

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Official Monthly Journal of the



Society for Czechoslovak Philately

Silver Bronze Award Praga 1968

Vol. XXXVI

May 1974

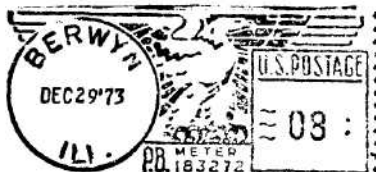
No. 5, Whole No. 341

Berwyn Commemorates 1000th Anniversary See of Prague

1000 let od založení

BISKUPSTVÍ V PRAZE





The year 1973 marked the Millennium of the founding of the See of Prague. On Sunday, December 29th, 1973, the occasion was celebrated by a special Czech mass held at the church of St. Prokop in Chicago. That date also corresponds to the birthday of his Eminence, the late Cardinal Dr. Joseph Beran, Archbishop of Prague.

The philatelic souvenir of the occasion, pictured above, was co-sponsored by the "Domov" Cultural Club of Czechoslovak Catholics and by the Moravian Cultural Society. Mrs. Joseph (Jane) Sterba, Director of our SOCIETY, is an organizer and past president of the latter organization. The presentation sheet, bearing a special postage meter mark reading "973-MILLENNIUM-1973-BISHOPRIC OF PRAGUE" depicts the St. Vitus cathedral of Prague, together with the major Czech-Catholic churches established in the United States between 1854 and 1875. It is printed in black and gold, and its dimensions are 7x10 inches.

The only other philatelic item honoring this event is a set of stamps by the Vatican, described in a previous issue of the SPECIALIST.

The Berwyn postage meter presentation sheets may still be purchased by sending \$1.00 together with a self addressed label and 10c postage stamp to Mrs. Jane Sterba, 6624 Windsor Avenue, Berwyn, Illinois 60402.

A Word from our Circuit Manager—Wolfgang Fritzsche

Box 8, Canandaigua, N. Y. 14424

To date we have processed well over four hundred (400) circuits, at the rate of about twelve (12) per year. To maintain this rate, I occasionally include other than Czechoslovakia—which may not suit some members—though I try to route such circuits past members whom I know collect Czechoslovakia only. But there again, some members do not find anything in "all Czech" circuits with rather good material. So far no one has dropped out because he could not find enough in our books. I have noticed that some do not buy anything for months and then suddenly they hit the jack pot. At one time a member wrote back that one of the books in a circuit should not have been put in it at all. He wrote: "I bet you will not make any sales from that book." When the circuit was retired, that particular book was the only one

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which was 100% sold out. Last year I had to circulate books which had been marked in German marks. I offered the stamps in those books at the rate of 1/5 of the 'marked' price, that is 20c to the German mark; a rather good deal. I still have a batch of books from Austria, marked in Schillings. In order to circulate them I will have to convert the prices to dollars and again the members will get a "good deal."

We still have 4 members who receive the circuits since the time we started the Sales Department; that is over 25 years ago. Two of them get ALL circuits, even though they do not always buy from each. It is overlooked quite often that one can learn from looking over the circuits. It does take quite a while to get experience to SEE at once whether a stamp is "good" or not, whether it is a fake, or a reperforated stamp.

I should like to issue a call for sales books with good saleable stamps, priced reasonably. We have many buyers for high priced stamps but also others who need a low priced one to fill a gap here and there. And what do we need most? Mainly first republic and its specialties and varieties, and postal stationery. We do not need FDC's, which we sell only occasionally, and as a rule not too well. Help us by submitting good material for sale and do not get discouraged when an occasional circuit does not offer anything suitable for your own collection.

CHANGE IN ADDRESSES

- #495 Vladimir Fleischer, USIA, Foreign Service Lounge, 1776 Penna. Ave., N. W., Washington, D. C. 20547
- #830 Thomas Meeks, 101 E. Clark Street, Apt. 16G, Brooklyn, N. Y. 11201
- #330 Joseph Stein, 1110 Petree, Apt. 56, El Cajon, Calif. 92020
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P.S.—Besides Czecho, we have a line of pages for 15 countries and 11 Topics.

Society Welcomes Re-establishment of Chicagoland Branch

The Chicagoland Philatelic Society is about to rejoin the Society for Czechoslovak Philately and we welcome them back as a branch of this organization. Despite some bitter memories which still persist among some of the Chicagoland members, considerable groundwork has been laid since our Society was incorporated last year to erase that bitterness and to provide for a more compatible system of cooperation. Perhaps the most important step in that direction has been the replacement of a somewhat weak and faulty Constitution with a set of Bylaws that should prevent some of the errors and injustices of the past.

