# SPECIALIST

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A.P.S. Unit 18

S.P.A. Branch 284

Vol. XXXXIII

May, 1981

No. 5, Whole No. 410

#### POW'S IN NORTHERN MORAVIA

By Dr. Miroslav Vostatek

By sheer luck I have stumbled upon a file of papers long forgotten by time. My interest was immediately aroused by a stamp and a cancellation both over 40 years old. But, let us go to the beginning:

Forty years ago there existed in Jakubčovice the firm of Emil Teltschick and Company. Although the firm was established in 1876 and located in Moravia, its stationary was printed in German and conformed always to the latest political developments of the hour.

With the entrenchment of the Third Reich a definite shortage of manpower developed. Simultaneously POW's camps grew larger in size and number of occupants. The firm of E. Teltschick and Company, true to its tradition, requested from the authorities its share of POW's would be made available who would depart Zahaň on 31 October 1940 at 6:45 PM for Jakubčovice.

Zahaň, which is in Poland, had a complex of camps with a history of its own escapes and other events characteristic of POW camps. The city of Zahaň known throughout Czech history is about 60km north of Kzořelec.

The famous book "Babička" by Božěna Němcová mentions Zahaň, furthermore, but somewhat less poetical, a mass escape of Allied POW's materialized there between 24 and 25 March 1945.

An important part in this escape was played a group of Czech RAF pilots. Among the escapees were Bedřich Dvořák, Ivo Tondr and Arnošt Valenta. Unfortunately, the engaged Nazis lost all objectivity and shot many of the recaptures escapees, among them Arnošt Valenta.

Now back to the main theme. As we could have assumed, the Firm sent the POW's into a quarry where they were guarded by the members of the Landesschützen Battallion No. 559 of Krnov. This battallion sent periodically to Teltschick and Company a bill for its services e.g., for

October 1942, they demanded payment for services rendered of 170.10 RM, for rent 37.20 RM and for soap and laundry 12.40 RM, total of 219.50 RM.

Of course 20 POW's soon become insufficient, and Teltschick and Company requested 40 more, but Zahaň in the name of Lieutenant Wunsen answered that 20 POW's are enough, and that's that.

Additional correspondence indicated changes not only in cancellations but in a camp as well. The center for POW's administration has shifted to Stalag VIIIB in Lambinovice (Lamsdorf) about 50km north of Moravia in upper Silesia. This camp had already preprinted invoices which were sent monthly to Jakubčovice of the Nový Jičín county.

One such invoice is for the period between 1 June to 30 June 1942, the period of Heidrichs' assassination. This invoice itemized for the military command 7,344 hours worked or 2, 496.96 RM, at the hourly rate of 34 pfennig, from which the command allowed the firm of E. Teltschick and Company 1,081 RM for the care and 224 RM lodging. The military command is Breslau received 757 RM. Also, here the hourly rate for "care" is either 1 RM or 80 pfennig. One can easily imagine the type of care offered at that rate.

A hand written memo indicated that for the POW's 400kg of carrotts, 400 kg of cabbage, 420 kg of red beets, 20 kg of parsley, 25 kg of onions, and 10 kg of garlic are needed. What nationality these POW's were remains unclear, but under the word garlic appears the word "English" suggesting British POW's.

(Editor's comment: Gruenzner's "Postal History of American POW's" states that Stalag VIIIB housed 21,000 POW's, mostly British.)

#### THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

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Changes of address to the editorial office.

Although one cannot compare the treatment of western POW's with their later counterparts from the east, the former did not have it easy or simple. The life of a POW under the Nazi rule was never a subject of envy, especially not in the period of their temporary victories.

A few yellowing letters brought back postal history of an era and the fate of simple POW's. These POW's undoubtedly got to know the meaning of Nazism, and to that end also a small village in northern Moravia.

### Feldpost!









Gruppe Berwaltung Stales VIII B Lamsborf Dies.



The above are illustrations of some of the stickers, stamps and cancellations used at Stalag VIIIB Lamsdorf and Stalag VIIIC in Sagan. Translated by Fred Deutsch

#### SELL - SWAP - WANT

WANTED: Copies of the Czechoslovak Specialist, Vol. XIII, rumbers

4, 5 and 6, or the whole year 1951. FOR SALE: Czechoslovak Specialist, Vol. XXVII, 1966 complete. Wolfgang Fritsche, P. O. Box 8, Canandaigua, NY 14424.

