



# THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



(USPS 808300)

Official Bi-Monthly Journal of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately,  
an Incorporated Non-Profit Organization  
Winner of Numerous Philatelic Literature Awards

A.P.S. Unit 18  
Vol. 60

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1998

ISSN: 0526-5843

No. 1, Whole No. 547

## *President's Corner*

### PROSPECTS GOOD FOR A HAPPY PHILATELIC NEW YEAR

1998 promises to be an exciting philatelic year for collectors of Czechoslovak related materials. During the last several years we have seen a proliferation of new specialized catalogs in our collecting areas with promise of more to come. During my November Prague visit, Martin Trojan told me that he expects the next specialized publication, which will be on air mail, to be out by the end of 1997. Of course we will have these available through our book sales program as soon as they can get delivered to us. Also of note during the last couple of years has been the appearance of an active philatelic auction market in the Czech Republic. More and more of our members are taking advantage of these sources to build their collections --- and when the time comes, to sell them. What is interesting about these sales is that they offer material that is seldom seen from dealers on this side of the Atlantic. Some of the auctions have advertised in *The Czechoslovak SPECIALIST*. These as well as other sources are publicized on our Web page. Yes, we did go on line this past year. We expect the Society Home Page will be a supplement to our excellent publication by providing information that is too time sensitive to be effectively disseminated through our publication.

*(Continued on Page 12)*

### Table of Contents

ARTICLES	AUTHOR	PAGE
1. The Battle at Zborov	Jaroslav Verner	3
2. Three Society Members Score at MOSCOW	Henry Hahn	11
3. NOJEX 98	Edwin Lehecka	14
4. Philatelic Library Donations	Jaroslav Verner	18
5. Stamp Creators and PRAGA 98	Jaroslav Verner	19
6. Donations to the Society Library	Richard Palaschak	21
 <b>COLUMNS</b>		
7. President's Corner	Jaroslav Verner	1
8. Book Review	Ludvik Svoboda	13
9. PRAGA 98 Report	Jaroslav Verner	15
10. New Issues	Gerald van Zanten	22

## MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Here is a list of all benefits to which S.C.P. members in good standing are entitled:

1. A sales circuit is operated by H. Alan Hoover. The circuit itself has been fully written up in the Aug/Sept 1989 SPECIALIST, page 8. For complete details, contact H. Alan Hoover, 6070 Poplar Spring Drive, Norcross, GA 30092.
  2. A book sales division is run by Edwin Lehecka. Ads listing philatelic books for sale appear regularly in the SPECIALIST. For further information, contact Edwin Lehecka, 217 Hazel Avenue, Westfield, NJ 07090.
  3. A Society library is housed with Richard Palaschak, librarian. For inquiries on borrowing books, buying past SPECIALISTS or making book donations, contact Rich Palaschak, 4050 Carbury Court, Chantilly, VA 20151-2613.
  4. An expertization committee operates under the direction of Ludvik Z. Svoboda. Depending on the nature or substance of the item to be expertized, he will direct you to the appropriate source for expertization. Please contact, Ludvik Z. Svoboda, 4766 S. Helena Way, Aurora, CO 80015, or e-mail: Lsvoboda1@aol.com.
  5. THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST is the official bi-monthly publication of the Society. For inquiries on obtaining back issues, contributing original articles of related significance, advertising rates, and bound copies, contact Ludvik Z. Svoboda, 4766 S. Helena Way, Aurora, CO 80015, or e-mail: Lsvoboda@aol.com.
- 
- 

## THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

(ISSN 0526-5843)

Official Journal of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately, Inc.

A.P.S. Unit 18

**VOL. 60                      JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1998                      No. 1, WHOLE NO. 547**

Published bi-monthly - \$18.00 per year

Second Class Postage Paid at Chambersburg, PA 17201

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST,

2363 McCleary Drive, Chambersburg, PA 17201

### *Editorial Staff*

Managing Editor: Lou Svoboda, 4766 South Helena Way, Aurora, CO 80015  
e-mail: Lsvoboda1@aol.com                      FAX: 303-627-9688

Distribution Editor: Mirko L. Vondra, 2363 McCleary Dr., Chambersburg, PA 17201

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

Foreign Editor: Henry Hahn, 2936 Rosemoor Lane, Fairfax, VA 22031

Special Projects Ed.: Phillips Freer, Apartado Postal 646, Oaxaca, Oax, 68000, Mex.

Advertising Manager: Donna Lyons, 11 Carver Circle, Simsbury, CT 06070

### *Elected Officers*

President: Jaroslav Verner, 8602 Ewing Drive, Bethesda, MD 20817

Vice President: Henry Hahn, 2936 Rosemoor Lane, Fairfax, VA 22031

Secretary: R. T. Cossaboom, Jr., Box 25332, Scott AFB, IL 62225

Treasurer: Edwin Lehecka, 217 Hazel Ave., Westfield, NJ 07090

### *Appointed Officers*

Book Sales: Edwin Lehecka, 217 Hazel Ave., Westfield, NJ 07090

Circuit Man.: H. Alan Hoover, 6070 Poplar Spring Dr. Norcross, GA 30092

Expertizing Chrm.: Ludvik Svoboda, 4766 South Helena Way, Aurora, Co 80015

Librarian: Richard Palaschak, 4050 Carbury Ct., Chantilly, VA 20151-2613

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

*All officers and board members serve the Society voluntarily  
and without compensation.*

## THE BATTLE AT ZBOROV

An original article  
by Jaroslav J. Verner

On June 15, 1937, the Czechoslovak Ministry of Posts issued two stamps, a 50 heller green and a 1 Kčs red (Fig. 1) to commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle at Zborov. The stamps were designed by Academic painter Jindra Vlček and engraved by Bohumil Heinz. Printed in sheets of 100 with 12 coupons at the Česká Grafická Unie in Prague, each stamp was produced by a single pass on the "Stickney" rotary press from a single double plate. There are no plate numbers.



Fig. 1

The stamps' dimensions are 23.5 mm x 28.7 mm and they bear a 12 1/2 line perforation. The stamps were widely used since they were sold in all post offices and, because 10,000,000 copies of the 50 heller stamp and 10,010,000 of the 1 Kčs stamp were printed, there were plenty of stamps to go around. Proofs, printed on heavy, smooth paper without gum exist in the original colors and in grey-violet for both stamps. In addition, red-brown proofs of the 50 heller and green of the 1 Kčs stamp are also known.

Actually this was not the first time postal related material commemorated the Battle at Zborov. The Information and Education Section of the Czechoslovak Legion of Siberia printed a view card of the Zborov battlefield (Fig. 2 & 3) as part of a long series of cards which show personalities, events, places and daily life scenes of the Legion. The Zborov battlefield view is printed in blue grey and is fairly

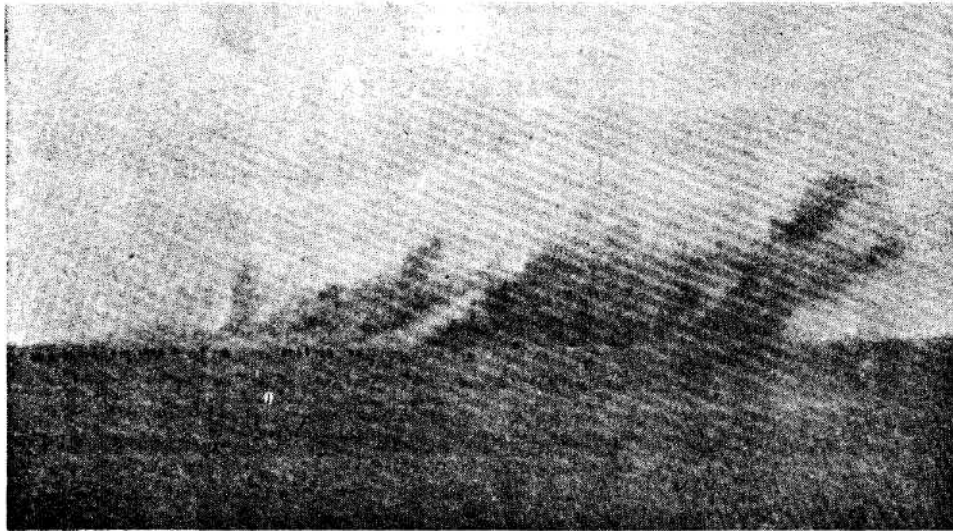


Fig. 2. Entrance into battle at Zborov. Infantry is advancing on the left towards the battle clouds.

# THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

"muddy". The color of printing on the obverse is brown. The card was probably produced in 1918.

