

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



(USPS 808300)

Official Monthly Journal of the

Society for Czechoslovak Philately, Inc.

Silver Award Interphil '76 — Silver Award Capex '78 — Silver-Bronze Praga '78

A.P.S. Unit 18

S.P.A. Branch 284

Vol. XXXXI

June 1979

No. 6, Whole No. 391

New Issues



Commemorative postage stamps and sheet: Interkosmos—1st Anniversary of the joint USSR-CSSR Space Flight.

On 2 March 1979, the date of issue of the INTERKOSMOS stamps and special sheet, was exactly one year from the historic moment on 2 March 1978 16 hours 18 minutes central European time, when the spacecraft Soyuz 28 was launched at Russia's Baikonur Cosmodrome and put into orbit around the earth. It was the first time in the history of space flight that a spacecraft was manned by an international crew—Alexei Gubarev of the USSR as captain and Vladimir Remek of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, as the second member of the crew. Czechoslovakia is thus the third country, after the USSR and USA, to send a man out into space. The flight was a success.

One year has passed since then and during that time flights into space have carried citizens of the German Democratic Republic and the Polish People's Republic as members of further international crews.

To celebrate the 1st anniversary of the joint USSR-CSSR flight, the Federal Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications of Czechoslovakia issued an attractive set of five commemorative stamps and one sheet together with three First Day Covers. The set, designed by the painter and graphic artist Vladir Kovářík, depicts in pictures the joint flight of Alexei Gubarev and Vladimír Remek aboard the Soyuz 28 spacecraft. This joint flight was part of the INTERKOSMOS program. INTERKOSMOS is an institution founded in 1965 by the socialist nations for collaboration in an exacting program of space research and the application of the results solely for peaceful purposes. Czechoslovakia is an active and successful partner in this cosmic collaboration.

On 2 March 1979 the Federal Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications issued a set entitled "INTERKOSMOS—1st Anniversary of the joint USSR-CSSR Space Flight" and comprising the following five stamps and sheet:



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- 30 h—Soyuz 28. Engraved by Jan Mráček. Colors: dark blue, red, blue, yellow.
 60 h—A. Gubarev-V. Remek-Soyuz 28—start 2.3.1978. Engraved by Milos Ondráček. Colors: dark blue, blue, yellow, red.
 1,60 Kčs—J. Romaněnko-G. Grečko-Salyut 6-Soyuz-10.12.1977-16.3.1978. Engraved by Ladislav Jirka. Colors: dark blue, yellow, blue, metallic blue.
 2 Kčs—Orbital space laboratory Salyut 6-Soyuz—First space mail. Engraved by Ladislav Jirka. Colors: black, blue, red, grey-green.
 4 Kčs—Soyuz 28—touch-down 10.3.1978. Engraved by Jan Mráček. Colors: black, blue, ochre, blue-violet.

The stamps were printed by rotary recess print combined with three-color photogravure in sheets of 25. The dimensions of the stamp pictures are 49x30 mm.

- 10 Kčs—Joint flight as part of the INTERKOSMOS program (inscription in Czech and Russian). A. Gubarev-V. Remek-Soyuz 28.-2.-10.3.1978. Engraved by Milos Ondráček. Colors: brown-black, yellow, blue, red.

The sheet is printed by five-color flat recess print. The dimensions of the sheet are 75x95 mm. it is available imperforate as well as perforated.

All the stamps were designed by Vladimír Kovářík, Academy painter and graphic artist.

Issued with the set are three First Day Covers with cachets depicting the following:

- First Czechoslovak kosmonaut in space—launching pad.
- First Czechoslovak kosmonaut in space—A. Gubarev-V. Remek.
- INTERKOSMOS—program for the exploitation of space for peaceful purposes.

The entire set was printed at the Post Printing Office in Prague.



10th Anniversary of Czechoslovak Federation

30th Anniversary of the Founding of the Council of Economic Mutual Aid

30th Anniversary of the Unified Agricultural Co-operatives

On January 1, 1979, the Federal Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications of Czechoslovakia issued the following commemorative stamps:

- The denomination of Kčs 0.60 to mark the 10th Anniversary of Czechoslovak Federation 1969-1979. Colors: blue, violet, red, yellow.
- The denomination of Kčs 1.00 to mark the 30th Anniversary of the Founding of the Council of Economic Mutual Aid. Colors: blue, light blue, red, yellow.
- The denomination of Kčs 0.30 to mark the 30th Anniversary of the Unified Agricultural Co-operatives. Colors: brown, light-brown, green, orange.

The stamps under 1. and 2. were designed by the painter and graphic art-

ist Jozef Baláz and the stamp under 3. by the painter and graphic artist Oto Lupták. They were engraved by Josef Herčík.

The stamps were printed by rotary recess print combined with three-color photogravure in sheets of 50 stamps at the Post Printing Office in Prague. The dimensions of the stamp pictures are 30x23 or 23x30 mm.

Issued with the stamps are three First Day Covers designed by Josef Herčík.



On 27 November, 1978 the Federal Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications of Czechoslovakia issued a set of commemoratives entitled "Art on Stamps—30 Years of the Slovak National Gallery" and comprising the following three stamps:

- 2.40 Kčs—Slovak National Gallery—30 Years—Still-life with Flowers," late 17th century—Jakub Bohdan (Bogdan) circa 1660-1724. Engraved by Jindra Schmidt. Colors: black, ochre, red, blue, green.
- 3 Kčs—Slovak National Gallery—30 Years—Lúdivít Fulla, b. 1902. Dream in a Shepherd's Hut 1973. Engraved by Milos Ondráček. Colors: black, red, yellow, blue, green.
- 3.60 Kčs—Slovak National Gallery—30 Years—Detail showing an apostle with censer—Master of the Spis Chapter, circa 1480-1490. Engraved by Ladislav Jirka. Colors: black, red, yellow, brown, green.

