

# THE CZECHOSLOVAK Specialist

Official Monthly Journal of the



Society for Czechoslovak Philately

Silver Bronze Award Praga 1968

Vol. XXXVI

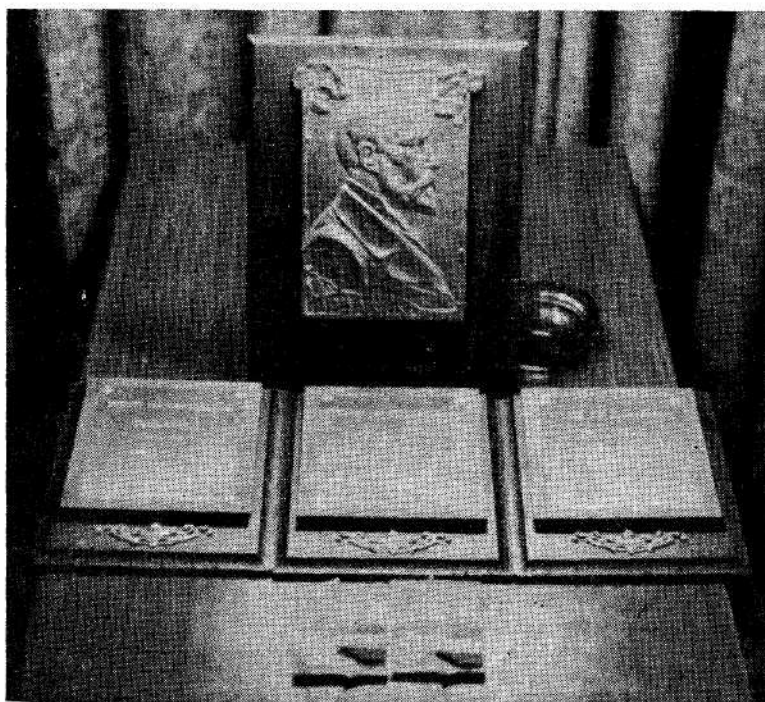
June 1974

No. 6, Whole No. 342

## COMPEX '74 IN REVIEW

by Henry Hahn, Editor

COMPEX 1974 took place in Chicago's La Salle Hotel on Memorial Day weekend (May 24-26). Its principal theme was the 100th Anniversary of the Universal Postal Union. This theme was well supported by the exhibits, the speakers, as well as the many philatelic souvenirs given away or offered for sale.



The Reserve Grand Award, a bronze relief of Czechoslovakia's First President T. G. Masaryk, was made available to the SOCIETY through the generosity of former Society President, Mr. J. J. Janecka, Jr. It is shown here together with the Gold, Silver and Bronze Awards and the Novice and Youth Medals.

Yet two more themes, closer to home, were prevalent to those of us attending the SOCIETY'S numerous philatelic and social happenings. These were the pleasure in having our SOCIETY reunified after more than a decade of rift, and, on a sad note, the absence from our midst of John Velek, Frank Kovarik and Ed Tabor, all of whom passed away since our last convention.

### CZECHOSLOVAKIA EXHIBITS

Twenty-one exhibits totaling one hundred-seventeen frames comprised what by many will be remembered as the finest display of Czechoslovak rarities outside an international show. Where else on this continent have we seen two copies of the "50 on 50" Postage Due, the granite paper 4K "POŠTA," the 1 Kč Nitra and 3.50 Kč Krivoklát gutters, both "PRŮJEZD PRESIDENTA" on cover—just to name a few—all in one regional show. With former Grand Award winners safely tucked away in the "Court of Honor," the 1974 Compex award recipients included a number of new faces, at least as far as SOCIETY shows are concerned.

For the first time, the SOCIETY'S exhibit was opened to Youth Members, and though only one entry was received, it is nevertheless the beginning of the SOCIETY'S bid for more participation by young collectors.

The following table lists recipients of awards presented by the SOCIETY:  
Award — Recipient — Title of Exhibit

- Grand Award (Frank Kovarik Memorial Award) — Dr. James J. Matejka (Chicago, Ill.) — Czechoslovakia: A collection of covers and stamps from the pre-philatelic era to the present, including rarities, oddities, and memorabilia.
- Reserve Grand Award — Charles Chesloe (Willow Springs, Ill.) — "Selected Pages from my Czechoslovakia Collection, 1918-1939"
- Gold — Václav Vaník (Chicago, Ill.) — A Specialized Collection of T. G. Masaryk of 1920 and Czechoslovakia (Selected Pages).
- Silver — C. J. Pearce (Coalgate, Okla.) — Specialized Collection of T. G. Masaryk 1923-38, including plate number varieties, coupons, perforations, watermarks and commemorative cancellations.
- Bronze — A. McMillan (Auckland, New Zealand) — Czechoslovak Field Posts 1918-1945
- Novice — Richard T. Gray (Falls Church, Va.) — History of Poniklá through postmark cancellations
- Youth — Jeffrey S. Hahn (Fairfax, Va.) — What there is to stamps
- Hon. Mention — L. Horechny (Fairhope, Ala.) — Selected pages of T. G. Masaryk
- Hon. Mention — R. Green (Livingston, N. J.) — Selected covers from the pre-stamp period.