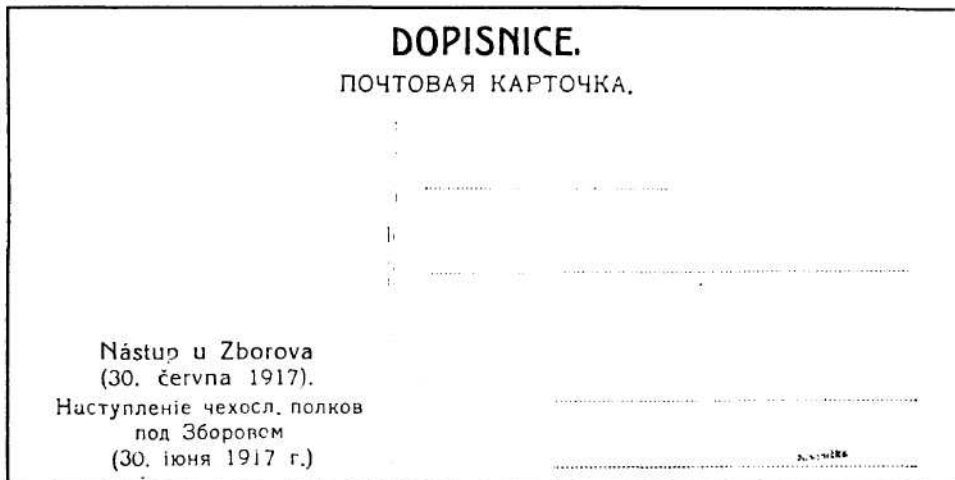


Fig. 3

An additional 60 years have passed, and it may not be remiss to ask why a battle that took place near an insignificant place in the Ukraine merited two commemorative stamps in Czechoslovakia 20 years after the event.

At the time of the First World War, Zborov was no more than a village. It is located about 100 kilometers ESE of L'vov in Ukraine (Fig. 4). In the middle of 1917

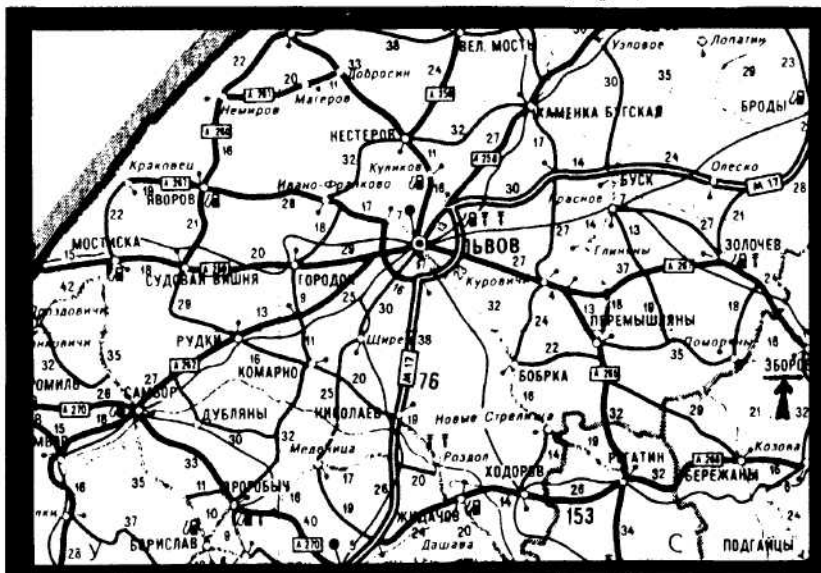


Figure 4. The map shows the west central part of the Ukraine. Zborov is on the far right of the map and indicated by the arrow. L'vov, the large junction city at the center, is about 100 km northeast of the eastern edge of today's Slovakia. The white space at the upper left indicates the territory of contemporary Poland.



the village was part of the battle line between the Russian armies and those of Austro-Hungary. The Russians were preparing a major offensive, which we now know as the Kerensky Offensive, in a desperate attempt to turn the tide of the war on the Eastern Front in their favor. The domestic situation in Russia was chaotic, and its Army was falling apart. Even under such conditions the new Provisional Government was trying to do everything in its power to keep its commitment to the Western Allies to keep Russia in the war against the Central Powers.

During May and June 1917, Alexander F. Kerensky, the Minister of War, accompanied by General Brusilov, Commander of the SW Front, toured the front urging preparations for the planned offensive. On May 27, 1917, Kerensky addressed the Congress of Delegates of Regiments and Divisions of the SW Front meeting in Jezerno. Following this speech, representatives of the Czech units attending the Congress agreed they would form attack units to participate in the attack. Until this time the detachments of the Czechoslovak Brigade were scattered among various Russian commands where they were used as scouts, translators, and in other support functions. Now the Czechoslovaks saw their opportunity to raise their visibility and create a more effective, combat-capable military organization. Members of the 1<sup>st</sup> Co, 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment were empowered to seek a meeting with Kerensky and Brusilov during which they made the case that the Czechoslovak Brigade should be united, at long last, and designated an attack unit for the forthcoming offensive. Their request was granted.

The offensive was to be conducted by the 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> Russian armies. The 7<sup>th</sup> Army was to attack and break through across a wide front at Berezhany. The Czech Brigade was to participate in this effort as an attack unit -- according to the original battle plan. Orders did not follow the plan, however. The Czech Brigade was transferred to the 49<sup>th</sup> Corps, 11<sup>th</sup> Army commanded by General Selichev. This happened because the commander of the Czechoslovak Brigade, Colonel V. P. Trojanov, considered the Brigade a disparate amalgam of units not yet formed into a cohesive military force. In addition, he argued, it was not armed as an attack unit should be. Consequently it was given a subordinate assignment at the village of Zborov where the units to the left and right of the Czech unit -- all from the elite Finnish Division -- were to play the major role in the attack.

The Czechoslovaks were assigned 6.5 km of the front. They were to be thrown into the battle only after the Finnish Division had made an initial breakthrough. In preparation for this battle, the various components of the Brigade were assembled at Jezerno (Fig. 5), the location of Brigade Headquarters. Inspection of the incoming units confirmed that they were only lightly armed. When the soldiers asked their commander whether they will have machine-guns, he replied, "Of course, as soon as you capture them".

The condition of the Russian army was terrible. Desertion, disobedience of officers' orders and even killing of officers by their own men had become common. Russian officers spent more time trying to hold their units together -- and watching their own backs -- than planning the upcoming offensive. Unlike their Russian counterparts, morale among the Czechoslovaks was very high -- so high that more legionnaires volunteered for the "attack" units than could be used; thus, many of those volunteering had to be turned down. The legionnaires had long sought the

## THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

opportunity to fight the enemy, and the time had finally arrived. Since the Czechoslovaks received no specific orders from the Army command regarding their role in the upcoming offensive, they decided to develop their own plan of attack. Instead of the usual massed frontal assault, they decided to divide the Brigade into small units each with a specific target to attack. It was hoped this approach would not attract the attention of the Austrian artillery thus avoiding the rain of shells so commonly encountered by attacking troops. Such a plan assumed flexibility and initiative, not only of unit commanders, but also of individual soldiers.

Heavy Russian artillery bombardment across the entire front preceded the

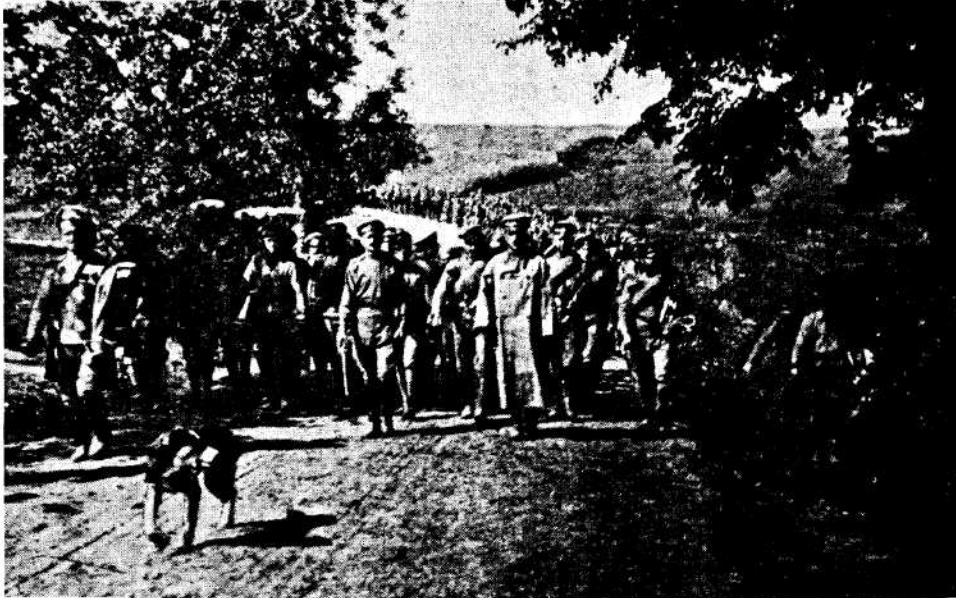


Figure 5. Marching to Zborov. This shows how armies trudged into battle on the Eastern Front during WWI.

attack. At 0845 on July 2 the 4<sup>th</sup> Finnish Division, on the right flank of the Czechoslovaks, began its attack. Fifteen minutes later the Czechoslovak volunteer sappers, using only grenades, began to clear paths through the barbed wire entanglements facing them. The sappers were followed by the individual companies of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Regiments, while units of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment anchored the Czechoslovak's left flank. The Czechoslovaks succeeded in penetrating the Austrian lines 5.5 kilometers into the enemy rear, quite a feat in the age of trench warfare. According to Russian army despatches, the Czechoslovaks captured 62 officers, 3150 troops, 15 artillery pieces, and innumerable machine-guns, "most of which were turned against the enemy". But success had its cost. Of the 3500 legionnaires that took part in the battle, 185 were killed and 800 wounded.

