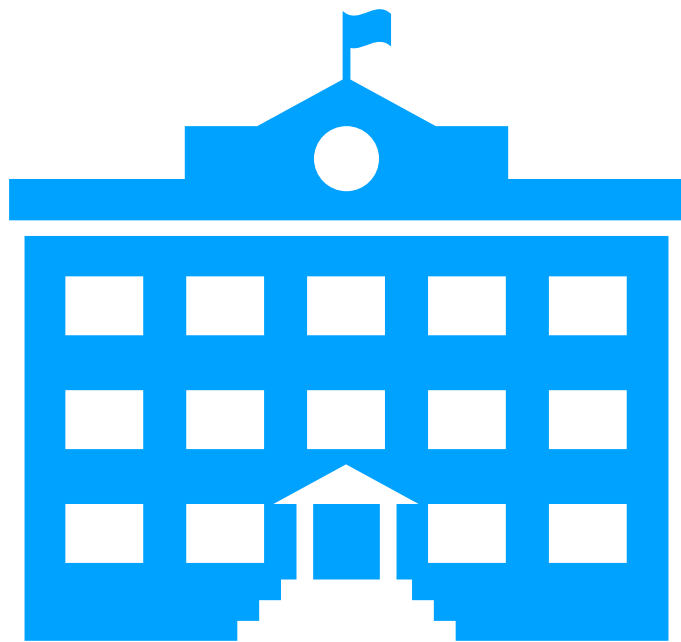


Edvard Beneš: Scholar, Political Leader, Mason



by Walter Benesch, PM, 33°, KYCH

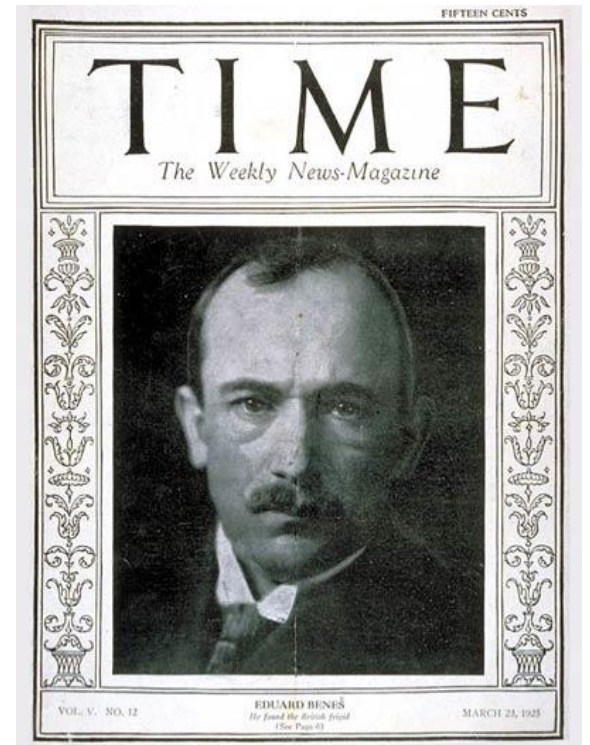
Beneš 20th Century Eastern European Social & Political Leader

- Born May 17, 1884
 - ✧ Small town in Bohemia
 - ✧ Most of youth in Prague
- Education
 - ✧ Undergrad Faculty of Philosophy
Charles University, Prague
 - ✧ Doctorate of Law, Sorbonne, Paris



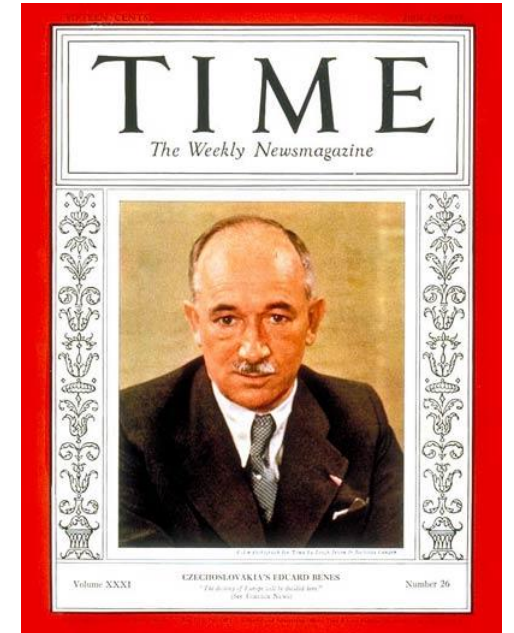
WWI & Aftermath

- Prague Academy of Commerce
 - ✳ Lecturer in Sociology
 - ✳ Became politically active
- WWI
 - ✳ Leader in Czech pro-independence/anti-Austrian resistance
 - ✳ 9/1915 exiled to Paris
 - ✳ Visits to England, & USA (NYC & Chicago)
- Appeal to League of Nations successful



