

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Official Monthly Journal of the



Society for Czechoslovak Philately, Inc.

(USPS 808300)

Silver Award Interphil '76 - Silver Award Capex '78 - Silver-Bronze Praga '78 - Praga '88

A. P. S. Unit 18

ISSN: 0526-5843

Vol. 52

MAY, 1990

No. 5, Whole No. 499

JUDGING POSTAL HISTORY EXHIBITS

by Paul H. Jensen

Edited for this publication by M. L. Vondra

(In the May and June SPECIALISTS of last year, we published a comprehensive article by Henry Hahn on the new F.I.P. rules for judging at international exhibitions along with his views and commentaries on its effects. In this issue, those new rules are discussed and amplified in their application to a specific area of philately - Postal History. Paul H. Jensen, the author of this article, is President of the Postal History Commission of the F.I.P. and also a member of our Society. The article was originally written and read for a jury seminar at BALKANFILA XII in Tessaaloniki, Greece, on October 1, 1989. This was part of the F.I.P. judging implementation program and the article is based on previous papers the author has given at various F.I.P. seminars.)



PAUL H. JENSEN

The purpose of this article is to set forth and clarify the principles and methods of arriving at a fair judgment of a postal history exhibit at a multi-national or F.I.P. International or World exhibition.

Looking first at the general concept of postal history exhibits, you will find the basic rules explained in the F.I.P. Special Regulations for Postal History Exhibits - the S.R.E.V. Together with the G.R.E.X. (General Regulations of the F.I.P. for Exhibitions) and the G.R.E.V. (General Regulations of the F.I.P. for the Evaluation of Exhibits at F.I.P. Exhibitions), they comprise the "Constitution" for judging postal history exhibits.

The S.R.E.V. gives a definition of "competitive postal history exhibits" as follows: "A postal history exhibit is an exhibit of documents or postal items which have been carried by a postal service, whether official (national), local or private. Such exhibits will show either routes, rates and markings and/or classification and study of postal markings on covers or on stamps applied by those services or institutions, and of the marks of obliteration on postal items."

This is a very heavy definition to chew, to digest and to understand. Like all definitions, it could have been improved and perhaps made much clearer. A definition should be brief and should cover everything. And then it should be open to comments. So let us try to do just that.

Primarily a postal history exhibit should show and document an organized postal system at work. For that obvious reason, the items selected to form the exhibit should have passed through

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

the mails or demonstrated the way the mails have worked. Again for that reason, unused stamps, postal stationary, essays, proofs, etc. are irrelevant. They do not show the postal system at work, - only the development of postage stamps; and that is the territory of traditional philately. Only in isolated cases can unused stamps, etc. have a significant place in a postal history exhibit. Examples of that may be unissued stamps intended for a postage rate discontinued before the stamp was issued; unused stamps affixed to a document advising of a stamp issued or bogus stamps pretending to be proper stamps but never valid for proper postal use.

It is of course quite wrong to focus postal history on the use of stamps. Long before the postage stamp was thought of, regular mail services existed, particularly in the Mediterranean area. As far as I am concerned, we are really dealing with the period after the Middle Ages when restricted public mails were starting up. The Venetian merchants were perhaps the first pioneers; other Italian merchants developed systems like the Thurn and Taxis postal system. The mails of princes, kings and emperors were eventually made available, upon payment, for use by merchants, by the Church and, when they could read and write, by the common people. The Church also had an organized courier service of its own.

It has now become customary to split up postal development periods into the following general categories:

1. Pre-postal period.
2. Pre-adhesive period.
3. Postage stamp period.

The pre-postal period covers the time before the organized open mails: merchant mails, artisan mails, church mails, occasional mails and, of course, the courier services of the government. Apart from purely museum pieces, we find examples of these in exhibits spanning a period from around 1400 to the 1800's - all depending on the country/area. They are interesting, but not really vital for a postal history exhibit. Their interest depends on how widespread was their use and availability.

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

(USPS 808300)

Official Journal of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately, Inc.

A.P.S. Unit 18

Vol. 52

MAY 1990

No. 5, Whole No. 499

Published monthly except July and August - \$18.00 per year

Second Class Postage Paid at Lancaster, PA 17604

and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST, 1511 Clearview Ave., Lancaster, PA 17601

Editorial Staff

Managing Editor: Mirko L. Vondra, 1511 Clearview Ave., Lancaster, PA 17601

Assistant Editor: Gerald van Zanten, P.O. Box 159, Napier, New Zealand

Technical Editor: Adolf Hujer, Polska3, Prague, Czechoslovakia

Manager-Slovakia Study Group: Jack Benchik, P.O. Box 555, Notre Dame, IN 46556

Elected Officers

President: Charles Chesloe, 8300 South Wolf Rd., Willow Springs, IL 60480

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

Secretary: Jane Sterba, 6624 Windsor Ave., Berwyn, IL 60402

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

Appointed Officers

Circuit Manager: Wolfgang Fritzsche, Box 8, Canandaigua, NY 14424

Expertizing Chairman: Edwin W. Lehecka, 217 Hazel Ave., Westfield, NJ 07090

Librarian: Richard Palaschak, 4050 Carbury Court, Chantilly, VA 22021

APS Representative: Henry Hahn, 2936 Rosemoor Lane, Fairfax, VA 22031

The pre-adhesive period starts with the introduction of a general mail system available to the public. The items are usually recognized by hand-written or handstamped markings showing postage due, routing, instructions, date marks and other possible postal notes. In the early stages, however, such markings are often missing.

The postage stamp period started in 1840 when it became possible to prepay postage by an adhesive postage stamp. It developed during the 19th century. This period has lasted until today and I hope will continue long into the future.

The periods are, of course, overlapping. In some areas - like the Ottoman Empire - public mails did not develop till around 1840. In other areas, public mails were available from the 16th century on and in those areas, postage stamps came much later. They were really not obligatory for international mails till the founding of the General Postal Union in 1875. In my own country (Norway), inland letters could be prepaid in cash up to 1886. I presume many other countries will find a parallel to this. The fact that the development followed parallel lines over many years offers an added area of research to postal historians.