The Czechs won a striking victory at Zborov, but unfortunately it was only a local one which did not make much difference in the overall offensive. The Kerensky Offensive was a failure, and so the Zborov victory meant little for the Allied cause

as a whole. In fact, the Russian front largely collapsed after a counter attack resulting in a general and disorganized retreat along the entire front. The Czech Brigade was exceptional in that it maintained discipline. General Brusilov credited the Brigade with holding back several enemy divisions during the retreat.

However, it was at Zborov that the Czechoslovaks achieved their larger goal of establishing an independent image for themselves and gaining political attention.

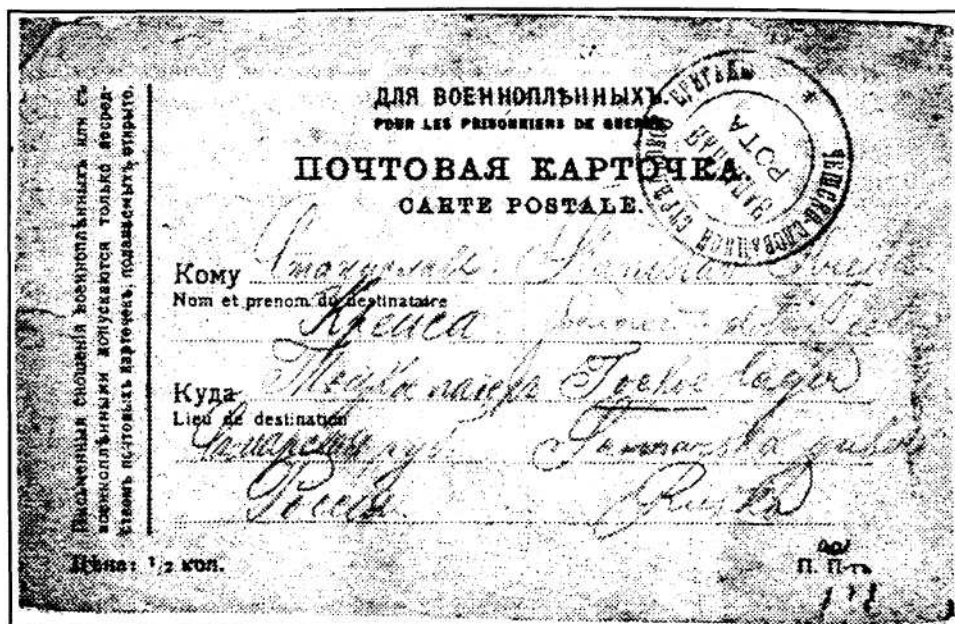


Fig. 6



Fig. 7

When Kerensky again visited the front, he promoted Trojanov to General and promised to support the establishment of new Czech units. Chief of the General Staff, General Brusilov, was quick to act on this promise. On July 4, 1917, Brusilov issued an order "allowing the formation of other Czechoslovak divisions". Kerensky withdrew his earlier order which had limited recruitment from among Czech and Slovak prisoners of war.<sup>1</sup> Henceforth, unlimited induction of Czech and Slovak prisoners into Czechoslovak military formations was permitted -- even

<sup>1</sup>Czechs and Slovaks were regularly conscripted into Austro-Hungarian armies, sometimes into geographically based units which were predominately Czech, but just as often into units reflecting the complex ethnic mix of the Austro-Hungarian Empire itself. Large numbers of Czechs, sometimes entire units at a time, surrendered willingly to the Russians. But that is a story for another time.

## THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

those so recently captured that they had not yet been sent to POW camps.

Zborov was also important for the Czechoslovaks not only because they fought as one unit for the first time, rather than scattered among a number of Russian ones, but also because they showed outstanding military capability. The Czech performance at Zborov drew favorable attention from the Allies and led directly to the formation of a Czechoslovak independent military force fighting on the side of the Allies. It had long been the view of Thomas Masaryk, Chairman of the Czechoslovak National Council in Paris, the de facto provisional government, that putting military units into battle against the Central powers was critical if the Allies were to accept the idea of a free and independent Czechoslovakia. He was undoubtedly right. And Zborov was where it first happened.

This period is fascinating for the historian, but what of the postal historian?

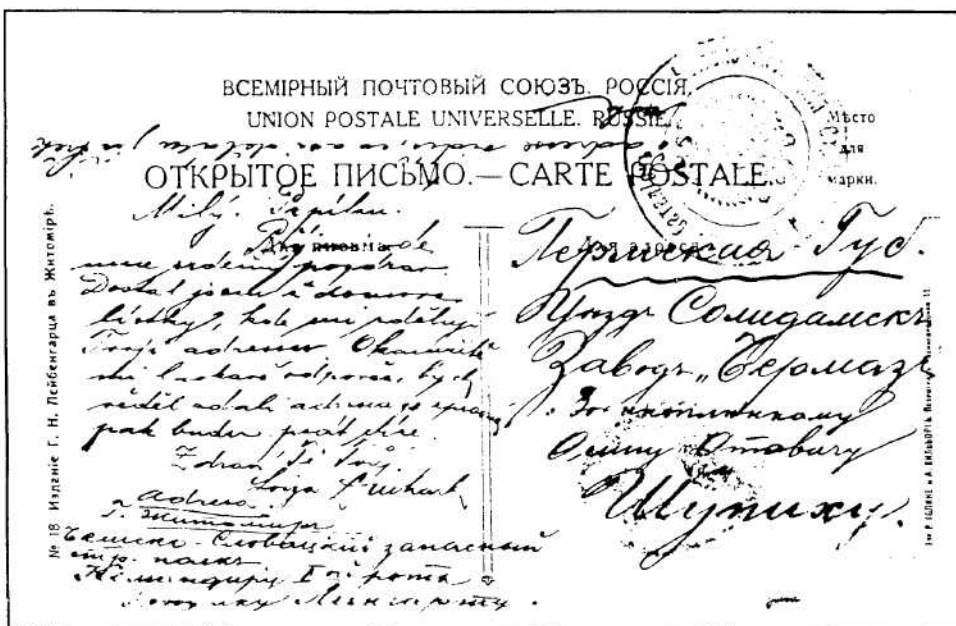


Fig. 8

Soldiers write to keep contact with family and friends because such contact is often critical for good morale. The Czechoslovak legionnaires were no different. The early, or "old", legionnaires were Czechs and Slovaks living in Russia, most of them Russian citizens. They, of course, corresponded with their families. But by the middle of 1917, an ever increasing number of legionnaires were recruited from POW ranks, and they could not write to families which were behind enemy lines. Mostly, therefore, these legionnaires wrote to each other. Their



Fig. 9

mail was handled by the postal facilities of the Russian Army and was supposed to conform to Russian postal regulations. During this period nearly all the

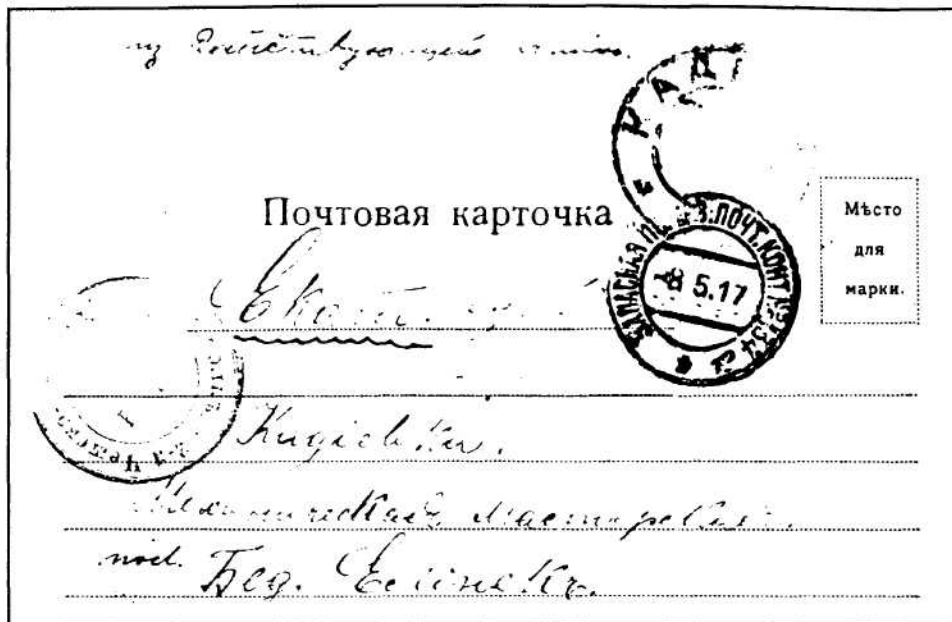


Fig. 10

markings to be found on Czech legionnaire mail are in Russian and patterned on Russian cancels. Mail was routinely censored, and the use of unit markings on it was an indication of both censorship and certification that military free mail privileges were authorized. Mail from this period is scarce, and the markings, usually unit cancels, are seldom clear and/or complete.

As yet I have not been able to locate mail specifically tied to the Battle at Zborov, though the following cards come close. All were written a short time before the battle by legionnaires whose units participated in the Battle at Zborov, and so it does not seem unreasonable to assume the writers of the cards also were participants.

