

THE CZECHOSLOVAK Specialist

Official publication of the



Czechoslovak Philatelic Society

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EDITORIAL

We understand the annual exhibition in Chicago, Compex 1965, was quite successful. The Czechoslovak section of the Show was staged by collectors of Czechoslovakia in the Chicago area. The section had 80 frames which contained varied material such as the Czechoslovak Scout and Siberian issues, the Hradčany issue, the secret marks of Bohemia-Moravia and numerous frames dealing with provisionals, postage stamps and postage dues. The First Anniversary issue, including essays, proofs, covers and perforation varieties, were presented in six frames.

We were very much interested to note from a letter of Dr. Jakes that the article in our April issue on Czechoslovaks in the United States, which was reprinted from *Filatelie*, contained some misstatements. Upon investigation, Dr. Jakes found that the town name Tabor, Iowa, was named after the biblical mountain and Austerlitz, N. Y., was so named by Senator Van Buren just to spite a colleague who had named a town Waterloo, N. Y. These transpired during the time of Napoleon, when people were taking sides for or against.

The same article contains another error which was brought to our attention by member Keith. The author referred to White Mountain (1649). He must have referred to the Battle of White Mountain which however took place in 1620. It is indeed unusual to state that a person emigrated to another country because of an event which had taken place 41 years before the emigration. But this article has a date of 1661 in parentheses after the name of Heřman as his arrival date to this country.

The executive committee of the Council appointed by the President, having studied the possibilities of locations for the 1966 convention of the Society recommended Washington during SIPEX (scheduled from May 21-30) and we were asked to investigate this. We were assured by the General Chairman that we could meet there and have given him tentative dates of May 28 or 29 in the afternoon for our Convention. The exact date and time will have to be worked out, and we will report on it further when matters will be finalized. Members should plan to attend the International Show, the first one to be held in Washington. We feel it will be a fine Show, especially as it will not be an overwhelmingly large one which may be spectacular but presents a real problem to the viewer.

This issue includes a brief description of WIPA and the experiences of our good friend George Blizil in Europe. We have also heard from Jerry

Verner, who said that there were many collectors from Czechoslovakia present, among whom Kvasnička, Herout and Kracik are members of our Society. Of the 15 collections of Czechoslovakia of special interest to him were the entries of Mahr of West Germany, which contained all the important rarities of the country. The granite paper 4K and 10K (Pošta Československá) shared the limelight in this collection with 50 on 50 overprinted chainbreaker stamp. The offset overprint on the gum of the 6h orange stamp in black was also of interest. In addition Mahr showed 5 frames of Seitzinger proofs. There was an unusual amount of material from the Czech Siberian Legion. Mrňák showed some of the very rare forerunner covers by the Czech Druzina. Mr. and Mrs. Verner spent quite some time with Mr. and Mrs. Fritzsche as well as with Mr. Blizil. Member Kovarik was also on hand.

We do not yet have details regarding the awards received by our foreign members for their Czechoslovak entries and can only report that Jerry Verner received a silver medal, with the felicitations of the judges and we received a silver bronze medal. Our fine Sales Manager Fritzsche received two medals (silver bronze and bronze) but his material was not connected with our specialty.

NEW YORK BRANCH MAY AND JUNE MEETINGS

At the May meeting member Hanish presented a most extraordinary talk with illustrations of his Bohemia-Moravia collection of sheets. We had never before known the type of format used in the printing of some of the issues. This was a most revealing evening full of very active discussion. Members were informed that there was a definite possibility that the Collectors Club will permit us to hold our exhibition on the date requested, November 20th.

Our annual dinner meeting was held at the Pilsner Restaurant where we were treated to a genuine Czech dinner. Dr. Reiner-Deutsch announced that we had received confirmation from the Collectors Club regarding the exhibition date and members were asked to consider the type of material they will wish to exhibit to avoid duplication.