Built into the general definition of "postal history" is the growth and evolution of postal markings (or postmarks), also called "marcophily". This is one of the many possible ways of developing a postal history exhibit. Indeed it may be argued that throughout the 19th and 20th century, postmarks are one of the most interesting aspects of postal history. In addition to that, a list of postal history themes which is by no means complete can be found in the F.I.P.'s S.R.E.V. for Postal History in Article 2. This should be available to anyone upon request.

Now a few words about evaluating a postal history exhibit in competition. The F.I.P.'s S.R.E.V. makes a split in points on four criteria. The approved Guidelines give a further split in three of them as follows:

<u>S.R.E.V.</u>		<u>GUIDELINES</u>	
Treatment and Importance	35	Importance	15
		Treatment	20
Knowledge and Research	35	Knowledge	25
		Research (study)	10
Condition and Rarity	25	Condition	10
		Rarity	15
Presentation	5	Presentation	5
	100		100

One should note carefully that the GREV and the SREV take precedence over the Guidelines. The reason for this is that GREV and SREV are Congress decisions, while the Guidelines are Commission recommendations to the F.I.P. Board.

In international competition, medals are awarded for point counts in the following order:

95 points	— Large Gold	75 points	— Large Silver
90 points	— Gold	70 points	— Silver
85 points	— Large Vermeil	65 points	— Silver Bronze
80 points	— Vermeil	60 points	— Bronze

Below 60 Points — Certificate of Participation

In national competition, each level is usually 5 points below the international requirement. In regional and local competition, the level is 10 points below the international scale.

It is a sobering thought that to get a Large Gold medal in international competition, one needs 95% of the total points available. Obviously an international Large Gold shows that the exhibit cannot be much better - it is nearly perfect. I wish that some judges would keep that in mind when they award international Large Gold medals. It is also important to know that to get an international silver medal, you need 70% of the total points available. This means that an international silver is a good award; not an insult as some exhibitors feel it to be.

Now let us see how F.I.P. judging norms are applied in practical judging. We have first the criterion of Treatment and Importance. This is the starting point. I like to assess Importance first

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

because that part will show the ambition level of the exhibitor. This should be balanced by Treatment and Completeness, which will be an expression of how well the exhibitor fulfills his ambition level. Obviously one may conclude that the ambition level is low but the treatment is very good. An exhibit of a relatively unimportant area, say, the postal history of a small town somewhere, may attain only 5 points in Importance but may be so well treated that it received 20 points in Treatment. However, you should realize that except in special circumstances, the postal history of a small town will hardly ever be important enough on a world scale to win a gold medal. But in a national exhibition in the country involved, it may get a higher Importance rating.

Importance and Treatment balance one another like a seesaw. If they are in complete balance, top points may be given to both sides. If not, fewer points will be given. One must also realize that not all exhibits can reach the top medal level. There has to be room for further development. In Treatment, the introduction or the plan is very important because it shows the ambition level. A postal history exhibit needs a plan and this should be very clearly defined on the introductory page. The exhibitor should clearly state what he is showing and what he wants to prove. This may be amplified in part by making an introduction to each division of an exhibit usually in the first sheet of each frame. The individual sheets in the exhibit could also carry a reference to the introduction/plan in the sheet sub-title.

This leads us to the second double criterion: Knowledge and Research. I do not really like the word "research". It sounds too scientific in my mind. I prefer by far the term "personal study". One very rarely finds a proper research exhibit these days. If you find one that is purely dedicated to research, it may well turn out to be unbearably dull. In theory, I may give up to 25 points for Knowledge and up to 10 points for Research (or personal study). In practice, it is difficult to distinguish between these and I prefer to lump them together even if this goes against the Guidelines. However, the way I see it, Knowledge points are given for general knowledge shown in the exhibit and Research (personal study) points are given for proper analysis of each item shown. If I see, for instance, a cover where the rate and distance are not explained in the notes while the postmark rating is prominently displayed, I deduct points for personal study. Even if it is a marcophily exhibit based on postmarks only, all other interesting information on the cover should be pointed out and analyzed. That is the proper way of showing Knowledge and Personal Study and this will help the judges assess the level of the exhibit.

It is also very useful for an exhibitor to indicate his sources of information. This can be done in the introduction or on some of the sheets in the exhibit. Remember that the exhibit must tell and prove the story which you are setting forth in your title and introduction.

As for the write-up or the text, do not write the obvious which anyone can see from the material shown. Rather tell what it means, what it signifies and what importance it has for the exhibit. State the date and place of mailing if that is not evident. Describe why the postage is in the amount stated. Do not just say it is a 6 kčs. stamp which every viewer can tell and do not identify the addressee if this information is clearly legible. Explain the unusual or the difficult points. Do not try to write a complete study, but give the story as briefly as you can. That is what the judges are looking for. Above all, beware of contrived and hopelessly philatelic covers. A genuine commercial cover with the proper rate is much better than a complete set of rare stamps on a cover addressed to a dealer.

When we arrive at the criterion of Condition and Rarity, we again see that these norms are "see-sawing". It is better to establish the Rarity factor first and then test Condition against Rarity. Certainly very rare items are not apt to be in the same pristine condition that you would expect of the more common ones.

On what grounds do we assess Rarity? I base it on factual rarity (statistics of mail, number of items recorded, objective rarity). Please observe, however, that the marketing of new archives may disturb this Rarity factor. As for Condition, one has to assess the quality available. Some postmarks exist in abundance in wonderful condition; others are generally poor. If less than ten strikes of a postmark are recorded, the Rarity factor will outshine quality. If, on the other hand, good quality is available, points should be deducted if bad quality is shown. This aspect again is one of those

which separates good exhibits from those that are less than good. Judges should avoid the trap of double points or double penalty for different criteria.

Up to 15 points are given for Rarity and 10 for Condition. The Rarity figure is really very subjective and will vary within the area shown. But remember that market price is not indicative of rarity. An item may be expensive but not rare. In postal history, an item may often be very rare but not really expensive. However, you always try to focus on "key pieces" - rare items necessary for getting high marks.

The last criterion is Presentation. This is limited to 5 points because the concept of beauty will differ from country to country. Here one should really try to see whether the exhibit is pleasing to the eye only and not stray very far from that. If Presentation is good, the exhibit will also earn extra points under the other norms because a good presentation makes judging and understanding easier.

