

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

A publication of the Czechoslovak  Philatelic Society of N. America

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Editorial Board:

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EDITORIAL

We have just received, late in March, our bound volume of the 1962 Specialist. In our first Editorial we stated that interest in the collection of Czechoslovak material is not waning. We are pleased to have additional substantiation of our statement in the publication of a second fairly large auction only a few months after the first. The price realized for the Scout stamps is not surprising, in consideration of the large group of Sports topical collectors. However it will be worth while to study the rest of the figures. It is simply amazing!

Member L. M. Horechny assured us that he will be very glad to print the Constitution of our Society for distribution to our membership. He did this service for the Society about six years ago and we are indeed pleased that we will be able to mail a copy to each member when ready.

Member Fritzsche intends to index the twenty-five volumes of the Specialist, which will then be published in the center of an issue to enable members to remove the pages for their reference. This is indeed an extremely tedious job and our thanks go to him for his efforts on behalf of our Society.

We have received a letter from member George J. Dolezal, P. O. Box 4203, Grand Central Station, New York 17, N. Y., in which he says that as a service to our overseas members, he would like to offer them U. N. stamps and/or mailing service. He will not be able to accomodate any special requests like servicing FDC or plate blocks, etc. If reply is necessary, two IRC should be included. He will accept checks or MOs in U. S. funds in payment for U. N. stamps and postage. Postage may also be in IRC if so desired. All services are gratis!! Commemorative stamps on all mailings will be appreciated.

The Garfield-Perry Club in Cleveland had a fine show on March 23-24 and your Editor sent five frames for their guest exhibit. We hope that our members had the opportunity to see the show. We understand that many of our members are members of the above club also. We recall how our predecessor had been eager to have our members in Cleveland organize a branch. We can understand now their reluctance, since it is somewhat difficult to spend another evening per given week in a Czechoslovak group when all the members are seen at the weekly meetings of the Garfield-Perry Club.

Upon inquiry we learned that the Chicago Branch will not meet in April and at their May meeting affairs of Compex will be discussed. We have also learned from the philatelic press that the Branch will participate at Compex with 90 frames of U. S. material. We believe the material of the Gettysburg

designs will be an unusual showing and will draw tremendous interest. For philately in general that is really fine but we were sorry to hear that at the show the Branch is not going to show our specialty at all.

Our President was reelected to the Directorate, Board of Directors, of FISA, International Federation of Airmail Societies. The reports in the press were somewhat misleading because they mentioned that he was reelected to the Presidium which consists only of the President, Vice President and Secretary General of FISA. Only six philatelists were elected to the Directorate and of those, two from the U. S. A.

A few days ago we had a pleasant visit with Mr. Schoenig who for many years had been a very active member of the New York Branch. Two years ago he moved to Eastern Long Island but hopes to attend meetings again after his retirement.

VERY IMPORTANT NOTICE

Delinquent members please note that due to the high cost of printing the Specialist, the Society will not be able to mail you a copy of the publication unless you will have paid up your dues by June 1st. Collection of Czechoslovak stamps and its postal history can be very fascinating. The only Society specializing in the study of just that is our own Society.

NEW YORK BRANCH MARCH MEETING

We had a most unusual meeting. Mr. George Lacko who had been a member of our Society many years ago, came back to us just to give us an interesting evening. He entertained us for about one hour with the showing of Czechoslovak material, all dealing with the Sokols. This included interesting labels, cachets, postmarks and stamps, of course. Every member enjoyed the talk of Mr. Lacko and all expressed the hope that he will come back again with other sports material which is his major hobby.

At the next meeting Mr. Stein will show some of Mr. Kessler's material. The latter will be on his way to Europe by that time but was willing to let our member Joe handle it for him.

Mr. Kovarik mailed us the following sad notices:

Edward S. Valach

Edward S. Valach, roster #727, died after a prolonged illness, on March 7, 1963. A large number of the Chicago Branch members attended the wake after their Sunday meeting. The officers and members of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society extend their heartfelt sympathy to the widow and children.