For the purpose of making the dinner even more enjoyable, Dr. Reiner-Deutsch invited Mr. John L. Briggs, Jr., Vice President of the Postal History Society of the Americas, to say a few words about WIPA which he had attended in June. The talk was extremely interesting and everyone was pleased to receive some information about the event.

NEW MEMBERS

- 808 George H. Richardson, 809 Margate, Palos Verdes Estates, Calif. 90275.
- 809 Mrs. Lydia A. Foust, 8987 Woodridge Road, Mentor, Ohio 44060.
- 810 Michael A. Maldony, 38 Utica Road (Edison), Rahway, N. J. 07065.
- 811 Leon Schensnol, Box 353, Sharon, Mass. 02067.
- 812 Robson Lowe, 16 St. James Square, London, SW 1, England.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

- 525 Major Richard S. Steffen, BOADS ancock iFeld, Syracuse, N. Y. 13225.
- 181 Kenneth J. Woodbury, Jr., RFD 2 Fox Road, Putnam, Conn. 06260.
- 704 George Mrzena, 533 E. 83rd St., New York, N. Y. 10025.
- 750 Mrs. Louise Roberts, P. O. Box 1972, Main P. O., Los Angeles, Cal. 90053

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 1966-1967

The Nominating Committee appointed by President Horechny during the first week of May 1965, consisting of Dr. Frank J. Arnold, Chairman; Patrick L. Flynn and Wm. Schoenig, certified the following slate for officers for 1966-1967:

President: Lolly M. Horechny
 Vice President, East: George B. Koplowitz
 Vice President, Central: Mark G. Snow
 Vice President, West: George J. Dolezal
 National Secretary: Frank J. Kcsik
 International Secretary: George A. Blizil
 Treasurer: Joseph Stein
 Editor: Dr. William Reiner-Deutsch
 Councilor, East: Emil J. Michaelson
 Councilor, Central: Melvin F. Klozar
 Councilor, West: John Knollmueller

This issue contains the ballots and members are requested to promptly return those to the National Secretary with their votes. Furthermore, members are requested to place their name and address on the envelope and not to sign their name on the ballot. Ballots must be returned by October 31st.

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The European Scene

By George A. Blizil

I made my first trip abroad last June. My goal was WIPA, with planned visits to Praha, Bonn and Frankfurt/Main. Everything worked out beautifully.

When I arrived in Vienna on June 8th the international stamp exhibition was underway for four days. Rationing of the WIPA set of semi-postals had already started at both exhibition hall post offices. I learned that the two special WIPA aerogrammes were printed in a limited edition (10,000 each) and the two WIPA cards (20,000 each) would also be better postal stationery items. An anticipated attendance of 75,000 for the 10-day show swelled to more than 200,000 paid admissions. The 75,000 exhibition catalogs (programs) disappeared the third day, and a few were being hawked at \$4 and \$5 after that. Original price was less than a dollar. All advance subscriptions for the WIPA stamps were honored, but on-the-spot sales were limited to only 100 sets per day at each post office. At least two values of the set were on sale in major post offices throughout the city. The last two days of the exhibition full WIPA sets were being sold for \$4 (face 88c). Collectors were present from practically every country in the world—except East Germany. F.I.P. now has a problem with its DDR members. Owing to a stupid intervention by East German customs authorities, WIPA catalogs and prospectuses sent to East German participants were confiscated as being of "anti-democratic" character. The natural reaction on the part of WIPA was to bar all East Germans from competing and refuse entry visas to representatives.

The exhibition was too big. There were 4,989 frames of stamps on display, plus many government exhibits. This was much too much to appreciate. It seems that every FIP international committee tries to out-do its predecessor. This is possible in European countries, especially when the government takes on most of the financial burden. Practically all philatelists in Wien were elated to learn the 1966 FIP international would be staged in Washington, D. C., next May. Knowing it would be a more compact show, they were assured of the opportunity of seeing and appreciating most of the entries. At WIPA this was impossible.

