

# FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY YEAR THE CZECHOSLOVAK Specialist

(USPS 808300)

Official Monthly Journal of the



Society for Czechoslovak Philately, Inc.

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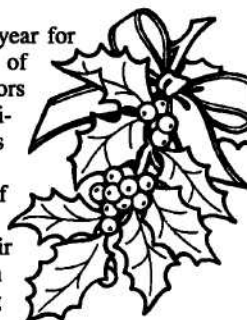
## Editorial Hinges

### HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



And so another year draws to an end - a special year for our Society! As the book closes on Chapter I of the SCP's first fifty years, the officers and directors take stock of themselves and their responsibility to the membership-at-large and start plans for a new future.

But before going any further, the Board of Directors headed by the President, Charley Chesloe, wishes the entire membership, their families and friends a happy holiday season followed by a year of good health, prospering times and successful philatelic endeavors.



To our avid readers, the editorial staff wishes continued interest in our publication and support for its uninterrupted operation. We also extend to them our thanks and appreciation for making 1989 a banner year in the annals of the Specialist.

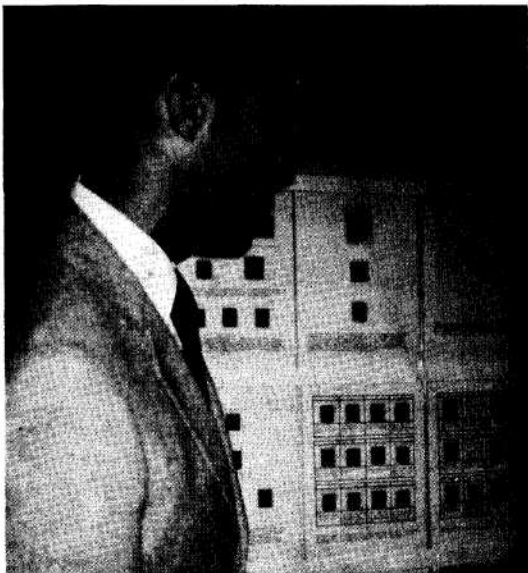
### SEPAD HAPPENINGS

There are national stamp shows and then there is SEPAD!

This year SEPAD was held at the Valley Forge Convention Center in King of Prussia, Pa. It hosted three convening Societies: The China Stamp Society, The International Society for Portuguese Philately and our own. The potential for success was tremendous. For example, there were almost 350 frames on exhibit, most of them containing superb and highly specialized material. The Grand Award went to J. L. Klein for his magnificent display of the Postal History of Bohemia. Even discounting the fact that it was shown for the first time and that it contained two covers signed by Empress Marie Theresa, it was clearly Champion of Champions material which would have captured top honors in any international show - and probably will!

Besides the many excellent exhibits, there was the usual array of dealers. The SEPAD catalog listed 68 of them. Your editor counted slightly more than half that amount. But what was particularly annoying was the absence of good Czechoslovak material on almost all the dealers' tables. Did these dealers somehow forget that our Society might be represented in numbers? Or did they know and did not care?

As for SEPAD itself, the negatives are too many to enumerate. The organization was atrocious, communications were practically non-existent, facilities and accommodations bordered on the insulting. The customer turnout was commensurate with the quality of the facilities. Your editor



Frederick P. Lawrence  
Discussing his exhibit of "Classic Scout Stamps"

It was in one of these makeshift "meeting rooms" that our Society conducted its general meeting. Our President, Charley Chesloe, spoke of the need for accredited judges in judging

witnessed what he believes was one of the poorest attendance showings of any recent national stamp exhibition in the east. Picture, if you will, a hall of about 100,000 square feet (possibly more), located in the "concourse" or second basement below ground level with badly stained composition tile floors, marred and stained acoustical ceilings and curtains strung up on piping eight feet above the floor flapping in the breezes instead of solid fiberglass or plastic partitions. And what were the meeting rooms like? They were part of the hall separated from the display areas only by these flimsy curtains. The lighting was fair and constituted the only source of heat available. Because of dripping water in the service tunnel just outside the hall, dampness permeated the premises.

The organization was so poor and so lacking in communications, our exhibition chairman had to be restrained from unleashing a torrent of vituperative adjectives upon the SEPAD officers.

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Czechoslovakia and related exhibits. He also called for more publicity through advertising and article-writing in some of our national philatelic publications like "Stamps" and "Linn's Weekly". Finally, he advocated a strong campaign for the reinstatement of important Czechoslovak philatelic material which in recent years has been deleted from Scott's catalog.

Pres. Chesloe introduced Hedy Lowey to the audience. As widow of the founder of our Society, Mrs. Lowey received a bronze plaque in appreciation of her husband's service to the Society. In a short, moving speech, Mrs. Lowey expressed her gratitude to everyone. She was accompanied by her charming granddaughter. The two were later hosted by the Society's Board members at an evening dinner show at the Hotel Sheraton.



Mrs. Hedy Lowey accepting Award of Appreciation from President Charley Chesloe

The general meeting came to a close with an excellent dissertation by Frederick P. Lawrence on the Classic Scout Stamps with emphasis on the Scout Postal Issue of Czechoslovakia. The highlight of this event was a descriptive walk-through of his Scout exhibit which won a Gold that same day.

The general meeting was followed by a Board meeting at which all present officers were reelected for another two year term starting in January 1990: Charles Chesloe as President; Jack Benchik as Vice-President; Jane Sterba as secretary; Ludvik Svoboda as treasurer. The Board was expanded from ten to fifteen members commencing with the next election. This was made possible by a revision of the Bylaws. The Board also voted the SCP's participation at the BALPEX show in Cockeysville, Md. in September 1990. Most of our active members are already looking forward to this event as a refreshing change from the fiasco at SEPAD.

**PLEASE REFER TO PAGE 19 FOR IMPORTANT ANNUAL DUES ANNOUNCEMENT !**

## PRAGUE'S OLDEST POSTAL BUILDINGS

*by Václav Konstant  
translated by Henry Hahn*

There is a motive behind every project. The driving force that has impelled me to write this article about the old postoffices in Prague has been the special satisfaction which I always derive from visiting some of these places and standing where centuries ago interesting events occurred. These events are here recounted as they relate to the pages of my collection. My covers, which are only mute witnesses to these events, nevertheless link us to the people who delivered their letters for mailing from these various postoffices.

I have visited the sites where the old postoffices once stood. But my most recent such visit in the Old Town and the Lesser Side was not by myself. That visit took place during the PRAGA 88 Exhibition when I invited a few friends including some foreign visitors interested in the development of the Prague Posts. From the comments I received, they too were fascinated by this further "dimension" of postal history which is highly rewarding and creates lasting impressions.

Responsibility for the organization of postal service in Europe rested with the noble family Thurn-Taxis, originally named Torriani, which came from Cornella in northern Italy. This family consisted of many branches, one of which was rooted in Prague.

