

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

A publication of the Czechoslovak  Philatelic Society of N. America

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EDITORIAL

We did not realize that the job of an Editor is a full-time one. There are no provisions for a vacation at any time. However, it is possible that one could get away in June and in early July. This year as we had decided not to leave town, it constituted no problem at all.

Compex 1962 was a success, according to reports received. In this issue you will find an account by the Exhibition Chairman of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society Section. Considering the very poor participation by members of the national society we feel that in the future, participation should be limited to the Chicago Branch, provided, of course, that it is the wish of that Branch to participate. We published information about Compex and entry blanks were mailed to all members. Only 40 frames were reserved out of the 90 which our society had to take. If we analyze further, we find that there were only six exhibits for competition, of which three were from the New York Branch. We must conclude that our membership does not wish to take active part in Compex, therefore it should not be so planned again.

In this issue you will find our membership list. There are only a few omissions because nearly all members on our list paid their dues for 1962. This list was carefully checked but there still may be an error or two. Please notify our national secretary, to enable us to publish a corrected version in a subsequent issue of our Specialist.

Note an interesting article by Velek which was reprinted from the Compex Directory. We found a number of informative lines in the article.

We have not heard from the Hradčany Study Group for a while. We are positive that the members of the group have learned some new facts in their search "for the truth." Let us have them, please. This publication is eager for you just to take advantage of its opportunities. (Just received an article from Major Knox.)

There will be an Exhibition in Newark, N. J. this month, NOJEX. This will be the first Show of the North Jersey Federated Stamp Clubs. SOJEX will be held in Atlantic City in October, when NASPEX will also take place. The Postal History Society will have an all postal history exhibition in October in New York City. This will be staged by the Industrial Exhibitions, Inc., which stages the annual Interpex. In September there will be the convention of the American Philatelic Congress. We assume that members of our society will be able to get to Baltimore this year, where the Congress will also have a seminar of specialty groups. We hope this issue will reach our members early enough

for arrangements to attend the Baltimore affair where we are planning to have a meeting of our society.

We very heartily endorse the action of the American Philatelic Society in regard to regular listing of questionable issues. Distinction is made between issues which have a limited printing, are excessively extended, have unwarranted high values, have no direct relationship to the issuing country or where there are artificial oddities among them and a new issue which lends itself to speculation but analysis cannot yet be made. The first category is marked by a Black Blot and the second by a Big Q. This type of classification was long overdue. It is indeed a pleasure to note the fervor with which the APS is tackling this great problem and we are sure that most collectors will pay attention to this listing. It is only natural that for a while many dealers will be very much against this procedure but soon they will also have to follow the lead because it will become the wish of the customers. The ultimate result and a very wholesome one, will be the discontinuance of such practices by the various countries. This, of course, will take some time because none of those countries will be ready promptly to lose all that revenue. In addition, there always will be collectors in some countries who will pay no attention at all to what the APS and the British Philatelic Society are trying to do. However, a fine start has been made and let us now hope for the best.

No reports of the Chicago Branch meetings of May and June were sent to us due to small attendance.

ERRATA

We wish to apologize to Mr. Frank J. Rosner for the error in spelling of his name when transcribing the article of Dr. Matejka in the May issue of the Specialist.

NEW YORK BRANCH REPORT

At the May meeting of the Branch Dr. Reiner-Deutsch spoke on the postal service of the Czechoslovak Army in Siberia. His presentation was of great interest to the members and there was a lively discussion on the subject. The June meeting consisted of the annual dinner at National Hall with twenty-one members and guests present. We all missed our Mr. Stein whose wife had been ill and had at that time just returned from the hospital. All his friends are pleased to hear that Mrs. Stein is doing quite well now. The dinner was most enjoyable and everyone congratulated member Koplowitz for his receipt of the Czechoslovak Grand Award at Compex, the first member of the New York Branch so honored.

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THE CZECHOSLOVAK EXHIBIT AT COMPEX

By John Velek

Compex '62 has passed into philatelic history. It was a great success in many ways. From Postmaster General Day's entertaining address at the packed banquet, to Dr. and Marie Matejka's cocktail party, to the crowds milling around the bourse and exhibit, I heard nothing but praise.

The Czechoslovak Section was something less of a success since I was not able to stir up much interest in the show. When the final deadline passed, 50 of the allotted 90 frames were still unfilled so Dr. Matejka and the writer entered two exhibits apiece (not for competition) to fill up the show, in addition to those of Kovarik and Janecka.