These are the judging criteria. Now how do we apply them in a logical sequence? My own approach, which I shall say is purely subjective, is as follows:

1. Establish the Presentation points. The first visible impression is usually right. I do not wait with this as a last resort to put the exhibit one medal up! On the other hand, I do not use Presentation to deprive an exhibit of a deserved medal.

2. Establish the relative Importance of the exhibit (1-15 points). This may be done on the basis of the introductory sheet only - where the exhibitor shows his ambition level. But I look at the exhibit as well. Here there are up to 15 points to be found - not really free points, but ambition points.

3. Establish how well the exhibitor fulfills his ambitions, how well the exhibit is organized, how it fits in with the plan and how complete it is within the scope. Here is where I allocate the 20 points.

4. Go through the exhibit again to rate the Knowledge shown along with Personal Study or Research. Some areas are well known and have been shown often; others may be quite new. One should deduct points for obvious faults, mistakes or omissions; new personal study should indeed be encouraged, and given extra points. I recommend that this criterion be evaluated as a whole, but that cannot stop me from splitting between General Knowledge and Personal Study. In some cases that is really the only way to do it.

5. Assess the Rarity factor of the area shown and give relative points for this criterion. Then I look at the quality or condition related to the rarity and see if it is excellent, good, mediocre or bad.

6. Look at the sum of points given and evaluate whether this corresponds with the medal I feel the exhibit deserves. If the points and my gut feeling differ by two medal levels or more, I do a revision of my points judging.

It is most important to keep a cool head when judging. And it is also essential to try to achieve a standard level for all the exhibits being judged. I do not hesitate to review my first judgments; one may either be too kind or too harsh when judging the first 10 exhibits. I try to get parity - based on sound beliefs.

Again I should like to underscore that the points given are only a means for awarding the right medal. For that reason, I use a soft pencil and an eraser when writing down the initial points. I may want to make corrections as I go along and see the level of other exhibits. As a judge, I am wary of the trap known as "punishment". Should I impose penalties, especially for the same fault in two different criteria? In my opinion, a judge should reward good points of an exhibit, instead of deducting for bad points. Some judges say that if an introduction is missing, 5 points should be deducted. I disagree. If the judges can understand an exhibit and appreciate it fully without the introduction page or from the title only, there is no need to deduct. On the other hand, three pages of introduction often placed symmetrically in the optical center of the first frame may induce the judges to downgrade the exhibit from a sense of exasperation. Therefore the exhibitor should use good judgment in striking a happy medium.

There is an old saying that the exhibitor should not tell the jury too much because the panel is supposed to know it all beforehand. That is not true! At least in Postal History, judges need to be

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

told what they cannot possibly know. An exhibitor should neither overestimate nor underestimate a jury. When in doubt, play it cool - and this applies to exhibitors as well as judges.

In conclusion, judges should treat exhibitors gently and not punish them unduly. They should try to reward them for their good deeds and overlook small mistakes. After all, the exhibitors are volunteers. They have not been conscripted like an army to march in unison and exhibit uniformly. Judges have a duty to make exhibitors reasonably happy without unnecessarily inflating their egos.

Judges should also consider the size of the exhibitor's wallet wherever possible and carefully weigh that against his ability to describe and fit his material into a logical sequence corresponding to his exhibit plan.

Finally the jurors should judge what they see in the frames. The exhibitor's reputation or lack thereof must have no bearing in the judges' minds. Personal acquaintances and political considerations are totally unacceptable. This should be recognized by judges and exhibitors alike. Except for the very youthful exhibitor, age should also not be a factor in judging. A juror who "excuses" the exhibitor for his old age by contending he cannot be expected to alter his exhibit to conform to new rules is not doing justice to philately. The rules demand that the exhibit be developed along prescribed lines each time it is shown.

THE LION OF BOHEMIA RESURFACES

By Charles Chesloe, Pres., S.C.P.

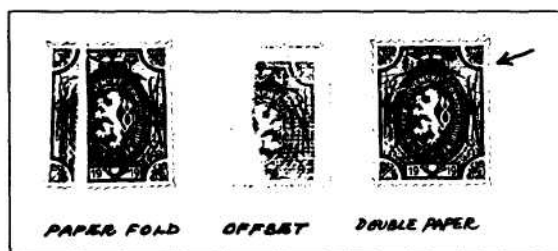


Fig. 1

(There have been many articles written about this controversial set of stamps. Several have been published in the SPECIALIST over the years, the first of which was probably Jan Mrnak's article on page 76-77 of the May 1967 issue. In this current article, Charles Chesloe sheds new light on the subject by analyzing the facts and events behind the issuance of these stamps).

The Lion of Bohemia issue was printed by K. Kolmann's Printing Shop in the Vinohrady section of Prague. Like the Scout stamps which were also printed by Kolmann's, this issue has simulated perforations that were in fact die-cut. The 200,000 copies that were made carried no values but were actually intended to be worth 25 kopeks each. They were ordered by J. Rossler-Orovsky for the Czechoslovak Legion in Eastern Russia and were partially financed by him. His family owned a wholesale pharmacy supply firm and was financially stable which enabled him to undertake philatelic projects such as this.

The first printing of the Lion of Bohemia took place in August 1919 and shortly thereafter a large quantity was shipped to Siberia. Due to inclement weather and stormy seas, most of the original shipment became saturated with water and rendered useless. Therefore any covers bearing these stamps with a 1919 cancellation are not genuine; no Lion stamps were available for postage in that year. The following year, however, the remainder of the first printing was overprinted "1920" and again shipped to Siberia. This time it arrived safely. However, its use was diminished because most of the troops were returning home by then.

I myself have never seen a cover from Siberia with either the original Lion stamp of 1919 with no overprint or with one carrying the "1920" overprint that I would consider genuine. What covers do exist seem to have been cancelled in Prague "after the fact" through the use of genuine though undelivered covers. It is estimated that between seven and ten sacks of mail were returned to Prague. It is these covers to which the Lion stamps were affixed and philatelically cancelled.