A Prisoner of War card, undated (Fig. 6), was sent to one Stanislav Krej, Totsk Camp, Samara Province. The Russian language unit cancel (Fig. 7) indicated the writer was assigned to the Reserve Company, Czecho-Slovak Infantry Regiment.

The undated view card of Zhitomir (Fig. 8) was sent to Perm Province by a legionnaire with the 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment, Czecho-Slovak Infantry Reserve Brigade. The Russian language, purple unit cancel (Fig. 9) is of the Czecho-Slovak Infantry Reserve Brigade.

Figure 10 shows a post card sent by a legionnaire to a friend in Kadievka, a small town in Ekaterinburg Province. He writes that he is now with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment and "now a 40,000 man Czech army is being formed. Probably you too will soon be sent to the Reserve Battalion". The round, black



Fig. 11



# THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

cancel from Russian field post 134 is dated May 8, 1917, four days after the card was written. The postal cancel from Kadievka is an arrival cancel. The unit cancel at the far left is of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Czecho-Slovak Infantry Regiment (Fig. 11). "From the Active Army" is written across the top of the card.

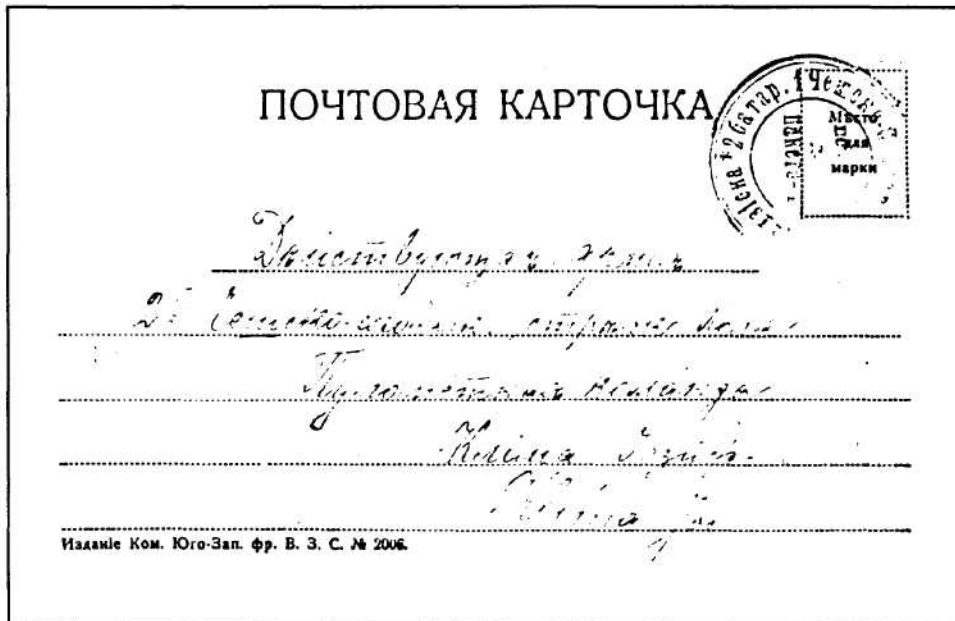


Fig.12

The post card in Figure 12 was written "from the field" on June 12, 1917, that is, shortly before Zborov. The card is addressed to Joseph Klim, a member of the machine-gun squad of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Czecho-Slovak Infantry Regiment and was sent by Jeřábek with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battery, 1 Czecho-Slovak Battalion. The unit cancel at upper right reads "2<sup>nd</sup> Battery, 1 Czecho-Slovak Battalion/ stamp for parcels".

## References:

- Karasek and Žampach; *Monografie Československých Známek* (Monograph of Czechoslovak Stamps), Vol. 3, pp. 263-265, Transportation and Communications Publishers, Praha 1979
- Klípa, Pichlík, and Zabloudilová; *Českoslovenští Legionáři 1914-1920* (Czechoslovak Legionnaires 1914-1920), pp. 94-105, Mlada Fronta, Praha 1996
- Vaněk, Otakar, ed.; *Za Svobodu: Obrázová Kronika Československého Revolučního Hnutí Rusi 1914-1920* (For Freedom: Pictorial Chronicle of the Czechoslovak Revolutionary Movement in Russia 1914-1920), Vol.1, Památníku odboje, Praha (undated)

## THREE SOCIETY MEMBERS SCORE AT MOSCOW

by Henry Hahn

The International (FIP) Stamp show in Moscow is now history. Based on a brief report sent us by Dr. Walter J. Rauch and by Mr. J. L. Klein, MOSCOW'97 was not comparable with PACIFIC'97 -- a fact anticipated by many of our US based exhibitors, none of whom participated. However, we are aware of three Society members residing in Europe who exhibited in Moscow. These are:

- Mr. J. L. Klein of the Netherlands, who exhibited "The Kingdom of Bohemia" and received a GOLD award
- Dr. Walter J. Rauch of Germany, who exhibited "Czechoslovak Military Mail 1936-45" and received a LARGE VERMEIL award
- Mr. Georg Wilhelms of Germany, who exhibited "The First Issue of Czechoslovakia 1918/20" and received a VERMEIL award.

We congratulate the above exhibitors on their achievement and look forward to seeing their exhibits at PRAGA'98.

❖ ❖ ❖ ❖

### Custom Impressions Album Pages CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Part 1 - First Republic 1918-1939 (103 pages)	\$47.30 (3.50)
Part 2 - Second Republic 1945-53 (68 pages)	\$29.40 (3.50)
Part 3 - 1954- 1958 (52 pages)	\$22.80 (3.50)
Part 4 - 1959-1965 (73 pages)	\$32.55 (3.50)
Part 5 - 1966-1972 (88 pages)	\$38.70 (3.50)
Part 6 - 1973-1980 (104 pages)	\$45.70 (3.50)
Part 7 - 1981-1987 (88 pages)	\$38.70 (3.50)
Part 8 - 1988-1993 (73 pages)	\$32.55 (3.50)
Supplement #40 1994 (11 pages)	\$5.00 (3.50)
Supplement #41 1995 (14 pages)	\$6.00 (3.50)
Supplement #42 1996 (18 pages)	\$6.20 (3.50)
Eastern Silesia (15 pages) for Czecho and Poland	\$6.00 (3.50)
Bohemia & Moravia 1939-1945 (35 pages)	\$15.00 (3.50)
Slovakia 1939-1945 (32 pages)	\$14.00 (3.50)
Supplement #1 1993-1994 (18 pages)	\$8.00 (3.50)
Supplement #2 1995 (10 pages)	\$4.50 (3.50)
Supplement #3 1996 (10 pages)	\$4.50 (3.50)

ASK FOR SPECIAL PRICE ON COMPLETE CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Shipping in ( ). Max shipping \$10.00  
Binders and Dust Cases Available.

Visa - MasterCard - Discover - Amex accepted Min. \$10.00

We are the new publishers of K-Line Albums.

Phone (708) 579-1447 Fax (708) 579-1473

E-Mail [album@ziplink.net](mailto:album@ziplink.net) Web Site [www.ziplink.net/~album](http://www.ziplink.net/~album)



CUSTOM IMPRESSIONS

P.O. BOX 2286

La Grange, IL 60525-8386

*President's Corner (continued from Page 1)*

More is coming. This year we will have two convention/exhibits, perhaps a first for the Society. Elsewhere in this issue you will find information on our meeting at NOJEX during the Memorial Day week-end, so please mark your calendars; plan to exhibit and plan to attend. Our second official meeting this year will take place in Prague during PRAGA 98 which will be held from September 10 through 13. The evening before the opening, that is on September 9, the Society is organizing a traditional Czech dinner for our members. Additional details on PRAGA and the dinner can also be found in this issue.

In the Spring of 1998 members will receive a 40 page (8 1/2 x 11) booklet titled "Comparison Survey of Catalog Numbers of Czechoslovak Postage Stamps". This document cross references the basic catalog numbers of Czechoslovak postage stamps in the principal stamp catalogs of the world (Spec'd Cat., POFIS, LIPSIA, Zumstein, Michel, Yvert & Tellier, Scott, and Gibbons) for stamps issued from 1918 through 1976. Our member, Phillips Freer, arranged for the printing of the booklet at a very reasonable rate.

Finally, we hope to publish a Membership Directory this year. By this time you all should have received your dues notice for 1998, and this was accompanied by a questionnaire on your collecting interests. Please fill out the questionnaire and return it to Ed Lehecka, along with your dues, as quickly as possible. Phillips Freer has generously volunteered to put this directory together for our members, but he cannot do it without your prompt inputs.

The Society Board of Directors met on November 7 during VAPEX in Virginia Beach, VA. Considerable time was spent discussing future conventions, especially those in 1998. The Board approved participation in STAMPSHOW which will be held in Cleveland in August 1999. In September 2000 we shall return to BALPEX, in November 2001 we will participate in CHICAGOPEX, and finally in 2002 we will be at NAPEX. These meetings offer marvelous opportunities to meet, buy, exhibit, and get to know your fellow members. These shows also offer us the opportunity to publicize our philatelic interests by exhibiting our material. Incidentally, NOJEX will be the first competition where the handsome, new Society medals, designed by our member Oleg Wyslowsky, will be awarded to the three best Czechoslovak exhibits.

