A monument commemorating the historical stay in Rotterdam of Tomáš G. Masaryk, 100 years ago

Project description

Initiators: Pieter J. Goedhart and Jan C. Henneman
Under the auspices of Beeldende Kunst & Openbare Ruimte

Siebe Thissen and Marjolijn van der Meijden
Monument designer: Hans Citroen

May, 2015
Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk

He founded Czechoslovak democracy and believed in individual responsibility.

He asserted that small nations had a vital role to play in Europe and was convinced they

could contribute to the world as a whole. This philosopher, scholar and politician

stressed practical ethics and exposed Czechs and Slovaks to what were then the most

contemporary advancements in science, humanities and world literature.

He promoted religion as a source of morality.

And he was the first president of Czechoslovakia.

Born on March 7, 1850 in Hodonin and died on September 14, 1937 in Lány
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Thomáš Garrigue Masaryk 

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   - Hotel Weimar before and after de German bombing of Rotterdam in 1940
1. **Why this project?**

In November 2014 the Czech and Slovak ambassadors in the Netherlands received the first copies of the "Rotterdam Yearbook 2014" from the City Archivist Ms Jantje Steenhuis. In this book Mr Gert Andeweg describes an event in Rotterdam in the First World War which proved to be of historic significance: Professor Tomáš G. Masaryk, the first president of Czechoslovakia from 1918-1935, chose the neutral Netherlands to share his vision of a new state in a postwar Central Europe with Robert W. Seton-Watson, a friend at the British newspaper The Times. In October 1914 they met in secret at the Hotel Weimar, which was situated at Spaansche Kade corner Haringvliet in the very center of Rotterdam. Seton-Watson reported about his conversations with Masaryk in a "Memorandum on the future of Bohemia", which he sent on November 5, 1914 to the British Foreign Office. Copies were shared with the Ministries of Foreign Affairs in Paris and St. Petersburg. Consequently, Masaryk’s ideas became known to the Allied States of WW I.

In the peace agreements after the end of WW I, Masaryk's intellectual input at hotel Weimar proved to be of prophetic significance. The borders of the new states were drawn along lines that Masaryk mentioned to Seton-Watson four years earlier.

Because of the importance of this historic meeting Mr Pieter J. Goedhart, Czech expert and co-author of books about this country, and Mr Jan C. Henneman, former ambassador of the Netherlands in the Czech Republic, took the initiative to establish a monument commemorating this event.

The Foundation Comenius Museum is ready to become the (legal) owner of the monument in Rotterdam.

2. **Project goal**

To commemorate the historic encounter between Tomáš G. Masaryk and Robert Seton-Watson in Rotterdam, a permanent monument will be realized at the site of Hotel Weimar, which was destroyed in 1940 by the German bombing of Rotterdam.

3. **Project results**

The design, production and installation of a monument near the site where Masaryk and Seton-Watson met, the former hotel Weimar.

At least the following elements will be incorporated into the monument:

1. An easily recognizable image of Tomáš G. Masaryk
2. A visual reference to the former hotel Weimar,
3. The outlines of the new state Czechoslovakia during the period 1918 - 1935,
4. Textual explanation.

The unveiling is planned for Thursday, November 5th, 2015; 101 years after Seton-Watson published his “Memorandum on the future of Bohemia".
4. **Main activities**

1. Go decision (*Pieter J. Goedhart / Jan C. Henneman*), September 23rd 2014
2. Launching the initiative in Rotterdam
3. Composition management team (MT) with BKOR (CBK Rotterdam)
4. Composition Project description, first draft
5. Choosing the artist / designer of the monument
6. Choosing the final design for the monument
7. Meetings with Officials and Governmental bodies in the Czech Republic
8. Approaching potential sponsors in NL and CZ
9. Designing a concise text for the monument. Consulting *Mr Gert Andeweg*
10. Processing the ‘omgevingswetvergunning’ and other formal procedures
11. Choosing manufacturers of the monument both in the NL and CZ
12. Composition of the final Project description
13. Final statement for potential sponsors
14. Production and assembling of the entire monument
15. Composition of an information folder for presentation at the unveiling
16. Designing a website for reference and referral on the monument
17. The placement of the monument on the site
18. The Unveiling on November 5th, 2015

