

# THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Official Monthly Journal of the



(USPS 808300)  
Society for Czechoslovak Philately, Inc.

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

A.P.S. Unit 18

Vol. XLIX

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No. 9, Whole No. 473

## FRANK KOHN WINS BALPEX '87 "GRAND"

By Henry Hahn

To the best of our recollection, Frank Kohn's BALPEX "GRAND" represents only the third such victory in the U.S. for an exhibit of Czechoslovakian (or Czecho-related) material.\* The exhibit is entitled "THE MAIL IN PRAGUE, 1527-1875. DEVELOPMENT OF POSTAL SERVICES FROM ROYAL MESSENGER TO U.P.U."

The BALPEX "GRAND" entitles Mr. Kohn to exhibit in the "Champion of Champions" class at STAMPSHOW '88. In addition to the "GRAND," Frank Kohn received the SOCIETY FOR CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELY "GOLD," the BALPEX "GOLD," and the AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY'S "MEDAL OF EXCELLENCE, PRE-1900." Mr. Kohn's exhibit is described elsewhere in the SPECIALIST as part of our CAPEX '87 review.

The SOCIETY'S "SILVER AWARD," together with the BALPEX "GOLD" was garnered by Mr. Bram Klein of Chicago with an exhibit entitled "CZECHOSLOVAKIA, THE ALLEGORY ISSUES: VARIETIES, PROOFS AND ESSAYS." In addition, this exhibit received the "APS MEDAL OF EXCELLENCE, 1900-1940." We believe this to be the first instance when two (2) of the three (3) APS Medals of Excellence have been awarded for Czecho at a single "Champion of Champions" qualifying show.

Other members of our SOCIETY receiving BALPEX "GOLD" awards include Mr. Victor G. Berecz and Dr. Stephan I. Frater, with both showing Hungary-related material. Dr. Frater was also the winner of the Society for Hungarian Philately Award.

Mr. C. J. Pearce of Coalgate, Oklahoma, received the SOCIETY'S "BRONZE" and a BALPEX "VERMEIL" for his showing of "SELECTED PAGES FROM A SPECIALIZED COLLECTION OF THE LEGION ISSUES OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA." Another "VERMEIL" went to member Joseph Taylor of New Haven, Connecticut, for his showing of "ALLIED INTERVENTION IN RUSSIA, 1918-1920."

International gold winner, SPECIALIST contributor, lecturer, and former SCP director Charles Chesloe of Willow Springs, Illinois, presented two of his secondary exhibits. One was entitled "CZECHOSLOVAKIA - SUDETENLAND TERRITORIES, 1938-1944" and the second "CZECHOSLOVAKIA - CARPATHO-UKRAINE CANCELLATIONS, 1920-1939." Both received a BALPEX "SILVER."

Additional "SILVER" were received by SOCIETY Directors, E. W. Lehecka of Westfield, New Jersey, for "CZECHOSLOVAKIA - 1920 LEGIONAIRE ISSUE" and Joseph J. Janecka of Riverside, Illinois, for his showing of the "MUSIC SHEETS OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA." Mr. Janecka also received a "BRONZE" for his showing of "OVERRUN NATIONS' FLAGS OF 1943 - FIRST DAY OF ISSUE COVERS."

Mr. Paul Sturman of Arlington, Virginia, presented a topical exhibit entitled "FUNGI - MUSHROOMS." His 2-frame exhibit received a "BRONZE" award.

Members of our SOCIETY did superbly as a group, having garnered top awards significantly out of proportion to their number of entries.

It is also clear that Czecho and Czecho-related philately has won its place alongside the "classical" areas of philately. This recognition is largely due to the active participation of our members in top national and international shows, the SOCIETY'S publishing program, and a well-organized SOCIETY.

Mr. J. J. Janecka received special recognition at the BALPEX Awards Banquet for contributing the SOCIETY'S lovely awards.

The BALPEX jury included Messrs. Douglas N. Clark (Georgia), Michael D. Dixon (Maryland), Edgar A. Heath (Maryland), Alex Rendon (New York), Otto Schaffling (Connecticut), John Silvers (Delaware), Dr. Ernst T. Theimer (New Jersey), Alan Warrent (Pennsylvania), and the author.

\*Others include Mr. Fred W. Heter and the author.

## KAY F. GOODMAN

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Mrs. Kay F. Goodman. She passed away after a long and painful illness in the hospital on July 31, 1987. Kay was an Hon. Member of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain and much respected on both sides of the Atlantic. Kay was particularly fond of collecting Siberia; she exhibited at PRAGA '78. She will be sadly missed.

## NEW MEMBERS

1494 ROMPES, Dr. Jan. A., Waltoren 4, Amersfoort 3811 PA, Holland  
1495 KOLER, Thomas E., 4520 31 St. N.E., Olympia, WA 98506  
1496 O'DONNELL, Ludmila, 5419 NE 35th Ave., Portland, OR 97211

## REMEMBER!

PRAGA '88 IS JUST TEN MONTHS AWAY!!

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*Changes of address to International Secretary*

## MEET JOSEPH STEIN

There was a time years ago when our Society experienced a period of turbulence. Several factions were struggling for power and control and there was danger of disintegration. The reason the Society survived that period and emerged united was due in no small part to the perseverance and diplomacy of one man whose efforts behind the scenes helped to heal many wounds.