All this is now behind us and we can all join hands and work toward a common purpose: to make our Society a focal point for activity in the area of Czechoslovak philately and to bring the merits of Czechoslovak philately before an even greater audience of stamp collectors. We profoundly regret the years of the schism, but we look forward to a future of unity and cooperation among all. Welcome back, Chicagoland!

For the Directors of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately, Inc.
Mirko L. Vondra, President

COMPEX '74 Is Upon Us!

The 1974 Biannual Convention and Exhibit of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately will take place on May 24-26 at Chicago's Hotel La Salle. While it is now too late to submit material for the exhibit, it is NOT too late to plan to participate in the many other activities.

Co-chairman Melvin Klozar and Charley Chesloe are arranging a full program of activities. (For details see April SPECIALIST.)

Up-to-the minute rumor has it that Mrs. Jane Sterba, SCP Board Member, is planning a "native" Czech brunch on Sunday at her home, featuring debrecinky, smoked butt and sauerkraut!! (The Sunday Brunch tradition was established at NAPEX last year, and the idea has proven so popular that we are now planning to observe the 25th anniversary of the establishment of this fine tradition in 1998).

Entertainment at the SOCIETY'S luncheon on Saturday is to include a group of Moravian dancers of Montreal-Expo fame. After that, we understand that there will either be a speaker or a streaker—the Committee is still undecided as to which.

All attendees are requested to "check in" at the SOCIETY'S booth and the exhibit floor where the latest details of planned activities will be available.

SEE YOU AT COMPEX!

From the Editor's Stock Book

Those of you who have given up eating (or even stamps?!) to buy Prof. Roger Richet's book on Sudeten issues mentioned in last month's Stock Book for \$55.50 (plus postage)—RELAX. We are red faced due to several misprints in last month's issue, of which this was one. The price of the book is \$5.50, plus 50c for postage and handling. This comprehensive and profusely illustrated book—in easy French—is an indispensable aid to any serious collector of Sudetenland. You may purchase it by sending a check for \$6.00

made out to the CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST to Richard Gray, 2466 Mildred Drive, Falls Church, Virginia 22042.

Our Editorial Board Member in England, Yvone King, writes about the forthcoming convention of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of GB, which will be held in Worthing (Sussex) on Saturday, May 25th. The event will be commemorated by issuance of a cover bearing a modern design of the Czech Lion and a Czech flag cancel. While we do not as yet know the price, we are arranging to have the covers available through the SPECIALIST. Watch for a further announcement.

Miss King goes on to say: "... One of our members, Paul Jensen (SCP 748) from Oslo wrote me after reading details of our convention in the March SPECIALIST. It is more than likely that he will be in this country at the time of the convention and hopes to visit it. Incidentally, he has relatives living in Worthing. What a small world it is! It is thanks to the SPECIALIST that this has come about."

—H. H.

SCP Expertization Committee Cautions

by Dr. L. V. Fischmeister, Exp. Comm. Chairman
VA Hospital, Augusta, GA 30904

In recent months a prominent member of the SOCIETY purchased a rare (line) perforated copy of 28Kč/1000h Air Mail (Scott C3b) through a New York auction house. The stamp was sent to the Expertization Committee and found to have been re-perforated (from comb to line), probably AFTER the stamp was expertized. The owner was thus advised and attempted to return the stamp to the auction house. The auction house is apparently unaware of the Society's Expertizing Committee, and has asked the injured party to secure an opinion from another source. (Names of the parties may be obtained by writing to the Chairman of the Expertization Committee.)

The Committee has in recent months seen a disturbingly high number of fakes and forgeries, some with forged expertizing marks, offered by reputable dealers and auction houses. Many such less than genuine items are finding their way into circuits of various societies.

It is therefore suggested to members purchasing doubtful stamps that they inform their dealers IN ADVANCE of the existence of the SOCIETY'S Expertization Committee in order that this Committee's opinion may be used as a basis for return of not-genuine items.

Members of the Expertization Committee of the SOCIETY FOR CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELY include: Dr. L. V. Fischmeister (Chairman), Charles Chesloe, Henry Hahn, Joseph Stein, and J. J. Verner. Contact any of the above for submission rules, forms and information.