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**MATEJKA AND CHESLOE WIN TOP COMPEX AWARDS**



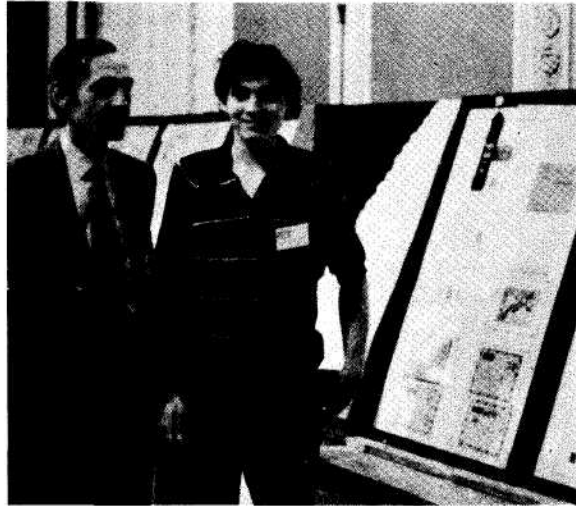
Dr. James J. Matejka, Jr., (left), receiving Grand Award from SOCIETY President Mirko L. Vondra



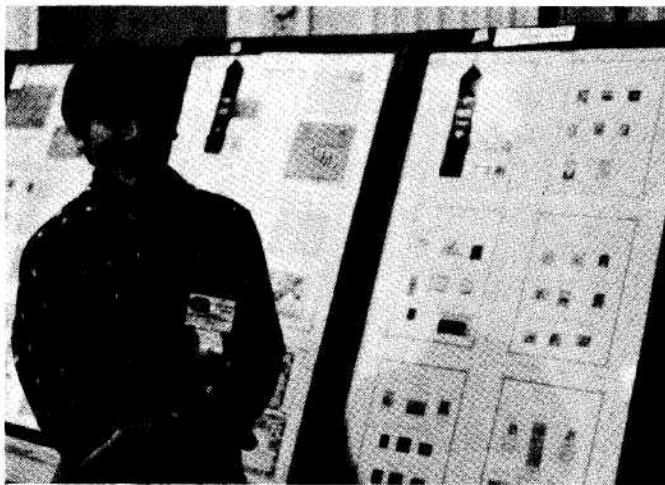
Charles Chesloe (right) being presented Reserve Grand Award by SPECIALIST Editor and COMPEX Judge, Henry Hahn.

The exhibits were judged by a three-man panel of judges including Bernard A. Hennig, L. V. Fischmeister and Henry Hahn. Mr. Joseph Vondrak, designated as judge, was unable to attend the judging and was replaced by alternate judge Dr. L. V. Fischmeister.

The first two Court of Honor frames were devoted to the memory of Frank Kovarik and John Velek. Other participants in the Court of Honor included Messrs. Fischmeister, Matejka, Pearce and Hahn. Participants in the Competitive Section of the exhibit included Messrs. Horechny, Matejka, Stein, Green, Pearce, McMillan, (Mrs.) Sterba, Chesloe, Vanik, Klozar, Janecka, Wyslotsky, Vondra, Gray (Junior), and Hahn (Junior). Exhibits belonging



Novice Award Winner Richard (Ricky) Gray with his Proud Father.



Youth Award Winner Jeff Hahn

to Messrs. Stein and Vondra were not received by the time judging took place and though exhibited, were not included in the competition.

#### COMPEX ACTIVITIES PROVIDE BUSY WEEK-END

Taking the events chronologically, we must begin with the ribbon cutting ceremony at 10:15 Friday morning, which fortunately did not interfere with our frantic efforts (by hosts and guest alike) to get the last few of our 117 frames filled. Thus most of us missed getting televised by both NBC and ABC, both of which gave ample coverage to the affair.