The graphic design of all three stamps is by the graphic artist and engraver Milos Ondráček.

The stamps were printed by five-color flat recess print in sheets of four. The dimensions of the stamp picture are 40x50 mm, or 50x40 mm.

Issued with each stamp is a First Day Cover with cachet showing a further subject by the author of the picture depicted on the stamp, or else a detail of that picture.

The stamps were printed at the Post Printing Office in Prague.

The first stamp, with a face value of 2.40 Kčs, presents an example of Slovak baroque art. The "Still-life with Flowers" from the late 17th century is the work of the talented painter Jakub Bohdan (also spelled Bogdan), whose life approximately spanned the years 1660 to 1724. It is known that he worked in Holland (in Amsterdam) as well as in England. The stamp picture depicts a dainty and attractive painting transcribed to the miniature format of the postage stamp by the nestor of Czechoslovak engravers Jindra Schmid. Issued with the stamp is a first day cover with cachet showing a detail, a floral motif, from a painting likewise by Jakub Bohdan.

The second, 3 Kčs stamp, is dedicated to the prominent contemporary Slovak artist Lúdivít Fulla (b. 1902)—a very distinctive personality figuring

importantly in the blossoming of Slovak national painting and graphic art. Lúdvít Fulla's ties with folk traditions go deep and are very pronounced. The stamp picture shows his "Dream in a Shepherd's Hut," executed in 1973. It depicts the sleeping figure of a woman and a shepherd playing on a simple flute called a "fuyara," plus sheep and other motifs, the whole evoking the atmosphere of a mountain hut that serves as the shepherd's home when he is out grazing his flock. Issued with the stamp is a first day cover with cachet showing "Girl in National Costume"—an ink drawing executed by Lúdvít Fulla in 1959.

The third, 3.60 Kčs stamp, takes us to the period of Slovak Gothic art. The subject is a detail from a religious painting showing an apostle with a censer. The author is an anonymous painter from 1480-1490 called the "Master of the Spis Chapter" because he painted pictures for the churches of the Spis Chapter. Spis is a region in the Tatra Mountains of northern Slovakia, a hilly and wooded region, center of which is the present district-town of Spišská Nová Ves. Noting the beauty of the painting, the concentrated expression of the apostle looking under the lid of the censer, we can only regret that we know nothing about the person and life of the painter. Issued with the stamp is a first day cover with cachet likewise depicting the work of the same master—a detail from a painting of the Madonna from the church in the village of Ruskinovce.

NEW MEMBERS

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- 1237 George F. Smith, 6th St., Lot B-9, Pinecrest Village, Manahawkin, NJ 08050
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- 804 J. E. Meredith, 344 Otero, Newport Beach, CA 93660

CONTEST

Alfons Stach, our venerable friend, donated a prize worth between \$40 to \$60 in behalf of our contest. Thank you, Alfons in the name of the Society for your splendid cooperation. Incidentally, Alfons Stach's father opened a stamp shop in Prague almost one hundred years ago when there were under thirty collectors in Czechoslovakia!

The Committee has decided that the prizes will be selected by the winners in the order they place. Example, the first prize winner will select a prize, then what is left the second, then the third, etc., etc.

With this issue of the *SPECIALIST* you will find one loose application for membership. On one side for adults, the other side for Juniors. You may photostat more copies and start TODAY to recruit new members. When you see the list of prizes in the future, you will be sorry that you did not start early-on!

There are still a few members who have not paid their dues. To those members we must say, "Please pay your dues or your membership will be cancelled" . . . A word to the wise is sufficient . . . PLEASE! Send your check today to our treasurer, Mr. Chuck Collins, address on second page.

Notes for the Novice

What should I collect?

This month it seemed to make sense to discuss the issue which confronts every beginning collector. What area of Czechoslovakia should I collect? Should I collect the first Republic, the Austrian Period, the Pre-stamp Period, the War Years, the Post World War II period, locals, thematics ad infinitum? Furthermore, once I decide what area or areas to collect, in what manner should I collect it? Should I collect used stamps, mint stamps, stamps on cover, postal stationery or some combination of any or all of the preceding? What are the answers to these questions?

Well, if there's one thing that the novice will soon discover, it is that philately is extremely broad, rich and accepting. Philately is for people who have their own unique interests, habits and ideosyncracies. The choice of collecting area and collecting style should be made on the basis of your own particular interests, needs and experience. Your choice should reflect what is most enjoyable and realistic for you. In other words, what you collect should give you the utmost pleasure and be reasonable in terms of your pocketbook. For philately is the hobby for all people. It doesn't discriminate (at least in terms of interest and enjoyment) between the cancellation collection of a child and the unique rarities of a king; even though the former can cost pennies while the latter may have cost many thousands of dollars.

However, in order to give the novice an introduction to what it is possible to collect in the general area of Czechoslovakia, I thought it might be helpful to briefly review a few of the more popular areas.