When on October 15, 1526, Ferdinand I agreed to the organization of the first postal connection between Prague and Vienna, the natural choice of the first Postmaster for the Bohemian Kingdom, in 1527, was a member of the Thurn-Taxis family, Ambrosio de Tassis. However, when the postal

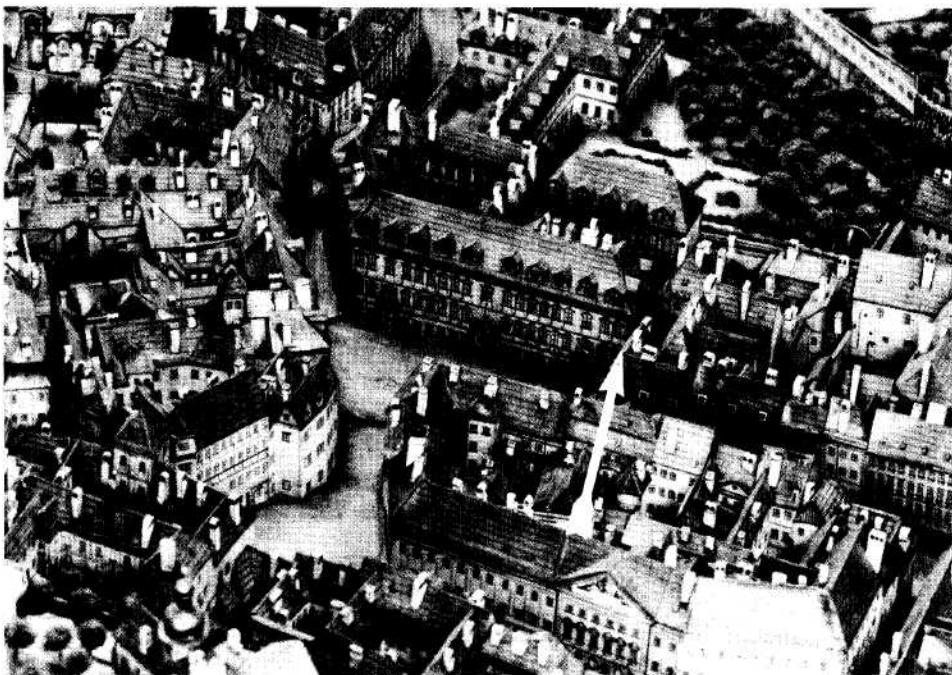


FIG. 1

connection Prague-Vienna was interrupted in 1538, Ambrosio de Tassis was recalled and dismissed from service. In 1554, when a permanent and regular postoffice was established in Prague, its head administrator became Mathias de Tassis, who by then had moved to Prague with his family. He resided in a house named "Na Korábci" which he bought from the Order of St. Augustine that same year. However, it is likely that the Tassis family resided in this house prior to the sale. The house stood in what was then Pisek Street, on the south side of today's Waldstein Square. This first Prague postoffice building was owned by Mathias de Tassis till 1588 when the Postmaster sold it. After the Battle of the White Mountain (1620), the building was bought by Albrecht von Waldstein who had it torn down to make room for his palace. Thus we were deprived of Prague's first postoffice and must be content to be reminded of it by the view of the Waldstein Palace. (see fig. 1).

Letters posted at this postoffice were, for the most part, still written in Czech. The cultural atmosphere from the beginning of the fifteenth to the end of the seventeenth century was such that officialdom as well as the few inhabitants using the mails wrote predominantly in Czech.

Mathias de Tassis died in 1559 and was succeeded as postmaster by his son, Martin de Tassis. It is uncertain where the postoffice operated. Dr. Karel Všecký, the principal expert on the development of Prague posts, believes that the location of Prague's second postoffice was on the Lesser Side shore of the River Vltava. The Thirty Year's War dealt a heavy blow to the national development of the Czechs and set back expansion of their postal service.

Members of the Tassis family succeeded one another as postmasters up to 1571. During the reign of Rudolph II in 1592, Jiří Pichl of Pichelberg was named Imperial Postmaster. He owned a house on the Lesser Side Circle (Malostránský Rink) which today bears number 37. In place of the latter address, there stood in the sixteenth and seventeenth century two buildings of which the one closer to St. Thomas Church housed the postoffice. Here Jiří Pichl lived for eleven years (see Fig. 2). You will easily find this site since it is directly across from the Lesser Side Coffee House. The present building contains a bust of the famous Czech opera star, Emma Destinn. Jiří Pichl served as postmaster during an eventful period of 45 years and died in 1611. He is buried in St. Thomas Church.

DECEMBER 1989



FIG. 2

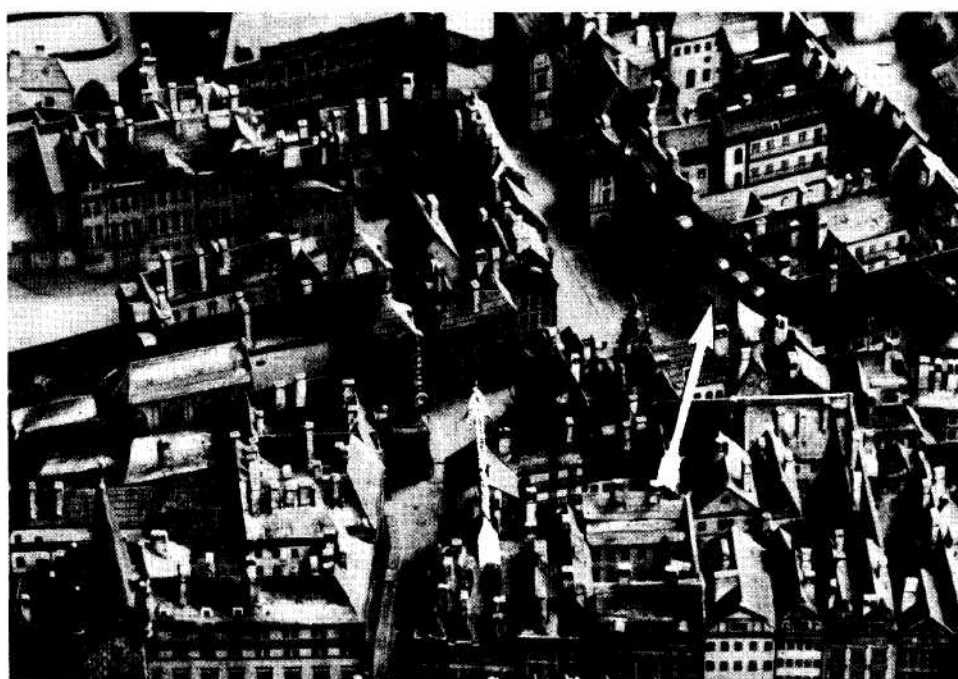


FIG. 3  
5





FIG. 4

In 1610, the position of Head Postmaster in Prague was assumed by Ferdinand Prugger. During the invasion of Prague and, in 1613, when the city endured the plague, the Lesser Side Postoffice was plundered and Prugger left for Tabor. Later during the uprising of the Bohemian Estates in 1619, Prugger was forced to leave Prague and this time went to Vienna where he assumed the position of Fieldpost Postmaster. Only in 1622 was Prugger able to return to Prague to begin reorganization of the Czech mails. The building at the corner of Maltese Square and Prokop Streets, now number 480/8 (see fig. 3) was then assigned to him by the Bohemian Chamber for use as a postoffice. The house is preserved to this day. As long as a century later, it was still referred to as the "Old Postoffice". Even though the period was marked by the difficult times of the Thirty Years' War, Prugger, through his great competence, was able to amass extensive property which he still owned at the time of his death in 1667.