The exhibits that were entered were of considerable merit which proves that our members have the material if they would only show it. The J. W. Lowey Grand Award Plaque and the SPA Research Award were by the consensus of Judges Egan Berka, Joe Vondrak and Bernard Hennig, awarded to George Koplowitz of Brooklyn, N. Y., for his fine showing of Hradčany plate, color, paper and perforation varieties.

The first prize Gold Medal was won by Mark Snow of Cleveland, Ohio, for his very fine exhibit of Czechoslovak proofs and essays. This material was also exceptionally well mounted.

The second award Silver Medal was won by Dr. Wm. Reiner-Deutsch of Bayside, N. Y., showing Postal History of Czechoslovakia as shown on the early postage dues. The postal history of this period also interests the writer and I was fascinated (hint) by one cover especially that showed three postage due rates as it was sent from one address to another including the dead letter office.

The third award Bronze Medal was won by Milo Barry of Van Nuys, Calif. with pages from his large collection of Czechoslovakia. Among the many interesting items shown was a 3h Hradčany se-tenant gutter with sheet margin. Mr. Barry also included some beautiful paper currency engraved by the same engravers as the stamps.

Awarded participation certificates were Joseph Stein of Brooklyn, N. Y. for a fascinating study of Postal money orders reflecting both postal and military history and Paul Hale of Brighton, Ill., with a beautiful, professionally displayed one frame exhibit entitled "Toward United Nations" (theme of Compex).

In the not for competition section was Frank Kovarik of Brookfield, Ill., showing post World War II stamps including some of the rare imperf gutters. Also in this category was Joseph Janecka of Riverside, Ill., showing one of his favorite branches of philately—Slovakia. Dr. Matejka showed a very comprehensive display of the first engraved airmails, a tremendous study filling 20 frames. He also showed his priceless Sizinger drawings and die proofs—a display impossible to match. Your writer showed the 100h Hradčany stamp plated and an exhibit of Railway cancels also on the Hradčany stamps.

Altogether some very fine material was shown and I am sure it was enjoyed by many interested in Czech philately.

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CZECHOSLOVAKIA — PLATE LAYOUT OF THE FIRST ISSUE

By John Velek

Reprinted from Compex Directory 1962

The first issue of Czechoslovakia, popularly known as the "Hradčany" from the Czech word for "castle," was printed by Prague's largest book printer, the Unie. This was a private institution that had never printed stamps; they successfully adapted their equipment to stamp production in spite of war time conditions and materials. The Czechoslovak Republic was declared in existence on Oct. 28, 1918 and must have contacted the Unie without delay as they were able to issue the first stamps by December 18, 1918.

The postoffice department apparently kept no records of plate layout or the different combinations of postage values printed. Information given here has been pieced together by philatelists. The Hradčany stamps were printed in panes of 100, four panes to a sheet. Since a pane measures $11\frac{7}{8} \times 10\frac{3}{4}$ inches, a sheet of four panes measures about 29x24 inches including the vertical gutter of almost 3 inches and a horizontal gutter of 1-5/16 inches plus about 1 inch sheet margin all around. This large sheet apparently was compatible to the Unie book printing presses, as all the Hradčany stamps were printed in this format.

The most interesting fact about the plate layout to collectors is the different combinations of two values printed on one sheet in one operation. This was possible because the stamp presses were built with two ink rollers so that the left pair of plates could be inked in one color and the right pair in an entirely different one. Sometimes the same color was used on both rollers; for example, the 300h Hradčany combined with the 500h Postage due and the 400h Hradčany combined with the 1000h Postage due. The advantage of the two-color setup was that more different values could be put into circulation in a short period of time. The first combination printed was the 5h light green and the 10h red. These two stamps were issued on December 18, 1918. Other values followed soon and by January 29, 1919 the first ten values of the Hradčany had appeared.

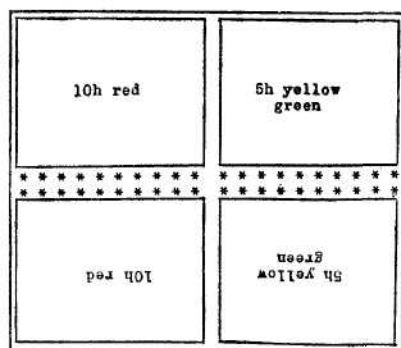


Fig. 1

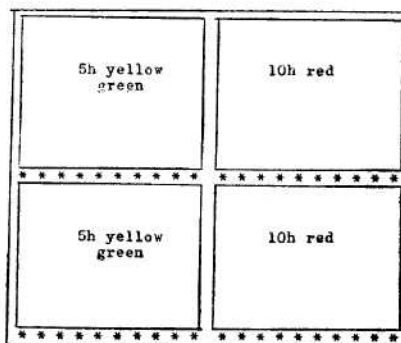


Fig. 2

In some cases vertical pairs of plates were *tete beche* (Figure 1) to each other and in others they were *se-tenant*. (Figure 2). There probably was a technical reason for this but it is not known to the writer. When the postage due and newspaper stamps were combined with the Hradčany stamp as a general rule but not in all cases, they were positioned at right angles to the Hradčany stamp. (Figure 3).