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#### FROM THE EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

The March 17, 1981, issue of World Coin News contains an interesting article on the Czech Legion in Siberia with emphasis on the money and coins used by this organization. We all know about the stamps which are also mentioned in the article, but this is the first I had heard about money.

The March 1981 "Berichte" of the Bundesarbeitgemeinschaft Tschechoslowakei includes information about a "Block" prepared by Czechoslovakia for the Czechoslovak Day at "ESSEN '80" International Stamp Exhibition in November 1980. The actual status of this item seems to be in question, and Artia has not yet responded to queries about it. According to the article the Block will be listed in the Michel Catalogue even though it has not yet been delivered to subscribers for new issues of Czechoslovakia. Collectors are warned against paying high prices for this questionable item, illustrated below.



Our busy translator, Paul Sturman, has also managed to dig up some information on the persons in the photo with Masaryk, which appeared on the front page of the March issue of the Specialist. Paul writes as follows:

On righthand of Masaryk is the then Captain Vladimir Hurban, freshly out of Siberia, for a report to Masaryk. Hurban later became a Colonel and Ambassador of Czechoslovakia to Washington. At the time of Nazi takeover he refused to turn over the embassy in Washington to the German Nazi representative. The local papers called him the "doughty colonel," and made much of the fact that from then on a soldier in the

uniform of a Czechoslovak Legionnaire was on guard at the entrance to the embassy.

Next to Masaryk on the left is probably Capt. Jaroslav Císař a 24-year old Czech who came to America before the start of hostilities and studied at Columbia University. During 1916-17 he was recruiting volunteers from among the Czechoslovaks for service in the Canadian army. He was fluent in English and became Masaryk's secretary (May-Nov. 1918). At the conclusion of hostilities he completed his studies at Praha University. Whether the picture is actually of Císař is uncertain. The officer in the French Army uniform is Capt. Ferdinand Písecký. Directly above Písecký is my cousin Pavel Kvotko of Cleveland.

IF YOU ARE MOVING, please try to notify the Specialist of your new address before the move, and please send it to the Editorial Office, 2936 Rosemoor Lane, Fairfax, VA 22030, NOT to our publisher. If you send it to the publisher it delays things and costs us money. It also costs the Society money if your Specialist is returned because you have not provided to have it forwarded when you move. Please help us on this; the Society simply cannot afford these extra expenses.

The June 1981 issue of the Specialist will be a little late so that we can include a report on the Society Convention at COMPEX.

#### COLLECTOR

Sitting in his frumpy sweater
with collar and tie awry
oblivious to Smetana's harmony and
the warm tea and muffin at his elbow
crowded by the accouterments of philately
some late afternoon of a cloudy cold day
with tired blinking bespectacled eyes
focusing on a small piece of serrated
gummed paper with a drab portrait of
multi-colored scene creating beauty
in the mind; simple lasting warm
pleasure.



The above poem was written by SCP member Gary Rosentrater who was inspired by the recent article on Dr. Kostelka. We thought we would share it with the members.

#### **NEW MEMBERS**

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- 1296
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- 1298
- 1299
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- 1104
- 1243

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#### A HISTORIC PERSPECTIVE OF POSTAL SERVICES IN TELTSCH AND VICINITY

By Henry Hahn

The next four pages, (centerfold) contain a continuation of the above titled work, which is being published serially. Publication began in the May 1980 issue.

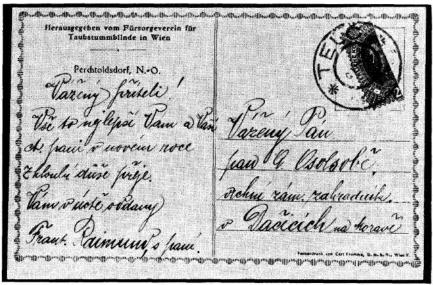


Fig. 36 - Rare Use of Bisect in Teltsch, January 2, 1919, with Post Mark D8 (Vacek)

The post mark used on the bisect is that of the Votoček type G. 121, with the German name of Teltsch removed. Upon removal of the German, the post mark may be classified according to J. Vacek¹¹ as type D8. Similarly, the German "TELTSCH" was also removed from the other two Austrian post marks which were in use at the time. These were the Votoček type G.122 of 1903 which was classified by Vasek as D9 (Fig. 37) and the Votoček type G.139 of 1906, classified by Vacek as M9a (Fig. 38).

