

# 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

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## EDITORIAL

The Chicago Chapter was host to our New York member Arthur I. Kessler and his charming wife at its March 12 meeting. In the COMPEX report you can read of the results of its deliberations. After the meeting 30 members and their families repaired to the Old Prague Restaurant in Cicero where in a cozy room we partook of such traditional Czech dishes as "svíčková" (a marinated beef), duck, beef tenderloin, veal cutlets, pork, sauerkraut and dumplings, sweet cabbage and "koláčky." Such a good time was had by all that it was decided to hold a similar party annually. We hope our New York friends enjoyed their short visit with us and that they'll repeat soon. We were told that another New York member plans to be with us during Compex so we now present a hearty invitation to the past president of our Society Rudolph Secky and his wonderful wife.

Many moons ago a Hradčany study group was formed within the Society. All the Hradčany material was to be gathered, assembled and monthly reports were to be published in the Specialist. Certainly no single group of the stamps of Czechoslovakia received the attention this issue commands; not only because it is the first issue but because the type of production lends itself to many interesting varieties, the cancellations are a study in themselves and truly legitimate mixed frankings were possible for a sufficiently long time to be more easily procurable. After one or two reports the group went to sleep but we hope it soon revives. Member Van Handle drew a beautiful sketch of the Hradčany which would make a wonderful introductory masthead. If interested, get in touch with our librarian Frank J. Kosik, Rt. 4, Box 286, Delavan, Wisc.

We have had some very nice comments on the listing of the post-WWI provisional overprints published in the last three issues of the Specialist. Many members asked why we didn't illustrate each item. When we introduced this listing we gave several reasons, we can add one more: How many collections contain these items? If we had a sample of each it would cost a fortune to get illustrations made. Remember that your Specialist is still produced for \$2 a year though the cost actually runs to about \$3. Thanks to our sustaining and patron members plus the financial gains from Compex and such ventures we are solvent and shall continue so.

A couple of members objected to the "inconsistency" of our president Dr. James Matejka who worked so hard to get the T. G. Masaryk stamp within the framework of the U. S. Champions of Liberty series and now he accepts the office of United States representative for the 1962 Praga Stamp Exhibition. Music, art, stamps and coins are international; as long as they are not used for propaganda purposes there can be no valid objections. Dr. Matejka insisted that Czechoslovakia modify its stand on its ridiculous rejection of

U. S. stamps which mention or imply freedom and liberty. A letter received today from the old country makes known that the Mahatma Gandhi 4c and 8c first day covers arrived thereby proving that official circles may have had a change of heart. If Jacques Minkus could act as U. S. Representative at the Warsaw Philatelic Exhibition (Poland is as communistic as Czechoslovakia) why object to Dr. Matejka's office? If your editor, who is known to be an enemy of their system of government was pleased by the appointment, there should be no objections.

Another source of irritation to a few is the official collection of Czech stamps from the Praha Postal Museum which Dr. Matejka received to show about the country. Dr. Matejka insisted that no "propaganda" stamps be included. Member Janecka and your editor examined the lot which consisted for the most part of large photos or paintings of source of design material and corner blocks of four. Of all the material sent only a very few had even remote affinity to their political credo and were placed aside to remain unexhibited until their return home. These are valid postage stamps as long as Uncle Sam permits their entry into this country.

Many years ago our librarian sent us a list of the Praha Post Offices in use as of April 6, 1936, with their location and when founded. We had this manuscript in the basement when the floods came. Anything pertaining to stamps or books was placed into cartons and stored in a safe place. We are sure if we needed material for the Specialist we'd make an effort to locate it. Last week it got into our hands by mere accident and we promise to type it and publish it before our term expires. Most of you know that many streets in Praha are being renamed, mostly with Russian names, that post offices are being redistricted and boundaries are being changed. When all this is accomplished a new directory of Praha post offices will be in order.

One of our members asks for biographical information on the 1945 London Heroes Issue. What records we have are very meagre and cannot satisfy. If any member can supply the information in English or Czech we shall gladly publish it in the Specialist.