Joseph Stein is a quiet unassuming person with a knack for accurately analyzing developing events. Foreseeing an era of terrorism and enslavement sweeping across Europe, he came to this country in 1935 just in time to escape the jaws of genocide.

He joined the Society in March 1948 and within six months was elected Secretary of the New York branch. This group held meetings first at the coffee shop of Frank Justic on Second Avenue, then at the stamp store of Frank Vinson (Voticky) on Lexington Avenue and finally at the Collectors' Club — all in Manhattan. Participating at these meetings were such well-known members as Joseph Lowey, founder of the Society; Dr. Reiner-Deutsch, its President; Lolly Horechny, one of its future Presidents; dealers like Arthur I. Kessler and Alfons Stach and many others.

In 1956, Stein organized the Society's participation at FIPEX which was held during the opening of New York's vast Coliseum. In conjunction with that show, our Society sponsored a dinner at National Hall which was attended by 85 members and friends, thanks to Stein's tireless efforts.

As a member of the Board, he was national treasurer from 1962 to 1966 and was the first treasurer to put the Society's finances on a sound footing. With the demise of his first wife in 1966, he temporarily withdrew from philatelic activities.

His subsequent remarriage brought renewed interest in Society matters. In 1970, he organized and chaired the Society's exhibit and meeting at SEPAD in Philadelphia. Joseph J. Janečka, Jr., was then President (see October 1987 "Member of the Month") and 60 members participated in that event.

He continued to render valuable service to the Society while working in the wholesale pharmaceutical business. In 1974, he retired from work and within a few years, he and his wife, Irma, left Brooklyn and settled in San Diego, California, where they are presently residing. Shortly before retiring, he made a comprehensive study of engravers' markings on stamps designed by K. Seizinger and B. Heinz which have added immeasurably to our specialized knowledge of Czechoslovak stamps (see SPECIALIST, May 1973, page 75).

Joseph Stein is still active in small local philatelic clubs, but his age and health prevents him from pursuing his endeavors in our Society. Nevertheless he is honored and remembered for his philatelic accomplishments on behalf of a Society that owes him more than it can give.



## PRESIDENT'S NOTES

### On Balpex

Henry Hahn, the Society's program chairman, is to be congratulated on his organizing another excellent event for our members, making BALPEX one of the highlights of the philatelic year.

On Saturday, Sept. 5, a combined banquet of the Austrian, Hungarian, Ukrainian and Czechoslovak societies was sold out. Almost fifty members and friends sat in attendance. This was followed by a meeting of the Society Board — one of the longest on record. More on that subject later.

On Sunday, Sept. 6, an afternoon lecture series featured slide presentations by members Keith Stupell on the Sudetenland; by Gordon Torrey on the Siberian Intervention; and by Stephan Frater, president of the Hungarian Society, on Hungary's Scott number one stamp. In addition, Frank Kohn gave an enlightening talk on Royal mail during the days of Old Prague. This was followed by a general meeting of our own Society members at which your President showed slides made by Joseph Lowey of his 1940's collection on "Military History of Czechoslovakia."

On Sunday evening, at the Balpex Awards Banquet, our awards were also made. Henry Hahn, who participated as one of the judges, presented the awards to our Society exhibitors. These awards consist of "gold," "bronze," and "silver" plaques of Masaryk, Komenski, and Žižka busts, laboriously made and donated by Joseph Janečka. The recipients of these and the exhibits for which they were presented are written up in a separate article by Henry Hahn.

### On the Board

Hopefully the results of the Society elections to the Board will appear in the January 1988 issue along with the makeup of the new Board. On that subject, your President made a faux pas in the September issue when he announced that his term in office as President has two and a half more years to run. He should know better! As a matter of fact, his term as President expires the end of this year. But his term as officer on the Board continues another two years.

### On NOJEX 88

The Society regrets the resignation of Dr. Dominick Riccio, our former President, both as member and as program chairman for NOJEX 88. He cites personal business reasons and hopes that in due course future events will enable him to reactivate. Good luck, Dominick!

The Board has decided that inasmuch as Riccio has resigned and NOJEX is coming so close in time to PRAGA 88, our Society will not participate in the NOJEX show next year. Instead, it will endeavor to concentrate all its energies on PRAGA 88 in making our participation there a never-to-be-forgotten occasion. The membership is encouraged to lend its support in whatever way possible and to attend the philatelic event of the decade.

### On the SPECIALIST

In its efforts to continue improving the quality of the SPECIALIST even further while bringing its members the philatelic news quicker, the Board has decided to consolidate its editorial staff. Your President, on expiration of his term, will become the editor and will be assisted on the staff by Geråld van Zanten and Frank Julsen, the current and past editors.

For those who have any articles, announcements or advertisements to submit for publication, the deadline is the tenth day of each month for publication a month and a half later. In other words, anything for the February 1988 issue must be sent to the editor so that it is in his hands not later than Dec. 10, 1987. Anything that he receives on Dec. 11 or thereafter will qualify for publication in the March 1988 issue as long as it is received by him on or before Jan. 10, 1988. Material should be typed if possible and should be addressed to: Mirko L. Vondra, 1511 Clearview Ave., Lancaster, PA 17601. These deadlines apply to all issues. Thus the deadline for submission of material for the March issue is Jan. 10; for the April issue is Feb. 10; and so on.

