

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

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A.P.S. Unit 18

S.P.A. Branch 284

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Society Issues Official Cachet Envelope to Honor American Revolution Bicentennial at Interphil '76

To publicize the SOCIETY's participation in Interphil '76 and to provide a significant souvenir for its members and friends, the SOCIETY FOR CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELY has issued its first official cachet. Designed by artist-member Olech W. Wyslotsky of East Orange, New Jersey, the illustration (reproduced here in black and white) is in color and captures the spirit of our Bicentennial as symbolized by Liberty.

It is hoped that every member unable to attend INTERPHIL '76 will nevertheless participate with us through the purchase of this cachet. It is further hoped that our members will send this lovely souvenir to their philatelic friends throughout the world, bearing the message of Liberty, INTERPHIL and our SOCIETY.

Appropriately franked and postmarked at INTERPHIL, the sales price at the show will be \$1.00 each. Advance mail orders must be received by May 28th. The mail order price is three (3) for \$2.00. (Sorry, no discount on singles). Please include a stamped, self addressed #10 envelope or addressed label if you prefer direct mailing from INTERPHIL '76. Checks or money orders should be issued to order of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately, Inc.

Don't forget your friends (or yourself) and send your order NOW to:

Mr. Richard M. Major, P. O. Box 4074, Arlington, Virginia 22204

JUNE ISSUE

Our next issue, the June 1976 issue, will be delayed a few weeks so as to include news about INTERPHIL.



The Modern Day Hradčany?

By Jeffrey T. Browne, SCP

Are you getting tired of searching for the stamp to fill the gap in your collection of Hradčany stamps? Do you worry that the Hradčany rarity that you just bought may be a fake? Are spiraling costs for Hradčany varieties pricing you out of a good collection? If so, perhaps it is time for a change. The two sets of stamps and one souvenir sheet issued in Košice, Czechoslovakia in 1945 offer the collector the advantages of Hradčany specialization as well as a few of the disadvantages.

Like the Hradčany issues, the Košice issues were produced while Czechoslovakia was undergoing the after effects of war and the tremendous economic upheaval that is an inevitable result of war. There was a shortage of everything, from food for the dislocated people to the tools of the printer's trade.

It was in this atmosphere that a small group of printers with limited experience in the art of manufacturing stamps, designed and printed the Košice issues. It would not be surprising under these circumstances to find color varieties, plate varieties, paper varieties, gum varieties and printing varieties, which is indeed the case. What is surprising is the virtual lack of "errors" in the Košice issues. The many varieties that do occur in the Košice issues are a product of the inexperience of the printers and the scarcity of printing materials.

The first set, Scott #307-9, commemorates the Red Army soldiers who pushed the Germans out of Czechoslovakia. The three values were each printed in panes of 240 stamps. The pane was bisected by cross gutters so that two blocks of a hundred each (10x10) and two blocks of twenty each (10x2) were formed. This odd layout resulted from the printer's desire to use the available space on the printing machine by centering the pane in the middle of the plate. The uneven size of the blocks reflected the printer's belief that the smaller blocks would be sufficient for the many towns of Czechoslovakia while the larger towns and cities could utilize the blocks of a hundred. They did not realize that from the accounting standpoint, four blocks of fifty would have been much easier to manage. Unfortunately, the printers did not discover this mistake until it was too late. The die was cast, so to speak.

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The printers used the lithograph process of printing which was unusual for the time period. Most printers utilized either the engraving process or the photogravure method to make the master plates.

While the pane was designed to be imperforate, the printers originally intended for the pane to be cut in half on the horizontal gutter at the printing shop in order to ease the problem of shipment of the sheets. With this in mind, the printers put two plate block numbers on the plate—one in the lower left hand corner of the pane and another in the lower left hand corner of what would have become the right sheet. Both plate numbers were the same, "A1". Experience showed that it was much easier to ship the entire pane to the larger post offices who in turn distributed smaller quantities to the branch offices they serviced. The printers attempted to remove the second plate number in the middle, presumably to avoid confusion, on the 5K and 6K values, but they left the second plate number on the 2K value untouched. Remnants of the second plate number can still be seen on the 6K value, while the second plate number on the 5K was almost obliterated.

Due to shortage of ink, paper and glue, the printers were unable to maintain consistency in the printing phase of the operation. Each value has four distinct color varieties, two paper varieties (yellow and white) and two types of glue (yellow and white). To be complete for any given stamp one would need sixteen different copies of it!

Every value has four major types. Any block of four will carry every one of the major types. I will detail these in my next article on this subject.

In addition to the major types, it is possible to locate many stamps as to their exact position on the pane because of unique characteristics. Due in part to the inexperience of the printers and the inherent problem of using the lithographic process, almost every stamp is identifiable—at least theoretically. The lithographic process also has a tendency to produce an unusually large number of printing varieties, which are often more apparent than the plate variety that identifies the stamp. The real difficulty in identifying individual stamps is the lack of information about this issue (a feature common to the other Košice set and the souvenir sheet). To my knowledge the only attempt at a comprehensive examination of this issue is a book by Stefan Kassay and Belo Pasztor named *Košické Známky*.^{*} It is written in Slovak but lavishly illustrated by photos of the varieties they have identified. The book also covers the other Košice set and the souvenir sheet. The authors' conclusions are tentative and they admit that the book is only a first crack at an unexplored subject. As the book is the only guide for any of these issues it is a must for any collector who is willing to attempt to break new ground in Czechoslovak philatelic study.