My mission to WIPA was to attend the A.I.J.P. (Journalists) and F.I.P. Congresses. It was my pleasure to represent the A.P.S. at these important meetings. It was in Vienna that I had the pleasure of meeting Jerry Verner, well known in our Czech circles, and Jan Mrňák, famed expertizer. Mr. Mrňák expertized some Siberian Polni Pošta items for me.

On June 17th I flew from Vienna to Praha in a Russian-made jet (Czechoslovak Airlines). With the \$4 visa and passport, entrance to the country was simple and cordial. Čedok made hotel reservations for me at a neat and modest hotel in the old city, only three blocks from the Old Town Hall and its Orloj, and the Old Powder Tower. The last new hotel in Praha was completed in 1938. Room accommodations were at a premium. The city was jammed with visitors for the Spartakiade Games. Most of the tourists were from East Germany, Yugoslavia, Poland and Russia, with a smaller proportion from Cuba, Belgium, Netherlands, England and U.S.A. The tourist rate of exchange is now 16 Kčs per \$1 (citizen rate is 8 Kčs per \$1). Therefore everything is half price for the tourist. However there was not too much attractive merchandise available. It seemed that most Czech artworks and handicrafts are made for export. Even the famous Pilsner beer had Russian labels—made primarily for export to Moscow. There is no shortage of food, but commodities are expensive. Practically all married couples work. They

must in order to live comfortably. One income per family is insufficient. If a youngster comes along, mother is given a six month vacation with pay, then usually goes back to work after arrangements are made for care of the baby. About every fifth store in Praha is a retail bookstore. Naturally most of the material available, supplied by Artia, is communist-flavored.

I had several very pleasant visits with friends. These were people I had corresponded with for years, and now had the opportunity to meet personally. I was honored at a reception by the old Praha group.

The new officers of the Czechoslovak Federation of Stamp Clubs, whom I met at the F.I.P. Congress the week before, were very cordial to me in Praha. They are anxious to please the "west" and eagerly seek cooperation with the A.P.S. and all collectors of Czechoslovak stamps. The next National Stamp Exhibition will be staged in Bratislava in 1966. A large international show is planned for Praha in 1968 (50th anniversary of the country). It will be interesting to see if the new administration can match the efficient magnitude of the PRAGA 1962 effort.

Being a tourist, I visited a few of the city's attractions: The Hradčany, St. Vitus Cathedral, Charles Bridge (walked it twice), Smetana Museum, etc. One cannot appreciate Praha in a week. It takes at least a month.

I was cordially received by Zdeněk Prokop, manager of the philatelic division of Artia (wholesale only). The retail philatelic unit, known as Pofis, is a busy street-level store operated by five female clerks. Most of the material displayed was from Axis countries, including ČSSR. It is surprising how much interest there is in FDCs, cancelled to order sets, and Russia. The popular topical subject is "Space." My! How that cash register sung! There is interest in the new 15 Kčs. silver commemorative coin (handsome) for the 20th anniversary of liberation, but most collectors can't afford this luxury. Many hope to be able to get circulated specimens later on—copies not nicked too badly.

At the National Philatelic Museum (ned Poštovního Muzea) I was welcomed by Karel Adler, the newly appointed director. Eventually the Museum in Praha will contain only stamps of the world—mounted in slide-away wall frames similar to those in the Smithsonian Institution. The display of ancient post coaches, post horns, uniforms, etc., have all been removed. Mr. Adler explained a new "national" museum was being established in central ČSSR. The ancient postal items are to become a section of this new museum. Although many Czechoslovak gems and rarities are contained in the stamp collection, it is surprising how many less valuable items are missing. The balance of the "world collections" is made up basically from confiscated collections and new issues supplied via the U.P.U. In signing the visitors' register, I noted several American signatures, including that of John Velek.