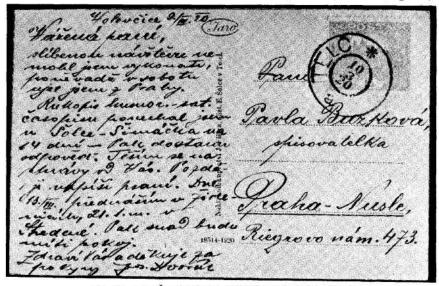


Fig. 37 - TELČ, March 10, 1920, Post Mark D9 (Vacek)

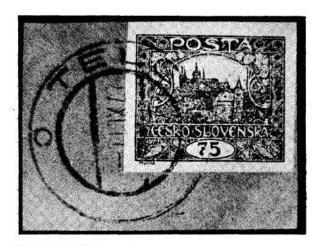


Fig. 38 - TELČ, November 27, 1919, Post Mark M9a (Vacek)

#### REGULAR POST MARKS OF THE FIRST REPUBLIC

The first post mark issued by the Czechoslovak postal authorities came into use in the late summer or early fall of 1920. The initials Č. S. P. were included in the design (as was done throughout most of Czechoslovakia) and stood for "Československá Státní Pošta" (Czechoslovak State Post). Apparently only two-hand canceling devices were issued simultaneously to the post office in Teltsch, differing by the letters "a" and "b". These devices probably remained in use through 1935. An early use of the "b" cancel and late use of the "a" canceling device are illustrated in Fig. 39.



Fig. 39 - First Regular Post WWI Post Marks, Cancelers "a" and "b"

The rectangular marking on the clipping reading Židlenovice u Telče is that of a nearby village postal station, a so-called "Poštovna".

The "Č.S.P." postmarks were replaced in 1936 by ones giving the name of the locality, date and hour only. At least six devices were used in Teltsch, bearing letters "a" through "f". This post mark type, which was also the last issued during the period of the First Republic, is illustrated in Fig. 40.



Fig. 40 - Second Post Mark Type of the Period of the Second Republic

The above post mark remained in use through the first year of German occupation, i.e. through March of 1940.

#### **SUDETEN CRISIS**

Teltsch was fortunate not to find itself part of Czechoslovak territory ceded to Germany by its "friends" at Munich in 1938 in exchange for "peace in our time". Zlabings, a town less than 30 kilometers to the south, and lying on the earliest Prague-Vienna postal route was quickly occupied by the Germans moving north from Austria. So were Znaim (see map, Fig. 1.) and other towns along the Austrian frontier.

The Czechoslovak Army was mobilized, and field posts were established. These remained in operation between October 1 and December 6th, 1938. There were altogether 64 field posts which forwarded mail to sorting stations (třídírny). The sorting stations forwarded mail by means of military trains to a military postal center (ůstředna). The military postal center, in turn, distributed mail to collecting stations (sběrny) which were located in Prague, Pilsen, Pardubitz, Brünn, Prerau, Vrutky, Kaschau and Trentschin. From there, the mail was forwarded by civilian mail. Civilian

mail addressed to field posts was routed in the opposite order.

A typical field post letter was addressed to Teltsch and post marked at the collecting station in Kaschau (Košice). According to the return address, it originated at Field Post 11. The letter, illustrated in Fig. 41 is censored (rubber stamped in red) and initialed by the censor in red crayon.

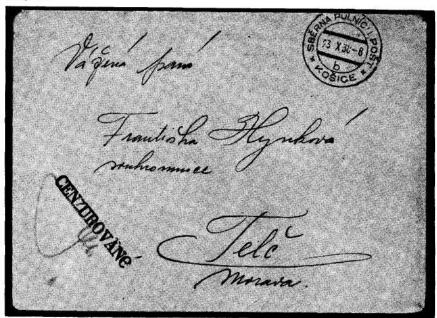


Fig. 41 Field Post Collecting Station, Censored, October 23, 1938

Such covers, post marked at the collecting stations, are somewhat scarcer than those post marked at the individual field posts.

#### GERMAN OCCUPATION

The occupation of Czechoslovakia on March 15, 1939 by Hitler's hordes led to another philatelic transition period. Approximately a year later, the First Republic post mark was replaced by a smaller, bilingual post mark shown in Fig. 42.

By the end of the war at least six such hand cancelers (a-f) were used.