With a very few exceptions, sheets of stamps were cut into four panes of

100 before being sent to the postoffices. A few vertical pairs of two panes were released and vertical gutter pairs exist in the following values: 3h tete beche and se-tenant; 5h tete beche and se-tenant; 10h tete beche and se-tenant; 20h tete beche and se-tenant. The 25h and 30h values are known in tete beche positions only. We know of no instance when horizontal pairs of panes were sent to postoffices uncut. A few horizontal pairs of stamps exist, but they came from the Postal Museum.

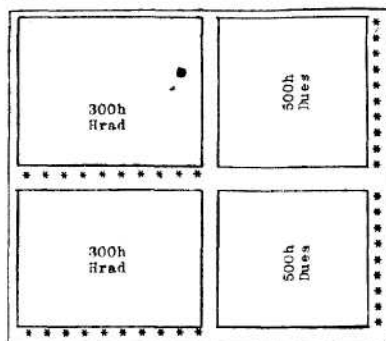


Fig. 3

Information about the different combinations has been obtained from three sources:

1. Gutter pairs of stamps in collections.
2. Gutter pairs of printer's waste in collections.
3. Uncut sheets of 400 in the Czechoslovak Postal Museum.

When we visited the Postal Museum in 1960 the curator was kind enough to take the entire stock of full sheets out of the archives and let us examine them. We would guess there are about 50 in all. In the excitement of seeing this great treasure we made no notes of the total number of sheets nor the different combinations of values involved.

The listing of all the known combinations that follows is from the above three sources. The part that is based on the Postal Museum holding is not from personal observation but from unsigned articles published in "Ceskoslovenska Filatelie." These were probably by the editor, Mr. Hirsh, who was also at one time the curator of the Postal Museum.

Since there were always two plates of each value positioned vertically (with a couple of exceptions), we list only the horizontal gutters known to show the combinations used:

80h olive green — 100h brown	200h blue — 25c newspaper reading up
200h blue — 100h brown	300h green — 500h postage due reading up
400h violet — 100h brown	400h violet — 1000h postage due reading up
200h blue — 1000h red violet	30h red violet — 15h dove issue!
3h red violet — 2h newspaper inverted	
30h red violet — 2h newspaper reading up	
5h blue green — 10h newspaper reading up	3h red violet—2h newspaper
50h violet — 6h newspaper reading up	10h red — 5h light green
50h violet — 2h newspaper reading up	5h light green — 400h violet
75h gray green — 20h newspaper reading up	5h blue green — 12h gray black
75h gray green — 2h newspaper reading up	15h red — 5h blue green
	15h red — 10h green
	20h red — 10h green
	60h orange — 3h red violet

25h violet — 15h red
25h blue — 15h red

25h blue — 20h green
20h green — 30h olive

In the paragraph above are mentioned two exceptions to the rule that two plates of the same value were positioned vertically in the press. The "Filatelic" article included a 500h Hradčany and a 30h newspaper stamp paired vertically. Since these were of different colors, this sheet would have to be printed with two impressions.

The Czechoslovak Philatelic Museum has a full sheet of the 40h olive and the 60h green Hradčany combined which were used for the Red Cross overprints of 1920. Here the two 40h plates were positioned diagonally in the press as were the 60h plates. These were then printed one color at a time.

If any collectors have combinations not listed here, we would be interested in hearing about them.

FOOTNOTE: The asterisks in the illustrations stand for the control numbers on the sheets.