Your President and Editor-to-be believes that with but a few exceptions, each of our members collects not only Czechoslovakia, but at least one other country, topical or thematic. Not only that, but after almost 50 years in existence, the SPECIALIST is in a position to offer its readers a more diverse selection of philatelic subject matter. Therefore, starting with the January issue, it will publish one article each month devoted to a philatelic theme not necessarily related to Czechoslovak philately and not necessarily written by a member of our Society. By the same token, you as a member of our Society are invited to write and send us for publication an article in whatever philatelic subject you have expertise even if it does not concern Czechoslovakia. Our objective, of course, is to give you greater reading variety and reach a larger audience.

#### On Our Ailing Members

Bad news seems to come in three's. In the Sept. issue, we announced the triple heart by-pass operation that Ladislav Fischmeister underwent and we all wish him a speedy recovery. I have just learned recently that August Hrivnak (member number 9) is in the hospital for treatment of a stroke and pneumonia. His son has written us that his father would enjoy hearing from some of the members and receiving a note of cheer. He is 93 years old and can be reached in care of his son, George Rivnak, P.O. Box 2455, 9 Juniper Creek Blvd., Pinehurst, NC 28374. In addition, Jane Sterba informs me that C. J. Pearce (member number 17) has undergone eye surgery. A get-well card from our members would be appreciated. Please address him at: P.O. Box 32, Coalgate, OK 74538.



## WHY DO I COLLECT CZECHOSLOVAK STAMPS?

There are many reasons why we collect Czechoslovakia; here are the reasons why member No. 1426 Bob McCann does.

I was born in 1932 in Baltimore Maryland and attended grammar and high school there. When the United States entered WWII I was a few months past my ninth birthday. By the time the war was over I was ready to enter high school. I have always liked history and it was when we began to study the history of the events that led up to WWII, that my interest in Czechoslovakia was aroused. The Munich Agreement with the ceding of the Sudetenland to Germany. The Slovakian State declaring their independence. Germany occupying the Czech Lands and setting up the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia.

My philatelic interest is not, however, with the stamps of Czechoslovakia as it was before or after WWII. I collect the issues of Bohemia and Moravia.

I guess that I have a fairly representative collection of Bohemia and Moravia but there is much that I do not know about Bohemia and Moravia, especially its postal history. In time I hope to acquire additional knowledge and to expand my collection.

Any help with publications, printed in English, on the above subject will be much appreciated.

*Ed.:* If anyone is able to assist Bob please drop him a line.

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Napier, N.Z. November 1987

Over the past few months I have written a great deal of letters and even managed a few articles for the SPECIALIST. When doing the list of New Issues for the year, I noticed that the first PRAGA '88 stamps for the year appeared on May 12th, five stamps and three sheets. I wonder how many more will be issued before the doors open for PRAGA '88? And how many of our members will be attending PRAGA '88?

Recently, I obtained some interesting cards, issued by the Czechoslovak recruiting office at Tribune Building, New York; designed and printed at Wentworth Institute, Boston, MA. They obviously are First World War vintage and on the reverse side they also give recruiting office addresses in the USA. A two cent stamp was required.

I am showing one sample and hope some of you will remember these cards or have some in your collection as well. Maybe this will bring back memories for a few of you, perhaps worthy of telling us about through the pages of the SPECIALIST.

How often do you look through our old SPECIALISTS and think, "Gosh, I forgot about that!" or "I never took much note of that!" Looking through my bound volume 1970-1971 I read on page 24 of the February issue an editorial by Jack Benchik, in which he told us to be careful when soaking stamps off the SPECIALIST yellow envelope as the dye will affect the stamps by staining. Try a 50/50 solution of vinegar and water. That appears to solve the problem; once off, wash in clear water.

In the same issue I read that I joined this Society around that time; that was in February 1970. From then till now I certainly have enjoyed my association, but even more so since I am involved in editorial work. Which makes me think it is not what you get out of being a member, but what you may be able to contribute, no matter how little!



Seize arms and join our ranks,  
all ye of Czechoslovak birth!



## THE DOVE

### Second Installment

It is possible to divide the printing of the stamps into a number of production periods. Values 5, 15, 25, and 30h were usually printed in two-plate formations. The 10h green was also printed in two-plate formations, whereas the 10h olive was printed in the four-plate formation, with the most likelihood of being printed in that formation in the latter stages of production (since 1924). The 20h value was printed in both two- and four-plate formations.

From preserved stamp material it is possible to estimate the number of printing plates used, including those used for the booklet issues (Table 38):

Table 38. Survey of Plates.		
Value	Number of plates	Remarks
5h blue	9	An actual count can only be estimated rête bêche plates
violet	8	
violet	2	
10h green	4	An actual count can only be estimated rête bêche plates
olive	58	
olive	2	
15h	2	
20h Type I	2	An actual count can only be estimated rête bêche plates
Type II	65	
	2	
25h Type I	2	
Type II	6	
30h	14	

(Page 191): From the survey it is not altogether clear how many plate formations (not shown in above table) exist of the 5h blue and the 5h violet, the 10h olive (which had a printing of more than 640 million) and of the 20h value. Due to the lack of documentation in private collections and in the Postal Museum, it is not possible to ascertain accurately the sequence of individual plates and their arrangement in printing forms. The printing plates are therefore shown in accordance with their markings and in accordance with known theoretical assumptions.

