



# 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

ISSN: 0526-5843

Vol. 67

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2005

No. 1, Whole No. 589

## *President's Corner*

Your Society held its second board meeting of 2004 on 30 September. The board meeting along with a general membership meeting was held in conjunction with the Philadelphia National Stamp Exhibition (PNSE). The actual meeting site was the Valley Forge Convention Center and attached Raddison Hotel located just down the road from the site of the Continental Army's winter encampment of 1777-1778. The accommodations at the Raddison were much better than those at Valley Forge 227 years ago.

Ed Lehecka reported that the Society continues to be in good financial shape. He and Peter Kleskovic reported that membership is once again above 300 which is the break-even point for the health of the Society. Lou Svoboda indicated that as a result of the Society's offer to members of a free copy of the SPECIALIST Index, 96 paper versions and 17 CD versions were sent out at a cost of \$880 to the Society. Mark Wilson reported that he now has the Society's entire Library at his home. He is beginning to look for an electronic means to search the Library holdings. Savoy Horvath continues to unearth philatelic publications from the Czech Republic. He

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## **SOCIETY WEBSITE**

### **Cover of the Month Stamp Stories**

Many of the people who visit the Society web site seem to find the Cover of the Month and the Stamp Stories features of considerable interest. But we have a problem. We have not been getting enough new material to keep these features fresh and enjoyable to read. So we need your help.

If you have a cover that is unusual or one-of-a-kind, and that would be both entertaining and educational for others to examine and learn about, why not share it? Send a good color copy of it (or a jpg image) along with a description of what it is and why it is interesting to our web-master, Jaroslav Verner, 8602 Ewing Drive, Bethesda, MD 20817, or sibpost@comcast.net.

Likewise, if you have or come across a good stamp story, either interesting or educational or both, please send that to me also. It would be appreciated if the text and any illustrations be sent electronically, if at all possible. The story can be your own creation or something you found somewhere and really enjoyed.

Jaroslav Verner

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No. 1, Whole No. 589

Published bi-monthly - \$18.00 per year

Membership inquiries to Secretary (address below)

Periodical Paid at Shippensburg, PA 17257

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to

**THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST**

11½ North Washington Street, Shippensburg, PA 17257

Web Site: [www.czechoslovakphilately.com](http://www.czechoslovakphilately.com)

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

## POSTAL HISTORY

### THE CZECHOSLOVAK CURRENCY REFORM OF 1953

by Vladimír Dražan, Pavel Aksamit

trans. by Peter Z. Kleskovic

#### Part 1

*The period of the Czechoslovak currency reforms of 1953 is indisputably one of the most interesting parts of post-1945 Czechoslovak philately. Today it is exactly 50 years since, on the basis of the ÚV KSČ resolution and the subsequent decision by the Czechoslovak Government, the currency reform was proclaimed on 30.5.1953 -- which also markedly affected all aspects of postal operations. In view of the fact that, the majority of the basic articles about this contentious issue were published 20 or more years ago and whereby a number of contemporaries of the time including some prominent collectors and exhibitors of this subject (e.g. V. Indra, J. Nekvasil, J. Justýn, F. Šubart, Z. Znamínko) are not with us anymore, we have decided to re-examine this problematic issue. We will be doing this both from the viewpoint of the various ways of charging for postal consignments and from the postal history viewpoint.*

We consider it appropriate to once again recall the fundamental facts even though they are, especially for the older collectors, well known. At the same time we want this collecting area of philately brought closer to the generations of younger philatelists who not only did not experience the currency reform of 1953 but possibly until now have not acquired any detailed information about it either. Postal history always finds amongst philatelists new followers, and thus a brief summary of the fundamental events might be for many collectors just the stimulus to cause them to collect philatelic material from this very special period. As accompanying illustrations we have tried to include typical -- and as far as possible -- not previously published entires. A component of this work is even an attempt to assess their value, based on many years of study of this section of our philately and more than 40 years of collector experience.

#### **1. Basic facts, value of stamps and postal stationery**

The currency reform was announced on Saturday, 30 June [sic, May] 1953, with validity from 1.6.1953. Old money was replaced by new money in the

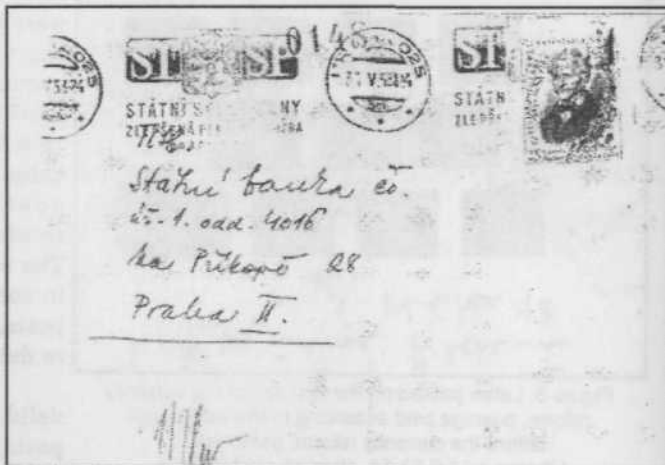


Figure 1: Local letter dated Sunday, 31.5.1953, postage 2 Kčs.



Figure 2: Letter posted on the first day of the currency reform, postage paid as per tariff valid before the currency reform, postmarked Náchod 1 / 1.6.53-12, not charged postage due.

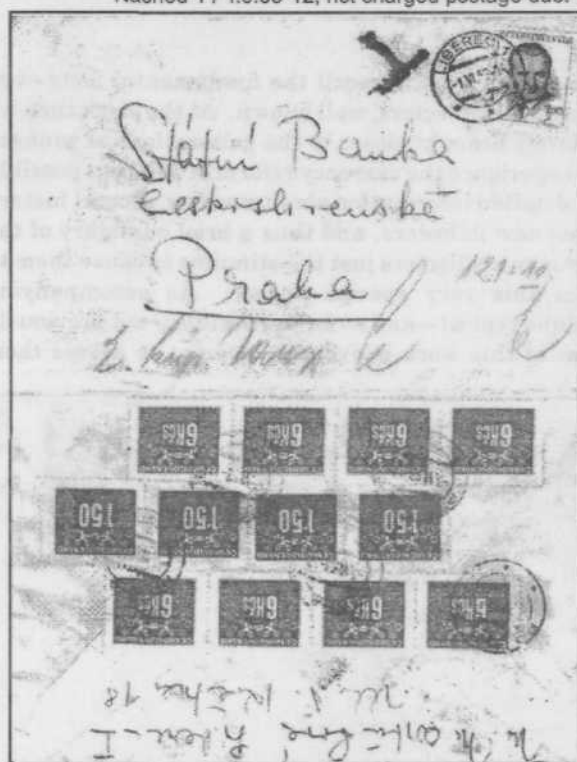


Figure 3: Letter posted on the first day of the currency reform, postage paid according to the tariffs valid before the currency reform, postmarked Liberec 1 / 1.6.53-14, charged postage due.

ratio of 5:1 (5 Kčs of 'old' = 1 Kčs of 'new'). In fact, each person could only apply this rate to a limited amount of money (300 'old' Kčs per person), the rest of their money was exchanged in the ratio of 50:1. Money set aside in financial institutions (deposits) was converted according to a special formula depending on the total amount of money deposited (conversion ratios ranged from 5:1 to 50:1). Practically all domestic postal charges

were converted at the 5:1 ratio; as regards foreign charges, we will refer to them in their relevant section.

In view of the fact that both the preparations and the date of implementation of the currency reforms were kept secret right up to the last minute, the Post Office had no postage stamps in the new currency ready when the reforms were announced. That is why it was allowed for people to use all currently valid stamps and postal stationery up and through 18.6.1953, whereby the nominal value of all such stamps and postal stationery was recalculated in the ratio of 50:1. The exact situation which arose in connection with the usage of postage due stamps is described in detail in a subsequent part.

On 30.5.1953 there were valid altogether 246 different postage stamps and 3 miniature

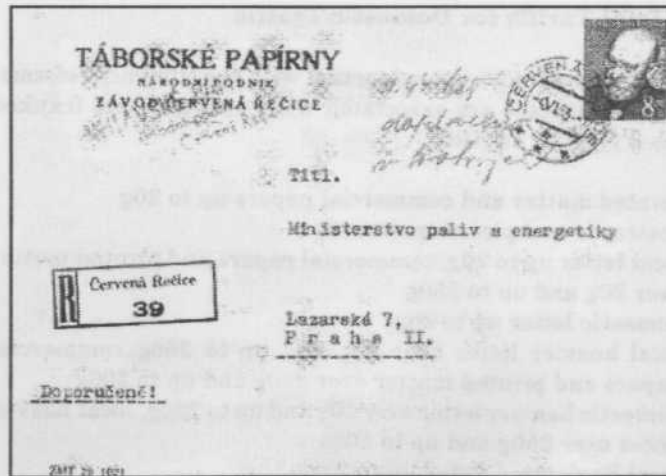


Figure 4: Company R-letter dated 4.6.1953, franked with 8 Kčs in the old currency + 1.44 Kčs in cash.

stationery were available for use at all post offices, but they could in fact have been used during the currency reform period. These possibilities, particularly during the latter days (15.6. - 18.6.), were used with ardent intent at this last moment by philatelists to at least partially use up their stock of unused stamps. These emergency provisions making it possible to use up all of the existing 50:1 ratio stamps was revoked on 18.6.1953. From 19 June 1953 all consignments had to be franked with new currency postage stamps (Pof. 732-35 and 736-7) or with special occasion stamps (Pof. 738-9) that were issued on that day. The Czechoslovak Postal Administration had thus -- in contrast with other countries in similar situations -- avoided provisional overprinting, which with the passage of time may be judged unambiguously in a positive way.

sheets (Pofis catalogue numbers: 438-9, 485-9, 502-7, 519-731, A564, A691/2, A719, L17-L36, and DR3), and the following postal stationery: postcards CDV94-110 (in all 89 postcards), envelopes COB1-5 (in all 5 envelopes), picture postcards with imprinted stamp CPH1-51 (in all 1142 black and white and 151 in color). Understandably not all of the valid stamps and in particular postal



Figure 5: Various handwritten notes and handstamps confirming postage payment.

## 2. Postal Tariffs for Domestic Traffic

New postal tariffs were announced in conjunction with the currency reforms. The amounts enclosed in parentheses are associated with consignments franked with postage stamps issued prior to 1.6.1953.

20h	(10 Kčs)	printed matter and commercial papers up to 20g
30h	(15 Kčs)	postcards and picture postcards
40h	(20 Kčs)	local letter up to 20g, commercial papers and printed matter over 20g and up to 250g
60h	(30 Kčs)	domestic letter up to 20g
80h	(40 Kčs)	local heavier letter over 20g and up to 250g, commercial papers and printed matter over 250g and up to 500g
1.20 Kčs	(60 Kčs)	domestic heavier letter over 20g and up to 250g, local heavier letter over 250g and up to 500g
1.40 Kčs	(70 Kčs)	local Registered letter up to 20g
1.60 Kčs	(80 Kčs)	domestic Registered letter up to 20g
1.80 Kčs	(90 Kčs)	local heavier Registered letter over 20g and up to 250g
2 Kčs	(100 Kčs)	local Express letter up to 20g
2.20 Kčs	(110 Kčs)	domestic heavier Registered letter over 20g and up to 250g, domestic Express letter up to 20g
3.20 Kčs	(160 Kčs)	domestic Registered Express letter up to 20g
3.80 Kčs	(190 Kčs)	domestic Registered Express letter over 20g and up to 250g

Here we introduce only the basic possibilities, additional unspecified combinations exist (Express or Registered postcards, heavier consignments, etc). We note that the surcharge for Registered delivery was 1 Kčs (50 Kčs), and the surcharge for Express delivery was 1.60 Kčs (80 Kčs).