Leslie Markovich

We have received a short note from Milwaukee telling us of the death of member Leslie Markovich, roster #414, who has been with the Society a long time. He attended almost every stamp show of our Society in the Chicago area and participated at the Society dinner in New York in May 1956. The officers and members of the society extend their deep sympathy to the widow and other members of the family.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

473 George J. Dolezal, P. O. Box 4203, Grand Central Station, New York 16, New York.

COMPEX TO ISSUE UNIQUE FIRST DAY COVER

COMPEX (Combined Philatelic Exhibition of Chicagoland) will issue a unique official cover in connection with the first day ceremony of the 1c Jackson coil stamp at its sixth annual mammoth exhibition. The first day ceremony will be held in conjunction with COMPEX on Friday, May 31, 1963, at the Hotel La Salle, whereas the show will continue for the following two days and close Sunday, June 2, 1963. 1,000 frames of stamps and covers will be on display during this time provided by the 12 Chicagoland stamp clubs. 40 bourse dealers will be available to fill the philatelic wants of the viewers. A special U. S. Postoffice display will be on exhibit as well as a special postoffice station.

Since the bust used for the 1c Jackson had been taken from the medal designed by Moritz Furst in 1829 to typify one of the Peace Medals, COMPEX will use this design as its cachet. For the first day of the COMPEX STATION, May 31st, the obverse side of this medal which portrays the phrase PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP together with clasped hands and Indian peace pipes.

For its second and third day cachets the special COMPEX STATION will use the bust of Montgomery Blair on the second day and for the third day a design of the Universal Postal Union emblem as portrayed in Berne, Switzerland. Blair's bust will be identical with that bust in the hall of the postmaster generals in the postoffice building in Washington, D. C. These cachets are appropriate in connection with the COMPEX 63 theme, celebrating the centenary of the International Postal Administration Conference of 1863.

Special attention is called to the Postillia meter employed during the three days of COMPEX. The U. P. U. motif is used also in the special precancelled post cards that are to be sold during the show. These precancelled cards, using the old 3c and 5c surface and airmail cards will be supplemented by the 1c Jackson coil during the first day of COMPEX in order to make up the new surface and air rate. This will further call attention to the need of the new 1c stamps.

All data regarding the cost of these cacheted covers, souvenir first day programs, bourse tables and directory are to write, COMPEX, 216 Hotel La Salle, Chicago 2, Illinois.

CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY DONATES LIBRARY TO SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE

The Czechoslovak Philatelic Society, an international organization founded in 1939, has donated to the Division of Philately and Postal History of the Smithsonian Institution those volumes of its monthly publication, "The Specialist," that have been available and bound. Together with these volumes, two other publications have been included, namely the Czechoslovak-English glossary, and the Bohemia-Moravia-Slovakia handbook.

It is hoped that these books will further interest those that view the Smithsonian's library and philatelic exhibit.

This gift was made possible by the sanction of the officers and members of the Society, an organization that specializes in the stamps and the postal history of Czechoslovakia in all of its phases.

Details as to membership into the society, sample copies of THE SPECIALIST, and data on the bound volumes and handbooks may be obtained by writing the society's treasurer, Joseph Stein, 585 E. 21st St., Brooklyn 26, N. Y.

(Dr. James J. Matejka, Jr.)

Please Mention this Magazine when writing Advertisers. Thanks!

RULES OF THE SALES AND EXCHANGE CIRCUIT

1. Mount your stamps in our Society sales books which can be obtained from the Sales Manager. Use only good peelable hinges.
2. The Scott catalogue is to be used. If you use any other specialized catalogue for your listing, please state so. Enter in the proper spaces the catalogue number, catalogue value and the NET price at which you want to sell or exchange. Note that our exchanges are done only on a net per net basis.
3. All books are to remain in the Sales and Exchange Department at least as long as they go through one circuit.
4. After the retirement of the books from the circuit, all will be checked and credit will be paid to owners. If any one so desires, all credit may be left with manager for future use. Members who wish to exchange only will be notified of the amount removed from their books and such credit may be used in the circuits.
5. Charges are 10% for the service, return postage on the books, money order fee if cash is wanted and 1% of the total original value of each book is taken out in stamps to be set aside for the insurance fund.
6. Upon receipt of circuit books please check the number of books. Should you find empty spaces in some books unmarked, notify the sender of the circuit as well as the Sales Manager. Write in such spaces "found empty" with your name and number. Those stamps will be charged to the member who had the books before you.
7. Make sure that you sign every space when removing stamps and also place your membership number there. Mark the report sheets by total amount removed from each book.
8. Do not keep the books for more than three days and then send them on to the next member whose name and address you will find on the list accompanying each circuit. Send circuit to next member or to the Sales Manager by third class mail insured. Fill out the report sheet and send it to the Sales Manager together with the amount due. If you exchange only and expect or have credit, please send the report sheet only.
9. Switching of stamps, substituting poor copies for better ones, is stealing and will be dealt with as crime warrants.
10. Each member is responsible for the full amount of the circuit as long as it is in his possession; until he receives the insurance receipt from his post office or if delivered personally, to the time that he secures a receipt from the next member.
11. Members wishing to exchange only will get an advance credit up to 25% of the net value of the books mailed in. In case a member overdraws, the difference must be settled in cash (money order).
12. Money orders must be made payable to the Sales Manager.