Censorship of mail destined for abroad was in effect throughout the occupation. This practice also included the other axis countries, in particular Italy, as shown in Fig. 43. This card, mailed on July 23, 1943 bears the red "Oberkommando der Wehrmacht" (Armed Forces High Command) censor marking. Interestingly, the card could not be delivered, as indicated by a blue rectangular (Framed) rubber stamp reading "ZURÜCK - Postverkehr z. Zt. eingestellt" (RETURN - postal communication suspended at this time). The card is, incidentally, underfranked, since 60h was then the domestic card rate.

#### Dr. Jan Kostelka (translated by Paul Sturman)

#### BOHEMOSLOVENICA (continued)

Catalog of stamps and postal stationery containing reference to Czechoslovakia, its land, peoples, their fields of endeavor and achievements.

For ease in identification the Michel Catalog is utilized, presumably most widely used in philately.

In some instances catalog numbers for the latest issues were not available at the time of compilation of this work. It is hoped, however, that the description of a particular issue will be sufficiently clear for finding the proper Michel number when available.

#### **BOLIVIA**

In June 1978 miniature sheets of several philatelic expositions were issued. The logo of "Praga 78" appears on one sheet. Mi 76 min. sheet.

#### BRAZIL

The President of Brazil was Dr. Juscelino Kubitschek of Czech origin. A stamp issued in 1956 bore his likeness. It was issued to note the Congress of American States in Panama, and the stamp on stamp is Panamanian. A miniature sheet was also issued with a facsimile of President Kubitsched's signature. Mi 901.

In honor of the Congress of Esperantists in Rio de Janeiro in 1936 the stamp issued also bears the flag of Czechoslovakia. Mi 466.

On the occasion of the State visit by the President of Jugoslavia, Jos. Broz-Tito in 1963 a special stamp was issued. Details under Jugoslavia. Mi 1043.

In observance of the 50th anniversary of discovery of the typhus carrier by Dr. R. Provázek, a Czech national, a stamp was issued in 1966. The typhus carrier is known as Rickettsia de Provazeki. Mi 1106.

To commemorate the soccer victory of Brazil over Mexico in 1970 a set of three stamps was issued, one with the final play in Chile in 1962 in which the Czechoslovak team participated. Mi 1262-1264.

A post office named after Lidice exists in the State of Rio de Janeiro.

In the cancellation marks of some Brazilian cities advertisements of the Brno ballbearing plant appears.

#### **BULGARIA**

On numerous Bulgarian stamps the portrait of Ferdinand of Coburg appears who, after abdication in 1918 retired to his estate in Slovakia at Sv. Antol and lived there for 20 years, terminating his stay in 1944. The

issues are: Mi 50-61, 65-70, 76-106, 122-125, 135-144, 151-155, 1-4 Dobrudja, 1-15, Ia - if postage due, and 1-3 official, Thrace.

In 1911 set of stamps appeared the painting of a Czech, Jaroslav Věšín, depicting the "Tsar and his sons" on the 50-st. value. Jaroslav Věšín was born on May 23, 1859 in Vrané, Bohemia. He studied in Praha and later he became a professor of painting in Sofia. Died in Sofia on May 8, 1915.

In the same set the I-L value depicts the Tsar in coronation robes, and the painting is also by a Czech artist, Jan Václav Mrkvička, born on April 23, 1856 in Vidím u Dubé and died on May 15, 1938 in Praha Smíchov. He studied in Praha and Munich. In the year 1881 he was called to Sofia where he became the head of a school of design until 1908. In 1921 he returned to his native land after 40 years of activity in Bulgaria. For the excellence of his work he was awarded numerous medals and honors. Mi 78-89.

In December 1967 a 20-st. stamp was issued depicting the Bulgarian folk dance "Račenica" after a painting by Jan Václav Mrkvička. The stamp was issued on the occasion of Bulgaro-Belgian Philatelic Exposition in Brussels. Mi 1770.

In the set issued in 1921-22 appears a landscape near the Šipka pass with the church in Šipka, the work of a Czech-born architect and builder Tomisko, born on March 25, 1851 in Pardubice. The church of Šipka is actually a memorial to Russian soldiers who died in the battle at Šipka pass. The picture of the church also appears on a stamp issued in 1968. (Mi 1800) Mi 156-165, 176-177.