## 3. Beginning of the Currency Reform Period

The currency reforms went into force on Monday, 1 June 1953, so that Sunday, 31.6.1953 was the last day of validity for the stamps in the original nominal values according to the 1948 postal tariffs. Consignments from this day do not show any variances -- see Figure 1.

All consignments from the currency reform's first day, i.e. with a posting date of 1 June 1953, are from the collector's point of view very interesting, because on that day occurred not only frankings according to the old tariffs (with postage due affixed or not), but also consignments with frankings according to the new tariffs with stamps in the old currency in the ratio of 50:1. General practice on that day was such, that consignments collected from postal boxes in the morning were judged as consignments placed into the boxes still on Sunday 31.5., and therefore not subject to postage due (Fig. 2). On the other hand, consignments collected in the afternoon or evening hours were judged as being insufficiently franked, and therefore the majority of the delivery post offices charged postage due (Fig. 3).



## 4. Consignment Franking Paid in Cash

This method of settling postal charges was relatively common, especially after 10 June 1953. In view of the relatively high conversion rate chosen for the



Figure 6: Provisional framed cancels.

existing stamps (50:1) their consumption was very high, and in many places they ran out of them. Therefore the occurrence of entires partly or wholly paid for in cash during the period 1.6.-6.6.1953 is much scarcer regardless

of whether we are dealing with private or official correspondence. Postal charges, which were paid in cash at postal counters, were marked on the consignments mostly by hand (Fig. 4).

Even though letters whose postal charges were paid for in cash do not have any postage stamps affixed, from the collector's point of view they are remarkably interesting. Besides handwritten notes indicating the postage charged (in old or new currency) and various handstamps with the text "TAXE PERÇUE", "FRANKO", "Vyplaceno v hotových" [paid in full], etc., there also occurred on consignments the most diverse Postmaster provisional handstamps, allowing a somewhat unusual specialization. Most often these provisional handstamps occur in black, purple, or red colors. At Figure 5 we show some of the more interesting ones.

Besides these, there occur (in particular on commercial correspondence) a very broad range of various official recordings, handstamps, and notes, e.g. "Kniha vyplatného v hotových/položka

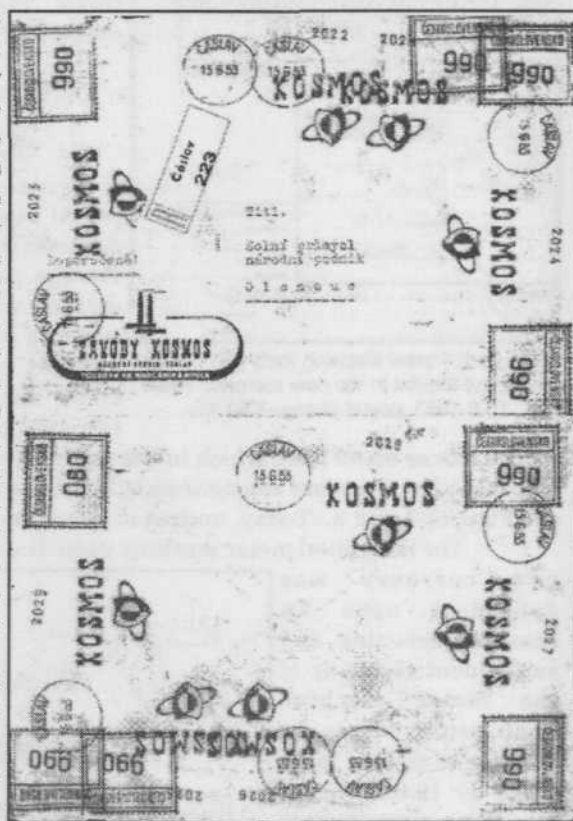


Figure 7: Commercial letter dated 15.6.1953 franked with nine meter machine imprints (8 x 9.90 Kčs + 1 x 0.80 Kčs), postal charge of 80 Kčs.

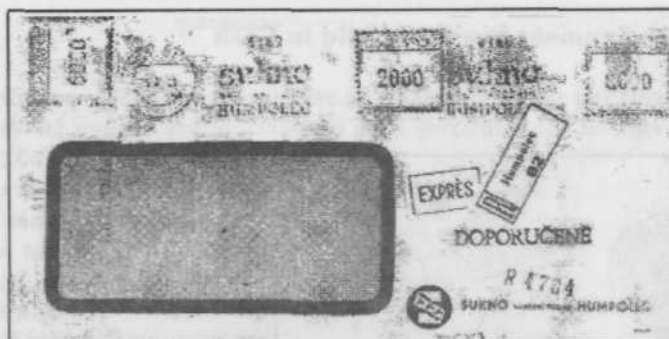


Figure 8: Commercial Registered and Express letter dated 9.6.1953, franked with three meter machine imprints (1 x 60 Kčs + 1 x 20 Kčs + 1 x 80 Kčs), postal charge 160 Kčs.

107" [cash ledger/entry 107], "Poštovné placeno hotově - průkaz čís. \_\_\_" [postal charges paid in cash - permit # \_\_\_], etc. (Fig. 6). This being a very similar situation as when consignments were paid for in cash after the liberation of Czechoslovakia in 1945.

Entires of this type were unjustifiably ignored for many years,

and only a very small number survived. For the majority of collectors of those days these entires were "not interesting", because they did not have postage stamps on them, and thus most likely ended up in the trash. Today they not only add variety but adorn every collection or exhibit.

### 5. Meter Machine Imprints – OVS

Even though in 1953 meter machines of various systems were in fairly wide use in postal operations, a very small number of documents were preserved that have OVS. For the majority of collectors in those days, entires with OVS were not of sufficient interest, and during the 1950's there were woefully few OVS collectors. The majority of meter machines in those days only allowed for settings of three or four figures (i.e. a max



Figure 9: Parcel dispatch form with meter machine imprint in the new currency dated 15.6.1953, postal charge 3.80 Kčs.

of 9.99 Kčs or 99.99 Kčs), which in the currency reform period was not sufficient for all cases, and therefore consignments had to be provided with multiple imprints -- see Figures 7 and 8. Today, entires of this type appear only very seldom.

For individual meter machine users the transition to the postal rates of the new currency was dependent upon an account reckoning and subsequent resetting of the meter machine components. It was not possible to do that in all cases by 19.6.1953, for due to time constraints making it impracticable,

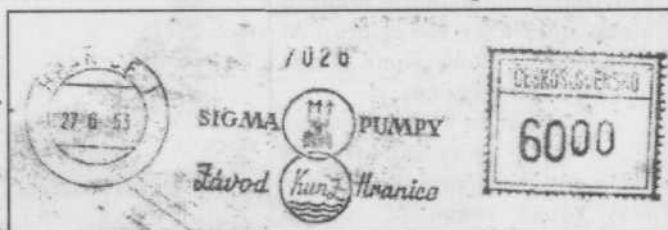


Figure 10: Company meter machine imprint of 60 Kčs in the old currency, still being used 27.6.1953.



the changes were carried out gradually. Very unusually, there could even occur cases of the use of OVS in the new currency even before 19.6.1953. So far we are aware of only two entires of this type. One of these is a parcel dispatch form which had already had a meter machine imprint applied by the Liberec 1 post office on 15.6.1953 (Fig.

9). The second discovery was reported by Ing. M. Fencel in 1983 -- an OVS of the firm Kolara Liberec in the new currency and dated 3.6.1953. On the other hand we know of a number of entires franked with OVS in the old currency even after 23 June 1953, one of which is shown at Figure 10. In 1953 there were even used in postal operations several meter machines which permitted settings of five figures, and which could have been used (and actually were used) during the period of the currency reforms without any adjustments (Fig. 11).

(To be continued)



Figure 11: Company Registered and Express letter dated 15.6.1953, meter machine imprint with five figure setting, postal charge 190 Kčs.

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## EXCURSION TO TELČ AFTER BRNO'05

by Henry Hahn

Members of our Society are reminded of the planned excursion to Telč from May 16 - 18, 2005. Transportation and hotel rooms will be secured for the participants, and you will arrive back in Prague on May 18<sup>th</sup>. The visit will include a meeting with the Telč Stamp Club, reception at the Mayor's Office, a visit to the castle, and site seeing in the lovely town, designated by the UN as a Cultural Heritage site.

Those interested should contact Henry Hahn for pricing and details at hhahn25@ntmail.net or at 2936 Rosemoor Lane, Fairfax, VA 22031.

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# VYŠEHRAID

## CASTLE OF THE HEIGHTS

by G.M. van Zanten

No other place is so closely associated in public mind with the mythical beginnings of Czech National History as Vyšehrad. According to legends, it was there that Princess Libuše founded Prague and prophesied its glorious future.



Fig. 1

An image of Vyšehrad was depicted on one of four stamps issued as a miniature sheet for the 1950 stamp exhibition, it shows the castle fortress after a 14<sup>th</sup> century manuscript (Fig. 1).

Vyšehrad experienced many changes over time, from glorious times to gradual decline.

The last third of the 11<sup>th</sup> century was the most important period during the reign of the first Bohemian King Vratislav I (1061-1092), who built Vyšehrad as his residence and center of power. The basilica of St. Peter and St. Paul dates from this period.



Fig. 2

During the reign of Vladislav II (1140-1172) the Bohemian rulers governed from the Hradčany while Vyšehrad fell into



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

decay. However, Charles II's order of coronation in 1346 stipulated that the ceremonies should begin on Vyšehrad. Therefore all buildings had to be restored including the fortifications.

During the Hussite wars the castle was destroyed, this was around the year 1420.

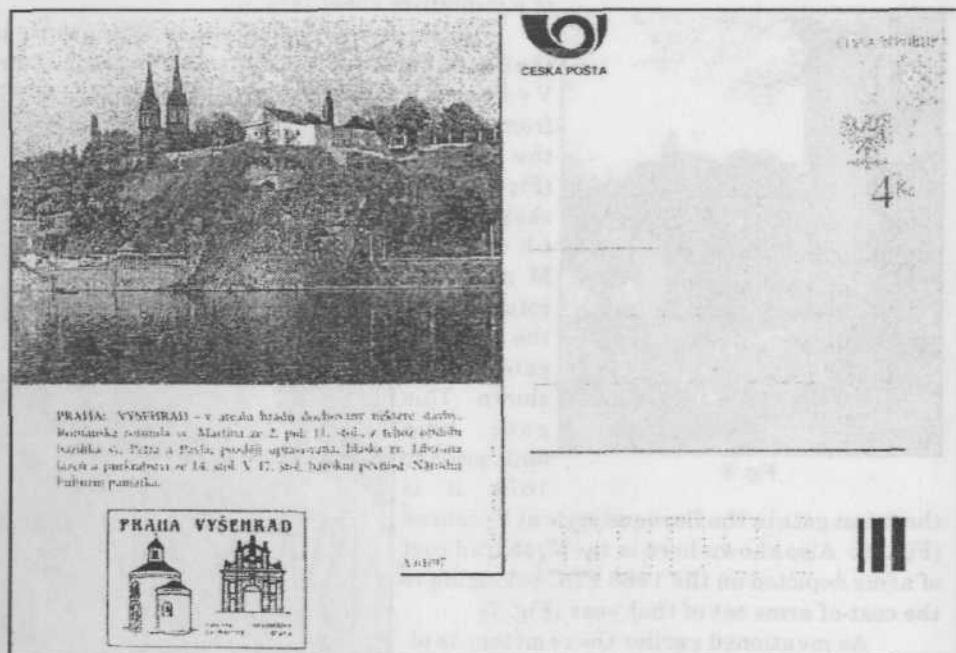


Fig. 5

In the 17<sup>th</sup> century the castle was transformed into a baroque fortification with huge corner bastions.

It was finally completely razed in 1911.

Today Vyšehrad is a National Cultural Monument, enhanced by its National Cemetery in which prominent representatives of science

and culture are interned.

The only completely preserved building is the Romanesque rotunda of St. Martin (Fig. 2) dating from the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> centuries.