SECRETARY SIGNALS SOS

Our National Secretary, Ed Lisy informs us that as of this date a number of you have still not paid your 1974 dues. He urges you to send in your dues NOW and thus insure that your name will not be omitted from our membership roster published each September. Dues are to be sent to Dr. Thomas Meeks, Treasurer, 101 E. Clark Street, Apt. 16G, Brooklyn, NY 11201.

Na Kus Řeci

Toto je měsíc Compexu a našich přátel v Chicagu. Všichni se těšíme na tu slávu a doufáme, že tento rok to bude nejlepší a největší výstava československých známek v zahraničí. Přejeme si všichni, aby co největší počet našich členů z jiných států do Chicaga přijel a upevnil nově navázanými přátelstvími sílu našeho spolku. Já osobně doufám, že budu mít příležitost sejít se pokud možno se všemi členy a získat jejich názory, kritiku a návrhy které by přispěly k zlepšení mých článků a tím též zlepšení Specialisty. Vždyť my ten časopis neděláme sebe a Vy, naši čtenáři, nám musíte ukazovat cestu, kterou chcete, abychom šli.

Těším se hlavně na shledání s česky a slovensky mluvícími členy, kterých je v Chicagu tolik. Po Compexu snad budu vědět více, abychom rozhodnutí o pokračování česky psaných článků mohli zvážit se zřetelem k Vaším přáním a názorům.

Jak vidíte z této stránky odvažujeme se do nových, neznámých končin—kreseb. Má-li někdo z našich členů kreslířské nadání, nechte se slyšet, přispějte k vyšší úrovni našeho časopisu! Nápady Vám dáme, práce bude dost a není placená. Tak co můžete ztratit?

Na shledanu ve "Windy City"!!!



SELL - SWAP - WANT

Every member is entitled to one free 15 word ad each year. Word count does not include name and address. Send ad to Wm. Shoenig, 20 Charles Ct., East Patchogue, NY 11772.

Sell or Swap—Complete plating (both plate 1 and 2) of Hradcany 25h blue. O. utvirt, 161 Branford Rd., Rochester, N. Y. 14618.

Wanted—Picture post cards as therapy to help my wife recuperate from heart surgery. Czech or others appreciated. Would swap mint U. S. plate blocks, or purchase. Edward Lisý, 87 Carmita Ave., Rutherford, N. J. 07070.

Sell—Translation of "Padelky Ceskoslovenskych Postovnich Znamek" not illustrated, as published in the Specialist in 18 issues, \$4.50 postpaid. Checks payable to the Society. Wm. Schoenig, 20 Charles Ct., E. Patchogue, N. Y. 11772.



(Advertisement)



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- 5) You'll learn of the characteristic fauna and flora of Central Europe
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- 7) You'll love their motion—like illustrations of the colorful world of sport
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The collection we are selling in this sale comes from Europe. NOTHING WILL BE SOLD UNDER THE MINIMUM BID PRICES.

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1. Scout stamps * -----	3.00
2. Scout stamps, used on piece, signed ----- □ -----	3.00
3. Scout stamps on 2 covers -----	12.00
4. Skalica set of 8 -----	18.00
5. Budejovice set from 3h to 10K used, some on piece -----	10.00
6. Set from 3h to 1K on reg. cover -----	15.00
7. Stani Vlada, I to 1K compl. * -----	9.00
8. Stani Vlada II to 1K compl. * -----	9.00
9. 88 stamps old Austrian cancelled on Cz. territory -----	8.00
10. 48 covers and cards Austrian with Cz. p.m. before 1918 -----	7.00
11. 12 stampless covers with Cz. p.m. -----	21.00
12. Covers and cards, all periods over 350, some duplication -----	21.00
13. 22 folders with special events used -----	10.00
14. 400 special event cancels on pieces, also duplication, some multicolor -----	10.00
15. Hradcany stamps on "postovni ustrizky" ab. 100 (ab 300 stamps) -----	5.00
16. Hradcany with HUNGARIAN used, ab. 50 stamps on pieces -----	5.00
17. Ab. 2000 Hradcany used, nice lot -----	16.00
18. 16 Hradcany covers -----	5.00
19. Ab. 200 Hradcany * and used on album pages -----	5.00
20. Hradcany 10, 20, 30 IMPERF set *, signed -----	30.00
21. 200 waste prints (makulatura) -----	20.00
22. 4 Hradcany sheets -----	7.00
23. 25 Hradcany perf * also some blocks -----	5.00
24. Similar 25 copies used -----	4.00
25. 30h yellow TYPE IV * -----	5.00
26. 30h dark violet imperf * -----	25.00
27. 25h ultramarine * -----	3.00
28. Collection of Czechoslovakia on album pages * and used -----	28.00
29. Similar on pages only * -----	35.00
30. Hradcany 22 blocks all * perf and imperf -----	7.00
31. POSTA 1919. Set from 3h to 10K * -----	55.00
32. Parliament set from 50f to 5K * -----	21.00
33. 60 different Postal all * -----	18.00
34. 3f and 60 filler Turul * -----	12.00
35. 4 inverted overprints -----	8.00
36. Part sheets of Posta 1919 -----	10.00
37. 3 covers with Posta -----	8.00
38. MASARYK 1920 set to 1000h -----	2.00
39. Same imperf -----	11.00
40. Vertical watermark compl 1K to 5K Scott 101 a to D used -----	8.00
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42. Raminko, Scott #102 * -----	20.00
43. 1923 set * -----	3.00
44. Same used -----	3.00
45. Congress * set -----	18.00

