

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Official Monthly Journal of the



Society for Czechoslovak Philately, Inc.

Silver Award — INTERPHIL '76

A.P.S. Unit 18

S.P.A. Branch 284

Vol. XXXIX

November 1977

No. 9, Whole No. 374

Concentration Camp Parcels Theresienstadt Label Forms

By Henry Hahn

(Reprinted by permission of the Postal History Journal)

Printed forms issued by the Jewish Council of Elders in Prague to potential parcel senders constitute an interesting phase of the postal history of the Theresienstadt parcel mail system.

According to Möbs,* the Czech (Protectorate) Postal Ministry announced on July 5, 1943 that a permit stamp (label) for parcels/packages would be issued on July 10, 1943. Its use was required on mailings from any parts of

Nr. - No.	Von - od	Herrn, Frau, Ptl. Pan, pt, d.
2/1076	Löwy Sidonie Cv/599 Bahnhofstrasse 29/13	Lederer Dr. Max Prag III., Schlesi- sche Str. 109.
Datum 7.7.44.	Theresienstadt Posthauschowitz.	

<p>Begrüßung Zulassungsmarke.</p> <p>Der (die) Obgenannte hat eine Marke für Sie ge- sandt. Wollen Sie diese innerhalb 8 Tagen persönlich in unseren Amtsräumen, Prag V., Josefsstädtergasse 5, Erdgeschoss, gegen Vorlage dieser Vorladung in der Zeit von 9-11.30 und 15-17.30 Uhr befehlen.</p> <p>Altestenrat der Juden in Prag Ausgabestelle von Zulassungsmarken</p>	<p>Von připouštěcí známka.</p> <p>Shore jmenovaný zaslal nám pro Vás známku. Vyzvedněte si ji lask. do 8 dnů osobně v našich úředovnách, Praha V., Josefovská 5, příl. proti předložení této výzvy v době od 9-11.30 a od 15-17.30 hod.</p> <p>Židovská rada stálích v Praze Výdejna připouštěcích známek</p>
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15 VII 1944

Fig. 1. An Admittance Stamp White Colored Form required for Prague senders.

*Möbs, Theodore: "Theresienstadt, Eine Philatellisch Studie," Frankfurt am Main, 1965.

Nr. dls
4/522

AS. Pch
07

Datum
10.5.44

Von-od
Fentl Ida
Add/41
Westgasse 3/612a

Theresienstadt
Postauschowske

Name, Vor- u. Nachname
Fritz, Ida, Friedmann, geb. Loh

Geburtsdatum
18.12.1898

In der Beilage übersenden wir Ihnen für Obgenannten
1. Zulassungsmarke
2. Paket nach Theresienstadt.
3. Karte für das Postpaket, unterschrieben vom Pa-
ketempfänger in Theresienstadt, die nicht auf Zulassungs-
marke zu setzen und welche von der Post nicht be-
nutzt werden darf.
4. In Theresienstadt Bestätigung der Markennummer
ausgegeben und umgehend zurück-
geschickt werden.

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Allerkennst. der Juden in Prag
Židovské název v Praze

Fig. 2. Orange Colored Form for senders residing elsewhere in the Protectorate.

the Protectorate to Theresienstadt inmates. While it was initially intended that the labels would be distributed to the inmates through the Camp Commandant's office, the labels were distributed by the Jewish Council of Elders in Prague on the basis of inmates' applications. Each inmate was entitled to one such application every two months.

The extent to which such forms belong in specialized collections of There-

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Published monthly except July and August — \$7.50 per year

Second Class Postage Paid at Lawrence, Kansas 66044

Office of Publication, 821 Vermont St., Lawrence, Kansas 66044

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913 Spring Road, Elmhurst, Ill. 62106

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P. O. Box 4074, Arlington, Va. 22204

President, H. Hahn, 2936 Rosemoor La., Fairfax, VA 22030

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Postmaster: Send form 3579 to 821 Vermont St., Lawrence, Kans. 66044