### PLATE MARKINGS

There were various plate markings. At first during the initial printing stages, the plates were without any markings at all and also without the sheet margin frame or bars. Later the plates were distinguishable by dashes in the row control numbers in the sheet selvage, by engraved marks or numbers inside the sheet margin frame and by serial numbers indicating the year. If we are to carry out at least a partial differentiation of the plates according to a time period, it is possible to conclude that only chronology can determine the approximate period of use of corresponding plate markings.

- 1920/21      Plates without any visible markings. Individual sheets are with or without the sheet margin frame.
- 1921/22      Interrupted decimal line in the row control numbers in various places.
- 1923          Engravings of different shapes in the frame. Engraved vertical or horizontal numbers within the frame.
- After 1924    Sequence numbers in the left bottom corner and corresponding year numbers in the right bottom corner.

The protective frames were used in order to remove flaws and faults on the printing blocks nearest the border due to the pressure of the roller. These etched bands were up to 3.7 mm in width and were first seen on the 5h blue. This protective measure was not sufficient and the printer took additional steps to prevent some unwanted occurrences (paper folding, etc.) by arranging the frame to leave a gap between it and the stamps. The width of that gap was approximately 2 mm.

Here we cite a few interesting combinations of the printing plates which are preserved in whole sheets at the Postal Museum in Prague.

We are always dealing with combinations of two plates of relevant value and issue:

5h blue Dove + 10h green Dove

20h Type I + 25h violet Dove

15h Dove + 25h Liberated Lion

20h Dove + 50h Liberated Lion

15h Dove + 30h Hradčany

25h Dove + 2h Newspaper

Of these the most interesting variety is possibly the two-plate combination of the 15h Dove with the 30h red violet Hradčany.

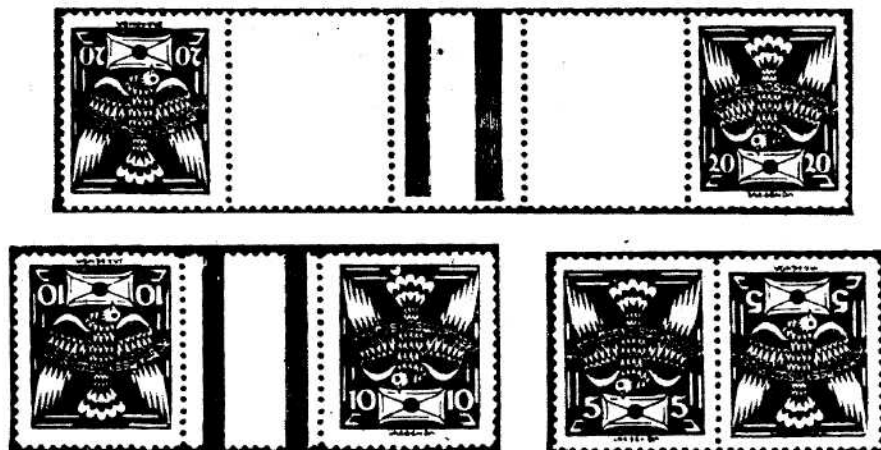
(Page 192): The horizontal space between plates of corresponding value was always the same for all printing formation (24.0 – 25.0 mm). This space was necessary due to the use of a new machine for comb perforations, which perforated both sheets at the same time.

#### PRINTING PLATES FOR THE BOOKLET ISSUE

The two plate printing form used for printing stamps for the scheduled issue of stamp booklets in a tête-bêche arrangement belongs under a separate heading. In this arrangement were printed the three Dove values, that is, 5h violet, 10h olive and 20h orange as well as three "Liberated Republic" or "Chainbreaker" values (40, 50 green and 60h).