46. Same used -----	18.00
47. Slet * set -----	18.00
48. Same used -----	18.00
49. TYRS * set -----	2.00
50. Same in block of 4 * -----	3.00
51. 2K to 5K Tatra WITH watermark * -----	6.00
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53. Holubice and Osv Rep. TETE BECHE set * -----	20.00
54. Same with gutters * -----	20.00
55. AIRMAILS, first set imperf * -----	13.00
56. Same perf * -----	15.00
57. C 7/9 * -----	2.00
58. 6 cards all flown with air stamps -----	6.00
59. S. O. set up to 1000 h plus dues set up to 1000 h * -----	5.00
60. Masaryk set SUPERB * Scott 120 -----	45.00
61. SIBERIA set 13 3/4 -----	1.00
62. Same on cover -----	15.00
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64. Covers and cards all kinds, 28 all together -----	24.00
65. Boh Moravia, first overpr set 1/19 * -----	5.00
66. Same used -----	5.00
67. Very specialized collection with many extras like gutters, etc. on album pages * -----	45.00
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69. Collection on album pages -----	35.00
70. 10 covers and stationery -----	10.00
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77. 100 Osvobozena Republ. sheets 1938 Sc ab 225. * -----	20.00
78. 100 Praga sheets 1938 ** -----	10.00
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80. Cards and covers, duplications about 500 -----	10.00
81. 55 Covers of Boh. Moravia with some compl. sets -----	18.00
81a. 22 different miniature sheets of NY Worlds Fair on album pages, very nice collection -----	28.00
82. 1K Kde Domov Muj sheet, signed * -----	25.00
83. Book about Hradcany stamps, 1965 -----	8.00
84. Remainder of the coll., covers and duplicates in box well worth --	20.00

End of Sale

Send your bids early, Sale ends May 31, 1974

ALFONS STACH

P. O. Box 386, Shenandoah Station

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Charley's Corner

By Charles Chesloe, Box 237, Willow Springs, Ill. 60480



The Error 50(h) on 50(h) Doplatit

The famous 50 on 50 error, Scott J52a, is truly one of the great 20th century rarities and to date only 26 copies were found, and these only in used condition.

During those first years of the Republic, the postal department had to change domestic as well as international rates quite often and this brought about increased need for postage due stamps. This also created a stockpile of certain values which became obsolete when the new postal rates were imposed.

Rather than burning these remainders, the postal authorities decided to surcharge (revalue) these remainders to be used as postage due stamps.

So, in 1927, Scott numbers 68, 69, 88, 89, and 90 of the 1920 "Chainbreaker" issue, often called the "Freedom" issue, were surcharged with the word DOPLATIT (Postage due) and also revalued. This issue carries Scott numbers J51-J56.

Because J52 and J52a are both identical in color and design there is no doubt that one sheet of the 50 heller carmine (Scott #72), was enclosed by mistake with the 20 heller carmine sheets (Scott #68) and while these sheets were being overprinted, the 50 on 50 error was created.

The error was first discovered in October 1928 and caused an instant search all over Europe for this rarity. All errors show the cancellation PRAHA 14 (HOLEŠOVICE) and were used during the first week of January 1928.

The illustration shows this now famous error.

Hoping to see many of you at Compex—please come!