Finishing their luncheon coffee and "buchty," beginning with Dr. Matejka in foreground and proceeding clockwise is Deputy Consul General of the Republic of India (from New York City) Mr. Brij Kumar, Mrs. Matejka, Mrs. Sterba, Mr. Smith, Mr. Sterba, Mr. Janecka, Mr. Kobylka and Mr. Vondra.



SOCIETY President Mirko L. Vondra, addressing COMPEX Banquet.

The opening of the SOCIETY'S table under the able organization of Richard Gray occupied but a few minutes. Membership, souvenirs and more books were placed on sale at COMPEX than at any previous convention. Volunteers, including members of the younger set, manned the booth throughout most of the long weekend. The New Members list, found elsewhere in this issue, tells only part of the story, since new applications are still being re-



Board Member Mrs. Jane Sterba flanked by Society President Mirko Vondra receiving Bronze INDIPEX Award from Consul Kumar of India.



With photographers Hahn & Hahn conspicuously absent from their seats, the rest of the table paused briefly as we aimed our camera. Foreground, going clockwise: Mr. M. F. Klozar, President of the Chicagoland Branch of the SOCIETY, Dr. L. V. Fischmeister, Chairman of Expertizing Committee, Mr. J. J. Janecka, Jr., Director, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Vondrak, Mrs. Jane Sterba, Director, Mr. Joseph Sterba (face not visible), and Mr. J. F. Cerveny.

ceived from those visitors who picked up our free literature and applications.

While most participants spent Friday afternoon browsing among the exhibits and the 52 dealers, the judges were busy judging the competitive section of our SOCIETY show.

The SOCIETY luncheon took place on Saturday. The affair was hosted by Dr. and Mrs. James J. Matejka, Jr., on behalf of the Chicagoland Branch of the SOCIETY, of which Dr. Matejka is Treasurer. Attended by some 30 members and guests, the luncheon was elegant, yet informal, as evidenced by all the missing jackets at one of the tables shown.

Lunch was followed by presentation of awards by the Chairman of Judges, Henry Hahn, who commented upon the high standards and uniqueness of the 1974 COMPEX exhibits, and upon the excellent organization by the host branch under the able exhibition Chairmanship of Charley Chesloe.

An auction of items from the collection of Frank Kovarik followed the award presentation ceremony, with Charley Chesloe acting as auctioneer. Bidding was active and nearly all lots realized excellent prices. The final two lots comprising philatelic literature were purchased by the SOCIETY for its Library.

A meeting of the Director of the SOCIETY occupied the balance of Saturday afternoon. Present at the meeting was a quorum number of Directors including Mr. Vondra (Chairman), Mr. Chesloe, Mrs. Sterba, Mr. Janecka and Mr. Hahn, enabling the board to take action in a number of areas of importance to the SOCIETY. A partial list of these includes new and expanded publication plans, retraction of unfounded accusations made some ten years ago against the (then) Treasurer of the SOCIETY, Mr. Kobylka, retention of the Library in its present form and location, donation of superfluous library material to APRL and offer of the use of the SOCIETY'S Library to the APRL Library on an inter-library loan basis.

Sites for the SOCIETY'S 1975 Exhibit and 1976 Convention and Exhibit were selected. These will be announced pending acceptance by organizers of the shows.

Another highlight of the week-end came with the COMPEX Awards Banquet on Saturday evening, with Col. Harry Hale acting as Master of Ceremonies. A glittering parade of speakers mounted the speakers' rostrum, representing the U. S. Postal Service, U. N. and Canadian Philatelic Agencies as well as heads of participating philatelic organizations. In a brief but moving address, SOCIETY President Mirko L. Vondra recalled the memory of our departed friends, Frank Kovarik and John Velek, calling for a minute of silent prayer.

The guest speaker at the Awards Banquet was the previously mentioned Deputy Consul General of India, Mr. Brij Kumar, whose address dealt with the beginnings of postal service and the present postal system in India. Mr. Kumar also presented awards to Americans won at the INDIPEX exhibit held recently in Delhi, India. Among the proud recipients of awards was our own Jane Sterba, winner of a bronze award and certificate for her showing of International Lions Topical Exhibit.

The presentation of some 14 Grand Awards by the component clubs of COMPEX, including presentation of our own Grand (Kovarik Memorial) Award to Dr. Matejka, would at best have been long and arduous had it not been for Col. Hale's jokes and the fine dinner served in an atmosphere of good fellowship and festivity.

The evening's festivities ended with a cocktail party given in honor of Deputy Consul Brij Kumar by Dr. James J. Matejka. As the night wore on, we noticed the bartenders stirring drinks with 30h Hradcany gutters—but



since the ink and gum are almost insoluble in good alcohol, we didn't taste a thing wrong.