Vše na
 Teil 111
 3737
 Hauptstr. 3/100
 Nr. 33 44/1957
 Datum
 V. c. Pripouštěcí známka
 Der (die) Obgenannte hat (hat) seine (ihre) Marke an die ge-
 sandt. Wollen Sie diese innerhalb 4 Tagen persönlich
 im israelischen Konsulat in Prag, No. Josefovská 5, 1. pfl.,
 entgegennehmen. Nach dieser Vorladung ist die
 Zeit von 9-11:30 und 12-17:30 Uhr befristet.
 Shora znenovaný poslal nám pro Vas známku.
 Vyzdvihněte si ji lístky do 4 dnů osobně v našich
 úřadech, číslo V. Josefovská 5, příz., proti
 předložené této výzvě, v době od 9-11:30 a od
 12-17:30 hod.
 Konsulat der Juden in Prag
 Amtsstelle von Judenangelegenheiten
 Židovská rada starších v Praze
 Výdejna připouštěcích známek
 PRAG-PRAHA 1944

Fig. 3. A 1944 Form in a new format correctly franked and postally used.

sienstadt is a question of personal preference. Since the later issues of the forms (probably June 1944 and later issues) were designed for mailings without cover, such franked pieces are particularly desirable documents of that sad but philatelically fascinating period.

Möbs mentions the fact that potential parcel senders residing in Prague received word through the mail that they could obtain the permit label by personally appearing with the form, at the office of the Jewish Council of Elders, Prague V., Josefovská 5, ground floor, between 9 and 11:30 a.m. or 3 and 5:30 p.m.

The forms requiring personal pick-up of the label are on yellowish white, thin and rather porous paper. A second series of forms used concurrently was either pink or (later, in 1945) orange, and were used where the potential parcel sender lived outside Prague, in which instance the mailing label accompanied the form.

Examination of about a dozen pink or orange forms has revealed traces of the labels, which were affixed to the form probably by moistening a corner of the label or selva. Since the stamps were printed in sheets of 25 (5x5), it is likely that 16 edge copies which could contain selva were attached by such margins, and hence could be removed with the label undamaged. On the other hand, nine copies could not have contained selva, and thus account for the many copies with thins, damaged or repaired gum encountered so frequently in unused copies. Nevertheless, numerous pink or orange forms contained no traces of selva or the label, indicating that in some cases the label was merely enclosed or attached very lightly.

There is a difference in the text (German and Czech) in the two types of the forms.

- a) The white form, Fig. 1, for senders residing in Prague reads:
 "Subject: Admittance Stamp

Gratfeld post. 0/745
Seite 10
THERESIENSTADT
Postauschmitt

Nr.-ch. AO 594
Datum d. Poststemp.
Datum post. empfangen

Betreff: Zulassungsmarkte.
Der hier Oben genannte hat eine Marke für Sie gesandt.
Wollen Sie diese innerhalb 8 Tagen persönlich in
unserem Amtsbüro, Prag V. Josefovská 5, abholen.
Ebenfalls, gegen Vorlage dieser Anzeige, ist die Zeit
von 9-11, 3 und 15-17, 30 Uhr befreit.

Vere. Pripoutice známka.
Shora uvedená osoba nám poslal Váš známku.
Vyzvedněte si ji osobně do 8 dnů osobně v našich
úředních, Praha V. Josefovská 5, příjez, proti
předložení této výzvy. Zdobte od 9-11, 30 a od
15-17, 30 hod.

Absienst der Juden in Prag
Ausgabe: Hilfe von Zulassungsmarkten

Jidovská rada starších v Praze
Vydání pripouticích známek

PRAG-PRAHA V.
Stajg. Ivan
by Halant Harok
PRAG-PRAHA VIII.
Beilage 4

Fig. 4. A Form framing the inmates name and address appeared in November 1944

The individual named above has sent us a stamp for you. Kindly pick it up within 8 days in person at our office, Prague V. Josefovská 5, ground floor, upon presentation of this notice, between the hours of 9-11:30 a.m. or 3-5 p.m.

Jewish Council of Elders in Prague
Issuing Office of Admittance Stamps"

b) The orange form, Fig. 2, for senders residing elsewhere in the Protectorate reads:

"Enclosed we are sending you, for the individual named above, 1 admittance stamp for one postal parcel to Theresienstadt. Affix this stamp to the postal parcel. Parcels for Theresienstadt which are not provided with the admittance stamp, will not be forwarded by the post office.

Attached receipt for this stamp is to be signed and returned immediately.

Jewish Council of Elders in Prague
2 Enclosures"

A number of minor changes in both the white and colored forms occurred during the period of their use, which probably extended from the summer of 1943 to liberation in May 1945.

