



THE CZECHOSLOVAK Specialist

(USPS 808300)

Official Bi-Monthly Journal of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately, Inc.

Winner of Reserve Grand Award at ORAPEX '91; Silver at PHILITEX '92

A. P. S. Unit 18

ISSN: 0526-5843

Vol. 55

MAY/JUNE 1993

No. 3, Whole No. 519

FLOREX AND OUR NEW CIRCUIT MANAGER

Preparations for our Society's participation at FLOREX 93 are now in full swing. It will be the first venture by the S.C.P. into sunny Florida and practically in Disney World's and Universal Studio's back yard in many years. The event will take place on Nov. 5, 6 and 7 at the Omni International Hotel in Orlando.

Fifty frames have been made available for our Society and a Prospectus has been prepared which you will find in the centerfold of this issue. If you are planning to enter your exhibit, please remove the entry form, fill it out and mail it in together with your check as per printed instructions accompanying the form. The sooner you do this, the more likely you will be assured of having the required number of frames reserved for your use.

Another bit of good news for our members is the fact that we finally have a new circuit manager to take charge of our Sales and Exchange Circuit. He is H. Alan Hoover of 6070 Poplar Spring Drive, Norcross, GA 30092, telephone 404/840-8766.

Alan has plunged into this undertaking with considerable verve and enthusiasm. We therefore urge all members who patiently waited for the revival of the circuit following Wolfgang Fritzsche's retirement to contact Mr. Hoover for details about his new operation. Of course, the bottom line is an ample supply of philatelic material. If you have stamps, sheets of covers you wish to put into the circuit, this will be your opportunity to "get in on the ground floor."

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DE PISEK - A RARE POSTMARK

by Václav Konštant

Translated by Vladimír Králíček

In collections and exhibits which include old pre-stamp era letters, we can always be sure that each such letter is unique in its own way. No two letters are exactly alike in appearance, address or affixed seal. This is confirmed by early postal handstamps showing places of origin which first appeared at the end of the 17th century. Each postmark on the address side is placed in a different way and sometimes even in a different color. The evolution and execution of these postmarks is compiled in a number of monographs which is not the subject of this article but which I would like to call attention to anyway. They include prefixes that were used with some postmarks preceding the place of origin. These prefixes appeared only for relatively short periods of time.

From the start of the 17th century a regulation was valid in Austria that it was the sender's responsibility when submitting a letter to be dispatched to note in the top right-hand corner the place of posting. Senders had not always observed this regulation and often the noting was done by the postoffice itself. A prefix was frequently placed in front of the handwritten name by the postal clerk. For example, in France the prefix used was "DE" or "de", meaning "of" or "from". In Austria, the prefix consisted mostly of "Von" or "von" and was sometimes abbreviated to "V" or "v", meaning "from". Sometimes Austria also used "Aus" or "a", as in "a. Prag". These handwritten syllables preceding the place of posting have somehow been incorporated into the postal marks of origin.

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NO. 3, WHOLE NO. 519

Published bi-monthly - \$18.00 per year

Second Class Postage Paid at Lancaster, PA 17604

PUBLISHED BY: THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

1511 CLEARVIEW AVENUE, LANCASTER, PA 17601-4305

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to

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

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Printed at Ephrata, PA by Shelley Printing, Lee Weit, President (717) 738-1141

All Officers and Board Members Serve the Society voluntarily and non-gratuitously.



FIG. 1

Early examples of the origin and evolution of these postmarks are found in an unsurpassed writing which the author, Kämpf Mikulí, called "Neue Briefe Über Alte". In addition to the text, the author shows some 1,500 illustrations of postmarks in his book. The earliest letter in his possession, dated May 1695, bears a postal mark of origin of the northern French town of "DE S. MALO". Of course, the earliest known French postmark is from March 1695 of the town of "DE BAUWAIS". This is followed in 1697 by "DE VALENCE", in 1720 by "de Bayone", in 1720 by "DE DOUAY", in 1770 by "DE PARIS", etc. In Germany during 1787, the postmark "DE GOTH A" occurs and in Switzerland, "DE BASLE" appears in 1772. The prefix "DE" has its equivalent in Austria in the form of the previously mentioned "VON". It is necessary to point out that the first postmarks were used in England and a letter with a postmark dated 15 May 1961 is known to exist. This postmark does not show the place of origin but only the date of posting. It is circular in shape. In its upper corner is an alphabetical letter indicating in abbreviated form the month of year and in the lower part a number showing the day of week.

After this survey of the earliest French and English postmarks of place of origin, we can now look at the earliest postmarks of Austria and the Czech lands that used prefixes. Here the use of postmarks began somewhat later and the first postmark was in Vienna in 1751. The earliest known letter from that year has a frame postmark "V. WIENN" in Gothic script. It is interesting to note that as long as the handwritten name of the place of origin letter exists with the handwritten "De Wienne", the postal mark with the prefix "De" did not occur.

All my preceding remarks bring me to what was then the existing situation in Prague and the Czech lands regarding the usage of prefixes with the postal place names. If we look back to the time when the name of the place of origin was written by hand, we can ascertain that "de Prag" was used relatively often, whereas in none of the postmarks used in Prague does the French prefix "de" appear. The first Prague handstamp of the place of origin was made from metal after the standard Viennese "Von Prag" and began in use from 1782. The Gothic script



FIG. 2

was used, the color was mainly black, rarely red. The postoffice in Cheb began to postmark its mail "V. Eger" in 1756, much sooner than Prague, while the postoffice in Čerhovice used the postmark "V. Czerhowitz" in 1767. Literature discloses that the majority of postoffices used postmarks with the name of the post only and without a prefix. But at the same time we have determined that postmarks with a prefix originated from the earliest times and that the use of prefixes with postmarks ceased after a relatively short period of time. Therefore postmarks with a prefix are almost always valued highly as rarities.

