dubová. Around twenty of his works remain in Slovakia, mostly altarpiece paintings, and a similar number of his paintings are found in the United States. It was to the US that he emigrated in 1896, after his nationalist convictions had put him out of favour with his superiors in the Church, who frequently moved him between parishes.

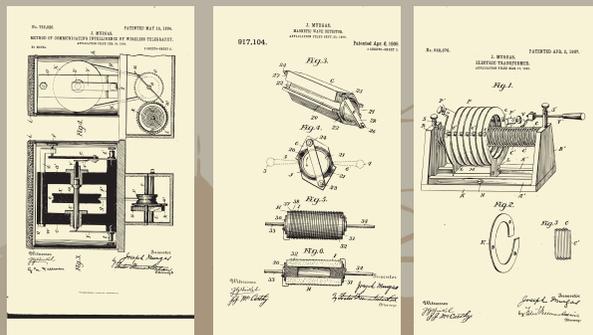


Jozef Murgaš commemorative plaque in Bratislava

In the United States, Murgaš was assigned to a Slovak-American parish in Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania, where he worked for over 30 years. There he developed his interest in electrical engineering and financed his own research, mainly by selling paintings. Wireless transmission was at that time only possible above sea, where it could not be disrupted. Murgaš, however, developed a method of distinguishing signals not by their length but by their frequency (tone). This system not only reduced transmission times and extended transmission distances, it overcame disruptive effects and therefore contributed significantly to the improvement of radiotelegraphy. On 10 May 1904, Murgaš received his first two US patents: the Apparatus for wireless telegraphy and The way of transmitted messages by wireless telegraphy. In 1905, he co-founded the Universal Aether Telegraph Company, based in Philadelphia, in order to put his inventions into practice. Murgaš used the company to fund the establishment of a laboratory and to set up a trial transmitting and receiving station in Wilkes-Barre. The station made its first transmission on 25 June 1905. In a public trial, Murgaš transmitted and received wireless signals from a distance of up to 35 km and his radio telegrams were received 200 km away in Brooklyn. Between 1904 and 1916, Murgaš registered another 11 patents for refining radiotelegraphy and was the co-producer of two inventions related to electric-arc lamps.



Jozef Murgaš's patents



Antenna mast of the Murgaš's wireless station in Wilkes-Barre



Replica of Murgaš's transmitter



Painting by Jozef Murgaš in a church in Wilkes-Barre, the United States

