

THE CZECHOSLOVAK Specialist

A publication of the Czechoslovak  Philatelic Society of N. America

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Editor Frank J. Kovarik, 8748 Rockefeller Ave., Brookfield, Illinois

Vol. XXI

March 1959

No. 191

EDITORIAL

Your treasurer and auditing committee submit the financial report for 1957 and 1958. Last year we lived on receipts for 1959, 1960 and 1961; members who loaned \$10 toward the printing of the handbook, took their handbook and left the balance in the treasury as dues, in many cases for the next three years. Printing costs went up some since we raised the dues from \$2 to \$3; postage has gone up considerably. To make matters worse we lost one full page advertiser which means the loss of considerable revenue. With every increase in dues, organizations lose some members and this we must avoid. Your editor will suggest that we live within a balanced budget and if need be we curtail the pages in some issues of the Specialist. More than 40 members paid \$5 a year dues in 1958 and 19 paid \$10; these are the members who helped maintain the present standard of the publication. Some members donated extra money to the Society to meet these increased expenses. Fortunately most of the members understand that the officers are doing their best by donating their time and energy for the good of the Society and its Specialist. Those who throw brickbats are in a definite minority.

Our member Milo Barry of Van Nuys, Calif., is very sick and hospitalized. Many members exchanged stamps and letters with Mr. Barry and may wonder about his silence. We offer this as an explanation.

Last month dues envelopes were mailed to all the members and though at this writing only about two weeks elapsed since the mailing, about thirty members have paid their dues. One member called attention to the fact that the dues envelopes' nomenclature of various classes does not conform to the Constitution and suggests that we reprint a corrected envelope. Our treasury cannot afford such a luxury and these envelopes will be used until they fulfill their mission. The 30 odd members failed to notice the error or at least were charitable toward the one responsible for the mistake. We urge every member who can afford the Sustaining \$5 or Patron \$10 membership to please do so.

In the January issue of the Specialist we suggested that members obtain the Czechoslovakian Post Card Checklist 1945-1957, compiled by member Fritzsche and stencil cut and mimeographed by member Woodbury. Unfortunately, your editor failed to mention the cost of this listing; about six members asked for it and the editor felt in honor bound to send them. These complete listings cost \$1 each postpaid. We have a number of these on hand; write to the editor.

We return to the old practice of reporting branch meetings. So many members wanted to know of the Society's activities, we just can't disappoint them. We shall make these reports brief and concise.

Last month we mentioned the two types of the 30h and 60h current regular issue stamps and today we report that the 1Kč can be had with two different and distinct kinds of gum. We have not yet seen this but shall report it as soon as we do.

Some stamps of the first Republic can be found with perforated initials and, as a class by itself, are quite interesting. There are collectors who collect these items and they are banded together in a Society known as PERFINs. Any member interested in this Society and its publications may write to the editor, Mr. Keith Misegades, 5011 Alta Vista Road, Bethesda 14, Md., for further particulars.

Your editor mailed the 1958 premium to the sustaining members and assembled the 20th volume of the Specialist ready for the binder for the patron members. We were amazed to find that the May issue is almost non-existent; evidently used for advertising purposes during the Compex show. If any member has a duplicate of this issue and has no use for it, may donate it to the Society's back issue file c/o the librarian; F. J. Kosik, R. #3, Box 463, Delavan, Wisc.

The following Czecho collectors are looking for exchanges: Jan Otmar, Rovensko pod Troskami čp. 410, who wants philatelic literature and stamps. Zdeněk Najman, Kolín IV, Dukelských hrdinů 619. 15 year old František Dvořák, Albrechtice n/V. 88, okres Týn n/V. Mojmir Ševčík, Rohatec 45. Okres Hodonín. J. Hašek, K. Hutím 47, Praha Hloubětín. Of course, all addresses are in Czechoslovakia.

We ask our members NOT to recommend to their friends to write to the editor for this service. We are getting too many requests.

CHICAGO CHAPTER MEETING

The Chicago Chapter met Sunday, Jan. 18, in the home of member Robert Mitchell with 11 members present. The officers held their meeting first and the balance of the time was spent with the chapter pow-wow.

At the suggestion of member Janecka the future meetings of the Chicago Chapter will be held in the Lincoln Federal Savings and Loan Association, 6635 Cermak Rd., Berwyn, Ill., every second Sunday of the month at 2 p.m. for the officers and about 2:30 p.m. for the members. It is believed that one meeting place may be better than meeting at various members' homes. This new meeting place is convenient for both city and suburban members because the CTA Douglas Park Elevated Bus as well as the West Towns Riverside, Brookfield, LaGrange and Oak Park busses pass the corner or near it.

Some members asked that we enter Compex only as a Chicago group. On the recommendation of Dr. Matejka it was decided to remain within Compex as a National Society.