Possibly THE Praha highlight for me was to visit the state stamp printing facility (Technické Ustředí Spoju Praha). We were cordially received by Josef Jordan, plant director, and his assistant Karel Lazna. While sipping coffee in Mr. Jordan's private office, I learned that in the near future a new type of gum would be used on Czech stamps. I was shown die proofs and accepted designs of coming issues. Of course these specimens are closely guarded. The coming John Huss commemorative is taken from a recently discovered likeness of the 15th century reformer. Another super-production (to be released in August or September) is a 5 Kčs miniature pane. This steel engraved, multi-colored, beauty is a reproduction of an Italian painting owned by Praha's National Art Gallery. It will definitely be a candidate for the most beautiful 1965 issue in the world. It is planned to release two or three of these panes per year, each to be a miniature reproduction of one

of the masterpieces in the National Gallery.

In the printery I observed production of Spartakiade commemoratives, saw the huge vault of definitives and commemoratives, witnessed the "cancelled to order" operation (all done by hand), saw the manufacture of FDCs (all done in advance), watched the printing of FDC cachets (on hand presses), and watched the work of the stamp inspectors (women who pull out printing and/or perf irregularities from daily print jobs). Standard size FDC cacheted envelopes are printed for Russia in the same plant. It is amazing how efficient the stamp production effort in Czechoslovakia works out. The building is an old former textile mill. The printing division is constantly being squeezed into smaller quarters in the building. The government now has them in an area which amounts to about 30% of the building—the other part of the building is humming with the production of automobile parts (another state enterprise). Fortunately a new airconditioned printery is under construction next door. It will be completed in about 15 months. I learned that it is Karel Lazna who designs the attractive and ornate postmarks for some of the first day cancellations. When I complained, on behalf of the Czech-American philatelists, that the traditional and plain "Prvni den Vydani" cancel is not too popular, Mr. Lazna replied that he too does not like to see it happen. But inasmuch as he designs the commemorative postmarks in his spare time only, and spare time is at a premium, most new issues get the routine unornamental and unartistic traditional first day cancel. It is just a hobby for Mr. Lazna. I also learned that none of the many stamp designers and engravers are employed by the state. They are merely commissioned, and paid, for their respective efforts. I learned about this when I asked if I could meet Jindra Schmidt, my favorite designer-engraver. Mr. Schmidt is regularly employed as a commercial artist and engraver. Like all the other artists, he does his work at home evenings and Sundays.

I carried letters of introduction (and small mementos) to the two nieces of Dr. Alice Masaryk (Miami, Fla.). One of the ladies was on vacation in Poland, but I had a pleasant visit with Dr. Anna Mararykova, now one of the directors of the National Art Gallery. Although she never visited the U. S., she spoke beautiful English and spoke glowingly of prewar visits and family reunions in the Hradčany.

One of my side trips out of Praha was a 2-day visit in Hradec Kralové (made by bus). This was most rewarding. I spent time with two different long-time correspondents (wonderful people) and got a taste of "provincial" Czechoslovak life in a town of 70,000 located 30 miles from Poland's border. Hradec Kralové is fast becoming an industrial center—new factories (Skoda), new gigantic housing projects, and a brand new city adjacent to old H. K. The visits with these good people, like the visits with wonderful friends in Praha, were all too short.

From Czechoslovakia I flew to Bonn in the Federal Republic, where I was the guest of West German post office department officials. I also received red carpet treatment in Frankfurt/Main. My four days in these two West Germany cities was also very interesting. The German postal museums are tops. Local stamp clubs meet on Sunday mornings, usually twice a month. The craze for never hinged stamps is still on, although now and then collectors will hinge them in their own albums after paying a premium for N.H. condition! Talk about prosperity! West Germany certainly is enjoying it now!

Writing this article made me suddenly realize the full extent of the international bond of philately and the many friends that it makes throughout the world. If stamp collecting does this, then it has accomplished much.