White forms issued in 1943 (form printing date of October, 1943) had the same text as given in a) above, except for the words "within 8 days." Consequently this form was hand stamped in red "This stamp must be picked up within 8 days" both in German and Czech.

The forms printed in the early part of 1944 (April or May) differ not only by having "within 8 days" inserted, but the paper is of an even poorer quality, i.e. more porous and more yellowish. Printings were made at various months of the year, as indicated on the lower left line in Fig. 1 (IV/44) and Fig. 2 (III/44).

Von: Henda Hans 1/83
Bergg. 1a

THERESIENSTADT
Post Beischowitz

Nr. des. AM/72 AS-Pob.

In der Beilage überreichen wir Ihnen für Obgenanntes:

1. Zulassungsmarke
für ein Paket nach Theresienstadt.
Diese Marke ist auf das Postpaket aufzukleben. Pakete, nach Theresienstadt, die nicht mit Zulassungsmarken versehen sind, werden von der Post nicht befördert.
Die beigeschlossene Bestätigung des Markeneinfanges wollen Sie unterschreiben und umgekehrt zurückgeben.
Altestenrat der Juden in Prag

2. Beilage.

F. M. PRAGUE, No. 220

Fosiles Eleonore
1. schau b. Igau Mähren

Detent: 2. Postkorb
Datum post. frank.

1. příloha: Vše zašleme pro oboru poselství.
1. připouštěcí známka
na jeden postovní balík do Terezína.
Tato známka přilepíte na postovní balík. Balíky do Terezína, které nejsou opatřeny příslušnou známku, posta neprosvídí.
Příloha potvrzení o příjmu známky chcete-li přiložit, prosíme.
Židovská rada starostů Prahy

2. příloha.

Fig. 5. This Colored Form, in a format that permitted mailing without an envelope, probably represents the last printing of such items.

Forms printed in the middle of 1944 (June) have the same text, but a different format—apparently designed so as to permit their use as a “folded letter,” thus saving an envelope. A correctly franked and postally used form is illustrated in Fig. 3. The date of the form is moved to the upper left (VI/44).

Yet another minor change in the form occurred in November of that year, i.e. framing of the inmate's name and address. This form is illustrated in Fig. 4.

The colored forms also exhibit a number of variations. An early form printed in October 1943 does not bear the block print legend “Jewish Council of Elders in Prague”—apparently because at least one (and possibly more) district offices of the Council existed (one in Kolin, Bohemia) which applied their own hand stamp. However, forms printed in 1944 (III. 44) as illustrated in Fig. 2 had the block legend, and it may hence be postulated that by then distribution of the forms and labels was made only from Prague. The same change in format to permit mailing without an envelope was later made in the colored forms, as illustrated in Fig. 5. The form illustrated (II 45) was obviously not used postally, but probably represents the last printing.

Returning to the white forms, at least one additional marking may be of interest. That is the toothed oval rubber stamp, superimposed over both the German and Czech text. Its purpose is not clear. However, the marking has not been seen on the colored forms, and white forms of 1943 have the name “Katz” inside the stamped toothed oval, possibly the name of the label-issuing clerk whose rubber stamp shows that the label was issued against the form. The name was apparently removed from the rubber stamp late in 1943 or early in 1944 and not replaced. The color of the marking in the forms examined vary considerably; one issued in 1943 with “Katz” in the oval is light violet, several issued in early 1944 are blue, one issued later in 1944 is red,

another is dark blue, and one issued in January of 1945 is light blue.

The rubber stamped date on the white forms represents the date on which the form was picked up, i.e. within eight (8) days of issuance of the form. This is shown in Fig. 1. This date appears on most, but not all, of the white forms examined. One form examined appears to have been presented nine (9) days after issue—yet still appears to have been honored.

Having examined only a small number of the forms, many other features of interest may have been missed.

It may be concluded that these forms represent a subject equally interesting (if not more so) as the labels themselves. The forms are not postal and their relationship to philately is certainly not a direct one—but neither is that of the labels which did not prepay postage, were not sold or distributed by postal authorities, and were obviously issued by the Nazis to retard rather than facilitate postal service.

