

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

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

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EDITOR'S NOTES

This issue of the Specialist contains the membership list for 1960. If your name does not appear there you may either be delinquent in which case you can correct the situation by sending your dues to the treasurer George C. Kobylka, 1433 Cuyler Ave., Berwyn, Ill., to insure for yourself the next issues of the Specialist, or, an officer may have made a mistake in which case contact the treasurer for correction. Our Society is bigger now than it was ever before and we want it to continue to grow.

The future meetings of the Chicago Branch will be conducted independently of the officers' meetings. All future meetings will be philatelic in nature with talks by the various members or visitors. Our Mothers' Day meeting was poorly attended (as was to be expected) with only ten members present. Neither the New York nor Chicago Chapters will hold meetings during July and August.

By the time you receive this issue, Compex will be history. For the first time in our existence we didn't plead with our members to send exhibition material and as a result the out-of-Chicago exhibits are only a few and the same members are taxed year after year. If the financial gain is not what you expect, maybe you are to blame. Do not expect the Chicago members to do everything.

We add to the stamp donors to our give-away program the following members: Pearce, Markovich and Prokupek. We received envelopes of stamps from several who failed to place their name on the envelope. So far we received about 12000 stamps; some are very good. One member sent several of the Praha-New York First Flight covers. To all who helped to make this effort a success we extend our hearty thanks. If we fail to mention a donor, excuse us.

On another page of this Specialist you will find a picture of the five members of the Society who are on the directorate of Compex: Delegate, Jos. J. Janecka; alternate, Frank J. Kovarik; president of Compex, Dr. Jas. J. Matejka; representing Germany Philatelic Society but members of our Society Bernard Hennig and John Matschinegg.

In our last issue we mentioned that Czechoslovakia refuses to permit the stamps bearing a likeness of T G M into the country. We know that mail bearing these stamps is delivered to Pofis and other government agencies. We know of a registered parcel with return receipt requested franked with Masaryk stamps and when the receipt came back it bore the notation: Doručeno bez známek (delivered without stamps). We ask all our members and their friends not to embarrass their correspondents by using these stamps on mail going to Czechoslovakia.

In 1945 the USSR prepared a series of stamps bearing a portrait of

Masaryk for use in Czechoslovakia and in 1950 the Communist government of Czechoslovakia issued a set of two stamps commemorating the 100th anniversary of Masaryk's birth. These two stamps were voted the best Masaryk portrait and it was featured on half of our first day covers honoring the president-liberator.

If you look at the list of new members you will see that someone or some event is responsible for this healthy growth. You have friends who collect Czecho and you owe it to them as well as to yourself to ask them to join our Society.

A philatelic exhibition commemorating the World Refugee Year within the framework of the U. N. idea and for the benefit of refugees will be held June 24-July 1 at the Assembly of Captive European Nations, 29 W. 57th St., New York City. The theme of the show is "The Refugee and Refugees in Philately." It is also possible to sell your duplicates there. To do so, place a price on the material, the Committee will add a 25% surcharge for its benefit. For further particulars, contact Col. M. Petru, 1123 N. W. 1st Pl., Apt. 19, Gainesville, Fla.

A letter from ARTIA acquaints us that they have several collections for sale to interested parties. Among these is one of postal stationery consisting of 1654 pieces unused and bound in two screw binders. This is about complete from the beginning of the Republic to date. Another collection consists of used (cancelled) entires. The cost of these two collections is \$450. Still other collections consist of Austrian and Hungarian cancellations on parcel coupons (all postmarks of what later became Czechoslovakian territory); a complete collection of commemorative cancellations from 1945 to date; Field Post of 1938; a collection of pre-stamp covers of the 18th and 19th centuries; provisional cancels on covers 1945-1946 period and a small collection of Austrian and Czecho revenue stamps. If interested write to Artia, Praha II, ve Smeckach 30, Czechoslovakia. Mention you read this in the Specialist.

We hope all members have an enjoyable and restful vacation.

PAISLEY (SCOTLAND) PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Headmaster Gives Fine Display

The 169th meeting of the Paisley Philatelic Society was held in the Y.M.C.A. Halls, High Street. The president, Mr. T. C. Halliburton, was in the chair, and there was a large turn-out of members for this local occasion.

Mr. Alexander McInnes, M.A., Headmaster of Williamsburgh Junior Secondary School, Paisley, gave an excellent display of pages selected from his extensive collections of Czechoslovakia. Part of this collection was on display in London during 1943 at the Czechoslovak Government's display of their own stamps. For this Mr. McInnes received a diploma, signed by the President of the Czechoslovak Republic, which he greatly prizes.

In reply to a vote of thanks, proposed by Mr. James Hill, Mr. McInnes thanked the members for their appreciation, and he hoped they now knew a lot more about Czechoslovakia than in 1939.