After hearing of the plight of the Society treasury, the following suggestions were presented to the officers for next month's deliberation: That the Society raise the subscription cost of ads in the Specialist which at present barely pay for the printing; that an effort be made to get more ads; that a classified ad column be inaugurated for the members at 5 cents a word per insertion with a \$1 minimum.

The assembled members welcomed a candidate for membership, Peter Marin, into their midst. Mr. Marin is interested in Czechoslovakia because on the distaff side he is Czech and besides stamps he is interested in medals, of which he has a fine collection.

It is hoped the March issue of the Specialist is in the hands of the Chicago Chapter members in time for the meeting of the Chapter in the new location.

NEW YORK CHAPTER MEETING

The New York Chapter met January 16 at the Collectors Club with 11 members present. Dr. Reiner-Deutsch presided; he reported about the changes regarding the Chicago Chapter and National Society setup as well as about the Chapter reports in the future.

Member Flynn showed his post cards of the I. and II. Republic. Pat admits his collection is far from complete and would like to get in touch with other members interested in this type of specialization. His address is: 43-33 41st St., Long Island City 4, N. Y.

March 20 meeting member Horechny will show his Masaryks.

A discussion of two articles which appeared in STAMPS followed: one by Jindřich Nováček about Mucha and the Hradčany stamps and the other about Mrs. Frieda Bulger's visit to Czechoslovakia and her welcome among the philatelists especially in Praha. She gives a short story of how collecting continues in the country. (Editor's Note: These will be reprinted in the Specialist at an early date.)

NEXT CHAPTER MEETINGS

The New York Chapter meets every third Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the Collectors Club, 22 East 35th St., New York City.

The Chicago Chapter meets every second Sunday of the month at 2 p.m. in the Lincoln Federal Savings and Loan Association Bldg., 6635 Cermak Rd., Berwyn, Ill.

Any changes from the above program will appear in the chapter meeting reports.

HANDBOOKS AND CATALOGS

A year ago we worked feverishly to complete correction of the copy of our handbook-catalog of Bohemia-Moravia and Slovakia and we foresaw a wild scramble for this book, which, according to most of the reviews, is the most attractive in its field. Members cried for a dictionary of philatelic terms so they could decipher Czecho journals, magazines and especially catalogs and glean from them the information they desired. Including copies sent to philatelic publications for review, less than 200 were sold (of this some fifty odd copies were bought by two Chicago members just to help the treasury.) We doubt if 100 of our 250 members purchased a copy. The Society still owes \$410 to the guarantors who, decidedly, will never guarantee at \$100 another publication of the Society. Your officers thought that if we offer both the dictionary and the handbook for \$7 as a package deal we'll move some of this idle capital. Result? Only one member took advantage of this offer. We thought we made a mistake publishing the dictionary serially in the Specialist; that had nothing to do with it, the only fault we find is the general apathy of the members.

Some time this year Pofis will publish a complete catalog, fully specialized, including everything philatelic from Czechoslovakia. Knowing that we couldn't move 200 copies of a comprehensive catalog (the cost of producing one would be prohibitive for us) we shall make arrangements to purchase these for our members (and incidentally we hope to sell some dictionaries to our monolingual readers who can then do their own translating.) As soon as we learn when and at how much per copy these handbook-catalogs can be sold, we'll publicize the fact in the Specialist.

The L. Novotny catalog published 10 years ago was sold by us at \$5 per copy but today collectors pay \$20 for it. So a word to the wise: when we announce these new catalogs send in your order immediately or repent at leisure.

BALANCE SHEET, DEC. 31, 1958

CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash on hand or in bank	\$131.84	
Acct. Receivable—Publications	10.95	
		142.79
*Other assets (Handbooks at cost)		934.50
		\$1077.29
LIABILITIES		
Current		
Loans on handbook from members	\$410.00	
Printing (Estimate)	219.00	
		629.00
Other Liabilities		
Prepaid dues		159.00
	Total	788.00
Excess of assets over liabilities		289.29
		\$1077.29

*Unsold dictionaries and back issues of Specialists not counted.

Signed: Richardson Spofford, John Velek
Auditing Committee, Jan. 4, 1959

CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Financial Report of the Treasurer

Jan. 1, 1958 to Dec. 31, 1958

RECEIPTS

	1958	1957
Dues and donations (donations \$47)	\$771.65	\$644.65
Advertising	126.55	146.75
Society Circuits	22.96	37.42
Sale of back issues	5.00	13.20
Bound Specialists sold	101.06	141.59
Dictionaries sold	10.90	16.25
Auction	20.00	
Compex 1958	493.80	
Sales of Handbook	768.81	
Totals	2320.73	999.85

EXPENSES

Printing of Specialist and other printing	\$802.60	\$728.00
*Expenses of Editor, Treasurer, Secretary including mailing of Specialist, addressograph plates, envelopes, banking, mailing of handbooks, etc.	314.70	169.02
Binding of Specialists	43.75	33.75
Dues to stamp clubs	9.00	17.00
Compex 1958	130.15	75.00
Printing of Handbook	1600.00	
Totals	2900.20	1022.77

*1958 includes \$50 for wrapping materials and \$29.40 for postage on 196 handbooks mailed to date. This \$50 purchased wrappings sufficient for 560 handbooks, bound Specialists and dictionaries, a large supply of which remains on hand.