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467 * Pesek, Laddie J., 4491 East Blvd., Garfield Heights 5, Ohio
401 Pfisterer, A. Wm., 285 Merritt Ave., Bergenfield, N. J.
581 Pobuda, Edward G., 42-04 Layton Ave., Elmhurst 73, N. Y.
379 Polivka, Milos, 101 Montrose Rd., Berkeley 7, Calif.
233 * Poteet, F. Sargent, 5425 Falmouth Rd., Fairway-Shawnee Mission, Kans.
659 **Bracheil, Arnold, R. F. D. 2, Box 22, Crete, Nebr.
591 Prochazka, Joseph J., Jr., 1912 Heathfield Road, Baltimore 14, Md.
402 * Prokupek, Henry, Sr., 3434 West 45th St., Cleveland 2, Ohio
616 Rancik, Frank, 2856 So. Drake Ave., Chicago 23, Ill.
686 Ray, Samuel, 350 Oakdale Ave., Chicago 14, Ill.
697 Mrs. Reiner-Deutsch, Regina, P. O. Box 24, Bayside 61, N. Y.
27 **Reiner-Deutsch, Wm., Dr., P. O. Box 24, Bayside 61, N. Y.
210 Reinowski, Roman, Jr., 9031 West 24th St., North Riverside, Ill.
538 * Repasky, Rudolph, 224 East 70th St., New York 21, N. Y.
647 Riddle, Keith C., 10 Burwood Close, Hersham, Surrey, England
457 Rogers, Eric H., 27 Brewster Rd., Leyton, London E. 10, England
227 Rosner, Frank J., 2325 S. 61st Ave., Cicero 50, Ill.
42 * Russell, W. L., 1495 High St., Glen Iris, S. E. 6, Victoria, Australia
265 * Ruzicka, George M., 3501 Sunnyside, Brookfield, Ill.
370 Safarik, Henry J., Dr., 416 No. Valencia, Alhambra, Calif.
200 Schneider, Paul, 51 West 86th St., New York 24, N. Y.
404 * Schoenig, William V., 20 Charles St., East Patchogue, N. Y.
151 Schwanderla, Anthony, 108-05 Spa Pl., Jamaica 35, N. Y.
52 * Secky, Rudolph, 1330-145 Place, Whitestone, N. Y.
693 Serchak, George J., 73 Huron Ave., Clifton, N. J.
273 **Sisson, Mr. and Mrs. Alex, 5959 Horger Ave., Dearborn, Mich.
459 Sixta, A. F., Dr., P. O. Box 89, Alliance, Nebr.
45 * Skopecek, G. R., Box 232, Colfax, Calif.
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15 Smith, H. H., 1314 Summit St., Findlay, Ohio
75 * Snow, Mark G., 14881 Alger Rd., Cleveland 11, Ohio
102 * Spofford, R. L., 4815 Woodlawn Ave., Chicago 15, Ill.
23 Stach, Alfons, P. O. Box 387, Lenox, Mass.
709 Stamberg, Lee A., 3450 So. Gunderson Ave., Berwyn,
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443 Steiner, Frank, 1027 N. Sycamore, Los Angeles 38, Calif.
707 Sterba, Joseph F., 6624 Windsor Ave., Berwyn, Ill.
54 Stern, Frank, 80-09-35th Ave., Jackson Heights, N. Y.
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121 Strnad, Joseph, 1574 Ross Rd., St. Louis 41, Mo.
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 295 Van Handel, Ray, Jr., 2108 W. 19th St., Sheboygan, Wisc.
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 11 * Velek, John, 6218 N. Diversey, Chicago 39, Ill.
 702 Velisek, Aldrich F., Sr., 3117 Ralph Ave., Cleveland 9, Ohio
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 599 Vochaska, Charles, 1942 - 55 Ct., Cicero 50, Ill.
 537 Vondra, Mirko L., 915 Harvard St., Rochester 10, N. Y.
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 162 Vrzalik, Leo F., Jr., 4315 Penn Ave., Baltimore 36, Md.
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 680 Zalesky, Anton, 4636 Gilbert Ave., Western Springs, Ill.
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 395 * Zdenek, James G., Jr., 8208 South 56th St., Tacoma 66, Wash.
 521 Zeman, Paul, 1549 Walker Ave., Union, N. J.
 654 * Zenchina, Edward J., 3936 W. Montrose Ave., Chicago 18, Ill.
 713 Zika, Vaclav Jan, 4114 Blue Spring Road N. W., Huntsville, Ala.

Parade Of New Issues

Edited by Frank Kosik

New Emission — "Animals of Prague Zoos"

On April 24th, 1962, the Czechoslovak Ministry of Transport and Communications issued a series of postage stamps depicting six different animals of the Prague Zoos. The stamps are of the following denominations, designs, and colors:

- a) 20h polar bear (*thalarctos maritimus*), color black and blue
- b) 30h chimpanzee (*pan troglodytus*), colors black and violet
- c) 60h Bactrian camel (*camelus bactrianus*), colors black and orange
- d) 1.00 Kčs Indian and African elephant (*elephans maximus* and *loxodonta africana*), colors black and green
- e) 1.40 Kčs leopard (*panthera pardus*), colors black and red
- f) 1.60 Kčs horse Przewalski (*equus Przewalski*), colors black and brown

All these stamps have been designed by the academic artist Přemysl Rolčík and engraved by Ladislav Jirka (a, b, c) and Jiří Švengsbir (d, e, f).