During more recent archaeological research of the basilica, a number of unique hexagonal paving tiles were found. One of these was depicted on the 1998 miniature sheet issued for the PRAGA 1998 stamp exhibition (Fig. 3). These tiles date from around the year 1130.

The Vyšehrad hill was also depicted on a number of occasions, namely in 1938, with the same design for the 1998 PRAGA stamp exhibition, that time in the form of a miniature sheet (Fig. 4).

In the series "Architectural Monuments in the Czech Republic", card No. A61/97 again shows

Vyšehrad from across the Vltava (Fig. 5) -- sketches of the St. Martin rotunda and the Leopold gate are also shown. This gate was built prior to 1670, it is

the finest gate in the Baroque style at Vyšehrad (Fig. 6). Also shown here is the Vyšehrad coat of arms depicted on the 1968 FDC belonging to the coat of arms set of that year (Fig. 7).

As mentioned earlier the cemetery is of



Fig. 6



Fig. 7



Fig. 8

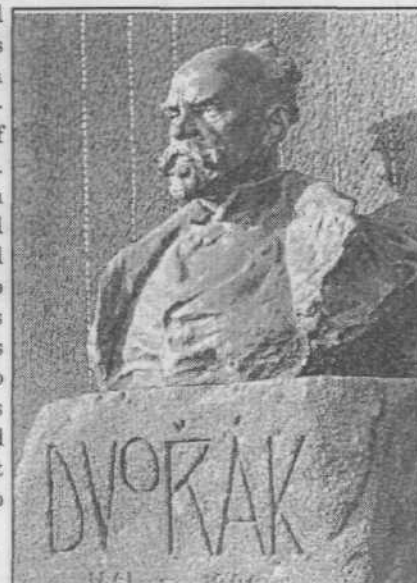


Fig. 9



Fig. 10

great interest. Let us remember just a few of those interned here and that have also appeared on Czech or Czechoslovak stamps: Bedřich Smetana -- obelisk (Fig. 8), Antonín Dvořák (Fig. 9), Božena Němcová, Max Švabinský. On the Slavin monument we find among others the names of Alfons Mucha, J.V. Myslbek, Emma Destin, J. Vrchlický and others.

An outstanding document connected with Vyšehrad must not be overlooked, namely the lavishly illuminated Vyšehrad Codex, also referred to as the Coronation Codex, now kept in the State Library. It is a priceless gem of Czech literature created most likely in the mid-1080's and probably prepared for the coronation of the first Bohemian King Vratislav.

Here philately came to the party with two superb examples. First the 2.40 Kč stamp in the 1970 art on stamps series which portrays "The Three Kings Bringing Gifts to the Newborn Savior" (Fig. 10) -- this painting on parchment is shown here somewhat enlarged. And second, an image from the Codex was shown on the 4 Kč stamp in the 1984 art on stamps series -- it represents "King Solomon Standing in the Gate". It is from the second picture



Fig. 11

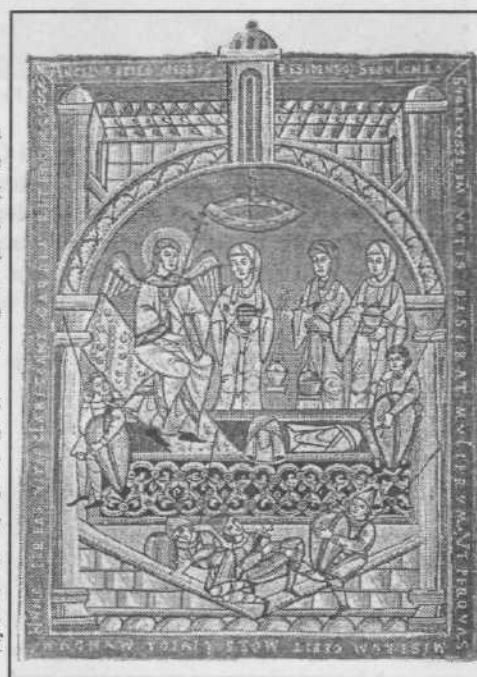


Fig. 12



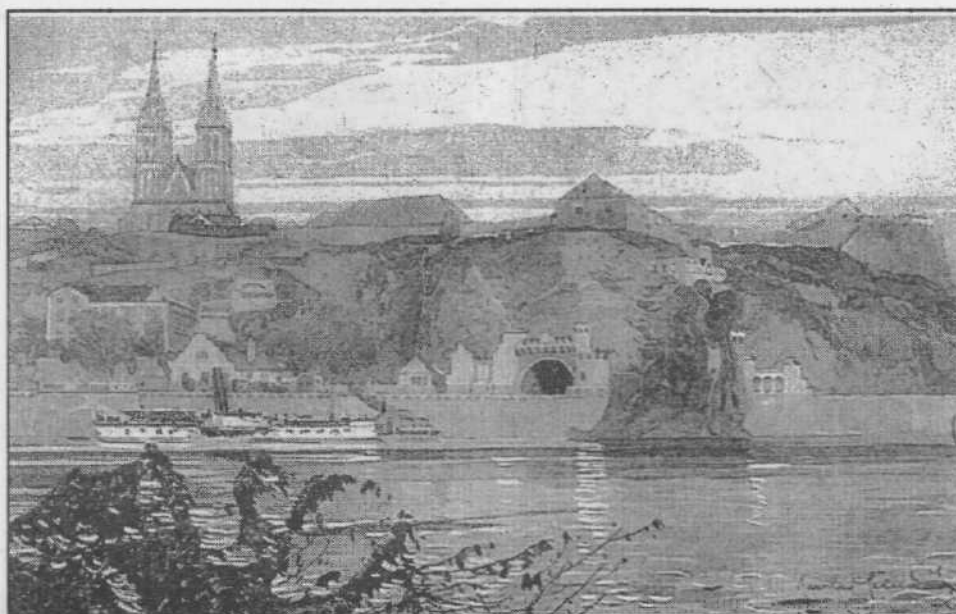


Fig. 13

in the Codex shown here also enlarged (Fig. 11).

Again on the subject of the Codex, I show one non-philatelic image closely related to the first image. This one depicts "Holy Women at the Sepulchre", the original of which measures 420 x 380 mm (Fig. 12).

My final illustration comes from a post card showing the Vyšehrad tunnel entrance (Fig. 13), something of much more recent times.



### *The Librarian's Desk*

Last month I mentioned that there were a lot of boxes that still needed to be unpacked -- and I spent the Thanksgiving Holiday doing just that. From about fifty cartons and boxes, the last of the Society's library was unpacked and shelved.

About forty-five of those boxes contained back issue *Specialists*. All were carefully sorted as they were unpacked and stored on shelves, ready for members eager to complete their back files of the Society's journal.

A lot was learned unpacking and sorting the back issues. For instance, with the exception of June 1982, members may purchase any issue of the *Specialist* between January 1950 and the current issue. For some issues, however, there is only one copy in the back file, so if you are looking to fill out your set of *Specialists*, now is the time to do it.

Before January 1950, things are a bit spottier. The earliest issue available for purchase is April 1944. The next few issues available are:

- 1945 -- March, May, June, September, and December
- 1946 -- The complete year!
- 1947 -- February, March, April, June, September, October, December
- 1948 -- Every month except December, including a bonus July issue.
- 1949 -- January, March, and June

All of this information has also been placed on the Society's web site. Simply go to the page dedicated to the *Specialist* and click on the link. I will do my best to keep the list up to date. If you cannot get to the web site, send me a business size SASE (stamped and self-addressed envelope), and I will print and send to you a listing of available issues on paper.

The pricing of the back issues is just a bit different than what appeared in last month's issue:

1939-1944	\$5.00 each
1945-1949	\$1.00 each
1950-1959	\$0.75 each
1960-1980	\$0.50 each
1981-present	\$0.25 each

These are very, very good prices -- were you to try to obtain the same material from an on-demand periodical jobber, you would be paying in the tens of dollars. All of the money, of course, goes to the Society.

Some of you may be wondering if it is a good idea to sell off issues for which there is only one copy. I wondered about that too, so decided that before any "rare" issues were shipped off to the happy new owner, copies of unique issues would be scanned into the library computer and stored on CD for future use.

Once this project is done, it would be very nice to be able to scan in the issues for which we have no copy. If you are interested in helping the library build a facsimile set of the entire run of the *Specialist*, here is what is needed. Unbound -- loose -- copies of the *Specialist* before 1950 except for those mentioned above. And, if anyone has a loose copy of the June 1982 issue, it would be helpful too. These issues would be returned to you as soon as they were copied -- I am not asking that you give them to the library, just that you loan them while they are copied. If you do decide to lend an issue or two to this project, please contact the Library first, either via the Internet [scplibrary@knihtisk.org](mailto:scplibrary@knihtisk.org) or at the address listed in the front of the current *Specialist*.

Perhaps you are wondering why loose, unbound issues are wanted. The reason is that material in that format is much easier to scan than when it has been bound together with other issues.

I did take a little time to look at the *Specialists* as they were being sorted, especially at the dates. Some of you may know that my major interest is plating Czech stamps. Well, that background helps one notice the errors in dates and numbering that have occurred over time with respect to the *Specialist* issues. My special favorite was April 1, 1996. [This issue would have no doubt been reporting of the dissolution of the Great Moravian Empire and the subjugation of the Slovak nation by the Magyars.] I also learned that the *Specialist* and I are contemporaries -- it is five months older than I am.

Mark Wilson, Librarian

## PHILATELIC EXHIBITIONS IN THE CZECH LANDS

What do we know about them and what do they  
say to us?

By Lubor Kunc

(Continued from previous issue)

The whole period 1938 - 1945 was characterized by the selling of postage stamps abroad -- sometimes legally but often illegally. In 1938 this situation was caused by the emigration of many stamp dealers and collectors (especially Jewish ones) from Czechoslovakia. This was the case, e.g. of Mr. Kessler, who emigrated to the USA and took his whole stock with him (see Fig. 14 -- a letter sent to the stamp dealer by the first direct air mail route Prague -- New York in 1946). After the German occupation of Czechoslovakia any private stamp export was not allowed, but there existed channels through which Czechoslovak stamps were sold abroad, and

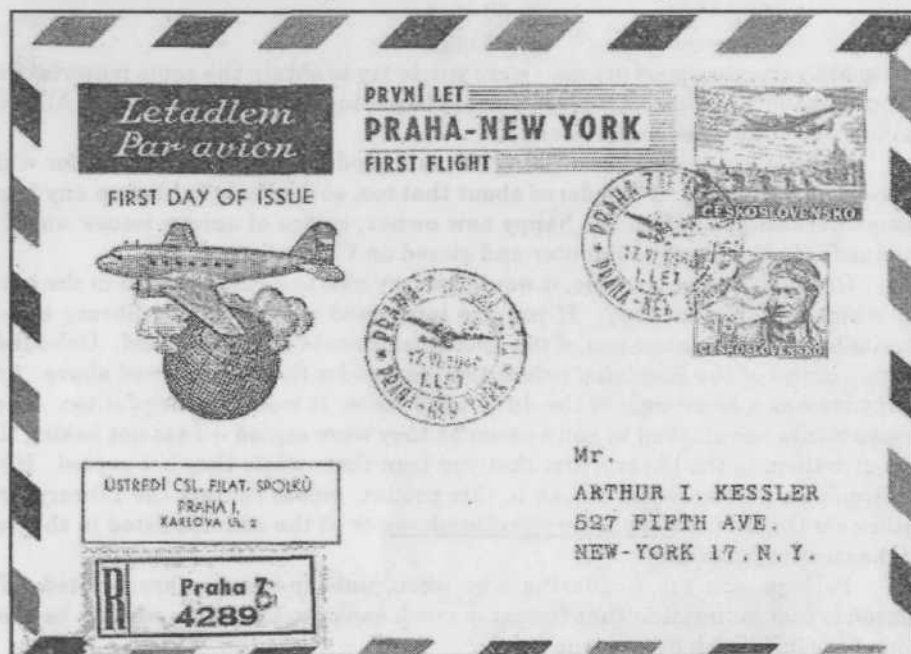


Fig. 14

the issues of the Czechoslovak government-in-exile were transported in the opposite direction. Because of war troubles people sold their collections to buy needed things for their families or to exchange stamps for food. This situation continued for a short period after the end of WW II, and it was used by some American collectors/dealers offering food and dollars for stamp collections (see Fig. 15 -- an advertisement of an American stamp dealer published in the *Československý Filatelista* of 1946, no. 1, page 10).