Wolfgang Fritzsche
P. O. Box 8
Canandaigua, N. Y.

WANTED FOR PERSONAL USE

The following SPECIALISTS are desired. Will pay the best prices.

1940 January and February	1941 April
1942 All issues bound or unbound	
1943 January, March, April, May, June, September, and October	
1944 June and November	1945 January and February

Dr. J. Matejka, Hotel La Salle, Chicago, Ill.

Czechoslovak Stamps with the Bohemia-Moravia Overprints

By Zdeněk Kvasnička

Translated by J. J. Verner

On April 29, 1939, the Czechoslovak Republic issued its last stamp: a 1 K stamp with the portrait of President Masaryk but with the hyphenated inscription Česka-Slovensko.

On March 14, 1939, in cloudy weather, Hitler's armies marched through Prague streets, crowded with bewildered people, to occupy the territory of Czechoslovakia.

On July 15, 1939, a 19 value set of Czechoslovak stamps overprinted Böhmen u. Mähren, Čechy a Morava, was put on sale.

Not all of the Czechoslovak stamps then in use were accounted for by the new overprint series. All of the commemorative stamps were left out, but were, however, valid for franking until November 30, 1939. All of these commemorative stamps cancelled after March 14, 1939, must therefore be placed in a collection as provisional stamps of the "Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia." Specialists will also be interested in mixed franking of Czechoslovak and Protectorate stamps on cover. It should be noted that today already it is difficult to find some of these used values. While the United States was still at peace with Germany, ship and plane communications were maintained. These communications were eventually disrupted and mail intended for countries overseas accumulated at transshipping post offices from where they were later returned to sender.

Figure 1 shows one such letter which was intended for New York and which had, after the occupation of the territory of France, the following text affixed on the reverse side of the cover by the German postal authorities:

Due to the commencement of war conditions this shipment could no longer be forwarded; it had been stored in one of the French ports and has only now been found by our troops.

Railroad Station P. O. 19
Frankfurt (Main)



Figure 1



Figure 2

Figure 3

Figure 4

The following Czechoslovak stamps were valid until November 20, 1939:
(Scott numbers)

- 215, 216, 217—portraits of Komensky, Štefanik, Masaryk
- 218-226—Town pictorials including tabs and gutter pairs
- 227—Beneš, type I and II
- 234, 235—Masaryk mourning issue including tab on 2 K stamp
- 236-238—B. I. T. overprint
- 241, 242—Sokol winter games
- 243-245—Bachmac, Vouziers, Doss Alto including tabs
- 246-248—Fugner including tabs
- 249, 250—Plzeň and Košice including gutter pairs
- 251—Praga commemorative sheet
- 252—Štefanik
- 253, 254—1938 jubilee issue including tabs and commemorative sheet
- B150-B152—1938 children stamps and commemorative sheet

The order to overprint Czechoslovak stamps with the name of the newly occupied territory was probably issued by German authorities without specific details. The Czech employees of the Unie printing plant interpreted this order in their own way as can be seen from several, probably the only preserved copies, trial overprints which were submitted for consideration by and understandably rejected by the German authorities. Today we must admire the audacity required to produce these overprints.

Trial overprint A. The placing of the letters in this trial shows the attempt of the typesetter to preserve the words Československo. The small 1939 would seem that the author wanted to say "just for 1939." Trial overprint A was printed on the following values: 1.20, 1.50, 1.60, 2.00, 3.00, 4 and 5 Koruna (figures 2, 3, 4).

Trial overprint B on the 4 and 5 Koruna stamps similar to type A but with larger type (Figure 5).

Trial overprint C. This type carries out the order to print the overprinted name in Czech and German but the word Československo was again not disturbed. (Figure 6).



Figure 5



Figure 6

Trial overprint D. This type is similar to the final form of the overprint with black horizontal lines blocking out Československo, but the overprint does not cover Masaryk's portrait (Figure 7).

