

# THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Official Monthly Journal of the

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Society for Czechoslovak Philately, Inc.

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

A.P.S. Unit 18

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No. 8, Whole No. 472

## PRAGA '88 NOTES

- PRAGA '88 has been organized jointly by the Czechoslovak Federal Ministry of communications and the Union of Czechoslovak Philatelists. PRAGA '88 promises to be the pinnacle of Czechoslovak philatelic activity.
- The construction of PRAGA '88 is to be a "turn key" operation assigned to "n.p. Výstavnictví — Praha." The experienced team assigned to this huge project is headed by Dr. Čeněk Červený. The production manager will be Mr. Jiff Potsch.
- All printing for PRAGA '88 will be carried out by Czechoslovakia's general agency for advertising RAPID.
- Additional national commissioners named: E. Pontes (Brazil), J. Pietila (Finland), A. Dupecher (France), W. Kwan (Hong Kong), P. Gupta (India), A. Cronin (Canada), H. Goggel (Colombia), A. Castro-Harrigan (Costa Rica), H. M. Tuero (Cuba), E. Kiss (Hungary), C. Hagarajah (Malasia), G. Wunsche (East Germany), H. Van den Berg (Netherlands), A. Thune-Larsen (Norway), G. J. Elliott (New Zealand), K. Ehrler (West Germany), P. Ioannidis (Greece), and Ch. H. Lock (Singapore). All inquiries should be routed EXCLUSIVELY through the national commissioners.
- Instead of the "green catalogue" published during PRAGA 78, PRAGA '88 will publish a book entitled "CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELY." One quarter of this book will be devoted to 100 years of philately on Czechoslovak territory. The rest will be devoted to various other philatelic themes, including the terminology of philately. The latter will hopefully eliminate present confusion.
- PRAGA '88 will also serve as a WORLD EXHIBITION OF PHILATELIC LITERATURE. The organizers intend to accept all qualified literature submitted and provide sufficient space to show it.
- The PRAGA '88 Catalogue will be devoted to Czechoslovak philately and will include three sections. The first section will contain messages by officials, a listing of commissioners, judges and illustrations of awards. The second section will include philatelic material pertinent to Czechoslovakia, postal history and information devoted to the creation of philatelic exhibits. New FIP judging criteria will be presented. PRAGA '88 will be the second FIP International Exhibit (after FINLANDIA) in which new judging regulations approved by FIP will be applied. The second section is also to contain a listing of Czech rarities and unique items, the rarest postmarks used in the Bohemian Lands and Slovakia, a discussion of the earliest post card usage, precursors, typographed issues, etc. Additional space will be devoted to first flights, currency reform of 1953, the origins of registered mail, flat plate printing and forgeries to the detriment of the post. The third section of the catalogue will be devoted to the listing of exhibits by class and an alphabetical listing of exhibitors.

- Negotiations with a major travel agency to become the official PRAGA '88 travel agency for the US are nearing completion. Requests for travel information should be included with requests for general PRAGA '88 information and applications and addressed to the USA Commissioner, Henry Hahn ARTECH CORP., 2901 Telestar Ct., Falls Church, VA 22042.

## PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FROM SOCIETY

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## PRESIDENT'S NOTES

At first it was CAPEX. Now it's BALPEX that's behind us. The two shows, coming only 2½ months apart, were a contrast in attendance, enthusiasm and general organization. Thanks to our vice-president and program chairman, Henry Hahn, our Society's participation was a success. For details, see next month's issue of the SPECIALIST.

Here now is an IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT for all concerned members:

### YOUR VOTE FOR THE CANDIDATE OF YOUR CHOICE IS DUE BY NOVEMBER 15

The Bylaws require that every two years the membership-at-large elect five of the ten Board members that serve your Society. In the May 1987 issue, you were informed that the five Board members whose terms do not expire until 1989 are Jay T. Carrigan, Henry Hahn, Frank Julsen, Ludvik Svoboda and Mirko Vondra. You were also informed that the remaining five members whose terms are due to expire at the end of this year are Edwin Lehecka, Richard Major, Edward Sabol and Henry Samek.

The Bylaws require that "the names of all persons nominated for the Board shall be placed on a ballot to be sent to all members with the June issue of the SPECIALIST. Members shall send their completed ballots to the Secretary postmarked not later than Sept. 15. . ."

Due to CAPEX and other extenuating circumstances, the nominating ballots were not published until May 1987. Though the ballots were returnable by June 30, I extended that deadline to July 31. Because of that fact, the completion of the ballots and their mailing to our Secretary has also been extended from Sept. 15 to Nov. 15.

Below is a list of those nominated to serve on the Board of Directors for the next four years:

Edward J. Benchik (Member Number 427) of Notre Dame, Indiana.

Charles Chesloe (Number 509) of Willow Springs, Illinois.

Karel Fischer (Number 1099) of Downsview, Ontario.

Fred Hefer (Number 1230) of Munich, West Germany.

J. L. Klein (Number 1213) of Wassenaar, Holland.

Edwin Lehecka (Number 1115) of Westfield, New Jersey.

C. J. Pearce (Number 17) of Coalgate, Oklahoma.

Jane Sterba (Number 993) of Berwyn, Illinois.