In 1945 the majority of the German population of Czechoslovakia was moved

Koupím nebo vyměním lepší čisté nebo razítkované známky osvobozené republiky a býv. protektorátu v jakémkoliv množství. Podmínky: všechny známky musí být bezvadné, upotřebené lehce razítkované. Pošlete nabídky leteckou poštou, korespondence český. Zaplatím buď hotově, vyměním za jiné (USA a pod.), neb pošlu halibky poštovní. Hlavní zájem mám o upotřebené příležitostné protektorátní a nové ČSR (Košice, Moskva, Bratislava, Báb. Bystřice ald.), také aršíky. Kompletní sestavy žádoucí.

FRANK J. KAPS,

434 Scranton Ave., Lynbrook, Long Island, N. Y., USA.

Reference: PTS. London, SPA New York, Lynbrook National Bank & Trust Co. Lynbrook.

Fig. 15

to Germany and Austria in respect of the agreement between Czechoslovakia and the Allies. The property of these people was then nationalized by the Czechoslovak state per President Beneš' Order of October 25, 1945. This procedure was valid for stamps as well -- the full wording of an order of July 10, 1946 describing what to do with the nationalized philatelic items was published in the *Československá Filatelie* no. 16/1946, pages 218-9.

Philatelic exhibitions were organized again after WW II. In 1945 only a few local exhibitions were organized, but then in 1946 the first most important exhibition was held in Brno (see Fig. 16 -- a letter sent from the exhibition with a special souvenir sheet).

Philately gained a new dimension in 1948 when the Communists took over the government of Czechoslovakia and philately became state policy. As early as 1939 the German authorities forbade the exchange of foreign stamps. This situation lasted through 1946, when Czechoslovak authorities decided to allow the exchange



Fig. 16



Fig. 17

of foreign stamps, but only if made through the Union of Czechoslovak Philatelists. In 1948 a special body called Středisko Zahraniční Výměny (foreign exchange center) was founded for this purpose. This center worked until 1989, and for the first time in 1990 the free exchange of foreign stamps was allowed (see Fig. 17 -- a letter sent from Switzerland to Czechoslovakia containing stamps delivered via the evidence office of ORBIS Filatelie cooperating with the exchange center).

After 1948 it was also not allowed to collect, trade and/or exhibit the German stamps of 1939-45 as well as the stamps of Protectorate Bohemia and Moravia, because they celebrated Nazi ideas. By the same decision, the collecting of Czechoslovak exile issues (from New York 1939 -- Bruxelles 1945) was forbidden as well ("they were done by speculating dealers"). This caused a "black market", where such stamps were traded, but for high prices. In the 90's, for the first time it was not forbidden to collect such material, and the philatelic journals of that time were carefully read and studied by collectors because they were full of articles on these stamps.

When we talk about the trading of philatelic items, it is needed to say that in the 50's all private stamp dealer companies were united into the state company POFIS, which was the monopoly player in domestic stamp trading until 1989. For international stamp trading the state founded the company Artia, which was the only authorized international stamp dealer of Czechoslovakia.

In 1949 the philatelic clubs were incorporated into Trade Unions, and all independent ones were closed. The new situation influenced the exhibitions of the early 50's, e.g. PRAHA 1950. They contained only common philatelic exhibits of the trade union philatelic clubs -- exhibits of private persons were not allowed. The



common collecting should have become the new way of philately, but because of little support given by the collectors this program was abandoned by the mid 50's, and the exhibits of private collectors were re-allowed (e.g. in PRAGA 55).

In 1959 two new types of exhibitions were prepared:

-- friendship exhibitions between the Czech town Strakonice and East German town Zwickau. This was the first of them, soon followed by friendship exhibitions between two countries (like Czechoslovakia -- USSR) or among two or more towns/regions/ countries [like Bratislava (Slovakia) -- Cracovia (Poland) -- Kyjev (Ukraine)]. From these exhibitions developed the international SOCFILEX exhibitions open only to collectors coming from communist countries. The first SOCFILEX exhibition was organized in 1976 in Prague -- from 1980 the exhibition included youth collectors as well (JUNIORSOCFILEX was held for the first time in Plzeň).

-- first exhibition aimed only at topical exhibits was organized in Brno in 1959. It was called "1. Výstava Motivových Sbírek v ČSR". This exhibition type was successful, and it was then repeated regularly every year.

The top philatelic event was the PRAGA 62 exhibition (see Fig. 18), which was the first worldwide philatelic exhibition. For this exhibition the Union of Czechoslovak Philatelists established its first Commission as a special body managing a philatelic area. The first one was the Postal History Commission followed soon by the Traditional Philately Commission and Topical Philately Commission.

In 1966 the first postal history exhibition in Czechoslovakia called "1. Výstava Specializovaných Oborů" was organized in Brno in cooperation with the

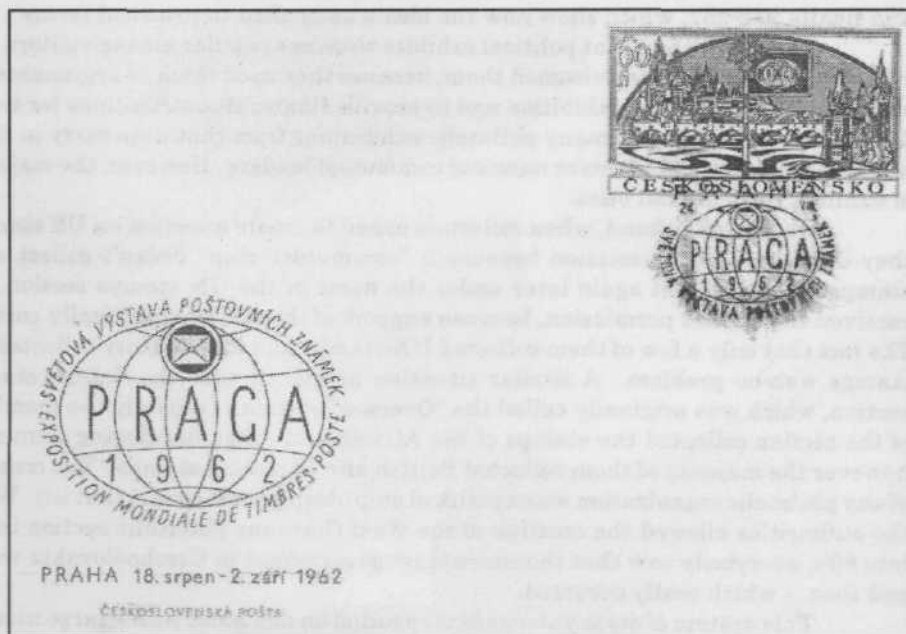


Fig. 18

## THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Postal History Commission.

The Commissions soon realized that their areas were too broad so they decided to create more specialized organizations -- so called sections. The first of them were founded in 1966 and 1967 -- among the first we can mention the Soviet Union and East Germany sections founded by the Traditional Philately Commission, the Bohemoslovenika and Cosmos sections created by the Topical Philately Commission, and the Postal Stationery section founded by the Postal History Commission.

It is no miracle that among the first sections we find the Soviet Union or East Germany ones -- their goal was to point the way to other sections. Their founding was described as the way to promote the collecting of stamps of the "brother" countries, and how to establish cooperation and friendly relations with collectors from these countries, etc. These directives were so strong, that nobody had the courage to forbid them. Because the sections were very successful, all the authorities supported the creation of new sections and found enough money for their activities.

Beginning in the 60's some of the top philatelic collectors as well as the state authorities got the idea that any philatelic exhibit should express a political view, and the collectors should support the communist ideology. This idea was immediately applied in exhibit's evaluation at philatelic exhibitions, and in the building of exhibits for political themes like "Soviet Revolution in Russia (1917)" or "February 1948 in Czechoslovakia". Later a philatelic section of Novodobé Politické Dějiny (political history section) was founded (it is no joke, it really existed!). Readers with knowledge of the Czech language could look at the book of Mr. Šrámek (see sources section) -- especially pages 33-38, 43-48, 51 + 227-231, 90-97, 111-113 and finally 232-257, which show how the idea was applied in practical terms!

Despite the fact that political exhibits were not popular among visitors, the organizers of exhibitions welcomed them, because they used them as arguments for authorities to permit the exhibition and to provide financial contributions for them. That is the reason why so many philatelic exhibitions from that time carry in their name various political events or names of communist leaders. However, the majority of exhibits were normal ones.

On the other hand, when collectors asked to create a section on US stamps, they didn't receive permission because a "communist man" doesn't collect such stamps. They tried it again later under the name of the UN stamps section and received the needed permission, because support of the UN was politically correct. The fact that only a few of them collected UN stamps and the majority collected US stamps was no problem. A similar situation happened with the British stamps section, which was originally called the "Oversea" section. Officially the members of the section collected the stamps of the African and Asian developing countries, however the majority of them collected British and Canadian stamps. The creation of any philatelic organization was a political step (despite how stupid that is!). When the authorities allowed the creation of the West Germany philatelic section in the late 80's, everybody saw that the communist government in Czechoslovakia would end soon -- which really occurred.

This system of state paternalism resulted on one hand with a large number

of philatelic exhibitions on all levels (local, regional, county, Czech and Slovak national, Czechoslovak federal), but on the other hand also with only the state being authorized to say what to do in philately. An example of such a policy could be the state decision that philately was the right hobby for soldiers serving in the army. It started activities among soldiers which made collecting popular, and in 1970 was organized the first military philatelic exhibition in Lipník/Bečvou.

The Union of Czechoslovak Philatelists had very sophisticated procedures to find new members and to enlarge their own importance and influence among other societies and clubs. These policies were developed in close cooperation with the Czechoslovak Postal Administration. The Postal Administration issued so called "vázané hodnoty" (rationed stamps), which were first distributed to the Union's members and if any remained, they were distributed to non-registered collectors. There existed a rule that limited the quantity distributed to each member to one each, so the collectors registered their wife, friends or anybody else as Union members to receive more of such stamps for trade. In this way the number of members reached 80,000 people in 1984. When this system shut down in 1990, only 20,000 collectors remained as members of the Union of Czechoslovak Philatelists. If you are looking for an example of such an issue, please refer to the set "Pardubice Steeplechase of 1978", and look at stamp Scott 2207. A similar role was played by imperforated souvenir sheets (like the "Soviet-US Summit of 1988", Scott 2709), which were also first distributed to the Union members.