If we follow the evolution of postmarks in Bohemia, it will surprise us that toward the end of the 18th century and the beginning of the 19th century four not very large or important postoffices introduced the place of origin postmarks with the French prefix "DE" or "de". What the reasons or motives were that led the postmaster of the day to add to the names of their posts the French prefix will probably never be known. It concerns the following postmarks:

1. "de Pržestitz/ Přeštice" from 1780 in black and also in red.
2. "de Klattau/ Klatovy" from 1791 in black.
3. "De Cžaslau/ Čáslav" from 1792 and "DE CZESLAU" in 1803 in black.
4. "DE PISEK/ PÍSEK" from 1817 in black (see fig. 1).

Edwin Müller and Emil Votoček cataloged the scarcity of these postmarks in their publications according to the year in which they originated. The highest valuation is given to the first postmark "de Pržestitz" (800 points) and the lowest valuation to the postmark "DE PISEK" (300 points). If we resort to catalogs that base rarity on frequency of occurrence in displays, at exhibitions and in collections here and abroad, we get an altogether different result. The "DE PISEK" postmark has appeared in the fewest number of exhibits, then "de Pržestitz", then "de Klattau" and finally "DE CZASLAU". Edwin Müller was not aware of the existence of the "DE PISEK" postmark and it was only introduced by his successor, Dr. Karel Kühn, in the second supplement, who discovered it and owns the letter with this postmark. The second letter with that postmark is owned by the great collector of Czechoslovak postal history, J.L.

Klein of Holland, and the third letter is one I myself own and is in my regional collection of postal services in the town of Písek. (see fig. 2).

As far as the DE PÍSEK postmark is concerned, my friend, Emil Votočka, attests to its rarity and prepared a revised evaluation of 1,000 points in an additional supplement. Unfortunately his death prevented the continuation of this work.

So much about postmarks with the prefix "DE" not only in France, but also in Bohemia. All that now remains is to somehow explain with reason and validity what made the postmasters of that time use these postmarks, inasmuch as in those days it only depended on the postmaster to decide what it would look like not only in its format but also in its use. After all the passage of time, difficult as it may be, I would like to offer two theories in the case of the "DE PÍSEK" postmark since it is not possible for me to do the same in the case of the other three postmarks.

First, during the French and Austrian Wars, the French Army led by Duke Brogliem and Marshall Belleisle crossed the southern Bohemian borders on November 7 and at the end of that year, two companies of its Army stood at the well-defended gate of the town of Písek. During their stay at Písek up to 1742, the town experienced many hardships and its population was effected by a high mortality rate. The use of this French postmark may have been just one of many small measures at attempted mutual reapproachment so that partial knowledge of the French language and expressions could live on in Písek. Secondly, another and, in my mind, the more compelling theory involves the postmaster himself. In 1817 when the postmark "DE PÍSEK" began to be used at the Písek postoffice U BÍLÉ RŮŽE, the postmaster's name was Francois Dionyzus Simoni. Though born in Bohemia, he had an aristocratic family from Lutych and thus the possibility exists that he knew the French Language and decided to use it on his town's postmark. Who knows, perhaps both theories apply.

LEONARD J. PALASCHAK (1930-1993)

Leonard Joseph Palaschak, member no 1493, died on February 8 at the age of 63 at a hospital near his home in Colorado Springs, CO. He was a lieutenant-colonel in the Army before retiring and a teacher and coach at St. Mary's and Falcon High Schools.

He was born on May 25, 1930 in McKeesport, Pa. His brother, Col. Richard G. Palaschak, is currently a member of S.C.P., our Society librarian and Board member. In addition to his brother, Leonard is survived by his wife, two sons, a daughter, six grandchildren and a sister.

He had lived in Colorado Springs for 24 years and was a member of the Colorado Springs Stamp Club, Colorado Coaches' Association, Our Lady Queen of Peace and Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities. He was named Colorado Springs track coach of the year in 1985. He had attended the University of Pittsburgh and was a graduate of the University of Southern Colorado. He had been in the Army for 20 years and received the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star and Army Commendation Medal, among numerous other awards.

As a recent member of the S.C.P., he specialized in Slovakia and Eastern Silesia and was in the process of putting together his first exhibit when he was hospitalized and died soon thereafter.

Our Society extends its heart-felt sympathy and condolences to his wife and all members of the family.



THE 20H AMERICAN RELIEF CARDS

By Charles Chesloe

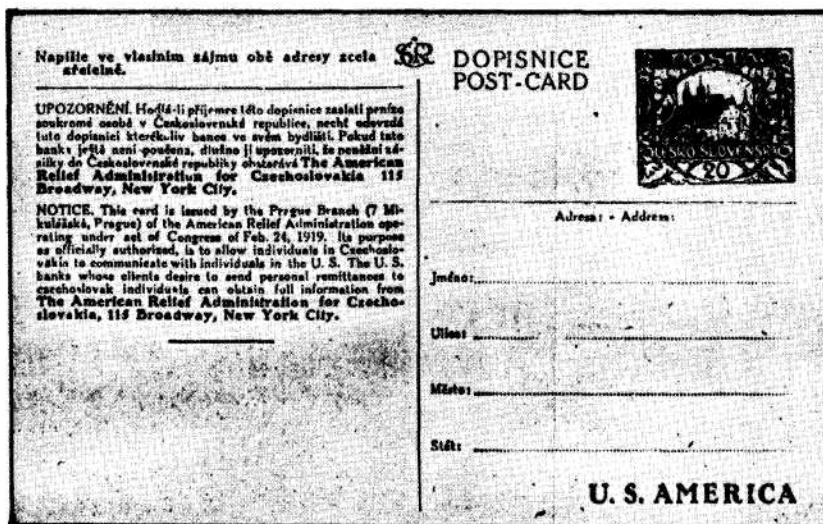


Fig. 1

One of the most sought-after and scarcest postcards of the First Republic are the American Relief cards authorized by an Act of the U.S. Congress on February 24, 1919. The cards were issued by the Prague branch of the American Relief Administration for the use of Czechoslovaks wishing to communicate with individuals in the United States.