Later in 1920, there appeared on the overprinted "1920" issues the following revalued denomi-

nations: 2k, 3k, 5k, 10k, 15k, 25k, 35k, 50k, and 1r (ruble). These overprints had a dark green color. Light green or yellow green overprints are either reprints or forgeries and are therefore worthless except as reference material. Even the dark green overprints, though genuine, are purely philatelic.

There were three different printings of the Lion issue, the first being of top quality and the most desirable while the third was of little value.

The first printing has a clear steel-blue color and well-defined relief of the Lion along with a clear red center. If you have a printing in which the Lion's ribs protrude, you possess a truly good item. And if, in addition to the protruding ribs, the dash over the second "i" in "SIBIRSKÉ" is missing, then you have an extraordinarily rare item. The gum on this printing contained bubbles which are visible to the naked eye.

The second printing was more bluish in color and lacked the sharp detail of the first printing. Its gum was whitish and smooth. The third printing was in reality a reprint and bore rather dull blue and red colors which ran together and were often somewhat blurred. Its value is nowhere near the value listed in Scott's or some of the other catalogs.

According to the Hirsch-Franek catalog, the "1920" overprints as well as the revalued overprints occurred on all three printings. However the only overprints I have ever seen on the third printing are outright forgeries. If the ink on the "1920" seems rather shiny, then you are probably looking at

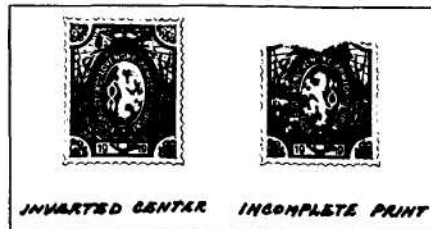


Fig. 2

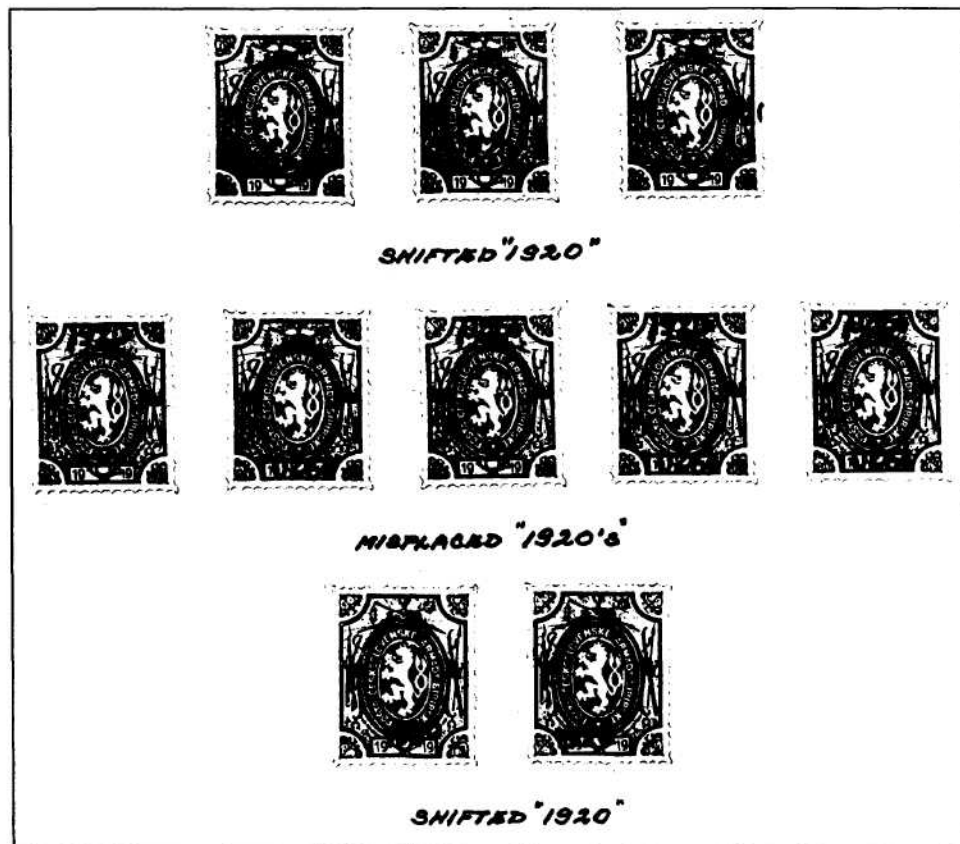


Fig. 3

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

an overprint of the third printing. The first two printings show the "1920" as sharp but not shiny. Revalues were overprinted with dark green numbers on the first printing and moss green numbers on the second printing.

As for the stamp itself, there are two major varieties. Type I has the small sword handle and 5 points on the mace. Type II has a larger sword handle and 6 points on the mace.

Fig. 1 shows a copy of Type I including a paper fold. Fig. 2 shows two varieties of Type II including an inverted center and an incomplete print (not a tear). Fig. 3 has Type II with the "1920" black overprints in shifted as well as inverted positions. Fig. 3a indicates Type I with the shifted overprints. Fig. 4 has three offsets of Type I: the first with no overprint; the second is overprinted "25k - 1920"; the third is overprinted "1r - 1920" and is signed. Fig. 5 illustrates the numerals with varieties of the "1920" overprints including ones that are inverted and double. Fig. 6

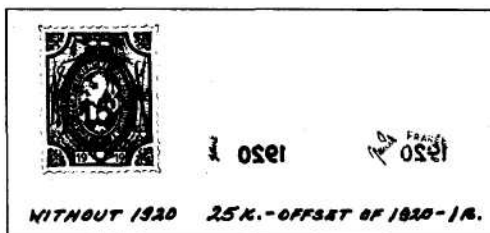


Fig. 4



Fig. 5



Fig. 5A

shows a row of numerals only, but the other rows show more varieties, all in Type II. One must assume that much if not all that was done with these overprints was strictly for the benefit of collectors. Siberian covers bearing the Lion issue without the overprint should be examined very carefully. I have yet to see a cover from Siberia with one of these stamps affixed that I would not question. However, these same stamps can be found alongside local stamps used for paying proper postage on postcards sent from the different ports in which boats docked. These postcards usually had the double circle "Pólní Pošta" cancel. Cards like these were sent from Hong Kong, Ceylon, Shanghai and other ports of call in the Far East. Genuine covers with the "1920" overprints and the overprinted numerals would have to be non-existent. If you find any covers or cards containing