COLLECTIONS FOR SALE

CZECHOSLOVAKIA 273 different unused (228) and used (45) plate numbers and positions, Scott 121/287, B144/P36.

Catalogue value of stamps alone, Scott \$39.73, Michel DM 204

Price \$42.50

CZECHOSLOVAKIA 183 different unused (134) and used (49) plate numbers and positions, Scott 128/286, B144/P36. Same as collection above, but contains fewer varieties.

Catalogue value of stamps alone, Scott \$18.08, Michel DM 86

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CZECHOSLOVAKIA 112 different unused (59) and used (53) plate numbers and positions, Scott 129/282, C18/P35. Same as collection above, but contains fewer varieties.

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Price \$7.50

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Padělky Československých Poštovních Známek

1918-1939

Eng. Jan Karásek, Zdeněk Kvasnička, Břetislav Paulíček

Translated by Jaroslav J. Verner

By permission of the Czechoslovak Theatrical and Literary Agency
Dilia, dated June 3, 1964

Continued

Counterfeit Overprint

(4 K postage stamp, light green, wide size)

1. A crude counterfeit, which differs in all points in the sizes of overprint and letters, shape of letters and so on.
2. The slant of overprint is different.

The second 9 in the date is round, unclipped, which is not known in the genuine overprint plate used on 4 K.

Page 80

Class A Type II

Genuine Type II

(15 h brown red postage stamp. Pofis #38)

Height of overprint: 18.8 mm.

Width of overprint: 27.5 mm.

Height of letters: 4.0 mm.

Angle of overprint: 55 degrees

Genuine

1. Hook above S in POŠTA is of a different shape and is set higher and to the right of the letter axis.
2. Axis of the V cuts the right part of T and the right side of the second 9.
3. The second 9 is clipped.

Subtype IIa

1. and 2. as in type II
3. The second 9 is full and not clipped.

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Class A Type II

Illustration

Genuine Type II

(6 h postage stamp, orange, black overprint, Pofis 35A)

Illustration

Genuine Type II

(10 K postage stamp, light violet, narrow size, Pofis 51 I)

Page 82

Counterfeit Overprint

(Similar to Class A)

Illustration

Counterfeit Overprint

(6 h postage stamp, orange, black overprint)

1. Hook over letter S is different in shape.
2. The word ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ is slightly to the left.
3. The second 9 is clipped.
4. The center bar of the first E in ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ is shorter and wide.

5. The upper part of the K is open.
 6. The space between the letters V and E is narrower.
- The blue overprint on the genuine cheap stamp is often colored over in black.

Illustration

Counterfeit Overprint

(10 K postage stamp, light violet, narrow size)

1. The hook over the S in the word POŠTA is heart-shaped and touches the letter (Similar to genuine type I).
2. The axis of the V touches the left side of the T.
3. The second 9 in the date is full, not clipped.
4. The overprint produced by a single handstamp has a different angle, the letters are not sharp and in places not fully printed.

Page 83

Class B

This overprint has seven different types. Not all types appear on every stamp bearing this class overprint therefore they are divided into three different groups in sequence of numbered types. Counterfeits exist on all denominations.

- a. Types I, II, III (special delivery)
- b. Types I, II (airmail, postage due provisionals except for the 1 h postage due)
- c. Types I, II (postage due provisional)

Class B Group a

(Catalog numbers listed)

Austrian special delivery stamps of 1916, triangles.

2 h brown red, blue overprint

5 h green, greenish black overprint

Class B Group b

Austrian airmail stamps of 1918

1.50/2 K pale violet

2.50/3 K dark yellow

4 K light gray

Austrian postage due stamps of 1916-17 with overprint PORTO and new denominations.

15/2 h violet

10/24 h dark blue

15/36 h violet

20/54 h orange

50/42 h dark brown

Class B Group c

Austrian postage stamps of 1916-17 overprinted PORTO

1 h black gray

Even though all the overprints of Class B are almost identical, it was necessary to adapt them to the various sizes of stamps and for various make-up of overprint plates.