**FIRST CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC CLUB OF AMERICA STAMP
EXHIBIT MARCH 21 and 22, 1959**

An invitation has been extended to all the members of the CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY and their friends to attend the March 21 and 22, 1959, Stamp Exhibit to be held at the C. S. A. Building, 6146 West Cermak Road, Cicero, Illinois.

The theme of the show shall be to promote the issuance of a Champion of Liberty stamp honoring Thomas Garrigue Masaryk, the founding President of the Czechoslovak Republic on March 7, 1960. An exhibit shall be assembled to show Masaryk material prepared and issued by Czechoslovakia and the Czechoslovak Army in France and Britain during World War II.

Imprinted covers and cachets shall be available by mail and at the show carrying forward the Masaryk theme. The imprint of a proof of the first issued Masaryk stamp by Czechoslovakia in 1920 along with the legend to promote the issue of the Masaryk stamp by the United States Post Office Department. The covers and cachets shall be sold for 10c each or one red and one blue cachet enclosed in an imprinted cover postmarked on the first day of the show for 25c. Orders can be mailed to Joseph J. Jiranek, 5032 West 25th Street, Cicero 50, Illinois, and many fellows are looking ahead to make of these some very fine Masaryk first day covers when the stamp is finally issued.

The President of the CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY, Dr. James J. Matejka, Jr., shall be honored in the Court of Honor, displaying a wonderful collection of the Engraver Seizinger's original design drawings of the stamps of Czechoslovakia.

Many other wonderful exhibits shall surely make the visit to the show a memorable philatelic experience. Mr. Janecka has donated the use of his wonderful frames and easels to permit more than twice as many pages to be shown in the allotted space.

Sixteen dealers shall comprise a very fine bourse at which the visitors shall be able to purchase many elusive items for their collections. Coffee and refreshments shall be served to all who attend this admission free show, so plan now to be sure to attend this stamp exhibition and join the effective promotion of the Champion of Liberty stamp for Thomas G. Masaryk for March 7, 1960!!!!

CHICAGO PLANS SPECIAL FLIGHT TO 1960 EXHIBITION IN LONDON

Plans are now underway for a special flight of philatelists, their families or their friends via British Overseas Airways (BOAC). A group of some 93 passengers will be necessary to fill one of Britain's newest trans-oceanic planes. Applicants are being solicited from interested parties living in the Chicagoland area or in any portion of the U. S. from which Chicago would make a port of embarkation to Great Britain feasible. Thus, those collectors living in the Far West or in the South may find this venture well worth their while.

The round trip (transportation only) cost will be in the region of \$364. All other expenses as hotels and other incidentals are to be arranged for by those persons interested. Those going to London for the July International Exhibition may return back to the United States in individual groups within an approximate three month period.

It should be borne in mind that this flight will be a regular scheduled flight from O'Hare Field in Chicago and will be non-stop to London, England. All foods and refreshments are included in the above rate.

Those interested, please contact James J. Matejka, Jr., M.D., Suite 216, Hotel La Salle, Chicago 2, Illinois. PLAN NOW!

The Cunning King of Bohemia

By Joseph D. McWherter, Jr.

(Reprinted From WEEKLY PHILATELIC GOSSIP)

Emperor Charles IV of the Holy Roman Empire was (more or less) justly glorified in philately. He was not only an emperor and a humanitarian, he was also something of a knave.

He is pictured on the stamp listed in Scott's Catalogue as B15 of Bohemia and Moravia. This stamp was issued on January 29, 1943. At that time, the Nazi German Administration's propaganda to the Protectorate was stressing the close cultural and historical ties between the Germans and the Bohemians. Charles had been king of Germany as well as of Bohemia. His reign was the golden era of Bohemia. The stamp should have reminded the people of the good times they enjoyed when closely aligned with the Germans.

To glorify Charles, the Nazi chose a violet colored semi-postal stamp of 60 haleru denomination. A 40h surtax benefited German wartime winter relief.

Designed by Langenberger, this stamp shows Charles with the same general facial features as his father (John of Luxembourg on B17 of Bohemia and Moravia). In John's face, however, the features were rugged with the raw strength of a warrior. Charles' were more delicate. His face was thin, his nose finely molded, and his hair and beard were carefully curled and clipped.

Peace-loving and intelligent, Charles was a scholar and an accomplished diplomatist. He was also capable of almost any trickery to gain his own ends.