We try to insure that the jury at each of these shows has at least one judge, knowledgeable enough on Czechoslovak material to give our exhibitors a fair shake. Recently, this has essentially meant that Henry Hahn has not been able to exhibit in competition since he had to bear the judging duties practically alone. We need to qualify additional judges who know the Czechoslovak philatelic landscape. Several of the organizers of the exhibits listed above have offered to make "apprentice judge" slots -- the first step to accreditation as an APS judge -- available to us. Now all we need are good candidates. Any members interested in judging should contact either Henry Hahn or me, and we will make arrangements to get you started.

This should be an interesting and fun year. In closing allow me to take this opportunity to wish you and yours much health, success, and happiness in the New Year.

Jaroslav J. Verner

**Book Review**

**ČESKOSLOVENSKO 1945 - 1992**  
**Specializovaný Katalog 1997 - POFIS**

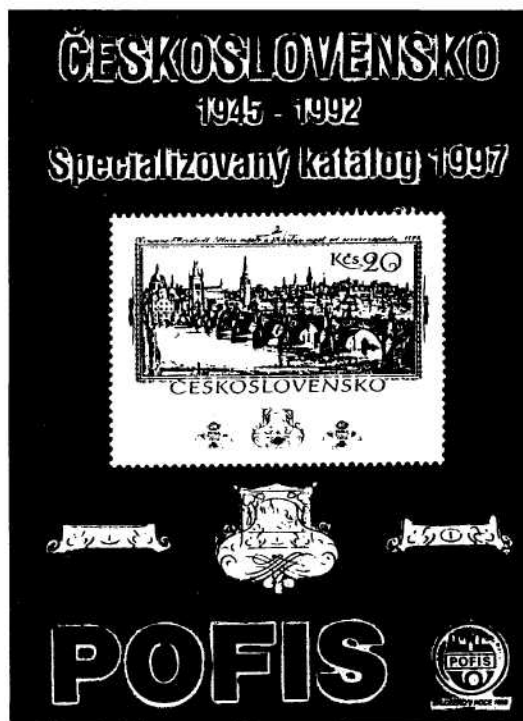
As I have been collecting Czechoslovak stamps over the past 20+ years, I have had to constantly turn from one catalog to another when it came to trying to differentiate between or find information about the various types, errors, faults, color varieties, unissued items, or other peculiarities found in Czechoslovak philately. Each of the various catalogs would have tempting little pieces of the puzzle -- but never even quite all of the piece that they attempted to cover. And none of the catalogs had a complete picture of the valuation of these various and often strange collectibles.

Well, this is no longer true, because a new catalog has come on the scene: **ČESKOSLOVENSKO 1945 - 1992, Specializovaný Katalog 1997**. POFIS has been putting out catalogs and other philatelic books since 1950. This particular catalog shows a definite expansion and significant elaboration upon the knowledge of the Czechoslovak philatelic world. It is without a doubt the best compilation of philatelic information for the 1945 - 1992 period that is currently available in a single volume.

This softcoverd, 6 1/2 x 9 1/4, 288 glossy paged book is an absolute necessity for any serious collector interested in the intricacies of the post World War II Czechoslovak philatelic world.

For every issue of this period (including definitives, commemoratives, airmails, postage dues, officials, newspaper stamps, personal deliveries, and others) this volume provides:

Illustration of Issue; Date of issue; Name of the issue; Printing technique; Perforation type/size/varieties; Printing form; Color varieties; Paper varieties (plain, UV luminescent, UV - pale blue, UV - yellow); FDC (including varieties); Types/subtypes (listed and each described); Joined types; Coupon/tab varieties (left, right, top, bottom, various blocks); Gutter pairs (horizontal, vertical, "small cross", "big cross"); Miniature sheet/print sheet (2x2, 2x2+2T, 2x5, etc.); Postally used covers (up through the monetary reform, May 30, 1953); Plate faults; Plate retouches; Design faults; Production printing faults (color shifts, color absence, etc.); Unissued imperforates; Perforation faults (blind perfs, rotated perfs, etc.); Plate marks/designators (or plate distinguishing minutiae); Unissued varieties;



## THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Trial prints; Date-of-Issue variations; Number issued; Validity expiration date; Other interesting peculiarities (gum varieties, selvage decorations, incomplete design printings, etc.).

One of the greatest benefits of this book is that virtually every one of these types, faults, varieties, covers, etc., are valuated to give you a reasonably comparative idea what it is worth.

The book is profusely illustrated. By actual count, there are 773 illustrations of types, plate faults, plate retouches, printing faults, etc. The majority of these illustrated varieties have not been in the catalogs before; and there are even more varieties that are listed, described, and valuated, but not illustrated.

In the back of the catalog are some special sections. First come three sections that list, illustrate, describe, and value 25 commemorative prints/sheetlets (Příležitostné Tisky), 12 favor prints (Výsadní Tisky), and 9 imprinted official envelopes (Celinové Služební Obálky). Then come 5 lists (each of which is in chronological order and giving the POFIS #, name, and valuation) of all miniature sheets, all 2x2 printing sheets, all 2x5 printing sheets, all other printing sheets (e.g., 15 stamps + 5 coupons), and all stamps and souvenir sheets that come in more than one type.

As with any publication, there are a few drawbacks. In the case of this catalog, there are three to note: it is in black and white, it only covers 1945 - 1992, and it is in Czech. The first two you can live with. The last one can be greatly resolved by getting and using the *GLOSSARY OF PHILATELIC TERMINOLOGY* from the Society.

**ČESKOSLOVENSKO 1945 - 1992, Specializovaný Katalog 1997**, ed. by Pavel Pažout, 288 pp., POFIS Praha, Klimentská 6, 110 00 Praha 1

Ludvik Z. Svoboda

*[Ed. Note: The Society has this catalog listed in Available Publications as POFIS - SPECIALIZED CATALOG, Czechoslovakia 1945-92 (Cz) for \$20.00 post paid.]*

❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖

## NOJEX 98

by E. Lehecka

Included in this issue as a pull out in the center is an application form for anyone that plans to exhibit at NOJEX 98. We strongly encourage you to do so and will help those of you that have never exhibited before to prepare your exhibits. *[Please see Henry Hahn's article in the Nov/Dec 97 issue.]* When you send in your application form, please also send a copy of it to our NOJEX convention manager, Ed Lehecka, so that we know who and what will be exhibited from our Society.

This application form also contains very valuable information for those of you who will just be joining us there. It contains the dates that the show is open, the hours that it is open, where it is being held, which societies are holding meetings/conventions, what services will be available, and what awards are planned to be presented.

Do not forget that for the first time the Society will be presenting its new first, second, and third prize medals at this exhibition. They are really very attractive and would make an outstanding addition to any trophy case or wall. *[More on these medals in the next issue of the SPECIALIST.]*

Watch the future issues of the SPECIALIST for more details on Society events and schedules at NOJEX 98.





## PRAGA 98 REPORT

Preparations continue for PRAGA 98. During its meeting at MOSCOW 97 the Board of the Federation Internationale de Philatelie (FIP) unanimously voted to grant FIP recognition/support to PRAGA 98. This recognition presupposes that all FIP rules and standards will be observed and that all members of the jury at PRAGA 98 will have FIP accreditation. The Organizing Committee initially announced its intention to meet FIP rules and standards in the Bulletin for PRAGA 98, so there will be no problem meeting FIP requirements.

Speaking of standards, several members, some potential exhibitors at PRAGA 98, have noted what appears to be a double standard in the qualifications required of Czech exhibitors and those required of non-Czech exhibitors. Specifically, the Exhibition Bulletin requires that exhibits of foreign collectors have received at least a vermeil medal in their national level exhibitions, while Czech exhibits are required to have received only a silver medal. Lumir Brendl, the President of the Organizing Committee, addressed this question in the November 1997 issue of *Filatelie*. He explained that the rules of The Federation of European Philatelic Associations (FEPA) permit silver medal exhibits from the organizing country to be shown at exhibits under its sponsorship with the hope that this will help develop additional FIP qualifying exhibits. Brendl goes on to say that in spite of these rules, Czech collectors who wished to qualify their exhibits for PRAGA 98 had to receive at least a silver medal in one of several national level shows which used FIP judging standards. Brendl points out that having passed through this qualifying regime the Czech collector had to meet a higher standard than normally applied in national shows to attain this silver medal. The significance of the silver medal level is that any exhibit that receives a silver medal at a FIP accredited exhibition qualifies to show at other FIP shows.



Fig. 1

### Commemorative Cancel Approved

On November 7<sup>th</sup> the Czech Post Office approved a series of commemorative cancellations to be used in conjunction with PRAGA 98. The first commemorative cancel, marking the beginning of air mail service, will be used at PRAHA 6 on May 5, 1998. Commemorative cancels will be used by PRAHA 7 at the Exhibition Hall and by PRAHA 015 at the Postal Museum, the official venues of the exhibition, throughout the period September 10 - 13, 1998. Both post offices will use cancelers with replaceable dates. In addition, the following special commemorative cancels will also be used:

September 12	---- Balloon mail (PRAHA 7)
September 12 & 13	---- Day of Czechoslovak Philately (PRAHA 7)
September 13	---- Day of Postal History (PRAHA 7) (Fig. 1)

September 13

--- Stage Coach mail (PRAHA 7) (Fig. 2)

### Society Dinner Planned

The Board decided that the Society event at PRAGA 98 would be a members' dinner the evening of September 9, the evening before the exhibition opens. It has been scheduled at 7 PM at the restaurant "Na Poříčí" (Fig. 3). The menu will be traditional Czech fare with choice of each of the following: soup, salad, entree, one beverage (glass of wine, beer, or soft drink), tea or coffee, and desert. The cost, including gratuity, will be \$15 per person.