Gerald van Zanten (Number 1099) of Napier, New Zealand.

If you enjoy reading the SPECIALIST — if you want the Society to continue publishing this excellent and highly-recognized journal — if you support the Society as a viable philatelic international organization — then it is your obligation to cast a vote for the candidate of your choice.

To do so, write on a sheet of blank paper:

"I vote for

1-

2-

3-

4-

5-

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Number \_\_\_\_\_"

Place your ballot in a sealed and stamped envelope and address it to Mr. Wolfgang Fritzsche, P.O. Box 8, Canandaigua, NY 14424. Fritzsche has been designated as the official tabulator of ballots. To be valid, the envelope in which the ballots are mailed must be postmarked not later than November 15, 1987. Results of this election will be published in the January 1988 issue of the SPECIALIST.

Remember, your vote is important to the Society and to your continuing enjoyment of its various operations, like participation at numerous shows and publishing the SPECIALIST. Without your vote, the Society cannot serve you in its many functions. Don't let this opportunity pass you by! Your vote is your voice in your Society's philatelic affairs!

Mirko L. Vondra

## MEET JOSEPH J. JANEČKA, JR.

He was only a fifteen-year-old boy born and raised in Slavčina when his mother hastily packed up their belongings and bundled him and his sister off to America. Arriving in Canada in 1928, this young Moravian lad had his first glimpse of the Great Depression. He also watched Canadians espousing English customs and traditions in the English provinces while the French Canadians upheld their own. When in 1948 he arrived in Chicago, he observed similarities among the American ethnics. The Italians spoke Italian and sang and danced Italian music; the Irish and Scotch, the Jews, the Poles — all embraced and proclaimed their cultural ties. Now at 35, the immigrant from Slavčina vowed to propagate Czechoslovakia's claim to a free existence.

Joseph J. Janečka was by now an avid stamp collector and a sheet metallurgist by trade. He had joined our Society as well as the First Czechoslovak Philatelic Club of America in Chicago and, in 1959, became President of the latter. It was in that year that the U.S. Postal Authorities announced that Thomas G. Masaryk would be added to the "Champion of Liberty" series. This inspired Janečka to make a giant replica of the stamp out of sheet metal. To embark on this project, he was successful in obtaining an advance proof of the stamp from the Postal Authorities. Except for the plaster of paris bust of the first President which he had imported from Czechoslovakia, he welded the entire replica by hand and painted it to match the actual colors of the stamp. Measuring about 3 by 2½ feet, the replica was used in the stamp's dedication ceremonies in Washington, D.C. and was subsequently dedicated to the Smithsonian Institute's Division of Philately and Postal History.

Having successfully blended his sheet metal work with philately, Janečka decided to make printing plates for postage meters with various patriotic advertising and slogans, as illustrated recently in the June issue of the *SPECIALIST*.

But his philatelic endeavors were not always tied in some way to his profession as a sheet metallurgist. As a matter of fact, he has one of the most extensive collections of the Kde Domov Můj Music sheets and has discovered several new varieties through the use of overlay transparencies. These he has exhibited internationally with gratifying results.

Recently, Janečka sold his sheet metal business so that he and his wife, Erma, could enjoy a well-deserved retirement. Now he is looking forward to PRAGA 88. It will be his third visit to the Czech capital during times when the big international stamp shows were going on, having visited and participated both at PRAGA 68 and PRAGA 78.

The Society and the *SPECIALIST* salute Joseph J. Janečka, a hard worker, a devoted stamp collector and, above all, a true patriot. In recognition, he has been named as honorary member of our Society.



## TRANSLATION OF THE "ALLEGORY" SECTION OF MONOGRAFIE 2

Some months ago the membership was polled as to its interest in having the "Dove" and "Chainbreaker" chapters of Monografie 2 translated into English and run serially in *The Czechoslovak Specialist*. A very positive response was had. Consequently, since that time the matter of enlisting the aid of someone to take on that very large task was enjoined. Member Vladimír Kralíček of New Zealand answered our appeal, with the result that with this issue we begin a very close translation of the "Dove" (or "Holubice") section, beginning with page 185 of Monografie 2.

It goes without saying that the membership is extremely grateful to Vladimír Kralíček for the many and long hours he devoted to this project and also thankful for making the information contained in the original chapters available to those of the membership who are not fluent in Czech. We should add that Vladimír is now working on the "Chainbreaker" section, which eventually will also be featured in the SPECIALIST at the conclusion of the "Dove" section.

## INTRODUCING VLADIMÍR J. KRALÍČEK

I have been asked by the editor to give a brief outline of myself as an introduction to the translation of the "DOVE" chapter from Monografie 2.

I am 57 years old, born in Hodonín, Czechoslovakia, the birthplace of T. G. Masaryk, 1st President of the 1st Czechoslovak Republic where my father was the town librarian. These two factors explain my love of reading and also my interest in collecting Masaryk cards.