Pre-stamp Era. This period of collecting extends from 1850 backwards. This is because during this period the kingdoms of Bohemia and Moravia were part of the Austrian Empire and Austria issued its first postage stamp in 1850. Slovakia and Carpatho-Ukraine which were both territories of Hungary were also part of Austria. Therefore, the names of the towns and cities on the cancellations were usually in the German or Hungarian language. A popular way of collecting is to get a representative collection of stampless covers or folded entires from a particular area of present day Czechoslovakia. It is also interesting to choose one or two towns of special interest and attempt to complete all known cancellations from a given period, e.g. 1818-1850. By the way, a "folded entire" is a letter sheet that is written on, folded, sealed (usually with wax), addressed on the blank external portion, and cancelled with the town of origin and occasionally other markings. A "cover" is made when a separate piece of paper is folded around the letter sheet and cancelled. These folded entires and covers are still somewhat plentiful, even though the available supply is fast diminishing, and can be bought from local dealers for \$2-10 each depending on condition and rarity. Of course, there are some quite rare cancellations, etc., which will make these covers very valuable, but all in all, this is a fascinating area, requiring moderate expense and chock full of historical interest. Indeed, there's something very special about owning a cover that is 150 years old!

Early Stamp Period. In 1850, the Austrians issued printed paper adhesives now called stamps to pay the postal fee. These stamps were cancelled to indicate that they could not be reused and were of different values in order to pay for the various services available. Postal envelopes with preprinted stamps were first issued in 1861 and postcards were also issued in 1869. These had the head of Emperor Franz Josef and were valued at 2 Kreuzer. These cards and other postal stationery was often printed in the various languages

of the empire including German, Bohemian, Polish, Italian, Ruthenian, Slovakian, etc. As you might guess, a postcard collection or cover collection of the Czech territories might prove extremely interesting and quite challenging. Most of the cards can be purchased for between 50 cents and five dollars except for the rare items. Another possibility for collecting in this area might be to collect the early stamps with clear Czech cancellations. However, if you tackle the early issues from 1850-72, be prepared to spend a great deal of money because even used stamps from this period are quite scarce and expensive. Later issues, say from 1874-1918 are more reasonably priced and easily available for cancellation and cover collections. By the way, the Independent Postal Administration of Hungary issued stamps that were used in Slovakia and Carpatho-Ukraine after 1871 and are quite collectable. Finally, the World War I period offers a fascinating and historically important area of study and the covers and postcards used by the military are extremely popular and highly prized by collectors from all over the world.

The First Republic of Czechoslovakia. If we exclude the Revolutionary period which is a rarified specialty better left to the more advanced collector with substantial funds, the stamps of the Independent Republic of Czechoslovakia may be said to have started in 1918 with the Hradcany issues and ended with the Nazi Occupation in 1939. This area is extremely interesting with enough varieties, proofs, essays, gutter pairs, etc., to suit the tastes of even the most sophisticated collector. However, it also lends itself well to the novice since in used condition, a basic collection can be formed with relative ease and little money. Many of the individual issues lend themselves to specialized study since there are many plate differences and overprint types. For the novice who intends to be very serious about collecting Czech stamps, this is the classical area of Czech philately and serious thought should be given to the active acquisition of these early issues with all their varieties.

The Nazi Occupation and World War II Issues. World War II and the German Protectorate issues of Slovakia and Bohemia-Moravia form another distinct but somewhat less popular area for collection. The overprints on Slovakia Scott #2-23 and Bohemia-Moravia Scott #1-19 offer special interest with their overprint varieties and rare cover usage. Except for these two overprinted sets, the Protectorate stamps are relatively easy to locate and the cost is modest. Commercially used covers are scarcer and offer good challenge to the beginning postal historian.

The local issues of World War II, e.g. Carpatho-Ukraine, Sudetenland, etc., are more difficult to find, quite expensive and abound with forgeries. These are best left to the intermediate and advanced philatelist.

Post War Issues. Although there are many other possibilities for collection, time and space permit only this last suggestion of the modern stamps of Czechoslovakia. These should be of special interest to the young and beginning collector since they are inexpensive, beautifully designed and offer much potential for original study and specialization. There are many topics which can be fruitfully focused upon such as art, music, animals, etc. Collection of these issues in mint condition rather than cancelled-to-order (by the Czech government) is recommended since you will pay almost as much for cancelled stamps as you will for mint stamps which will, of course, offer greater appreciation potential.

In conclusion, collect all, any or none of these areas but most importantly collect what is of most interest and pleasure to you.

Comments would be appreciated.

--D.J.R.

MORE NOTES FOR THE NOVICE

This issue is dedicated to Novice Philatelists

Since this is the last issue of the Specialist before the summer break, I thought it might be constructive to dedicate this issue to the novice, intermediate and junior collectors. The response from these collectors has been very good and I think it is essential to foster education and growth in new and young philatelists. This is the only way to keep our hobby vital and exciting. In keeping with the ideas of philatelic education and the educational benefits of philately, I wanted to say a few words about the great importance of reference books, catalogues and journals in the development of a philatelist.

To begin with, every philatelist should start out with a standard stamp catalogue such as Scott, Pofis (the Czech language catalogue) or Minkus. This is necessary to organize any basic collection and to have standard reference numbers when buying stamps. It also serves the general purpose of briefly describing the various stamps, providing relevant data such as first day of issue, denominations and relative value in U. S. dollars. In addition, I also recommend that each collector buy a copy of the German catalogue, Michel (Eastern Europe) since it provides more detailed information such as quantity of stamps issued and the price of stamps on cover. By the way it is not necessary to buy these catalogues new unless you are concerned about price changes and investment issues. Often times a good dealer will give or sell you a used catalogue for a couple of dollars when the new catalogues come out if you know him well and ask him nicely.