Everybody notices in not only our publication but in other magazines and periodicals that it is "copyrighted." That means the contents are protected from plagiarism. A short time ago we received a request from the Library of Congress that certain issues of the Specialist are missing from their files and would we please supply them. Our librarian furnished the Congressional Library with the issues and we now know that the complete file of the Czechoslovak Specialist reposes in Washington.

Member Fritz Billig was in Chicago for the Midwest ASDA Show and he brought with him galley proofs of the Hradčany Handbook which John Velek will proofread. The book will be ready for Compex and will then sell for \$3; advance orders sent to the editor up to May 26, 1961 inclusive can obtain the book for \$2.75. According to Mr. Billig it will consist of 64 pages and like our Bohemia-Moravia and Slovakia handbook will be of special interest to specialists as everything known to date will be published and the most interesting varieties will be reproduced. A pricing by the point system is employed in this book as in the aforementioned Bohemia-Moravia and Slovakia book. So far our literary efforts were financial flops to the Society; if we want successive volumes we must buy the books published and disseminate them. The Society is indebted to member Billig for his willingness to take this risk.

Last but not least: Our secretary Joseph J. Jiranek and his wife became the proud parents of Pamela Jean, Feb. 2, 1961. We congratulate the parents on this their first new issue and hope all will enjoy life to the fullest.

## COMPEX

The meeting of the Chicago Chapter on March 12 was devoted entirely to the forthcoming Compex Exhibition. The time is running out and we do not want repetition so we ask the members to reread the March issue. We especially ask all members who can write or have good ideas to write an article and send same to the editor as soon as possible. We must get articles into the Compex Directory, Linn's, Stamps and Western Stamp Collector special Compex Issues.

It was decided to revive our former auctions during the 1961 Compex. We realize that the time is short; it all depends on the members. If we get enough good material for sale the auction will be held Sunday afternoon May 28. This material may be an outright donation or may be sold for the member's benefit. If the latter, we ask a minimum bid price plus the 20% commission the Society retains for its efforts. All this material must be in the hands of the Auction chairman Joseph Jiranek, 5032 W. 25th St., Cicero 50, Ill., not later than April 30th.

It was decided to have a hospitality room in the LaSalle Hotel during the show. There we'll have the literature the Society has for sale: Bound volumes of the Specialist, the English-Czech, Czech-English Philatelic Vocabulary, the Bohemia-Moravia and Slovakia Handbook and the new Hradčany Handbook. We shall also have on hand envelopes containing 5 Czech or related material for distribution among the children who come for them to our room. In this room we shall also hold the auction where all stamps and not necessarily Czech only will be sold.

In the editorial we mentioned that the Hradčany Handbook will be on sale Sat. May 27th in our hospitality room. If you order the book before that day you remit \$2.75; if you order later the cost is \$3. Send your orders and check or money order to the editor: Frank J. Kovarik, 8748 Rockefeller Ave., Brookfield, Ill.

Last year thru error we promised more awards than is our custom. This year there will be only the Grand Award, the first or gold, the second or silver and the third or bronze. We eliminated the Championship Award because it was feared that a mediocre collection may win the Grand Award. Until now the Grand Award could not be won more than once; all may compete for it now. Of course, there will be the Chicago Federation Award, the Society of Philatelic Americans Research Award, the American Topical Award, etc.

Every undertaking such as Compex is in need of many workers. Member Kovarik will spend the three days in the Society's hospitality room with time out for lunch and special functions. Member Janecka will also spend the three days at the show, mostly in the Century Room where our 90 frames will be housed; also with time out same as Kovarik. Any member who wishes to contribute of his time at Compex will be greeted with open arms. At the regular Compex stations our volunteers chose the following time to help (the time itself became ours by drawing):

Saturday, May 27, 12M to 2 PM—John Velek, Louis J. Chvatel

Sunday, May 28, 6 PM to 8 PM—Joseph Jiranek, Miles Skrivanek

Sunday, May 28, 8 PM to 10 PM—Joseph Jiranek, Charles Chesloe

Monday, May 29, 2 PM to 4 PM—Frank J. Kovarik, Joseph J. Janecka

Chicagoland members are requested to hold themselves in readiness for the following tasks: Mounting the pages in the frames Sunday, May 21 at the Janecka shop. Joe promises refreshments to the participants. Help in the transportation of frames to and from the exhibition hall. Dismantling the exhibition. Attend the April meeting of the Chapter and volunteer your services.