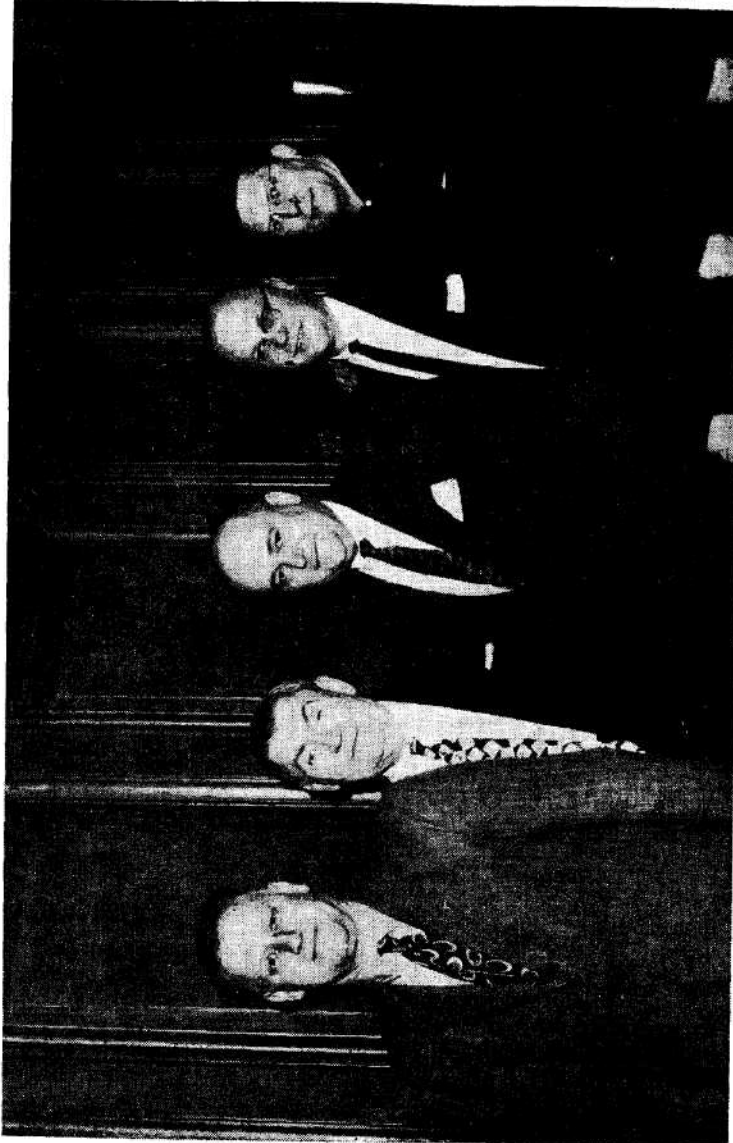
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Parade Of New Issues

New Commemoratives "Second National Spartakiade 1960"



To commemorate the Second National Spartakiade 1960 the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications issued on the 20th January 1960 the first part of a commemorative series "Second National Spartakiade 1960." The first part consists of 3 values:

- a) 30h young girl performing the exercises in the background the stadium, color: dark brown and brick-red
- b) 60h skier (for the winter part of the Second Spartakiade), color: dark blue and gray-blue
- c) 1.60 basket-ball (for the sports events of the Second Spartakiade), color: red brown and brown-yellow.

The designs of a) and of c) are the work of Anna Podzemná, the designs of b) of Mario Stretti. The stamps are engraved by: a) Jindra Schmidt, b) Ladislav Jirka, c) Bedřich Housa.

The stamps were printed by the Post Printing Office in Prague by the rotary recess print combined with photogravure in sheets of 50. The dimensions of the stamp pictures are 23x41 mm.

Validity for internal and international postal use is from 20th January, 1960, until further notice.

The First Day Cover is designed by the painter Mario Stretti, engraved by Jaroslav Goldschmied after drawings by Jindra Schmidt.

The Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications issued the definitive postage stamp of 30 h with the portrait of President Ant. Novotný also in the violet color.

New Commemoratives "VIIIth Winter Olympic Games 1960 at Squaw Valley"



To commemorate the VIIIth Winter Olympic Games 1960 at Squaw Valley, the Ministry of Communications issued on 27th February, 1960, a commemorative series of 2 stamps of the following values:

60 h ice-hockey, red-brown and light blue

1.80 Kčs Figure-skating, black and turquoise green

Both stamps were designed by the painter Mario Stretti, engraved by Ladislav Jirka (60 h) and Jindra Schmidt (1.80 Kčs).

They were printed by the Post Printing Office in Prague by the rotary recess print combined with photogravure in sheets of 25. The dimensions of the stamp pictures are 49x30 mm.

Validity for internal and international postal use is from 27th February, 1960, until further notice.

The First Day Cover has also been designed by Mario Stretti, engraved by Jaroslav Goldschmied.

STAMP MARKET TIPS

by Leo Eaton

Reprinted from "Stamps"

CZECHOSLOVAKIA—After a pleasant three-hour air trip, we arrived at Ruzine airport, where two officials of ARTIA, the Czechoslovak Government Sales Agency, were expecting us. This Sales Agency is the only government institution here taking care of the stamp exports. Our visit here might be titled "Two Worlds and One Globe." Although stamp collectors behind the iron curtain are no different from those living in the West, there are no stamp dealers here; everything is planned by the State, and private enterprise is forbidden. The only place the collector can turn to in order to buy his philatelic needs is the government-owned stores called POFIS.