The ends of his diplomacy and guile were the improving of Bohemia and the furthering of the interests of its ruling family—the House of Luxembourg. He was Emperor from about 1347 until 1378. His holdings eventually extended over much of Europe. Luxembourg, Germany, Arles, Italy, part of the Upper Palatinate of the Rhine, Brandenburg, Lower Lusatia, Bohemia, Moravia, and part of Silesia were subject to his sway. Still, other offices he held were always incidental to his kingship of Bohemia.

To this land which was in anarchy and revolt at the time of his father's death, Charles brought law and order first, then prosperity, and finally a great flowering.

He employed German artists, architects and artisans to make Prague one of the great cities of Europe. He rebuilt the ancient St. Vitus' Cathedral on the Hradcany. He founded churches, erected bridges and buildings, and in 1348, established Prague's first university. He set up courts for the protection of the lower classes, where peasants and tradesmen could sue their overlords. Encouraging trade, expanding industry and introducing new agricultural methods, he fostered the country's economic life. By the time of his death, Bohemia was a powerful kingdom. By the time of his death, too, the Luxemburgs were a powerful family. Craftily, he had leaped at every opportunity to increase his holdings.

It may be generally true, as has been said, that the strong in cunning are weak in courage. It may well be true that this saying applied to the diplomatic Charles. Certainly, there is no doubt of his competence in craft. Certainly, also, the 14th century chronicler Jean Froissart implied his lack of courage. After praising Charles' heroism at the Battle of Crecy, Froissart said:

"The Lord Charles of Bohemia . . . who wrote himself king of Almaine and bare arms, he came in good order to the battle but when he saw that the matter went awry on their party, he departed, I cannot tell which way."

That Charles was a coward is questionable. He may have just been

prudent. It is a fact that where John of Luxemburg so boldly, if futilely, campaigned with troops to increase his domain, Charles made successful conquests through stealth.

One example of this was in Italy. Twice, the courageous John had led his men-at-arms into Lombardy and Tuscany and had been decisively repulsed. Then, less than a decade after John's death, Charles crossed the Alps, peacefully without soldiers. He was immediately acclaimed King of Italy. The intrigue behind this army-less coup d'etat may never be known. His accomplishments here, however, helps prove Rabelais' assertion that **Machination is worth more than force.**

Marital (not martial) machination was one of the wily emperor's favorite stratagems. During his lifetime, he attempted to capitalize on no less than three family marriages.

First, based upon his daughter's wedding to the Elector Otto, he asserted a claim to Brandenburg. Naturally, when his claim was opposed by the militarily powerful Wittlesbach family, Charles turned to craft rather than arms. He backed an impostor who claimed to be the original Margrave of Brandenburg. He next, possibly following secret talks, "discovered" the other claimant was actually an impostor. The Wittlesbachs, in turn, agreed that Brandenburg was to pass to Charles if both Otto and his brother died childless. Later, suspicious of the Wittlesbach's good faith, Charles marshalled an army. In a show of force, he marched on his son-in-law and the Treaty of Furstenwalde resulted. By this treaty, Brandenburg became a possession of the House of Luxemburg.

Charles' second attempt to conquer through marriage was also successful. This was his own wedding to Anne, daughter of the duke of Schweidnitz. Because of this union, the emperor had little difficulty in winning for himself a large portion of Silecia.

That the third attempt failed was not due to any lack of cunning on the part of Charles. In Tirol, his claim arose from the marriage of his brother, John Henry, to the famous Margaret Maultasch. Margaret was the last of the ruling family, but Rudolph IV of Austria also had a claim on the territory, which the peace-loving Charles acknowledged. There was in his acknowledgement, however, a now familiar proviso. Rudolph could possess the country but, Charles stipulated, if Rudolph's family should die out, Tirol was to become the property of the House of Luxemburg. Unfortunately for Charles, Rudolph came from a prolific family. All of Charles' scheming could not change that, and Tirol remained with Austria.

His failure in Tirol notwithstanding, Charles was a great and influential king. He died at his beloved Prague in 1378, after first having divided his holdings between his three sons.

If his sons had been as astute as their father, the Luxemburg family might one day have controlled all of Europe. There might, too, have been other German-Bohemian kings for the Nazi Administration in the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia to glorify on stamps for their propaganda purposes.

NEW MEMBER (REINSTATEMENT)

652. Sosolik, Charles, Box 50, Bryan, Texas

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

1. Lowey, Mrs. Hedy, 234 S. W. 48th Avenue, Miami, Florida
377. Nouss, Henry O., Box 2775, Hamilton Station, Pompano Beach, Florida.

Mention this publication when answering ads. Thanks!