I went through a normal childhood, until the upheaval of the German occupation and all its consequences. As my parents divorced during that time I was left more or less to my own devices and after the end of the war I left Czechoslovakia, hoping to reach a branch of my mother's family living in New York, U.S.A. That was at the end of 1946. For most of the following year I worked for the U.S. Army of Occupation in Vienna, Austria, from where I left for Great Britain, where I lived until the end of 1964. During that time I married a Scottish girl. We now have three grown children. I had several jobs, including a stint as a radio operator in the British Merchant Navy; I improved my education by part-time study at a technical college in Cambridge, England. In January 1965 we emigrated to New Zealand, where we now live in Auckland.

My collecting interests have gone through several stages. First of all stamps and later Postal History. At present I am mainly interested in the Czechoslovak Army FPO of 1938 and also of the Czech Army FPO in Britain and France during the last war, as well as postcards with Masaryk theme and others; preferably circa WW I and before, also Prague cancellations from the pre-stamp era to the present time.



## ALLEGORY

Stamps with the Allegory theme were to replace all previous stamp issues. They were issued progressively from July 1, 1920, through May 1, 1926.

The Ministry of Posts had invited four prominent artists to draw and submit their designs, which they did in due course. The designs were as follows:

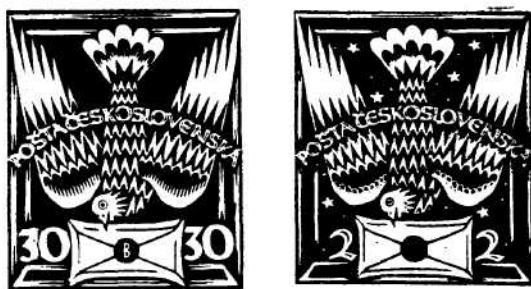
"Dove" – author Jaroslav Benda; "Liberated Republic" – author Vratislav Hugo Brunner; "Hussite" – author Alfonsa Mucha; and "Agriculture and Science" – author Jakub Obrovský.

### THE DOVE Origin of this Stamp

The stamp design was submitted by Jaroslav Benda under the slogan "Letter." It consisted of a stylized dove with an envelope in its beak. This design represented for that time a significant modern and pioneering concept of stamp production. It represented one of the best symbolic drawings used at that time in design technique. However, favorable acceptance of the design by the public has not been altogether unanimous. By contrast, the French magazine "L'art et décoration" gave Benda great recognition and used his design as an example for French stamp production. The Czech Academy of Arts and Sciences bestowed on the design the sculptor's Jana Štursy annual prize for the author of the year in 1920.

Benda worked out the original design in white on a violet-black background, with dimensions of 11.6 × 12.9 cm and with "2" as the value denomination. The background had six large and fourteen small stars. The design was meant to be printed by the typograph technique.

Illus. 301. Original design with "2" as value denomination.



Illus. 302. Modified design with monogram "B"; value numeral "5" is pasted over with paper bearing value numeral "30" on it.

(Page 186): However, the printers executed a number of prints using photogravure technique. For the final trials the photogravure technique was also used and an 18 × 21 mm size was decided upon. From this preparation stage were preserved numerous printing trials, which revealed a number of shortcomings of the original design. The author then worked out a new simplified design of 11.0 × 13.3 cm dimensions. In it he modified the stamp layout by removing the large and small stars. The lower part of the wings was tidied up with neat lines, including that part under the inscription "POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ." The envelope seal was inscribed with the letter "B," the author's initial. The design was assigned the value denomination "5."

Together with the corrected design the author passed on to the printer drawings for the value numerals which were to be used with the stamps: 10, 15, 20 and 25h (Type I). At that time it was not known that a 30h value would also be required. He designed the numerals himself in order to retain his styling format.

The design was similar for all values. Only with the 5h value, because of its single



numeral, was the surplus space filled in by extending the vertical ribbon down along the sides.

This design was finally accepted for printing with one slight modification, namely the removal of the monogram "B" in the envelope seal and placing the author's name "JAR. BENDA" beneath the frame.

The designer transmitted a separate sheet of paper relating to the corrected design with the letter "B" removed from the envelope seal and the name "JAR. BENDA" written in his own hand with these remarks:

"If all the rest of the stamps are to bear the name of the author, use this text (with the paper placed close to the edge of the drawing) and put it in the center. Then of course you obliterate the "B" on the seal. 9/4/1920 – Benda." (exact quote from document in the Prague Postal Museum.)

From the preparatory trials of the modified design, a considerable number of prints were preserved.

(Page 187):

#### STAMP ISSUES

Stamps were issued in a total of eight values. Of these the 5h and 10h appeared in two color versions. They were released into circulation in stages together with the Allegory stamps and were eventually withdrawn in stages. The time of issue and withdrawal from circulation was announced through the following Ministry of Posts and Telegraph bulletins:

Bulletin No. 25, Report No. 83 dated June 18, 1920, announces information regarding issue of the following values: 5h blue (first printing); 10h green; 15h brown.

Bulletin No. 38, Report No. 45 dated August 7, 1920, announces information regarding issue of the following values: 5h violet; 10h olive; 20h orange; 25h green.

Bulletin No. 20, Report No. 32 dated April 16, 1920, announces information pertaining to the withdrawal from circulation of the following values: 5h blue (first printing); 10h green.

Table 37. Summary of Dove stamp issues.