The state's "support" ended in 1990, when the Union of Czechoslovak Philatelists became a truly independent organization. This freedom was paid for by the discontinuance of state money financing various philatelic activities. In the first

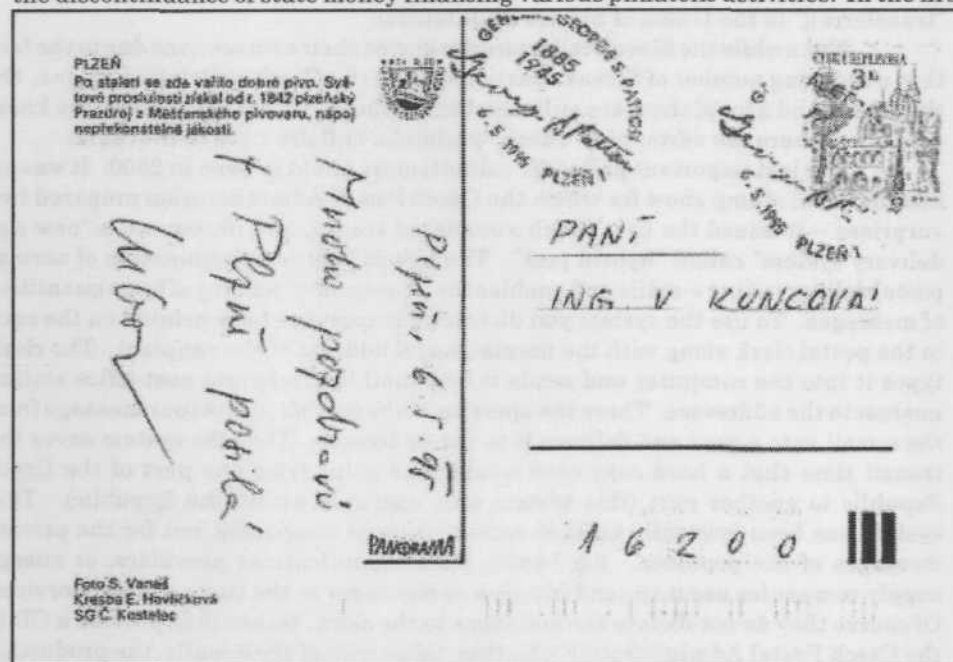


Fig. 19

#### THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

years after the Velvet Revolution the quantity of philatelic exhibitions drastically decreased. The state financial support was replaced by private financial resources (especially from newly existing underwriters) that were insufficient to provide all the money needed by the sections and organizations. Many of the sections and collector's clubs were closed, philatelic journals finished their existence, the number of members of all philatelic organizations decreased, and the quantity of competitive exhibitions was limited to a few national exhibitions per year (see Fig. 19 showing a card sent from the Czech national exhibition in Plzeň celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of WW II and the liberation of Czechoslovakia by the Allies, and showing the signature of US General Patton).

On the other hand, in the early 90's private stamp dealers, new clubs, philatelic journals and auction companies were opened. Philatelic exhibitions are now usually organized by larger collector clubs (e.g. Brno 2002 by local philatelic clubs of the city) with the limited support of the Czech Postal Administration and the Union of Czech Philatelists.

Another important change occurred in 1993 when Czechoslovakia was divided into two independent countries: Czech Republic and Slovak Republic. The federal Union of Czechoslovak Philatelists ended and its activities were forwarded to the existing Union of Czech Philatelists and Union of Slovak Philatelists. The Commissions and sections were in a more complicated situation, because they were common for both republics. The situation was decided so that all existing Commissions and sections remained as part of the Union of Czech Philatelists, but open to Slovak collectors (with the only exception being the Hungary section, since the majority of its members traditionally lived in Slovakia, so only this one was "transferred" to the Union of Slovak Philatelists).

Meanwhile the Slovak collectors developed their own sections due to the fact that a reducing number of Slovaks participated in the Czech philatelic sections. On the other hand a lot of them are still members of the Czech ones, and there are know examples where the editor of a "Czech" philatelic bulletin lives in Slovakia.

The last important philatelic exhibition was held in Brno in 2000. It was an international stamp show for which the Czech Postal Administration prepared two surprises -- it issued the first Czech automated stamp, and introduced a "new age delivery system" called "hybrid post". The hybrid post is a combination of normal postal delivery using e-mails and enables the "supersonic" sending of huge quantities of messages. To use the system you dictate your message to be printed on the card to the postal clerk along with the normal postal address of the recipient. The clerk types it into the computer and sends it by e-mail to the hybrid post office station nearest to the addressee. There the operator of the station prints your message from the e-mail onto a card and delivers it to the addressee. Thus the system saves the transit time that a hard copy card would take going from one part of the Czech Republic to another part (this system only operates within the Republic). This system has been primarily built of course for large companies, not for the private messages of the populace. Big banks, telecommunications providers, or energy supply companies use it to send invoices or messages to the users of their services. Of course they do not dictate the messages to the clerk, rather they provide a CD to the Czech Postal Administration who then takes care of the e-mails, the production



Fig. 20

of the cards, and their delivery to the addressees.

Both of the two new items introduced at BRNO'00 can be seen at Fig. 20 -- this is a message printed on a hybrid post card, but sent by normal airmail post to the USA (because the hybrid post only works on Czech territory). The airmail postage was paid by the first Czech automated stamp.

In conclusion, I would like to draw your attention to exhibitions celebrating Czechoslovak stamps held abroad. We can divide them into two parts:

-- exhibitions organized by Czechoslovak authorities (Embassy, Postal Museum, Postal Administration, Union of Philatelists) to promote Czechoslovakia and Czechoslovak stamps

-- exhibitions organized by foreign bodies (philatelic clubs, societies, but also non-philatelic persons) to celebrate any Czechoslovak event (e.g. founding of Czechoslovakia) or to celebrate any anniversary of the organizing body (e.g. founding of a club).

I don't know of any exhibition held in North America belonging to the first group. There are a few exhibitions from the second group known to me -- e.g. the 1958 exhibition celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Czechoslovakia or the 1959 exhibition commemorating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of SCP existence. Other exhibitions were also organized by the First Czechoslovak Philatelic Club of America. A special position belongs to the CZECHOPEX exhibitions (see Fig. 21 -- a card sent from CZECHOPEX 1998), which had been held regularly. Unfortunately, there is not a list of such exhibitions organized in North America, so I cannot





Fig. 21

mention more details about them.

Here I would like to ask you, readers of the *Specialist*, for cooperation. I have displayed all of the "foreign" exhibitions known to me on the Internet:

<http://czechphilatelist.tripod.com/vystavy/>

If anyone knows of an unlisted philatelic exhibition, please send me an e-mail to [lubor.kunc@seznam.cz](mailto:lubor.kunc@seznam.cz), and I will add the event to the list. Thank you!

Since we have discussed more than just philatelic exhibitions, I hope the tour was not boring for you. Any of your comments or discoveries are much welcome.

#### Sources:

##### a) Books

- V. Nebeský, *Filatelistovo Podzimní Rozjímání*, Praha, 1975
- F. Šrámek, *Filateliste a Filatelie*, Praha, 1988
- E. Dissen, *The Issues of Czechoslovakia for the 1939-1940 New York World's Fair*, Amsterdam, 1998

##### b) Journals

- journal, *Tribuna Filatelistů*, Praha, years 1940-1942
- journal, *Československá Filatelie*, Praha, years 1945-1946
- L. Kunc, *Informace*, no. 148, "Stopy Českých Filatelistických Obchodníků v USA", Hradec Králové, 2001; <http://philately.webpark.cz/PHVC.htm>

##### c) Internet

- B. Janík, Bibliography on the web site <http://www.japhila.cz>
- L. Kunc, Bibliography on the web site <http://czechphilatelist.tripod.com/biblio/>
- L. Kunc, Exhibitions on the web site <http://czechphilatelist.tripod.com/vystavy/>
- J. Verner, Web site of Society for Czechoslovak Philately Inc., USA

<http://www.czechoslovakphilately.com>

-- I. Nickson, Web site of Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of G.B., UK  
<http://www.cpsgb.freemove.co.uk/>

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## ***President's Corner***

*(Continued from Page 1)*

is investigating a new philatelic publishing house in Plzeň, although the Board felt the first offerings from this firm were priced very high. A listing of the publications for sale can be found in the back of any SPECIALIST. Our website is maintained by Jerry Verner and is designed to keep members up to date on Czechoslovak Philately. Jerry asked members to submit suggested Cover of the Month and Stamp Story articles to keep the website fresh and interesting.

As some of you have noticed, there are fewer sales circuits. Alan Hoover reported that this is because members have not submitted material in the same volume as past years. If you have duplicates you would like to sell, I urge you to contact Alan.

The board heard reports on preparations for future meetings at Brno, Czech Republic (May 2005), Minneapolis (July 2005), Washington, DC (2006), and Chicago (2007). There is every expectation there will be an international show in Prague in 2008 in which case that will be the site for a 2008 meeting. Stay tuned for the locations of the stateside meetings in 2008 and out-years.

Among the items of new business discussed at the board meeting were the possibility of offering a life membership, and the use of credit cards and/or PayPal. The Board felt that the Society's dues were at the lowest possible level. To reduce them any further by offering a reduced fee for life membership would be an unacceptable financial risk. The Board voted not to institute the use of credit cards for the sales of publications or membership because to do so the Society would have to pay a significant percentage of any transactions to the credit card company. The Board did agree to conduct an experiment into the use of PayPal for the payment of dues. This test will begin after payment of dues for 2005 (whose normal payment cycle ended December 31, 2004).

Under new business we also received an update on the issue of whether exhibitors are in danger of having their archival material confiscated. According to Lumír Brendl, Chairman of the Union of Czech Philatelists, any archival material that was sold during the Communist era in Czechoslovakia is not subject to such confiscation and can be exhibited. However, if you have any material that bears an archive marking from some other place/time period, you would be well advised to take precautions if you are going to exhibit it.

Following the conclusion of the board meeting the members and guests retired to the White Horse Inn in Frazer, Pennsylvania for a lovely dinner arranged by Joyce and Rich Palaschak (Fig. 1). Also in attendance as our guest was our SPECIALIST printer, Nancy Godfrey of Shippensburg, PA. She has been doing an excellent job in producing our SPECIALIST.

# THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



Figure 1: L - R: Mark Wilson, Charley Chesloe, Bob Koschak, Henry Hahn, Marilyn Hahn, Tom Cossaboom, Marcia Cossaboom, Joyce Palaschak, Richard Palaschak, Phil Rhoads.

The PNSE show opened the following day. During the show, members of the Board and the Society manned the Society's information table (Fig. 2). We signed up a few new members for the Society and sold \$424.50 in publications. We had excellent participation in the exhibits area -- the show organizers complimented us on the fact that we had more exhibits than any other group and on the quality of the exhibits. (What they were and the awards that they received was covered in the Nov/Dec SPECIALIST.)

Saturday afternoon, your president presented a 'state of the Society' report at the general membership meeting. Following the meeting, Henry Hahn made a

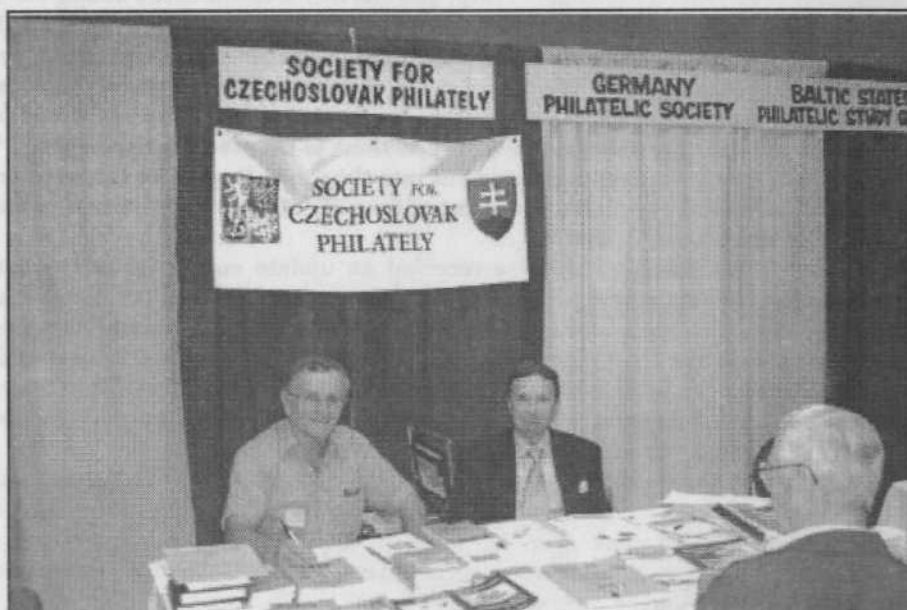


Figure 2: L - R: Savoy Horvath, Peter Kleskovic, Frank Garancovsky (with back to camera).

