

# THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Official Monthly Journal of the



Czechoslovak Philatelic Society

Silver Bronze Award Praga 1968

Vol. XXXIV

December 1972

No. 10, Whole No. 326

## Society Holds Biennial Convention At NOJEX

By Mirko L. Vondra, President C.P.S.

The North Jersey Philatelic Exhibitors, better known as NOJEX, held their exhibition on October 27, 28 and 29 at the Coachman's Inn in Crawford, N. J. Our SOCIETY, one of five participating organizations, held its Convention there on Saturday, October 28th, which also happened to be Czechoslovak Independence Day. The program highlighted a lecture by Dr. John G. Lexa on the "Meaning of Czechoslovak Independence Day."

John Lexa, who holds a doctorate of law from Charles University in Prague and a law degree from New York University, is currently Secretary General of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences in America. Dr. Lexa's speech dealt with the development of the Czechoslovak nation through the centuries with its high points as the center of European culture and political activity under King Charles of the Holy Roman Empire and during the twenty years of the Republic following World War I. He traced the tragic years of the nation up to the present and noted that it was up to Americans of Czechoslovak background and origin to keep alive the values of Czechoslovak culture and political thought.

There followed a brief business portion, at which reports were made by the



Dr. John G. Lexa addressing CPS at Convention

Secretary, Edward Lisy, the Treasurer, Dr. Thomas Meeks, the Editor of the **SPECIALIST**, Henry Hahn, the Librarian, Jay T. Carrigan, and the Sales Manager (in absentia) Mr. Wolfgang Fritzsche. The Convention also featured a brief talk by Col. James T. De Voss, Executive Secretary and Sales Director of the American Philatelic Society and Chairman of the APS/NOJEX Judges Committee on the American Philatelic Research Library. Col. De Voss welcomed participation of the CPS library which is soon to be housed at the APRL, and took the opportunity to present Mirko L. Vondra CPS President with an APS membership, applied for during the course of Mr. Vondra's visit at the APRL in State College. Mr. Emil J. Michaelson reported on participation of our SOCIETY at NOJEX.

The Convention program continued with a well illustrated presentation of Sokol-related material on stamps, covers, labels and postal stationery by Joseph Lacko, Vice-President of Sports Philatelists. Mr. Lacko traced the origin of the Sokol movement not only among Czechs, but also among other Slavic nationals and among exiles and immigrants throughout the world. Mr. Lacko's talk was often amusingly interrupted by our former President, Mr. Joseph J. Janecka, Jr., another ardent Sokol on Stamps collector. Mr. Janecka, one of the three CPS judges at NOJEX exhibited Sokol on a non-competitive basis.



Sokol on Stamps Enthusiasts Lacko (left) and Janečka  
Before Old Sokol Posters

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(Top left) Col. de Voss Presenting APS Membership Card to Mirko Vondra. (Top right) E. Lisy, Secretary, (Middle left) Tom Meeks, Treasurer, (Middle right) The Convention in Session, (Bottom left) J. Carrigan, Librarian, (Bottom right) Will Reiner-Deutsch, Chairman, Judges Committee.

The Convention continued with the presentation of awards of the CZECH-OSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY by Dr. Wm. Reiner-Deutsch. CPS exhibiting participants were complimented by Dr. Reiner-Deutsch for another memorable showing and he further stated that there was complete unanimity among the judges—himself as Chairman, Mr. J. J. Janečka, Jr., and Henry Hahn—in the selection of winners. These are as follows:

1. **CPS GRAND AWARD—**  
Dr. L. X. Fischmeister of Augusta, Ga., for 6 frames of highly specialized showing of P. Č. 1919, Hradčany, Masaryk (Švabinský) and Flight Covers.
2. **Gold Award—**  
Mr. William A. Sandrik of Washington, D. C., for 4 frames of Forerunners of Czechoslovakia.
3. **Silver Award—**  
Mr. Charles Chesloe of Willow Springs, Ill. for 4 frames of Die Proofs and Die Essays of Czechoslovakia 1920-1938.