ZDENEK KVASNICKA RECIPIENT OF BEN REEVES AWARD



On August 22nd, 1977, Dr. James J. Matejka, Jr., co-founder of COMPEX (Combined Philatelic Exhibition of Chicagoland) presented the Ben Reeves Literature Award to Zdenek Kvasnicka in Prague, Czechoslovakia. The award was presented for the excellent article on the First and Second Airmail Issues of Czechoslovakia which is fully illustrated. The article appeared in the 1977 COMPEX directory of which there are some copies available at \$1.50 ppd.

Zdenek Kvasnicka is an honorary member of our Society and has contributed articles to our Specialist.

On behalf of our Society, your editor extends sincere congratulations.

Members interested in obtaining a COMPEX directory containing Mr. Kvasnicka's article please order from Dr. James J. Matejka, Jr., Suite 2015, 176 West Adams Street, Chicago, Illinois 60603.

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. Schoenig, 20 Charles Ct., East Patchogue, NY 11772.

SELL—Masarykiana, rare covers, postal stationery, souvenir sheets, commemorative postmarks with non-admittance labels. Frank J. Rosner, 3727 4th Ave., North St. Petersburg, Florida 33713.

Editor's Gazette

By Jane Sterba, 6624 Windsor Ave., Berwyn, Ill. 60401

Amphilex-77.

During February of 1977, your editor began to organize ideas and plans to attend Amphilex-77. Upon inquiry of the various large international airline carriers, the figure of \$700.00 PER PERSON, round trip Chicago-Amsterdam, emerged as the financial outlay for this two week excursion. Shopping for a less expensive mode of transportation, other than swimming, resulted in your editor purchasing TWO round trip tickets for \$700.00 from Elkins Travel, a Detroit based group. Martin Airlines fly and utilize DC10's and DC9's. This airline has weekly flights from Chicago and Detroit to Amsterdam. The planes were fairly new and very nice, although the seating capacity in the DC10 was a bit too close and crowded. Service was comparable to the large international carriers and the fare included all meals and alcoholic beverages served during the flight. The inconvenience of the flight was that we had to leave Chicago on May 20th for Amsterdam, 6 days prior to the official opening of the exhibition and it was necessary to leave Amsterdam during the early morning hours, on June the 4th, the day of the palmares banquet. \$\$\$\$ took preference over the palmares. You might like to know that ultimately the scheduled 5 a.m. flight took off at 8 a.m.

In reality, Amphilex-77 began for me on Friday afternoon, May 13th. A phone call interrupted your potatoe-peeling editor's preparation of dinner. Peter A. Wijn, Secretary General of the Amphilex-77 organization committee, was phoning me from Amsterdam to advise me to pick up my invitation to the official opening of the exhibition at the RAI, in Amsterdam, after my arrival there. He had some apprehension that some delay in the mails might result in delaying the delivery of the invitation, prior to my flight. I must admit I was very elated, surprised and happy with his phone call. I have made a



From left, S. Schneider, Senior Counsellor, International Division and Juraj Manak, Premier Vice-Minister, both of Federal Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications of Czechoslovakia together with the Ambassador from The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic to The Netherlands—at reception for Praga-78.

phone call to Great Britain but have never received a phone call from the continent. I was really flying—On to Amphilex-77!

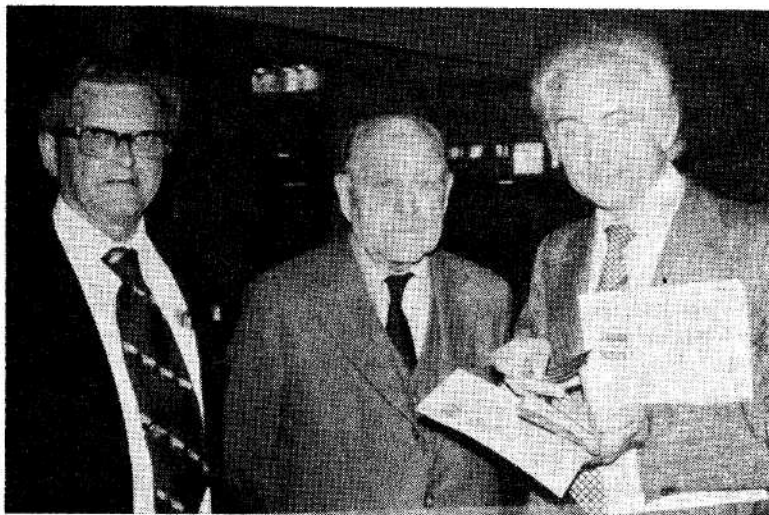
Here are some of the facts and figures concerning Amphilex-77, the international philatelic exhibition held in Amsterdam's RAI Exhibition Centre from Thursday, May 26th thru Sunday, June 5th, 1977.