Jan Petr Nell of Nellenberg was named Postmaster of Prague in 1710. He operated the "Old Postoffice" on Maltese Square until 1723. Then he moved it a short distance into his own home. Hence the next postoffice became the house opposite the Church of the Virgin Mary Beneath the Chain. This church belonged to the Maltese Order and was located on Lázenská Ulice (Spa Street), number 482/5, also called "Zelený Kříž" (the Green Cross) (see fig. 3). This picture shows both buildings: on the right is the "Old Postoffice", on the left is "Zelený Kříž".

In 1742, the postoffice was moved to the home of Duke Karl Lichtenstein on Vlašské Náměstí, then number 70-71. Both buildings at the time the postoffice was located there are shown in fig. 4. Following their reconstruction to the present palace, this address changed to number 258/13 and currently houses part of the College of Political Science. Upon the departure of Petr Nell, the post was assigned to Johan Jas, Knight Eggerdes, who officiated on the Lesser Side in both of the buildings until 1785. Later Duke Karl Lichtenstein had both buildings demolished to make way for the construction of the present single palace.

During the time that the postoffice was located in the Lichtenstein home on Vlašské Náměstí and was Prague's only postoffice, a major innovation took place. The year 1792 marked the introduction of postmarks, and it was at this postoffice where at first only red "Von Prag" postmarks were applied to show the location of posting. Until 1972 when the postoffice was moved, it used at

least five types of postmarks which are listed in Emil Votoček's *Monografie 14* as numbers 1 through 5.

From the *Vlašské Náměstí*, the postoffice was moved in 1792 to newly renovated quarters of the former Dominican Cloisters at the Church of St. Mary Magdelain on Carmelite Street, now number 360/3. (Today it is the location of the central archives of SVA). The postoffice remained in this building (see fig. 5) until 1849 and saw the further development of Prague postmarks which are listed as numbers 6 through 30 in the above cited *Monografie 14*. In 1849, the postoffice was moved permanently from the Lesser Side where it had been located for 323 years. Its relocation to Na Poříčí (Riverside), number 1035, marked a new era of railroad transportation of the mails. But that belongs to yet another chapter.

The story of the Prague postal buildings would be incomplete without mentioning the so-called "Small Post". The origin and history of this service is well-known. (see *Specialist*, Oct. 88, page 11). It was organized in accordance with a similar private postal service in Vienna and later in Graz and Pressburg. The Prague Small Post was located on Celetná Street in the Old Town and the building that it occupied still stands, bearing number 559/14. Its appearance in the last century is illustrated in fig. 6. The Small Post was established in 1782 as an independent service operating within a three mile radius of Prague. This was the Austrian mile which is equal to 7.42 kilometers. It remained in operation till 1789. At that time it was taken over by the main postoffice on the Lesser Side and transformed to a letter collection station for the inner city. During its existence as an independent service, its staff included two couriers for inner city service and nine couriers serving the area to its three-mile outer perimeter. In 1789 when its service peaked, the Small Post also operated from a rented building across the street from its original location (see fig. 7). This building is number 589/I and was called "U Červeného Jelena" (At the Red Reindeer) probably due to its owner, Johan Rothirsch. (The German name Rothirsch translates to Red Reindeer). The building including its house-seal is preserved on Celetná Street to this day. The Red Reindeer, however, was later gilded and the building renamed "U Zlatého Jetlana" (At the Golden Reindeer).

The small Prague Post used a mailing postmark displaying a scripted "P" in a circle applied in black. *Monografie 14* lists it as number 1. In addition, an official seal used for registered mail and