After one acquires these basic books then specialized interests and personal motivation will determine what books are most appropriate. However, I highly recommend that every serious collector purchase a small Czech dictionary and a copy of the Specialized Catalogue by Novotny. This is the most comprehensive compendium of Czech stamps with all their varieties that is in print. You will probably have to go to the auction market to buy one but this book is well worth it. If you can't find one, borrow a copy from the Society library or a friend who is an experienced collector. Other recommended books for general specialization include *Monografie*, Volumes 1-14, The Higgins and Gage *Postal Stationery Catalogue of Czechoslovakia* (written by Wolfgang Fritzsche), and *Padelky*, the Czech book on forgeries which is available in English translation from the Society.

From here on, your own special interests and energy should determine what direction to go—but remember, in philately as in the real world—knowledge is power. And specialized knowledge will save you much money since no dealer can ever be as knowledgeable as you unless his specialty happens to be Czecho. For example, if you collect early cancellations of Bohemia on Austrian stamps and covers, you will have a considerable edge if you read Mueller's book on the Pre-stamp Period of the Austrian Empire which gives a relative point count system for each cancellation and town.

If you are looking for an area of specialization, one way to start out is to buy some back issues of the Specialist and look for articles that interest you. Remember knowledge is power! and you won't feel so intimidated at the next show when a dealer shows you an exotic item.

Please mention this publication when answering ads. Thanks!

The Editor's Review

Special congratulations to Dr. James Matejka who was given one of the highest honors in the world of philately when he was invited to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists of the British Philatelic Federation. It is a well deserved honor since Dr. Matejka has devoted a good part of his life to the advancement of philately and has worked tirelessly to make philately an enjoyable hobby for all of us. Once again, congratulations Dr. Matejka and best wishes for a quick and complete recovery.

* * *

As President Sterba writes in her Gazette, Sojex was a success especially in the fact that our member exhibitors did extremely well. Although the show was not of grand proportions, it was of good quality, compact and well attended. The quality of the exhibits was clearly superior to many of the big New York shows and the awards by the jury reflected the high quality.

Gold awards were garnered by Charles Chesloe, Richard Major and C. J. Pearce, all of whom are some of our best philatelists who have done outstanding research in Czech philately. However, one of the standout exhibits was that of Mr. Thomas Austin who came all the way from Costa Rico with his lovely wife to show us the fruits of his research on the "Varieties of the 100 Haleru Hradecany Stamp." For his fine work Mr. Austin received a Sojex Vermeil medal as well as the highly coveted SPA Research Award. Secretary Edward Sabol also received a Vermeil Award plus a special Society award for extraordinary service to our Society. Ed (who I think has also coopted his lovely wife for the Society's work) has done a very fine job as Secretary and made some interesting points at the judging seminar. By the way Mr. Sabol has also initiated and donated the "Josef Lowey Award" which was presented to Joseph Janecka for the best title page. Mr. Janecka also won a silver award for his fine collection of Music Sheets. And finally Tom Austin was awarded a bronze medal for a second exhibit. Congratulations to all members, especially the exhibitors and organizer Ed Tchecka who helped make Sojex a resounding success.

* * *

Don't forget to nominate board members! If you don't want to tear out the ballot in April's Specialist, just copy it and send it in to Jane Sterba or Ed Sabol. We need everyone's opinion—so vote!

* * *

The Marshall Sale was a great success and the Society has earned a good amount for its coffers. Thanks for the great spirit and active participation. It is also a very nice salute to the memory of Dr. Marshall and I am sure his family appreciates it deeply. Thank you S. C. P. members.

* * *

A SIGN OF THE TIMES. By the way an interesting item appeared in the Artia new issue stamp notices. All stamp business between Artia, the official Czechoslovak import and export agency, and foreign countries will be conducted in Deutsche Marks and not dollars anymore! I guess even the Czechs have figured out that our currency is highly inflated and not a good risk. Oh well, back to stamp investment—at least printing of music sheets is illegal and the quantities issued are fixed.

Have a good summer! D.J.R.

President's Gazette

By Jane Sterba, 6624 Windsor Ave., Berwyn, Ill. 60402

Sojex '79.

The Annual Meeting of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately held at Atlantic City—SOJEX '79—was a successful event. Chairman Ed Lehecka, of Westfield, New Jersey, certainly put forth great effort in co-ordinating plans with Mr. Alfred Bew, General Chairman of the Sojex Committee, to make this a successful event. I personally would like to thank Ed and Evelyn Lehecka for delaying their vacation in order to attend and participate in Sojex.

The Czechoslovak philatelic material exhibited was outstanding and very well presented. Congratulations to the award winners, members of our Society for Czechoslovak Philately. I was honored to present our SCP awards to the recipients present, as well as announcing the names of the winners who were unable to attend. I was especially honored to present the Josef Lowey Awards, given for the Best Title Page of the Exhibition, which was donated by Edward J. Sabol, Sr., Secretary of our Society. Joseph Janecka, a Past President of our SCP was the recipient of a lovely silver tray for his beautiful title page, which introduced his exhibit, "Czechoslovakia—Music Sheets." Ed, your thoughtfulness is appreciated by our Society and Mrs. Hedy Lowey.

Edward Sabol was presented with a special award for his extraordinary service for Czechoslovak philately. This award, a bronze plaque of T. G. Masaryk, the first President of the Czechoslovak Republic, was donated by the First Czechoslovak Philatelic Club of America.