Value (hell- er)	Colour	Stamp size	Printing t e c h - nique	Number printed	Day of issue	Valid until
5	blue	18 × 21.5 mm	Typography	49,500,000	1-6-1920	30-4-1921
	(1st printing)					
5	blue			6,550,000	1-5-1926	29-2-1932
	(2nd printing)					
5	violet			*) 69,580,000	3-1-1921	31-7-1928
10	green			49,560,000	1-6-1920	30-4-1921
10	olive			*) 641,220,000	23-11- 1920	29-2-1932
15	brown			21,770,000	5-6-1920	29-2-1932
20	orange			611,040,000	3-1-1921	29-2-1932
	(both types)					
25	green			10,130,000	1-9-1920	29-2-1932
	(type I)					
25	green			27,230,000	8-2-1921	29-2-1932
	(type II)					
30	orange			52,110,000	20-5-1925	31-7-1928
	violet					

\*) inclusive of stamps for booklets (tête-bêche)

Table 37 shows particulars about the Dove issue including quantities of individual values, dates of issue and withdrawal from circulation.

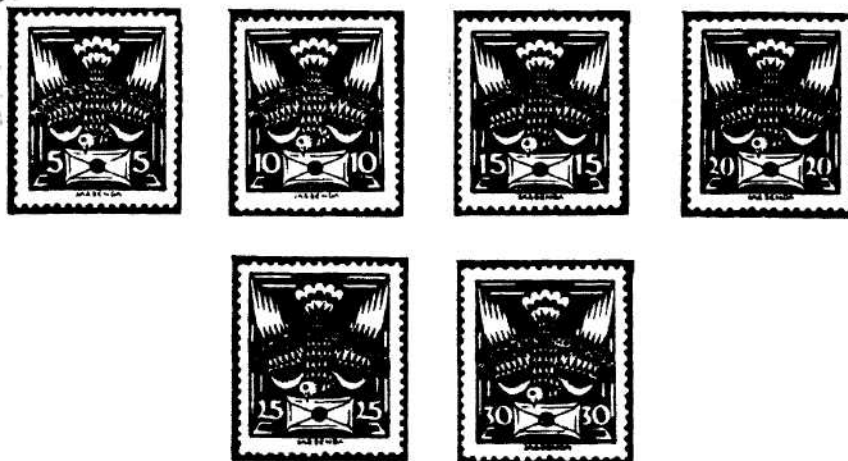
(Page 188):

Bulletin No. 24, Report No. 45 dated April 22, 1925, announces information about issuance of the following values: 5h blue (second printing); 30h red violet.

Bulletin No. 25, Report No. 58 dated July 4, 1928, announces information pertaining to the withdrawal from circulation of the following values: 5h violet; 30h red violet.

Bulletin No. 8, Report No. 11169 dated February 20, 1932, announces information about withdrawal from circulation of the following values: 5h blue (second printing); 10h olive; 15h brown; 20h orange; 25h green.

(Page 189):



The largest printing of the stamps was of the most commonly used denominations: the 10h olive and the 20h orange. The 5h blue stamp was issued in two time periods. Individual printings (first and second) are not possible to distinguish. To the first printing belong stamps used in 1920–21 and stamps without the sheet margin "frame" or bars. To the second printing belong stamps with the sheet margin frame and, as the case may be, with plate numbers 1–26 and 2–26. The 20h stamps were issued in two types marked I and II, but the number that were printed for each type is not known. Only after the perusal of a large number of unused stamps was it possible to determine that the printing of Type I was substantially lower.

#### STAMP PRINTING

(Page 190): Stamps were printed typographically by the Czech Graphic Union in Prague, using etched plates. By photographically reducing the design, a printing block was produced, twice the size of the actual stamp. This process was repeated for all subsequent values as new denominations were added to the original design. From the printing block 100 blackprints were made on chalk paper and were then pasted in a 10 × 10 stamp formation. This produced the auxiliary groups. These groups were then reduced to half their size, producing a glass negative with whose help the drawing was then transferred to the sensitive surface of a metal plate. It was then etched to produce the final plate.

The printing formations were either two or four plates comprising stamps of the same or different values, sometimes combined with stamps of different design (Hradčany, Liberated Republic).

(To be continued....)



## DESCRIPTION OF CZECHOSLOVAK EXHIBITS AT CAPEX '87

By Henry Hahn and J. L. Klein

*JAROSLAV GLONČÁK — "ČESKOSLOVENSKO 1918-1938" (Silver)*

Mr. Jaroslav Glončák of Czechoslovakia showed stamps of the 1918-1938 period. A fine display, showing good stamps of all issues, with special mention of the 1928 Jubilee set in the 12¼ perforation, a card franked with the "headless" 50h chainbreaker, which variety is also shown unused!

Outstanding items are the two early airmail essays, showing "plane above Prague," known from literature but hardly ever seen in a collection, as well as two postal stationery cards, with "Srobar" overprints.

*DRS. JAN A. ROMPES — "AUSTRIA-HUNGARY PRE-STAMP PHILATELY" (Gold)*

Our new member from Holland showed the history of the different types of postmarks used during the pre-stamp period 1751-1850 in Austria-Hungary.

A specialized and very interesting collection illustrating new discoveries, unfortunately for our purposes little pertaining to "Czechoslovak" interests. The Gold award, however, was well deserved for the scope of this exhibit.