FIG. 5

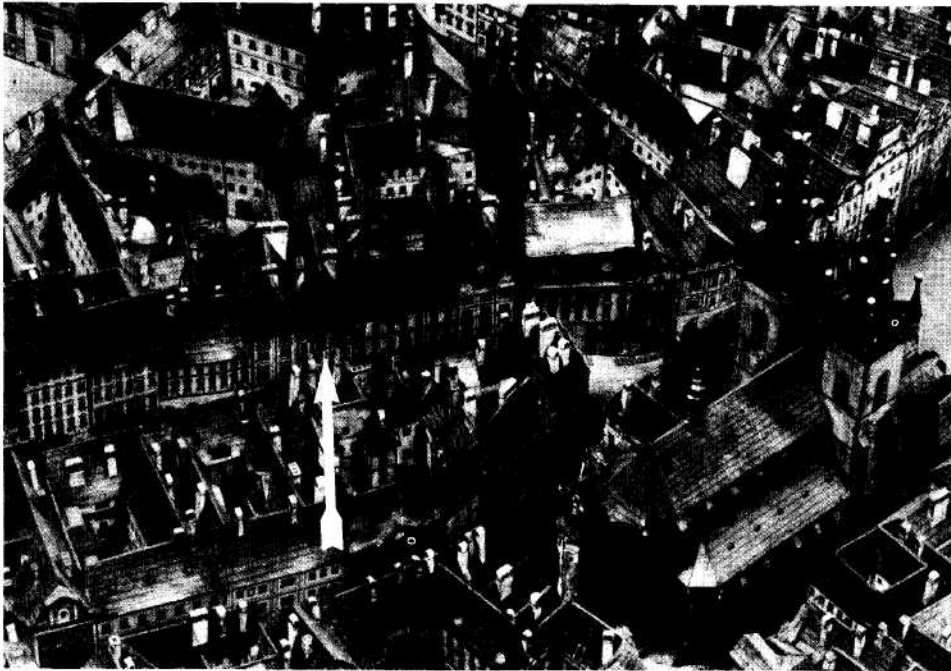


FIG. 6

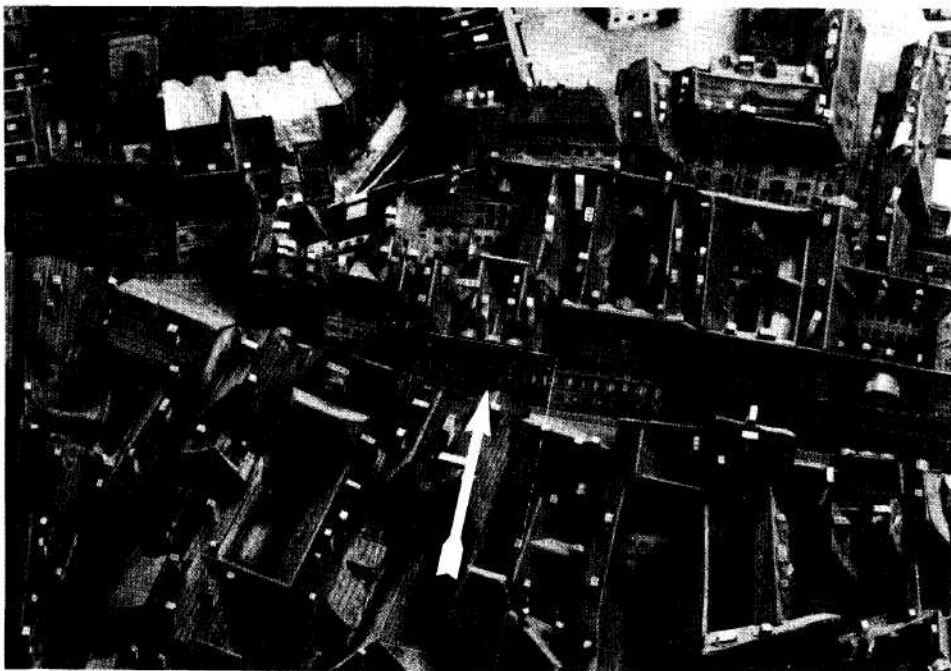


FIG. 7





FIG. 8

money letters is known to have existed. The seal bears the text: K:K:PR:KLEINE:POST:OBER:AMT. A single letter is known to exist with an imprint of this seal in red wax and one more is known in which this seal was used as a postmark, ie. a negative print.

Another such secondary post in Prague was the so-called Jewish posting station for letters. The date of initiation of this unique service during the eighteenth century remains unclear. We only know that this station was authorized by Empress Maria Theresa for operation in the Prague Jewish district and was intended for transmittal of mail to the main postoffice on the Lesser Side. The first head of the Jewish collection station was Elias Tassig who died in November 1757. Hence we know that the postal collection station operated before then. The succeeding heads of the station were heirs of Elias Tassig. Proof has never been found on a letter which demonstrably passed through this station or had an appropriate marking to that effect. According to Dr. Všecká, the Jewish posting station for letters was located on Červená Street (Red Street) in building number 167. Červená Street was razed during a later slum clearance. Only three houses - all rebuilt - remain in the vicinity of the Jewish Town Hall, but I was unable to locate number 167. I was disappointed not to have been able to find this building until a faithful employee of the State Jewish Museum in Prague (Department of Administration and Cognizance of Buildings) came to my aid. He loaned me the plan of the Jewish District of Prague as it existed prior to slum clearance. It showed the location of Červená Street, number 167, near the Old-New Synagogue. The site of the former Červená Street and the specific placing of the collection station was identified by the well-known photographer of Old Prague, Jindřich Echert. The location of Červená Street, number 167, after slum clearance may be seen in a photograph of the Langweil model of Prague shown in fig. 8.

The managers of this station were entitled to collect 1 k for each letter dispatched or delivered. It seems as if the noting of this fee on letters dispatched would serve as an indication of mailing at this station - but that simply is not so. This is surprising, particularly since traffic through the station was quite extensive. In 1831, this postal collection station dispatched 16,000 letters and delivered 60,000 !

The Small Post of Prague was discontinued in 1792, but the Jewish collection station lasted into the nineteenth century. Eventually as part of the Prague postal network, it used a double circular

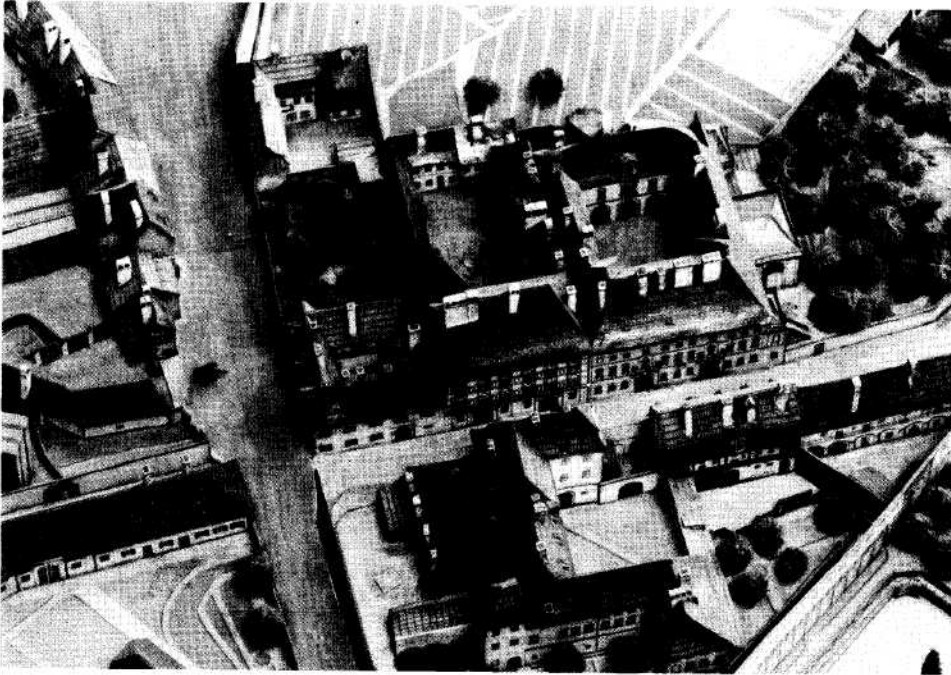


FIG. 9

postmark with the legend PRAG - JOSEFSTADT at the top and PRAG-JOSEFOV below (see Monografie 14, number 1874). By 1897, the station was relocated to Josef Street, now named Plateněřská Street, number 7.

Two more Prague buildings are worth mentioning in connection with postal services. It would not be difficult to guess that these are the residences of the Taxis family and of Count Paar. The first residence which also served as the first postoffice, i.e. the house named "Na Korábce", was mentioned earlier. That building no longer exists. At a later date, the family lived in the Thurn-Taxis palace on Letenské Street, number 120/5. The building now belongs to the Union of Architects of ČSSR. Its appearance in the last century may be seen in fig. 9.