A "Thank You" to the members of the board of the SCP who were able to attend the board meeting. Dr. L. V. Fischmeister, Augusta, Ga.; Richard Gray, Falls Church, Va.; Edward J. Sabol, Woodbury, N. J.; Richard Major, Arlington, Va.; Henry Samek, Paterson, N. J.; and Jane Sterba, Berwyn, Ill.

Many changes were proposed, but these changes, if approved, will appear in the Specialist at a later date.

We were happy to have two philatelists, who reside on foreign soil, in attendance at Sojex. SCP member Tom M. Austin of Costa Rica brought his collection of "Czechoslovakia—Varieties of the 100 Hal Hradcany Stamp," and was the recipient of a Sojex Vermeil award. We also had JUDr. Jan Kostelka from Brno, Czechoslovakia present. Dr. Kostelka presented a brief seminar about his collection, Bohemica-Slovenica, to our members in attendance on Sunday morning.

A seminar was held on "Judging." Three of the Sojex judges were present for a question and answer session. SCP Past President and member Henry Hahn, Theo Van Dam, and Philip W. Ireland participated in the seminar. Thank you gentlemen for your time. A THANK YOU TO ALL—who either attended or supported this annual meeting at Sojex, in some manner or form.

An unphilatelic, but pleasant aspect of Sojex '79, was Atlantic City—the boardwalk with the ocean view and the Resorts Hotel, the new location of the one-armed bandits. This was my first experience with this mode of entertainment, and it certainly was something different. One evening, within a 15 minute period, I lost \$2.50 on the 25c slot machines. Being a true Bohemian at heart, I was reduced to the 5c machine. After playing for about 1 hour—with a \$2.00 stake—I lost 5c, a grand loss of \$2.55. Upon coming home and relating my gambling experience, Joe Sterba's comment was, "The LAST of the big time spenders has left Atlantic City."

Dr. J. J. Matejka Honored.

Word comes that SCP member and Past President, Dr. James J. Matejka has been invited to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists of the British Philatelic Federation. The signing will take place during the British Philatelic Federation's annual Congress at Harrogate, England next September. In view of Dr. Matejka's intention to attend the ceremony, with wife Marie, it appears that "Doc" is recovering from his recent, serious operation. On behalf of the SCP membership our sincere congratulations upon receiving this honor and our sincere hope for a speedy recovery.

In Closing.

On April 24th, I am leaving for a brief visit to Prague, Czechoslovakia. Since I will not return, until after the press deadline of the June SCP Specialist, I am taking this opportunity to wish you and yours an enjoyable and safe summer vacation time. See you in September.

Jane Sterba

FIRST NET PRICE SALE**FOR NOVICE AND INTERMEDIATE COLLECTORS**

Carpatho-Ukraine: CSP/1944 overprints on Hungarian stamps. These were the first stamps officially overprinted by the Czech Government when it returned to Czech territory in Chust after the Russian Army defeated the Nazi and Hungarian occupational forces.

All are mint F-VF condition. Scott numbers refer to the Hungarian stamp that was overprinted.

Scott #	Quantity overprinted	Net Price				
601	1 filler -----	2,964	\$8.00	621	4 filler -----	678 20.00
602	2 filler -----	1,912	8.00	620	30 filler -----	517 23.00
604	4 filler -----	2,897	8.00	625	20 filler -----	636 22.00
607	8 filler -----	4,442	6.50	627	30 filler -----	1,267 12.00
608	10 filler -----	3,380	8.00	629	70 filler -----	730 20.00
609	12 filler -----	877	16.00	J151	2 filler -----	270 50.00
610	18 filler -----	1,613	10.00	J153	4 filler -----	320 50.00
611	20 filler -----	2,547	8.00	Czech Republic Regular Issues		
613	30 filler -----	3,008	8.00	C1-3	Regular airmails -----	30.00
616	1 pengo -----	418	25.00	C4-6	Regular airmails -----	50.00
				B140-43	Sokol set -----	40.00

All stamps are guaranteed genuine and may be returned within 30 days. This is a rare opportunity to acquire these very scarce and increasingly popular stamps. They have recently been listed in the new Czech Specialized catalogues as well as in Zumstein, the Swiss catalogue.

Please 50c postage and handling and remit payment to:

Dominick Riccio

235 West 76th St.

New York, N. Y. 10023

CLOSED ALBUMS

In November of last year the SOCIETY lost one of its most illustrious members—the Rev. Milan de Lany, who died at the age of 67 after a heart attack. Milan de Lany was born near Mt. Killimanjaro, in what is now Tanzania, to Czech Lutheran missionary parents. He came to the U. S. in 1931, where he earned his bachelor's degree at the University of Washington, and later his doctor of divinity degree from the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. After serving in the British Army during WW II, Rev. de Lany returned to Africa where he served as a school inspector, principal of a teachers' training institute and Lutheran Missionary before returning to the U. S., where he became chief editor of the Swahili service of the Voice of America.

Milan, as he was known to his friends at the Washington Branch, will probably best be remembered for his blessings at picnics and other functions. Soft spoken and of gentle spirit, Rev. de Lany is survived by his wife Alice and sons Ray and Vincent.