*BELA SIMADY — "THE CARPATHO-UKRAINE 1786-1985" (Large Vermeil with special prize)*

This was an extensive and well-documented exhibit of this interesting area of Czech philately.

*HENRY HAHN — "CZECHOSLOVAKIA: SELECTED PAGES FROM A SPECIALIZED COLLECTION" (Large Vermeil)*

Henry Hahn showed an even better exhibit than at Ameripex, starting with Legion Post in Siberia, showing the scarce 10 Kop., followed by the second issue and by the stamps for the Yugoslav Regiment, illustrated by interesting covers.

Scout stamps are shown with very rare roll splices and with the Masaryk Visit overprint.

A variety of Newspaper stamps, some very scarce, is followed by essays, gutter pairs and rare perforations of the Hradschiny stamps, including a tête-bêche of the 200h.

Two frames of Pošta 1919 overprints with many excellent stamps, some in blocks of four, with varieties in types and overprints are followed by the Allegories issues, with many essays, proofs and scarce perforations, also with an excellent large block of 40 of the 10h Dove issue with horizontal comb perforation (ležmý hřeben).

A frame with very interesting essays and proofs of the 1920 Masaryk issue, including the recently discovered copper transfer printing, also shows die proofs, paper- and watermark varieties of the 1925 Masaryk issue, including perforation faults, paper roll splices, etc.

Mr. Hahn's exhibit shows an extremely scarce item (5R), the only block of four of the Doplatit overprint 50 on 400 known to exist.

Good gutters of the 1928 postage dues and of the 1918-19 and 1937 newspaper stamps are followed by the first airmail issue, represented by regular and inverted stamps, as well as blocks of 4 of the first overprint issue, very scarce early flight covers and Seizinger proofs and stamps of the 1930 issue.

*J. L. KLEIN — "SELECTED PAGES FROM A COLLECTION OF AIR MAIL FROM AND TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA" (Large Vermeil)*

Hans Klein's Air Mail exhibit is introduced by a Seizinger design drawing. There follow several balloon covers, the earliest balloon flight being of 1892. The year 1898 is represented by two covers, 1899 by one cover, and 1910 is represented by a cover with a balloon marking, with departure from Kralup Bohemia. Also shown are Zeppelin dirigible covers, the earliest being of 1913 — Sachsen — leaving from Heida (Bor) in Bohemia. The Czech air mail covers are introduced by a 1920 cover of a Prague-Paris

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flight correctly franked with the 2.50 Kč regular postage plus 24 Kč airmail surcharge. This is a rare piece, since it was carried by the first flight of October 5th, 1920, routed into Paris, flown by the Franco Romanian Air Transport Company. This is followed by a cover from the 6th flight, October 23rd, 1920, Prague-London, bearing a back stamp of London and the correct registry marking. It is overfranked by 5h! The third flown cover is from Prague to London, on November 25, 1920. This cover is correctly franked with two 125h Masaryks and the 28 Kč overprinted Hradčany stamp. It was returned to the sender at a Prague hotel. The next cover is another 1920 cover, similar to the previous one, sent by the same individual, and again returned to the sender. There follows another cover by the same sender, Josef Novák, from the Hotel Monopol in Prague, this time to Strasburg, and again returned to sender. 1921 is represented by several covers; one to Warsaw, also returned to sender, followed by one to Paris, March 20, 1921, again flown by the Franco Romanian Company with Franco Romanian marking. Another 1921 cover flown to London, properly franked, and yet another sent to Strasburg are both in the same handwriting and flown by the Franco Romanian Company.

Several covers in the "second" period follow, bearing the full set of stamps. Another flown to Paris shows no air mail stamps and represents the interim period between the first and Agriculture and Science issue. There follow some 1922 covers, one French cover addressed to Prague with a Prague backstamp and several with the Agriculture and Science issue. Additional covers from the later period, 1924 through 1926, show early flights to the Orient and Turkey and various Middle Eastern destinations. Two 1927 covers show a label which is from an exhibition in Prague on June 4th to 16th, 1927, showing the Polish balloon Lwow and Warsaw which participated in international balloon competition. Several 1928, 1929, and later first flights are shown using both regular and third issue franking. Some interesting 1926 and 1927 flights to and from the Soviet Union are included, as well as some 1937 and 1938 South American flights, including a crash cover from the Air France crash on the route Caracas, Venezuela, via Brazil and Paris to Prague. Several interesting air mail covers to Czechoslovakia are shown including one from Spain, another from Mexico, another crash cover from the Netherlands, a cover from the United States and a variety of Zeppelin covers. A registered cover which came to Prague by way of the German Field Post in 1944 is also shown. A large number of Zeppelin covers, from 1932 on, is shown with the full range of Zeppelin flights and Zeppelin cachets. The latest covers included go all the way to 1936 showing German dirigible mail including Hindenburg covers going to New York, as well as catapult flights from the Bremen from 1930 to 1934.

*FRANK KOHN — "THE MAIL IN PRAGUE 1527-1875" (Small Vermeil)*

Frank Kohn's showing of historic Prague mail is of necessity narrower in scope than the exhibit of Václav Konstant but covers a longer period since it includes a splendid showing of early Monarchy franking.