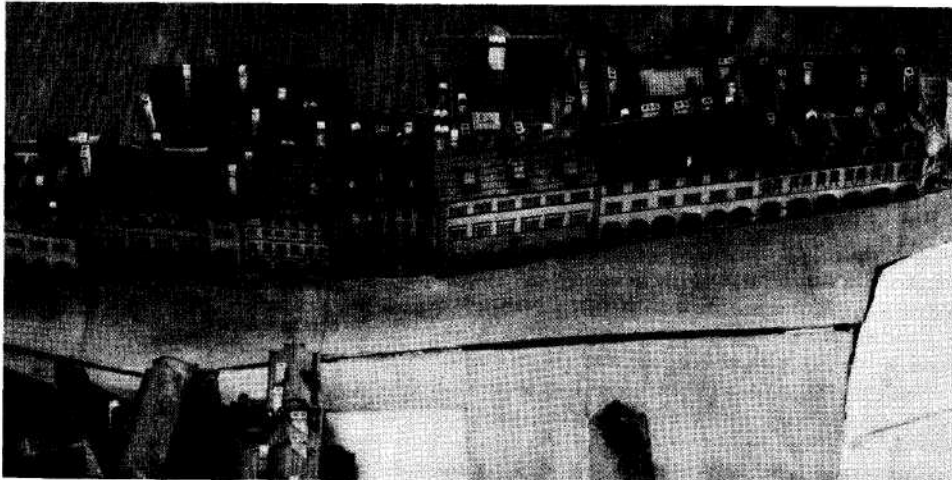


FIG. 10

Jan Krystof, Count of Paar, accompanied Ferdinand II on his sojourn to Prague and hence, in 1623, the Count purchased a house on Loretánské Square, presently number 1081, supposedly in order to live close to the Emperor. The building still stands and cannot be missed on the way to the Loreta. Its eighteenth century appearance is shown in fig. 10.

Thus end my wanderings among the old postal buildings of Prague. To some readers this may appear as a mere listing. But an entirely different impression may be gained by retracing my steps from the Old City to the Lesser Side and visiting these places on their former sites. This can be done comfortably in one afternoon and you are certain to be surprised. In the course of the walk you will be compelled to think of your collecting interests and will realize that you are adding a "third dimension" to them. You will understand that the covers of that period which you own (or can still acquire with relative ease) represent the "first dimension". The literature on the subject which is plentiful these days (and serves to organize your collection) has provided you with a "second dimension." Therefore the "third dimension" is well within your reach in the form of your wanderings along Prague's famous "Kings' Way" as well as along the Postal Way. This will infuse new life into your Old Prague covers.

The data surrounding my walk from house to house in Old Prague is primarily derived from studies conducted by the great expert and devotee of Prague's postal history, Dr. Karel Všecký. For orientation I used photographs of Longwell's model of the city of Prague which was completed in the first quarter of the nineteenth century. This model portrayed the key buildings as they appeared in the eighteenth century and thus gave a physical insight to our "third dimension".

For additional information, I am indebted to employees of the Postal Museum in Prague; to its director, Dr. M. Čtvrtník; to Mrs. Troničková and to Mrs. Kłoskočnicková, who enabled me to study the text of Dr. K. Všecký's collection. I am further grateful to Dr. Bečková of the Directorate of the Museum of the Capital City of Prague for affording me the opportunity to obtain negatives of the Langwell model of the city and finally to the professional workers at the State Jewish Museum for valuable help and documentation.

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Dr. Karel Všecký: "On Development of the Prague Post" (FILATELIE 1971; Philatelic Notebooks)

Dr. Karel Všecký: Collection of Prague Postmarks.

Ing. Emil Votoček: Monografie, vol. 14

#### *President's Corner*

### REFLECTIONS ON INDYPEX AND SEPAD

Our chairmen, Jack Benchik at INDYPEX and Ed Lehecka at SEPAD, did outstanding jobs setting up the Society's participation at both shows. As president and on behalf of our Society, I am very grateful to them.

The exhibits at both shows were very nice and done in good taste. The exhibits are INDYPEX focused on the Carpatho-Ukraine, on Bohemia-Moravia, Slovakia and the Sudetenland. Bob Kolschalk's exhibit of Bohemia-Moravia was outstanding and showed a lot of unlisted material, some of which was unknown to me. It also showed the rare Heydrich sheet. It certainly deserved a much higher award than it received (Silver-Bronze). The same can be said of Jay Carrigan's exhibit of Carpatho-Ukraine 1944-1945 which he showed at both INDYPEX and SEPAD. However, Bob Kolschalk took the Society's Grand Award and Jay Carrigan received the First Place Plaque. Jack Benchik showed an intriguing collection of Slovakia with particular attention being paid to the Hungarian envelope issue of the 1880's with its many letters and cancels. Jack received the Society's Second Place Award and a Bronze from INDYPEX. I was happy to donate all the plaques, though I did not donate the Grand Award for INDYPEX.

The exhibition center in Indianapolis is truly outstanding and the meeting rooms are superb. It's unfortunate the show was not better attended because the Indiana Stamp Club pulls out all the

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stops to provide the best. The cocktail party Friday night was held in a suite at the Embassy Suites Hotel and was excellent. The hospitality extended by the Indiana Stamp Club was simply great! But one thing was evident at the show - namely the lack of qualified judges to judge Czechoslovak exhibits. This is a subject which I will address in a later article.

There are four envelope cachets and a souvenir card prepared at INDYPEX honoring the SCP's 50th year. These can be purchased from Jack Benchik. Besides helping the Society, they make a fine memento of the Society's participation at INDYPEX and SEPAD.

Three weeks following INDYPEX, the second Society show was staged at SEPAD in King of Prussia, Pa. The Czechoslovak exhibits were magnificent and dominated the awards at SEPAD. There were thirteen in all, a truly extraordinary performance by members of the Society. The Reserve Grand for SEPAD and the SCP's Grand Award was won by J. L. Klein of Holland for his international gold medal collection of Postal History of Bohemia. The Kaiser mail and other great pieces make this exhibit probably the finest in the world today. Mr. Klein's other exhibit was of Carpatho-Ukraine. It was also tremendous and almost on a par with his Bohemia exhibit. It contained many impressive covers from stampless to Austrian and Hungarian usage as well as two covers from the Rumanian occupation which could be unique. This exhibit captured the Society's First Place plaque as well as a Sepad Gold. Klein continued his grand slam by winning two other SEPAD Golds. His exhibits of the Dove and Allegory issues and the Agriculture and Science issues were tastefully done, though there was a large gap between his other two exhibits.

Another Gold Medal along with the Society's Third Place plaque was awarded to Fred Hefer of West Germany for his excellent exhibit of Prague cancels on the first and second Austrian issues.

A Vermeil Medal was won by Joseph Červený for his superb showing of cancels of Bohemia on Austria's first and second issues. He showed several cancels which are unlisted and also all of the mute cancellations from Bohemia. If I were to disagree with any judges' decisions, it would have been between these two exhibits, for I feel Mr. Červený's showing of the cancels of Bohemia was superior to the Prague cancels exhibited by Mr. Hefer.

The awards for SEPAD, other than the Grand Award, were donated by Lolly Horechný and to him the Society is eternally grateful. The other medal and award winners both at INDYPEX and at SEPAD will be discussed in another article.