The final overprint had to be adapted to the various sizes of stamps which were to be overprinted. This caused several sub-types of overprints:

1. For small format of stamps—coat of arms and portraits—the length of the black horizontal lines is 17.5-18 mm and the lettering is 15-15.3 mm in length.
2. The 50 h medium sized stamp has lines which are 23 mm long and the text is 20 mm.
3. Medium sized stamps (views from 1.20 to 3 K values) have lines 19.2 mm long and text 16.6 mm.
4. The 4 and 10 K stamps required a larger overprint. The horizontal lines have a length of 28.5 mm and the text is 25.7 mm long.
5. The vertical 5 K stamp has 23.4 long lines and 20.2 mm text.



Figure 7

The stamps to be used for overprinting were taken mainly from existing stocks though some values required additional printing runs to supply the number needed. The difference between the old stock and newly printed stamps is discernable by careful study of color shades, the edges of the sheets and additional dots or marks.

The more striking errors appear in rather small numbers. Position 100 in the sheets of the 20 and 25 h have no "u" between Böhmen and Mähren. In some of the other values the period after "u" is missing. On the 160 K value we find the word "Mähnen instead of Mähren which is probably the result of a minor plate repair. Of course the specialist will find many more variations, incomplete impressions and so on.

Plate numbers of the 30 h coat of arms stamp are 4 and 4A, 2 and 2A on the 30 h coat of arms and 3 and 3A on the 1 K Masaryk stamp. All the rest of the stamps have plate numbers 1 and 1A.

The entire overprinted issue consisted of 275,000 complete sets which were sold at the philatelic counter in the main post office in Prague and sent to subscribers of the new issue service. The lower values (10, 20, 25 and 30 n) were available in much larger numbers. These values are often found on letters and other postal matter. However the higher values which actually passed through the mails are fairly rare.

Typographed counterfeit overprints of these stamps appeared already during the "Protectorate" period. Protection against these can be found in the fact that the original overprints were recess printed and therefore the edges of the letters are smooth.

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HARMER, ROOKE & CO. AUCTION

Prices Realized, February 1963

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

✉	1918. Scout Mail. 10(h) blue tied to cover by Scout cancel. V. F. (Mi I) -----	45.00
✉	— 20(h) red tied to cover by Scout cancel (Mi II) -----	45.00
★	— 10(h) and 20(h). 2 sets, different shades. Fine to vf, og (Mi I-II Mk 140.00) -----	14.00
○	— Similar ? sets, tied to 4 pieces by different Scout cancels (Mi I-II Mk 160.00) -----	22.00
★	1918-20. 4 complete sets, including 2 var. F to vf (1-53, 5a, 43a) --	13.50
★	— 5(h). 2 gutter tete-beche pairs. F to vf, og, Folded as usual. (Mi 2KZ, 3KZ, Mk 155.00) (2 var, 3 var) -----	13.00
★	— 10h rose. Gutter pair. Fine, og. Signed MRNAK. (Mi 3SZ Mk 150.00) (3 var.) -----	24.00
★	— 20(h) bluish green. Gutter tete-beche pair. Fine, og. Signed Gil- bert. (Mi 4KZ Mk 250.00) (4 var.) -----	18.00
★	— 25(h) deep blue. Gutter tete beche pair. Fine, og. Folded as usual. Signed MRNAK. (Mi 5KZ Mk 180.00) -----	28.00
★	— 20(h) rose. Imperforated pair. Large margins all around. VF mint. (45a) -----	22.00
★	— 30(h) red violet. Imperforated pair. Large margins all around. Very fresh, very fine, mint (47a) -----	45.00
★	1920. Masaryk. 125(h) to 1000(h). Imperforated set. All with huge margins. VF og (Michel 159-61U Mk 270.00) (61-63 var.) ----	42.50
★	— 125(h) ultramarine. Imperforated. Wide margins all around. VF. o.g. (Michel 161bU Mk 150.00) (61a var.) -----	18.00
★	1920-25. 5 complete sets. Fine to very fine, o.g. (61-94) -----	8.00
★	— 6 tete-beche pairs. Complete set. VF mint (71a, 73a, 82a-84a, 87a)	14.00
★	— 6 tete-beche pairs. Complete set. Very fine, mint (Michel 163KZ, 165KZ, 167KZ, 173KZ, 175KZ, 176KZ Michel Mk 580.00) (71a, 73a, 82a, 83a, 84a, 87a, all var.) -----	21.00
★	— 100(h)-600(h). Complete set, imperforated. All with large mar- gins. VF mint. Signed MRNAK (76 var-81 var) -----	32.00
★	— 200(h) blue on yellow. Type III. Perf 13¼x13½. VF, o.g. Signed Hirsch. Rare stamp (Mi 203AT III Mk 185.00) (93 var)	11.50
★	— 300(h) violet on yellow. Type II. Perf. 13¼. VF mint. Signed MRNAK. (Michel 204BT II Mk 185.00) (94 var.) -----	12.00
★	— 300(h) violet on yellow. Type II. Perf 13¼x13½. VF, o.g. Signed MRNAK. Rare stamp. (Michel 204A Type II Mk 300) (94 var)	25.00
★	— 300(h) violet on yellow. Type III. Perf 13¼. Fine, mint. Signed MRNAK (Michel 204B T III Mk 100.00) (94 var.) -----	9.00
★	1925-26. Masaryk. 3 complete sets, 4 singles. F to vf, o.g. (95-101, 103-8, 105a) -----	21.00
★	— 1k carmine. Wmkd Vertically. Centered to T, well clear. Fine, o.g. Signed Gilbert (101A) -----	30.00
★	— 2k deep blue. Wmkd Vertically. Centered to T, well clear. Fine, possibly regummed. Signed Gilbert (101B) -----	40.00
★	— 2k deep blue. Wmkd Vertically. Well centered, possibly regummed. One perf short TL. Fine. Signed MRNAK (101B) -----	26.00
★	— 3k brown. Wmkd Vertically. Well centered. Fine. Signed MRNAK. (101C) -----	77.50
★	— 1k carmine. Second engraving. Well centered. A very fresh mar- ginal copy, mint. Signed MRNAK (102) -----	16.00