NEW MEMBERS

(All Regular Members)

- #1029 Lynne Priestly, 3524 Kamhi Drive, Shrub Oak, New York 10588
- #1030 Frederick F. Nemecek, 6384 Longridge Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44124
- #1031 Mrs. Noel K. Dobyns, Box 3600, Rt. 1, Florence, Oregon 97439
- #1032 Frank Bardoun, 3877 E. 123rd Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44105
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Stumped On Stamps? ? ?

By Richard Gray, 3466 Mildred Drive, Falls Church, Virginia 22042

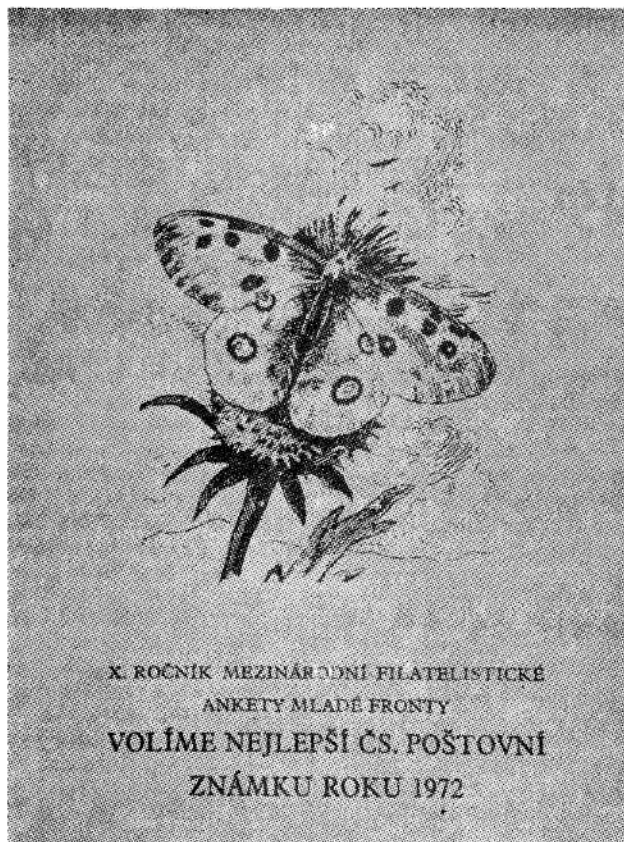


Fig. 1

As promised in the last issue, I will cover in detail the souvenir miniature sheets, issued by the Prague daily Mladá Fronta (Youth Front). The man responsible for the idea of rewarding participants of the yearly poll for the best stamp issued in Czechoslovakia is Mr. Josef P. Krouman from Prague. Everybody, who mails his vote in the poll, with SASE enclosed, receives a philatelic souvenir. The first year of the voting was 1964 for the best stamp issued in 1963. This year is the eleventh running of the poll (1974) for the best stamp issued in 1973. When I describe the sheets (MF for short), I will always note the year of the winning stamp issue. The details of the MF sheets are the same with the exception of the first two years and I will summarize them at the close of the second article.

Let's begin with the latest issue of the MF sheets. The poll took place in 1973 and the voting was for the A) the best original stamp design in the year 1972, and, B) the best artistic transcription of another artist's work in the stamp design.

The winning stamp under A was the 1.60 Kčs value from the series "The Birds." Designed by Mirko Hanak, engraved by B. Housa, this stamp, or part



Fig. 2

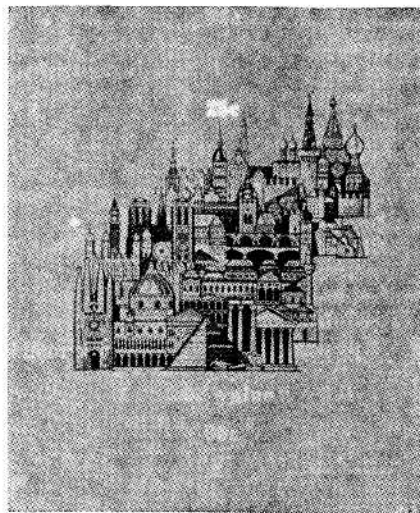


Fig. 3

of it, is not used in the MF sheet. Instead, on the cover, the part of the 1961 30 H stamp from the "Butterflies" set is used. Voting in 1973 included, for the first time, the best FDC. The winning design was FDC for the 1 Kčs stamp "The Bouquet," engraved by Jindra Schmidt, which is the reason for using his former design on the MF sheet cover. It is shown in Fig. 1. Inside the cover is the miniature sheet with the engraving of B. Housa, "Lady with fur hat," from the 1.40 Kčs stamp from the "Art" set. The original artwork was by Václav Hollar in 1645. This sheet is shown in Fig. 2.