Some of those who made it home the night before also made it to Jane and Joe Sterba's Sunday brunch—a lovely debrecinky-plus affair, easily qualifying as an extension of this fine tradition established in Washington, D. C. last year. It afforded us a bit of stamp trading and stamp talk away from the crowds at the La Salle Hotel. We may not have succeeded in getting everyone out to pose (business was too brisk), but we tried.



Front row, right to left: Jane Sterba, Vaclav Vanik, Melvin Klozar, Lada Fischmeister, Jeff Hahn, Henry Hahn. Second row, H. H. Smith, Charley Chesloe, Richard Gray. Third row: George Kobyłka, Joe Janecka, Mirko Vondra, Henry Samek, and Richard T. Gray. Top row: Mrs. Samek, unidentified Youth Member, and Joseph Sterba.

The welcome provided out-of-towners by the many gracious hosts of the Chicagoland Branch may be unequalled in the SOCIETY'S 35-year history. If the spirit of friendship among people coming from varied backgrounds and great distances can thus come into being through the medium of our hobby, then there may be more to stamps than we imagine.

### 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.

WANTED—Czech stamps to give away to children starting collections, common and C.T.O. appreciated. Mrs. Karleen Sheppard, 13 Hall Lane, St. Paul, MN 55107.

SWAP—Used and mint U. S., Australia and foreign for used or mint Czech. Correspond in English. Jerry A. Kotek, 424 Corbin Rd., York, PA 17403.



## From the Editor's Stock Book

If you have missed the SPECIALIST the first week in June, DON'T blame the mails. What you are reading now is a delayed "June" issue; delayed to bring you news of our Convention at COMPEX. We hope that the 10-year Index/Postal Stationery Catalogue Supplement included with our May issue gave you some extra reading to tide you over.

Those who have read the May issue of the SPA (Soc. of Philatelic Americans) Journal may have noticed a reprint of the recent SPECIALIST articles by Jan Dvořák and Lester A. Behnke on Czech Scout Stamps. S.P.A. Journal Editor, Belmont Faries has been most generous in alerting his readers to our SOCIETY, and we in turn, as a branch of S.P.A., wish to call our members attention to this excellent Society, which places its major emphasis on world (rather than just U. S.) philately. Persons interested in S.P.A. should contact Mr. S. T. Bailey, Exec. Secretary, P. O. Box 42060, Cincinnati, OH 45242.

SPECIALIST mail has been particularly heavy just prior to COMPEX. Youth Member Stephen Page writes from Copenhagen, from whence he will be returning in July. He promises to start writing for the SPECIALISTS—and we shall of course make our pages available to this outstanding young collector.

C. Wackett, Vice Chairman of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain (8, Greenway, Bishops Startford, Hertfordshire) writes of their meeting and exhibition at Worthing on May 25th. The event was marked by a special cover, showing the Czech Lion on the left hand side and the handstamp in the design of the Czech flag. Only 2000 copies were prepared. These may still be ordered from Mr. Wackett by sending \$1.00 which is the cost of 3 covers, including postage.

We wish to call your attention to K-Line's ad announcing the publication of the 1973 supplement to this fine and profusely illustrated album of Czechoslovakia. It is printed on the same heavy paper as previously and punched for insertion in a 3-ring binder. The supplement's first two pages contain an outline of the region's earliest history, including a map showing the routes of Slavic migration. Most thoughtfully, the supplement includes a page for mounting the 1973 Vatican set commemorating the Millennium of the Latin Episcopal See of Prague. The price at \$2.10 is DOWN! from last year's supplement price of \$3.20. (Anyone know of anything else that's down from a year ago?)

K-Line albums make excellent gifts for old and young alike; and a subscription to K-Line's new issue service will take your worry out of missing scarce new items.

COMPEX '74 is now behind us, and so is another 10-month cycle of bringing you the SPECIALIST—my second as editor. To those who ran COMPEX and to those who organized for our participation—our warmest thanks. You have been perfect hosts.

As the summer approaches, I wish to thank the editorial board for making my job relatively easy. I'm much indebted to Mrs. Stollnitz for the comprehensive 10-Year Index, to Bill Schoenig for handling requests for SPECIALIST copies and for his column, to Richard Gray for his research and his two regular features, and to Chuck Collins, Tod Stromquist and Yvone King for their reports. To Charley Chesloe, who never missed a "corner" and to our Managing Editor, Harlan Miller go my special thanks for a job well done. Finally we should like to thank our occasional writers, correspondents and advertisers—and of course our readers for putting up with us. Hope you all have a pleasant summer.