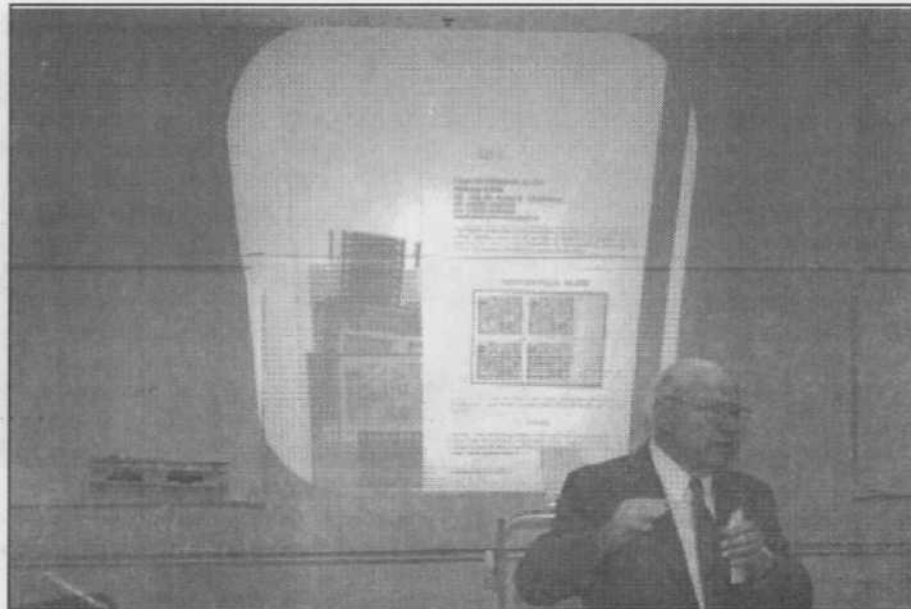


Figure 3: Henry Hahn making his presentation on exhibiting.

presentation on 'how to exhibit' from a judge's perspective (Fig. 3). Both for those of us who have not yet exhibited as well as for seasoned exhibitors, Henry provided many insightful tips. If you missed the presentation, I am sure Henry would be willing to share his insights if you sent him an e-mail.

On Sunday morning, we held our traditional Society awards breakfast during which we award a gold, silver and bronze Society medal for the best Czechoslovak



Figure 4: Charley Chesloe receiving his Society bronze medal from Tom Cossaboom.

## THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



Figure 5: Tom Cossaboom presenting the Society silver medal to Phil Rhoades exhibits selected by a jury of three Society members. This time they were awarded to Henry Hahn, Phil Rhoades, and Charley Chesloe respectively (Fig. 4)(See details in the Nov/Dec SPECIALIST).

From our perspective, PNSE'04 was a definite success.

\* \* \* \*

I am announcing my selection of a new Board Member as a result of the resignation of Bruce Sebek of Shaker Heights, OH, for personal reasons. Phil Rhoades of Cleveland, MN, has enthusiastically accepted to finish out the vacated term.

Phil is a relatively new member of our Society who has nevertheless taken a very active interest in our activities. He is a 57 year old mid-westerner -- born in Plymouth, Indiana, and grew up in Lexington, KY and then Mishawaka, IN. He earned a Bachelor's degree in physical education from George Williams College (1970) and a Master's degree in the same field from Mankato State University (1984). He spent 1971-72 in the US Army, Field Artillery. He served as YMCA Aquatic Director and Swim Coach (South Bend, IN 1972-76; Appleton, WI 1976-82) and then Head Swimming Coach and Assistant Professor of Physical Education at Minnesota State University (formerly Mankato State) 1982-2003. In addition to coaching, he taught teaching techniques (teacher preparation) and coaching psychology as well as aquatics classes. He retired in 2003.

His main philatelic interest is material related to World War II, with specific emphasis on Heydrich's assassination and the resulting destruction of Lidice. His exhibit on this area has earned him numerous gold medals, including one at the recent PNSE'04 exhibition, and also earned him our silver award for best Czechoslovak exhibit (Fig. 5). He also has an interest in the topics of shot putting and swimming on stamps.

Welcome to Phil Rhoades and thank you for providing your services.

Tom Cossaboom



## THE MISSION OF OLD BOHEMIA TERCENTENARY 1704 - 2004

by Savoy Horvath

It was the early fall of 1704 when a French communal society led by a Jesuit Jean La Badia arrived in northern Maryland and purchased 1,200 acres of land from an old Protestant Bohemian farmer to set up a commune.

They arrived from across the English North American colony seeking refuge in Catholic Maryland. Maryland at that time belonged to Lord Baltimore of Cecil who was a Catholic. In the rest of the English colonies Catholicism was against the law, practicing Mass was punishable by death, priests were jailed and returned to England in chains.

The Jesuits thrived on the land, began farming, built a Shrine calling it St. Francis Xavier, but as they did not want to call undue attention to themselves, they used a cover name, Mission of Old Bohemia. The Jesuits numbered around one hundred. Within 15 years the communal society unraveled and the land was divided among the remaining members. The place was then called Labadia.

In 1787, after the Bill of Rights was signed guaranteeing religious freedom, the remaining Jesuits erected a brick church that can be found there today. During the Great Depression of the 1930's most of the land was sold by the Wilmington Diocese to pay debts. In the early 1950's the place was falling apart, what thieves did not cart away, nature's elements were destroying. Then in 1954 an Old Bohemia Historical Society was born, and Old Bohemia came to life again. Today, area Ukrainians are the Historical Society custodians, and the Church now holds Byzantine liturgies.

But let us return to the old Protestant Bohemian farmer, none other than Augustin Herman, the first Czech emigrant in North America. Augustin was born in Prague (from his own records) in the year 1621 to a Unitas Fratrum minister Abraham Herman of Mseno and his wife. This was during the Thirty Years War, great religious repression, when Catholicism was forced on Bohemia's citizenry. His parents -- with one year old Augustin -- left Bohemia for Holland. After growing up and finishing schooling, he sought employment with a Dutch trading company and was sent to New Amsterdam in North America. Herman was a skilled merchant, talented in geodesy and drawing, and a good diplomat. In 1660 while visiting Maryland looking for a place of his own, he approached Lord Baltimore offering to map the state in exchange for land. The Lord granted him twenty thousand acres of land straddling the Maryland and Delaware boundaries. Herman worked ten years on the maps and also mapped the state of Virginia. He called his place Bohemia Manor. He undoubtedly loved his nationality and always emphasized it -- two rivers running through Bohemia Manor were named Little Bohemia and Big Bohemia; there is also a Bohemia Bay. He signed all of his work, maps and drawings "Augustin Herman Bohemiensis" and had a tombstone prepared prior to his death with the inscription "Augustin Herman Bohemian / The First Founder and Seator of Bohemea Manner".

The work of August Herman can be found on Scott US #1027, 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of New Amsterdam - New York. Herman was also commemorated on

## THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

a 1976 Chicagoland Czechopex cover. On September 19, 2004, the Mission of Old Bohemia had a 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary cover and a postmark from the Warwick, MD post office (see the Nov/Dec 2004 SPECIALIST issue, pg 16, Fig. 2).

### ADVERTISEMENT

## BOOK SALE

1. "The Issues of Czechoslovakia for the 1939-1940 New York World's Fair", by Eckart Dissen, 1998, 100p, Eng, color, hardbound, A4 format. \$85.00
2. Same as above, plus "Uncorrected Proof Reader -- Eckart Dissen". I wrote the Foreword for the published book, and this is the copy that I proofed in red ink for the author. \$125.00
3. "The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Czechoslovak Independence (The 1943 London Exhibition)", by V. Kralicek, W.A. Page, CPSGB Monograph No. 10, 1996, 50p, Eng, b&w, stapled, A4 format. \$10.00
4. "Glossary of Philatelic Terminology", by SCP, 1996, 128p, Cz/Eng - Eng/Cz, b&w, spiral bound. Translation dictionary, philatelic terms +. \$15.00
5. "Československé Známky a Jějich Padělky -- 1918-1939" [CzSl stamps and their forgeries], by Jan Karásek, 1998, 247p, Eng/Cz/Ger, b&w, hardbound. \$20.00
6. "Padělky Československých Poštovních Známek" [forgeries of CzSl postage stamps], by J. Karásek/Z. Kvasnička/B. Paulíček, 1963, 368p, Cz, b&w, hardbound. \$40.00
7. "Comparison Survey of Catalog Numbers of Czechoslovak Postage Stamps", by SCP, 1997, 37p, Eng, b&w, stapled. Cross references 8 catalog's, 1918-1976. \$5.00
8. "The Philately of Czechoslovakia for Beginners", by Phillips B. Freer, 1994, 36p, Eng, b&w, stapled. \$2.50
9. "Specializovaná Příručka Pro Sběratele Československých Poštovních Známek a Celin" [special handbook for collectors of CzSl postage stamps and entires], by Aloise Duška +, 1998, 553p, Cz, color, hardbound, large format. Exc. catalog. \$50.00

All of these books are from my personal library. They are all in fine to excellent condition. Mirko Vondra, 310 Lewis Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15238; 418-828-6327, e-mail: vondra@ixpres.com

## CZECH MAIL FOR THE BLIND

by Savoy Horvath

Basic mail service for the blind in the Czech Republic is free of all cost. By basic service the Czech Post means: standard mail, regular mail, registered mail, insured mail, parcel post (to 14 lb), registered parcel post, and insured parcel post. This only applies to domestic mail service.

Letters must be mailed open with the flap tucked in, and they have to contain writing in braille.