Mr. Kohn points out that three members of the Hapsburg dynasty resided in succession in Prague. These included Ferdinand I (1527-1564), Maximilian II (1564-1576), and Rudolf II (1576-1612). The gist of his fine descriptive writing follows:

Ferdinand I appointed members of the Taxis family to organize and operate the Royal Mails of Prague. Although generally inaccessible to the public, private letters were occasionally accepted for forwarding. In 1571 Maximilian II terminated the services of the Taxis family for Bohemia. At this time he opened the mails to the public, appointed a postmaster for Prague and Bohemia. A public post office was opened at the Kleinseite (Malá Strana). Thereafter postmanship was granted by the rules to individuals who operated the public postal service in Prague and in Bohemia. This service prevailed until 1624 when Count Paar obtained the postal privileges in Austria which his family then held until 1722. In this year the postal service was made a governmental institution.

Upon the death of Rudolf II, Vienna became the capital of the Hapsburg Empire.

Under Paar it also became the center of postal service in the "Hereditary Lands." Prague was made the seat of administration for the Kingdom of Bohemia. As business in Prague expanded, the postal service was increased, and the post office was moved

from the Kleinseite to a central location within the city. Kleinseite now became a branch post office. Others, including those located in railroad stations, were opened in the course of time. This exhibit shows the development of the Austrian mails through the Prague post office, and thus mirrors the services available during the time covered by this collection.

The first items shown in the exhibit include Royal Mail letters from Ferdinand I, Maximilian II, and Rudolf II. Also included is a letter from the "Winter King," Frederic V of the Palatinate of the Rhine who ruled Bohemia for one year November 4, 1619, to November 8, 1620, then a letter from Ferdinand, Archduke of Austria to Anthony, Archbishop of Prague mailed from Innsbruck to Prague in 1570.

Of particular note is the description of an early cover in the section dealing with privately carried mail. It is of a letter dated April 27 1622 from Karl, Prince Lichtenstein, First Imperial Governor of Bohemia (after the Battle of the White Mountain) bearing his signature and seal, addressed to Christopher von Grünenberg. The Prince instructs Grünenberg to assist "fremde Juden" (foreign Jews) transporting and installing crucibles at the silver mines in Joachimsthal (Jáchymov), Bohemia.

Postal regulation of November 1, 1751, required indication of place mailing on front of letter. The exhibit displays the first rubber stamp markings of the Prague City Post with the script P in a circle, also known as Klapperpost.

Postmarks came into disuse and virtually extinct until the end of 1817.

The exhibit then details eighteenth century cancellations of Prague until the late nineteenth century. Included are most of the Prague cancellations on the first, second and third issue of Austria. Many are shown on long strip multiples on piece, showing full postmark. Covers include ample explanation of postal rates. Special attention is paid to foreign mail. Registered mail is shown separately, starting with the beginning of registry service in Prague on October 22, 1788. Also shown are border crossing markings such as the "LA" and others. Receipts are shown stamped and unstamped. The exhibit ends with a comprehensive showing of Prague postmarked newspaper issues and early Prague postal stationery.

**WALTER RAUCH — "CZECHOSLOVAKIAN FIELD POST 1936-1946"**  
(Large Vermeil)

This exhibit includes mail originating from Czechoslovak Military Units serving in the Spanish Civil War, France, the Near East, Great Britain and the Soviet Union.

The covers all bear a variety of censor markings and a number of them show registry and unit of markings. Some covers show "Refused" marking and "Return to Sender" markings. Also shown are two interestingly franked protectorate covers which went by way of Yugoslavia and Beirut to the Czechoslovak military unit at Agde, France. The second panel is devoted entirely to the French unit at Agde and unfortunately mixes postal markings with Czech souvenir commemorative markings. A further group shows military correspondence to exiled individuals including Jan Masaryk and Eduard Beneš. These covers do not appear to have philatelic significance.

The third frame shows mail to Czech units and the Czech consulate in Palestine and a number of other Middle East covers including one addressed to Iraq and an air-graph bearing a legitimate British cancel and a commemorative Czech Slovak double cross cancel. The exhibit contains a profusion of collateral material, including a photostat of an airgram, a map of the Mediterranean, and a copy of an issue of "Naše Noviny" which serves no philatelic purpose. His penultimate page shows Czechoslovakia in the RAF, and again shows much collateral material giving locations of the airdomes and training units, positions of the various squadrons and bombing groups in England, and a street map of the evacuation of Dunkirk. He further shows Czechs serving with the Axis forces. Included is a cover with a German field post marking and a German postal unit marking of June 1942, and an Italian air mail letter with German field post number "L" (German Luftwaffe) No. 37954 from Tobruk. He shows the location of the origin on a map.

While containing many philatelically worthy covers, the exhibit contains an excess of collateral and other non-philatelic material.