# ERRATA TO SPECIALIST SUBJECT INDEX AND POSTAL STATIONERY CATALOGUE

The following errata have been submitted by the authors

In the instance of the Index, a number of "typos" are being omitted, as they are obvious. However, those presented below are necessary to enable the reader to find materials or to clarify the meaning of an entry. The catalogue errata are, we believe, more nearly complete.

Cover: Change 1963 to 1964 and XXV to XXVI.

- p. 2: Transfer reference, ARMORED TANKS (See TANKS, MILITARY) to its alphabetical place under TOPICS ON STAMPS).  
Delete reference, ARTISTS ON STAMPS (See ART AND ARTISTS).
- p. 4: Under CARPATHO-UKRAINE, change page number after June '66 to p. 105. on same line, change Oct. to Nov. '66. In next entry, after Dec. '68, change page number to 155; preceding May '69 on next line, insert parenthesis after (Map . . . ).
- p. 6: Under COUNTERFEITS, in third entry from bottom of page, change "Entries" to "Entires."
- p. 9: Under CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN, change p. 49 to p. 47.  
Under CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELY, Librarian's Report [Questions and Answers on Czechoslovak Philately] should be enclosed in brackets.
- p. 15: Insert comma between HLINKA ISSUES and SLOVAKIA.
- p. 16: In 9th entry, change "Entries" to "Entires".
- p. 21: After NACHOD . . . 1966, add (Scott 1411).  
After NATIONAL ANTHEM (Scott 200a-201a) insert title: Two Sizes of the Kde Domov Můj Souvenir Sheet, by Ing. V. Hečko and Dr. J. Dykyj. June '68 p. 91.
- p. 22: After NOVOTNY ISSUE, 1958-60, add: (Scott 870-871).
- p. 26: Under POSTMARKS, in second entry, change p. 150 to p. 105.
- p. 29: Under PURKYNE . . . 1937, change second Scott number from 235 to 233.
- p. 30: Under SLOVAK ALPINE CLUB, change Feb. '74 to Feb. '72.
- p. 34: Under TOPICS ON STAMPS, insert before Art and Artists the cross-reference: Armored Tanks (See Tanks, Military).
- pp. 35-36: Before Balloons (top line, p. 35) insert cross-reference: Authors (See Writers); underline Coins, Jewelry, Towers; correct spelling of "Jewlery".  
Change Mar. '66 page entry for Jewelry from 68 to 58.  
After Portraits, change Dec. '66 page entry from 139 to 159.  
After Science and Scientists, change Nov. '74 to Nov. '64.
- p. 37: Under TOWN NAMES, in "Official List . . ." change p. 23 to p. 7 in Jan. '63 entry, and insert after it: Feb. '69 p. 23.
- p. 39: Under WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP IN ARTISTIC GYMNASTICS (1st) change date 1972 (after PRAGUE) to 1965.

## Catalogue of Postal Stationery of Czechoslovakia

- p. 5: Date in heading for Nr. 44A to read od 3.V. do 4.X.1931.
- p. 6: Omit 69a set of eight cards.
- p. 7: Add: 70a set of eight cards 7.50 5.00.
- p. 8: Insert Fig. (25) for Nr. 96.
- p. 8: 97a. Set of sixteen cards.
- p. 10: Add prices to Nr. 99: -.40 -.25.

- p. 12: Change Fig. number for 109 to read 29c.  
Change Fig. number for 110 to read 29b.
- p. 13: Correct 120a to read size d.
- p. 15: Fig. 30m is part of set Nr. 128.  
In heading for Nr. 134 cross out Fig. 30m, the picture for card 134 shows children lined up for teeth inspection.  
Nr. 138 add 2 views.
- p. 19: Headings for Nr. 168 and 169 are reversed: Nr. 168 to read Fig. 38 Praha on stamp. Nr. 169 to read Fig. 37 Bratislava on stamp.
- p. 28: Cross out: PNEUMATIC POST section as it is properly listed and priced on page 29.

**Slovakia**

- p. 2.: Add: POSTAL BILL COLLECTION—SX—  
1940. large double card perforated fold on bottom stamp and text in same color. See Fig. S-X1 on Czechoslovakia page 37.  
C1939. C 1940 in lower left corner  
1. 50h black on gray (shades) 1.50
- p. 1. LEFT COLUMN, cross out bottom line "1.50h olive etc." It should read: 10.50+50h green on buff 1.25 2.50.  
RIGHT COLUMN: Nr. 12 should be 70h brown  
Nr. 13 should be 70+70h brown.