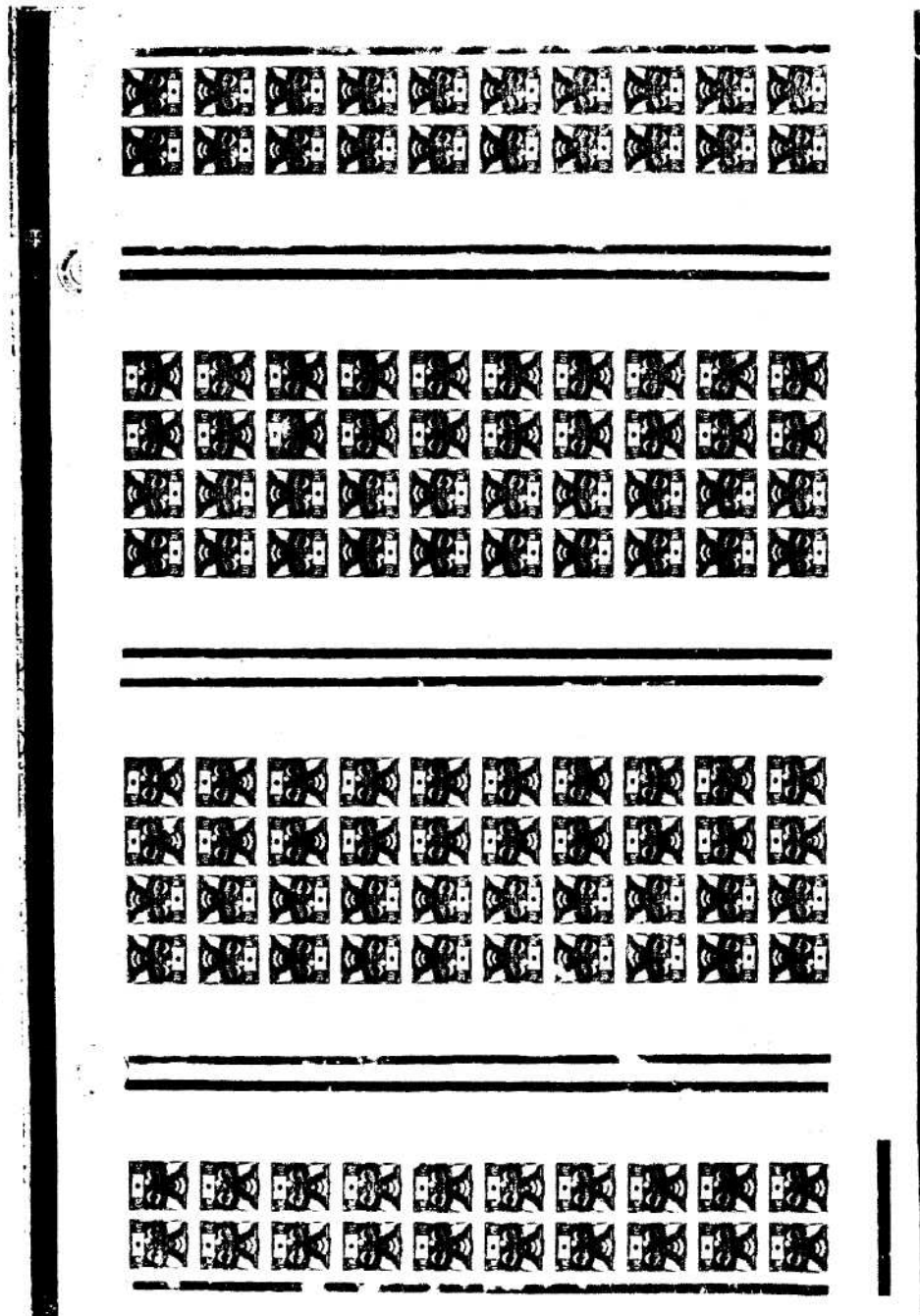
The entire production of the booklets was supposed to be financed by the advertising firm "PIRAS," which was to use the clear pages of the booklet for advertising. But the plan failed due to the change in postal tariffs. The postal authorities then placed the already printed sheets into normal circulation, at first at the philatelic counter in the main post office in Prague and later at other post offices.

The printing plates had 90 stamp positions and 10 blank positions in a sheet arranged in three opposite rows with one blank field. Only the 20h printing plate had a sheet of 60 stamp positions and 30 empty positions. Three vertical lines of stamps were reversed in the middle of the sheet, producing either a narrow or a wide tête-bêche arrangement. The blank field between them was marked with two parallel bands of the same color as the stamps.



Illus. 305. Examples of the tête-bêche pairs.





Illus. 304. Print of the whole 20h printing format (Imperforate).

(Page 194): Stamp booklets were to contain twelve 10h stamps, four 20h stamps and twelve 50h (Liberated Republic) stamps, making the total value of the booklet 8 Kč.

But because postal rates were meanwhile increased twice, new values were prepared so that the revised combination of stamps in a booklet would be twelve 5h stamps, twelve 40h (Liberated Republic), and six 60h (Liberated Republic), the total value being 9 Kč.

On January 1, 1922, postal rates were once again increased. For this reason, production of the booklets was abandoned, as announced by the Post and Telegraph management in Prague, edict No. 247107 – IXb/21.

Stamps were then put into circulation as follows:

December 5, 1921 — 5 and 10h Dove (40 and 60h Liberated Republic)

June 8, 1923 — 20h Dove (50h Liberated Republic)

From the general arrangement of the printing plates and from the incidence of plate faults in individual plates, it is evident that a printing plate was composed of three parts and the printing form of two plates.

Stamps in this category enjoyed great collector interest; particularly the tête-bêche arrangement. The major portion of the stamps issued were postally used. Also, the stamps in this series were unusual in that the line perforation  $13\frac{3}{4}$  was utilized as compared with the customary comb perforation 14 used on stamps issued in sheets of 100. The odd perforation was discovered much later, after most of the stamps were already postally used.