17th MAIL SALE

Lot No.	Suggested Minimum Bids
1. Budejovice, set up to 1K used on pieces -----	3.00
2. Budejovice, set up to 10K used -----	5.00
3. I Prague issue complete up to 1K * -----	7.00
4. II Prague issue complete up to 1K * -----	7.00
5. SROBAR 6 Values * -----	4.00
6. FATHER JEHLICZKA 5K block of four IMPERF -----	3.00
7. FATHER JEHLICZKA 5K block of four PERF -----	3.00
8. SCOUT 10h and 20h * -----	2.00
9. SCOUT used on cover -----	2.00
10. 16 labels from old Sokol Congresses -----	3.00
11. 25kop, 50kop, 1 Ruble complete set * (Siberia) -----	1.00
12. Same in block of four signed (Siberia) -----	4.00
13. The set perf 11½, scarce used on piece -----	5.00
14. Lions: complete set signed (11 values) -----	5.00
15. 25 kop BOTH types * -----	.75
16. 25 kop interesting proof in other color -----	2.50
17. Omitted lion, very rare -----	3.00
18. BEFORE 1918 Austrian stamps 47 different up to 1918 with CZECH cancellations, (used in Czech territory) -----	5.00
19. Austrian stamps on 38 covers and cards, with Czech cancellations -----	6.00
20. 14 stampless covers with Czech cancellations BEFORE 1850, like: Brno, Praha, Budejovice, etc., very desirable lot -----	7.00
21. 36 Austrian postcards with Czech cancellations -----	2.00
22. 48 picture postcards showing Czech towns -----	3.00
23. 1918 emergency newspapers, * and used, 15 copies -----	7.00
24. HRADCANY: 1h complete sheet USED with all plates and flaws -----	2.00
25. 3h complete sheet * with plates and flaws -----	3.00
26. 5h complete sheet -----	3.00
27. 38 Hradcany waste prints -----	3.00
28. Legionnaire stamps, 37 better perf in blocks -----	5.00
29. POSTA 1919, 10K light violet, superb -----	20.00
30. 10 K Hungary Parliament, vf -----	46.00
31. 10 K Porto, vf -----	18.00
32. set of 55, all vf -----	7.00
33. 8 diff. INVERTED overprints, high cat. -----	6.00
34. Masaryk 1920 issue, 1.25, 500 and 1000h all * -----	1.00
35. 125h ultramarine both imperf and perf -----	4.00
36. 1930 complete issue (4) * -----	1.00
37. same used -----	1.00
38. 1925 Congress complete * -----	3.00
39. set complete * -----	3.00
40. 1925 1 K vertical watermark * -----	25.00
41. 2 K vertical watermark * -----	30.00
42. 3 K vertical watermark * -----	60.00
43. 5 K vertical watermark * and used -----	1.00
44. Complete set vertical watermarks used -----	2.00
45. Dove and Allegory, complete set of TETE BECHE used -----	8.00
46. Dove and Allegory, same unused -----	10.00
47. Airmail, first set, superb * -----	6.00

48.	5h brown in color of 2h, Error (Special Delivery) -----	3.00
49.	POSTAGE DUES, emergencies 16 diff., diff. overprints -----	2.00
50.	5h to 2000h complete set * -----	5.00
51.	400h ORANGE in color of 250h -----	2.00
52.	Overprints incl. No. J28, set of 41 diff. all Vf and * -----	10.00
53.	50h on 400h RARE error (instead of 60h on 400) signed "Gilbert"	
	cat. NET \$100 -----	40.00
54.	1928 5h to 20K * set -----	1.00
55.	S. O. Eastern Silesia set up to 1000h Hradcany and postage dues up	
	to 1000h -----	4.00
56.	500h and 1000h MASARYK, vf SCOTT \$70 -----	15.00
57.	Vf collection on album pages incl. Masaryk and some better -----	21.00
58.	Plate BLOX: vf nice lot of ALL BLOX of 4 with plates, 58 diff.	14.00
59.	Slovakia, plate blox, 16 different -----	4.00
60.	FAVOR SHEETS, sold in Praha on diff. occasions, collection 24 dif.	10.00
61.	STAMPS WITH COUPONS, 28 some used and * -----	2.00
62.	6 different gutter pairs -----	2.00
63.	11 different miniature sheets * and used -----	2.00
64.	Collection of 32 different N. Y. World's Fair sheets -----	25.00
65.	50h Benes autographed by the president Eduard BENES, sold at the	
	fair for \$15 -----	6.00
66.	3 sheets used, actually on covers at the fair with U. S. stamps -----	2.00
67.	Czech fieldposts in England, 3 covers -----	2.00
68.	Czech fieldposts in England, 5 nice covers -----	3.00
69.	4 French stamps used, "ARMEE czechoslovaque en FRANCE," very	
	rare -----	8.00
70.	SUDETEN. 26 covers used during the Sudeten crisis -----	6.00
71.	CZECH FIELDPOST in England, 2 covers -----	1.50
72.	20 different Sudeten stamps * and used -----	6.00
73.	Airmail set from 50h to 20K -----	1.00
74.	Bohemia, Moravia, cover collection consisting of 126 covers used	
	during the occupation -----	14.00
75.	Specialized collection with sheets, covers, proofs, reprints, vf on	
	album pages -----	25.00
76.	SECOND REPUBLIC Scott #307 to 309 VERTICAL GUTTERS * -----	6.00
77.	Same HORIZONTAL GUTTERS * -----	6.00
78.	THIRD REPUBLIC 300 different stamps, used, mostly picture	
	stamps, also a sheet -----	2.00
79.	40 different first day covers -----	4.00
80.	Unused stamps, face value KC200 -----	2.00
81.	1000 used stamps in sheets -----	5.39
82.	Covers and Second Rep., total 140 covers (some commons) -----	3.00
83.	SLOVAKIA, complete country on album sheets incl first set signed	
84.	33 covers all diff. -----	4.00