The souvenir sheet, Scott #310, which was issued to commemorate the return of President Beneš in April 1945, includes all three values of the Red Army soldier's head. The sheets were printed fifteen to a pane. Not surprisingly, there are fifteen major varieties of the souvenir sheet.

Within every major variety there are potentially as many as twelve minor varieties, due to the fact that a different plate was used for each of the three colors. The most famous minor variety is the "broken leg" on the emblem of the Czech lion in the 5K stamp. This occurred approximately on one of every 144 souvenir sheets. However, every other variety is equally rare!

Collectors can distinguish the individual stamps of the souvenir sheet from the individual stamps that came from the sheets of 240 by the wavy lines in the background of the souvenir sheet stamps known as gray burelage.

^{*}Available from SOCIETY Library.

Since the souvenir sheet sells for less than half the price of a normal set it is worthwhile to examine individual sets closely.

The second Košice issue, Scott 311-4, commemorated the Soviet-Czechoslovak friendship by depicting clasped hands between the two flags over the map of Czechoslovakia. The stamps were also printed in panes of 240 stamps each, 2x120 (by this time the Košice printers must have worked out a good accounting system) but were spaced such that there was no need for gutters to fill the plate. These stamps were rouletted.

Other than these two distinctions, the second issue was printed in much the same fashion as the first issue was printed. Like the first issue, this issue has its share of color varieties, paper varieties, gum varieties, types and identifying characteristics for practically every stamp. Four distinct colors, two varieties of paper and two types of gum have been discovered.

I will attempt to elaborate on the two Košice issues and souvenir sheet in a future article. In the meantime I hope that every reader will dust off the album in which you have put your long lost sets of the Košice issue and examine them. I would be glad to hear from any of you.

From the President's Stock Book

Since this is our last issue prior to the opening of INTERPHIL '76 (Philadelphia, Penna. Civic Center, May 29-June 6, 1976), a few last minute statistics may yet serve to shake some of our undecided members into coming.

Except for some of the non-philatelic hoopla, INTERPHIL appears to be quite a bargain according to Irving Weinberg, the show's Publicity Chairman. The exhibition will feature 3300 frames (latest count) of the best collections in the world as well as 120 dealer booths and 35 foreign postal administration sales booths. The daily \$2.00 admission cost breaks down to only about 23c an hour for a typical nine hour day. For a cost of about 1c visitors can view 16½ frames (equivalent to 264 pages) of international award-winning collections. Besides the exhibition and bourse, you will be offered some 65 lectures by experts in their field—and these can be attended without paying the \$2.00 admission to the exhibitions.

If you plan to spend one day only, the following statistic might be noteworthy: if you were to devote one minute to each page, you'd need 22 weeks to see the show. If you devoted one minute to each frame, you'd need nearly seven days. Hence, if you are still thinking in terms of one day, allow ½ second per page, or 8¾ seconds per frame! (Anyone caught galloping past our Society member's exhibits will be mercilessly tripped).

Please note:

Due to the resignation in March of Mr. Richard Gray as SPECIALIST Editor, manuscripts, book purchases and other matters pertaining to the SPECIALIST should be temporarily addressed to me. We wish to thank Richard Gray for his labors in this capacity and look forward to his continued service to the SOCIETY as a Director and member of the Expertizing Committee. We hope to announce the appointment of a new Editor in the near future.



SOCIETY SCHEDULE OF INTERPHIL ACTIVITIES

- All SOCIETY activities are scheduled for the second weekend of INTERPHIL.
- June 5th (SATURDAY) 10 a.m.—CIVIC CENTER, Room 222—SEMINAR on "Misconceptions in Czecho Philately." Short presentations by invited members; participation in discussion by all.
- June 5th (SATURDAY) noon to 10 p.m.—Open HOSPITALITY SUITE at the Bellevue Stratford Hotel (Broad and Walnut Streets). Come over for light refreshments and to rest your weary bones. Society literature, books and souvenirs will be available.
- June 5th (SATURDAY) 2:30 p.m.—SOCIETY's HOSPITALITY SUITE, Bellevue Stratford Hotel—Floor AUCTION—by Václav Vaník of lots as catalogued in this issue.
- June 6th (SUNDAY) 9 a.m.—SOCIETY's HOSPITALITY SUITE, Bellevue Stratford—Board Meeting (Directors only). 10:30 a.m.—SOCIETY CONVENTION—open meeting.
- June 6th (SUNDAY) 1 p.m.—SOCIETY LUNCHEON (Alpha Club, 1721 Chestnut Street—a short walk from the Bellevue Stratford). This will be your chance to relax over a sit-down meal and chat with friends. We look forward to welcoming several prominent foreign Czecho collectors. A grand way to wind up a hectic week or weekend. Tickets to the luncheon must be purchased in advance. Space is limited and you are urged to order your tickets NOW. Please send \$10.00 per ticket (checks should be issued to the order of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately) to: Mr. Richard Major, P. O. Box 4074, Arlington, Virginia 22204.

You may combine your order for luncheon tickets with your order for cachet souvenir envelopes (\$1.00 each, 3 for \$2.00).

FOR SALE THROUGH THE SPECIALIST

To purchase any of the books listed below, please send check issued to the CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST to Henry Hahn, 2936 Rosemoor Lane, Fairfax, VA 22030. Be sure to add 70c for postage and insurance for the first book and 40c for each additional book ordered.