Did you pay your 1961 dues?

Did you mail your exhibition prospectus to John Velek for the Compex Show? Do so now!

Did you send your ad for the Compex Directory? Did you send your contribution to the Goodfellows of \$1 or more to George Havlik? Do so now!

### NEW MEMBERS

- 705. Richard Kovalcik, 947 - 56th St., Brooklyn 19, N. Y.
- 706. Edward G. Wasiniak, Civilian Personnel Officer, 7206th Support Group, A. P. O. 222, New York, N. Y.
- 707. Joseph Sterba, 6624 Windsor, Berwyn, Ill.
- 708. Robert L. Thudt, 121 Davison St., Joliet, Ill.

### CHANGES OF ADDRESSES

- 525. Capt. Richard S. Steffel, Quarters 4509A, U.S.A.F. Academy, Colorado.
- 229. George T. Turner, 408-A Street, Washington 3, D. C.
- 578. Henry T. Synek, 195 Forest St., Winnetka, Ill.
- 547. Ralph A. Palmer, 509 Cheever Ave., Geneva, Ill.
- 537. Mikro L. Vondra, R. D. 2, Box 455-A, Altamont, N. Y.
- 549. George Cuhaj, 31-50 33rd St., Long Island City 6, N. Y.
- 83. Bohumil Dubey, 21 Evergreen, Hartford 5, Conn.
- 91. Joseph Novy, West Cornwall, Conn.
- 212. Morris Lichtman, 2350 Cabrillo St., San Francisco 21, Calif.
- 280. Dr. Howard S. Aronson, 5414 Montrose Dr., Dallas 9, Texas.
- 284. Joseph J. Hajek, R.R. 1, Longton, Kansas.
- 370. Dr. Henry J. Safarik, 21 So. Chapel Ave., Alhambra, Calif.
- 459. Dr. A. F. Sixta, P. O. Box 89, Alliance, Nebr.
- 523. Dr. Richard J. Boucek, 4320 Perrysville, 14, Pa.
- 565. George A. Havlik, 1618 58th Ave., Cicero 50, Ill.
- 681. Robert Williams, Box 222, De Witt, Iowa.
- 680. Anton Zalesky, 5636 Gilbert Ave., Western Springs, Ill.
- 608. Paul Jorgensen, 2207 St. Charles Rd., Bellwood, Ill.
- 624. H. T. Hollenbeck, c/o Western Union, Sherman, Texas.
- 121. Joseph Strnad, 1574 Ross Rd., Creve Coeur 41, Mo.
- 653. John Sladek, 5148 W. Agatite Ave., Chicago 30, Ill.
- 641. Sister M. Lucy, Convent, Ferdinand, Indiana.
- 17. C. J. Pearce, Box 32, Coalgate, Oklahoma.
- 529. Garfield-Perry Stamp Club, Inc., Manger Hotel, 1802 East 13th Street, Cleveland 1, Ohio.

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HALF PAGE	6.00	5.00
QUARTER PAGE	4.00	3.25
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## The Show Is Over

By Wolfgang Fritzsche

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The show is over, the prizes have been awarded and one would assume that everything is over but the shouting. But that is wrong, it is the shouting which now starts. There are the ones who complain that they did NOT get a prize. There are prize winners who had hoped for a higher award. Being dissatisfied is human, but in some cases the dissatisfaction stems from wrong interpretation of the rules and regulations which governs every such show and is the basis of judging.