Fig. 2

Since the space at the restaurant is limited, reservations will be taken on a first come first served basis from Society members and their partners. If space permits, additional guests will be most welcome. Your reservations will be firm when our Treasurer, Ed Lehecka, receives full payment. We suggest that you send your payment now. If members would like to bring additional guests, they should make this fact known when making their own reservations. They will be informed whether their additional guests can also be accommodated as soon as our space situation is clear.

A personal note here, if I may. Dom Riccio and I came upon this restaurant quite by accident last Spring when we were looking for a place to have lunch. We were struck by the number of engravings and first day covers that decorated the walls. This fall, since my philatelic curiosity had not been assuaged, I returned with Lois and we made it our business to find out about the philatelic connection. It turns out that Mr. Bud'arek, our host at "Na Poříčí", is the nephew of the well known engraver of Czech stamps, Jindřich Schmidt. Mr. Bud'arek has graciously volunteered to prepare a special exhibit of Schmidt's work for us. How about that --- good food, and philately too!



Fig. 3

### Travel and Hotels

The Society has selected Tickets & Tours Travel to assist our members and other travelers wishing to attend PRAGA 98 with their travel plans. Tickets & Tours is a full service travel agency specializing in the unique needs of travel to group events. They are prepared to work with each traveler to PRAGA 98 to insure that his/her travel wishes are met.

Early planning is a must for travel to this event taking place in Prague, perhaps Europe's most popular current travel destination. Travelers must keep in mind that the exhibit dates, September 10-13, are still in the middle high season. This means that the air fares and hotel rates will be somewhat lower than during high season, that is before September 1, but availability of both plane and hotel space will still be tight. The arrangements we have made with Tickets & Tours Travel will allow any travelers to take advantage of benefits offered to our members. Friends, family

and business associates do not have to be members of our Society to participate in this program.

Flexibility is limited, but not eliminated, when taking part in group travel. Your travel plans can be tailored to economy or luxury budgets. You may expand your travel before or after PRAGA 98 by touring elsewhere in Europe or stopping over at a favorite destination. Tickets & Tours Travel is compiling prices and schedules for all airlines. Although regular published fares are available now, consolidator (bulk discount) fares will not be final until January 1998. Before choosing a consolidator fare, which is usually less expensive, you need to be aware of the differences from regular published fares:

**Consolidator airfare rates:**

- \* Unused tickets have no value
- \* Changes allowed only on return flights
- \* Limited number of seats are available on any flight.
- Early purchase essential
- \* Rates quoted do not include taxes
- \* 3% charge is made for credit card payment
- \* Connecting flights are extra

**Published airline rates:**

- + Unused tickets retain their value for one year
- + Changes subject to fees and availability
- + Limited number of seats are available on any flight.
- Early purchase essential
- + Quoted rates include taxes
- + No charge for credit card payments
- + Connecting flights are included in the quote

Even though consolidator rates are not generally available yet, we have received rates from Continental/Czech Airlines. Round trip airfare from Newark to Prague is \$630 on Czech Airlines with connections on Continental Airlines for an additional fee. Sample fare for connecting flights are:

Atlanta	\$140	Ft. Lauderdale	\$201	Pittsburgh	\$ 91
Baltimore	\$102	Houston	\$201	Phoenix	\$302
Boston	\$102	Los Angeles	\$291	San Francisco	\$282
Cleveland	\$141	Miami	\$201	Seattle	\$282
Denver	\$271	Philadelphia	\$ 62		

(These rates are good when purchased in cash by April 1998. Taxes are additional.)

Any hotel you select may be part of your itinerary. Here are a few sample rates, all of which include breakfast:

	Single	Double
Park (official PRAGA 98 hotel)	\$109	\$133
Hilton Atrium	\$150	\$170
Expo	\$126	\$134
Panorama	\$105	\$130
Alta	\$ 75	\$ 95
Belvedere	\$ 66	\$ 90
Axa	\$ 50	\$ 80

## THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Tickets & Tours Travel is negotiating with several Prague hotels for lower rates. However, to do this effectively, there must be a guarantee of a minimum number of rooms reserved. Early reservations will help this process. Travelers making early reservations will be guaranteed the rooms they desire as well as the best, final, negotiated rates at the hotel they request.

The bottom line in all of this is: Begin your travel planing today by calling Tickets & Tours at 1-800-639-0450 or 1-218-584-0029 or by e-mail at [chris@mail.4a.com](mailto:chris@mail.4a.com).

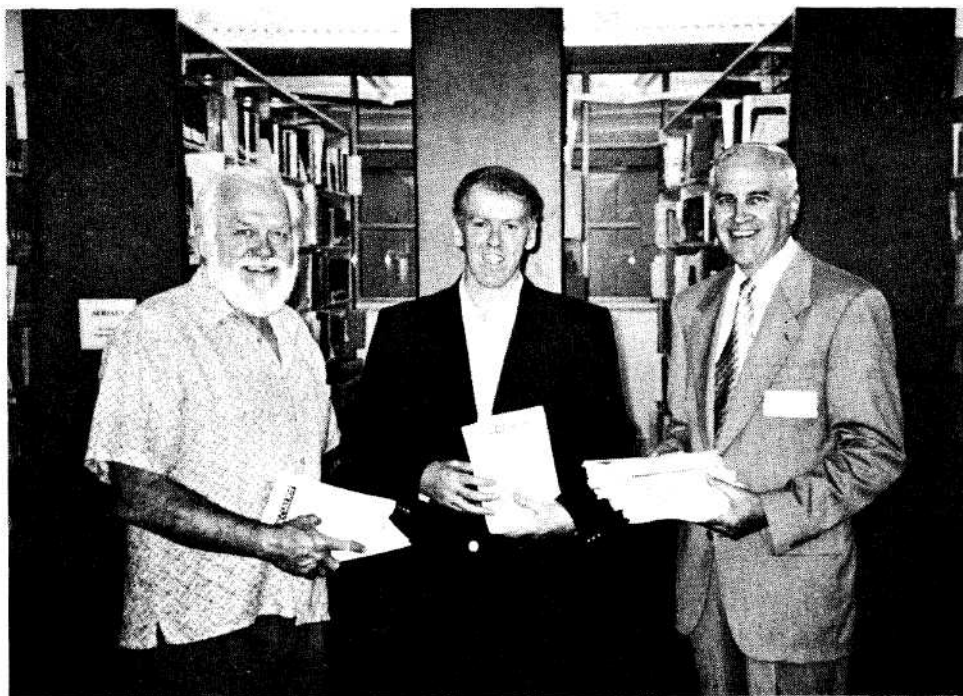
Jaroslav J. Verner

❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖

## PHILATELIC LIBRARY DONATIONS

by Jaroslav J. Verner

During the Board of Director's meeting held during PACIFIC 97, it was decided to begin a program of donating volumes of *The Czechoslovak Specialist* to philatelic libraries in the United States and abroad. The purpose of these donations is to make material on Czechoslovak philately widely available to the philatelic community and thus help educate its members and perhaps draw more of them to our niche in this hobby. The first donation took place on September 11 when your Librarian, Richard Palaschak and I presented the Librarian of the National



Jaroslav Verner and Richard Palaschak presenting  
*The Czechoslovak Specialist* to Timothy Carr (in the middle).

Postal Museum, Timothy Carr, with 25 volumes of *The Czechoslovak Specialist*. Tim told us the copies would be bound and added to the research material in the National Postal Museum Library. This library is part of the Smithsonian Institution library system, and so our periodical will be available to all using that system.

The second presentation is currently in the works. It will be to the Mizuhara Memorial Philatelic Museum in Tokyo. We have several members in Japan, and perhaps greater accessibility of information on Czechoslovak philately will increase that number. The Museum librarian, Ms Ryoko Itanami, has expressed great interest in adding our journal to their collection. In fact, the Museum has agreed to pay the shipping costs for the volumes of the *Specialist* we are donating.

Rich Palaschak is also working with the National Philatelic Society Library of Great Britain to bring their collection of *The Czechoslovak Specialist* up to date. This library is the largest philatelic library in great Britain with over 1000 members who use it for their philatelic research.

❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖

## STAMP CREATORS AND PRAGA 98

by Jaroslav Verner

The organizers of PRAGA 98, the Union of Czech Philatelists and the Czech Post, held their first press conference on the exhibition on September 23, 1997 in the Praha Postal Museum. Since I was in Praha at the time, I was asked to attend and was please to do so. Lumír Brendl, President of the Union, described preparations underway for the exhibition and stressed the importance the Czechs place on participation of collectors of Czechoslovak related material from other countries, especially the United States. He also graciously introduced me as "a representative of American collectors" to stress this point.