More recently, on March 12th, the Society lost another dear and valued friend in Ladislav Vydra, who passed away after a heart attack shortly after celebrating his 75th birthday. Lad. Vydra was born in Telč, Czechoslovakia, where in the late twenties he was already well known as a radio ham. This hobby, together with philately, he enjoyed throughout his rich and active life. During World War II, his broadcasts over the Columbia Radio Network were listened to throughout his occupied homeland, giving renewed courage to those daring to listen. Mr. Vydra ended his professional career with the Czechoslovak Service of the Voice of America, where he served as senior editor, producing numerous and memorable features in science and other areas.



An active member of the Washington Branch until his retirement to Woodstock, Connecticut several years ago, Mr. Vydra is survived by his loving wife Julie and son Tony.

The memories of Rev. de Lany and Ladislav Vydra will long be cherished by those fortunate to have known them.

—H. H.

Czech Scout Stamps—The Masaryk Overprints

By Jan Dvorak and Lester A. Behnke

(Reprinted by permission from the S.P.A. Journal and the use of their engravings appreciated)

(Conclusion)

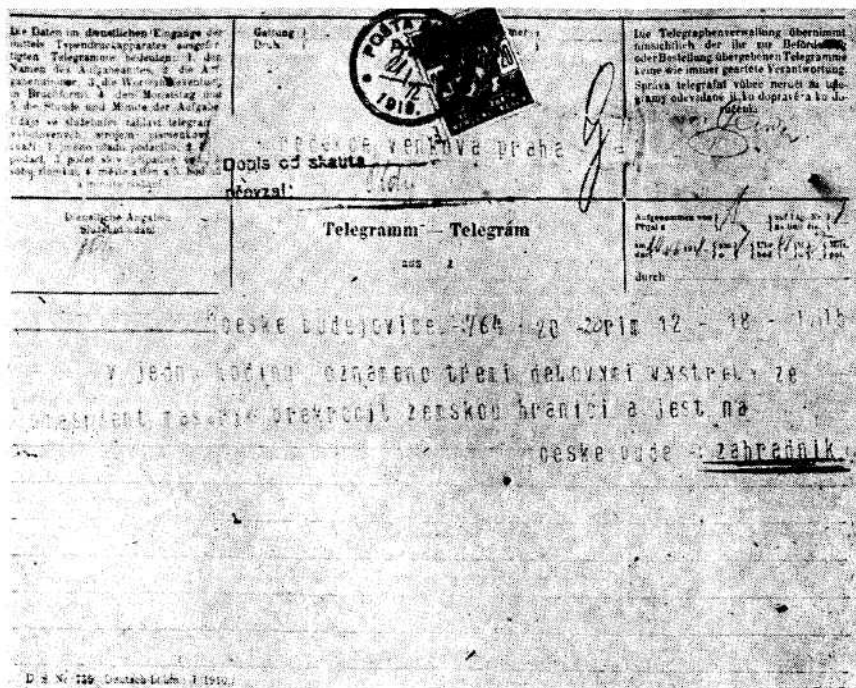


Fig. 7

A few of the overprinted stamps were applied to the Scout postal cards. One of these, addressed to Mr. A. Svojsik (the Chief Scout) at the Wilson Railroad Station, was illustrated in the Czechoslovak Specialist of April 1974 (as Figure 7), and later reprinted in the S.P.A. Journal of May 1974 (as Figure 11).

During the journey of President Masaryk from the border of Austria to Prague, telegrams were sent to various officials, prominent people, and editors of newspapers in Prague from several stops along the railroad.

One telegram, though very brief, was sent by Jan Masaryk (who was accompanying his father) to his mother in Prague which reads:

"Dad is in good health, approaching the border."

It was sent from inside Czechoslovakia, Ceske Budejovice at 3:10 P.M., December 20, 1918. Upon receipt of the telegram in Prague, the 20h stamp was applied, and it was then delivered by a Scout to Mrs. Masaryk. See Figure 6.

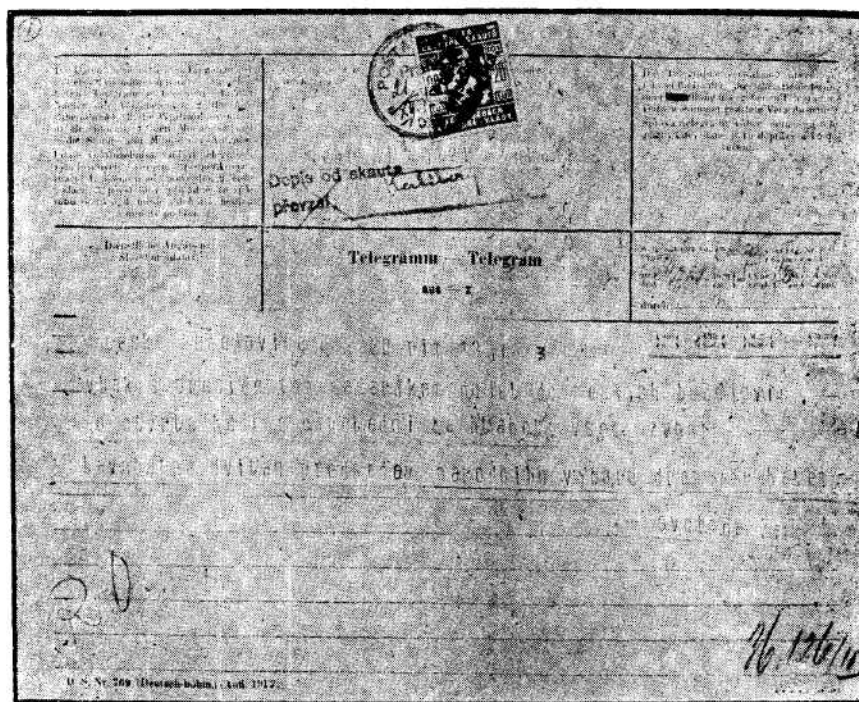


Fig. 8

Figure 7 shows a telegram with 20h stamp, sent from Ceske Budejovice by Zahradnik on December 20, at 1:15 P.M. to the Editor's office of the newspaper Venkov in Prague, which reads as follows:

"At one o'clock it was announced by three cannon salutes that President Masaryk crossed the border, and is now on Czech soil."