Czechoslovakia Formed

- Beneš appointed Foreign Minister
 - ✳ Held through 10 successive governments
 - ✳ Representative to Treaty of Versailles
 - ✳ 23-27 member League of Nations council
 - Became internationally recognized leader
- Major aid to Tomas Masaryk
 - ✳ Both taught sociology
 - ✳ Both led independence movement



Masonry In Czechoslovakia

- Jan Amos Komensky (later Comenius Lodge) recognized by Grand Orient of France
 - ✧ Chartered delivered Sept. 28, 1919
 - By Rene Henry Besnard 33° French senator
 - Beginning of the Grand Lodge of Czechoslovakia
 - ✧ Ill. Bro. Alphonse Mucha 33° famous artist, led formation of Scottish Rite
- Ultimately 2 Grand Lodges formed

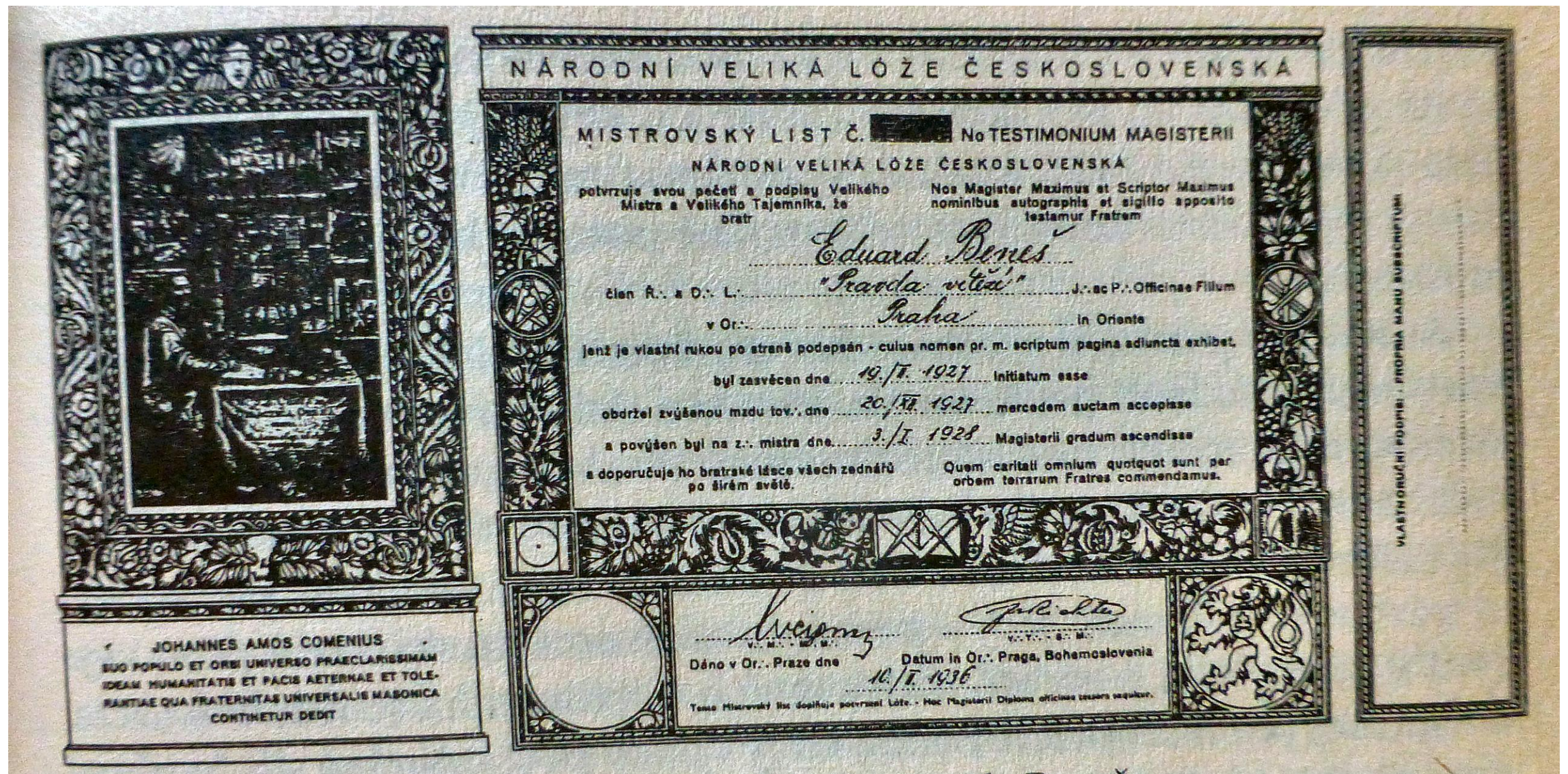


Beneš the Mason

- Joined Jan Amos Komensky Lodge #1
 - ✳ Re-Chartered in 1919
 - First formed in 1726 (urban legend - *myth*)
- Membership records destroyed in WWII
 - ✳ Played a major role in re-forming Grand Lodge during & after Nazi occupation
 - In England during the War
 - Reformation in 1945
 - Prague considered a center of Masonry