#### COIL ISSUE

Decree of the Ministry of Post and Telegraph, Bulletin No. 98 dated November 25, 1922, announced:

Postage stamps bearing value 20, 50 and 100h have also been issued in coils. Each coil contains 500 pieces per denomination. The selling price is therefore 100 Kč for the 20h coil, 250 Kč for the 50h coil, and 500 Kč for the 100h coil. The color of the sheet margin frame matches the color of the stamps (20h orange, 50h yellow-green, and 100h dark brown). Stamps in coils are available in vending machines and in machine "FLO-KA" for affixing stamps onto consignment documents. In view of the higher production costs of the stamps and its sole usage for the above mentioned machines, the production and availability of coils will be strictly controlled, so that in the event postal rates are changed the postal authorities' finances will not be adversely affected due to unsold stocks of coils issued according to postal tariffs now in force. The post offices should order the coil stamps only if they are certain of demand by consumers.

It was intended that the issuance of coil stamps would be in denominations of 10h olive and 20h orange (besides the two Liberated Republic values). However, the 10h olive was inadvertently omitted.

Coil stamps were not printed with different printing plates but were produced using the normal 100-stamp sheet cut into strips and pasted into bands which were then rolled up. Cuts followed the perforations, so that perforations on the vertical sides were damaged.

(Page 195): The stamp rolls were sold in cardboard boxes of  $5.5 \times 5.5 \times 20$  cm dimension. Collectors have not shown great interest in these stamps due to the damaged perforations caused by the cutting. Besides, there was no difference in the design compared to normal stamps.

Vending machines for selling the coil stamps have not proven themselves especially reliable and the production of these stamps was therefore halted before their validity was due to expire.

To be continued

## CAPEX THROUGH THE REAR VIEW MIRROR

By Henry Hahn

As our memories of CAPEX '87 slowly begin to fade, it is hopefully of value to record some general observation pertaining to this show. Since I will include reportage as well as editorial opinion, I may invite some rebuttal. But that's just fine. I wasn't everywhere at once, and my standards may be a bit more demanding than they should.

Toronto, Ontario, where CAPEX took place is a lovely, cosmopolitan city with superb modern architecture, excellent hotels and restaurants and the EXPO CENTER which is ideally suited to an event such as CAPEX. Even the weather cooperated and except for those who were disappointed with awards (more on that later), a fine time was had by all.

Before delving into the critical portion of this review, let me assure our readers that no philatelic event of this magnitude has ever been run perfectly. It is also unfortunate in writing about CAPEX that it took place only a year after AMERIPEX, the organization and success of which may never be surpassed.

CAPEX was seriously damaged by lack of communication, both before and during the show. Pre-show publicity and the flow of information to participants was indeed scarce. Only a few days prior to show opening was our Society told we could not have the meeting room on the day scheduled (and paid for) resulting in poor attendance.

Poor communication at many levels persisted throughout the show. The City of Toronto seemed virtually unaware of CAPEX. The media (television, radio, newspapers) were virtually devoid of news, and CAPEX participants at the show had to scratch for information dealing with scheduled (or rescheduled) meetings and other events.

Overall attendance at CAPEX was light in comparison with most international shows. Surprisingly, even on weekends there were no lines at the Canadian or U.S. post office outlets. Both must have had disappointing sales. There were no crowds at the exhibits, making viewing quite easy. Yet, some dealers, particularly those offering rare material and whose customers were exhibitors of international rank, did well. It is likely that the ratio of exhibitors in attendance to show visitors was among the highest of any international show.

Minor annoyances to exhibitors resulted primarily from poor communication. They were not told that acceptance of exhibits would be interrupted during noon, that exhibits COULD be picked up as early as Sunday evening (killing a day for some) and one member of our Society was told that awards would be mailed when in fact they could be picked up with the exhibits.

To the serious exhibitor, all of the above must fade into the background when compared to the judging. This was not only true of Czecho and Czecho-related exhibits. These were located among country collections, Air Mail and Postal History. One of two air mail exhibits was erroneously located in Postal History and one postal history exhibit was stuck among country collections. Other than that, there appears to be no other excuse for the faulty judging.

The most obvious inequities took place in Postal History which, we most quickly point out, was NOT the area which FIP President, Ing. Ladislav Dvořáček\*, was assigned to judge. When questioned, he explained that as "FIP Judge" his major function was to ensure that FIP rules in judging were adhered to.

In the Czecho area, the most blatant errors in the opinion of those knowledgeable and who spoke with me, included an exhibit of WWII field posts which received a Large Vermeil and an exhibit of the earliest posts of Prague which received a Small Vermeil.

The WWII field post exhibit contained a number of moderately worthy items but was overwhelmed by an excess of collateral material, newspapers with no postal markings, non-postal (military) documents, privately inspired non-postal and quite common English and French "commemorative" markings, and an excess of maps and tables dealing with non-postal matters. This exhibit is believed to have been *overrated* by two levels or more.

On the other hand, an exhibit of early Prague contained superb rarity, completeness and a degree of philatelic sophistication which could only elude judges lacking knowledge in this area. The exhibit contained the philatelically significant royal mail originating in Prague, the earliest public mails including the exceedingly rare "Klapperpost," all of the early Prague postal markings and the earliest registered letters and newspapers bearing evidence of postal payment. The stamp period is documented by multi-colored franking in significant quantity as well as rarity. This exhibit was underrated by two levels.