There were three formats used for these cards. Fig. 1 shows the bi-lingual card which has both Czech and English text. Fig. 2. is also a bi-lingual card, except that the Czech language has been replaced by Slovak. Fig. 3 shows a trilingual card with Czech text at the top, English in the middle and German at the bottom. Fig. 4 shows the reverse of a Slovak-English card while Fig. 5 shows

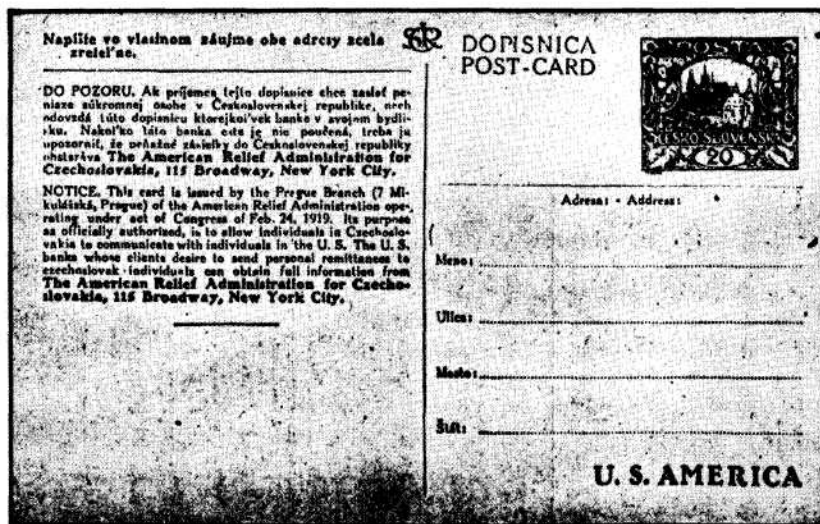


Fig. 2

Napište ve vlastním zájmu obě adresy zcela zřetelně.
Beide Adressen sind in eigenem Interesse lesentlich zu schreiben.

UPOZORNĚNÍ. Hadit-li příjemce této dopisnice zasílá peníze soukromě osobě v Československé republice, nechtě odvézt tuto dopisnici křehkosti banky ve svém bydlíšti. Pokud tato banka ještě není poučena, důlně ji upozornit, že peníze sdílily do Československé republiky sdílí The American Relief Administration for Czechoslovakia 115 Broadway, New York City.

NOTICE. This card is issued by the Prague Branch (7 Měsíční, Prague) of the American Relief Administration operating under act of Congress of Feb. 24, 1919. Its purpose is officially authorized, is to allow individuals in Czechoslovakia to communicate with individuals in the U. S. The U. S. banks whose clients desire to send personal remittances to Czechoslovak individuals can obtain full information from The American Relief Administration for Czechoslovakia 115 Broadway, New York City.

ZUR BEACHTUNG. Falls der Empfänger dieser Postkarte an eine in der Czechoslovakischen Republik befindliche Privatperson Geld zu versenden hat, ist es, muss er dieselbe einer Bank seine Wohnort übergeben. Ist diese Bank noch nicht informiert, muss ihr mitgeteilt werden, dass Geldsendungen nach der Czechoslovakischen Republik The American Relief Administration for Czechoslovakia 115 Broadway, New York City besorgt, welche die erforderlichen Instruktionen über Verfahren erteilen wird.

**DOPISNICE
POST-CARD
POSTKARTE**

Adress: - Address: - Adresse:

**Infno:
Name:**

**Ulice:
Casse:**

**Město:
Stadt:**

**Stát:
State:**

U. S. AMERICA

Fig. 3

Len pro soukromé odesílání **For personal correspondence only.**

Adresa admiistrátora v republice Československé.
Address of sender in Czechoslovakia.

Nome:

Ulice:

Město:

Okres:

CZECHOSLOVAK REPUBLIC.

Fig. 4

Len pro soukromé odesílání **For personal correspondence only.**

27. říjen

Milý strýče,

děkujeme za tvoji odpověď,

vše jsme v pořádku dostali.

Nemohu Mánu přimět k souhlasu k odjezdu, má obavu o oba rodiče zde - tak stále s tvou nabídkou váháme. Možná s ní po- hne až ta bída o Vánocích zám. Pozdrav všem ode mne. Jen/da

Adresa admiistrátora v republice Československé.
Address of sender in Czechoslovakia.

Jen Rovniánek ml.

Spindlovka 143

Spindelmühle / Spindl/

Česko-slovensko

CZECHOSLOVAK REPUBLIC

Fig. 5

the reverse of the tri-lingual card with a message in Czech typed by the sender with his name and address near the bottom. Fig. 6 shows a bi-lingual Czech-English card sent to the Netherlands (Holland) with a cancel "Praha 13, 7-II-x-3a". Cards sent throughout Europe are scarce, but not rare.