Beneš Masonic Pastport



Provided by Petr Kabes
Sapere Audi

Presidency

- VP under Pres. Masaryk (1918-1935)
- Elected President upon Masaryk's retirement
- Opposed German claim to Sudetenland
 - ✦ Betrayed by England 1938
 - ✦ Sudetenland surrendered to Germany for "Peace in our time."
 - ✦ German occupation of whole country followed
- Forced to resign Oct. 1938 under German pressure
 - ✦ Went into exile to London same month

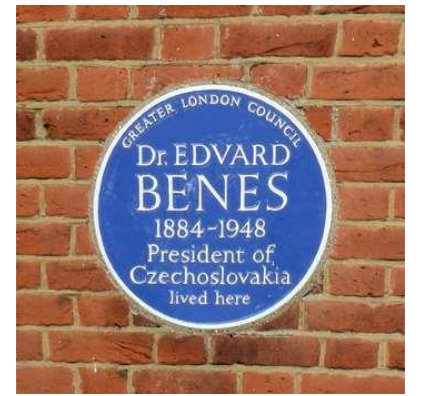


With wife 1934



Exile to London

- Felt betrayed by UK's appeasement to Hitler



- ✳ Active in directing resistance activities

- Intel "Agent A-54" remained & provided British intelligence much needed information to MI6

- In constant contact with resistance - directing when possible

- German occupation completed - March 1939



US Postal Service
issued stamps
of exile gov.s

- Forced into exile

- ✳ Led Czech Government & Grand Lodge in exile

- Lodge allowed to meet in Queen Street (GLE)

Leadership from UK

- Provisional Government of Czechoslovakia formed in London - Oct. 1939
- Realized need for a united front against Germany
 - ✳ Shared intel & forces where possible
 - Regular lunches with Churchill
 - Tried to have Soviet ambassador to push 2nd front
 - ✳ Czechoslovak Air Force flying in Middle East - based in UK (Beneš posing with them upon return from mission)
 - Assisted in air support during Dunkirk
 - In 1942 via Foreign Office asked UK to revoke the Munich Agreement



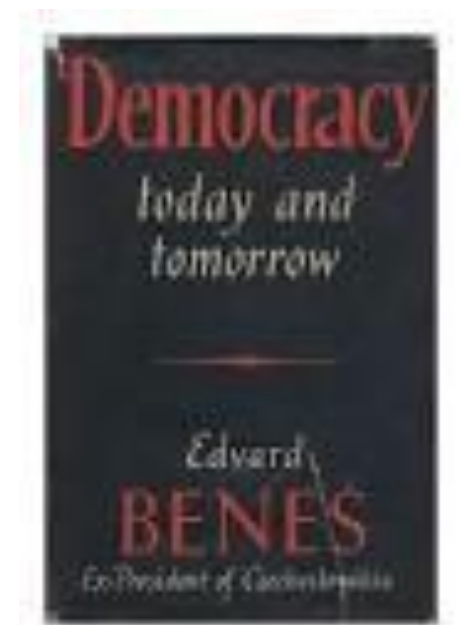
Ruling from 26 Gwendolen Ave, Putney

- Beneš President - Jan Sramek Prime Minister
 - ✳ Gen. Alois Elias regular contact with intel operatives
 - ✳ Worked closely with UK's Special Operations Executive (SOE) & resistance fighters
 - In 1942 Beneš via Foreign Office asked UK to revoke the Munich Agreement
- Moved several times during London Blitz
 - ✳ Still effective in gathering information
 - Great cost of lives after Operation Anthropoid
 - ⊙ Assassination of German Officer Reinhard Heydrich
 - With reservations supported Russian upon entry in war



Work Continued

- Visited brother during WWII
 - ✳ At University of Chicago
 - Guest lecturer
 - Nazi assassination attempted - stopped by journalist
 - ✳ Wrote Democracy Today & Tomorrow
 - Book banned under Nazis occupation
 - Led to suspicion by Communists
 - Wife under suspicion from Nazis & Communists
- War's End -
 - ✳ Formally re-elected president June 19, 1946