The stamps were printed by rotary recess print combined with photogravure



in the Post Printing Office in Prague in sheets of 50. Dimensions of stamps a, b, and c are 22.5x40.5, and d, e, f 40.5x22.5 mm.

The stamps are valid in internal and international postal use from April 24th, 1962, until further notice.

Two First Day Covers designed also by Přemysl Rolčík and engraved by Jaroslav Goldschmied were issued with this emission. The first cover has stamps value 20h, 1 and 1.40 Kčs, the second 30h, 60h and 1.60 Kčs.

"Space Research" — a new series of stamps

On 26th March, 1962, the Ministry of Transport and Communications issued the following series of stamps:

1. 30h Man Conquers Space—dark red and light blue
2. 40h Launching of a Soviet Space Rocket—light blue and orange-red
3. 60h The Soviet space ship Vostok 2—dark blue and carmine
4. 80h A multi-stage automatic rocket—violet and yellow-green
5. 1.—Kčs Automatic station on the Moon—dark blue and yellow
6. 1.60 Kčs A TV satellite—dark green and orange

All the designs are the work of painter František Hudeček. The following artists made the engravings: 1) and 2) L. Jirka, 3) J. Goldschmied according to drawings by L. Jirka, 4) and 6) J. Mráček, and 5) B. Housa.

The stamps have been printed by the Post Office Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print combined with photogravure.

The dimensions of the stamp picture are 23x41 mm. A printed sheet consists of fifty stamps.



The stamps are valid for both internal and international use as from March 26th until further notice.

Two First Day Covers were issued with this series, both of them also designed by F. Hudeček and engraved by J. Goldschmied.

One First Day Cover carries the 30h, 40h and 1.60 Kcs stamps, the other the denominations of 60h, 80h and 1 Kcs.

Commemorative for 30th Anniversary of the big Miners' Strike at Most



On 19th March, 1962, the Ministry of Transport and Communications issued a 60h stamp to mark the thirtieth anniversary of a big miners' strike in the North Bohemian town of Most.

The stamp depicts a miner holding aloft his lamp, with a flag in the background carrying the inscription "30th Anniversary of the Big Miners' Strike at Most". The colors of the stamp are greyish-blue and red.

The stamp is designed by the painter Viktor Polášek, the engraving is the work of B. Housa. The stamp has been printed at the Post Office Printing House in Prague. The dimensions of the stamp picture are 23x41 mm. A printed sheet consists of fifty stamps.

A First Day Cover has been issued with the stamp, designed by V. Polášek and engraved by J. Goldschmied.

The stamp is valid for both internal and international use as from 19th March, 1962, until further notice.

**A New Commemorative on the Occasion of the 1200th Anniversary
of Discovery of the Teplice Springs**



The Czechoslovak Ministry of Transport and Communications issued on June 9th, 1962, a commemorative stamp of 60 h.

It depicts Klary's fountain in Teplice. The colors are green and yellow.

The author of the design as well as of the engraving is J. A. Švengsbír.

The stamp was printed in the Post Printing Office in Prague by the rotary recess print combined with photogravure in sheets of 50.

The dimensions of the stamp picture are 23x30 mm.

The stamp is valid in internal and international postal use from June 9th, 1962, until further notice.

One First Day Cover was issued with this emission. Designer and engraver was J. A. Švengsbír.

**New Commemoratives to the 20th Anniversary
of Extermination of Lidice and Ležáky**



The Ministry of Transport and Communications issued on June 9th, 1962, two commemorative stamps on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the extermination of two Czech villages—Lidice and Ležáky—by the Nazis during World War II.

30h "Lidice"—a girl's head, in background grieved face of a suffering mother, black and red

60h "Ležáky"—site of the exterminated village, flower growing from the ruins symbolizes new life, black and blue

Both designs are the work of the academic artist Anna Podzemná, they were engraved by Švengsbír and B. Housa, respectively.

The stamps were printed in the Post Printing Office in Prague by the rotary recess print combined with photogravure in sheets of 50. The dimensions of the stamp picture are 23x30 mm.

The stamps are valid in internal and international postal use from June 9, 1962, until further notice.

One First Day Cover was issued with this emission, designed by Anna Podzemná and engraved by J. Goldschmied.

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