Zahradnik was Minister of Railways, and was in Ceske Budejovice to welcome the President.

Figure 8 illustrates a telegram with the 20h stamp sent from Ceske Budejovice by Svoboda at 4:13 P.M. on December 20 to the National Committee in Prague, informing them that:

"The train with President Masaryk arrived in Ceske Budejovice at 4 P.M. while all the bells were ringing. He was welcomed officially by the Chairman of the National Committee, Doctor Zdrahalem."

The telegram in Figure 9 shows the rare use of the 10h overprinted stamp on a telegram. It was sent by the National Committee in Ceske Budejovice from the railroad station in Horni Dvoriste on December 20 to the National Committee, Prague, stating that:

"President Masaryk arrived in a special train, followed by a reception by the Minister of Railways and members of Parliament, also that representatives of France, England and Italy were present. Departure for Ceske Budejovice where he will stay overnight and depart for Prague tomorrow at 10 A.M."

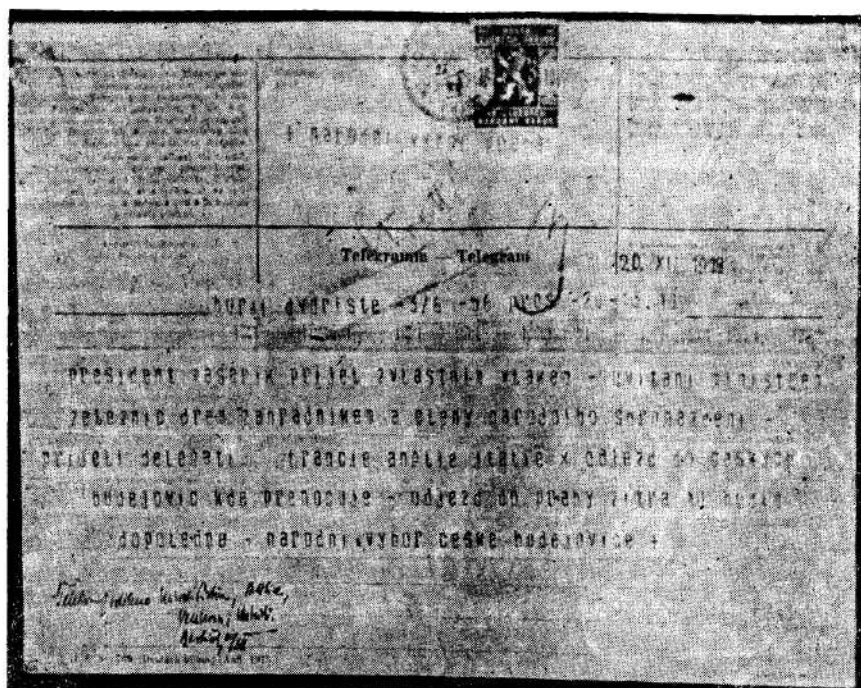


Fig. 9



Fig. 10

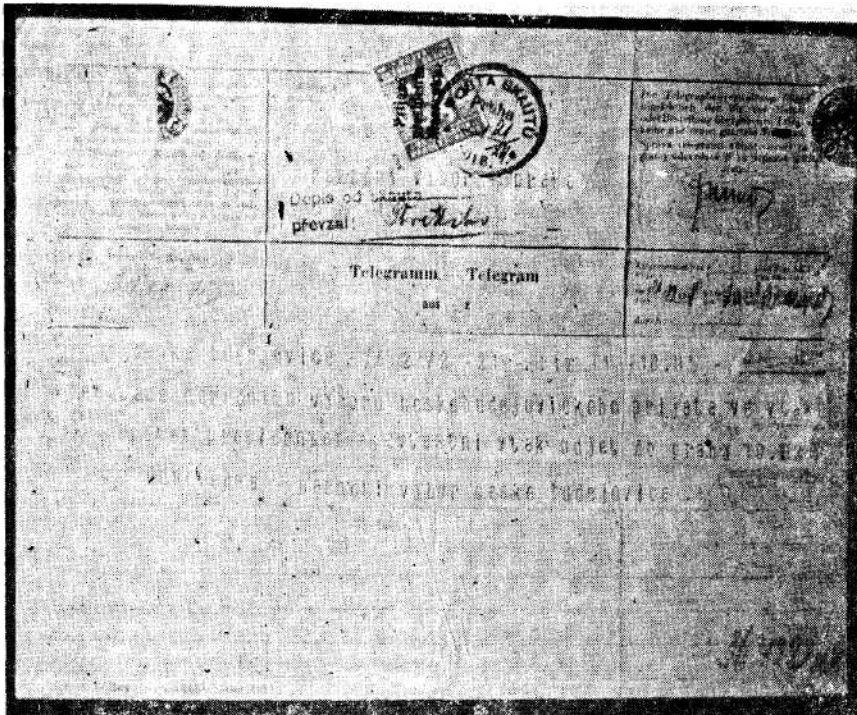


Fig. 11

Figure 10 shows a telegram with the 20h stamp sent by Hajek at 8:10 A.M. On December 21 from Ceske Budejovice to the National News (the leading daily newspaper in Prague) informing them that:

"President Masaryk spent the night in his train, and will leave for Prague at 10:00 A.M. Before his departure, he will receive the representatives of the National Committee and the Civil Authorities, as well as the representatives of the Germans in Ceske Budejovice."