Beneš Decree

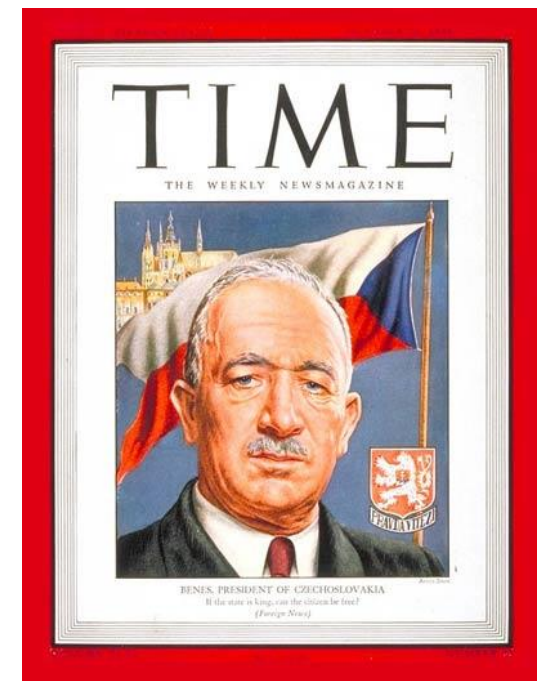


- Declared in London in July of 1940
- Passed by National Assembly in March 1946
- ✳ Focus on post war denazification
- ✳ German speakers were singled out
 - Germans & Hungarians expelled - homes confiscated
 - Included parts of Bohemia, Moravia & especially Slovakia
 - Led to deportation of 3M people
 - Jews if German speakers (including Jewish Masons)
- ✳ Considered one of the darker side of Beneš



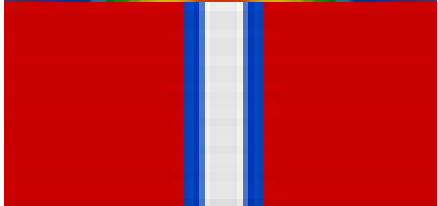
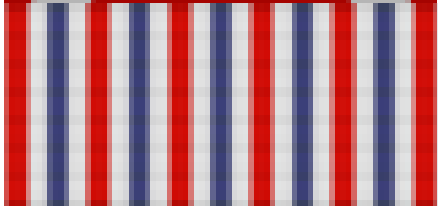
Coalition Government

- Pressure from Soviet Union
 - ✳ Coalition government of 1947
 - ✳ Communist party leader Klement Gottwald selected as Prime Minister
 - Demanded more Communists to be appointed
 - Packed police with members
 - ✳ Mass non-communists resignations
 - Beneš refused resignations
 - Gottwald threatened with Red Army backing
 - Resignations accepted - death of free Czechoslovakia

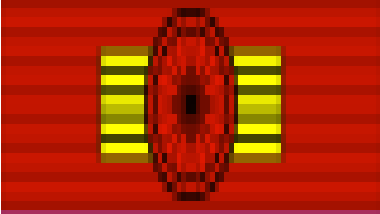
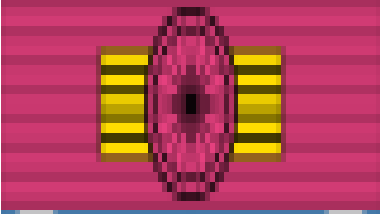
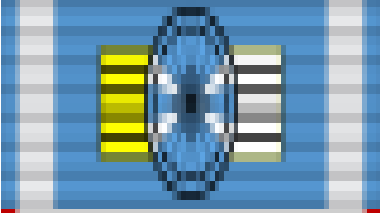
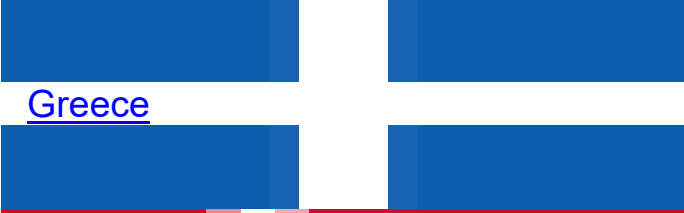
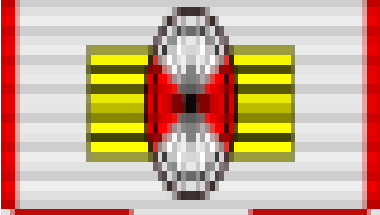
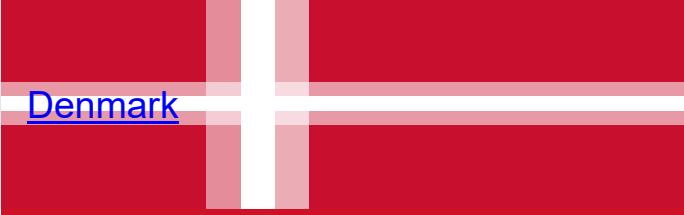
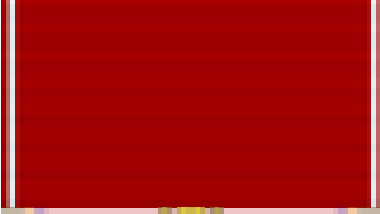