Less severe underrating occurred in the instance of an exhibit of Postal History from the CSSR which included early material of the same order as the above Prague exhibit, possibly somewhat more of it, but lacked the rare early stamp period and its multi-colored franking. This exhibit may have been underrated by one level, particularly when compared to its neighboring and similar exhibit (another Large Vermeil) from Sweden. The latter, though lovely, lacked the "Klapperpost" power.

No Czecho exhibit received a Large Gold, though the best Czecho at CAPEX included both "Granite Postas" which most judges associate with the pinnacle of Czecho philately.

An elegant and festive Palmares Banquet was only slightly blemished by some tough turkey, but well compensated for by a top notch dance orchestra and vocalist who entertained until 1 a.m. Sadly, the "old" boys are getting old. From about 11:30 p.m. just a few of us had the dance floor to ourselves. I will not delve into non-Czecho CAPEX awards which are adequately covered in the philatelic press.

On a far smaller scale — but equally enjoyable — our Society met for a "real" Czech dinner at the "Copper Kettle" restaurant a "little ways" out of center city. We were honored to have Ing. Dvořáček join and address us. In his address he primarily spoke of PRAGA '88 and noted the significant changes in FIP exhibiting rules which are expected to be approved at HAFNIA '88 later this year. Among other changes, these rules will emphasize philatelic knowledge, specialization, "new" stamps and greatly broaden the range of what is exhibited. He implied that this will severely reduce the number of "classical" exhibits that are accepted for exhibit. He also stated that unofficial issues will receive less recognition in the future and that many of our traditional values will have to undergo modification.

If I have been too severe in my criticism of CAPEX '88, I hope the organizers and workers, who worked long and hard, will forgive me. A worker, assisting in closing the show down told me he had worked without sleep for 36 hours putting the show up, and 24 hours taking it down. Our CAPEX hosts had a tough job following at the heels of AMERIPEX. Anyone would!!

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\*Ing. Ladislav Dvořáček is listed as "FIP Judge" in the CAPEX program and was the only judge from Czechoslovakia.

## AN URGENT APPEAL FROM YOUR CIRCUIT MANAGER

When this notice appears in print we will have only 5 circuits on the road. We need sales books for circulation immediately! Many members had purchased blank books from us but never filled them. Why not do it now? As your sales and exchange manager, let me give you some pointers on how to present material for sale:

If you have more than one-of-a-kind stamp, then put only one of them in a book, the others one by one in later books. Experience has shown that sales are not too good when more than one stamp of a kind is in a book. Some collectors have only a certain amount of money set aside for stamps. They may see one which is missing in their collection but cannot buy it at the time the sales circuit comes around; they rather wait and hope that the same stamp will come up in a later circuit.

In pricing your stamps, certain criteria should be followed: As a rule  $\frac{1}{3}$  of Scott prices should be asked, not more. This applies to common stamps usually below 50 dollars catalog value. However, specialties may demand a higher Scott ratio, in particular varieties not listed by Scott. We have had books with used stamps found on everyday mail at higher than  $\frac{1}{3}$ , even as much as  $\frac{1}{2}$  Scott.

Of course sales from such books were very poor indeed. After I wrote to some members, they understand my reasoning and asked me to make some changes in sales prices if, as your sales manager, I thought it necessary. It has happened that we got answers from some who felt  $\frac{1}{3}$  was too low. It turned out they had bought collections from which they only needed a few good items for their own collection and naturally tried to sell the rest in our sales books. After they had picked the "raisins," they felt that the rest of the material was worth more than  $\frac{1}{3}$  because they had paid  $\frac{1}{3}$  for the whole collection.

I have been collecting stamps for 65 years and know that cheap stamps are cheap stamps at all times; they never go up in real value even though Scott has to give them 5 cents value because it does not list values at zero or even one or two cents. Recently I found a leaflet printed by the now defunct SPA with "Hints for making up good sales books for sales circuits," written by Steve Rich, an old-timer, now deceased for many years. He says among other advises: If you really want to sell your stamps and not merely parade them around to others to show what duplicates you have, don't put them in a sales book unless you ask a price at which they will sell. Otherwise, you are wasting your time as well as the sales manager's time.

In our Society books, we can also use covers and postal stationery items. If you have any such material, you do not use sales books; just send the material to us and we will prepare it for sale. Write your asking price in pencil in the lower right hand corners.

Please help us get our sales circuits running. We used to have 10-12 running at one time; now we are down to only five.

Let us hear from you! *This is an urgent appeal!*

Wolfgang Fritsche, Sales Mgr.  
P.O. Box 8  
Canandaigua, NY 14424

## KORBEL, CALIFORNIA

By M. Vostatek — Translated by Joseph Stein

There is a town in California named after a Czech immigrant, KORBEL. I was fortunate in obtaining some information about him which I hope will be of interest to our readers.

František Korběl was born in 1830 in Nový Dvůr (New Farm) near Bechyne, a small city in southern Bohemia. If you were to visit Bechyne, you would have to go to the center of town where a street named "Novodvorská" confirms that a "new farm" was there at one time. Today an auto service station is situated on that spot. The old buildings attest to the remains of what was the farm where František Korběl was born. According to local sources, he was the son of a deacon. Personally I believe he was the son of a farmer, as Nový Dvůr was definitely an agricultural settlement. But this is only speculation.