In the words of another red-faced editor explaining a page-full of errata, we wish to quote: "We try to satisfy, in good measure, ALL our readers—even those who enjoy reading our journal just to find mistakes."

---

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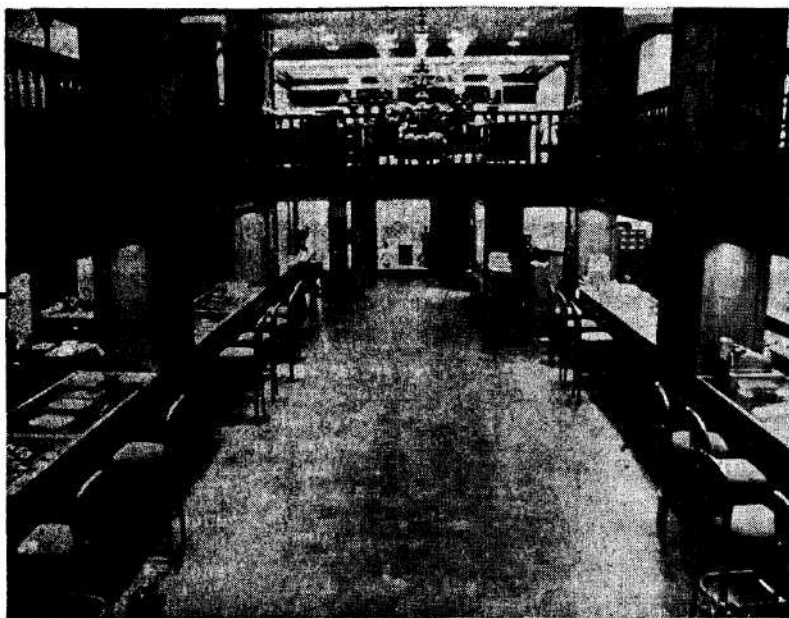
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## ▼ ▼ Na Kus Řeci

Vracel jsem se z Chicaga s velmi smíšenými pocity. Výstava sama byla vysoké úrovně a dočtete se o podrobnostech v reportáži našeho vedoucího redaktora H. Hahna. Poznal jsem mnoho členů našeho spolku, též některé nové, které jsem osobně zapsal a do spolku uvítal. Doufáme všichni, že se jim bude u nás líbiti a že se zapojí aktivně do spolkové činnosti. Vítáme Vás mezi nás!

Pokud se týče Česky psaných článků "Na kus řeči," které jsem z popudu členů výboru našeho spolku začal psát a snažil se zavést, přinesl mi Compex velké zklamání. Nebylo neočekávané, podle došlých, lepe řečeno nedošlých, dopisů se dalo předpokládat, že česky a slovensky mluvící členové nemají opravdu hluboký zájem o tyto články, doufal jsem však v koutku srdce, že v Chicagu se ukáže, že určitý zájem, i když ne všeobecný, existuje a jen odpor k psaní dopisů je důvod k malému ohlasu našich výzev. Práce to byla nevděčná, dělal jsem ji však s láskou, protože myslím, že jsme byli jediní, kteří dnes psali česky o čs. známkách mimo Československo, svobodně a jak se říká jak nám zobák narostl.

Toto je tedy poslední "Na kus řeči". Stále ještě doufám, že jen na čas a že v blízké budoucnosti čtenáři o pokračování. Zatím bych však rád poděkoval všem členům výboru, kteří pro Česky psané články ve Specialistovi hlasovali, za jejich zájem o tento pokus. Také díky všem těm čtenářům, ať již napsali nebo ne, kterým tyto články něco řekly, nebo jen ukrátily chvíli. Nechej udělati neodvolatelnou tečku za vším, snad jen pomlku a proto namísto Sbohem všem Vám bílým čtenářům řeknu: "Možná na shledanou!"