4. **Bronze Award—**  
Mr. C. J. Pearce of Coalgate, Oklahoma for 4 frames of Czechoslovakia Newspaper Stamps, Issue of 1918-1920.
5. **LOWEY Award—**  
Mr. T. M. Austin of Costa Rica for 2 frames of Variations of the First (Hradčany) Issue of Czechoslovakia.
6. **PRESIDENT'S Award—**  
Mr. Milan de Lany of Bethesda, Md. for 2 frames entitled "History of the Tragedy of Biafra in Stamps."
7. **Novice Award—**  
Mr. Olech W. Wyslotsky of New Jersey for Postal Documents of Ice Hockey and Soccer in Czechoslovakia.

The Convention was adjourned by President Vondra.

#### COUNCIL AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEET ON REORGANIZATION

The Convention meeting was preceded by a special session of the Council and Advisory Committee. Previous thereto, the Council had already approved incorporation of the Society. At this meeting, the Bylaws were discussed and formulated. These Bylaws will replace the old Constitution as soon as the Articles of Incorporation are approved under the Public Law of the District of Columbia. The quorum of the voting members present approved incorporation under the name SOCIETY FOR CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELY. Except for the new Bylaws replacing the old Constitution, the Society will remain intact, though it will operate under a Board of Directors instead of a Council.

The Council has proposed a set of Bylaws patterned after those of other philatelic societies. They should be ready for publication in the January issue of the SPECIALIST. For the present our Society will continue to operate under its present name and under the existing Constitution. Its present officers will continue in office until their terms expire at the end of 1973. However, the May nominations and the September elections of 1973 will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the new Bylaws. In this manner an orderly transition from the old system to the new one will be accomplished with a minimum of confusion.

A proposal to apply for a Second Class Mailing Permit for the SPECIALIST made by the Editor was approved by unanimous vote.

#### NOVEMBER MEETING, WASHINGTON BRANCH

The November Meeting of the Washington Branch took place on Saturday evening, Nov. 4th at the home of the De Lanys. The meeting included a comprehensive report on NOJEX by members Hahn and Carrigan, including the playing of tapes and showing of photographs. Awards and collections were given to those who exhibited but either did not attend or left before closing of NOJEX.

The December meeting will be held at the Tabors on Saturday, Dec. 2nd, at 8 p.m.

#### NEW MEMBERS

- #969 Mary E. Luckey, 212 Marcoe St., N. Fond du Lac, Wisconsin 54935
- #970 George Mrzena, 21-49 41st Street, Astoria, L. I., New York 11105
- #971 Frank Hrbek, 28-25 34th Street, Astoria, L. I., New York 11103
- #972 Frederick Kolb, 715 22nd Ave., San Francisco, Calif. 94121

## THE 1972 "PARADE"

The postal administration in Prague has released its 1972 schedule of new Czechoslovak stamp issues. It seems to be in line with emissions of the past few years. Practically all stamps, especially those of large size, are multi-colored—printed in the unique Czech process of recess and photo-tint.

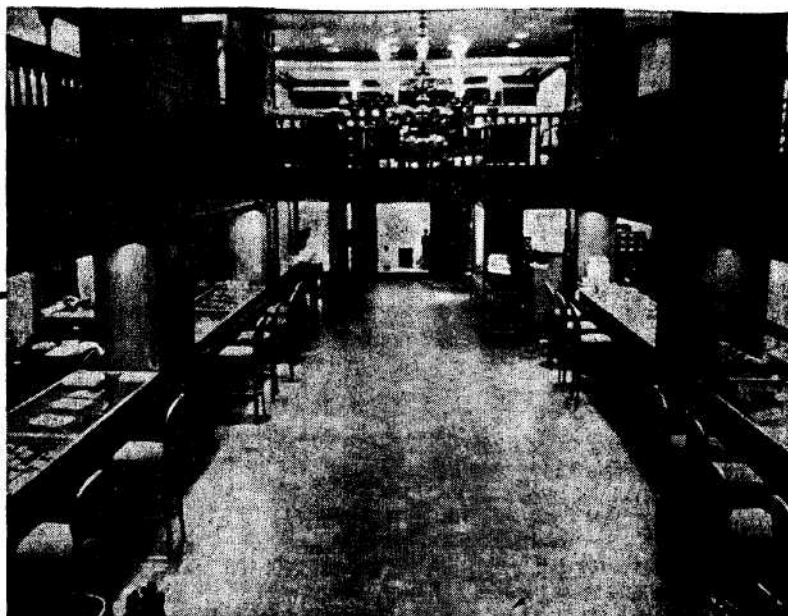
It is interesting to note that ARTIA has established a new rate of exchange since devaluation of the U. S. dollar. The new rate is \$1.00=Kčs. 6.55. Using this formula, mint singles of the 1972 program (80 stamps) add up to 121.80 Kčs., or \$18.60.