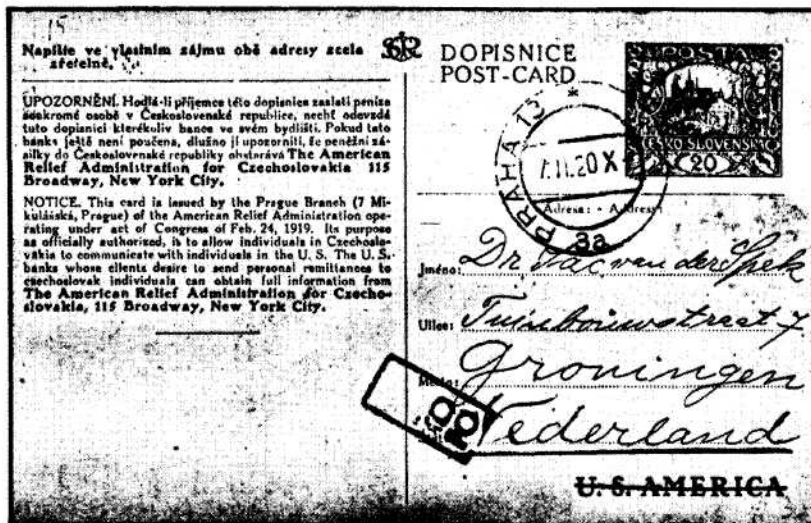


Fig. 6

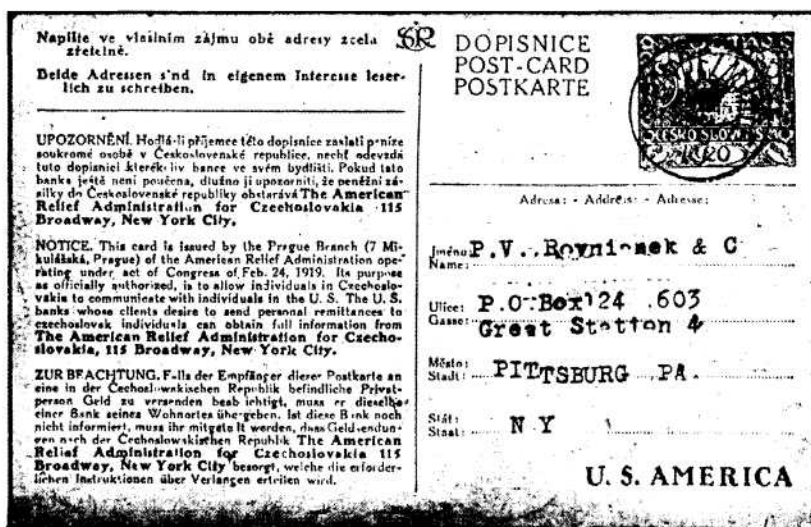


Fig. 7

Fig. 7 shows a tri-lingual card with a German cancel "Spindelmühle 28-10-19. The Czech equivalent is Vřetenový Mlýn. The date is Czech Independence Day. Fig. 8 shows yet another tri-lingual card with the German cancel "Mähr. Trüben 14-x-19 x 2a." The Czech equivalent is Moravská Třebová.

These last two cards are extremely rare, having been sent to the United States. Price for them in Czechoslovakia may approach the four-digit figures in American dollars. A similar card was recently purchased in Little Rock, Arkansas, but without the impression of the 20h red Hradčany value. A regular 20h Hradčany stamp was affixed to the card which, in all other respects, was an identical American Relief card. The price realized was 1,500 dollars (NOT crowns). Incidentally, an unused card without the 20h impression is (or was) for sale recently in Czechoslovakia. The

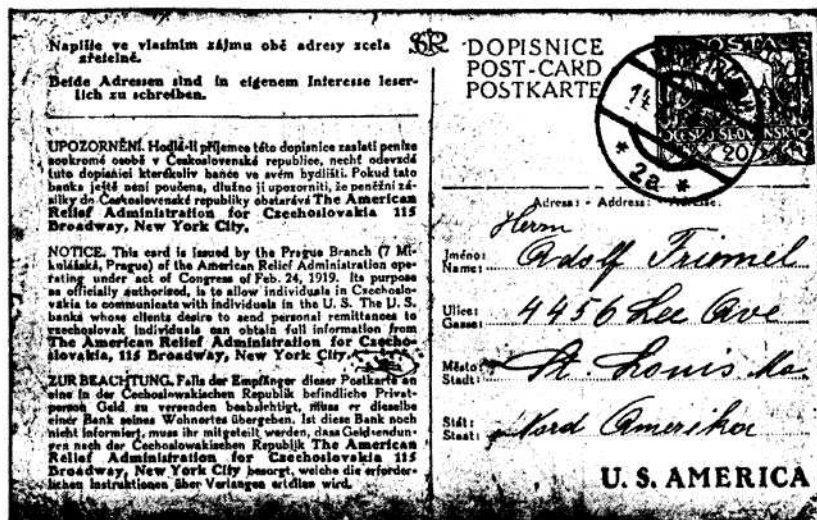


Fig. 8

asking price was \$1,000.

These cards occasionally show up in dealers' boxes. If you are lucky to find one, don't hesitate to buy it if the price is right. Besides being scarce if not rare, they are an excellent philatelic investment.

ON EXHIBITING IMPERFS

This article is reprinted from "The Philatelic Exhibitor, Volume 7, No. 1, Jan. 93"

By permission of the Author and Publisher.

by Henry Hahn

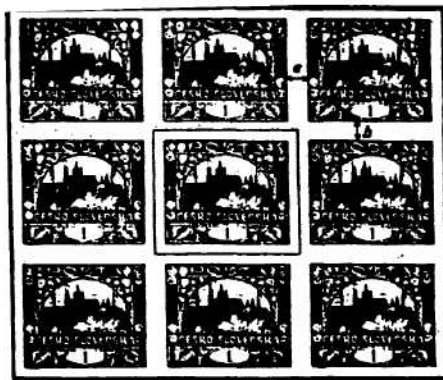
An often misunderstood fact about exhibiting (and judging) certain imperforate stamps has recently surfaced at a show. It is hoped that this short discourse on the subject may help some exhibitors.

The facts are that certain imperforates are rare in comparison with the perforated varieties, and it is sometimes difficult to be sure that a stamp that appears to be imperforate is in fact imperforate.

Clearly, a stamp that looks trimmed is probably trimmed, though it could also be close cut out of an imperforate sheet. Too bad, for it really can't be shown as an imperforate unless there is some other way of proving that it is an imperforate.

A good example of this particular problem is the first issue of Czechoslovakia and its overprinted varieties (Postage Due, Eastern Silesia and Air Mails), for the imperforates are in some cases of very high catalogue value. However, this observation is not unique to Czechoslovakia.

The most simple solution is to show imperforates as pairs or multiples. That, however, is not



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always practical, particularly in the case of rarities. Another simple answer is to show single exemplars only when they have wide margins, and/ or are expertized. Literature in the case of Czechoslovakia's imperforate first issue (Hradčany) gives us minimum margins, or a frame which must be completely covered by the imperforate stamp to be called "imperforate". (See Figure 1). But that too is not the entire answer, since it applies primarily to stamps which are normally comb perforated.

The problem is that this issue and other stamps of the same format are often line perforated. Many of us have seen a broad range of spacings in line perforation, particularly in early issues. Fortunately, when either horizontal or vertical line spacing is wide so as to give the stamp an extraordinarily wide margin, the other direction is not spaced widely, and trimming shows up quite conspicuously. But there are exceptions, and line perforation can give both wide horizontal as well as vertical margins, making the conversion from a line perforated stamp to an imperforate possible.