Figure 11 shows another telegram with the 20h stamp sent by the National Committee in Ceske Budejovice at 10:15 A.M. December 21 to the National Committee in Prague stating that:

"The Representatives of the Ceske Budejovice National Committee were received in the train by Mr. President. The special train left for Prague at 10:02 A.M."

Other uses of the 20h on telegrams were illustrated and described in the Czechoslovak Specialist of October 1973 as Figures 3 and 4 and in the S.P.A. Journal article mentioned earlier also as Figures 3 and 4.

There is also in existence a letter shown in Figure 12 which was sent by R. Orovsky, President of Junak (Scout Organization) on December 21 to an unknown recipient (probably Dr. Domin who was a Member of Parliament and also connected with the Czech Scout headquarters), which reads as follows:

"Prague, the Parliament, 21/12.1918
Z d e

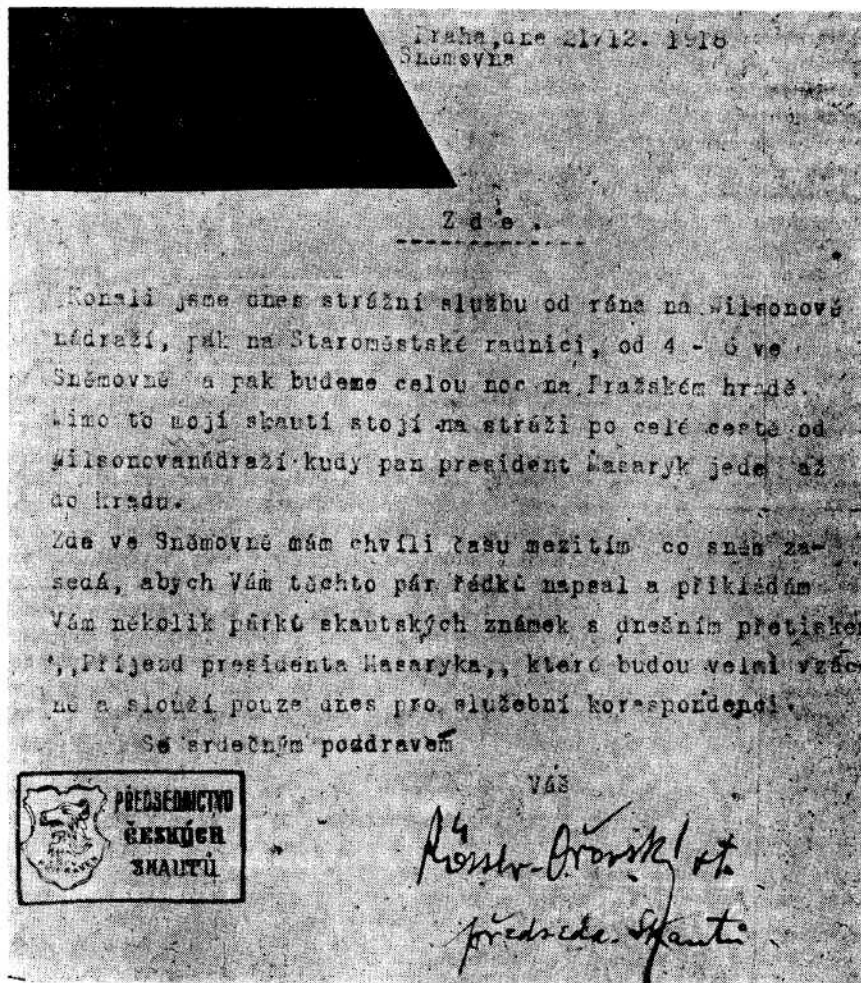


Fig. 12

"We were guarding the Wilson Railway Station from the morning, then we had sentries at the Old Town Hall and from 4-6 in the Parliament Building and then we shall be during the whole night at the Royal Castle.

"Besides that my Scouts are standing guard along the whole route from the Wilson Railway Station from where President Masaryk is going to drive to the Castle.

"I have a few minutes here in the Parliament Building while the Parliament is in session to write you these few lines and I am enclosing a few Scout stamps with today's overprint 'Arrival of president Masaryk' which will be very rare and are used today just for official correspondence.

With best wishes

(Rubber stamp)
Presidium of Czech Scouts
'Be Prepared'

Yours

Rössler-Orovsky, Sen.
President of Scouts"

There are no doubt additional telegrams and envelopes with the overprinted stamps attached in the possession of other collectors, but for the present, this is a complete list of all items available to the authors. Should additional information be available, the author of this article would appreciate being informed.

The authors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of leading collectors of these overprints who have so graciously permitted the illustrations to be shown, Ing. Dr. R. Gilbert (Czechoslovakia), Mr. Hedbom (Sweden), Mr. Kovar (Czechoslovakia), Mr. Miltner (Switzerland), and Mr. Rasmussen (Denmark).

A special debt of gratitude is also due Dr. Velen Fanderlik, former President of Junak (Czech Scout Organization) for his extremely valuable help in providing many translations, and also for sharing his personal knowledge of many of the people connected with the Scout Mail.

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