1. Monografie vol. 2—1919 to 1923, w/black print (ČERNOTISK) Czech 18.00
2. Monografie vol. 13, part I—Cancellations to 1918 A-O, w/black print (ČERNOTISK) Czech, German notes 14.50
3. Novotný spec. Handbook, to 1968, w/black print (ČERNOTISK) Cz. 18.75
4. Boh.-Moravia Handbook (SCP publication, hard bound) English --- 3.75
5. English-Czech/Czech-English Philatelic Vocabulary 3.25
6. Same, hard bound 4.25
7. R. Richet: The Issues of Sudetenland, profusely illust., French ---- 5.50
8. R. Richet: The Issues and Cancellations of Carpatho-Ukraine and Southern Slovakia, illustrated, French 4.00
9. R. Richet: The Issues of the Czechoslovak Legion in Siberia, illustrated, French 2.00
10. The Birth of Czechoslovakia, collection of historical Allied documents, 1915-1918, Siberian Legion docum., rare photos, English 5.00
11. Translation of "Padelky" (Forgeries), as published in the Specialist, 18 issues, unbound, English 4.50
12. Translation of R. Richet: Carp.-Ukraine (book #8 above), as published in the Specialist, 10 issues, unbound, English 4.00
13. Official List of Town Equivalents (48 pages unbound) 1.00
14. Higgins & Gage '74 ed. of Czechosl. Stat. Cat./10 year Spec. Index 3.00
15. POFIS 1975 Specialized Cat. of Czechoslovakia, Czech 4.50

Chartered Flight to Praga 78?

Mirko L. Vondra, SCP Director

During a meeting of the Society's Board in the summer of 1975, Mrs. Jane Sterba casually mentioned that it might be a good idea to consider organizing a group of Society members and their families for planning an excursion to the International Philatelic Exhibit to be held in Prague in the Summer of 1978.

The idea caught like wildfire. Mrs. Sterba was appointed to head a committee of two to explore what arrangements might be made and what alternatives exist. I was given the honor of serving as her associate on that committee.

Mrs. Sterba and I are exploring various possibilities, but the prospect of chartering a plane for a round trip flight between New York and Prague is uppermost in our minds. Many domestic airlines offer numerous economy excursions. This year, for example, an economy flight to and from Prague can be purchased through one of these airlines for as little as \$495. To reduce the rates on overseas excursions even further, special charter groupings have been authorized by the Civil Aeronautics Board and are operating under such plans as I.T.C., G.I.T. and O.T.C., to mention a few. It is estimated that under one of these plans, a round trip to Prague could be arranged for approximately \$400. We are even looking into what might be available for less than that amount.

Before we can undertake any negotiations, we must have a massive response from our members to a few very important questions. By getting a sampling from each of you as to your attitudes and opinions concerning such a proposed flight, we will have a better idea on how far we can go in planning such a giant undertaking. Naturally, the more people who are willing to sign up for such an excursion, the lower will be the cost and the greater will be our bargaining position in chartering a flight to Prague. Though your responses will serve as a guide, they will not be construed as any sort of commitment.

There are two ways you can mail in your answers. Clip out the questions below and provide your answers next to each one. If you do not wish to mutilate your copy of the Specialist, copy the questions in the order in which they appear or photostat them and then supply your answers next to each. Mail your responses to: Mirko Vondra, 143 Stanmore Place, Westfield, NJ 07090.

Questionnaire

1. As a maximum, how much would you be willing to spend on a round trip flight to Prague? \$350 \$450 \$550
2. How long should the visit be from date of departure to date of return?
 One week Two weeks Three weeks
3. If it is decided that the duration of the trip be different from what you selected, would you still go if the duration were not less than one week and not more than three weeks? Yes No
4. If you signed up for the trip, how many of your family or friends would you take along?
5. Would you prefer to stay with the group at a hotel in Prague under pre-arranged accommodations or would you prefer to make your own arrangements for lodging?
6. Do you have any suggestions to make or conditions to impose?
 If so, specify.

Please send in your answers as soon as possible and certainly by the end of this month. Remember, they are not binding pledges, but merely samples of your opinion to help guide us on our course. When we have compiled them, the results will be published. If they are encouraging, we will pursue the matter further and will report to you periodically through the Specialist on the progress being made. Hopefully by January 1978, the plans should be finalized, and the terms of a charter contract can be drawn. In the meantime, do not be fooled into thinking two years is a long time ahead to be starting the spadework. The months go by fast and there is much to be done. Please cooperate and respond promptly!

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By Joseph Stein, SCP

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 Štefánik, M. R., 208 (291), 217 (302), 252 (346), 293 (413), 296 (421), 300 (426), 300A (428), 302 (416), 325 (417), 1625 (1765)
 Stodola, A., 923 (1059)
 Štúr, L., 358 (482), 757 (894), 1327 (1467), 1410 (1545)
 Štursa, J., 700 (830)
 Sucharda, S., 1362 (1506)
 Suk, J., 806 (943)
 Švabinský, M., 1165 (1300)
 Šverma, J., 376 (504)
 Svoboda, L., 1540 (1677), 1540A (1808), 1541 (1678), 1541A (1809), 1639 (1779)
 Tajovský-Gregor, J., 432 (567), 423 (568)
 Teresková, V. V., 1240 (1376), C58 (C55)
 Tesla, N., 949 (1085)
 Titov, G. S., 1234 (1370)
 Tolstoj, L. N., 631 (764), 632 (765)
 Toman, K., 782 (918)
 Tyl, J. K., 759 (896)
 Tyrš, M., 187 (268), 188 (269), 189 (270), 190 (271), 191 (272)
 Úprka, J., 1040 (1173)
 Urx, E., 1161 (1295)
 Václavek, B., 580 (713)
 Valouch, M., 1103 (1239)
 Vaníček, J., 351 (475), 354 (478)
 Vančura, V., 375 (503)
 Vansová, T., 784 (920)
 Vašátko, A., 278 (393), 286 (401)
 Vojan, E., 626 (759)
 Vrchlický, J., 572 (708)
 Whitman, W., 726 (863)
 Wolker, J., 378 (506), 672 (807)
 Yokoyama, T., 1587 (1727)
 Young, J., 1303 (1436)
 Zpotocký, A., 605 (736), 606 (737), 617 (740), 618 (741), 676 (811), 677 (812), 678 (813), 829 (965), 830 (966), 831 (967)
 Zápotocký, L., 493 (625), 494 (626), 587 (720)
 Závíška, F., 1100 (1236)
 Zechenter, G. K., 874 (1010)
 Zimprich, S., 275 (390), 283 (398)
 Žižka, J., 552 (687), 555 (690)