★	— 1k, 2k, 3k. Fine to very fine, o.g. (102-04) -----	12.00
★	1926-27. 4 complete sets. Fine to very fine, o.g. (109-25) -----	7.00
★	— 20h brick red. Vertical pair. Imperforated horizontally. Rare. Very fine, o.g. Signed MRNAK (123 var.) -----	30.00
★	— 30h gray green. Vertical pair. Imperforate horizontally. Rare. Very fine, o.g. Signed Franek (124 var.) -----	32.00
★	1927-29. Complete sets. Fine to vf, o.g. (126-41, 159-63) -----	8.00
★	1929-31. 4 complete sets, 2 singles. F to vf, o.g. (159-70, 175-83) ----	6.00
★	1929-32. 4 complete sets. F to vf, o.g. (165-67, 175-78, 184-90) -----	7.00
★	1933. Nitra. 50h yellow green. Gutter pair. Well centered. Very fine, o.g. Scarce pair (Michel 319SZ Mk 500.00) (192 var.) -----	36.00
★	1934. Anthem. 2 souvenir sheets in special folder. VF (200a, 201a) -----	70.00
★	Semi-Postals. 1919. On Austrian stamps. 6h deep orange. Bright, very fresh copy of this rarity. Well centered. Very Fine, o.g. Signed MRNAK (B4) -----	185.00
★	— 20h dark green. Well centered. Very fine, o.g. Signed MRNAK (B8a) -----	9.00
★	— 1k carmine yellow. Perfectly centered. VF, o.g. Signed MRNAK (B17) -----	16.00
★	— 2k dark blue. A very fresh, well centered copy of this rarity. VF, o.g. Signed MRNAK, Gilbert Certificate (B18a) -----	310.00
★	— 3k carmine rose. Size 25¼x29mm. Rare, very fine, o.g. Signed MRNAK (Zumstein 49II sw fr 1000.00) (B19 var.) -----	92.50
★	— 3k claret. A fresh, well centered copy. Very fine, o.g. Signed MRNAK (B19a) -----	100.00
★	— 3k claret. Size 25¼x29mm. A fresh, well centered copy of this rarity. VF, o.g. Signed MRNAK (Zumstein 49A II sw fr 1500.00) (B19 var.) -----	190.00
★	— 10k violet. Well centered. VF, o.g. Signed Leseticky (B21) -----	55.00
★	— 10k deep violet. Fresh copy. VF o.g. Signed MRNAK (B21) -----	29.00
★	— On Newspaper Stamp 10h carmine. A very fresh copy. Very fine, o.g. Signed MRNAK (B26) -----	125.00
★	— 5h deep green, yellow. Well centered, fresh, very fine, mint copy. Signed MRNAK (B33) -----	120.00
★	— 2h claret on yellow. Fresh, very fine, o.g. Signed MRNAK (B35) -----	18.00
★	— On Air Post 1.50k on 2k lilac. Well centered. VF, o.g. Signed MRNAK (B37) -----	35.00
★	— 2.50 on 3k ocure. Fresh, well centered. VF og. Signed Gilbert (B38) -----	25.00
★	— 4k gray. Fresh, well centered. VF, mint. Signed MRNAK (B39) -----	65.00
★	— Dues. 2h carmine. Very fresh, well centered. Extremely rare stamp. Very fine, o.g. Signed MRNAK, Leseticky (B40) -----	425.00
★	— 30h carmine. Perfectly centered and very fresh. Very fine, o.g. Signed Gilbert (B45) -----	36.00
★	— 50h carmine. Fresh, well centered. Very fine, o.g. Signed MRNAK (B46) -----	80.00
★	— 50h rose red. Very fresh and well centered. Very fine, o.g. Signed MRNAK (B54) -----	42.00
★	— 10k ultramarine. Perfectly centered, very fresh. Very fine, mint. Signed MRNAK (B57) -----	26.00
★	— 15h on 2h violet. Perfectly centered. VF mint, Signed (B59) -----	13.50
★	— 10h on 24h blue. Well centered. Very fine, o.g. Signed (B60) -----	14.00
★	— 20h on 54h orange. Perfectly centered. VF, o.g. Signed (B62) ---	12.00
★	— On Hungarian Stamps. 1f slate. Perfectly centered and fresh. VF o.g. and rare. Signed MRNAK and Gilbert (B64) -----	220.00
★	— 70f red brown and green. Very fresh, centered bit to left, well clear. VF, o.g. Signed MRNAK (B70) -----	130.00