Fig. 1 Sheetlet issued September 24 to publicize PRAGA 98



## THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Miroslav Špaček, Deputy General Director of the Czech Post introduced the first stamps commemorating PRAGA 98, which were to be issued the next day. The set consists of two 15 Kč stamps of "100-spired Praha" plus a sheetlet that bears the same stamps plus tabs (Fig. 1). (Color illustrations can be found on the Society web page at <http://www.erols.com/sibpost>.) Following the Press Conference I had the opportunity to discuss the creation of these stamps with Alfred Fuchs, the designer, and Václav Fajt, the engraver (Fig. 2).

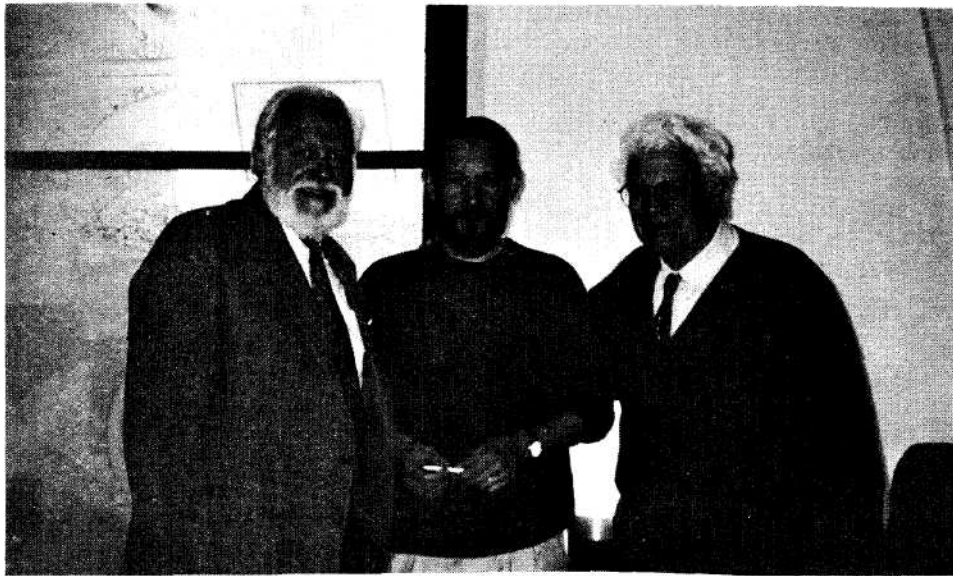


Fig. 2 Verner discussing the design of the "100-spired Praha" stamps with their designer, Alfred Fuchs and engraver, Václav Fajt

Praha - the location of the exhibit - was the subject given Fuchs for the first PRAGA 98 stamps. He said that in his design he tried to capture the spirit of this old, "100-spired", yet contemporary city. To contrast the modern, somewhat abstract design of the stamps, he added ancient symbols to the tabs on the sheetlet. The door knocker on the left tab is the knocker that St. Václav grabbed as he fell when he was assassinated at the Mladá Boleslav Cathedral in 929. Charles IV ordered the door knocker moved to Prague and installed it in St. Vitus Cathedral on the Hradčany. The other symbol "either a flying horse or a dragon, but I rather think it a dragon", said Fuchs, is a relief that had been excavated at Vyšehrad and currently is part of the collection in the National Museum in Praha. It probably dates from the early 12th century.

"Václav is a superb engraver", was Fuchs' assessment of Václav Fajt, his partner in this enterprise. "I gave him great discretion in the creation of this stamp. He should be considered a co-creator. When problems with color tints developed in the printing plant, it was only thanks to Václav that they were solved."

Fajt did not develop his considerable engraving skills on stamps, but as an engraver of paper currency, including the current 50 and 1000 korun notes. He began working at the Státní Tiskárna Cenin (State Printing House for Value Paper) as an engraver in 1973 and stayed with them until 1995. Back in 1977 he submitted

examples of his work along with a request he be considered for stamp engraving assignments. His submissions were highly praised, but no assignments followed. He repeated the process several times over the next eight years with the same result. He was told several times he would get commissions to engrave stamps only if he became a member of the Svaz Výtvarných Umělců (Union of Creative Artists). But membership in this group required Fajt to join the Communist Party which he refused to do. At one point Fajt was told that if he joined the Party he would have his first commission to engrave stamps "within 24 hours".

However, not all variables can be controlled even by a totalitarian state. Life goes on and conditions change -- and people get old. And so it happened with the engravers doing stamps in Czechoslovakia. By the early 1980s several stamp engravers had either died or were no longer able to practice this exacting art. There was a shortage of engraving talent and work was piling up, deadlines were being missed. One day Fajt received a call out of the blue offering several commissions to engrave stamps and has been doing so starting with two stamps of the "Protection of Nature" series in 1983.

Our members who plan to attend PRAGA 98 will have an opportunity to meet and speak with designers and engravers of Czech stamps during the seminar on Czechoslovak philately scheduled for Saturday, September 12, 1998. It will be an opportunity to ask all those questions which have bothered you about the process of stamp creation. Both Fuchs and Fajt told me they expect to be there along with many of their colleagues.

Jaroslav J. Verner

\* \* \* \* \*

## DONATIONS TO THE SOCIETY LIBRARY

Our contributing member Phillips Freer recently donated a complete set of **CZECHOUT** to our Society Library. **CZECHOUT** is the publication of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain. It is a continuing series of 11 monographs each covering a specific area of Czechoslovak philately.

He also donated a complete set of the **CZECHOSLOVAK HERITAGE**. This was an official journal of the Chicagoland Czechoslovak Philatelic Society. It was published quarterly over the approximate period of 1984 through 1992 by George Kobyłka, Jane Sterba, and Charles Chesloe. The purpose of the journal was to promote Czechoslovak culture especially as it pertains to Czechoslovak philately, history, culture and pride.

These two donations make for a very significant addition to the capabilities of our Library. Thank you Phil!

Richard Palaschak  
Librarian

*New Issues*

CZECH REPUBLIC

by G. M. van Zanten

1. On May 28, 1997, the Ministry of Transport and Communications of the Czech Republic issued a 4.60 Kč stamp entitled "For Children" (Fig. 1). This stamp series appears annually just before International Children's Day. The red, green, and black stamp shows a popular green hero of children's bedtime television cartoons named Rákosníček (The Little Reed Man) with a bunch of rowan berries as an umbrella. This cartoon series of contemporary children's stories is among the most successful of television programs in the Czech Republic. The graphic artist was Zdeněk Smetana, and the engraver was Jiří Bouda. The stamps were printed using a combination of rotary die stamping with photogravure multicolored printing in sheets of 50 by the Post Printing House in Prague. The FDC depicts a shining, smiling sun.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

2. On June 25, 1997, the Ministry issued a 12.60 Kč definitive stamp in the Historical Building Styles series entitled "Cubism" (Fig. 2). The blue/brown stamp depicts a window reminiscent of a house with elements of the cubistic style with radial decoration. The graphic artist was Jan Solpera, while the engraver was Bohumil Šneider. The stamps were produced in a combination of two-color intaglio and photogravure in sheets of 100 by the Post Printing House, Prague.

3. On June 25, 1997, the Ministry issued a 6 Kč stamp celebrating the 150th anniversary of František Křižík (1847-1941) (Fig. 3). Being a Czech inventor and entrepreneur, he gained significant recognition for his progress in the fields of transportation, electrical traction, and the electrical engineering industry in general. His most important invention was the automatic regulator for the arc lamp, invented in 1878, which is depicted on the pink, blue, red, and ochre stamp along with F. Křižík. He constructed the first electric tramway from Letná to Stromovka in Prague (1891) and the intercity electric tramway from Tábor to Bechyně (1902). He contributed significantly to the success of the Anniversary Exhibition in Prague in 1891 (Křižík's fountain). The stamp designer was Jan Krejčí, and the engraver was Martin Srb. The stamps were produced in a combination of intaglio and multicolor photogravure in sheets of 50 by the Post Printing House, Prague. The FDC depicts his "electromobile" with driver and passengers.



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

4. On August 27, 1997, the Ministry issued an 11 Kč stamp commemorating the European Championship in Swimming and Diving held in Prague (Fig. 4). Swimming as a sport began to develop in the Czech Republic area as early as the 1890's, with acrobatic diving and competitive swimming appearing a little later. The entire area of water sports is very popular. The blue and black/brown-ochre stamp depicts a competitive swimmer reaching for the next stroke. The stamp was designed by Ladislav Kuklík and engraved by Miloš Ondráček. It is printed using a combination of multicolored intaglio and photogravure in sheets of 50 stamps by the Post Printing House, Prague. The FDC depicts a swim racer in the act of diving into the pool.

5. On September 10, 1997, the Ministry issued a set of 3 stamps commemorating Czech Cartoon Humor in the form of Josef Lada's illustrations from the world famous political satire titled *The Fortunes of the Good Soldier Švejk* by Jaroslav Hašek. Each stamp bears the facsimile signature of Josef Lada (Fig. 5).