Unfortunately, the rarer Czechoslovakia imperforates, such as the 10h and 20h "SO 1920" (Eastern Silesia) exist as both line and comb perforated (common) varieties. Under those circumstances the frames, drawn in the reference above, may not constitute total proof.

But even if only comb perforated varieties existed, caution must still be exercised: The frame is the ABSOLUTE minimum and not even .1mm may be missing either horizontally or vertically. Next, the edges of the stamp must be carefully examined, preferably using a magnifier, to insure that there be no distortion of the paper that generally takes place adjacent to the perforation holes. Viewing the edges at 30 x 50x perpendicularly to the plane of the stamp is helpful in detecting signs of trimming.

Since most judges don't have the means to thoroughly examine rare imperforates while judging an exhibit, my best advice when showing rare imperforates is to have them expertized and to place the certificate on the back of the page.

AN UNUSUAL NEW STAMP FROM GERMANY

(Ed. Note: While it was still a unified country, Czechoslovakia often included among its newly-issued sets tributes to great foreign personalities, especially artists, playwrights and even famous political and religious figures. But the reverse is unusual. Rarely has another country honored Czechoslovakia's outstanding names. Exceptions exist, such as the one during the Eisenhower era when Postmaster General Arthur Summerfield authorized the issuance of the T.G. Masaryk memorial stamp in March 1960. Now, Germany, along with Czech and Slovak Republics, have jointly issued a stamp honoring the famous Czech Saint, John of Nepomuk. Thanks to the alert eyes and ears of our assistant editor, Gerald van Zanten, we are pleased to reprint the following press release by the DEUTSCHE BUNDESPOST:)

SPECIAL STAMP "600. TODESTAG JAHANNES VON NEPOMUK" (600TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF JOHN OF NEPOMUK) ON MARCH 11, 1993.



John of Nepomuk is one of the patrons of Bohemia and ranks among the most popular saints far beyond its borders, particularly in the German-speaking areas.

John was born in Pomuk, later on also called Nepomuk, around 1350. After his adolescence he entered into the service of the Church; he first became a clergyman

in the Archbishopric of Prague and later on notary in the law court office of the Archbishopric. He was ordained in 1380 and became priest of St. Gallus in Prague in the autumn of the same year.

This was followed by legal studies first in Prague and, since 1383 at the latest, in Padua. The fact that he was elected Rector of the "Ultramontane", the non-Italian students in Italy, is proof of the high esteem John already enjoyed at that time. He concluded his studies in 1387 with the degree of Doctor of Canon Law.

After his return to Prague, various ecclesiastical honors were conferred on him. He became a member of the distinguished collegiate chapter of Vyšehrad and later Archdeacon of Saaz. In September 1389 he was appointed Vicar-general by the Archbishop of Prague, Jan of Jenstein.

In his capacity as Vicar-general, John of Nepomuk became involved in the vehement disputes between King Wenceslas and Archbishop Jan of Jenstein about the rights and independence of the Church. On March 20, 1393, he and two other fellow clergymen were arrested by the King. Despite cruel tortures, he observed secrecy and refused to divulge certain information demanded by the King. During the night of March 20, John of Nepomuk, having been seriously injured by torturing, was ordered thrown by the King from Charles Bridge in Prague into the Vltava River where he drowned. His corpse was buried in St. Vitus Cathedral. The other two arrested clergymen, however, were released without being tortured after they had sworn to keep eternal silence about the matter.

The reasons for the arrest of John have not been clarified with absolute certainty to this day. Nor can the question as to what information the King wanted to obtain by torture be clearly answered. Many years passed before the death of John of Nepomuk was connected with the preservation of the confessional secret. It was assumed that the King had demanded John disclose what the Queen had confessed.

In 1729 John of Nepomuk was canonized. His veneration as a martyr began immediately after his death and soon spread mainly over Bohemia, Austria and Germany. The many depictions of him, particularly in the form of statues on bridges, are convincing evidence of the high esteem in which the Saint as a symbol of resistance against the usurpation of power by the State and despotism has been held by the church and the people to this day.

Specifications of Stamp

Design of Stamp: Joachim Reiss, Chemnitz.

Printing: multi-color offset printing by the Wertpapierdruckerei, Leipzig.

Size: 43 x 25.5mm

Paper: Coated white fluorescent postage stamp paper, DP 2.

Value: 100 Pfennigs

Motif: Bridge statue (1683) of St. John of Nepomuk in front of the Charles Bridge in Prague and five lights which, as legend tells us, appeared on the river after he had been drowned.

Design of the first-day postmark: Joachim Reiss, Chemnitz.

Motif: Statue of St. John of Nepomuk before the "Old Town" and "Small Side" bridge towers.

DON'T FORGET TO CAST YOUR BALLOT
FOR FIVE OF THE EIGHT CANDIDATES FOR THE
SOCIETY'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS.
VOTING DEADLINE - MAY 30.
SEE MAR/ APR SPECIALIST, PAGE. 23.

TRIBUNA'S FOURTH AUCTION VERY SUCCESSFUL

Tribuna Stamp Company's fourth philatelic auction was a huge success and fortifies the continual climb in value of good Czechoslovak stamps and covers.

Scout material received the most bidding, with color proofs going as high as \$142.50 each and covers fetching from \$165 to \$215 each. These were prices realized without the ten percent surcharge and did not necessarily reflect the top bids.

The highlight of the auction was the 1931 Křivoklat gutter which sold in excess of the \$15,000 estimated and that is without the ten percent surcharge.

One lot of the five stamps of Scott C1 to C3 with the inverted overprints sold for \$575, again without the surcharge.

For a catalog of prices realized, please send \$2.50 to Tribuna Stamp Co., P.O. Box 100, Willow Springs, IL 60480.

-Charles Chesloe

Editorial Hinges

OF LITERARY EXHIBITS AND AWARDS

How many of you have noticed the byline that appears under the masthead of the last several issues of the SPECIALIST? It reads: "Winner of Reserve Grand Award at ORAPEX 91; Silver at PHILITEX 92".

The Reserve Grand our publication received at ORAPEX 91 in Ottawa, Canada is old news; our Silver at PHILITEX 92 in New York should be but is not. It never was reported in our publication for one good reason: we were never officially notified. And herein unfolds an unusual story.