Postal Stationery Column

By Wolfgang Fritzsche, SCP

Additions to the Czechoslovakia section of the Higgins & Gage catalogue. Continuation of the listings in the September 1975 issue of "The Czechoslovak Specialist" page 111.

Postal Cards

1975. Stamp design: sketch of Bratislava, similar to Nr. 179, sales price 35h, Fig. 42.
#180. 30h blue and red on cream, c.

Envelopes —B—

1974. Stamp design the same as Nr. 35, Fig. B-29, issued for the Congresses of Czech and Slovak philatelists. Cachet at left same as Nr. 35 but diff. legends. Size: n.
36. 3.60 Kčs, blue, purple, red, legends starts II. SJEZD
a. 3.60 Kčs, blue, purple, red, legend starts: II. ZJAZD
1975. Stamp design: the 2.50Zl. Chopin stamp and XXX PLR at left cachet: Polish eagle and 30 let, XXX lat etc. issued for 30 years stamp exhibition in the Polish Peoples Republic. Fig. B-30.
37. 3.60 Kčs, brown and green, n

Airmail —F— (postal cards) a) size 150x105

1975. Stamp design: human head and dissected animal body, heading in upper left: Příležitostná Poštovní Dopisnice, below it a black and red cachet, instead of vertical center dividing line: ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ POŠTA. Fig. F-1.
1. 4.40 Kčs, red and green a.
1975. Stamp design: a red and silver striped ball, at left a red cachet with the Czech lion and the Soviet star, lay-out as in card Nr. 1, for the ČSSR-ZSSR stamp show in Baňská Bystrica, Fig. F-2.
2. 4.40 Kčs, red and silver a.

Airmail —F— (envelopes FB)

1975. Stamp design: UN emblem and diff. cities stylized cachet at lower left: UN building and 30 let OSN, in black and blue. Fig. FB-4. For 30 years UN.
4. 6 Kčs, black, blue and red n.
1975. Stamp design: soldier with gun, red flowers and industrial plant. Cachet at lower left: VARŠAVSKÁ SMLOUVA 1955-1975 for 20 years Warsaw pact. Fig. FB-5
5. 6 Kčs, black and red n.
1975. Stamp design: stylized female head and telephone dial. Cachet at lower left: 2 heads and phone dial, issued to commemorate 50 years automatic phone service. Fig. FB-6
6. 6 Kčs, red and black n.

All envelopes are of the side seam type.

The 3.60 envelopes were sold for 4.10, the 6 Kčs for 6.50 Kčs.

The 4.40 cards and the 6 Kčs envelopes are listed as airmail items because they have stamps which pay for international airmail service.

The Issues, Surcharges, Cancellations and Vignettes of the Sudetenland

(1880-1970)

By Roger Richet, SCP — Translated by Anne Vondra

Note: The original French edition of the book contains some 300 illustrations which greatly enhance the enjoyment and understanding of this unillustrated, serialized translation. Serious students of this topic are urged to purchase the original, paper bound French edition from the SOCIETY. Please see advertisement appearing frequently in the SPECIALIST.

(Continued)

(Picture)

These pairs of different color stamps are rarities much prized by specialists. Although the issue is not recognized officially, it can be evaluated by a very small number of specimens. It is one of the rarest of the Sudeten Liberation issues.

The Aš overprint was also used in the neighboring town of Cheb, although that city had its own Liberation issue utilizing a typographic overprint. (See a later item).

Ústí nad Labem Issues

Ústí nad Labem is a city of 46,000 population, a big industrial center in northwest Bohemia, near the German border. Ústí was the only Sudeten city with TWO Liberation issues, the one regional and the other local, each of which we shall examine in turn:

A) The Regional issue:

To achieve the aim of celebrating the liberation of Ústí, May 9, 1945, and at the same time, commemorate the liberation of the Sudeten towns surrounding it, a special issue was planned which could accomplish both through the omission of any designation of a specific locality.

(Picture)

With this in mind, the German Hitler stamps 705 to 726 were typographically overprinted with a very beautiful little medallion, 8 mm. across, on which is displayed the famous Lion of Bohemia with the double-tufted tail in white relief against a black background.

The high values of the series, 724, 725 and 726, are especially rare because the Germans took with them almost all the stamp stock left at Ústí of these values when they fled before the oncoming American armies, as if the stamps could have had some sort of strategic or economic value to the collapsing Reich!

A very rare 10 pf. red stamp with the overprint inverted exists.