Awards & Honors

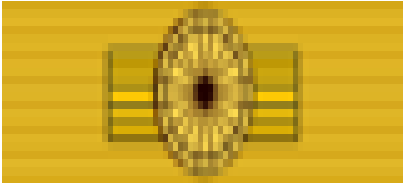
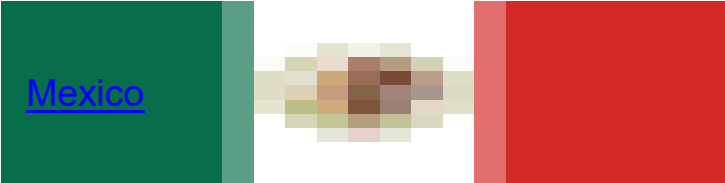
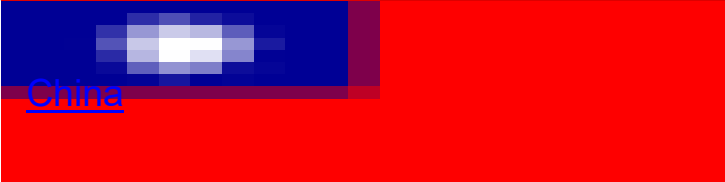
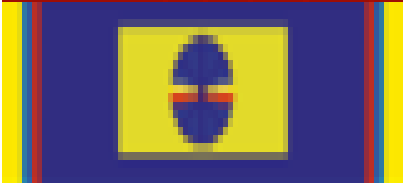
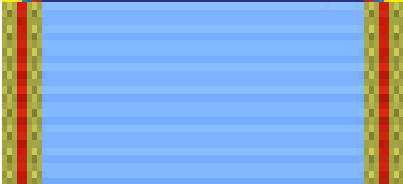
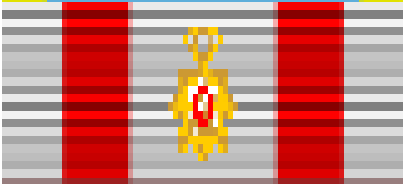
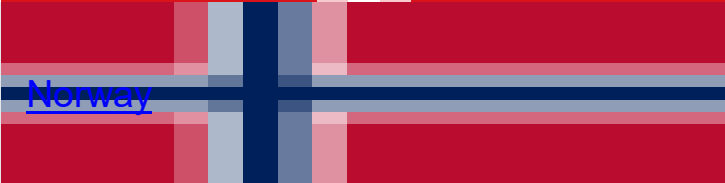
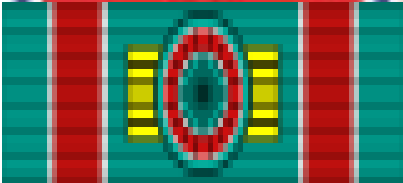
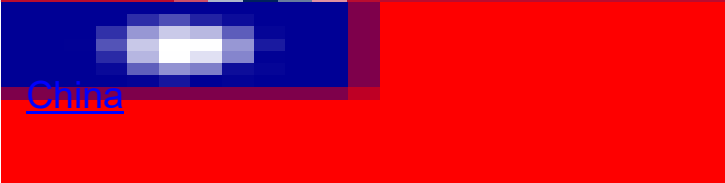
National orders

	Award or decoration	Country	Date
	Czechoslovak War Cross 1918 ^[81]	Czechoslovakia	1919
	Czechoslovak Victory Medal ^[81]	Czechoslovakia	1920
	Czechoslovak Revolutionary Medal ^[81]	Czechoslovakia	1922
	Order of the White Lion ^[81]	Czechoslovakia	1936
	Czechoslovak War Cross 1939–1945 ^[81]	Czechoslovakia	1945
	Military Order of the White Lion ^[81]	Czechoslovakia	1945

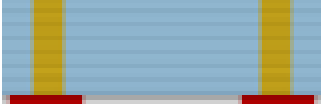
Awards & Honors

	Military Order of Christ ^[81]		1932
	Military Order of Saint James of the Sword ^[81]		1933
	Order of the Redeemer ^[81]		1933
	Order of the Dannebrog ^[81]		1933
	Order of Saint-Charles ^[81]		1934
	Order of the Spanish Republic ^[81]		1935
	Order of the White Elephant ^[81]		1935

Awards & Honors

	Order of the Aztec Eagle ^[83]		1935
	Order of Karađorđe's Star ^[81]		1936
	Order of Brilliant Jade ^[81]		1936
	Order of Boyaca ^[81]		1937
	Order of Carol I ^[81]		1937
	Order of Pahlavi ^[81]		1937
	Order pro Merito Melitensi ^[81]		1938
	Order of St. Olav ^[81]		1945
	Order of Propitious Clouds ^[81]		1947

Awards & Honors

	Award or decoration	Country	Date
	Order of St. Sava ^[81]	Yugoslavia	1920
	Order of the Star of Romania ^[81]	Kingdom of Romania	1921
	Légion d'honneur ^[81]	France	1922
	Order of the Crown of Italy ^[82]	Kingdom of Italy	1921
	Order of the British Empire ^[81]	United Kingdom	1923
	Order of Leopold ^[81]	Belgium	1923
	Order of the Oak Crown ^[81]	Luxembourg	1923
	Order of Charles III ^[81]	Spain	1924
	Order of Polonia Restituta ^[81]	Poland	1925
	Decoration of Honour for Services to the Republic of Austria ^[81]	Austria	1926
	Order of the Three Stars ^[81]	Latvia	1927
	Order of the Rising Sun ^[81]	Empire of Japan	1928
	Order of Muhammad Ali ^[81]	Kingdom of Egypt	1928
	Order of the White Eagle ^[81]	Yugoslavia	1929
	Order of the Lithuanian Grand Duke Gediminas ^[81]	Lithuania	1929
	Order of the Cross of the Eagle ^[81]	Estonia	