In group a (special delivery triangles) the composition of the overprint plate is not known.

In group b (remainders) the overprint was produced by a 100 stereotype plate including two types. The overprint plate is not known for the 15/2 h denomination. The airmail stamps were overprinted by means of a 15 stereotype plate. In group c, used only for the remainder of the 1 h denomination a 100 stereotype plate was prepared with the overprint at a different angle.

Page 84
Illustrations

Class B Group a

Type I

Genuine

(2 h brown red, special delivery, triangle, Pofis 55)

Height of Overprint: 10.5 mm.

Width of Overprint: 20.5 mm.

Height of Letters: 2.6 mm.

Angle of Overprint: 0 degrees.

Illustration

Genuine

1. Axis of T in the word POŠTA runs between O and V and 1 and second 9.
2. Vertical distance between ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ and 1919 measures 1 mm.
3. In the lower left leg of first K there is a slight nick while in upper portion of the third S there is a deep indentation.
4. Hook over C and dash over A touch the letters.
5. The second 9 in the year date is clipped.

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Class B group a

Type II

Genuine

(2 h brown red, special delivery, triangle, Pofis #55)

Height of Overprint: 10.5 mm.

Width of Overprint: 20.5 mm.

Height of Letters: 2.6 mm.

Angle of Overprint: 0 degrees.

Illustration

Genuine

1. Axis of the T in the word POŠTA touches the left side of the V and 9.
2. Vertical distance between ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ and 1919 is 1.2 mm.
3. K is not deformed and the S is without the indentation. Middle bar of the second E is longer.
4. Hook over C and dash over A touch the letters.
5. The inner area of the letter A is more closed (compared to type III).
6. Second 9 of year date is clipped.
7. There is a small dot between the O and S or POŠTA.

Page 86

Class B Group a

Type III

(5 h green, special delivery, triangle, Pofis #56)

Height of Overprint: 10.5 mm.

Width of Overprint: 20.5 mm.

Height of Letters: 2.6 mm.

Angle of Overprint: 0 degrees.

Illustration

Genuine

1. The axis of the T in the word POŠTA barely goes through the left side of the V and touches the 9.
2. Vertical distance between ČESKOSLOVENSKŠ and 1919 is 0.9 mm.
3. The letter K is without the nick and the letter S lacks the indentation.
4. The hook over C and the dash over the A in ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ touch the letters.
5. The letter A has a larger open area (compared to type II).
6. The second 9 of the date is clipped.

Page 87**Counterfeit Overprint
(Similar to Class B)**

Counterfeit of this class has been known since 1920. The color of the counterfeited overprint is always faint and the letters do not have sharply outlined edges.

Illustration**Counterfeit**

1. Axis of T touches the left side of V and points between 1 and 9.
2. The vertical distance between ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ and 1919 is 1 mm.
3. The nick and the indentation are absent.
4. Hook and dash over S, C and A touch the letters.
5. The second 9 is not clipped.
6. Most of the letters have different shapes and a small dot appears under the second E in ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ.
7. Color of overprint is black (should be green black).

Page 88**Counterfeit Overprint
(Similar to Class B)**

The 5 h Austrian special delivery stamp (Pofis #56) has the original green black overprint color. The counterfeits bear a black overprint which is often smudged and run together.

Illustration**Counterfeit**

1. Axis of the T in the word POŠTA goes through the right side of the V and touches the left side of the 9.
2. Vertical distance between the word ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ and 1919 is 1.6 mm.
3. The nick and indentation are missing.
4. Hook and dash touch the letters.
5. The second 9 in the date is not clipped.
6. Most of the letters have different shapes and are thoroughly smudged.
7. The color of overprint is black (should be green black).

Page 89**Class B Group b****Type I****Genuine**

(20/54 h orange, Porto, Pofis #87)

Height of Overprint: 10.5 mm.