B) The local issue:

The same Hitler series 705 to 726 was used for this local overprint, which consisted of three lines applied by typography in somewhat thick black antique letters "Č.S.R. / 9.5.1945 / Ústí n. L.". This overprint, unique in its dimensions in spite of the large size of the stamps used, is composed of 2 mm 5 letters which were very legible.

(Picture)

This local issue was produced in record time and distributed in two days in the two main post offices of the city. Most of the issue was bought as souvenirs, but the stamps were also used for regular postage, like the regional issue, on mail left at the post offices for franking. Some items even had both the issues on them.

Today, of course, such covers are hard to find, given the circumstances of the turbulent times and the fact that few people who received such mail paid any attention to the envelope it came in.

The Most Issue

Most is a town of 28,000 people in northern Bohemia on the Bělá River, a tributary of the Labe. It is famous for its lignite mines and porcelain manufactures.

The Liberation issue of this city was a typographic overprint in medium blue consisting of two lines, 4 mm. apart, presenting the two words "Pravda / Vítězí", meaning "Truth Prevails". This overprint was lined up from right to left vertically and is composed of thick Roman minuscules 2 mm. in size. The first word measures 18 mm. in length and the second 12 mm. The overprint was applied to the Hitler series in current use, most especially to the small values of 1 pf. to 50 pf., which were most widely used.

(Pictures)

The postal authorities of Most erased the name Brux from the cancellation stamp, thereby turning it into a "mute," as they did in all the liberated towns of the Sudetenland. In order to identify the place of departure on mail they first stamped the envelopes, and later the stamps themselves, with a general-purpose post office stamp giving the name "MOST".

The Two Issues of Cheb

Cheb is a town of 2,800 inhabitants in northwest Bohemia on the Cheb river, the westernmost point of Czechoslovakia and the chief town of Egerland, where the majority of people were German-speaking. It had been annexed at the end of September, 1938, as stipulated in the Munich agreements, but even before the date agreed upon.

The town was liberated at the beginning of May, 1945, by American troops coming in from the west.

There were two Liberation issues at Cheb, both of which are extremely rare and not well known.

First issue:

Right after the liberation of the town and in celebration of that event, the Postmaster had quite a large quantity of Hitler stamps, the 4 pf. dark blue-gray and the 6 pf. violet, overprinted in black typographic letters 3 mm. high, in four lines which read "1 Kč / Č.S.R. / Pravda / Vítězí" and which translates as "1 Crown / Č.S.R. / Truth / Prevails".

The overprinting was entrusted to a local printing establishment, the director of which was Mr. Kasal, who is still an ardent philatelist today and who gave me the details recounted here.

The overall size of the overprint is 14 mm. by 14 mm. The number in each corner at the top of the stamp which gave the German value had to be covered with two little upside-down spades (as found on playing cards) 2 mm. high. Because of the lack of sufficient type characters at the printer, the overprint could only be applied to blocks of twenty stamps at a time.

The lack of type was such that it was not even possible to put together the twenty different compositions for the blocks of twenty, the little "spades" being in especially short supply. Something else had to be found to substitute on the last two stamps on the right edge.

The "heart" symbol was thus chosen, which explains why the two last stamps of the block of twenty had hearts in the overprint, instead of the spades. Of the two types of overprinting, the one utilizing the hearts is, of course, the rarer.

To bring this discussion to a close, we should like to point out that a certain number of the stamps had poorly placed overprints, which is not surprising given the difficulties encountered in trying to apply perfect overprints on small strips of twenty stamps. In this case, a well-entered overprint qualifies as an exceptional philatelic item.

Only 300 of the 4 pf. gray stamps were overprinted and 500 of the 6 pf. violet, which gives some idea of just how rare these items are. There are two color varieties in the 6 pf.—dark violet and purple violet.

The stamps were only sold from May 2 to May 15, 1945 to Czech military personnel and to a dozen Czech public service employees, who received one gray and two violet stamps each.

Stamps of this issue are extremely rare on cover. American authorities concentrating on the march on Mariánské Lázně (Marienbad) and Plzeň were completely unaware of this issue. One known rarity of the issue is a vertical pair of the 4 pf. in which one of the stamps is overprinted and the other is not.

One last point: this Cheb Liberation overprint was used not only in Cheb but also in the surrounding communities, particularly in Plesná.

Second issue:

A completely different issue from the one described above appeared after it, an issue which was very fine in spite of its simplicity. It consisted of the overprinting of two Hitler stamps, the 6 pf. violet and the 12 pf. bright carmine red, with the three letters Č.S.R. above the new values, 0.60 on the violet stamp and 1.30 on the red one.

The three large letters Č.S.R. are 8¼ mm high and all together measure 10¼ mm across. The surcharges are set in gothic characters which the printer happened to have. On the 6 pf. stamp the surcharge is in chestnut brown while the 12 pf. surcharge is in jet black.

(Picture)

This second issue of Cheb is even less known than the first one. Along with the Františkovy Lázně issue, these two Cheb issues are the only ones which included an indication of revaluation.

American Souvenir Issue of Franzensbad

Františkovy Lázně is a small town of 3,500 inhabitants in the extreme northwest section of Bohemia and part of the Cheb district. It is famous for its cold mineral waters containing sulphur and iron and it is not far from Mariánské Lázně.

During the Liberation of 1945 American troops entered Bohemia in the south, freeing along their route Nepomuk, Strakonice, Písek, Sušice, Rokycany, Netolice, Volyně, Vimperk, etc., and entered Františkovy Lázně on April 18, 1945, restoring it to freedom in its turn.