After one of our recent local shows one of our members made a very fitting comparison. Many humans have hobbies and pets. If, for example, you have a dog, that animal is your pride and joy whether or not he is a pedigreed dog. You treat your mongrel dog right, you feed him and care for him and love the way he looks at you when he begs and likes to show off to others with all the tricks he can perform. However, you would never even dream of sending him to a dog show. Why, because he does not belong, he is a mongrel.

Exactly the same applies to stamp shows for competition. Just because your collection is your pride and joy and just because your non philatelic neighbors ah and oh over the beautiful pictures, it does not mean that such a collection can stand any competition under the existing established standards.

Each and every exhibition committee will furnish you with the basis on which the exhibits will be judged. There are several things to consider. An exhibit is usually judged and based on the following score: philatelic knowledge (as shown by the write up), neatness and arrangement, condition, completeness and rarity. Each one is worth a certain number of points. As a rule the first (philatelic knowledge) is worth a large number of points while the last (rarity) gives you the least number of points. Let us assume that the respective point value would be 40, 25, 20, 10 and 5. Based on this you will now see that a first prize could never be won on rarity alone as such a rare stamp alone would give you only 5 points out of a possible 100. Therefore if a rare exhibit gets a prize, such was won on other considerations but rarity. As one can see philatelic knowledge is the factor which dominates. So, if you wish to win a prize, make sure your collection shows that you know your stuff. Recently I judged a show in a large city in New York State. One of the exhibits was an old German state. The collection had very good material and one who does not specialize in old German states most likely would have considered that collection as first class. It was not, why, because the write-up actually showed philatelic ignorance. The exhibitor did not know what the various postmarks and labels meant. He applied his own interpretation, which was wrong. Had he taken time out to look up handbooks or study old ways of postal handling, he would have come up with the right write-up and a prize.

Then I have had to judge where Tibet was one of the exhibits. Beautiful material, but no write up whatsoever. What does such a collector show? Just parading the value of the stamps, no indication of philatelic knowledge. And the other fellow who presents first day covers, frame after frame, stamps up to \$5—but no write up at all. What can he expect? After all, any one can go to a dealer and buy the whole lot at any time. Presenting the covers the way he did does not necessarily mean he is a philatelist or knows anything about philately.

When there is not much evidence of philatelic knowledge as given in the



write up, the judges then take into consideration how such a collection was formed. If the material can easily be bought in any stamp store, it is possible the exhibitor did just that. If it is material which has to be gathered, which is definitely not freely available in stamp stores, then it must be assumed that the collector knows something about that field.

The interpretation of neatness and condition does not need explanation. Completeness deserves some explanation, as it is not always what one may think it is. If you exhibit, watch what title you give your exhibit, it may have a bearing on completeness. I remember the chap who exhibited "Egypt" but all he showed was that country's first issue. That issue was complete, but he was not complete in Egypt. Had he titled it "Egypt, first issue," he would have gotten all points on completeness. Another exhibitor at one time showed "USA 1938" first day covers. He only showed the presidential covers and stamps, therefore was not complete. His title should have been: "USA 1938 presidential issue" then he would have had all points on completeness.

Rarity gives you so few points that you can well afford to show your low priced stamps against high priced exhibits.

Now you are all set, you exhibit, you have won a medal at a local or regional or national show and you enter your exhibit at an international show and behold, you do not get an award. What could have gone wrong?

At international shows the same rules and point systems are used, but also some unwritten rules are followed. Black pages are not looked at at all; stamps in protective mounts are not considered. The collection must be on album pages, (don't show display posters).

The judges at international shows are all specialists in their fields. There is a judge for every field. At local shows there is not, for that reason you may get at times, a high local award, but flunk the international test. It is, therefore, my honest opinion, that local shows should be judged at a high level, that local awards should be 1st, 2nd, and 3rd rather than gold, silver and bronze. Local shows, most of them, have several groups, such as U. S., foreign, topic, etc., etc. If in a group there are only 3 exhibits, it is natural that one has to be first, but that first does not necessarily rate gold, so local awards may be misleading to the exhibitor and prize winner and make him a very disappointed person at a higher level show.