Width of Overprint: 20.5 mm.

Height of Letters: 2.6 mm.

Angle of Overprint: 28 degrees.

Illustration**Genuine**

1. Axis of the T in POŠTA passes through the right side of the O and touches the right side of the second 1.
2. The slight nick is in the lower leg of the K and the upper part of the letter S has a deep indentation.
3. The second 9 of the date is clipped.

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Letter From Prague

By Adolf Hujer

Reprinted from Stamp Lover

Prague was a center of philately as early as the end of the 19th century in the time of the ancient Austro-Hungarian Monarchy and this tradition continued after the creation of a free Czechoslovakia in 1918. But since the end of the World War II a real and strong organization of Czechoslovak philately has been growing incessantly from year to year.

Today Czechoslovak philatelists have their own central organization which will be further improved in the next few months and this United National Central Committee of Czechoslovak Philatelists groups some 45,000 organized members in 1,100 clubs all over the country. But there are many tens of

thousands of philatelists who are probably not organized at all and a considerable number of young stamp collecting enthusiasts who one day in the future may become real philatelists.

This Central Committee, which is closely linked with the Trade Unions, does a lot of important work in all clubs by arranging lectures on selected subjects, lending instructional films and other materials, holding collectors' exhibitions, importing catalogues for member clubs, and so on. Also a free service of experts for all members of clubs is provided by a group of advisers attached to this central organization in Prague.

Next year an International Exhibition MOTIVA will take place in Brno and many other local exhibitions will be organized currently. In 1964 these exhibitions will reach a total of 11. Our members also take part in international exhibitions all over Europe and their collections intended for display go through the channels of this central organization, too.

Every organized member can get on request through his club up to four sets of all emissions of the Czechoslovak Post for their nominal value. If he desires more sets, he can buy them at the Pofis shop at the current market price.

Czechoslovak philatelists naturally collect Czechoslovak stamps primarily. But there is a great interest in collecting foreign stamps, too. Classic collections are very numerous and their standard is often very high, not only in value but also in arrangement. In recent years the number of thematic collections has grown very much, especially among younger collectors.

Among the countries of the greatest interest for Czechoslovak collectors remain—as is already traditional—Austria, Hungary, Germany, but very much solicited are also France, Great Britain, Italy, Soviet Russia, Scandinavia, etc. Especially thematic collectors need these countries very much for their advanced interests. Advanced studies are quite frequent among the older philatelists and the International World Exhibition Praga 1962 demonstrated the high level of Czechoslovak collectors in this field of difficult but worthwhile collecting. Collections of Czechoslovakia, Russia, Austria, Germany—and thematic collections of Polar mail, Zeppelins, etc.—are known all over the Continent.

Our philatelists have their regular organ "Filatelie," published in Prague every second week and spreading the popularity of Czech philately everywhere. Its circulation increased from 15,000 copies in 1959 to 29,000 copies in 1964. It informs not only on classic and special collecting activities but also on popular subjects and on new issues appearing anywhere in the world. From time to time specialist publications appear concerning many specific questions in Czechoslovak and international philately. A few months ago there was an exquisite publication about falsifications of Czechoslovak stamps from 1918 until today which aroused the interest of many experts both here and abroad.

Among Czechoslovak philatelists there is a considerable interest in exchanging postage stamps with British collectors. Contact can be established quite easily and in some cases "Filatelie" will publish free of charge the respective short announcements in some of its numbers. (Letters should be sent to the author of this article at Prague 2, Polská str. 3, who will try to arrange for publication of the respective notice.)

Exchange practice from and to Czechoslovakia, which at present is rather complicated, will be eased and simplified in a few months and so the exchange possibilities for Czechoslovak philatelists, which up to now have been rather restricted, will be promoted to the desired level of easy and swift exchange. We all hope that hereby the links between Czechoslovak and foreign collectors will be strengthened and changed into a lasting friendship.

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