Beneš death

- Forced out of government
- Edvard heartbroken
- Illness led to death, Sept. 3, 1948

✳ Funeral National event

- Protestant & Catholic Services
- Hundreds of thousands in attendance
- Popularity major threat to Communists

- Wife under house arrest in country home





Widow Hana

- Stayed with him until his death
- Resided in their country home
 - ✦ Was under house arrest until death 1974
 - ✦ Communists fearful of possible influence
 - Especially after the “Prague Spring” of 1968
 - Banned both Edvard’s books & speeches
- Ultimately became a symbol of his leadership
 - ✦ Hana quietly keep the image alive



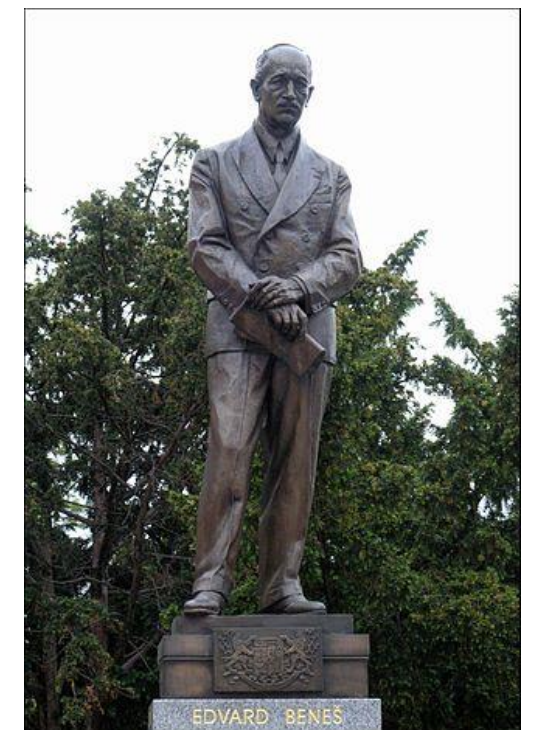
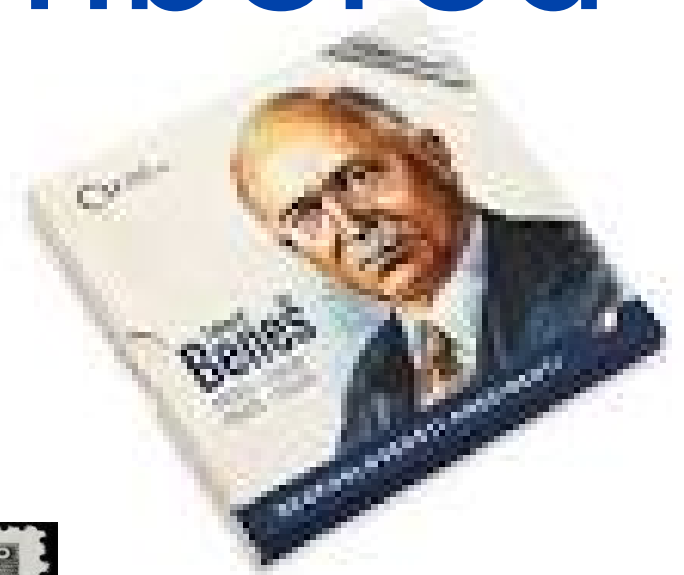
Edvard Beneš Remembered

- Where stayed in England
- Throughout the Czech Republic

✱ Books & literature

✱ Mostly in Philately

→ Including a 2004 Commemoration Stamp



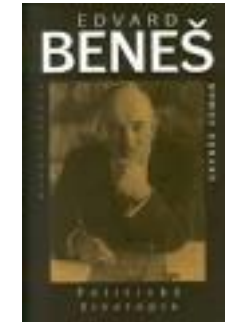
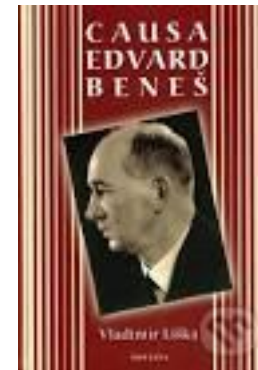
Re-examined today

- Considered a major contributor to Czech Republic

- ✧ Morays

- ✧ Culture

- ✧ MASONRY



- As Philosopher & Inspirational leader

- ✧ Sociology professor

- ✧ Leader in International Law & Negotiations

- Considered an exceptional leader in the harshest of times



Are there a connections
between
Edvard Beneš
&
Walter Benesch?