The sooner we get the bids the better we can take care of them.

Books close on March 31, 1959

ALFONS STACH

P. O. Box 387

Lenox, Mass.

Collecting Should Be Fun

(Reprinted with permission from MERCURY STAMP JOURNAL)

Philatelists of all kind, be they simple "space fillers" in a printed album or those who attain the heights of philatelic research with scientific methods, will agree that **Collecting should be Fun**. Collectors who enjoy our hobby will never let go of it, they will remain philatelists all their lives. This is the reason why collectors as well as dealers should unite against all those who spoil this fun. At the top of the list of the fun spoilers is the crooked dealer, as he not only cheats the collector and injures him financially, but by aggravation and annoyance also takes the fun away from collecting. A collector who discovers that he has been cheated by forgeries, fakes, repaired or bogus stamps and has trouble getting his good money back, certainly will be discouraged in his collecting activities. If he has to go to court to secure his rights against an offending dealer, the collector is confronted with an unpleasant time, even if he wins the case. He must be of the hard core of real philatelists were he to continue to collect with the same old ardor as before his unhappy experience. Second on our list of spoilers of fun are the philatelic politicians, who by intrigue and "deals" have many a good philatelist, who did not want to "cooperate," driven out of the societies they dominate. The aggravations connected with such "fights" have led many collectors to forego participation in philatelic societies. As a consequence, by depriving collectors of the encouragement such membership provides—in observing that other people are just as crazy, if not crazier, than they are about stamps—eventually results in their loss of interest in our hobby. Last but not least among the major fun spoilers are the philatelists who want to dictate to other people what and how they should collect. They are the collectors who try to establish standards by decreeing that this or that item is not worth collecting or if you collect a specific field that you must have a certain item, for otherwise your collection cannot be considered complete. A collector resents such intrusions into his collecting activities, he wants to collect what he likes. He is completely right in so doing and should not be criticized. As long as he knows what he is doing, he may even collect only bogus stamps. In the same category of fun spoilers also belong those people who make it a business of making derogatory remarks about a collection they inspect, oblivious to the fact that in any event the collection served its purpose by providing fun for its owner. In some respect, exhibitions also act as fun spoilers of this kind. Of course, many collectors are encouraged in their activities when the judges grant their collection an award, but others, who are not among the award winners or obtain a lower award than they expected, feel disappointed. It is immaterial in such cases whether the judges acted justly because in any case they surely spoil the fun the collector had with his collection. It is a well known fact that after every exhibition not only many prize-winning collections are sold because the award was the crowning event of many years of collecting activities and nothing further remains for the collector in the same field, but that also quite a number of collections are offered for sale because the owners were disappointed by the decisions of the judges and no longer enjoy collecting. This fact is one of the reasons why it is deplorable when incompetent or biased judges deny a collection its proper award. Correct judging at exhibitions should be one goal in the battle against the fun spoilers. Fighting against the shady deals of crooks in stamp business and against the influence of philatelic politicians in our societies are the other principal tasks. We are afraid that such a fight never will be a hundred percent successful, however, for every fun spoiler eliminated from philately, the fun of dozens of collectors will be preserved and they will remain happy and contented members of our philatelic fraternity.

Revolutionary and Transition Stamps of Czechoslovakia 1918-1919

The sensational statements of Ervin Hirsch and J. Franěk, published in *FILATELIE* in the fall of 1956 stirred up the otherwise serene atmosphere of Czechoslovak philately. The quite lengthy articles placed before readers a new opinion of the two philatelic authors, known mostly at the time of the First World War and thereafter. The articles stated that the stamps of the revolutionary period of 1918-1919—the Scout, Šrobár, Czechoslovak Army in Siberia and other issues, recognized and collected by many Czechoslovak collectors were not good, of no value and should be eliminated from collections and catalogues of Czechoslovak stamps.