**Consulting with:**

- Author of the historic study, *Mr Gert Andeweg*;
- Municipality of Rotterdam for the approval of the space of the project;
- Visual Art and Public Space Rotterdam (BKOR, part of the Centre for Visual Arts) on design and realization;
- Foundation for Studies of First World war (SSEW): *Ms Ingeborg Kriegsman*;
- Foundation Comenius Museum in Naarden, the formal owner of the monument;
- Czech and Slovak ambassadors in the Netherlands;
- Chairman of the Czech Senate *Mr Milan Štěch* and the Czech Minister of Culture *Mr Daniel Herman*;
- Masaryk Institute (*Dr Dáďmar Hájková*) and Masaryk Foundation (*Dr Eva Broklová*) of the Czech Academy of Sciences in Prague;
- Czech Centre in Rotterdam (*Ms Hana Schenková*);
- District Committee of residents and companies “Stadsdriehoek Rotterdam”.

5. **Project management structure**

Given the nature of the project, a light structure was chosen for the project management. *Mr Siebe Thissen* (BKOR) asked his colleague *Ms Marjolijn van der Meijden* to act as project manager. Her tasks are:

- Commissioning the artist / designer of the monument;
- Coordinating the manufacturing and placement of the monument;
- Consulting local authorities and municipal authorities;
- Processing and supervising the application for the approval of the space of the project (omgevingswetvergunning),

Both initiators *Mr Pieter J. Goedhart* and *Mr Jan C. Henneman* act as advisors and as guardians of the project’s goal and try to find sponsors for the project both from the Dutch and the Czech side.
### Time Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Remark</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Go decision <em>(Pieter J. Goedhart / Jan C. Henneman)</em>, September 23rd 2014</td>
<td>23 September 2014</td>
<td>Start of the Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Launching the initiative in Rotterdam</td>
<td>November 13th, 2014</td>
<td>PJG and JCH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Composition management team (MT) with BKOR (CBK Rotterdam)</td>
<td>December 2014</td>
<td>MvdM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Composition Project description, first draft</td>
<td>December 2014</td>
<td>PJG and JCH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Choosing the artist / designer of the monument</td>
<td>January 2015</td>
<td>Result: Hans Citroen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Choosing the final design for the monument</td>
<td>May/June 2015</td>
<td>MT / BKOR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Meetings with Officials and Governmental bodies in the Czech Republic</td>
<td>April - Nov 2015</td>
<td>PJG and JCH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Approaching potential sponsors in NL and CZ</td>
<td>May - Oct 2015</td>
<td>PJG and JCH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Designing a concise text for the monument. Consulting Mr Gert Andeweg</td>
<td>May/June 2015</td>
<td>PJG and JCH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Processing the ‘omgevingswetvergunning’ and other formal procedures</td>
<td>June/July/Aug 2015</td>
<td>MvdM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Choosing manufacturers of the monument both in the NL and CZ</td>
<td>June 2015</td>
<td>MT + HC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Composition of the final Project description</td>
<td>May / June 2015</td>
<td>PJG, JCH and MvdM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Final statement for potential sponsors</td>
<td>June 2015</td>
<td>PJG and JCH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Composition of an information folder for presentation at the unveiling</td>
<td>September 2015</td>
<td>PJG and JCH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Designing a website for reference and referral on the monument</td>
<td>September 2015</td>
<td>PJG and JCH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. The placement of the monument on the site</td>
<td>November 4, 2015</td>
<td>Supervision: HC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. The Unveiling on November 5th, 2015</td>
<td>November 5, 2015</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7. Budget

I Expenses

Costs of the monument:

Specification:

a. Parts in bronze:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost (€)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Production (Masaryk, Ceskoslovensko 1918, texts)</td>
<td>950,00 (excl. 19% VAT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patinating</td>
<td>250,00 (excl. 19% VAT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masaryk plaque (provisional sum)</td>
<td>600,00 (excl. 19% VAT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport Czech Republic to Rotterdam</td>
<td>400,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel costs designer to HVH Foundry in CZ (2x € 500)</td>
<td>1000,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>250,00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total costs a.                                   € 3.450,00

b. Costs production and placement of the monument:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost (€)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foundation, Viewer and groundwork</td>
<td>5.800,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assembling various parts</td>
<td>300,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slide encased into circularly hard glass</td>
<td>240,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unforeseen expenses</td>
<td>250,00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total costs b.c.d.                                € 13.090,00

Total expenses:                                    € 20.833,00

II Revenue from sponsors and subsidies

From The Netherlands:

- BKOR                                      € 10.000,00
- Private persons                           € pm
- Companies                                 € pm
- Subsidies                                 € pm

From the Czech and Slovak Republics:

- Governmental organisations               € pm
- Institutes                                € pm
- Private persons                          € pm
- Companies                                 € pm
- Subsidies                                 € pm

Total Revenue:                                    € .................