*PAUL JENSEN — "CZECHOSLOVAKIA POSTAL HISTORY 1499-1850"*  
(Large Vermeil)

The exhibit starts with the pre-Hapsburg period. His earliest item dated May 25, 1499, is from Buda, Hungary to the Royal Hint in Kutenberg (Kutná-Hora) Bohemia, of course without postal markings. The next item shown is an Imperial letter signed by Ferdinand I dated in Prague Castle and addressed to the Governor of Lower Austria in Vienna. The date of the letter is the 21st of Sept. 1547. Also shown is a letter from Pressburg (Bratislava) of the 4th of March 1559 signed by Maximilian and addressed to the Governor of Lower Austria in Vienna. Imperial letters are dispersed with other official letters carried by the Imperial Mail. Letters originating in Prague are included with letters addressed to Prague. The descriptions are extremely interesting. For example, a letter of October 12, 1593, from Petschan (Pečov nad Teplou) Bohemia, from Count Sebastian Schlick zu Bassan to the Imperial Councilor Dreyling von Wagnern, Imperial Lord Lieutenant of Joachimsthal, regarding the construction of a paper mill in Prague. The letter has no postal markings. Another letter of the 15th of September 1617 from Prague addressed to the Mayor of the City of Braunschweig is included in this part of the exhibit.

Mr. Jensen's next section covers the period of the Thirty Years War, 1618-1648. His first letter is from Carlsbad to Prague. The earliest letter representing Slovakia is from December 1, 1723, to Eperies (Prešov). This letter shows an "8" in red crayon indicating the 8 Kreuzer postage to pay. This is 1/2 rate for single postage, (1/2 loth), according to the decree of October 16, 1722.

Succeeding frames show the earliest postmarks and are mostly letters to and from clergy and show postal routings on the face. He then shows a number of Recepisse, both receipt and mailing.

There follows an ample display of Royal Mail from the so-called "Second Period," 1789-1817. A decree dated in Prague December 27, 1788, announcing that a unitary letter rate regardless of distance will be introduced for the German, Bohemian, and Hungarian Lands, starting January 1, 1789. Basic rate was to be eight (8) Kreuzer, 1/2 to be paid by sender and 1/2 by addressee. Official mail was to carry the seal of office in red on the front. Registry fee was set at 6 Kreuzer to be paid by sender. As distance was no longer of importance in calculating postage, the use of town postmarks gradually ceased except for letters abroad, which continued to carry postmarks in spite of the new regulation. The Prague Kleine Post is represented by a letter showing the script P in circle and dated May 14, 1791, from Prague to Nuremberg, which was charged 6Kr to the border. The additional postage paid in Nuremberg was 8Kr Bavarian. He then presents a number of covers which show the von Königratz and de Klattau markings and then continues with a number of panels still representing the second period. He includes a printed postal document with rates that give postal tariffs dated the 8th of October 1803, valid from the 15th of November 1803. He shows many script rate markings including the reddish ones, the so-called "Roetzel" and then goes into what he calls the third period which is 1817 to 1842, with yet another rate schedule.

Paul Jensen, a frequent international exhibitor (we remember his CAPEX 78 superb showing as well) once again dazzles us with both his philately and knowledge of postal history.

*VČLAV KONŠTANT — "POSTAL HISTORY OF BOHEMIAN LANDS FROM 16TH TO 19TH CENTURY"* (Large Vermeil)

Exhibiting in the U.S. for the first time, this well-known postal historian presents a rich display of Bohemian and Moravian postal history spanning the earliest period of Imperial Mail to the end of the pre-stamp period. As an example, we describe the portion of the exhibit dealing with the "Small Private Mail of Prague," i.e., the "Kleine Post." The first page reads "This money letter dated 11th of August 1783 was posted at the Small Post in Prague, located at Celetná Street No. 14." Shown are four seals bearing the text "K:K:PR:Kleine Post Oberamt" and followed by "SIGIL, Maius Novae Urbis Pragensis Metropolitane." The right to operate this service was granted to the owner of the Post, Francis Garsie by Joseph II on the 15th day of July 1782.

The second page of this portion of the exhibit is entitled "Small Post in Prague, Celetná Street No. 14." The description of the item shown reads: "In this house on the

11th of June 1781 was mailed this letter which was postmarked by the Small Post with the cancellation "P" in script inside a circle. The Small Post, in the year 1794, was merged with the post at the Lesser Side (Malá Strana). In the year 1819 the activity of the Small Post was reconstituted once again and leased to Francis Garsie but no longer located in Prague. In the year 1820 the "Small Post" was discontinued.

In the year 1796, just as in Prague, there was founded by Francis Garsie a post office in Štýrský Hradec. A letter mailed at that Small Post with the post mark "G" is addressed to Bohemia.

*J. L. KLEIN — "SELECTED PAGES FROM A COLLECTION OF CZECHO-SLOVAKIA 1918-1939" (Gold)*

This comprehensive exhibit of rare and unusual items included POŠTA 1919 overprints, 1920 Masaryk, Hradčany, Allegories and Airmail issues.

Among the POŠTA 1919 "gems" were the 4 Kč and the 10 Kč granite paper; examples of the 12h Crown Type 1a and Type 2a, the latter in the complete lower right pane of 25 showing both positions 90 and 100; an exceptional array of POŠTA essays and "not regularly issued" items, in all overprint types. Among the interesting inverteds are two 6h Crowns with the Black overprint, one on the gum side! Also both types of the 2 Kč dark blue shade, inverted overprint. Then the unique 5h triangle Special Handling tab strip of four, along with another pair of unique items: the 5h rectangular Special Handling format in a block of 20, line perf  $12\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$  and a block of four line perf  $12\frac{1}{2}$  with double overprint — both with the green-black overprint. Among the Class D overprints are all three types of the 10h red Mercury as well as the complete set of large Porto red postage dues, also in all types. Finally, we note all four Class F types of the 20f Magyar Posta from "Toman's half-sheet" plus another Type 2 from "Stoupa's half-sheet" — truly a rare assemblage.