Amphilex-77 was organized by the Philatelic Foundation, in which the Netherlands Federation of Philatelic Societies and the Netherlands Postal and Telecommunications Services were represented. The Federation Internationale Philatelie extended their patronage to the Netherlands Federation of Philatelic Societies and Amphilex-77. Leon Putz, President of FIP, participated in the opening program. H.R.H. Prince Bernhard, Prince of the Netherlands was Patron of the Exhibition and officially opened Amphilex-77. 120 stamp dealers from the Netherlands and foreign countries, as well as 40 postal administrations were in attendance. The exhibition had over 600 private stamp collectors utilizing approximately 4,600 frames of stamps. On six special days, special cancellations were affixed to cachet covers representing the special events. Amphilex-77 was a success.

Special recognition should be given to the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic for their exhibit in the Official Class.

SCP member, Zdenek Kvasnicka, Prague, Czechoslovakia, was invited to exhibit in the Class of Honour, his very fine collection, Czechoslovakia—1918-1925.

The magnitude of the competitive stamp collections, which could have been viewed at Amphilex-77 was enormous as well as distinctive, as they all were specialized collections. The collections covered so many subjects, periods, and countries, together with so many different phases of philately, it was almost



From the left, Jos. Sterba, U.S.A., Professor Karl Seizinger of Haarlem, Netherlands, together with R. Fischer of Czechoslovakia. The three gentlemen represent three aspects of philately. Prof. Seizinger is the world known engraver, specializing in engraving many postage stamps issued in Czechoslovakia during the First Republic. Mr. Fischer represents the Ministry of Posts while Jos. Sterba is a stamp collector.

impossible to view and study them all. Therefore, with Mr. Sterba assisting me, pointing out his views and some of the fine points of each collection, I studied and concentrated on only the philatelic collections exhibiting Czechoslovakia and related material as well as collections from Czechoslovakia.

J. Brejha, Prague, Czechoslovakia, exhibited a specialized Russian air-mail collection—1917-1918 together with zeppelin and polar exploration covers. Mr. Brejha received a vermeil medal. SCP member, Leo Wijnkamp of Amsterdam exhibited Czechoslovakia 1770-1918. Cancellations of Bohemia-Moravia, with Prague on stamps and covers. Mr. Wijnkamp was the recipient of a silver-bronze medal. Mr. G. van der Velden, of the Netherlands, exhibited his collection of Czechoslovakia, 1790-1918, forerunners Bohemia, Moravia, Austrian Silesia, receiving a bronze medal. Our SCP member Kay F. Goodman of Great Britain, exhibited Czechoslovakia—forerunners, scout post, field post office in Siberia, receiving a silver award. The well known Czechoslovak collector, Max Mahr, from West Germany exhibited his collection, Czechoslovakia, consisting of field post, legion in Siberia—vermeil award. His fellow collecting friend, O. Niehaus of West Germany, also collects and exhibited Czechoslovakia—1918 Hradcany issue, receiving a silver award. G. Hedbom, our own SCP member from Sweden, exhibited his very outstanding collection, Czechoslovakia 1918-1938, which includes material from the First Republic and was honored with a gold medal. SCP member J. Kracik from Switzerland received a vermeil award as well as a special gift-award for his collection of Czechoslovakia, First Republic. J. Gabler of Ceská Trebova, Czechoslovakia, also was awarded a vermeil award for his specialized collection of Czechoslovakia 1918-1930. E. Herout, Jr., exhibited Czechoslovakia, 1945—the 2nd Republic, exhibiting some very interesting printing errors and the hockey overprints, which resulted in his being the recipient of a silver-bronze medal. F. Kettner of Czechoslovakia was another vermeil medal recipient for his collection, Czechoslovakia—1918. A gold medal was awarded to V. Kovar of Czechoslovakia, for his interesting collection of color proofs, Hradcany, overprints of Hungary, the chain-breaker, including an original and forgery of "Kde Domov Muj" on cover. His collection also contained trial proofs of air mail and zeppelin cancellations, and other outstanding philatelic material.