The attendance at SEPAD also left much to be desired and that is really a shame because the exhibits were truly worth the trip. Other than the international shows at Prague, this had to be one of the largest and finest exhibits of Czechoslovak philatelic material ever assembled.

The highlight of the Society's fiftieth anniversary celebration was the gracious appearance of Mrs. Hedy Lowey, wife of our founder, Joseph Lowey. She was transported to King of Prussia, Pa. from her home in the Bronx by her wonderful granddaughter. On behalf of the entire Society, I express my sincere gratitude to her for taking the time and effort to bring Mrs. Lowey to us. Afterwards, Mrs. Lowey wrote us the following note:

"Thank you, my dear members of the Society, for your hospitality and for honoring me with a plaque which I cherish because your own heart is in it. I know the value of the labor and financial contributions to organize this affair. There were not enough members present, but nevertheless we all had a wonderful time and I will never forget it. I also feel a very close friendship with you. I know that philatelists are different people, usually more intelligent and educated. My husband would be proud of you and so am I. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for the work you are doing for this fine organization."

Continuing with the shows, four covers and a cachet card were also prepared for SEPAD and members can order these as well. How about joining in a true fiftieth anniversary celebration by ordering both the INDYPEX and SEPAD covers and cards! I am also putting together a set of five souvenir cards which were cancelled on October 28 in five different U.S. towns which carry Czechoslovak names. These will be available from Jack Benchik for \$7.50 postpaid. Here is your chance to acquire a splendid philatelic memento and at the same time help your Society defray its many expenses.

Looking back on these shows, my only regret is that more Society members were not present at both of them. Despite that, I was delighted that member George Connelly from London attended both shows and that member Geoff McAuley from Dublin, Ireland, attended SEPAD and exhibited a remarkable topical exhibit dealing with the history of

Czechoslovakia. It was wonderful meeting these two members from overseas.

The SCP's next national exhibition and convention will be held at the BALPEX show near Baltimore during the Labor Day weekend of 1990. For 1991, we are exploring the possibilities at FLORPEX in Orlando, Florida.

Our heartfelt appreciation goes out to all the people who manned the booths at both INDYPEX and SEPAD. Special thanks go to Evelyn Lehecka who singlehandedly took charge of the Society table at SEPAD while our general meeting and board meeting took place and other pressing matters were attended to.

-C. C.

## ***New Issues***

### **I. BRATISLAVA HISTORICAL MOTIVES**

On October 16, two stamps were issued on the subject of Bratislava Historical Motives. Both of them show Devín, a Slavonic settlement, and have monetary values of 3kčs. and 4 kčs. Design was by Ivan Schurmann and engraving by Martin Činovský. Dimensions of the picture are 40 X 26 mm. Printed in sheets of four stamps by the Post Printing Office in Prague, multicolor flat recess process was used.

The fortified Slavonic settlement of Devín is in close proximity to Bratislava. There at the confluence of the Rivers Morava and Danube, a rock rises from the valley with the ruins of a medieval castle and the site of an ancient settlement. Archeological finds from this locality date back to the Bronze, Roman and Slavonic Ages. It is one of the most memorable sites in Slovakia and, indeed, in all of Czechoslovakia.

Ivan Schurmann used different angles of view to portray this unforgettable place. The first stamp features motifs of endemic flowers; the second, an archeological find - a ceramic vessel and floral themes. The drawing of the Devín rock is featured in the flutter of the sheet. The coat of arms of Bratislava appears on both stamps. It is interesting that one of Bratislava's districts bears the name of Devín and that a nearby community is called Devínská Nová Ves.

### **II. WORKS OF ART ON STAMPS**

November 27 was the date of issue for a set of three stamps in the above series which has now appeared regularly since 1966.

The 2 kčs. stamp shows "Nirvana" (1920-1922) by Anton Jasusch (1882-1965). The original of this work is in the Slovak National Gallery. Engraving was by Martin Činovský.

The 4 kčs. stamp depicts "A Winter Evening in Town" (1907-1909) by Jakub Schikaneder (1855-1924). The original is housed in the Prague National Gallery. Engraving was by Václav Fagt.

The 5 kčs. shows "The Bakers" (1926) by Pravoslav Kotík (1889-1970). This stamp celebrates the centenary of the artist's birth. The original is also in the Prague National Gallery. Engraving was by Josef Herčík.

All stamps were done by flat recess print in sheets of four.

Anton Jasusch included many landscapes as well as folklore, carnival and urban motifs in his paintings. His early works were strongly influenced by the brutal events of World War I.

Jakub Schikaneder was attracted by social themes and by Prague scenery and portraiture.

Pravoslav Kotík was well known for his graphic work and his illustrations were inspired by social motivation. In 1960, he was awarded the title of Meritorious Artist of the Year.

### **III. DAY OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK POSTAGE STAMP**

A 1 k. stamp was issued on December 18 commemorating the life and works of Cyril Bouda (1901-1984).



#### THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

The stamp was designed and engraved by Jiří Bouda, Cyril's son. Dimensions of the stamp are 49 X 19 mm. It was printed by the Post Printing Office in Prague by rotary recess print combined with multicolor photogravure in sheets of fifty.

Cyril Bouda was an outstanding painter, graphic artist and designer of postage stamps who also illustrated more than 600 books. He is particularly remembered for his beautiful poetic illustrations for children's books. His set for PRAGA 62 (Scott no. 1070-1079; Pofis no. 1206-1216) featuring Czechoslovak towns and key sites in original compositions are noteworthy. For many years he handed down the message of his bountiful works to his pupils at the Teachers' Institute in Prague.

The 1 k. stamp shows a portrait of Cyril Bouda and an example of his work. His son, Jiří, born in 1934, is following in his father's footsteps.

### POSTAL HISTORY EXHIBITS TO BE CRITIQUED

Now that the big shows of the year are over and some of our members are smarting over their wounds brought on by their failure to win an award (or at least the kind of award they had hoped for), help may be on the way.

In an unprecedented gesture of friendship toward the members of our Society, prominent international judge and chairman of the F.I.P. Postal History Commission, Paul H. Jensen of Oslo, Norway (see article on Judging by Henry Hahn in the May and June Specialists), has offered to provide written critiques of S.C.P. members' Postal History exhibits from the F.I.P. judging point of view. Mr. Jensen has been a member of our Society since the early 1960's when former Specialist editor, Dr. William Reiner-Deutsch, himself a prominent Postal History judge in his time, was Paul Jensen's teacher and mentor.

Mr. Jensen has requested that those wishing to submit their exhibits for critiquing do so through Henry Hahn to insure orderly passage and avoid swamping him with too many at one time. Collectors and exhibitors desirous of having their Postal History exhibits submitted should contact Henry Hahn, 2936 Rosemoor Lane, Fairfax, Va. 22031, for further details and instructions.