### NEW MEMBERS

(Regular, unless marked otherwise)

- 1034 Mr Thomas M. Tenczar, P. O. Box 3363, Scottsdale, AZ 85257
- 1035 Mr. Mark S. Hross, 1231 Arrowhead Dr. S. W., Dellroy, OH 44620
- 1036 Mrs. Nina Joan Thayer, 2506 E. 5th St., Bloomington, IN 47401
- 1037 Joseph M. Lacko, 1031 N. Chestnut St., Union, NJ 07083
- 1038 Charles Hlava, 11302 Sagecanyon Dr., Houston, TX 77034
- 1039 John M. Jurak, 8105 S. Nashville Ave., Burbank, IL 60459—PATRON
- 1040 Richard A. Dolejs, 3607 W. 26th St., Chicago, IL 60623—PATRON
- 1041 J. R. Johnson, P. O. Box 403, Des Plaines, IL 60018
- 1042 Steven Durkovic, 4545 N. Kenneth, Chicago, IL 60630
- 1043 Keith Stupell, 61 East 57th St., New York, NY 10022
- 1044 Joseph Solomon, 6606 Northumberland St., Pittsburgh, PA 15217
- 1045 Jim Franz, 721 Regent Ct., Gaithersburg, MD 20760
- 1046 Joseph F. Cerveny, 523 So. Brainard, La Grange, IL 60525
- 1047 Joseph Vondrak, 49 Janice Lane, Addison, IL 60101
- 1048 Louis Hanke, 7523 So. Drew Ave., Hinsdale, IL 60521

### NEW ADDRESSES

- 900 Richard Cirka, 4005 West Edna Dr., Grand Island, NB 68801
- 18 Joseph Verba, 519 Kramer Ave., Lombard, IL 60148
- 495 Vladimir Fleischer, 5921 33rd St., N. W., Washington, DC 20015

### RESIGNATION

- 973 Rose Eisner, 205 East 82nd St., New York, NY 10028



(Advertisement)

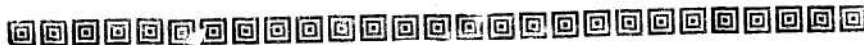


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- 5) You'll learn of the characteristic fauna and flora of Central Europe
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- 7) You'll love their motion—like illustrations of the colorful world of sport
- 8) You'll see why Czechoslovakia has gained international recognition for its advanced techniques of stamp reproduction, harmony of color and outstanding artistry
- 9) They represent the work of their finest artists and engravers
- 10) Czechoslovakia's stamps are neither too large or small—triangular or imperforate—just stamps as stamps should be!

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## Stumped On Stamps? ? ?

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

(continued)

As the best stamp of the year 1967 in the MF 1968 poll, the miniature sheet Scott 1473, Pofis A1613, was chosen by the participants. J. Herčík is the designer as well as the engraver. With the country's name, denomination

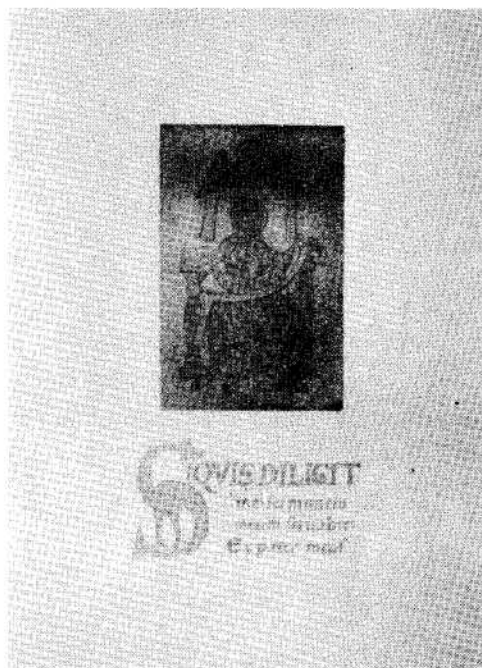


Fig. 1

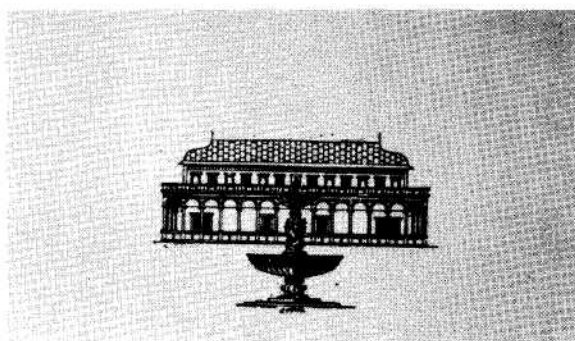


Fig. 2 (top part only)