“ch” added by great
grandfather upon migration
to USA in 1880’s

Nature vs Nurture

- Edvard died Sept. 3, 1948
- Walter born Sept. 5, 1948
- Associations between them



→ Dogs

-

Erindale - Welsh Terrier

→ Both collected primitive art

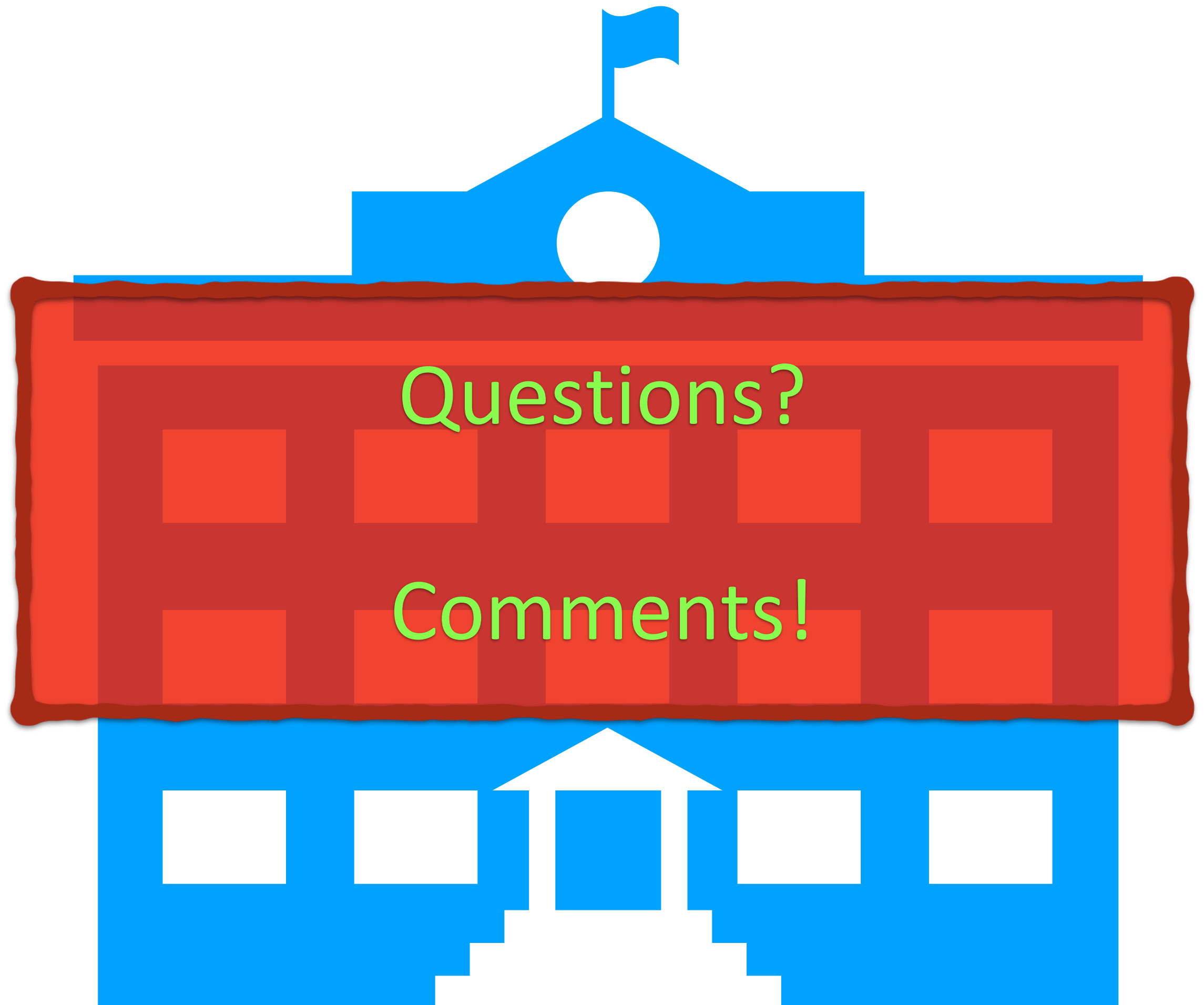
→ Sociology Majors - Edvard lecturer at University. - Walter B.A.