While visiting one of these stores I met, by coincidence, Professor Gilbert, an old acquaintance of mine. He is a world-famous authority on Czech stamps, especially those of 1918, listed in Scott's as the early semi-postals. Many of these expensive stamps are sent to him for judgment, but no fee is accepted, and only foreign catalogs, such as Scott, Zumstein, Yvert, etc., are sent to him as remuneration.

Compared with the material found generally in the West, stocks are of very recent character, and therefore less interesting. Of course, now and then some of the better material comes into the hands of the Agency, but even then is only sold abroad. The scarce stamps are still being treasured by collectors, and sold only if they are very much in need of money. Music sheets, for instance, Scott's No. 200a and 201a, cost \$125.00; they can of course be bought for much less in the U. S. A. I was told that very few collectors can afford to spend \$5.00 to \$10.00 a month for stamps, and then only for the issues of the satellite countries.

While in Prague I learned that in connection with the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the famous SKODA steel and iron works, a stamp exhibition was taking place at Pilsen. So I took the opportunity to visit and view the exhibition. News broke fast that an American was at the very beautiful exhibition hall, and before we knew it, we were welcomed with great cordiality and were treated to some of the fine Pilsen beer and wines with typical Czech hospitality. The exhibition was nicely arranged, and the material, displayed in 300 frames, was interestingly and tastefully presented.

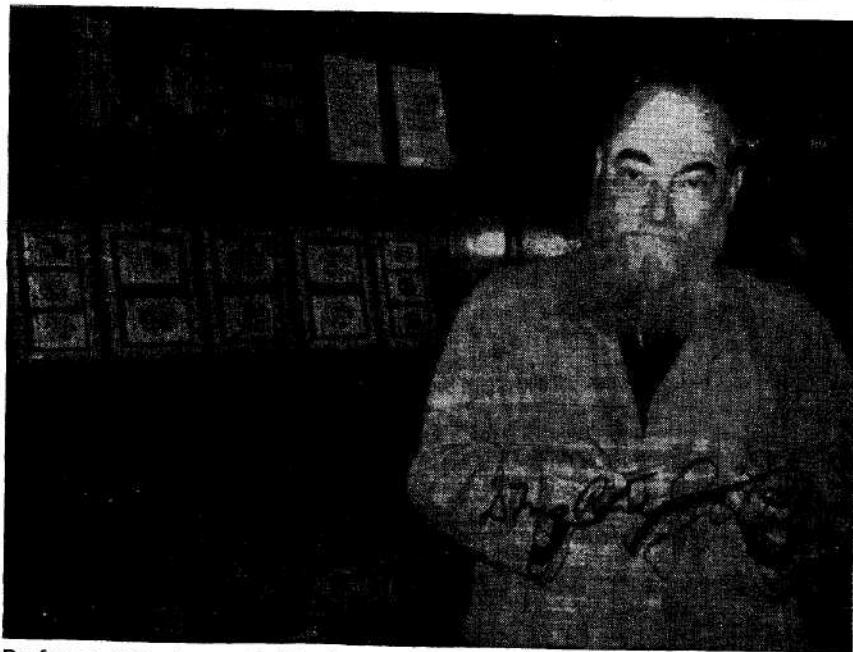
There were no rarities on view, but the interesting drawings of last year's Human Rights issue were prominently shown. These drawings by two children—Irena Pochazkova and Jiri Suma—are the first of their kind, created by children and accepted by the Government for stamp designs.

June 1960

At the exhibition the stamps of Czechoslovakia were predominant and studies of the first issues (Hradčany) would have been very interesting for our collectors of Czech stamps in the U.S.A. Plating and watermark position collections of the early Masaryk issues of 1925, Scott No. 101A-101D, would be fascinating to anyone who is interested in this field. Early Austrian cancellations of Czech cities on Austrian stamps, and displays of late U. S. A. commemoratives were to be seen. A pre-stamp cover of Emperor Rudolf II, with his signature on one of the earliest mails, attracted many viewers.

While I was visiting the stamp exhibition, the chairman, Rudolf Misar, suggested that I also see the exhibit of Pilsen's famous SKODA works. So we spent another two hours viewing the new products and developments of this plant. At this stage of our visit we were told that at the last minute American fliers in World War II bombed and knocked out this vast armor manufacturing center, just to eliminate these works from postwar world competition. I did not want to offend these nice people, who evidently believed this to be true, but we of the West all know that Hitler's armies were supplied from here right up to the last minute before the surrender.

My visit to Czechoslovakia was a very pleasant experience, and it was gratifying to be received with such genuine cordiality and friendliness.



Professor Gilbert, an old friend of the author, examining a stamp at the POFIS store in Prague, Czechoslovakia, where the two accidentally met while Mr. Eaton was visiting Czechoslovakia.

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 2:30 p.m. in the Lincoln Federal Loan and Savings Association Bldg., 6635 Cermak Rd., Berwyn, Ill.

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