The new opinion of these philatelic authorities caused anguish and surprise, reasonably so, because in the past, E. Hirsch wrote about these stamps with approval, recommended them and furiously defended them. Later he condemned similar issues when their use was prohibited. J. Franěk, who had opportunity to sell, expertize and add his expert's mark to them (in conjunction with a Praha stamp dealer), now suddenly reversed himself.

Such an important matter could not be ignored by organized philately, the members of the Board of Experts, or collectors themselves. Collectors were particularly vocal and deluged the periodical *FILATELIE* and the Central of the Philatelic Clubs with their views on the subject and demanded explanation. There were some who defended the "New Look," but very few.

Important was the opinion of the members of the Board of Experts and of them particularly the opinion of J. Mrňák, a foremost expert of Czechoslovak stamps. In the past he was a co-worker with and outspoken defender of some of the ideas of both Hirsch and Franěk.

The officers of the Central of the Philatelic Clubs and the Board of Experts met many times to discuss the "hot potato" question, which affected not only the interest of Czechoslovak collectors, but of those abroad also.

From the very beginning the Board of Experts refused to subscribe to this heresy and it was especially J. Mrňák, who proved by a whole series of articles by these two authors, that their opinion was not tenable. At the same time *FILATELIE* published a number of articles by experts and collectors for and against it and the whole thing was being dragged out much too long. These arguments were followed closely by collectors here and abroad. In the meantime, E. Hirsch died without changing his stand.

His demise terminated the controversy. At the final meeting of the officers of the Philatelic Central and the Board of Experts, an official communiqué was issued, substantiating their former views, known for forty years. No one doubted nor dared to doubt that these issues, known as "Revolutionary and Transition Issues of 1918-1919," were semi-official issues of Czechoslovak stamps. Many politicians of that time may have contributed to, or tacitly supported, their issue, or even suggested to others their production. That these issues do belong in collections, mainly specialized, that their value is not abnormal and that they were useful in their time, especially when we consider the small number appearing on the stamp market, there is no doubt. It was also agreed that the reversal of opinion about these issues after such a long time was not substantiated and that it would not be understandable abroad.

Furthermore, the order of the Ministry of Posts, dated Dec. 18, 1918, when the first two Hradčany stamps (5 hal. and 10 hal.) and the two newspaper stamps (2 hal. and 10 hal.) were issued, decreed that as of that date the post offices in the Republic of Czechoslovakia could not recognize these Transition Period stamps. This decree by its own wording did not disapprove the use of these stamps, but in fact recognized them.

This decision of the organized philately and the Board of Experts made it clear to collectors here and abroad that collecting of stamps of this early period of the Czechoslovak Republic was quite correct. They are in fact historical documents of the war and postwar era, even though their issue is somewhat clouded.

Karel Basika

KAREL IV (1316-1378)

The "Father of his country", last of the Přemyslids on the distaff side, was first named Václav, which was later changed to KAREL. His reign was the best and happiest time in the history of the Czech nation. Karel founded the castle of Karlův Týn, to store the archives of the kingdom and the Empire, the crowns and the crown jewels. The St. Václav crown was made to his order and he was the first Czech king to be crowned with it. Praha was made the capital of the Holy Roman Empire and the historical "Golden Bull" was authored by him. He restored order and public safety, helped to promote agriculture and commerce and tried to reform the morals of the clergy. (The morals of the clergy was the real cause of the Husite movement). The foundation of Praha University in 1348 was his crowning achievement, it being the first in Central Europe and a distinct forward step in Czech culture. He also began the present Cathedral of St. Vitus on the foundation of a church built by St. Václav in 925. He established a regular administration of law, by appointing 13 courts of justice in the country districts and a High Court in Praha. The Czech language was the legal language in all these courts.

The 600th anniversary of the foundation of the Praha University was celebrated with four stamps, one of which shows his portrait.

CYRIL AND METHODEJ

To commemorate the 1050th anniversary of the death of St. Methodius, one of the two apostles of Christianity to the Czechs, three stamps were issued at time of the Catholic Congress in Praha in 1935. The two Apostles, Cyril (Constantine) and Methodius came to Bohemia at the request of Prince Rastislav about 862. They were Greeks, who, while mixing with the Bulgars in Salonika, learned their language. They translated part of the Bible, Constantine devising a Slavonic script based on the Greek alphabet. Thus they were able to bring to the Moravians a liturgy in their own language. This was bitterly opposed by the western clergy favoring the Latin. Later Constantine went to Rome, retiring to a monastery and taking the name Cyril, by which he is best known.

About 874 Methodius baptized Prince Bořivoj of the Czechs, the grandfather of the "Good King Wenceslas".

BAŇSKÁ BYSTRICA

The river Hron flows through this small mining town, which is also a center of Slovak agriculture in this district. Marcus Aurelius is supposed to have composed the Second Book of his "Meditations" on the banks of the Hron, while on an expedition against the Quadi.