The image of St. Clement is in a set of 1929 issued to commemorate the 1000th anniversary of the reign of Tsar Simeon and the 50th anniversary of liberation from the Turks. St. Clement was the pupil of Sts. Cyril and Methodius, missionaries to the Slavic tribes. When he was forced to leave Moravia he went to Bulgaria to the court of Tsar Boris. He became a teacher in the Devol district near lake Ochrid where he founded a school and monastery. Tsar Simeon appointed him the Bishop of Veličko. St. Clement died as a bishop in year 916 and is interred in the monastery of Ochrid. Mi 212-221.

Lake of Ochrid and the monastery on its shores is depicted on a set of stamps issued in 1917-19, and 1917-18. Mi 112-121, 119-121.

The picture of the monastery of Ochrid also appears on the set issued in 1941. Mi 432-436.

In 1968 the likeness of St. Clement appeared on a miniature sheet in 12-st. value. Mi 21 - miniature sheet.

In the years of 1942 and 1943 a set of stamps was issued with historical motives. The I-L value bears the picture of St. Naum and his school. St. Naum was also a pupil of Sts. Cyril and Methodius and he also made his way to Bulgaria after the expulsion of Methodius' pupils and followers. He founded a famous school for the education of priests in the old Slavonic liturgy. He is one of the creators of the "golden age" of

Bulgarian literature. A so-called "Hungarian horseman" appears on the 30-st. value. The subject is of immense archeological importance, the discovery of which and its archeological evaluation is the work of two Czechs, the brothers Škorpil born in Vysoké Mýto, Hermanegild (1858-1923) and Karel (1859-1928). Both were active in Bulgaria for many years. The image of the "Hungarian horseman" is also included in the set of stamps of cultural momentos issued in 1961. There is also a town of "Škorpil" with a post office cancellation mark. Mi 441-445, Mi 1207-1216.

The images of the Slavonic missionaries, Sts. Cyril and Methodius often appear on Bulgarian stamps. In the year of 1937 a set of stamps was issued to commemorate the 1000th anniversary of introduction of the Cyrillic alphabet. In the set the images of both brothers of Salonica appear. They created the alphabet for Slavonic literature. Mi 307-311.

The apostles appear on a commemorative set issued for the 1100th anniversary of the Slavo-Bulgarian alphabet in 855. On the 8-st value is the painting of J. V. Mrkvička "Father Paisij." Mi 950-956.

In commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the first observance of invention of the Slavonic alphabet a stamp with the images of Sts. Cyril and Methodius was issued in 1957. Mi 1026.

In 1969 again a stamp was issued with an image of these Slavonic missionaries. Mi 1877.

In commemorating the 1100th anniversary of the death of St. Constantine the Philosopher two stamps were issued in 1969, together with a special cancellation stamp and a FDC. Mi 1914-1915.

In commemoration of the 100th anniversary of Christo Botev a set of stamps was issued in 1948. On the 9-L value the steamer depicted is named after the Czech born Austrian Marshall "Josef Radetzky." Botev used this steamer in 1876 to cross the Danube with his troops. In 1966 and 1968 two more series of stamps were issued with the same motif. Mi 1612-1617. Mi 669-675, 1671, 1583.

On the 35th anniversary of the great October revolution in 1952 a set of stamps was issued in which the 15-st value depicts the world with a ribbon on which the word "peace" appears in several languages, among them in Czech. Mi 830-834.

In the cultural set of 1956 the musical genius W. A. Mozart is depicted. He lived in Praha and produced many of his excellent compositions there. For details see Austria. Mi 1007-1014.

The First World Congress of Working Youth in Praha, its logo, is depicted on the value of 44-st. The name Praha and the date of the congress (1858) also appear on the stamp. Mi 1074.

For the World Exposition of flowers in Plovdiv in 1956 a souvenir sheet also depicted the flag of Czechoslovakia.

Bulgaria paid homage to the great teacher Jan Amos Komenský in 1958 in the UNESCO series of scientists and artists. Mi 1052-1057.

The 100th anniversary of the birth of the Czech painter Jaroslav Věšín was commemorated with an issue in 1961. Mi 1200.

In the observance of Czechoslovak-Bulgarian cooperation in 1965 a cancellation stamp in Bulgarian and Czech was used.

In December 1966 a set was issued to honor writers and painters. On the 8-st value appears Jan Václav Mrkvička of Czech origin and long term resident of Bulgaria. Details given earlier. Mi 1677-1682.

In the same year on a set anti-fascist combatants were commemorated. On the 10-st value Dr. Rajko Daskalov is depicted, former ambassador to Praha, where he also died in 1923. Mi 1655-1659.