The Americans continued to press their advance and shortly afterwards freed Plzeň and finally Prague itself on May 8, the day the Germans abandoned the fight, but, because of the agreements made at Yalta, the Americans pulled back and left the whole region to Russian forces which were to secure the occupation. The result of this action is the present condition of Czechoslovakia.

On May 26, 1945 to commemorate their advance into Czechoslovakia the Americans produced a souvenir commemorative issue by overprinting the following German stamps:

a) The series honoring the Federation of German Postal Employees (Yvert nos. 805 to 810).

b) Stamp honoring the 1200th anniversary of the founding of Fulda (Yvert no. 790: 12+38 p. brown).

The Františkovy Lázně overprint is typographic, in classic Roman letters, on four lines, the first line giving the value twice and the other three as follows: "U. S. ARMY / Č.S.R. / 18. IV. 1945". It was applied in a shiny American ink which gave an ultraviolet-like fluorescence.

The color of the overprint is different for each value and each stamp received a different value in Czech money. The first three lines measure 20 mm across and the fourth measures 14 mm. The letters used in the first line are 1½ mm high, in the next two, 2 mm and for the last line 1 mm. There were 1,000 copies of the postal series and 1,250 copies of the Fulda stamp. There are no known errors in this issue.

(Picture)

This souvenir issue was not sold to Czech civilians, but was reserved exclusively for the American troops as a souvenir of this campaign. It was not recognized by postal authorities and so cancelled stamps of this issue are almost impossible to find.

The few German dealers who have offered these stamps price them at about 100 DM each. Today they are at a premium as great rarities in spite of the controversial nature of this souvenir issue.

In closing, a similar American issue commemorating the liberation of Plzeň is known, but that properly belongs in Bohemia-Moravia philately, not the Sudetenland.

Gablonz Issue

Jablonec nad Jizerou is a northern Bohemian town of 27,000 population on the Jizera River, the district seat, and renowned for its glassware, porcelain, celluloid, fabrics and its weaving machine manufacture.

The Jablonec issue consisted of a very nice black typographic overprint, applied on a slant of 60°, bearing the legend on two lines; "ČSR (Note: Pictures of stamp show ČSP) / Jablonec n. Jiz." in thin Roman letters, the minuscules 1½ mm high and the capitals (or majuscules) 2 mm high.

(Pictures)

This overprint was applied to all the Hitler stamps which the Jablonec post office had at its disposal, namely, all the small values from 1 pf. to 80 pf.

This overprint with its elegance is one of the least showy of the Sudeten Liberation issues but one of the most remarkable in its delicacy. It is not well known and is one of the rarest because so few were issued.

(To be continued)



(Advertisement)

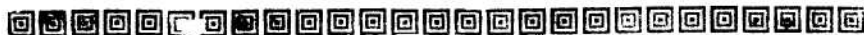


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New Issues

On November 27, 1975, the Federal Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications issued a set of commemoratives entitled "Art on Postage Stamps" comprising the following five (5) stamps:



1 Kčs—May 1975—Zdeněk Sklenář 1910—Academy of Applied Art Prague

Engraved by Josef Herčík

Colors: brownish-black, brown, ground color ochre

1.40 Kčs—Girl in National Costume 1947—Eugen Neven 1914-1967 National Gallery in Prague — Engraved by Jan Mráček

Colors: dark brown, yellow, red, green

1.80 Kčs—Flaming Years IV—Liberation of Prague (1975)—Alena Čermáková 1926—Ministry of Culture of the Czech Socialist Republic

Engraved by Josef Herčík

Colors: black, yellow, red, blue-violet

2.40 Kčs—Fire 1938—Josef Čapek 1887-1945—National Gallery in Prague

Engraved by Miloš Ondráček

Colors: black, yellow, red, brown, blue

3.40 Kčs—Old Town of Prague 1828—Vincenc Morstadt 1802-1875—Prague

Archives — Engraved by Miloš Ondráček

Colors: black, yellow, red, green, blue

The graphic design of each stamp is by the respective engraver.

The stamps were printed at the Post Printing Office in Prague by multi-color flat recess print in sheets of four. The dimensions of the stamp picture are 50x40 mm.

Issued with each stamp is a First Day Cover with cachet presenting a further example of the respective artist's work.

On February 25, 1976 there issued a set of commemoratives entitled

"Memorable Anniversaries of Outstanding Personalities," comprising the following five (5) stamps:



60 h—František Halas—1949

Designed by Jaroslav Lukavský, engraved by Miloš Ondráček

Colors: black, violet, orange, blue

60 h—Wilhelm Pieck 1876-1960—UNESCO

Designed by Cyril Bouda, engraved by Jindra Schmidt

Colors: blue, ochre, grey-blue, yellow

60 h—František Lexa 1876-1960—UNESCO

Designed by Jozef Baláž, engraved by Miloš Ondráček

Colors: brownish-violet, yellow, orange, red

60 h—Jindřich Jindřich 1876-1967—UNESCO

Designed by Milan Hegar, engraved by Bedřich Housa

Colors: blue, blue-green, gold

60 h—Ivan Krasko 1876-1958

Designed by Albín Brunovský, engraved by Josef Herčík

Colors: green, blue, violet, orange

The stamps were printed by rotary recess print combined with multicolor photogravure in sheets of 50. Only the F. Lexa stamp was printed by flat recess print in small sheets of 10 stamps with the emblem of UNESCO in the margin. The dimensions of the stamp design are 23x30 mm. Issued with the set are two FDC's with cachets symbolizing the purpose of the stamps.