In conclusion, remember that the judges have a very tough assignment, that as a rule they work the point system and do a very honest and sincere job. Give them credit and don't complain to them after the show, after all, there is a group of judges and majority rules and the total point score rules. Judging is a job, it takes time, they give it freely.

While you go around and visit the various dealer and bourse tables, the judges work, have to look at every page that is exhibited. Since you have agreed that the decision of the judges is final, why not leave it at that and thank them rather than complain.

Now get your own collection ready for the next show and don't let the other fellow get the awards all the time.

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### 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.

## 28th MAIL SALE

I want to thank all the bidders of my last sale. I got 26 bid sheets, but I am very sorry if some of the bidders were disappointed because they did not get some of the lots . . . better luck next time.

Suggested bids are MINIMUM bids.

Lot #	Suggested MINIMUM bids:
1. Budejovice up to 1K -----	2.50
2. Budejovice up to 10K used -----	5.00
3. Srobar, 6 values mint and used -----	4.00
4. Father Jehliczka 5K block of 4 * -----	3.00
5. Father Jehliczka 5K PERF block * -----	3.00
6. Scout 10h and 20h * -----	2.00
7. Same USED -----	4.00
8. Siberia set up to 1 ruble (3) * -----	1.00
9. Lions * complete set, SIGNED -----	18.00
10. 25 kop both types * -----	.50
11. 25 kop rare proof -----	3.00
12. Austrian stamps used on cards and covers BEFORE 1918, all Czech postmarks, 46 diff. -----	5.00
13. Similar lot only cards, also stationery, 41 different -----	4.00
14. 8 stampless covers, like PRAHA, Brno, etc. -----	5.00
15. 55 Austrian postcards with Czech cancels -----	5.00
16. Emergency newspapers like: Ceske Slovo, Nar Politika, etc. 13, some * -----	5.00
17. 14 picture postcards of PRAHA -----	1.00
18. HRADCANY, 1h complete sheet -----	1.00
19. 3h complete sheet of 100 -----	3.50
20. 34 waste prints -----	4.00
21. 78 covers all with Hradcany stamps, early time, 1918 to 1920 -----	6.00
22. 10, 20h, 30h SUPERB copies IMPERF. -----	25.00
23. 20h in 2 different colors, proofs -----	4.00
24. set up to 1000h * (19 diff.) -----	2.75
25. 2000 Hradcany stamps all USED, mixed (for colors & canc.) -----	5.00
26. Perf. * 18 different -----	2.00
27. Collection of only Hradcany stamps * and used on album pages, specialized, some waste prts, some reprints, some on piece, nice -----	6.00



28.	Small Czech collection in stockbook, about 800 stamps, also blocks mostly used -----	5.00
29.	POSTA 1919, 10 K light violet, superb -----	22.00
30.	10 K Hungary Parliament, vf -----	45.00
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32.	set of 56, all vf -----	8.00
33.	10 diff. INVERTED overprints, high. cat. -----	7.00
34.	Masaryk 1920 issue, 1.25, 500h and 1000h, all * -----	1.00
35.	125 h ultramarine, both imperf and perf -----	4.00
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41.	2 K vertical watermark * -----	30.00
42.	3 K vertical watermark * -----	50.00
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45.	Dove and Allegory, complete set of TETE BECHE used -----	9.00
46.	Dove and Allegory, same * -----	11.00
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48.	5h brown in color of 2h, Error (Special Del.) -----	3.00
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50.	5h to 2000h complete set * -----	5.00
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59.	Slovakia, plate blox, 18 different -----	5.00

Send your bids soon — Books close April 30th, 1961

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## International Adventure

Julius Weiss

Reprinted from Linn's Weekly Stamp News

We depart a bit from our regular news to bring a bit of special information to our readers. Several of them have written us for sometime that mail to various nations in Central Europe has been returned, and have asked us to tell about some of these situations. Others have sent us examples, including first day covers, which have been returned home.