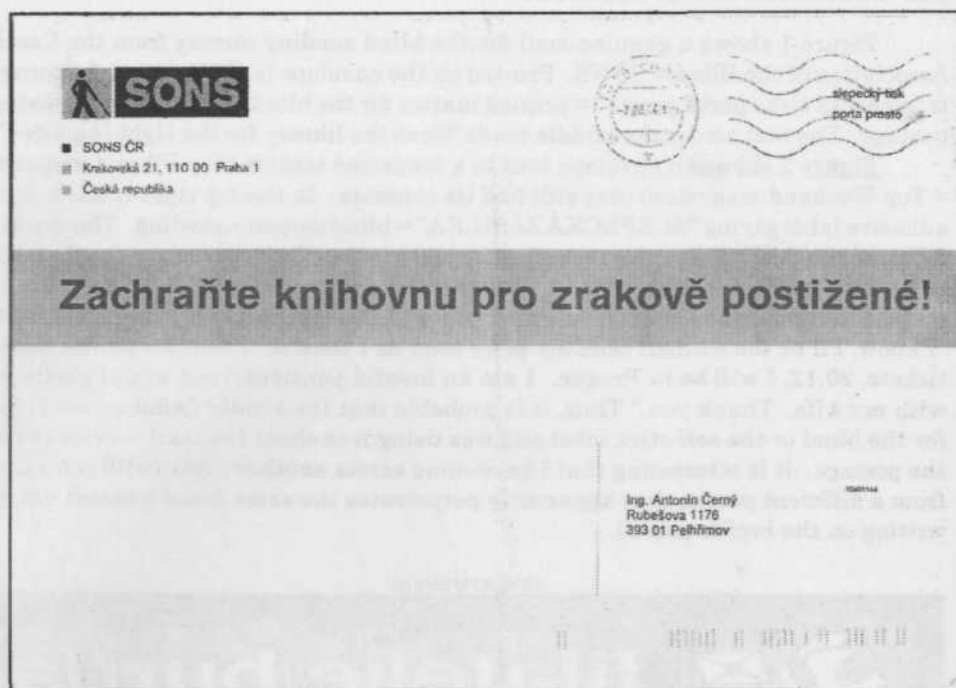


Fig. 1

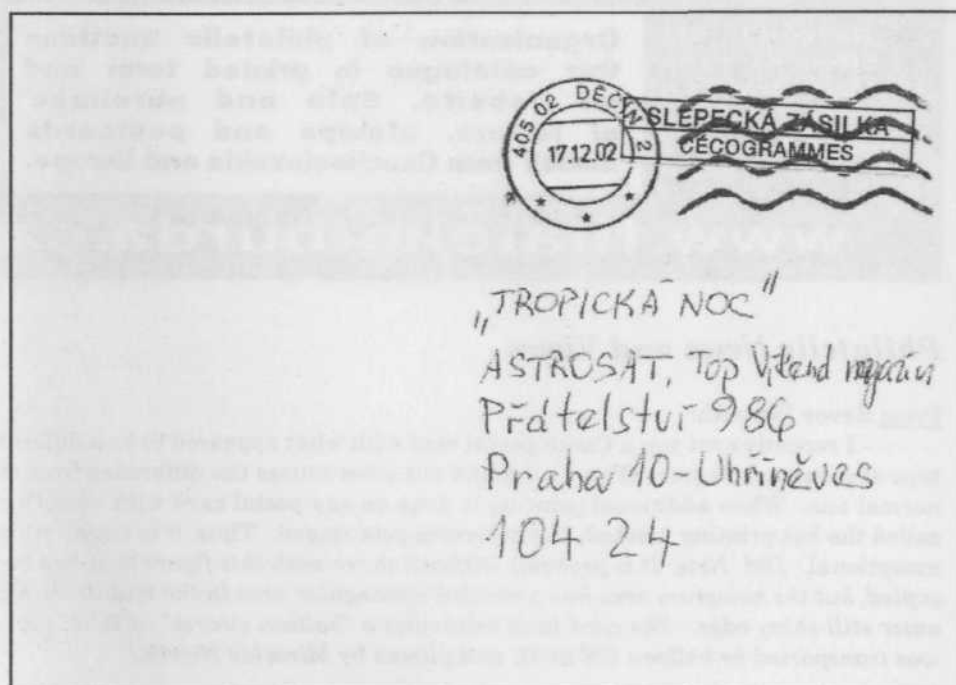


Fig. 2

## THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Figure 1 shows a genuine mail-for-the-blind sending coming from the Czech Association of the Blind = SONS. Printed on the envelope in the upper right corner is "slepecký tisk / porta prosto" = printed matter for the blind / sent free from paying postage. The text across the middle reads "Save the library for the sight impaired".

Figure 2 shows an envelope sent to a magazine contest (Top Víkend magazín = Top Weekend magazine) that still had its contents. In the top right it has a self-adhesive label saying "SLEPECKÁ ZÁSILKA" = blind person's sending. The sender followed the Czech Post rules regarding inclusion of braille by using a piece of a page of heavy paper containing braille. But then he attached over part of it a contest magazine clipping and coupon, and also wrote on the braille paper in normal script: "I know, I'll be the winner, send my prize soon as I need it. I would welcome those tickets, 20.12, I will be in Prague. I am an invalid pensioner and would gladly go with my wife. Thank you." Thus, it is probable that the sender found an envelope for the blind or the self-stick label and was using it to cheat the mail service out of the postage. It is interesting that I have come across another cover (with contents) from a different person that apparently perpetrates the same fraud (contest entry, writing on the braille paper).

### ADVERTISEMENT



# filatelie burda

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Czech Republic  
+420 547 239 520

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**mainly from Czechoslovakia and Europe.**

## www.filatelie-burda.cz

## Philatelic News and Views

From Savoy Horvath:

- I recently sent you a Czech postal card with what appeared to be a different type of security hologram (Fig. 1). I found out what causes the difference from the normal one. When additional printing is done on any postal card with something called the hot printing method, the hologram gets singed. Thus, it is not anything exceptional. [Ed. Note: It is probably difficult to see with this figure that has been copied, but the hologram area has a mottled rectangular area in the middle with an outer still-shiny edge. The card itself celebrates a "balloon swarm" at Bělá, that it was transported by balloon OK 0037, and piloted by Miroslav Nigrín.]

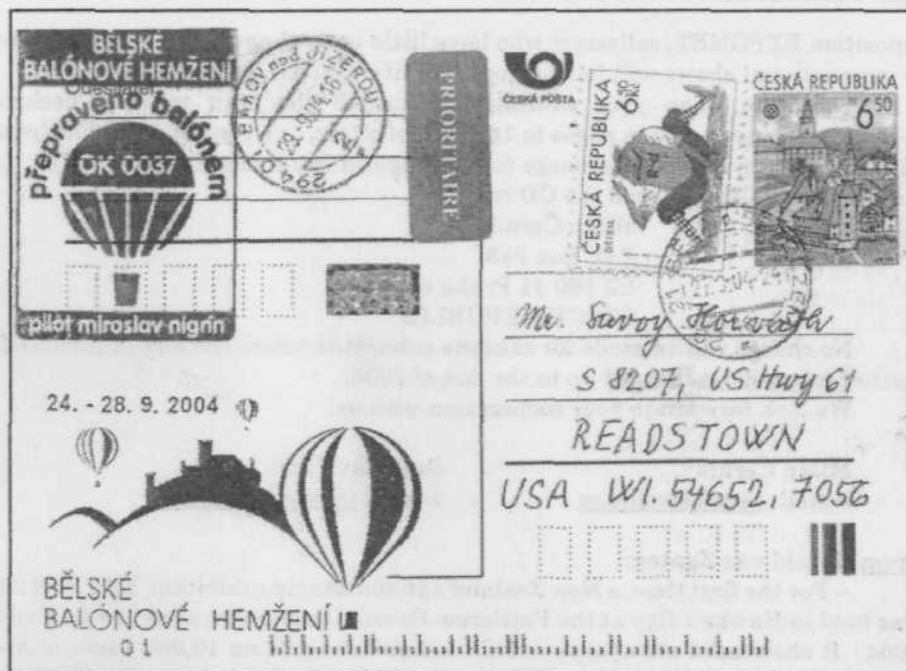


Fig. 1

From Henry Hahn:

- In the *FILATELISTICKÝ DIÁŘ* 2005, published by the Union of Czech Philatelists (SČF), it gives the three newly appointed members of the SČF Expert Committee. It also lists about 12-15 other known experts and their areas of expertise (including Pavel Pittermann and Jan Karásek) and indicates that it is very likely that a group from this list would be added to the Expert Committee in 2005.

- In the last issue's *Philatelic News and Views* you first announced that Bretislav Janík had a new feature on his web site that contained virtual philatelic exhibits. Now we have the official word from him:

Dear Friends,

At the internet address <http://www.japhila.cz/hof/> you will find the permanent virtual philatelic exposition EXPONET. It is intended for public viewing of worthy philatelic exhibits in all areas and periods, and for exhibitors from all parts of the world. In the near future the exhibits will be classified in accordance with classes defined by FIP.

Would you wish to present your exhibit as part of the virtual world-wide exposition EXPONET? Would you wish to have your exhibit on-line, available to collectors throughout the world? Would you wish to permanently display your exhibit and at the same time have it safely in your home or vault? You don't wish to display your exhibit under your own name? No problem -- it can be displayed anonymously.

All of this can be accomplished through EXPONET. In the virtual philatelic



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exposition EXPONET, collectors who have little or no chance of attending national or international shows will have an opportunity to study your exhibit.

Therefore, scan your exhibit and furnish the scan to us. Technical specifications: scan album pages in 18.7 mil. of colors, at a resolution of 300 dpi and with a minimum width of the image (album page) of 750 pixels. Save as .tif or .jpg, burn it onto a CD and send the CD to:

Milan Černík  
P.O. Box 243  
CZ 160 41 Praha 6  
CZECH REPUBLIC

No charge will be made for exhibits submitted before the end of 2004 and no further fees will be charged up to the end of 2006.

We look forward to your cooperation with us.

Milan Černík  
e-mail: [cernik@volny.cz](mailto:cernik@volny.cz)

Bretislav Janík  
e-mail: [janik@japhila.com](mailto:janik@japhila.com)

#### From Gerald van Zanten:

-- For the first time, a New Zealand national stamp exhibition, BAYPEX 2004, was held in Hawke's Bay at the Pettigrew-Green Arena in Taradale, 29-31 October 2004. It showcased stamps, postcards and memorabilia on 10,000 pages or about 500 frames by more than 600 exhibitors from New Zealand, Australia, the United States and Europe. The "star" of the show, a rare postal slip, a survivor from the Titanic which sank 92 years ago, was found on the body of American postal clerk, Oscar Scott Woody, about a week after the Titanic sank. The slip survived in his



Fig. 2

breast pocket because his cork life-jacket was so buoyant, it kept most of his upper body out of the water. Among the exhibits was "Hradčany 1918-1920 Czechoslovakia", 5 frames, by new SCP member Johannes Broekes, which won a Large Silver. Then too, my "Ten Centuries of Art", 4 frames, which I presented my way!!, won a bronze.

-- Shown here is postal card A138 (Fig. 2), the latest in the "Architectural Monuments in the Czech Republic" series. This card commemorates the Břevnov Monastery near Prague, founded in 993. Pictured is the Cathedral of St. Marketa, built 1708-1745 by architects P.I. Bayer and K.I. Dienzenhofer. This series is to have 144 cards; it began in 1994. All of the cards are issued twice -- one series with and one series without the sketch below the picture.

❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖

### Charley's Corner

In looking over my collection of Hradčany, I noticed the possibility of an unrecorded retouch on the 20h carmine from the 5<sup>th</sup> design. The Scott catalog number is #45, the Pofis number is 9C.

In the horizontal strip of three (Fig. 1), you will notice that the middle stamp has the open spiral, Type I, the others have the closed spiral, Type II. On this same strip you will notice that the outer right frame of the right-most stamp has a slight nick or break, this coming from Plate I, position 10.



Fig. 1

The block of four (Fig. 2) shows the upper right stamp (position 10) has the frame filled in, resulting from a retouch. On the retouched stamp you will note that the thin vertical line just inside the frame is missing. Of course, the stamp at the left, position 9, shows the open spiral. The perforation on both of these examples is line 13 3/4.

On a different topic, natural light is not very kind to stamps in general, but certain Czechoslovak issues are especially vulnerable. Three of the most noted are the 1h brown Hradčany, the 400h Agriculture and Science, and the 30h Newspaper issue. These are, respectively, Scott numbers 23, 79, and P6; Pofis numbers 1, 167, and NV6. This includes all perforation and overprint varieties of these issues.

When exposed too long to light, these stamps change color from brown to gray.



Fig. 2

This gray color is irreversible. Another touchy issue is the 20h Hradčany (Scott 4, Pofis 8). Its color just fades out. Another similar example is the 50 kopecs issue of the Siberian Post, (Scott 2, Pofis PP3). Its light green color just fades out -- and this particular stamp is very touchy.

We in the Society encourage you to exhibit, but try to exhibit carefully. I remember at BRNO 2000 where I exhibited there were large curtains that were left open which would have

allowed the sun to shine on our exhibits. It was then that Jan Klim from Filatelie Klim and I closed the curtains and saved ourselves a big headache, because the exhibit lasted a week.

Charley Chesloe



### *Sister Society News*

#### **SINDELFINGEN 2004**

by Jan Verleg

The annual international Stamp Bourse in Sindelfingen took place this year from 29 until 31 October in the very spacious Exhibition halls. During the bourse an international symposium was held on postal history and highly interesting papers were presented, amongst which was the one presented by Hartmut Liebermann titled "Bohemia and Moravia 1945: The philatelic consequences of the end of WW II". Further there was a one frame competitive exhibition, a special show "National Costumes -- not only on stamps" and a special show devoted to the "Penny Black". However the special non-competitive exhibition devoted to Czechoslovak philately was the real reason to visit Sindelfingen apart from strolling along the numerous stands of stamp dealers.

The "Tschechoslowakei Salon" as this exhibition was called was organized by the German Czechoslovak society (Arge Tschechoslowakei) with participation of the Dutch and British sister societies and the Czech national society of stamp collectors.