Enjoying an evening at home, as well as the hospitality of SCP member Leo Wijnkamp—J. Sterba, J. Karasek and L. Wijnkamp. Three countries but one hobby—Czechoslovak philately. Živijo—PRAGA-78!

Only one entry relative to Czechoslovak philately was entered in the airmail division. Max Mahr's airmail and zeppelin posts—1930-1945 was awarded a vermeil medal, as well as a special award-gift for this collection.

Thirteen collections representing Czechoslovak philately were entered in Amphilex-77 and all collections were award receiving collections, collecting a total of 2 gold, 6 vermeil, 2 silver, 2 silver-bronze, 1 bronze as well as 2 special gift awards.

Among other award recipients was SCP member Bernard Henning, Chicago, as he received a Large Gold medal for his outstanding collection, Danzig.

On behalf of your editor, officers and members of our Society for Czechoslovak Philately, sincere congratulations and best wishes are extended to you all.

Another "Grand Prix National" highlight of Amphilex-77 was your editor's invitation from the Ambassador of Canada and the Ambassador of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic to attend the reception held at 6 p.m., on Tuesday, May 31, in the RAI Congress Building, Amsterdam.

The reception was held under the co-operation of two countries and was for the forthcoming CAPEX-78 philatelic exhibition which is to be held in Toronto, June 9-18, while the World Exhibition of Postage Stamps, Praga-78 is to be held in Prague, September 8-17, 1978.

Remembrances and literature were distributed at the reception honoring both international philatelic events. One of the most pleasant aspects of the reception was meeting and visiting with Czechoslovak dignitaries and members of the Czechoslovak delegation of philatelists visiting Amphilex, who are already involved in various capacities and on committees preparing for Praga-78. As I mingled with the guests from all parts of the world, nibbling dainty, delicious hors d'oeuvres and drinking orange juice, many of the guests were indulging in Plzensky Prazdroj and Jelinkovo Slivovic, which were part of the refreshments, as well as champagne. It was heart warming to see collectors from Sweden, Germany, Netherlands, Czechoslovakia and the United States, all seated at one table, all friends which have one strong common bond, that of being collectors of Czechoslovak philately. Personally, the friendships and acquaintanceship of people that I have met thru philately is a Special Award and one which all collectors can enjoy.



SCP member H. Hedbom of Sweden and his wife, Mrs. Hedbom, enjoying reception held at Amphilex—announcing PRAGA-78.

I have included some pictures with this article, so that you may become acquainted with some of your fellow stamp collectors and those participating as well as working for a successful Praga-78.

The Society for Czechoslovak Philately has only one member residing in the Netherlands. This fact I noted from our membership list before going to Amphilex. I did not want to impose upon our member in any manner or form but I did want to meet him. Therefore, I took the liberty of writing to SCP member Leo Wijnkamp, who lives in Amsterdam, informing him that we were planning on attending Amphilex and would like to make arrangements to meet him. He immediately responded with an affirmative reply. Inasmuch as I did not make any hotel reservations prior to leaving for Amsterdam, it was necessary to phone our SCP member, after locating ourselves in a small Dutch hotel situated and overlooking the junction point of three canals. One prearranged morning, Leo Wijnkamp arrived at our hotel located just off Leidse Plein. Introductions were exchanged and we all decided to take a stroll beside the canal, stopping for coffee at a sidewalk cafe on Leidse Plein. While sitting in the sun, enjoying the view, we became acquainted. Leo extended us an invitation to come along with him, while he attended to some matters at the Rai, after which we would all drive over to meet a fellow collector from Germany. He then suggested that he would enjoy taking us all for a tour to Zaandam. Meeting the fellow stamp collector became a pleasant surprise. It turned out to be Max Mahr and his wife, Trudi. Our conversations were very interesting. Trudi, Max and Leo conversed in German, Joe, Leo and myself spoke English while Max, Joe and your editor conversed in Czech, all conversations being translated back and forth.

You might like to know a little about Zaandam. This picturesque area is an assembled community of homes and windmills. All are from different periods of time as well as locations in Holland. They have been assembled in a community arrangement, a short distance from Amsterdam. Tourists can visit, study and understand more about Holland while viewing the different styles of architecture, all with a backdrop of the North Sea, the canals and gardens with their lovely flowers all blending and becoming a picture postcard to be remembered. Our special philatelic group enjoyed the tour as well as each other.