→ Love of ceramics collected - taught

→ Both issued multiple talks & papers

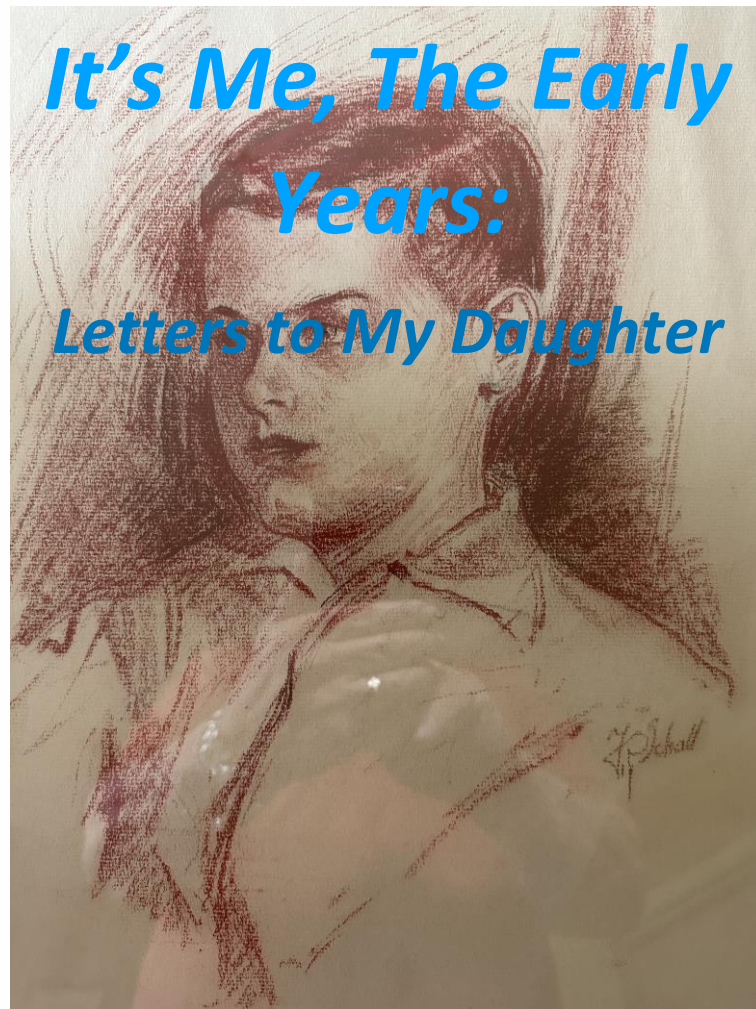
No it is not a
transmigration of a
soul !!!

- So which is it? What's your opinion?



Questions?

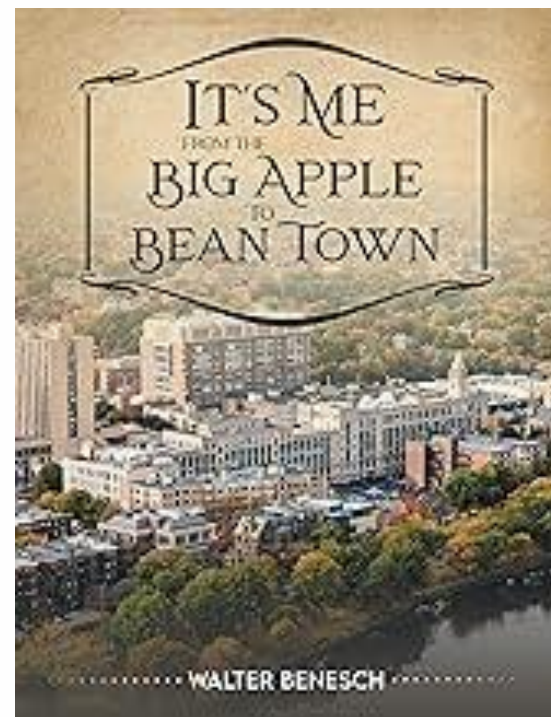
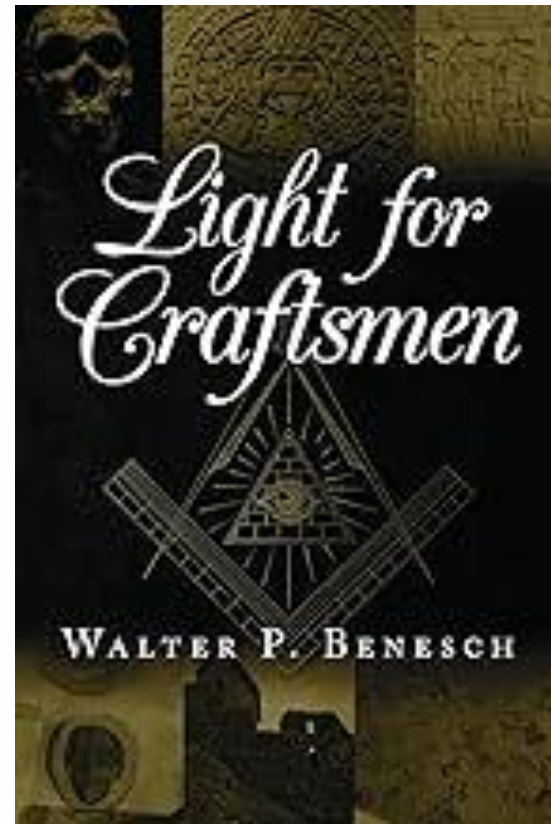
Comments!



**For a book stranger
than most sci-fi
considering purchasing
this book.**
The extraordinary life
of an ordinary individual

By

Walter P. Benesch



Additional Questions?

Comments!

Or

Wishing to be added to my weekly
message?

Just send the request to
php1477@gmail.com

All three available
on Amazon