The medieval church, showing plainly the Byzantine influence, contains a splendidly carved altar dating to the 14th century. The tower has an unusual balcony, probably used by sentries during the unsettled times.

A 1.50K showing the church and the town square, was issued in 1936 and another stamp in the 1945 Partisan Issue.

ANTONÍN DVOŘÁK (1841-1904)

was born at Nelahozeves, North of Praha, on Sept. 8, 1841. There he received his primary education from Josef Spitz, who was an old-fashioned cantor, a position embracing the teaching of school, playing the organ in church and directing the choir. From him he learned to play the violin and the fundamentals of organ playing. Later at Zlonice, he learned to play viola and the theory of extemporization. After years of hard times his work began to be appreciated. His compositions of chamber, vocal and operatic types are recognized all over the musical world. From them springs the free, fresh spirit and the rhythm of his nation. However, he abstained from politics, submerging himself entirely in music. Among his most noted compositions are the "Slav Dances," "Stabat Mater," "Jakobín," "Čert a Káča." In 1892, after obtaining a two year leave of absence from his position as Professor of Composition at the Praha Conservatory, he went to New York at the request of the New York Conservatory. While there, he composed the "New World Symphony."

His first concert in England was at St. James Hall in 1884. The audience called him "A wild man of the woods" on account of his disorderly hair and whiskers, but his looks were soon forgotten in the rendition of "Symphony D" which he personally conducted.

Though a contemporary of Smetana, who was older, they were never friends. Their compositions differed—Dvořák's are of a more general Slavic and world coloring, while Smetana's are strictly Czech.

In the frame of the 50h stamp are shown the first four notes of his Symphony from the New World. In 1941 during the German occupation a stamp, engraved from a plaque by O. Spaniel was issued. The 1951 Spring Music Festival set shows him on two stamps.

HLUBOKA

Located in southern Bohemia, this beautiful chateau called the "Bohemian Windsor," contains a great number of artistic keepsakes of all periods including the Gothic. It was built originally as a castle in Gothic style by Václav I. It stands on a steep promontory above Vltava. In its 700 years it was controlled by about ten different owners, among them several Bohemian Kings. During the ownership of Count of Jindřichův Hradec, the castle was remodeled into a renaissance chateau. In the 17th century the Švarcenberks remodeled it into the Tudor style in which it is at the present time.

In 1928 a 1K red stamp was issued, partially showing the beauty of the chateau from the air.

ORLÍK

High on a steep rock above Vltava, which according to an old tale was first a nesting place of eagles, perches a fairy tale castle. It is claimed Karel IV was responsible for the foundation of the original castle, of which only three towers with battlements remain. The rest of the buildings is of later date. Inside the castle are richly appointed rooms and halls. These contain many mementoes of Napoleon's time, when he still was on friendly terms with Švarcenberks. A grand hall, called the "Golden Hall" is filled with samples of Švarcenberk's wealth and the mementoes of Marshal Švarcenberk, who materially assisted in the defeat of Napoleon at Lipsko in 1815. A twin castle, Zvíkov, is not far from Orlík.

A 4K stamp issued in 1932 was engraved from a painting by J. Vaic.

ORAVA

is one of the most beautiful and best liked castles in Slovakia, not only for its astonishing location, but also for its colorful history. Not far from Žilina atop a steep, 360 ft. rocky pinnacle, jutting into the river Orava, is this harmonious assembly of buildings. There is nothing in Slovakia equal to this eagle's nest. From the 16th to 18th century it defended the "Upper Country", that is, Slovakia, against the Turks. Unfortunately a sad fate is in store for it. The ground on which it is built has been moving lately, so that the castle will eventually be ruined.

In 1926 a 40h and in 1927 3K stamps were issued, showing the castle from across the river Orava.

PERNŠTEJN

This castle is in the center of a triangle formed by Brno, Olomouc and Jihlava. Hidden in the heart of "Moravian Switzerland" it did not come to the attention of the public until late in the 18th century. Founded in 1174 by the Baron of Pernštejn, "the charcoal king," the succeeding years brought many changes, for the styles and form in castles alter with the times. At the end of the 15th century, after the castle had been twice damaged by fire, it was transformed by the Count Vilém Pernštejn into a beautiful chateau by combining the late Gothic and early Renaissance styles. Much Nedvědice marble was used in the rebuilding. A tree in the garden, said to be 1000 years old, is a witness to the family's antiquity. In the early years they amassed a large fortune by selling charcoal burned in their forests. The family's coat of arms bearing the head of a bison decorates many of the apartments!

Two stamps showing the castle were issued, a 50h in 1927 and a 4K in 1929. A 4K stamp issued under the German occupation shows a different view of Pernštejn.



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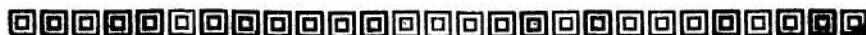
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