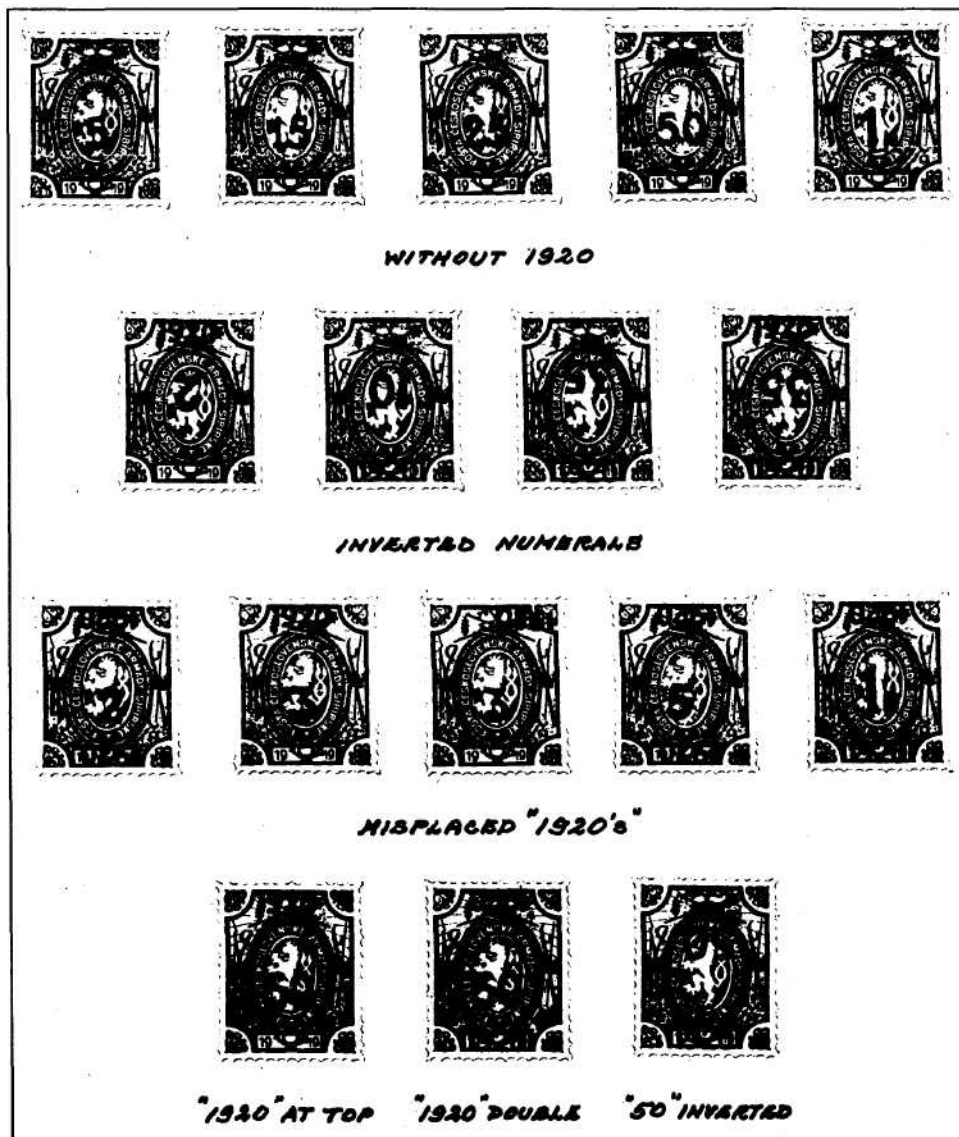


Fig. 6

stamps with these overprints, they are probably not genuine. At best, they are only philatelic in nature and this even applies to exhibits which displayed them at international shows.

As mentioned earlier, the "1920" overprints were all prepared and affixed in Prague to undelivered covers which were returned from Siberia in mailing sacks. Many collectors, recognizing that these were cancellations made by genuine cancelling devices, paid big money for covers not realizing that the stamps were affixed AFTER the covers were returned to their origin of shipment due to non-delivery. Thus a hoax was in part successfully perpetrated on a portion of the philatelic community.

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR OUR MEMBERS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

OBĚŽNÍK NAŠIM ČLENŮM V ČESKOSLOVENSKU

Většina z Vás kdo jste členy naší Společnosti a žijete v Československu, jste si vědomi kdy a jak jste se stali členy. Byli jste upozorněni že členské příspěvky musí být placeny v U.S. dolarech. V případě že nemáte možnost platit v dolarech, naše Společnost přijímá placení ve formě filatelistických publikací. Někteří z Vás si zařídili přímo s naším redaktorem zásilku určitých knih místo poplatků za jednoroční členství, které se obnovuje každý kalendář rok. Tudiž Vaše členství vypršelo 31 prosince 1989.

Nicméně, naše Společnost nepřerušila zásilku časopisu SPECIALIST. Uvědomujeme si že Vám není známá naše procedura: z toho důvodu Vám zasíláme toto oznámení a doufáme že budete mít možnost Vaše členství obnovit, abychom nemuseli přerušit zásilku časopisu za zbytek toho roku.

Prozatím máme přebytek neprodaných filatelistických publikací a proto, bohužel, nemůžeme přijímat další knihy místo členských příspěvků, s výjimkou anglicky psaných publikací, anebo dvoujazyčných knih (česko-anglických). Místo knížek přijímáme známky a podobný filatelistický materiál, hlavně ale né jedině z doby 1914-1945. Přejete-li si obnovit Vaše členství za rok 1990, spojte se laskavě s prezidentem naší Společnosti, Charles Chesloe, 8300 South Wolf Road, Willow Springs, Il. 60480, s informací jaký materiál máte k dispozici (pošlete laskavě fotokopie) a on Vám oznámí zda tento materiál je přijatelný místi příspěvků v cizí valutě.

Žádáme Vás aby ste se s námi laskavě spojili co nejdříve.