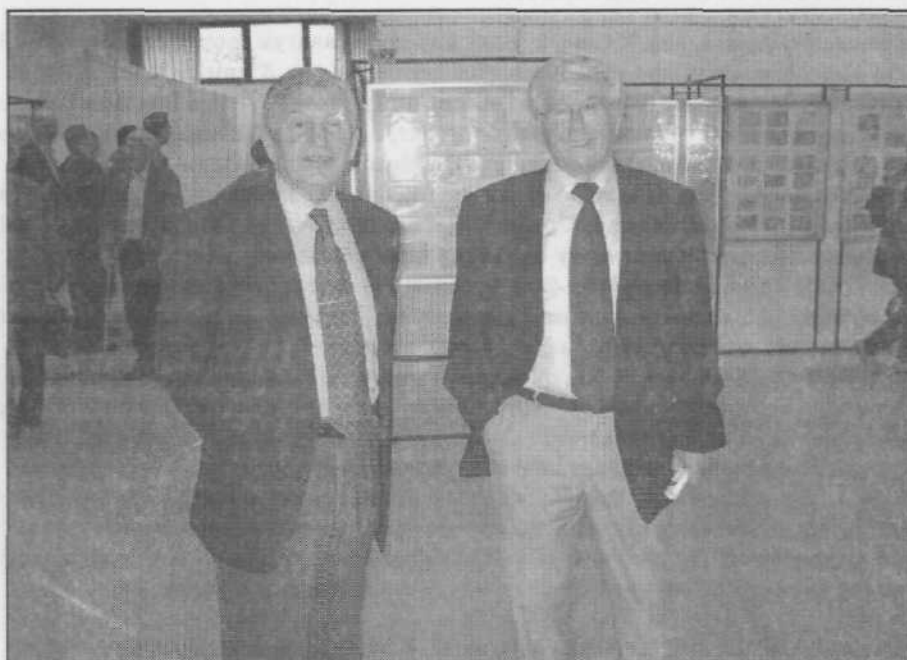


Figure 1: Lumír Brendl, president of the Union of Czech Philatelists, and Jan Verleg, former president of the Vereniging voor Tsjechoslowakije-Filatelie

The show was opened by Hartmut Liebermann, the chairman of the ARGE Tschechoslowakei and Lumír Brendl, chairman of the Union of Czech Philatelists and followed by a reception in the morning of Friday the 29<sup>th</sup>. A great number of fellow collectors attended the reception amongst which I noted Lindy Bosworth, Yvonne Wheatley, Walter Rauch, Hans van Dooremalen and many others. Also the philatelic press was well represented.

An amazing number of 46 collectors participated with a one to three frame exhibit, covering all aspects of Czechoslovak philately. Out of the Czech Republic, 9 exhibits were on show, from Germany 13, from The Netherlands 8, from the UK 12, from Ireland 1 and from Austria 3. The subjects varied from trial prints of the Prague Castle issue out of the collection

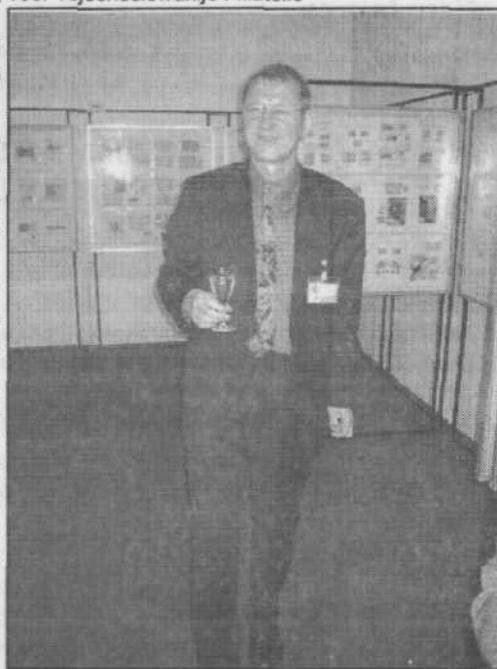


Figure 2: Hartmut Liebermann, president of the Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Tschechoslowakei e.V.

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of Georg Wilhelms, the Masaryk 1920 and the Masaryk mourning issue of 1937. Also the research of the air-routes and tariffs for the 3<sup>rd</sup> airmail issue, from Dr. Garth Taylor, were very appealing and at a high level. Brian Day amazed again with his knowledge of the Fieldpost. Further, I saw such titles as the Košice issue, the automation of the registered mail in Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic, the postal history of the Carpatho Ukraine, the postal history of Brno, 60 years of PRAGA exhibitions, Mucha, Úprka and more engravers. Of course this is only a limited and arbitrary summary of the material on show.

On the evening of the 29<sup>th</sup>, our hosts had organized an evening meal in a wine cellar, which was again an international happening, and many friends met again and not only philatelic subjects were discussed.

Amazing also was the number of dealers -- this amounted to roughly 120 including the foreign postal services. All stands were very well visited, and many used the free shuttle bus between the railway station and the exhibition hall.

The photos shown are taken by Hans van Dooremalen.

My conclusion is that it was a well organized show, giving every collector a possibility to find something for his collection. Our German sister society deserves our appreciation for the way the "Tschechoslowakei Salon" was organized and getting so many collectors from abroad interested in participation.

\*\*\*\*\*

## New Issues

### CZECH REPUBLIC

by G.M. van Zanten

### 2005 ISSUE PLAN FOR CZECH REPUBLIC STAMPS

Date of Issue	Name of Issue	Number in set	Value Kč
Jan 20	Tradition of Czech Stamp Production	1	6.50
Jan 20	Fate of Peter Ginz' Painting "View from the Moon of the Planet Earth"	1 s/s	31
Feb 9	First Issue of "Babička" by B. Němcová -- 1855	1	6.50
Mar 2	Easter	1	6.50
Mar 23	Beauties of Our Country -- UNESCO	2	
	-- Basilica of St. Prokop in Třebíč		14
	-- Vila Tugendhat in Brno		16
Apr 13	Personalities	3	
	-- Bohuslav Brauner (1855-1935)		6.50
	-- Adalbert Stifter (1805-1868)		12
	-- Mikuláš Dačický z Heslov (1555-1626)		17
May 4	European Exhibition of Postage Stamps BRNO 2005	2 s/s	20
	- 200 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle at Slavkov		30



May 4	EUROPA -- Gastronomy	1	9
May 25	World Year of Physics 2005	1	12
May 25	For Children -- Křemílek a Vochomůrka	1	6.50
June 22	Fauna and Flora Preservation -- Krkonoše	4 s/s	12,14 16,20
June 22	European Championship in Baseball 2005	1	9
Sep 7	Memories of Artist's Handicrafts -- Bells	3	6.50 9,12
Sep 21	Historical Tractors	3	6.50 8,14
Oct 12	Sport -- Curling	1	17
Nov 9	World Summit of Information Societies	1	9
Nov 9	Works of Art on Stamps	3	
	- Zdeněk Burian (1905-1981)		20
	- Adolf Kosárek (1830-1859)		22
	- Alois Kalvoda (1875-1934)		26
Nov 9	Christmas	2	6.50 9

1. On October 20, 2004, the Ministry of Communications issued a set of three commemorative stamps entitled Historical Perambulators (Fig. 1). The first perambulators were a common work of wheelwrights, smiths and wickerworkers.



Fig. 1

The growing demand in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century led to the establishment of the first specialized factories producing the two basic types -- the four-wheel wickered pram, originally open, later with a textile hood, and the so-called seating pram with a three-wheel undercarriage. Further development followed the fashion trends of the period. The undercarriages became lower, wheels smaller, strap suspension was replaced with spiral springs. From the mid-1960's both the undercarriage and wheels became larger again. The Regional Museum of Mělník documents the history and development of perambulators and baby carriages across the Czech lands from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century until today. The stamps were designed and engraved by Bedřich Housa and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess black print combined with photogravure in color in printing sheets of 50 pieces.



Fig. 2

-- 12 Kč: Perambulator, ca. 1880 -- in blue, pink, brown, and red. A pram with a three-wheel undercarriage, band suspension, rimmed and rung wheels, wicker body typical of wickerwork regions, and a small textile folding hood. A FDC in red shows another pram of the same era (Fig. 2).

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Fig. 3



Fig. 4

-- 14 Kč: Perambulator, ca. 1890 -- in ocher, grey-blue, brown, and blue. A pram with a three-wheel undercarriage, band suspension, metal rung and wire wheels, and a wooden body with folding wax-cloth hood and a small round window in the rear. A FDC in brown-green shows another pram of the same era (Fig. 3).

-- 16 Kč: Perambulator, ca. 1900 -- in ocher, light green, dark gray, and brown. A pram with 4 wire wheels of a different height and a combination of strap and band suspension, black wooden body decorated with white lines and folding wax-cloth hood; it has singular wire guides with a porcelain holder. It was manufactured by Anton Bock in 1910. A FDC in red-brown shows another pram of the same era (Fig. 4).

2. On November 10, 2004, the Ministry issued a set of three commemorative stamps in the Works of Art on Stamps series. The stamps were produced by the Post Printing House in Prague in printing sheets of 4 pieces by recess print from flat plates.

-- 20 Kč: "On the Outskirts of the Český Ráj, 1860-62" (Fig. 5) by Alois Bubák (1824-1870) -- in brown, yellow, red, green, and blue-green -- engraved by Václav Fajt, located in the West Bohemian Gallery in Plzeň. The Czech painter A. Bubák took his studies with M. Haushofer at the Academy in Prague. He taught drawing at the Business Academy and the Women's College in Prague. His early works were based on romantic landscape painting, in the later



Fig. 5



Fig. 6

ones he left behind ideal landscape schemes and sought the possibilities of his own, unrestrained expression. In the period of culmination of his creative life in the 1860's he worked on monumental paintings of his native Pojizeří region. The engraved version of the painting On the Outskirts of the Český Ráj region is an example of this period of his creation. After he became seriously ill he limited his creations to illustrations published in the Světozor magazine. A FDC in dark green shows an engraver's transcription of the Bubák pencil drawing Český Krumlov (Fig. 6).

-- 22 Kč: "The Long, the Broad, and the Sharp-sighted, 1897" (Fig. 7) by Hanuš Schwaiger (1854-1912) -- in black, orange, green, glue, and red -- engraved by Miloš Ondráček, located at the National Gallery in Prague. H. Schwaiger, a Czech painter, graphic artist and illustrator, took his



Fig. 7

Mill, The Rusava). A FDC in brown-green shows a terminal drawing for a fairy tale from the Wiesners' fairy tale album from 1885 (Fig. 8).



Fig. 8

-- 26 Kč: "The Spring, 1881" (Fig. 9) by Vojtěch Hynais (1854-1925) -- in black and multicolored offset -- engraved by Miloš Ondráček, located at the National Theater in Prague. The Czech painter V. Hynais is one of the major artists of the generation of the National Theater. He took his studies at the Academy in Vienna and Paris. In 1893 he was appointed a teacher at the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague. He achieved numerous artistic and social honors. His works were based on the French historical and decorative painting style. He worked as a decorator for the porcelain manufacture in Sèvres. Hynais had a great understanding for a sensitive distribution of space which he used mainly to display allegorical and mythological scenes.



Fig. 10



Fig. 9

He was the author of several paintings for the National Theater in Prague. The oil painting The Spring (whose detail is the subject of the postage stamp) decorates the presidential box in the National Theater. His key work is however the new curtain which replaced Ženíšek's curtain destroyed by fire. Hynais introduced the style of plain-air painting into Czech painting and sought to find a solution for the problems of light and colors also in figural compositions and portraits. A FDC

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in gray-green shows a Hynais' drawing by pencil and white paint from 1914 Laurel Twig in a vase (Fig. 10).



Fig. 11

recess print in black-green combined with photogravure in yellow, green, red and gold in printing sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in brown has a cachet showing three small bells on conifer branchlets completing the Christmas atmosphere of the stamp (Fig. 12).

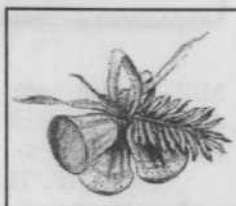


Fig. 12

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