#### ERRATA

The October issue on page 6 mistakenly referred to a spelling error on the "Pigeon" postal stationary as reading "Českovensko" when, in fact, the error read "Českoskovensko".

The November issue on page 6 erroneously stated thirteen lines from the bottom that "during PRAGA 68, Adolf Hujer was invited to join the Organization of Philatelic Journalists. . . ." It should have read "During PRAGA 62".

Our apologies to those involved in these two articles.

### POSTOFFICES IN THE CARPATHO-UKRAINE

For the benefit of collectors specializing in the Carpatho-Ukraine, Jiri Štupka of Železná Ruda in Czechoslovakia has compiled a list of all the towns in the Carpatho-Ukraine according to Monografie 17. The names of towns appearing in capitol letters show how the towns were spelled in 1938-1939 just before the breakup of the Republic. Below each name is its spelling in 1920 when the postoffices opened or, if they opened at a later date, the year in which they opened. The right-hand column lists the town's population in 1921 and comprises the first listing ever published of their population. This column represents the total number of persons residing within each postoffice region.

Some town listings in 1920 still show the Hungarian cancel and spelling. Checking this against Monografie 17, a collector can see the different spelling that occurred during the transitions from

1919 through 1939. We are indebted to Jiří Štupka for this important information.

<u>Town Names</u>	<u>Population in 1921</u>
1.) ANTALOVCE 1920: Antalócz (Hungarian)	877
2.) BARKASOVO 1920: Barkasovo	1,275
3.) BAŤOVO 1920: Baťu	1,812
4.) BEREHOVO 1920: Beregsász (Hungarian)	13,846
5.) BEREHY 1920: Velký Bereg	2,076
6.) BĚLKÝ 1920: Bělki	5,153
7.) BOHDAN 1920: Bogdan	3,153
8.) BROD NAD IRŠAVOU 1920: Berežskij Brod	1,259
9.) BUŠTINO 1920: Buština	2,205
10.) CERNOHLAVA 1920: Čornholova	1,642
11.) ČERNÝ ARDOV 1920: Čornyj Ardov	1,526
12.) ČIŇAĎOVO 1920: Cinadievo	1,643
13.) DOVĚ 1920: Dolgoje	3,611
14.) DRAHOVO 1920: Drahovo	4,021
15.) DUBOVE 1920: Dobovoje	4,035
16.) DUBRINIČE 1920: Dubrinič	1,538
17.) ESEŇ 1920: Eseň	1,899
18.) FRIDĚŠOVO 1920: Klenovci	314
19.) HAŤ U BEREHOVA 1920: Horynčevo	1,625
20.) HORINČOVO 1920: Horynčevo	4,031
21.) HUDLOVO 1920: Hudlovo	1,230
22.) CHLUMEC U UŽHORODU 1920: Chomec	813
23.) CHUST 1920: Huszt (Hungarian)	11,835
24.) ILNICE 1920: Iloncza (Hungarian)	4,358
25.) IRŠAVA 1920: Iršava	2,245
26.) IZKY 1924: Iska (Post Office Opened)	979
27.) JASIŇA 1920: Kőrösmező (Hungarian)	9,401
28.) KALŇÍK 1920: Kálník	1,249

## THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

<u>Town Names</u>	<u>Population in 1921</u>
29.) KERECKY 1920: Kerecki	2,507
30.) KIVJAŽD 1920: Kivjašd	1,199
31.) KOBYLECKÁ POLANA 1920: Kobylecká Poljana (Post Office Opened)	1,566
32.) KOSINO 1920: Kosino	2,550
33.) KRÁLOVO NAD TISOU 1922: Királháza (Hungarian)	3,493
34.) Kvasy 1920: Kvasy	1,262
35.) LALOVO 1920: Lalovo	796
36.) LIPČA 1920: Lipša	3,114
37.) LJUTÁ 1920: Ljuta	3,036
38.) MAJDAN 1923: Majdan (Post Office Opened)	2,284
39.) MALÝ BEREZNÝ 1920: Maloje Bereznoje	1,017
40.) MOČOLA 1920: Močola	440
41.) MUKAČEVO 1920: Munkács (Hungarian)	20,865
42.) MUŽIJOVO 1920: Nagymuszaly (Hungarian)	1,647
43.) NERESNICE 1920: Nerežnice	1,618
44.) NIŽNÍ VERECKÝ 1920: Nižní Verecki	1,709
45.) PALANOK 1920: Palanok	1,399
46.) PEREČÍN 1920: Perecsény (Hungarian)	2,351
47.) PETROVO 1920: Petrovo nad Tisou	734
48.) POLANA U SVALAVY 1920: Poljana	835
49.) POROŠKOV 1920: Poroškovo	2,025
50.) RACHOV 1920: Rachovo	6,879
51.) RÁKOŠIN 1920: Rakošin	2,805
52.) ROSVEGOVO 1920: Rosvegovo	1,911
53.) SEKERNICE 1920: Sokyrnica	2,684
54.) SEREDNÉ 1920: Seredné	2,153
55.) SEVLUŠ 1920: Sevljuš	9,248
56.) SINOVÍR 1920: Nižní Sinevír	2,602
57.) SLATINSKÉ DOLY 1920: Aknaszlatina (Hungarian)	2,335

DECEMBER 1989

<u>Town Names</u>	<u>Population in 1921</u>
58.) STAVNĚ 1920: Stavnoje	1,132
59.) STRABIČOVO-GORONDA 1920: Strabičevo	1,852
60.) STŘEDNÍ APŠA 1920: Középpapsa (Hungarian)	3,451
61.) SVALAVA 1920: Svaljava	4,466

To be Continued. . .

## HEAVY CANCELLATIONS AND MUTILATIONS

*Based on an article by Paul Sturman*

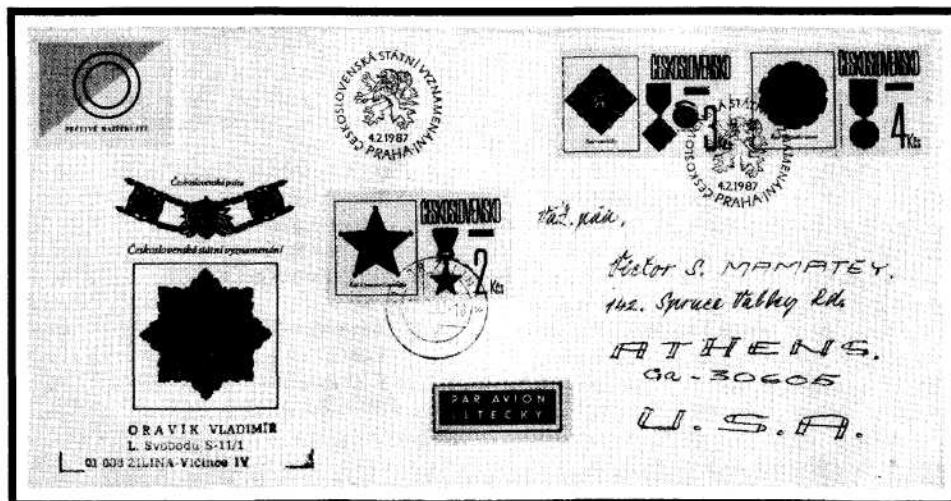
As mailings increase countrywide and demands on postal services continue to grow, the quality of those services seems to deteriorate. This is evident not only in lost letters and packages as well as misdelivered mail, but also in the way stamps are affixed and cancelled. A heavy obliterating cancellation can be as frustrating as no cancellation at all. Sometimes stamps are torn and envelopes mutilated - all in the name of haste and business as usual.