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR OUR U.S. MEMBERS

We have now collected sufficient dues for 1990 to carry us through September and possibly even October. Unfortunately, we also had to drop from our membership roster those members who have not paid their dues before the end of March. To those delinquent members we now appeal for their reinstatement. Please complete the renewal application contained on page 19 of the December 1989 SPECIALIST and add a 3 dollar fee to your dues for late reinstatement. Additional donations will be gratefully accepted and are tax-deductible.

THE UNISSUED 1K HAVEL STAMP

by Henry Hahn

The first stamp bearing the portrait of Czechoslovakia's first post-Communist President was issued on January 9, 1990 together with another stamp bearing the likeness of Czechoslovakia's President-Liberator Thomas G. Masaryk. Both stamps are 50 h denominations.



A die essay of a 1k denomination stamp bearing the portrait of Václav Havel and the "OF" (Občanský Forum) initials appeared in philatelic circles shortly thereafter. The engraver of the essay is Josef Herčík Jr., son of the well-known engraver of many Czechoslovak stamps during the period of Communist rule. The essay differs in design from the subsequently issued stamp and is printed in red, blue and black. It is an engraving measuring 23 x 30 mm. It shows President Havel without a tie, with bushier hair under his right ear and with an expression somewhat less relaxed than is evident on the 50h stamp. From that we can only conclude that this portrait preceded that shown on the stamp - unless of course he grew hair as fast as he put an end to Communism in his country.

PAUL STURMAN 1904 - 1990

The Society mourns the passing of one of its original members (see January 1988 SPECIALIST, page 5). Paul Sturman died on Feb. 27, 1990 at the George Washington University Hospital near Washington, D.C. As member no. 38, he was at the time of his demise one of only four living members with a number under "100".

Born in Czechoslovakia, Paul came to this country in 1920 and settled in Detroit. He then moved to Pittsburgh where he served as secretary of a Slovak-Lutheran group before moving to Washington, D.C. After working for the Office of War Information during World War II, he was a displaced-persons camp administrator in Europe with the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration. From 1947 to 1950, he was a civilian intelligence specialist with the Army Map Service. He then lived in Arlington, Va. and owned and operated a bookstore near the Treasury Department building in Washington. For the past ten years, he was president of the Wilsonian Club, an organization of Americans of Czechoslovak ancestry and past master of Lafayette Masonic Lodge no. 19. He also worked with the American Fund for Czechoslovak Refugees.

Over the years, he had done considerable freelance writing including articles on philately written and translated for our SPECIALIST. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Tanja Bella Sturman, a son, two sisters and a grandson. Our sincere though belated condolences go out to the entire family.

With his passing, a void remains in our Society which will be hard to fill.

EDITORIAL HINGES

1. PREAMBLE TO A NEW PHILATELIC CODE

With the advent of democratic government in Czechoslovakia, reforms are expected to reach down and touch all walks of life. This should bring about dramatic changes not only in politics, economy, industry and agriculture, but in arts as well. "Arts" in the context of this article is used in its broadest sense. And so we include not only fine arts like painting, sculpture and music, but also the "lesser arts" like philately and numismatics.

As far as philately is concerned, it has over the past 41 years become enslaved to a rigid and inflexible "code" which sought to blot out historical facts and relegate it to the status of a propaganda tool. Worse than that, the "code" attempted to exploit philately and misuse it to the extent of contriving rules and concocting material that had no basis in reality.

While changes in philatelic "leadership" have already taken place and more are expected to follow, new faces alone will not necessarily prevent past abuses from never again recurring. What is needed is a new Philatelic Code of Honor and Ethics that will help Czechoslovakia attain a place of leadership in philatelic thinking and give collectors throughout the world a sense of assurance about the material it issues. This "sense" relates to stamps, postal stationary, souvenir sheets and cards, as well as to cancellations, overprints, perforations, etc.

For the sake of brevity, let us outline what some of the elements of this Code should include:

1. A three-man panel of judges consisting of a member of the Postal Ministry, a member of the Commission for the Czechoslovak Stamp and a member of the Union of Czechoslovak Philatelists shall pass on the design, the subject matter and the appropriateness of every stamp before it is printed.
2. Stamps shall only be printed in denominations which are postally valid. Denominations consisting of more than one numeral shall be equal in size and clearly visible.
3. Stamps issued singly shall not be reissued in a different color, perforation or denomination unless there is at least a minimal change in size or design of the stamp itself.
4. Stamps issued in sets shall be printed in equal quantities and shall be available outside the postoffice commercially in complete mint sets or individually as used and cancelled stamps.

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

5. The subject matter shown on a stamp shall have some inherent relevancy and connection with Czechoslovakia.

6. Stamps shall not be cancelled except where affixed to a parcel and postally mailed and then only by official cancellation. Stamps shall be favor-cancelled only when tied to a souvenir card or souvenir sheet expressly honoring the person, location or event illustrated on the stamps.

7. The use of official overprints shall be announced by the postal authorities before any stamps are actually overprinted and the withdrawal of such overprints from use shall also be officially announced in advance.

8. There shall be a quota set each year for the number of different stamps that may be issued the following year.

9. New postal stationery shall not exceed 50 percent of the number of new stamps issued in any one year.

10. Meters may be used in place of stamps only on packages and only when the weight exceeds (to be specified).

The above is but a suggestion of the depth and scope that a Philatelic Code might encompass. Sources closer to the actual printing and distributing of stamps may doubtless have other and more valid ideas. One thing is certain: A set of guiding principles is necessary if Czechoslovak philately is to survive in a world where the floodgates are open and the stamps are rushing off the presses like raindrops falling from a cloudburst.

At present, the Society is contemplating holding a seminar at BALPEX 90 on the subject. Those wishing to contribute time and material for discussion at this seminar are invited to contact the editor, Mirko Vondra.

2. MORE ON PHILATELIC LEADERSHIP

Speaking of philatelic leadership, on page 6 and 7 of the March issue we advised you that Ladislav Dvořáček had resigned as President of the Federal Union of Czechoslovak Philatelists, but that he was still clinging precariously to his post as President of F.I.P. We are now able to inform our members that Mr. Yatia of India has been nominated for the F.I.P. presidency. Since Mr. Dvořáček is not a candidate and no other philatelic function has been reserved for him, it is safe to assume that his leadership in philately is now equivalent to that of Miloš Jakeš in politics, thanks to the efforts of the Czechoslovak Federation of Philatelists.