At the end of 1966 a stamp in honor of St. Clement was issued. He was a pupil of the Slavonic missionaries Sts. Cyril and Methodius, and after expulsion from the Great Moravian empire made his way to Bulgaria. In addition to the stamp a FDC was also authorized. Mi 1654.

In September 1967 a set was issued depicting mountain peaks. It was printed in the Union Printery of Praha. The engraving of the 3-st. value was done by J. Goldschmied, designed by J. Schmidt, the 13 and 20-st. values were engraved by L. Jirka, the 2 and 5-st. values by J. Mráček, and the 1 and 10-st. values by J. Schmidt. Mi 1750-1756.

To commemoration the liberation war of 1878 a set of stamps was issued and one of the stamps depicts Jaroslav Věšín's painting "The Ensign." The set appeared in 1968. Mi 1779-1783.

For the World Exposition of Stamps "Sofia 1969" a special miniature sheet in the value of I-L was issued depicting the logos of Praga 1962 and 1968. Mi 1912.

In the year of 1970 a special set of stamps with scenes from several operas was issued. On one of the stamps is a scene from the "Bartered Bride" and a portrait of Bulgaria operatic star K. Morfova. There is also a portrait of Kata Popova who lost her life in Bratislava. Mi 2037-2042.

For the Bulgaro-Czechoslovak Unity Expositon in Velký Trnov in 1973 a special cancellation stamp was authorized with the initials of the Czechoslovak Republic. Simultaneously a cover with similar initials was also issued.

In 1972 a special cancellation stamp was used at the exposition of stamps on the 50th anniversary of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia. The exposition was in Sofia.

The Bulgarian miniature sheet No. 31 "History of Bulgaria" issued in 1971 was overprinted in several colors in honor of aerial tourism. The overprint contains the logo of the Czechoslovak Airline. Mi 2230-2233.

Another I-L value miniature sheet for the World Philatelic Exposition in Sofia in 1969 was overprinted to honor the "Ibra München" philatelic exposition. Mi 2240-2241.

(to be continued)

#### Nominations For Society Directors Due July 15, 1981

Nominations for five (5 members of the Society's ten (10) Directors are now due. This practice by the Society has assured continuity of administration and direction. In addition, no outgoing Director is eligible for re-election. In addition, no outgoing Director is eligible for re-election for a two (2) year period, thus at least partially preventing "inbreeding" which we believe is disadvantageous to societies such as ours.

Please note that each member may nominate a maximum of two candidates and that each candidate must be nominated by at least two members other than himself. We wish to point out that there is no nominating committee as such, and that the Society's Directors whose names and addresses appear below act merely as recipients of nominations. Hence, your candidate, if properly nominated and qualified in accordance with the Bylaws, is assured of appearing on the ballot, which will be printed in the Septenber issue of the SPECIALIST.

Directors are elected to serve a four (4) year term. Present Directors who will serve through 1983 include: H. Hahn, E. Lehecka, D. Riccio, L. Svoboda and M. Vondra. Present outgoing Directors (not eligible for re-election) include: C. Collins, R. Major, E. Sabol, J. Stein and J. Sterba.

To assist members in voting, the SPECIALIST will publish each candidate's qualifications (25 words approximately) as provided by the nominors or nominees themselves.

You may (but need not) use the following form in submitting nominations to the following outgoing Directors:

Mr. Richard Major

Mrs. Jane Sterba

	6624 Windsor Ave. Berwyn, IL 60402	P.O. Box 4074 Arlington, VA 22204	
	Da	nte	
The undersign	ned hereby nominate:		
Name:		Member N	o
	member of the Board of tely, Inc., for a term of fo		Society for Czech-
Nominor:		Member N	lo
Nominor:		Member N	lo
Qualifications by the nomino	s (for use by the Czechos ee and editing, approxima	lovak Specialist ately 25 words).	, subject to revision

(Advertisement)



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- 4) You'll become acquainted (or reacquainted) with the old cultural tradition of the Czech and Slovak peoples
- 5) You'll learn of the characteristic fauna and flora of Central Europe
- You'll keep up with the latest in Czechoslovakia's industrial and scientific development, including advanced research
- 7) You'll love their motion like illustrations of the colorful world of sport
- You'll see why Czechoslovakia has gained international recognition for its advanced techniques of stamp reproduction, harmony of color and outstanding artistry
- 9) They represent the work of their finest artists and engravers
- 10) Czechoslovakia's stamps are neither too large or small just stamps as stamps should be!

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