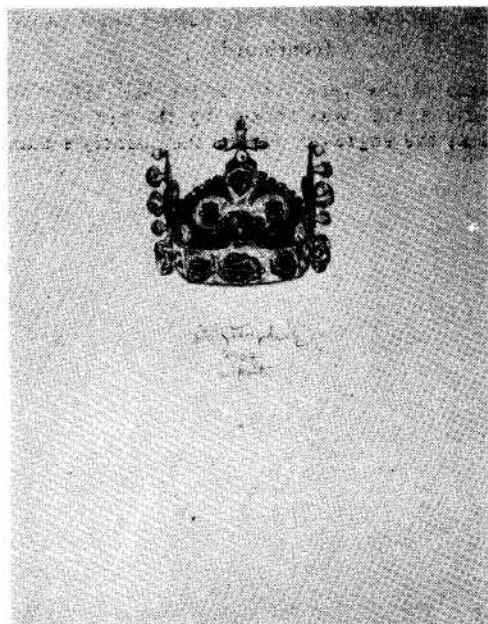


Fig. 3



Fig. 4 (center part only)

and perforation around the stamp omitted, the MF sheet was issued in red and gold, this time with the gum, Fig. 1. The design was adapted from the illuminated Bohemian manuscript from the 11th century. The cover has an engraving by the same artist of the Belvedere, as shown in Fig. 2. On the back of the cover is, in addition to the usual printing notes, the seal of the PRAGA 1968 Stamp Exhibition.

MF Poll in 1967 results established the miniature sheet Scott 1390, Pofis A 1523 as the winner. The designer and also the engraver is Jiří Švengsbir. It depicts the Crown of St. Wenceslaus (Sv. Václav) and orb with sceptre. The MF sheet has the engraving of the crown only, his signature and year 1967 printed in black and attached inside the cover (Fig. 3). The signature is PRINTED, I also saw same MF sheet signed additionally by the artist in pencil. Some entries in recent auction catalogues listed these MF sheets as "Proof in black, signed," so beware! The cover has an engraving by the same artist, which he created for the Scott 426, Pofis 558 stamp, issued in 1950. The back of the cover also has an engraving by J Švengsbir of an old seal of Praha and the MF sheets from the year 1967 are numbered, as shown in Fig. 4 and 5.

The 1966 MF poll rewarded the voters for the first time with the souvenir



Fig 5



Fig. 6

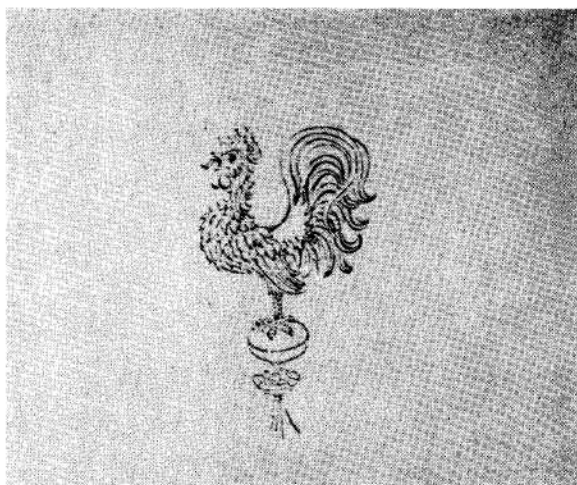


Fig. 7 (top part only)

sheet in cover, for choosing as the best stamp for the year 1965, the miniature sheet Scott 1336, Pofis A 1466, the graphical transcription of "Young Woman at her Toilette" by Titian. The transcription and engraving was done by Jiří Švengsbir and the MF sheet is the printing of the slightly enlarged original engraving, without the lettering, in black (Fig. 6). The MF min. sheet is attached to the inside of the cover, which has an unsigned engraving of a rooster on the front (Fig. 7) and the usual printing notes and numbering on the back.

The polls in 1965 and 1964, conducted to select the best stamps in 1964 and 1963 resp., offered to the participants as an incentive a "philatelic souvenir" in the form of small cardboard, with the original winning stamp affixed and cancelled with a cancel, made specifically for this purpose. I did not see them, or have more information about them.

After the publication of the two photographs of MF 1972 sheets, with my request for more information, I received a letter from Prague, from Mr. J. P. Krouman. This letter contains some information which I would like to pass on. Mr. Krouman states that he is the "spiritual father" of the MF poll. He explained the first two years as I described them. The number of the MF sheets, given by him, is 5000 ten years ago and about 16,000 in the 1973 poll. He did not elaborate if this was the number distributed to the participants, or the total printing. It seems to me that it is very low and not the total printing. The first three years the MF sheets were numbered in order by hand (1963-65), the following years by the counting printer of the printing press. It does not agree with the MF sheets in my possession, year 1965 having already the numbering done by the machine. He also stated in his letter, that if interested in more particulars, he would provide them, including photo reproductions. I mailed him a letter containing many questions, but to date have not received any answer. Perhaps the letter was lost. In any case, if Mr. Krouman will read this and write to me, I will supplement this article in the future.

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