The Masaryk 1920 portion displayed large blocks and panes of essays and proofs, the most notable being blocks of 15 and 12 of the recently discovered trial copper plate recess printings of the unissued 2000h value. There was also a nice array of the 1200h essays, including the seldom-seen perforated example. Of the 125h issued stamp were shown the rare black proof sheet of 25 subjects on chalky paper, along with a 10-unit proof sheet in typography on gummed stamp paper.

Of the many Allegory items, noteworthy were examples of the Kosiče Chainbreaker 100h counterfeit in a block of 15 along with a copy of the interesting Postal bulletin regarding this fake. Then we note a possibly unique 40h Chainbreaker in a se tenant pair, *horizontal comb 14* with sheet margin, used at Uzhorod in Carpatho-Ukraine. Finally, the "RRR" 50/50 Doplatit overprint on the red Chainbreaker augmented this showing.

Of the 1939 air mail series were shown a mint block of 4 of the 20 Kč line perf  $13\frac{1}{4}:12\frac{1}{4}$  plus a mint pair of the 5 Kč line perf  $12\frac{1}{4}$ . Also shown were some original Seizinger drawings for this series.

The Hradčany section was highlighted by a range of gutter pairs and blocks, topped off with mint and used examples, tête bêche, of the 30h yellow-olive.

An interesting side-light was a page of the "Vejprt" counterfeits made to defraud the Post.

## HELP!

Can any of our members give me a clue as to the origin or cause of this interesting "plate flaw" on a Makulatura print of the 100h green Arts & Science stamp?



The curved colorless "scratch" is caused by an absence of ink — it is not a paperscratch. Interesting, because of the similarity to an illustration technique sometimes used in magazine or newspaper articles. In this example, however, the ink and the pinkish colored paper are definitely "from" the Czech printing plant, not from some periodical or book.

J. L. Klein



## MISALIGNED COMB 14 PERFORATIONS — II

By Frank W. Julsen

In the February 1987 issue of the *SPECIALIST* I wrote about the incidence of "blind perfs" in the lower corners of Dove and Chainbreaker stamps, caused by carelessness on the part of the operator of a comb 14 perforating machine:

*(illustrate example here)  
from previous article*

Usually this gap involves the space normally occupied by one perforation hole. However, member J. L. Klein has just shown me a vertical strip of three of the 10h bistre Dove stamp that surely must be the grand-daddy of all comb perforation 14 misalignments:

*(illustrate strip here)*

As indicated by the year designation "28" in the margin, this is from a late printing and the mistake slipped by the inspector, probably ending up in some post office and thence to an interested collector.

The interesting part about this strip is that it shows so clearly the format of the comb: 18 perforation holes vertically which, when properly aligned for the next stroke, will blend with the lower hole from the preceding punch or stroke.

As I mentioned in the previous article, these varieties are not so rare that a nice representation of all Dove and Chainbreaker values (I've also seen them on Hradčany comb perforations, by the way) can be assembled without straining the wallet.

"NOTE: We remind the readers that the translator has adhered strictly to the original text. Neither the translator nor the *SPECIALIST* assumes any responsibility for any factual inaccuracies or interpretative opinions expressed in that original text."

### NEW MEMBERS

- 1492 SANDBERG, Marlin K., 6320½ Aldama St., Los Angeles, CA 90042  
1493 PALASCHAK, Leonard J., LTC USA (RET), 7525 Mustang Rd., Colorado Springs, CO 80908

Welcome back to:

926 ADAM, Joseph, 24 Rossland Rd. E., Oshawa, Ontario L1G 2V9, Canada

## PRAGA '88 APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Preliminary applications for PRAGA '88, to take place in Prague, Czechoslovakia, August 26–September 4, 1988, are now available. Completed preliminary applications should be received by the U.S. Commissioner by October 20, 1987, in order to be received in Prague by the deadline.

The policy for acceptance of exhibits differs somewhat from past practices, as announced by the President of the Organizing Committee, Mr. Alois Dusek. While in conformance with general FIP regulations, the objective of the Committee is to achieve greater diversification of exhibits and thus afford greater opportunity for participation to potential exhibitors who would otherwise not qualify. As a consequence, the number of exhibits accepted in some classes will be more limited.

In the competitive class exhibitors will generally be limited to five (5) frames, except for those exhibits having won "Gold" at a FIP International Show since and including PRAGA '78.

Increased emphasis will be placed on more recent, i.e., post WWI and post WWII material, thematics and philatelic literature.

Separate preliminary application forms for stamp exhibits and philatelic literature are now available, though in limited quantities. These are being provided together with the PRAGA '88 "EXHIBITION REGULATIONS." Potential exhibitors are urged to request these promptly from the U.S. Commissioner, Mr. Henry Hahn, c/o ARTECH CORP., 2901 Telestar Court, Falls Church, VA 22042.





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