In the meantime, a proposal to bar L. Dvořáček from further involvement in Czechoslovakia's philatelic community has been accepted at a session of R.C.C.P.F. His membership in the Federation and in the country's numerous philatelic clubs has been cancelled. This action is still subject to approval by the Extraordinary Congress of Czechoslovak Philately which is to take place in Prague probably toward the end of June. If that timetable materializes, we will report to you further on its outcome in our September issue.

3. RADIO PRAGUE

In the January 1973 SPECIALIST, page 3, the late Edward Tabor, then assistant editor, advised us what philatelic programs could be heard on what frequencies emanating from Prague on short wave radio. Our present assistant editor, Gerald van Zanten, now advises that with a new government in office, these short-wave broadcasts have been held every other Wednesday, at the end of which a quiz is conducted. Listeners mail in their answers and winners receive a free First Day Cover.

The following frequencies carry the broadcasts:

5.930 mH in the 49 m band.	7.345 mH in the 41 m band.
9.540 mH in the 31 m band.	11.990 mH in the 25 m band.
13.715 mH in the 19 m band.	

All of these are from 01.00 to 01.57 UDC and are repeated from 03.00 to 03.57 UDC and beamed to the United States. Please consult your local sources for complete and accurate time frames.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

GOOD NEWS!

Yes, the news is getting better and better. More of our members are reading the *SPECIALIST* and more are reacting to what they read. Recently your editor has been inundated with letters commenting on various articles. Some comments are complimentary; others are critical. Some are mere observations; others offer advice and suggestions. Your editor loves them all. But the ones he welcomes most are those that enclose a contributing article for publication. These contributing articles are the backbone of the *SPECIALIST*. They enable you to share the knowledge that other members acquired through research and inquiry. To those who are providing us with such material, your editor expresses his sincere thanks and appreciation. To the others, he offers encouragement to try your hand at writing on a philatelic subject you are interested in and have some knowledge about. Send it to me and if it is informative, reasonably accurate and philatelically appropriate, it will be published.

Meanwhile, listed below are some letters and commentaries recently received:

(Complimentary)

My compliments for the articles by Dr. Palkoska and Henry Hahn (Feb. 1990, pgs. 10, 11 and 14). I did some research on this myself a few years ago, as I had a P.O. Box 506, Lisbon letter included in an exhibit of letters from Slovakia.

A Danish postal historian, Menne Larsen, has written an article about the subject in which he tells about the origin of the P.O. Box 506: "After the fall of France and the German occupation of the Channel Islands in June 1940, there was a great need for contact between the many refugees in England and their relatives in the occupied islands. Permission was granted to establish the P.O.B. 506 in Lisbon with Thomas Cook & Son's office in London in charge of the whole business. The regulations for correspondence were issued by the Channel Islands' Refugees Committee and, as we know, others were soon allowed to make use of this service. A similar cover address had existed in Holland, P.O.B. 604 Amsterdam, until that country was occupied on May 10, 1940". . . .

In his article, Mr. Larsen also mentions that a Mr. A. E. Gilbert tried to register all such known letters. So far (and that was more than five years ago), he has a list of 92 letters, four of which were from the area of Bohemia-Moravia and Slovakia. Two of them were from 1940; one from 1941; and one from 1944. Unfortunately I have no information about Mr. Gilbert.

When I bought the letter, I had to pay a price in Danish Kroner approximating 100 U.S. Dollars. I did not know anything about the matter, so I asked a Danish specialist for advice. He said: "If the letter had been sent from the Faroe Islands, the price would have been 400 dollars. If you want the letter, then buy it. It may well be your only chance to get hold of such an object". So I did.

-E. Skovbo Jensen

(Critical)

The front-page news in the January *SPECIALIST* is a description and illustration of a discovery of a heretofore unknown forgery of the 300h Hradčany, postally used and on piece.

I am somewhat baffled by this for I find nothing whatsoever that would lead me to such a conclusion. The "forgery" looks quite genuine and the description would merely indicate a variety (printing and paper) which is not uncommon in this issue. Of course, I would have to see the actual item to be sure and hence would like to suggest that the author send the item to our expertization committee for examination.

The artful joining of stamps at their perforations, illustrated in the tete-beche block in Mr. Hujer's article is quite similar to that which I reported in an earlier issue of the *Specialist* in the case of a forged strip of three which included both types of the 100h Agriculture and Science Issue of 1923. It may well have come from the same "shop".

-Henry Hahn

(Observation)

I was very interested in reading the article on pages 12 and 13 of the February *SPECIALIST*. I have a registered cover mailed in Hradec Králové with two 30h and two 60h Svoboda stamps. One stamp of each value is overprinted "Pravda Zvítězí" and the other two stamps are overprinted "Smrt Sovětským Okupantům 21-8-68. A small photograph of Dubček is also stuck on the cover and cancelled with the ordinary postmark, as are the stamps.

-Tom Austin

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

(Complimentary)

I am indeed enjoying your SPECIALIST. I have, I believe, a complete run from 1939 onwards, missing perhaps a couple of war years (1942-1943), which I do not know whether they were published or not. The SPECIALIST has had its ups and downs and I think it is getting better and better just now.

- Paul H. Jensen

(Editor's Note: Yes, the SPECIALIST was published during 1942-43. If anyone happens to have duplicate copies of the publication for those two years, please contact Paul H. Jensen. Perhaps you can work something out with him)

(Observation)

Before leaving Germany, my daughter and I managed a trip to Prague on Feb. 16 through 19. Of all the changes we saw (the red stars are gone from all the buildings), my biggest surprise came at the main postoffice. Before arriving in Prague, I knew that a new 50h stamp with a picture of Vaclav Havel had been issued in January. When I asked the girl at the counter for twenty, she reached into a special box where she kept them. As she raised the box lid, I instantly recognized a familiar face - Thomas G. Masaryk. The 50h stamp with Czechoslovakia's first president is a real symbol of changes since Nov. 17. I later learned from Czech friends that the Masaryk stamp is hard to find. They had been trying for days at their district postoffice with no luck.