Leo Wijnkamp will probably be a little self-conscious and embarrassed about my writings here in the Specialist—especially about him, as he is a very quiet and modest person. He is not only a stamp collector that wins silver-bronze awards at international stamp exhibitions, he is a very talented gentleman. On the walls of their modern apartment, located in North Amsterdam, you will find paintings, signed Leo Wijnkamp, identifying him as the artist. He is also a musician. The evening Jan Karasek, your editor and husband visited with him and his very gracious wife, Josephine, he played musical selections for our enjoyment. I especially remember the song "Skoda Lasky," more commonly known as "The Beer Barrel Polka." The three Czechs, Jane, Joe and Jan joined in singing the Czech words to his accompaniment. Moments like those are also part of Amphilex—moments not to be forgotten. We often think of both of you, residing there in North Amsterdam, viewing the North Sea from the balcony of your apartment. Again, thank you for all the kindness and courtesy extended to us all, by both of you, Leo and Josephine.

I realize that I have digressed from the subject of Amphilex-77 but an international stamp exhibition covers many aspects of enjoyment and entertainment, not only stamps and medals. We only have memories of Amphilex-77 but are looking forward to meeting all our philatelic friends during Capex-78 and Praga-78!

Praga-78.

Praga-78 will be the largest F.I.P. exhibition of an international scale ever held. There will be 10,000 frames of which 7,000 will be in the competitive class. The balance will be the Official Class, Court of Honor, Class of Honor under F.I.P. regulations and some exhibits especially invited by the Committee. There shall be about 60 members of the jury. Some 200 gold medals will be awarded as well as 50 great gold medals. All of these will be awarded according to F.I.P. rules and regulations. The entire exhibition will be housed in four to five exhibition halls—the main one being Fucik Exhibition Hall.

All exhibits that have received a silver or vermeil award in any national or international exhibition will be allotted 5 frames which will hold 16 pages—each about 8½x11 inches. This would amount to 80 pages.

All exhibits that have received a gold medal, a great gold or a grand award will be allowed 10 frames of the same size.

Please note that the frames will be allocated in groups of 5 or 10, depending upon the exhibits previous awards as mentioned herein. Therefore, one cannot request 6 or 4 or 8 frames but must request frames in multiples of 5 frames. The reason for this being is that the frames are being so erected to house 5 frames in each setting, thereby preventing any exhibitor from having his collection "go around the corner" and perhaps lose its sequence to the jury.

The fee for exhibiting is \$12.00 per frame.

There will be no charge for exhibitors in the Official Class (government exhibits), Court of Honor and certain juvenile exhibits.

DEADLINE—The deadline for accepting any applications for PRAGA-78 is December 31, 1977. Your application must be in the hands of the U. S. Commissioner to Praga-78 **BY THIS DATE!** Obtain application forms from: James J. Matejka, Jr., M.D., U. S. Commissioner to Praga-78, Suite 2015, Midland Bldg., 176 West Adams Street, Chicago, Illinois 60603.

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A Philatelic Tour of Prague

By Mrs. Jos. F. Sterba, Jr.



Fig. 6

Upon descending back down to the Old Town Square, you can arrive just in time to again view the working astronomical clock. With the sound of the cock's crowing, still ringing in your ears, proceed to walk toward the Little Ring (Male Namesti). In medieval times this was the fruit market. Still standing in the center of the small square is a cistern known as "Stara Kasna," which is protected by an intricately decorated renaissance ironwork grill dating back to the 16th century, Fig. #7. This 60 hal stamp was engraved by J. Svengsbir and was issued for Praga-68 in the Old Prague series. Could it be that your grandmother's grandmother drew water from this well?



Fig. 7

At this point of our philatelic tour your editor's husband is beginning to lag and is becoming fatigued. In the immediate area of the "Stara Kasna" is a typical Prague restaurant, containing 3 or 4 smaller dining halls. Throughout all our many travels to Europe, we always return to the Black Cat (U Cerneho Kocoura) Restaurant located in Prague. Gourmets will never forget the delicious culinary menu offered them at the "Black Cat." A most unusual dish is "smazeny syr" (fried Swiss cheese) as well as roast pork, sauerkraut and dumplings. Naturally, this must be accompanied by 12° Plzen Prazdroj beer, for those of you who enjoy this world reknown liquid refreshment!