Remark: The bank account number of the Comenius Museum Foundation at Naarden: NL46 RABO 0372 2343 99 Mentioning: ‘Masaryk Monument’, have to be used for financial contributions. For governmental organizations in the Czech- and Slovak Republic, if desired, financial contributions can be done through the Comenius Museum in Uhersky Brod.
8. **Unveiling of the monument**

The unveiling of the Masaryk monument is scheduled on Thursday, November 5th, 2015 at the location Geldersekade, in front of the ‘White House’ and opposite of the place where hotel Weimar was situated.

*Possible Invitees:*
- **Authorities and Officials** from the Czech Republic and Slovak Republic;  
- The Ambassadors of the Czech Republic *Ms. Jana Reinišová* and of the Slovak Republic *Mr. Jaroslav Chlebo*;  
- The mayor of Rotterdam *Mr. Ahmed Aboutaleb* and Alderman *Mr. Adriaan Visser*;  
- Representative of the British newspaper "The Times"  
- Sponsors  
- Etc.

9. **Publicity**

The intention is to generate active publicity for the project:  
- Press releases for Czech, Slovak, British and Dutch media;  
- Publications in magazines of organizations active in bilateral relations and in history magazines in the countries concerned;

10. **Reporting**

After completion of the project a financial statement will be issued to its sponsors.

11. **Contact persons**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pieter J. Goedhart</th>
<th>Jan C. Henneman</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E-Mail: <a href="mailto:Goedhart@euronet.nl">Goedhart@euronet.nl</a></td>
<td>E-Mail: <a href="mailto:jc.henneman@hotmail.com">jc.henneman@hotmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. Text proposals at the column of the monument:

Dutch

“Tomáš G. Masaryk was van 1918 tot 1935 de eerste president van Tsjechoslowakije. Hij koos in oktober 1914 voor neutraal Nederland om er zijn visie op een nieuwe staat in een naoorlogs Midden-Europa te delen met Robert Seton-Watson, een vriend bij het Britse blad The Times. Zij ontmoetten elkaar in het geheim in Hotel Weimar (aan de overkant) dat in 1940 door het Duitse bombardement werd verwoest”

Czech

“Tomáš G. Masaryk byl v letech 1918 až 1935 prvním prezidentem Československa. V říjnu 1914 si zvolil neutrální Nizozemsko, aby se zde s přítelem Robertem Seton-Watsonem z britského listu The Times podělil o své vize o novém státě v poválečné střední Evropě. Setkali se v utajení v hotelu Weimar (na protější straně), který byl v roce 1940 zničen při bombardování nacistickým Německem”

Slovak

“Tomáš G. Masaryk bol v rokoch 1918 až 1935 prvým prezidentom Československa. V októbri 1914 si zvolil neutrálné Holandsko, aby sa tu s priateľom Robertom Seton-Watsonom z britských novín The Times podelil o svoje vízie o novom štáte v povojnovej strednej Európe. Stretli sa v utajení v hoteli Weimar (na protiľahlej strane), ktorý bol v roku 1940 zničený pri bombardovaní nacistickým Nemeckom”

English

“Tomáš G. Masaryk was the first president of Czechoslovakia from 1918 until 1935. In October 1914 he chose the neutral Netherlands to share his vision about a new state in postwar Central Europe with Robert Seton-Watson, a friend at the British paper The Times. They met secretly in hotel Weimar (opposite here) which was destroyed in 1940 during the German bombing”
2. Pictures

Wooden model (with Hans Citroen) May 21\textsuperscript{st} 2015
Maatvoering Masaryk-beeld
Opdrachtgever CBK Rotterdam
Maten in cm
Schaal 1 : 10
Grijze delen in staal
Zwarte delen in brons
Ontwerp Hans Citroen
GSM 0624281647
E-mail citroenstar@hetnet.nl
Edited image of T.G. Masaryk for processing in bronze
Picture of the location with a drawing of the monument

Map of the monument location in Rotterdam
The outline of Czechoslovakia during the presidency of Thomáš G. Masaryk

as example for the monument

Czechoslovakia 1818 - 1938
Hotel Weimar before and after the German bombing of Rotterdam in 1940.