Speaking of Masaryk, his picture was in a number of shop windows. In addition, I also noticed photos of Edward Beneš and one of Milan Štefanik.

- R. T. Cossaboom

(Complimentary & Observation)

I am continuing my study of the early Czech issues. It is not only fascinating, but also a lot of hard work. I want to put together an exhibit of the 1918-1937 issues. I want to make the exhibit as accurate as possible but there is so much to learn about them. One of my main difficulties is with the early Masaryk issues. Henry Hahn's monograph is a big help and I have many of the early bound issues of the SPECIALIST which is a gold mine of information. More and more I appreciate my membership in the Society.

To the members I recommend getting hold of a copy of the January 18 "New York Review of Books". There is a fascinating article by Timothy Garton Ash about the "Ten days that shook the world" - Czechoslovakia's velvet revolution of last Nov-Dec. The title of the article is "The Revolution of the Magic Lantern". The Magic Lantern is the theater where much of the planning of the Civic Forum took place. Ash is a friend of Vaclav Havel. He was in Prague during the ten days and his article is not only fascinating; to me it is thrilling!

- Phillips B. Freer

(More on Observations and suggestions)

In addition to the above, Phil Freer informs us that according to a Newsletter of the Mesoamerican Archaeology Group (would you believe?), all "New Issues" service in the future for Czechoslovakia will be handled by the Unicovert Co. of Cheyenne, Wyoming (formerly Fleetwood). Unicovert is reported to be presently handling New Issue accounts for some 16 countries, including Hungary, Israel and Australia. The Newsletter states that "the announcement of the change was made by a philatelic representative of Czechoslovakia during the last few days of World Stamp EXPO 89 in the form of a small leaflet which was distributed at the show. The leaflet features an illustration of Scott Catalog no. 1406 which depicts a plain Indian. Previously new stamps of Czechoslovakia were available directly from the postal agency".

It is suggested our members also refer to page 3 of the March 19 issue of Linn's Stamp News for the most recent reported philatelic developments in Czechoslovakia prior to the printing of this issue of the SPECIALIST.

MAY 1990

NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED !

The last published list of new members added to our Society roster was in the August/September 1989 issue of SPECIALIST, page 2 and 3. Since then, 19 more applicants have had their memberships approved. The Society is happy to welcome them into our fold. Here are their names addresses and membership numbers:

Number Name and Address

1545	Peter Dolezal, Bruenner Str 6-8/1/12 Vienna Austria
1546	Danny Demetriade, P.O. Box 10182, Detroit Mich 48210
1547	Frank Simonetti, P.O. Box 335, Middle Village, N.Y. 11379
1548	Jan Verle, Sweelinckstraat, 52 2517 GE Den Haag Holland
1549	Steve Blick, 133 Lavendar Hill, Tonbridge, Kent, England TN9 2AY
1550	Darrell L. George, Route 5, Box 489, Little Rock, Ar 72212
1551	George W. Geib, 4737 Cornelius, Indianapolis, IN 46208
1552	William Jones, 207 Main St. Box 152, Rockland, Wisconsin 54653
1553	Thomas L. Smithson, 2993 West Maple Ridge - 37th Rd. Rock MI 49880
1554	Martha Rushton, 711 West 57th Ave., Apt. 108, Bradenton, FL 34207
1555	John E. Kolesar, 1800 Murdstone Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15241
1556	Dr. Walter Rauch, Knipprather Str. 19, D4019 Monheim, West Germany
1557	Neil Worley, 2550 Kilmarnock Cres., North Vancouver, B.C., Canada V7J 2Z5
1558	Mr. Jean-Louis Bardelli, 54 Rue Des Panoyaux, Paris, France 75020
1559	Charles Alexander Otstot, 2416 Mountainbrook Dr., Richmond, VA 23233
1560	Paul C. Ruzicka, 1625 Grove Ave., Berwyn, IL 60402
1561	William K. Schneider, 11430 Lake Shore Dr., Grand Haven, MI 49417
1562	Jan Nedbal, 302 Easy Street, #35, Mountain View, CA 94043
1563	Henry A. Bordwell, P.O. Box 446, Rochester, NY 14603

AVAILABLE PUBLICATIONS

SPECIALIZED HANDBOOK

A lavishly printed and illustrated hard cover publication of 550 pages that is both an invaluable aid to the serious collector and a definitive handbook for years to come.

\$38.00 postpaid

FORGERIES OF CZECHOSLOVAK POSTAGE STAMPS

English translation and fully illustrated. A MUST for the serious student of Czech stamps.

\$22.50 postpaid

MONOGRAFIE SERIES

Detailed treatments of special areas and invaluable to the specialized collector. In Czech language. Does not include so-called black print.

Volume 3	- 1923-9 issues	\$25.00 postpaid
Volume 4	- 1918-35 Airmails & P. Dues	\$25.00 postpaid
Volume 16	- 1918-20 Cancellations pt I	\$22.50 postpaid
Volume 16	- 1918-20 Cancellations pt II	\$22.50 postpaid
Volume 17	- 1919-39 Cancellations pt I	\$22.50 postpaid
Volume 17	- 1919-39 Cancellations pt II	\$22.50 postpaid

BOUND ANNUAL VOLUMES OF SPECIALIST

These are hard cover (buckram) bound copies of the Society's monthly publication. Very limited quantities in most cases.

1955	\$14.00 postpaid
1957	\$14.00 postpaid
1958	\$14.00 postpaid
1959	\$14.00 postpaid
1967	\$14.00 postpaid
1968	\$14.00 postpaid
1975	\$14.00 postpaid
1978-79	\$16.00 postpaid
1985-86	\$16.00 postpaid
1987-88	\$16.00 postpaid

ORDERS FOR ALL PUBLICATIONS SHOULD BE PLACED WITH:

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

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

(USPS 808300)

**1511 CLEARVIEW AVE.
LANCASTER, PA 17601**

- Forwarding and Return Postage Guaranteed -

Second Class
Postage Paid
Lancaster, PA 17604
and additional
mailing offices.