- 4 Kč: shows Mrs. Muller, Švejk's anxious landlady, taking him to his conscription in a wheelchair while he constantly calls, "On to Belgrade, on to Belgrade!"
- 4.60 Kč: shows 1st Lt. Lukáš, and Colonel Kraus von Zillergut who is raging at him over the stolen dog Fox/Max
- 6 Kč: shows Švejk on his "Budějovice anabasis" (military expedition to Budějovice) marching through the snow while puffing on his pipe

The designer of the stamps was Zdeněk Ziegler, while the engraver was Josef Herčík. They were printed using the combination of multicolor intaglio and photogravure in sheets of 50, and in miniature sheets of 8 with 4 coupons, by the Post Printing House, Prague. On the black and white coupons is Švejk in various situations. The FDC's show the following:

- 4 Kč: a scene with a policeman leading Švejk to the police station
- 4.60 Kč: Švejk giving a stolen dog to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Lukáš
- 6 Kč: a skirmish with Hungarians

[Ed. Note: Also see "*Lada and Hašek - A Delightful Team*" by Gerald van Zanten, Nov/Dec 1991]



Fig. 5

6. On September 24, 1997, the Ministry issued a set of two 15 Kč stamps (the first set to be honoring the International Stamp Exhibition, PRAGA 98) entitled "The Hundred Spired Prague" (Fig. 6). PRAGA 98 marks the 60th anniversary of the first

## THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

PRAGA exhibition. The graphic artist, Alfred Fuchs, selected two of the most popular and beautiful Prague scenes for the stamps:

- a view of the Hradčany (Prague castle) and Malá Strana (Lesser Town)
- a view across the Vltava river with its bridges to Staré Město (Old Town)

Both multi-colored stamps include the exhibition logo and are issued separately in sheets of 25 as well as set-tenant on a souvenir sheet which contains one copy of each stamp with an attached label. Associated with the Prague castle stamp, the label shows a bronze knocker in the form of a lion head with a ring, circa the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> Century. This knocker is on the door of the northern entrance into the chapel of St. Wenceslas (St. V i t u s

Cathedral). Associated with the Vltava river stamp, the label depicts a paving tile from around 1130. This tile was a part of the floor in the Basilica of St. Lawrence on Vyšehrad. The engraver was Václav Fajt. Both the stamps and the souvenir sheet were printed using the combination of multicolor intaglio and photogravure by the Post Printing House, Prague. The two FDC's show other views of Prague.



Fig. 6

7. On October 8, 1997, the Ministry issued a set of 3 stamps commemorating Historic Service Vehicles which could be found on the streets in the first half of the 20th century (Fig. 7).

- 4 Kč: shows a 1928 PRAGA postal service bus produced by Českomoravská Kolben-Danek, Motor Car Department - Praga in green, yellow, and brown



- 4.60 Kč: shows a 1924 Škoda Sentinel open delivery truck produced by Škoda Works- Plzeň in brown, black, and red
- 8 Kč: shows a 1933 Tatra fire brigade engine produced by the Tatra Koprivnice Works in red, black, and yellow

The designer and engraver of this issue was Bedřich Housa. They were printed in sheets of 50 at the Post Printing House in Prague using the combination of multicolor intaglio and photogravure. The three FDC's show:

- 4 Kč: a postal bus from 1921 by Laurin & Klement
- 4.60 Kč: a Sentinel van Praga from around 1912
- 6 Kč: a furniture van from 1909 by Reichenberger Automobil Fabrik

8. On November 12, 1997, the Ministry issued a set of 3 multicolored stamps from the continuing Art on Stamps series.

- The 7 Kč issue illustrates the painting "Landscape with Chateau in Chantilly (c.1883)" by Antonín Chittussi (1847-1891) from the National Gallery in Prague (Fig. 8). Antonín Chittussi was a Czech realist painter who gave a definite direction to the development of modern Czech landscape painting with his masterful conveyance of the mood and atmosphere of landscapes. Chittussi's grandfather came from Ferrara in Italy. He settled in the small town of Rovnov nad



Fig. 8

Doubravkou. Antonín regarded himself as a native Czech and a Czech patriot as well. He studied at the Prague Academy of Arts. The regime there was too strict for him so he moved to Vienna and Munich, returning to the Prague Academy from time to time. After a trip to Hungary he realized his gift for landscape painting. A landmark in Antonín's life was his being jailed along with Mikulaš Aleš and other students for taking a stand against a chauvinistic and anti-Czech professor of



Fig. 7



Fig. 9

## THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

art history. His release after a short period in jail brought him popularity and fame. His further career was influenced by his stay in France. However, he never lost touch with his native Bohemia, painting Czech landscapes from sketches even while in Paris. In the mid 1880's he returned to Bohemia, and there painted his most poetical works. His career was broken off by heart disease and premature death. The engraver of this stamp was Václav Fajt.

- The 12 Kč issue illustrates a drawing titled "The prophets came out of the desert (1918)" by František Bílek (1872-1941) for Otakar Bezina's collection of essays "Prose Pieces" (Fig. 9). Bílek was an important figure in the symbolist generation of sculptors and graphic artists. In his work, influenced by Art Nouveau and an inclination towards religious mysticism, he went beyond the conventions of the time in ecclesiastical art. The engraver was Miloš Ondráček.

- The 16 Kč issue illustrates the painting "Parisian Second-Hand Booksellers (1909)" by T.F. Šimon (1877-1942) from the National Gallery in Prague (Fig. 10). The painter and graphic artist T.



Fig.10

F. Šimon was a professor at the Academy of Fine Arts and co-founder of the Hollar Association of Czech Graphic Artists. This work is one among several done in which the artist captured scenes from Paris, Prague, and his travels around the world. It shows customers standing and looking at books along a low wall that acts as a display table for the booksellers. The engraver was Martin Srb.

The series of stamps were produced at the Post Printing House in Prague in the traditional four-stamp souvenir sheets using recess printing by die stamping from flat printing plates.

The FDC's for these stamps show:

- 7 Kč: a wind mill, the detail of a memorial volume leaf, and an India ink pen drawing from 1880
- 12 Kč: the detail of a lithograph from 1924
- 16 Kč: the Týn church from Prague, the horologe (timepiece) of the Old Town Hall, and an etching from 1910



Fig. 11

9. On November 12, 1997, the Ministry issued a 4 Kč stamp entitled "Christmas" (Vánoce) (Fig. 11). The design shows a carp decorated for Christmas, having on its head a lit candle and fir tree sprigs. In the foreground are an orange and a cracked open walnut. The Christmas Eve meal with carp is as much a part of the traditional Czech Christmas as a Christmas tree with candles. The graphic artist of this design was Karel Franta, with the engraving being done by Bedřich Housa. It is printed using a combination of multicolored intaglio with photogravure in a sheet of 50 by the Post Printing House in Prague. The FDC shows the Three Kings carrying gifts for the Infant Jesus.

**SOCIETY FOR CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELY INC.****\*\*\* AVAILABLE PUBLICATIONS \*\*\****(All prices are postpaid; E = English, Cz = Czech, Sl = Slovak)*

[NEW] POFIS - SPECIALIZED CATALOG, Czechoslovakia 1945-92 (Cz) (reviewed: Jan/Feb 98)	\$20.00
[NEW] ZSF - SLOVAKIA - STAMPS and STATIONERY 1939-1945, 1993- 1997 (Sl) (not yet reviewed)	\$12.00
[NEW] TROJAN - CZECH PRIVATE OVERPRINTS ON STATIONERY 1945- 1996 (Cz) (reviewed: Mar/April 98)	\$12.00
TROJAN - CZECHOSLOVAKIA 1918-1992, CZECH REPUBLIC 1993-1996, SLOVAK REPUBLIC 1993-1996 (Cz) (reviewed: Mar/Apr 97)	\$25.00
THE PHILATELY OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA FOR BEGINNERS by Phil Freer (E)	\$ 3.50
GLOSSARY OF PHILATELIC TERMINOLOGY (E) (reviewed: Mar/Apr 97)	\$20.00
CUMULATIVE INDEX OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST 1939-92 (E)	\$15.00
BOUND BI-ANNUAL VOLUMES OF THE SPECIALIST (E) 1968-9, 1976-7, 1977-8, 1978-9, 1980-1, 1981-2, 1983-4, 1985-6, 1987-8, 1989-90, 1991-2, 1993-4, 1995-6	each \$19.00
AGRICULTURE & SCIENCE ISSUE 1923 (Cz)	\$10.00
HRADCANY by Jan Karasek (Cz)	\$ 7.50
PERFORATIONS 1918-39 by Jan Karasek (Cz)	\$ 7.00
MONOGRAFIE - VOLUME 4 (Cz)	\$25.00
MONOGRAFIE - VOLUME 13 (Cz)	\$25.00
MONOGRAFIE - VOLUME 14 (Cz)	\$25.00
MONOGRAFIE - VOLUME 16 Part 1 & Part 2 (Cz)	\$50.00
MONOGRAFIE - VOLUME 17 Part 1 & Part 2 (Cz)	\$50.00

*All orders should be placed with:*  
**Society for Czechoslovak Philately Inc.**  
*Attention: Edwin W. Lehecka*  
 217 Hazel Avenue  
 Westfield, NJ 07090

**THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST**  
(USPS 808300)

**2363 McCLEARY DRIVE  
CHAMBERSBURG, PA 17201**

----- Address Service Requested -----

**Periodical  
Postage Paid  
Chambersburg, PA 17201  
and additional  
mailing offices**