If you think this paragraph describes conditions unique to the U.S., you are not assessing the problem accurately. These mailing conditions are prevalent in almost every foreign country, though in some possibly less than in others. And Czechoslovak philately must be counted as one of the victims of its own postoffice handlings.

One of our members of long standing recently encountered something that prompted him to remark optimistically: "Collectors of entires and of first day covers long suffering from heavy cancellations and smudges on their favorite mailings from Czechoslovakia may now heave a sigh of relief."

Having received such an entire (see illustration below), Paul Sturman noted a label affixed to the upper left - hand corner of the envelope with a round symbol representing a postal cancellation with these words beneath it: "Pečlivě Razítkujte" (Cancel Lightly). The label is perforated and gummed and was affixed by the sender directing the postal clerk to use care in cancelling the stamps. In this case, the postal clerk obliged. The entire presents a picture of neatness which any collector can be proud to possess and exhibit.

Mr. Sturman informs us that the label is available at Czech postoffices and may be purchased in quantity by any sender desiring to use them for the benefit of his addressees. However, there is nothing to prevent a dealer or private collector from making his own label with generally the same text and possibly adding a bit of advertising. Such labels should prove particularly lucrative in our own country where most metered mail already contains advertising.



#### THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

However, a suggestion may be offered that labels requesting light cancelling state so in larger, bolder print, otherwise most preoccupied postal officials may completely overlook the message. And in this country where machine cancellations are becoming a way of life in most postoffices, the label may be nothing more than a conversation piece.

#### The Best Christmas Present a Collector of Czechoslovakia Could Want. . .

We are referring to the new SPECIALIZED HANDBOOK, of course. This oversize lavish publication made its debut at PRAGA 88 and has been universally acclaimed. This is really the long awaited Czech catalog (It covers all Czech issues up to 1985) and is fully illustrated in color, not black and white. It is in Czech, naturally, but easy to follow if you don't read the language. And it can add a degree of mystique to your coffee table, being in this "strange" language. The price is \$38.00 Postpaid.

Also, just arrived are some hardcover bound copies of the Society's Monthly publication, THE SPECIALIST. We have been able to bind some more years of this popular item as copies were found or became available. Each year is extremely limited so please order promptly. All prices are postpaid.

1952-3	\$15.00	1969	\$14.00
1954	\$14.00	1970	\$14.00
1955	\$14.00	1975	\$14.00
1959	\$14.00	1976	\$14.00
1961	\$14.00	1978-9	\$15.00
1962	\$14.00	1980-1	\$15.00
1963	\$14.00	1982-4	\$17.50
1965	\$14.00	1985-6	\$15.00
1966	\$14.00	1987-8	\$15.00
1968	\$14.00		

ORDERS FOR ALL PUBLICATIONS SHOULD BE PLACED WITH:

SOCIETY FOR CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELY, 217 Hazel Avenue, Westfield, NJ 07090  
Attention: Edwin W. Lehecka

#### RESEARCH ASSISTANCE REQUESTED

A major effort is under way to research all aspects of the Fieldpost of the Czechoslovak Siberian Legions with publication the goal. As part of this project a registry of Siberian covers and documents has been established with a two fold purpose: 1) To establish the frequency and distribution of use of postal markings; and 2) To establish which unit markings (cancels) were actually used on mail. To insure valid results the data base needs to be as broad as possible. Therefore, the research team requests all collectors who have Siberian material to send xerox copies of both front and back of all covers, post cards, and postal documents to me as soon as possible. The original material may also be submitted, but certified or insured mail is recommended. Any submitted material will be returned promptly. Please send material/information to:

From the United States:

Jaroslav J. Verner  
American Embassy  
Usber Box E  
APO New York 09742

From Europe:

Jaroslav J. Verner  
Box E  
Clayalee 170  
1000 Berlin 33



## DUES AND DONT'S

There is a saying one should never ask for money at Christmastime. So we're not asking. But we are saying - and saying it with reverence and humbleness - : If you are a reader and enjoy reading the Specialist; if you are an exhibitor and follow the Society's path to the great stamp shows; or if you are just a collector receiving mailings of monthly circuits and picking out stamps to fill your empty album spaces; - is the Society worth your annual investment? If the Specialist has given you just a bit more information about your philatelic interests; if the Fritzsche circuitry has provided you with hours of selective fun; if exhibits have stirred your competitive spirit; - then your investment in the Society through membership has certainly paid for itself.

So support your Society and continue your membership by paying your dues NOW! For he who gives shall be redeemed! By giving to the Society, your Society can repay you with good reading material, bookfuls of good stamps at reasonable prices and participation at stamp shows all over the country.

Please fill out the renewal application below and send it in with your dues check. As long as your renewal is postmarked before the end of February, you pay ONLY the membership dues and no more. If your renewal is postmarked AFTER February, a 3 dollar reinstatement fee MUST be paid in addition to your annual dues. The treasurer has the discretion to accept dues payments up to March 31. After that date, an unpaid member will be dropped from the membership roster and will receive no further copies of the Specialist and no more circuits. If he wishes to reinstate his membership after that date, he may do so by filling out the Renewal Application and adding the 3 dollar reinstatement fee to his dues check.

Members sending in their dues checks are encouraged to add a monetary donation to help the Society meet its fiscal obligations during these inflationary times. All contributions will be gratefully acknowledged and are tax-deductible since the SCP is a non-profit organization. So don't delay! Don't be late! Send in your dues payment NOW!

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### RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP

To: Society for Czechoslovak Philately      Dated \_\_\_\_\_

Treasurer: Ludvik Svoboda, 4766 South Helena Way, Aurora, CO 80015

As member no. \_\_\_\_\_, I enclose my dues for 1990 consisting of:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$18.00 as regular member

\_\_\_\_\_ \$30.00 as patron member

\_\_\_\_\_ \$3.00 as youth member

(Foreign members add \$5.00 for surface mail delivery or \$10.00 for air mail delivery)

(Print name) \_\_\_\_\_

(Full address) \_\_\_\_\_

\*Youth member give date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

In addition, I enclose a voluntary donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ which is tax-deductible.

**THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST**

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