On March 22nd there issued a set of three (3) values, 1, 1.40 and 1.60 Kčs entitled "XII. Winter Olympic Games 1976 Innsbruck." Another Olympic set of three (3) values issued the same day—2 Kčs, and two stamps at 3 Kčs—entitled "XXI Summer Olympic Games 1976 Montreal." Yet another issue of the same date is a single, 1 Kčs value entitled "Euro-

pean Table Tennis Championship—50 Years of Organized Czechoslovak Table Tennis." All three sets were printed by rotary recess print combined with photogravure. Each is available on a single FDC.

On April 12th there issued a set of two (2) stamps—30 and 60h—entitled "XV. Congress of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia." The dimensions of the stamps are 23x41 mm

and they were also printed by rotary recess print combined with photogravure. The set is available on a single FDC.



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INTERPHIL '76 MAIL AND FLOOR AUCTION

The SOCIETY'S official INTERPHIL auctioneer, Mr. Václav Vaník, will conduct a floor auction of the lots catalogued below at the SOCIETY'S Hospitality Suite at the Bellevue Stratford Hotel (Broad and Walnut Streets, Philadelphia) starting at 2:30 p.m., on Saturday, June 5th. Mail bids should be sent to Mr. Václav Vaník, 2613 South Ridgeway Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60623 and should be received by him not later than May 27, 1976. All stamps are guaranteed with unlimited time return privilege. All stamps are mint unless otherwise stated. Scott numbers and catalog values are used. "E" means estimated value. All lots go to the highest bidder.

1. 3 stampless covers -----	E. \$45.00
2. 10 diff. mint newspaper provisional labels 1918 period -----	E. 100.00
3. 10 diff used, same -----	E. 150.00
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24. As above with shifted reliefs -----	E. 45.00
25. 2 die proofs in brown on sheetlet -----	E. 45.00
26. As above with shifted reliefs -----	E. 45.00
27. 2 die proofs on sheetlet in dark red -----	E. 45.00
28. As above with shifted reliefs -----	E. 45.00
29. 1-3 perf 11½ on piece -----	E. 70.00
30. Same with diff. cancellations -----	E. 70.00
31. 1st issue—25 diff. printers waste in blocks -----	E. 30.00
32. #2 5h. Tete Beche Gutter (2 stamps) -----	30.00
33. #3 10h. Tete Beche Gutter (2 stamps) -----	35.00
34. As above straight gutter -----	50.00
35. Same with paper fold -----	50.00++
36. #4 20 h. Tete-Beche Gutter (2 stamps) -----	75.00
37. #27 1sh. red imperf gutter pair (2 stamps) -----	E. 500.00
38. #43a 10h. imperf. block -----	70.00
39. As above with wide paper fold -----	70.00++
40. #45a imperf. with wide margin -----	75.00

41. #45A-imperf. with corner paper fold	75.00++
42. As above imperf. pair	150.00
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44. 6 diff. in pairs with count. #s	E. 240.00
45. #47a 3 diff shades	360.00
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72. Same, Type II	25.00
73. B57 Type I	250.00
74. B58 Type I	15.00
75. Same, Type II	15.00
76. B59 Type I	80.00
77. Same, Type II	80.00
78. B60 Type I	75.00
79. Same, Type II	75.00
80. B62	75.00
81. B71 Type I	125.00
82. Same, Type III	125.00
83. Same with perfin G. ST. E	50.00
84. B72	85.00
85. B107	125.00
86. B115-123	170.50
87. Air Mail C1-2 imperf.	38.00
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92. Same with control # (2 overprints)	E. 60.00++
93. C4-6	65.00
94. Same in blocks	260.00
95. C5a	45.00
96. C6ab invert. overprint	175.00++
97. C7B double surcharge	45.00
98. C8a inverted surcharge	65.00
99. C9 blocks Types I and II	E. 50.00
100. C10-17 imperf. pairs	E. 200.00
101. S.O. #3 Horiz pair	50.00
102. 21a	125.00
103. Same perf. 13%	125.00++
104. 24a	225.00
105. 26a with control in margin	275.00++
106. #31-2	150.00
107. Same in blocks	600.00
108. Same in imperf. blocks	1200.00
109. J1a black overprint	50.00
110. E1a-E3a White paper	81.00
111. E1b Vertical gutter	60.00
112. E2B Vertical gutter	60.00
113. S18 block with inverted surcharge	E. 200.00+
114. S48 50/400 horiz. pair	E. 450.00