When PHILITEX 92 ended, your editor received in the mail a small cardboard tube containing what almost looked like a fancy highball stirrer. The one end was curved like a fish hook and the PHILITEX 92 logo was affixed to it. There was no accompanying letter-nothing! At first your editor concluded it was something you insert in your breast pocket of your jacket to wear when you come to the show identifying you as an exhibitor. But by that time the show was over. Why would they have sent something like that? Some six weeks rolled by and one day your editor received a friendly letter from a member of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain congratulating us on winning a Silver at PHILITEX when their own publication, CZECHOUT, only gained a Silver-Bronze.

What does an editor do when he gets good news like that from an unofficial source? Your editor naturally decided it was time to secure verification from the one official source that could furnish it-PHILITEX itself. On December 5, 1992 he therefore wrote to Harlan Stone, Commissioner of the show, relating the above facts and politely asking for confirmation of the award with some kind of documentation, such as a medal, ribbon or even a certificate. It is now five months since that letter was sent and your editor regrets to report that silence reigns in the good Commissioner's office.

Perhaps somewhere there lies buried a valid explanation for this strange behavior. But your patient editor believes in the medium of courteous communication. If the good Commissioner was unable to find the time or means to provide even the most curt explanation, then obviously the editor is left with no alternative than to conclude that PHILITEX is not interested in our Society's future relations with this allegedly esteemed organization. PHILITEX is therefore being crossed off our list of exhibition sites. Our SPECIALIST will not be submitted for competition or exhibited at any further PHILITEX shows.

CHICAGOLAND IN ACTION

Our Chicago Branch has requested that we publish the following announcement:

The Chicagoland Czechoslovak Philatelic Society will hold an exhibition honoring the formation of the former Czechoslovak Republic on its 75th anniversary. This exhibition will be held in Tabor Sokol Hall, 1602 South Clarence Ave, Berwyn, Illinois. The dates are as follows: Friday, Oct. 29 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 30 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

In conjunction therewith, a 20 table dealers' bourse is being planned. Members interested in exhibiting should write to Jane Sterba, 6624 Windsor Ave, Berwyn, IL 60402, for entry forms. Each frame will hold sixteen 8 1/2" x 11" pages. There is no fee charge for any frames.

Bearing in mind that the following week is our Society's participation at FLOREX 93, those wishing to exhibit both at Chicagoland's local show as well as the national show in Orlando may do so without fear of missing either. Our Chicago branch has graciously offered to make arrangements to transport exhibits shown in Chicago on Oct. 29 and 30 directly to FLOREX for mounting on Nov. 4. For details, contact our secretary, Jane Sterba, at the above address.

NOTICE TO BUYERS OF SLOVAKIA

When we offered Slovakia #1 and #2 in our March/April SPECIALIST on page 17, we were led to believe the supply would reach us within 30 days which would have been no later than March 13. We have now been informed that for some reason an additional delay has been encountered.

The response from the many members who sent in their orders has been very gratifying. We are holding all checks and cash along with the self-addressed envelopes in escrow pending receipt of the stamps. Our latest communication advises us that the supply of stamps is ready and will be mailed shortly.

For the Beginner

SOUVENIR SHEETS

Over the years, Czechoslovakia has issued many souvenir sheets. As with other countries, they are usually issued to commemorate some special event as, for example, an international philatelic exhibit; a special period in the life of a nationally or internationally known personality; a date of historical significance.

Without a doubt, the most famous souvenir sheet issued by Czechoslovakia, actually two sheets, (Scott Nos. 200a and 210a), issued in 1934, commemorates the centenary of the Czech National Anthem. Each sheet contains blocks of 15 stamps depicting a pastoral scene. The first sheet has stamps of 1k in value and is in claret; the second sheet has stamps of 2k in value and is in blue. The stamps themselves were issued at the same time as the sheets, same design, colors and values, and perf 10. The stamps of the sheets are perf 13 1/2, with no gum, and the sheets are on thick, very soft paper. The sheets are framed with a Linden Leaf motif, the Czech national tree being the Linden.

These artistically designed sheets commemorate the centennial of the composing of what later became the National Anthem of the Czechoslovak Republic. The title of the Anthem, KDE DOMOV MUJ?, is translated, "Where is my home?". (see fig. 1).

Forgeries of these sheets exist inasmuch as they are in great demand and their price has risen appreciably on philatelic markets. They were printed in very limited quantities: only 12,900 of the 1k sheets and 9,600 of the 2k sheets.

In 1937 a souvenir sheet (Scott no. 239) was issued on the occasion of the Bratislava Philatelic Exhibition. Two stamps make up the sheet: a 50h showing a view of Poprad Lake and a 1k stamp picturing the tomb of General Stefanik. (see fig. 2). This same sheet was overprinted with French text and was on sale at a philatelic exhibit in Brussels, Belgium (see fig. 3). A variety of this sheet

Kde domov můj?

1834 Andante con moto. 1934

The image displays the musical score for the Czech national anthem, "Kde domov můj?". The score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It is divided into two systems. The first system begins with the tempo marking "Andante con moto." and the year "1834" on the left and "1934" on the right. The melody is on a treble clef staff. The lyrics are written below the staff. In the center of the page, there is a 5x3 grid of 15 postage stamps, each featuring a different scene from Czech history or nature. The second system of the musical score continues below the stamps, also with lyrics. The entire page is framed by a decorative border.

Kde do-mov můj, kde do-mov můj? Vo-da
hu-ďi po lu-ďi-nách, bo-ry šu-mí

po-ska-li-nách, v sa-dě skví-se ja-ra
květ, zem-ský ráj to na po-hled! A to
je ta krá-sná ze-mě, ze-mě če-ská-
do-mov můj, ze-mě če-ská do-mov můj!

Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 6



TIŠTĚNO NA CELOSTÁTNÍ VÝSTAVĚ POŠTOVNÍCH ZNÁMEK,
BRATISLAVA 1937

Fig. 5

shows all the text in Belgian instead of French (see fig. 4).