Our colleagues of the philatelic press have frequently told us of various U. S. "Champion of Liberty" issues which certain nations have sent back to the senders. Also, many of the various World Refugee Year Issues have been returned to senders in many parts of the world.

We know that any nation in the world (including the U. S.) may let in mail which it wishes to pass and, again, may return mail which it does not care to pass to its sender. It is as simple as that.

Actual mail sent by ye old sage has seldom been returned. A few letters to remote places have been returned because postal clerks in this area perhaps never heard of the particular country, but just about all mail sent to people in remote places has reached its destinations.

However, we were recently requested to send a United Nations "Fifteenth Anniversary" souvenir sheet along with some Masaryk, "Champion of Liberty" stamps to a collector in Czechoslovakia.

We placed a block of 4 of the 8c and 4c Liberty issue showing Masaryk together with a 15th Anniversary souvenir sheet. The letter was opened and returned from Prague.

Since our columns tell about making contacts throughout the globe we feel we must mention this event to our readers, for frankly we have noted remarks in the non-philatelic press of people having letters returned from Czechoslovakia—and it appears not much is being done to cope with the situation.

We have always enjoyed the stamps of Czechoslovakia, however, as a collector and a writer we shall as of this date stop all collecting of the issues of that country. Some of them are mere bits of propaganda which in our opinion should be returned to the communist sender and not permitted to enter this land of ours.

We would no longer care if "Artia" (the philatelic agency) of Czechoslovakia has all of its mail returned, for we shall in no way mention any of the items listed therein.

We cannot spend postage for mail, FDC's and other material only to have them returned. We do have some great philatelists residing in Czechoslovakia, and we are sorry we cannot exchange stamps with them; we know they understand.

To the many collectors who have written to us about this matter, we can now say we have acted in a small way and we hope the ball begins to roll and roll so that we may again have exchanges on a friendly basis.

We further suggest that the folk who have written to us, contact the Postmaster General or even the President of the United States and perhaps something can be done to make certain that the mail gets through and that people may send a few words—perhaps a few stamps—to people in those countries.

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**Please Mention this Magazine when writing Advertisers. Thanks!**

## COMMENTS ON STAMP DESIGNS

By O. L. Harvey

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## CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S STAMP ENGRAVERS

Heinz's Brno  
Cathedral DesignSeizinger's 1928  
Brno Cathedral DesignHeinz's Portrait  
of Feugner

Czechoslovakia has produced some excellent stamp engravers. Three outstanding names are Karl Seizinger, Jindra Schmidt, and B. Heinz. In this article I will comment particularly on Heinz, and have selected for study his portrait of Feugner (Scott Type A84), and the cathedral of Brno (Bohemia and Moravia Type A6).

The cathedral subject is the same as that engraved by Seizinger in 1923, some ten years earlier (Scott Type A25). It is therefore interesting, not only as an example of Heinz's work, but also for the opportunity it offers of comparing the work of two engravers dealing with the same scene.

The scene itself is inspiring; the composition, naturally balanced. Heinz stands a little closer to the object, works on a larger scale, and his position is a little more to the right, and lower down. Hence we expect a flattening of roof surfaces, more detail, and a wider view of the cathedral.

Broadly speaking, Seizinger concentrated on the mass effect, while Heinz introduced detail. Indeed, one wonders if, in view of the towering brilliant cloud in the background, Heinz has not inserted more detail than he could actually see. It could be, on the other hand, that Seizinger's impression was too sketchy. It is a matter of what you think possible and appropriate. How much detail should go into a miniature engraving? Considering Heinz's fondness for detail, and his manner of engraving foliage and dotting his clouds, my impression is that his work is inclined to be precious and fussy. This is not an indictment. Some engravers work in minute detail. As a craftsman, Heinz is precise, firm, and clear.

Incidentally, a further comparison of Seizinger and Heinz, with very much the same conclusion, may be made of the Prague cathedral scene (Czechoslovakia Type A 75) with Bohemia and Moravia (Type A5).