Here is the ambitious program (subject to change of course):

Date of issue	Subject	Kčs Values	Face U.S.	FDCs	in sec
Jan. 13	— Winter Olympics, Sapporo (4)	.40, .50, 1, 1.60	\$535	2	
Feb. 16	— Anniversaries				
	30 Years Ghetto Terezin (1)1		.30		
	30 Years Lidice (1)		.30		
	30 Years Lezaky (1)		.30		
	30 Years Csl. Army in USSR (1)		.60	.275	4
Mar. 17	— Int. Book Year (1)		1.00	.152	1
Mar. 17	— Centennial Kosice-Bohumin Railway (1)		.30	.046	1
Mar. 27	— Czech & Slovak Graphic Paintings (sheets of 4) (5)	.40, .50, 1, 1.60	.626	5	
Apr. 7	— World Hockey Championship in Praha (2)	.60, 1	.245	1	
	XX Olympic Games (4)	.50, 1.60, 1.80, 2.00	.91	2	
Apr. 25	— New Postage Dues (6)	.20, .30, .60, 1.00, 4.00, 6.00	1.85	0	
May 9	— Prague Castle Art (2)	3.00 & 3.00	.92	2	
June 14	— Personalities Ann. (6)				
	A. Sladkovic, poet		.40		
	J. Kral, poet		.40		
	L. Podjavorinska, writer		.40		
	A. Hudecek, painter		.40		
	F. Bilek, sculptor		.40		
	J. Preisler, painter		.40	.37	6
June 14	— VIII Trade Union Cong. (1)		.30	.046	1
June 14	— Definitive stamps (2)	5.00, 10.00,	2.30	0	
July 11	— New Postage Dues (5)	.10, .80, 1.20, 2.00, 3.00	1.09	0	
Aug. 28	— New Definitives (2)	3.00, 20.00	3.52	0	
Aug. 29	— Pinkers' Craft (5)	.20, .60, .80, 1.00, 2.60	.794	3	
Sept. 27	— Csl. Ships (3 vals in sheets of 10) (6)	50, .60, .80, 1.00, 1.60, 2.00	1.00	4	
Oct. 24	— Birds (3 values in sheets of 10) (6)	.60, .80, 1.00, 1.60, 2.00, 3.00	1.38	3	
Nov. 7	— 55th Ann. Great Oct. Revolution (2)	.30, .60	.138	1	
Nov. 27	— Paintings Nat'l Galleries (5) 1., 1.20, 1.40, 1.80, 2.40		1.20	5	
Dec. 15	— Horses (Part II) of Old Paintings (6)	.30, .60, .80, 1.60, 1.80, 2.20	1.12	3	
Dec. 18	— Day of Czechoslovak Postage Stamp (1)	1.00	.152	1	

All first day covers are sold at face plus 6c (U. S.) for each cover. The new high value definitives coming June 14 (5 and 10 Kčs.) and Aug. 28 (3 and 20 Kčs.) seem to be the most costly issues planned during 1972. These four stamps alone have a face value of \$5.82. The eleven new postage dues will have a face value of \$2.94. If one collects commemorative issues only, these 65 stamps will total \$9.84.

(Compiled by George A. Blizil)



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## Up and Down Czecho Avenue At Nojex Exhibit Hall

By Henry Hahn, Editor

A stroll past fifty-one frames exhibited by eighteen members of our SOCIETY can be fun—particularly when taken at a leisurely pace. But trying to make a brief record of what was there, and doing it justice, is another matter. Anyhow, here's an attempt:

The lead exhibit is one entitled "Czechoslovakia Forerunners," a NOJEX SILVER AWARD winning showing by Frank J. Kovarik of Illinois, who incidentally is an early Editor of the SPECIALIST and one of the founders of the CPS. The exhibit features circular postmarks from post offices which later became part of Czechoslovak territory. Though most are shown off piece we note that all are clean and top notch strikes. Frank's presence at NOJEX and his participation at the various functions was a welcome surprise to all his many friends.