After partaking in refreshments we should continue on. Prague, like every medieval town, had its Ghetto. The Jewish quarters in Prague are one of the oldest in Europe, dating back to the ninth century. At that period of time a colony of Jewish traders came to Prague and settled there. All that remains in this area are the synagogues and the famous Jewish cemetery. Of special architectural interest is the Old-New Synagogue (Staronova Synogoga) an early Gothic edifice from the year 1270, Fig.



Fig. 8

Fig. 9

Fig. #8. This is the oldest surviving Jewish prayer-house in Central Europe.

The Jewish cemetery is one of the most remarkable features of the Jewish quarters. Burials were made here up until the year 1787 and a number of interesting headstones date back to the 15th century. Fig. #9 is the tombstone of David Gans, date of death 1613. Both of these stamps, as well as others were in a series issued in 1967, honoring Judaic.

You should make every effort to visit the synagogue museum. From a mere 1,000 items in 1938, its inventory has grown to over 200,000 items. You also see the tragic tale of the extinction of most of the 90,000 Jews who lived in Czechoslovakia before the war.

Josefska (Josephine) Street was the main street of the Ghetto. Located there is the Pinkas Synagogue. This synagogue was built prior to the Old-New Synagogue. The building is being restored but more significant than the restoration are the rows of names painted on the interior walls—77,289 of them. These are the names of Jewish men, women and children, from Bohemia and Moravia, who were liquidated by the Nazis. It is a memorial to the dead and a permanent reminder of the barbarism of totalitarianism. The people are gone but not forgotten!

As we go along on with our philatelic tour of Prague, leaving the Jewish synagogue located on the corner of Red and Paris Streets (Cervena a Parizska Ulice) behind us, it will be necessary to follow Paris Street back to the Old Town Square. In the center of the square is the Jan (John) Hus Monument which was unveiled in 1915 on the occasion of the quincenarian of his death. We should study house No. 548/20 which is located on the corner of the Old Town Square and the entrance into the Steel Workers Street (Zelezna Havriska Ulice). This well-preserved late Gothic entrance leads us to where a music school was opened in 1848 by the Czech composer, Bedrich Smetana. We cannot linger as we want to continue on our tour in order to reach our destination, Bethlehem Chapel. This is located some distance away. As we continue walking on Steel Workers Street, we pass The Church of St. Gall (Kostel Sv. Havla). Begin to watch and inquire about house No. 540/11 located on Knight Street (Rytirska Ulice). This is Tyl's Theatre (Tylovo Divadlo). It formerly was known as The Estate Theatre (Stavovske Divadlo) from the period of time when it belonged and was erected by a rich, Czech Count and estate owner. Only the very wealthy were admitted as guests to the theatre. On October 29, 1787, Mozart's opera "Don Giovanni" was performed for the first time in Tyl's Theatre. Mozart dedicated this opera to the citizens of Prague. A series of 6 stamps were issued on May 12, 1956,



Fig. 10

honoring Prague's Spring (Pražské Jaro) commemorating the 200th anniversary of the birth of W. A. Mozart. They were also a tribute to the spring concerts which are presented in Prague every year during that season. Illustration #10 is 2 stamps from that series. The 1.60 Kcs stamp shows Tyl's Theatre, while the 30 hal stamp shows the profile of Mozart.

When the theatre's name changed to Tyl from Estate, it was named after Jos. Kajetan Tyl who wrote the lyrics to a song written by Frantisek (Frank) Skroup, "Where is My Home? (Kde Domov Můj?). When the independence of Czechoslovakia and her people became a reality in 1918, this song was selected as the national Anthem. On the 17th of December, 1934, two single stamps valued at 1 and 2 Kcs respectively were issued honoring the centenary of the song "Where is My Home?"—illustration #11. Two souvenir sheets, each with 15 stamps in the same denominations were also issued for this very special anniversary.



Pause to reflect a minute the pattern surrounding the Tyl Theatre. Originally the theatre was called the Estates Theatre. It was built between 1781-1783 on Knight Street by Count Nosticovo—only for the wealthy. The four words in bold reflect nobility and wealth—the ruling powers of that period in history.

(To be continued)



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