That same year a second souvenir sheet consisting of a sheetlet of 25 newspaper stamps of 10h value was issued for the same Bratislava Philatelic Exhibition as Scott no. 239. The text at the bottom reads: "Printed at the State Exhibition of Postage Stamps, Bratislava, 1937." (Scott no. P29, see fig. 5).

Another souvenir sheet (Scott no. 251) showing two stamps, Vyšehrad Castle and Hradčany, was issued in 1938 for the Prague Philatelic Exhibition. Fig. 6 shows the sheet on cover advertising the exhibit with special advertising cancellations.

Also in 1938 two miniature souvenir sheets were issued of high artistic quality and great significance. Fig. 7 was prepared to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Czechoslovakia and shows an Allegory of the Republic with the Coat of Arms at the top and the dates at the bottom. Unfortunately the country was occupied by the troops of Nazi Germany before the stamps were



Fig. 7



Fig. 8

issued. On orders from Berlin, its purpose was changed to the "20th anniversary of the Czechoslovak Postage Stamp." (Scott no. B153).

The other miniature sheet, released several months before the occupation, commemorated the 88th anniversary of the birth of President Thomas G. Masaryk. (Scott no. B152). Issued to benefit the Children's Charity, it was designed from a photo showing Masaryk holding a child during a visit to Zdar in Moravia (see Fig. 8).

So far, all of the above sheets were valid for postage either intact or with the stamps removed and used individually. This does not apply to the next three sheets.

Czechoslovakia was now under German domination and its government-in-exile was based in London, England. In October 1943, the exiled Government issued the London Exhibition Sheet to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the Republic. Printed by Waterlow and Sons, in London, the five stamps comprising the sheet were not valid for postage but the proceeds from the sale of the entire sheet were for the benefit of the exiled government. (see fig. 9).

Czechoslovakia was liberated in 1945 and in April of that year the Government in Prague issued the so-called Košice Sheet to honor the return of President Beneš and his Committee of National Liberation from exile. (see fig. 10). There is a variety of this sheet in which the left hind leg of the lion on the 5k stamp is severed.

Later that same year a huge garish souvenir sheet called the Partisan Sheet was printed on ungummed cardboard paper and issued to commemorate those citizens who fought the Nazis behind enemy lines in their own country and depicts an allegorical concept of a widow with orphans of patriots who fell to free their nation (see fig. 11). There are two varieties of this sheet: one shows the two bottom "stamps" shifted, while the other has the green 5k "stamp" missing.

Finally two miniature souvenir sheets surfaced in 1946 just before Czechoslovakia succumbed to the Communist takeover. The first, called the Fifth of May Issue Sheet, commemorated the first anniversary of Czechoslovakia's liberation. The stamp pictures St. George slaying the dragon. Above it is the text: "Pravda Vítězí" (Truth Prevails). Below it is the month "Květen" (May) with the dates "1945-1946". It is listed as Scott no. B158 and was sold with a surtax to aid orphans of



Fig. 9

the War. (see fig. 12). The second is the Brno Philatelic Exhibition Sheet (Scott no. B159, see fig. 13). Both of these souvenir sheets are gummed but show the stamps without perforations. Thus they were valid for postage only as sheets.

There will be more discussion on souvenir sheets in the next issue of the *SPECIALIST*.

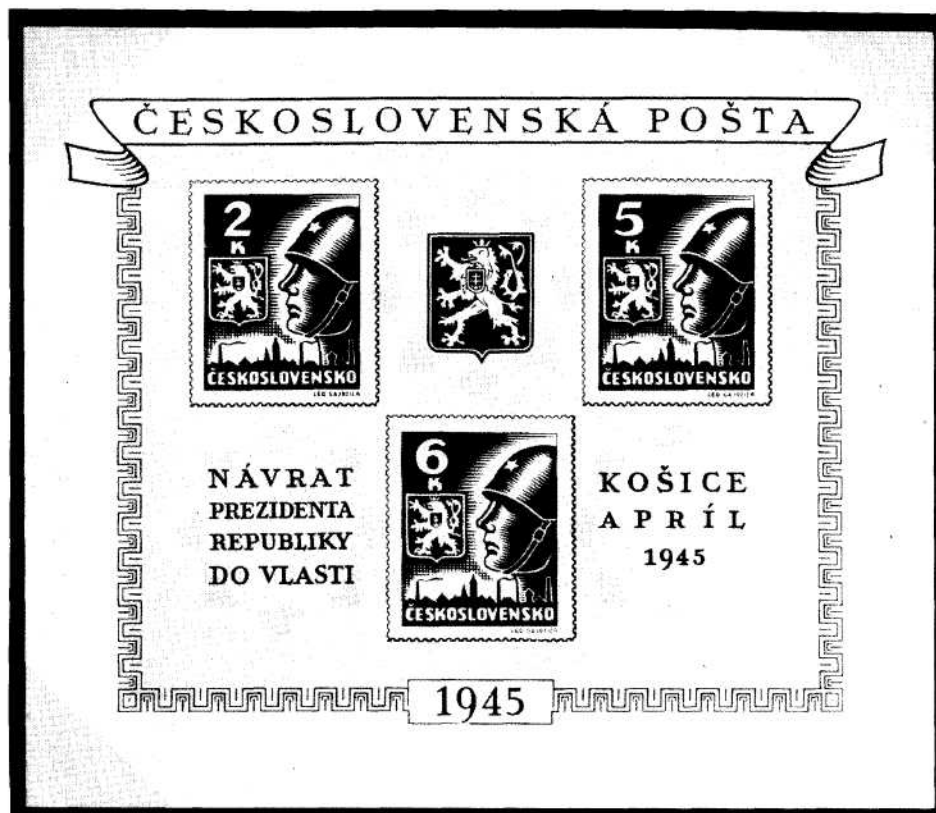


Fig. 10

PRAVDA VÍTĚZÍ



KVĚTEN
1945 - 1946

Fig. 12



CELOSTÁTNÍ VÝSTAVA
POŠTOVNÍCH ZNÁMEK



B R N O

19  46

Fig. 13



Fig. 11

THE CZECH REPUBLIC

1. It is now officially called the Ministry of Economy of the Czech Republic. On March 2, 1993, this Ministry issued a stamp with a portrait of President Václav Havel with a denomination of 2 Kč (see fig. 1).