★	— 10f rose. Fresh and well centered. VF, o.g. Signed Gilbert (B71)	35.00
★	— 15f violet. Well centered. Very fine, o.g. Signed MRNAK (B72)	11.00
★	— 5k dark and light brown. Very fine, o.g. Signed MRNAK (B89)	8.00
★	— 10k violet brown and violet. Bright and very fresh copy. Centered to bottom but well clear. Very fine, o.g. Signed MRNAK (B90)	90.00
★	— 20f dark brown. A very fresh copy of this rarity. Centered bit to right, well clear. Very fine, o.g. Signed Kessler (B97)	375.00
★	— 12f green and black. Bright and fresh copy of this rarity. Centered to bottom but well clear. Very fine, o.g. Signed MRNAK, certificate Gilbert (B108)	410.00
★	— 50f green and black. Well centered. Very fine, o.g. Signed Lese-ticky (B110)	30.00
★	— 1f green and black. Very fresh. Centered to top, well clear. Very fine, o.g. Signed MRNAK (B111)	70.00
★	— 2f green and black. Centered to top, perfs just clear. Very fresh and fine. Signed Gilbert (B112)	31.00
★	— 5f green and black. Very fresh and bright copy. Centered bit to bottom. VF, o.g. Signed MRNAK and Gilbert (B113)	125.00
★	— 50f green and black. Bright and very fresh copy. Centered to top but well clear. Fine, o.g. Signed MRNAK (B114)	36.00
★	— 1f green and red. Well centered and fresh. Very fine, o.g. Signed Gilbert (B115)	14.00
★	— 1920-23. Red Cross Anniversary. 2 complete sets. Fine to very fine, o.g. (B130-36)	6.00
★	— 1925. Olympic Congress set. Very fine, mint (B137-39)	18.00
★	— Similar set. Very fine, o.g. (B137-39)	17.00
☒	— Olympic set tied to registered cover. Cover slightly folded. Very fine (B137-39)	18.00
☒	— 200h blue. Tied to cover by Olympic cancel. Very fine (B139)	12.00
○	— Olympic set. Tied to 3 pieces by special Olympic cancel. Well centered. Very fine (B137-39)	18.00
★	— 1926. Sokol Issue. Complete set. Well centered. Very fine, o.g. (B140-43)	30.00
☒	— Sokol set tied to neat cover. Very fine (B140-43)	15.00
○	— Sokol set tied to 4 pieces by special Sokol Cancels (B140-43)	14.00
★	— Olympic and Sokol sets. Both VF o.g. All signed (B137-43)	37.50
★	★ Air Post. 1920. Complete set. Imperf. All large margins. Very fine, mint (C1-3)	10.00
★	★ Complete set. Blocks of 4. All large margins. Very fine, mint. All signed Gilbert (C1-3)	30.00
★	— Complete set. Inverted Surcharge. Very fine, o.g. Signed MRNAK (C1a-C3a)	30.00
★	— Complete set. Perforated. Well centered. VF, o.g. All signed (C4-6)	18.00
★	★ Special Delivery. 1919-20. 5(h) yellow green. Vertical gutter pair. VF, o.g. Signed MRNAK (Michel 12SZ Mk 150.00) (E2 var)	9.00
★	— 2(h)-10(h). Complete set. White paper. All large margins. VF, o.g. Signed MRNAK (Michel 11Y, 12Y, 195Y, Mk 430.00) (E1a-E3a)	55.00
★	★ Postage Due. 1918-20. Complete set. Large margins. VF, o.g. (J1-14)	5.00
★	— 1922-27. 5 complete sets. Very fine, o.g. (J15-43, J57)	9.00
★	★ Newspaper Stamps. 1918-20. 2h gray green. Vertical gutter pair. VF, o.g. Folded as usual. Signed Gilbert (Mi Mk 70.00) (P1 var.)	8.50
★	— 10(h) dull violet. Vertical gutter pair. Very fine, o.g. Extremely rare. Signed MRNAK and Gilbert. Folded as usual (Michel 15SZ Mk 1100.00) (P4 var.)	200.00