František was a very intelligent boy and studied at Jindřichův Hradec. In the critical year of 1848, he took his acceptance examination to Prague University. Here he came in contact with Czech nationalists Sladkovsky, Frič and Náprstek. Náprstek had already been to the United States.

The struggle of the Czech people against Austrian supremacy which was then represented by Prime Minister Bach, led Korběl to a group of freedom fighters. He participated in the battle of the Prague barricades. After the uprising was suppressed, he fled to Slovakia. Later he returned to Prague, was arrested and confined to the Czernin military barracks. One night he escaped and was kept in hiding by his friends. Disguised as a woman, he made his way to Saxony in what is now Western Germany and from there to America. In New York harbor, he worked on unloading ships. Somehow he managed to get to Panama where he got involved as a technician in the construction of a railroad. His next trip led him to California. There he settled in a community that eventually grew into the city of San Francisco. At the outset, he worked hard in a factory making wooden boxes for tobacco. His labors bore fruit and, after some time, he became director of the firm.



In 1860, Austria issued an amnesty order to the rebels of 1848. František's parents obtained a permit for him to return home. Once back, he discovered that he was being followed, that he had to report weekly to the local police and notify them of all his travels and address changes. After three years, he again left his homeland and returned to the United States via Zittau, Germany. Shortly afterwards, his brothers, Anton and Joseph, followed him. During the Civil War years (1861–1865), all three brothers left New York and settled in California. In San Francisco, they started to manufacture cigar boxes and selling cedar wood. They were all well liked. But public jealousy over their success led to a fire in their factory. One of the causes attributed to the fire was the fact that they employed black people in their plant at pay equal to the whites.

In 1881, a sawmill operation started at a small settlement called North Folk. Two years later, the construction of a railroad link to the port of Eureka was completed. Where the woodlands had been cleared, other Czech immigrants started the planting of vineyards. It is said that in the vicinity of Sonoma Valley, the successors of the Korbels family continue the cultivating of vineyards to this day. You have probably found that wines and champagnes are available in stores throughout the country under the "KORBEL" label.

In 1892, the settlement of North Folk consisted of seventeen dwellings, a school-house and a sawmill. When a postoffice was finally established, the settlement renamed itself in honor of its founder, Korbels. His brothers sold out their businesses in 1902.

František Korbels lived to see the end of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy and the establishment of the Czechoslovak Republic. At the age of 90 years, he returned to his homeland and lived in Prague where he passed away on New Year's Day in 1929 at the ripe age of 99 years. It was through the efforts of the U.S. Postal Authorities that his name was preserved by changing the name of North Folk to the town of Korbels.



The house on Novodvorská Street in Bechyně  
believed to be Korbels's birthplace.



## BOB DAILEY

Bob tells us of his involvement in Czech philately and relates:

"I am strictly a novice collector and I am of Czech extraction. My mother was born in the village of Zahradka u Ledčů near the border of Moravia and Čechy. As a youth of 15, I spent a year there and visited Prague, when I started a Czech collection.

My working years were spent as a health educator. I retired eight years ago. After my initial stamp collection was stolen, I started again and now read each issue of the SPECIALIST as soon as it arrives.

Other hobbies include amateur radio and computers."

Bob would like a column in the SPECIALIST for novice collectors explaining the mysteries of what makes a stamp distinctive, perhaps just a few lines now and again.

*Editor's note:* If any of our readers are able to assist Bob along these lines, they can write their "explanation" and address it to me or to Mirko Vondra. We will either publish it or pass it on to Bob for his information.



*Světová výstava poštovních známek Praha 1988*

## ADVERTISING RATES FOR THE SPECIALIST

These new rates were announced effective September 1987.  
They replace any and all rates published prior to that date.

Amount of Space	One Issue	Three Issues	Six Issues	Ten Issues
Full page .....	\$35.00	\$90.00	\$160.00	\$250.00
Half page .....	20.00	50.00	90.00	140.00
Quarter page .....	12.00	30.00	50.00	80.00
Eighth page .....	8.00	20.00	35.00	55.00
Sixteenth page (4 lines across page) .	5.00	13.00	25.00	38.00
Thirty-second page (2 lines across page) .	3.00	8.00	15.00	23.00

1. All amounts are total cost.
2. Discount of 20% for members from total cost, if they so desire.
3. For the sixteenth page (4 lines) and thirty-second page (2 lines) ads, there are 70 characters per line for all letters, numbers and blank spaces between words.
4. Have your ad double spaced between lines and typed or legibly printed.
5. It is the advertiser's responsibility that his or her copy is correct (proper spelling, abbreviations, punctuation, etc.) as the ad will be printed exactly the way it is received, in other words "as is."
6. All art work (cuts, illustrations, logos, etc.) is the responsibility of the advertiser to furnish, unless prior arrangements are made with the Ad Manager. Otherwise, art work must be camera ready and the cost of cuts plus any other expenses incurred will be added to the total cost of the ad.
7. Make your check payable to: "Society for Czechoslovak Philately."
8. Send your copy and payment to the Ad Manager:

Jack Benchik  
P.O. Box 555  
Notre Dame, IN 46556

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