Fig. 1

Designed and engraved by Miloš Ondráček, the picture size is 19x23 mm. and was printed in Prague's Post Printery by rotary recess in dark red color combined with two-colored recess print in light blue and violet.

It should be noted that except for the color, the masthead and the denomination, the stamp is identical to the one issued on January 9, 1990. "Česká Republika" has replaced "Československo" on the masthead.

The stamp is available in sheets of 100 and is valid for both domestic and foreign usage from date of issue until withdrawn.

2. On March 11, 1993, the Ministry of Economy issued a stamp in conjunction with the Slovak Republic and Germany commemorating St. John Nepomuk. Designed by German graphic artist Joachim Riess, the stamp of the three countries differs only in its face value (Czech "8 Kč", Slovak "8" and German "100"), the language variation of the text and the printing techniques. (Note article on page 10).



Fig. 2

The picture shows a detail of the statue of St. John Nepomuk made on the basis of a drawing by J.B. Mathey and a sketch by the Austrian sculptor, M. Rauchmüller according to a wood model by J. Brokof. The sculpture itself was cast in bronze by J.W. Heroldt in Norimberk (Nurembourg) in 1683. In the background is a view of Charles Bridge in Prague and the text: "1393 Sv. Jan Nepomucký." (see fig. 2).

Designed by graphic artist and engraver Josef Herčík, the stamp was printed at the Post Printery in Prague with a pic-

ture size of 40x23 mm. by rotary recess in black color combined with three-colored recess print in grey-blue, dark blue and yellow in sheets of 50.

A first Day Cover was printed by flat-plate recess in black and ochre colors. The picture part of the FDC shows a detail of three-parts relief of St. J. Nepomuk's sculptured pedestal with a praying Queen Sofia to the left and a Latin text in the middle reminding of the circumstances of the Saint's death. Above the dedicating inscription is the coat-of-arms of the donor and to the right of the pedestal is an impression of the Saint being thrown off Charles Bridge.

The stamp is postally valid both domestically and internationally from date of issue until officially withdrawn.



Fig. 3

3. On March 11, the Ministry of Economy also issued a stamp honoring Modern Art of Europa. Showing the engraver's transcription of an oil painting by a famous modern Czech painter, Mikuláš Medek (1926-1974), the stamp is a replica of his "Hladový Svátí" (Hungry Saint I) painting that appears in Prague's National Art Gallery. Following the breakup of CEPT (Central Europe Post and Telecommunications), the former logo of CEPT has been reduced to the title EUROPA in a unified graphic design incorporated in the picture part of the stamp. (see fig. 3).

Designed and engraved by Václav Fajt, the stamp was printed at the Prague Post Printery in a picture size of 26x40 mm. by recess print from flat plates in light blue, blue, red and black in sheetlets of four stamps, each with a denomination of 4 Kč.

A First Day Cover was issued with a commemorative cancellation. Printed by flat-plate recess in black and red, the picture part of the

FDC shows the engraver's impression of Medek's drawing of a sleeping head (1953). The stamp is postally valid for domestic and foreign usage from date of issue until withdrawn.

SLOVAKIA'S 1993 SCHEDULE

Thanks to the efforts of our foreign department editor, Henry Hahn, we have been able to secure the following list of New Issues scheduled for release by Slovakia during 1993. This is NOT a definitive list and is subject to change. We will announce any such changes as we receive word of them. The issues printed by Waite will be from multi-colored flat-steel engraved plates in miniature sheets of four or six subjects.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name of Issue</u>	<u>Denominations</u>	<u>Pr. Press</u>
1.1	Slovak National Seal	8 Kcs	Waite
	Slovak National Seal, min. sh. of 8	48 Kcs	Waite
1.2	Slovak National Seal	3 Kcs	Wifag
1.?	Ruxomberok-reg. issue	5 Kcs	Wifag
1.?	Kosice-reg. issue	10 Kcs	Wifag
3.8	Protection of Nature	3, 4, 10 Kcs	Wifag
3.11	Jan Nepomuk (joint with CR & Ger.)	8 Kcs	Wifag
4.?	Reg. issue-City Architecture?	50Kcs	Wifag
4.14	A. Dubcek	8 Kcs	Wifag
4.14	J.L. Bella	7 Kcs	Wifag
4.14	J. Kollar	20 Kcs	Wifag
5.5	Europa CEPT	14 Kcs	Wait
	Europa CEPT min. sh. of 4	56 Kcs	Wait
6.22	Cyril and Methodius	9 Kcs	Wifag
9.2	Stefanik Gravemound	12 Kcs	Wait
	Stefanik Gravemound min. sh. of 4	48 Kcs	Wait
9.2	BIB	5, 10 Kcs	Wifag
9.2	Reg. issue-City Architecture?	1 Kcs	Wifag
11.8	Christmas	2 Kcs	Wifag
11.8	J. Kostka	9 Kcs	Wait
	J. Kostka min. sh. of 4	36 Kcs	Wait
?.?	Reg. issue-City Architecture?	30 cs	Wifag

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to extend a cordial welcome to the below-listed new members of our S.C.P. Membership takes effect January 1, 1993 and those who joined since then will receive this issue along with the two prior issues of the SPECIALIST.

<u>Number</u>	<u>Name & Address</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Name & Address</u>
1658	Jack H. Copeland 2273 N.E. 61 Street Seattle, WA 98115	1661	Mr. Clair Haberman 2675 North Delaware Ave North St. Paul, MN 55109
1659	James F. McKeown 3312 Sleepy Hollow Rd. Falls Church, VA 22044	1662	Dr. Marko V. Belej 1043 Quincy St. Hancock, MI 49930
1660	W.A. Page 138 Chastilian Road Dartford, Kent DA1 3LG England	1663	John Bevilacqua 81-25 Surrey Place Jamaica Estates, NY 11432-1434

WANTED

Czechoslovak Meter Stamps/Frankotypy 1926-1939.

Also Bohemia & Moravia as well as Slovakia.

Single items, collections, everything of interest.

Please write to: STIG ASKLUND, BOX 5058

S-141 05 HUDDINGE 5, SWEDEN

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