★ SLOVAKIA. 1939. Complete set. F to VF, mint. All signed (2-23) -	25.00
★ — 10k blue. Marginal copy. Well centered. V fine, mint. Signed (23)	19.00
★ EASTERN SILESIA. 1920. Complete set. All large margins. Fine	
to very fine, o.g. (1-21, 20a) -----	10.00
★ — 5(h) green, 15(h) red. Both large margins. Very fine, o.g.	
Signed (3a 4) -----	8.50
★ — 1000(h) violet. Black overprint. 4 large margins. Very fine, o.g.	
Signed MRNAK (21a) -----	25.00
★ — 10(h) yellow green. Very fresh. 4 large margins. Very fine, o.g.	
Signed Gilbert (24a) -----	60.00
★ — 20(h) rose. Very fresh. Large margins all around. Very fine, o.g.	
Signed MRNAK (26a) -----	40.00
★ — 500(h), 1000(h). Very fresh. Both well centered. Very fine, mint.	
Signed Gilbert (31-32) -----	23.00
★ — Same set. Imperforated. Large margins all around. Very rare.	
Very fine, o.g. Signed MRNAK (31-32 var.) -----	80.00
★ — Postage Dues. 1920. 5(h) deep bistre. Black overprint. V. F.,	
o.g. Signed MRNAK (Michel P1b Mk 100.00) (J1 var.) -----	16.00
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4-6A Mk 170.00) (31-33) -----	15.00
★ — 2(k)-1(r) Complete set. Superb, o.g. Signed Gilbert and Franek	
(Mi. 9-17, Mk 575.00) (36-45) -----	26.00

Poznan, Poland, March 24, 1963

Dr. William Reiner-Deutsch, Editor
 The Czechoslovak Specialist
 P. O. Box 24
 Bayside 61, New York

Dear Will,

We are now well into the second year of publishing the Specialist since the retirement of its long-time editor Frank Kovarik. Of course as a member of the Editorial Board my view of our Journal may be a bit prejudiced, but it seems to me that the Specialist continues to live up to the high standards the members of our Society have come to expect. And now that we are all settled into our new and often thankless responsibilities perhaps it is time to stop and consider what could be done to improve the Specialist. Also we might try to get more membership reaction and participation. With the foregoing in mind I would like to solicit comments on the following proposals and suggestions.

1. I would like to see more of the members contributing material to the Specialist. Surely many of our members have devoted considerable time and effort to collecting and studying the stamps of Czechoslovakia. During this time many of them must have come across details in our hobby they found interesting or significant—such item would undoubtedly also interest other members of our Society. It also seems quite probable that new authors would bring a fresh approach or fresh viewpoint to philatelic problems already treated by present or past contributors. Expressing these different views would not only be interesting, but also stimulating. It would probably be a good thing to establish a policy to air philatelic controversy in the Specialist whenever feasible.