In the 1971 poll for the best stamp design won the 1 Kčs "Unesco" stamp commemorating 100 years of the Paris Commune, designed by Josef Liesler and engraved by Jindra Schmidt. The left hand portion of the stamp is used on the miniature sheet numbered 1, as shown in my column in the January issue of the SPECIALIST, page 6. The best engraved transcription was won by the 2.40 Kčs stamp of the "Art" set of 1970, engraved by Ladislav Jirka. The original painting was from Kodex of Vyšehrad created in 1085. The miniature sheet bears number 2 and was shown in the January issue also. The cover itself does not have any engraving that year, just the wording: IX. International Philatelic Poll by Mladá Fronta and We Vote for the Best Czechoslovak Stamp of the Year 1971.

In the 1971 poll, the best 1970 stamp design was the 1 Kčs stamp "25 years of the UN" by Jaroslav Lukavský, engraved by Miloš Ondráček. Part of the engraving is on the miniature sheet, which again bears a remark on the obverse side about the designer and engraver. Fig. 4. The winning stamp in the transcription engraving was the 1.80 Kčs value from the "Art" 1970 set, by Jindra Schmidt from the original painting "Market in Banská Bystrica" 1921. The middle part of the winning stamp is printed on the cover of the sheet, shown in Fig. 3.

**Fig. 4**

The 1970 poll had only one category: The best stamp of the year 1969. The winner was the 3 Kčs value of the "Prague Castle" set, detail from the original mural created in 1511 by 'Artist from Litohérice' on the walls of the

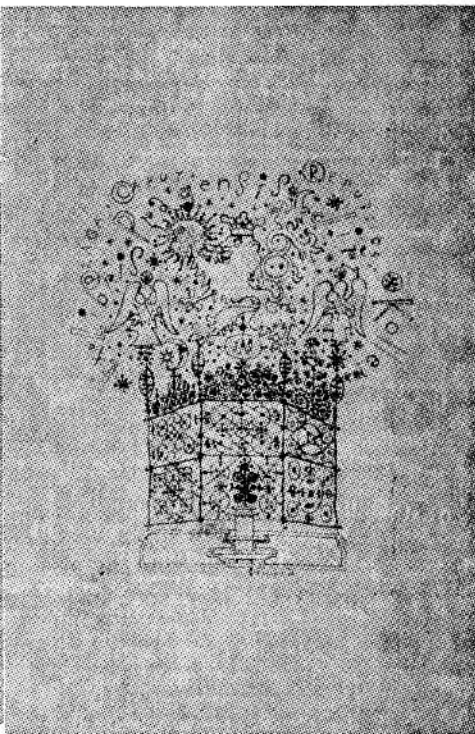
**Fig. 5****Fig. 7**



Fig. 6



Fig. 8

St. Wenceslaus Chapel, engraved by Jindra Schmidt. The cover has the middle part of the stamp and the miniature sheet has the right hand side of the painting. The miniature sheet again has the note printed under the engraving in Czech as seen in Fig. 6. The cover is shown in Fig. 5.

The best stamp in the 1969 poll was the 5 Kčs value from the "Art" set 1968. Jiří Švengsbíř's engraving is a detail from the original painting by Albrecht Dürer "Madonna with Rose Garlands." The miniature sheet bears Jiří Švengsbíř's engraving of Albrecht Dürer's "Selfportrait" and the usual wording as shown in Fig. 8. The cover for this miniature sheet bears an engraving by the same artist, his own "Ex Libris." The fountain is the same used on 60 H value of the "Old Prague" set from 1968, created by the same artist. The cover is shown in Fig. 7.

Next month I will have the photographs of the rest MF sheets and some information about the initiator, Mr. Krouman. See you at Compex!

In January Czechoslovakia released a total of five (5) new issues of which the first, shown below, was issued on January 1st and commemorates the fifth anniversary of the establishment of the Federal Form of Government in Czechoslovakia. Designed by Prof. Milan Hegar, this 30h value incorporates in its design the traditional linden leaves so often repeated in Czech stamps and watermarks.



WANT TO BUY

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