115.	P18 horiz. gutter pair (4 stamps) -----	E.	150.00
116.	P18 vert. gutter pair -----	E.	150.00
117.	#63 1000h. Masaryk Rose in hair var. -----	E.	12.00
118.	65-91 Black prints (26 stamps) -----	E.	65.00
119.	65-81 imperf. -----		112.00
120.	71B 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ 9 leafs variety -----		70.00
121.	74 10 diff. color proofs -----	E.	40.00
122.	#75 10 diff. color proofs -----	E.	40.00
123.	#75 10 diff. color proofs in horiz. pairs -----	E.	90.00
124.	82-91 imperf. (wide margins) -----		73.00
125.	89a margin copy with selvage -----	45.00	+++
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129.	B124 10 diff. color proofs on stamp paper -----	E.	35.00
130.	B125 same -----	E.	35.00
131.	B126 same -----	E.	35.00
132.	B127 same -----	E.	35.00
133.	B128 same -----	E.	35.00
134.	B129 same -----	E.	35.00
135.	B126 3 diff. die essays—mother and child design (50h. value) -----	E.	90.00
136.	B133-6 All watermark positions (4 sets) -----		54.00
137.	B137-9 Congress, all watermark positions (4 sets) -----		316.00
138.	B140-3 Sokol, all watermark positions (4 sets) -----		282.00
139.	101a pos. 2 margin copy w/ selvage -----		115.00+
140.	101B pos. 2 -----		165.00
141.	101B pos. 1 -----		165.00
142.	101C (superb) pos. 1 -----		400.00+
143.	101C with selvage pos. 4 -----		400.00
144.	102-5 all 4 wmk. pos. (4 sets) -----		358.00
145.	102-5 superb blocks -----		358.00
146.	105a 4 wmk. pos. -----		80.00
147.	105a block -----		80.00
148.	114-122 blocks -----		120.00
149.	123a -----		150.00
150.	124a -----		150.00
151.	123a unwatermarked -----		150.00
152.	124a imperf. vertical pair -----		150.00
153.	126-140 blocks -----		157.00
154.	192a vertical gutter pair (2 stamps) -----		200.00
155.	192a vertical plate 1, 4 stamps -----		200.00+
156.	192a vertical plate 1A, 2 stamps -----		200.00
157.	192a vertical gutter block 8 stamps w/ pl. 1A -----		400.00++
158.	185 full strip of 10 with top ornam. margins -----	E.	80.00
159.	185 full strip of 10 with bottom ornam. margins -----	E.	80.00
160.	187-90 blocks incl. plate #'s on 3 values -----		74.00
161.	Same in diff. shades (no plate #'s) -----		74.00
162.	165-7 blocks w/ pl #1A -----		57.00
163.	195-8 superb blocks with top margins -----		57.00
164.	As above plate blocks 1 -----		57.00+
165.	206-7 with top tabs -----		35.00
166.	202-5 complete with plain tabs, 1, 1A, both left and right— superb, 14 copies -----		50.00+

DIE PROOFS

167.	#149 -----	E.	125.00
168.	#164 on sheetlet in blue—without value -----	E.	90.00
169.	#191 die essay in block—without value -----	E.	70.00
170.	#192 ultramarine -----	E.	160.00
171.	#193 in orig. color—signed Seizinger -----	E.	180.00
172.	#206 in original color -----	E.	150.00
173.	#211 in original color -----	E.	150.00
174.	#221 without value numerals -----	E.	120.00
175.	#226 in green -----	E.	160.00
177.	As above with tab -----	E.	120.00
178.	As above in red -----	E.	100.00
179.	#386 Heinz 1934 engraving in brown -----	E.	120.00
180.	Same in green -----	E.	120.00
181.	Carpatho-Ukraine #1 on reg. cover -----	E.	150.00
182.	B-M complete in blocks 1-19 n.h. Gilbert -----		200.00
183.	20-26 horiz. gutters -----	E.	15.00
184.	Same in block gutters -----	E.	30.00
185.	#13a Se-tenant "Bohnen" -----	E.	45.00
186.	S1-14 horiz. gutters -----	E.	65.00
187.	Theresienstadt, orig. used (Gilbert) -----	E.	100.00
188.	Full sheet of 12 copies imperf. in green on stamp paper --	E.	600.00
189.	Numbered sheet of 4 in block -----	E.	220.00
190.	Slovakia mint complete -----		230.00
191.	#115 hor. gutter (8 stamps) -----	E.	40.00
192.	As above in block gutter -----	E.	80.00
193.	#115 imperf Horiz. gutter (2 stamps) -----	E.	300.00
194.	#23 used—orig. expertized -----		60.00
195.	#292 s/s all 8 types -----		120.00
196.	307-9 vert. gutters (2 stamps) -----		14.00
197.	As above (4 stamps) -----		20.00
198.	As above block gutters (8 stamps) -----		40.00+
199.	307-9 horiz. gutters (2 stamps) -----		68.00
200.	As above (4 stamps) -----		80.00
201.	310 broken leg variety -----		15.00
202.	C19-82 in superb blocks -----		250.00
203.	B156 type II superb -----		10.00
204.	1080s/s/4 -----	E.	75.00
205.	1175 s/s all 12 types -----	E.	25.00
206.	1966-75 complete Prague Art Gallery mini. sheets of 4 (50 sheets)		167.00

LATE ARRIVALS

207.	London exhib. sheet F. D. Canc. -----	E.	30.00
208.	Olomouc provis. horiz pairs -----	E.	25.00
209.	#307-9, 311-14 in blocks -----		33.00
210.	As above in diff. color shades -----		35.00+
211.	200 reg. covers to USA with high value stamps of 1920-31 period	E.	85.00
212.	200 1st issue covers -----	E.	40.00
213.	500 1st issue parcel post clippings -----	E.	45.00
214.	Slovakia 95-102 imperf. Horiz gutter pairs -----	E.	120.00

End of sale

Library Corner

By Jay T. Carrigan, Librarian SCP

12448 Over Ridge Road, Potomac, Maryland 20854

The following books have been added to our Library since our last report in the February 1976 issue of the SPECIALIST.

- 146 Exhibition Catalogue, Brno 1974 "Celostatní Výstava Poštovních Známek" vol. 1, 3 and Program. (Czech)
- 147 Davis, H. C. and Davis, P. R., "A Post-Habsburg Index," 1975, 115 pages (English)
- 148 Jesina, C. (ed.) "The Birth of Czechoslovakia," 1968, 110 pages (English)

We once again wish to thank those of you who have donated books, journals and other items to the SOCIETY's Library. Please note that as of this time your donations are not tax deductible, though they may be so in the future.

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