2. Having joined the Society through the New York Branch and having since met many of the Chicago members, I find the Branch reports most interesting. I strongly recommend not only continuing them, but even perhaps ex-

panding them. A suggestion on the form of these reports might be appropriate here. Both the New York and Chicago Branch meetings usually include a speaker, but the reports most of the time do not have much to say about the content of his talk. A synopsis of the presentation at each meeting would undoubtedly be of more interest to members than who supplied the sandwiches (though credit for such courtesy need not be omitted).

3. A question and answer column as a regular or periodic feature might prove popular. We are all aware that much information is exchanged among our members privately. Such exchanges are very desirable and most pleasant, but they could also serve as a basis for such a column. A question is almost always of interest to more than one collector. To answer any given question we could draw on the full knowledge of all our members. Such a column could also be the place where minor philatelic problems, problems not broad enough to deserve treatment with a full article, could be resolved.

4. Personally I like to see the prices realized from auctions, where large holdings of Czechoslovak stamps have been sold, published in the Specialist. The state of the stamp market is rather important information to any active collector. The auction houses might be glad to take out ads publicizing such sales especially if they will get such free publicity after the event.

5. Finally we might consider a "Letters to the Editor" column—again on a time to time basis if demand is not too great. Such a column could be the outlet for members with views on the Specialist, the activities of the Society or on things philatelic generally.

My suggestions here are tentative at this point and it might be useful to submit some of them to the membership for its reaction. Or better still ask them for their own ideas that would help us in publishing the Specialist and making it a journal which serves the wants and needs of the greatest number of members. Perhaps in closing I should emphasize that these suggestions should in no way be considered as offered substitutes for the kind of articles now appearing in the journal, but rather as additions.

Sincerely yours,

Jerry

Jaroslav J. Verner

Editor's note: We are publishing letter received from our faithful co-worker and we earnestly hope that there will be views expressed by many of our members.

Parade Of New Issues

Edited by Frank Kosik



Commemoratives to Mark the 15th Anniversary of the Victorious February and the 5th Trade Union Congress in Prague

The Czechoslovak Ministry of Transport and Communications issued on

February 25th, 1963, a set of three stamps to mark the 15th anniversary of the Victorious February and the 5th Trade Union Congress in Prague.

1. 30 h factory with star and a palm twig. Colors: blue and red
2. 60 h pioneers' camp of the Trade Union Movement. Colors: black and red
3. 60 h metallurgical works with graphs symbolizing industrial production. Colors: dark brown and red.

Stamps 1 and 2 were designed by Ivan Strnad, No. 3 by professor Cyril Bouda. The first two stamps were engraved by Jan Mráček, the last stamp by Jaroslav Goldschmied.

All s.amps were printed in the Post Printing Office in Prague by the rotary recess print combined with photogravure in sheets of 50. Dimensions of the stamp picture are 23x30 mm and 30x23 mm.

The stamps are valid in internal and international postal use from February 25, 1963 until further notice.

Two First Day Covers were issued with this emission. One cachet was designed by Ivan Strnad. The second cover is decorated with the emblem of the Trade Union Movement. Both First Day Covers were engraved by Jaroslav Goldschmied.

Sports on New Czechoslovak Stamps



In January, 1963, the Ministry of Transport and Communications issued a set of six stamps with the following sports themes:

1. 30 h "World Championship in Table Tennis—Praha 1963"; a player of table tennis; black and green; engraved by J. A. Švengsbír.
2. 60 h "80th Anniversary of Czechoslovak Cycling"; a racer; black and orange; engraved by J. A. Švengsbír.
3. 80 h "First Czechoslovak Winter Sports Games 1963"; skier; black and blue; engraved by B. Housa.
4. 1 Kčs XVth Year of Czechoslovak Fiat Track Race of "Golden Helmet"—Pardubice; trackman; black and violet; engraved by J. Mráček.
5. 1.20 Kčs "World Championship in Weight Lifting—Praha 1963"; a weight lifter; black and brown; engraved by B. Housa.

6. 1.60 Kčs "First Czechoslovak Summer Sports Games 1963"; a hurdler; black and red; engraved by J. Herčík.
 Design by Karel Hruška, academic artist.
 Printing: rotary recess combined with photogravure in sheets of 50.
 Dimensions: 23x30 mm.
 Two First Day Covers were issued with this emission, designed by Karel Hruška, engraved by J. Goldschmied.

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