Heinz's portrait of Feugner is excellent (though again one wonders how much it is prettified). Note the detail of the eyes, including the diagonal hatching over the eyeball. Note the smooth shading over the face, with clever wrinkling over the subject's left temple. Look carefully at the details of the beard and hair. It is unusual for stamp portrait-engravers to give such careful attention to the ears. The dotting technique on forehead and right cheek reminds one of the clouds in the cathedral stamps.

Heinz's work is careful and thorough. By over-attention to detail he tends to prettify the subject, but his work is masterly and confident.

## Czechoslovak Castles and Chateaux on the New Issue of Stamps

Regular postage stamps are ordinarily in use for a number of years before the Postal Department issues new ones. The present issue, showing the industry of the nation, has been in use since 1954 so a new regular issue is to replace them. It illustrates the antiquities of architecture, represented by castles and chateaux. These stately buildings are usually located on high ground, mostly on steep rocky cliffs. This is for several reasons, but mostly for protection against enemies.

This issue consists of 8 values, illustrating the castles of TRENČÍN, BEZDĚZ, KOST, PERNŠTÝN, KREMNICE, KARLŠTEYN, KOKOŘÍN and the chateau of SMOLENICE. Five of these, designed by J. Šváb, are located in Bohemia and the three in Slovakia were designed by A. Holý. Although drawn by two artists, the results are very much alike, thus facilitating the work of engravers.

TRENČÍN—was built on a steep dolomite cliff, about 1100 feet above the river Váh. Rich in history, it was called the "King of Slovak castles." In the face of the cliff is cut a Latin inscription with the date 176 A.D., testifying to the fact that the Romans had a garrison here in the second century. The District of Váh and the castle were governed at various times by Poles, Hungarians and Czechs. In the 13th century it endured a siege of Tartars and from 1301 to 1321 was the seat of Mathias Čáp, a renowned person in Slovak history. In 1363 the peace was signed there between Charles IV and the Hungarian King Ludvík. Jan Jiskra of Brandýs became its owner in 1439, the same year that Kateřina, the daughter of Jíří Poděbrad, was betrothed to King Matyáš. Later it was owned by various Hungarian noble families until 1790, when it was gutted by fire.

BEZDĚZ surmounts a conical hill of the same name. It was built between 1260 and 1280, during the reign of Přemysl Otakar II. The access to it is through 3 gates, the third gate opening on the outer castle yard and is protected by a tower, called Devils Tower (Čertova). A fourth gate leads to the main castle. Living quarters were on the second courtyard and the castle itself. Other quarters were added to the north and south side of the ramparts. On the ground floor are rooms with flat ceilings. Above them is a central hall with a high, vaulted ceiling. By its side are bedrooms and living rooms, richly decorated. On the first floor, next to the central hall, which extended up to them, are additional rooms. The loveliest portion of the castle is the chapel with a small steeple, dedicated to Archangel Michael, the patron saint of Knighthood. The chapel has a vaulted ceiling, decorated with stucco ribbing. On the other side of the palace is a round tower built into the rampart wall. The whole castle is in its original state. Composer Smetana placed a part of his Opera *Tajemství* (Secret) in Bezděz.

KOST—is located in Český Ráj (Bohemian Paradise) near Sobotka. It dates to the 14th century and the inner part is in its original state. The most interesting is the Bílá Věž (White Tower), on the sixth floor of which is an elaborate living room with a fireplace. The mansard roof on this tower was put on in the 18th century. The second floor was connected with the adjoining palace by a covered porch and walkway. This collapsed in the 17th century. The only thing left is a part of the gable and a small tower alongside of the first gate. On the second floor of the White Tower was a small chapel. Peter of Wartenburg, one of the first owners of the castle, built there an independent chapel, dedicated to St. Anne. Rebuilding of the castle was done sometime in the 16th century. The inner castle is well protected by

massive walls with walkways and covered porches (cymbuří) around the top of the tower.

**PERNSTEYN**—is located in the Moravian "Switzerland," near the river Bystřice. The earliest mention of it in the records is in the 13th century, which dates the core of the castle's round tower, called Barborka, and the palace, connected by a flying bridge. In the 14th century some new living quarters were added on the northeast side. The 15th century saw a great activity in building and rebuilding of the castle, transforming it into a chateau and the political and economic seat of the growing Pernštejn family. At the end of the 15th century an enormous hall was built for their knightly gatherings—the largest chamber in the castle. About the same time a prismatic tower was added, used for living quarters and protection. The fortifications were improved, a library was built and more quarters added to the Black Tower in the 16th century. Pernštejn is the best preserved and one of the most prominent castles in the country.

**KREMNICE**—was founded in 1328, when a document by King Karel Robert granted to the citizens of Kremnice some very broad privileges. The castle served for defense and as a repository of gold and coins struck there for the adjoining 12 districts. During the reign of Ludvík Pohrobek, his mother Elisabeth protected his interests by inducing Jan Jiskra of Brannýs to occupy all mining towns in central Bohemia and Moravia, including Kremnice. The castle burned down in 1560. In the center of the original castle was the Defense Tower, now replaced by the nave of a church. The north gate, called Barbakán, was connected with the outer yard by a lift bridge. The present tower and rotunda are of a later date.

**KARLSTEJN**—was built by Emperor Charles IV in the 14th century as a repository for the crown jewels and holy relics. Charles often retired there for rest and meditation. The various parts of the castle were built with an eye for their special functions. The first floor was allotted the Burgrave and the next to the Emperor. The most impressive parts of the castle are the Marian tower and the Great tower. In these are the chapels of St. Kristine and Holy Cross, embellished by many fine paintings by Master Theodoric, manifesting the high level of Gothic art at that time. The Reich crown jewels and holy relics were deposited in the two chapels. In the 19th century the castle was haphazardly renovated, spoiling the original appearance.

**SMOLENICE**—This chateau is located in a valley of the Smolenice foothills of the Little Karpaty. King Zigmund granted this chateau to Ctibor of Ctibřice by a document dated 1390. Aside from that, it played no role in history. In the 15th century it was property of the king and later of various noble families. The last owner, Pálffy, rebuilt and luxuriously furnished it in such a way that very little was left of the original buildings. The Slovak Academy of Sciences occupies it now and the only remarkable thing about it is a large library, containing many ancient articles. There are better and more picturesque castles in Slovakia fit to appear on a stamp—Spíš, for instance, but because it is used for cultural propaganda, the decision was made for its use.

**KOKORÍN**—was built during the time of the Luxemburgs, on a high cliff above the valley of Psorka creek, in the District of Mělník. There are records in archives dating it to 1320. A high tower was built into the rampart wall containing living quarters, entrance to which is from the second floor. During the Husite War, it was besieged and demolished. It was rebuilt in Gothic style in the 16th century and annexed to the Friedland district of the Waldsteins. The Emperor confiscated it in 1634 and it being in a very dilapidated condition, decided to demolish it. It was again rebuilt in the 19th century on the old ruins.

# CLUBS BECOMING A BORE? PUT THEM TO THIS TEST

Submitted by the Librarian, Frank J. Kosik

Do you suffer from frequent attacks of clubitis? That is, do you sometimes think that if you have to go to one more meeting, serve on one more committee, or call one more list of names you'll blow your top?

If so, it is high time to put every organization to which you belong to a test. Ask yourself these questions about each one:

- Am I still as interested in this group as I was when I joined and as convinced as I was then that it serves a useful purpose?
- Do I enjoy anything about being a member of this organization, or do I simply belong because I feel I should?
- Would I quit this organization tomorrow if I weren't afraid of what "they" (meaning the other members) would say about my quitting?
- Have I really contributed enough to this organization to justify the time I have spent at meetings?
- Are most of the members "working" members or "talking" members?
- If this organization were disbanded would it really matter to anyone but the members?
- Are there any ways in which I could better spend the time I give to this organization?

Try those questions on each organization and you may be shocked at how many of them flunk the test outright.

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