Our next stop is a single frame of souvenir sheets of Czechoslovakia by Edwin J. Jirousek of Ohio. The exhibit features the "Kde domov můj?" music sheets as well as the scarce, imperforate Praga 1962 sheet.

The next four frames represent the work of one of our prominent collectors, Mr. C. J. Pierce of Oklahoma. The exhibit entitled "Czechoslovakia Newspapers Stamps" was honored with a NOJEX GOLD AWARD plus a Czechoslovak Philatelic Society BRONZE AWARD. Mr. Pierce, who is better known for his expertise and collection of the Agriculture and Science issue, this time exhibits a study of proofs, color trials, printers waste and varieties of Czechoslovakia's newspapers stamps of 1918-1920. The collection includes rare newspaper mixed franking, a trial printing of a horizontal gutter pair of the 10h and 2h, usage of newspaper stamps as ordinary franking, plate numbers and shades.

We next stop before a collection of postal documents by member Olech W. Wyslowsky of New Jersey, winner of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Societies' NOVICE AWARD. The collection includes postmarks and a broad variety of philatelic material relating to ice hockey and soccer in Czechoslovakia. The



Portion of "CZECHO AVENUE" at NOJEX with Strollers  
Hahn Senior and Junior

collection represents an excellent base for expansion into what we anticipate will become one of the best Czecho-topical collections assembled by a member of our Society.

Mirko L. Vondra next presents two frames entitled "Czechoslovakian Varieties" featuring primarily 1939 and 1940 New York Worlds' Fair overprints on Bratislava, Praga, Masaryk, 20th Anniversary of Liberation, and Newspaper Souvenir Sheets. The exhibit is a comprehensive presentation of this somewhat controversial issue, which in time may become an accepted and interesting specialization in Czechoslovak philately.

The next four frames entitled "Czechoslovak Independence—October 28, 1918" by Henry Hahn of Virginia represents a non-competitive showing by one of the three judges. The exhibit features stamps of the transition period, on and around October 28, 1918, as well as a representative showing of independence day commemorative issues through 1948.

One of the two Czechoslovak Philatelic Society exhibitors showing two separate exhibits is George Koplowitz of New York. His first exhibit, two frames entitled "Czechoslovakia-Hradčany Issue" features color trials, plate varieties, printing varieties and shades. The exhibit has received a NOJEX BRONZE AWARD which, we feel certain, is only one of a few that George has received for his fine collection. The second two frames exhibited by George Koplowitz are entitled simply "CZECHOSLOVAKIA," and feature cancellations on Czech stamps of the transition period 1918-1920. The exhibit features pre-World War I as well as altered postmarks on the Hradčany issue as well as on mixed franking.

We next come upon an exhibit entitled "CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN EXILE" by Karel Lipa of Michigan. The exhibit features first day covers of the period immediately following World War II. Also included are several non-postal items which, in one or more instances, detract somewhat from an otherwise fine exhibit. Mr. Lipa has, incidentally, contributed the article "CZECHOSLOVAK JUDAICA" to the NOJEX Exhibition Catalogue.

Next we come upon an exhibit of pictorial and first day cancellations on post World War II covers by Gavin A. Taylor of New Jersey. The exhibit is clearly and descriptively presented and illustrates the artistic beauty of the present day issues of Czechoslovakia. Following is a single frame presented by Joseph Stein of New York entitled "Hidden Engravers Marks on Czechoslovakian stamps." Joe Stein, incidentally, is the organizer of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society convention at SEPAD two years ago. His exhibit identifies and locates hidden monograms in pre-World War I issues by engravers Karel Seizinger, Bohumil Heinz, Jindra Schmidt, and Jaroslav Goldschmidt. His collection opens yet another interesting aspect of Czechoslovak philately which, though quite familiar to Czech specialists, is virtually unknown to the general collector.

The man who undoubtedly traveled the furthest to be with us and who brought with him a beautiful and highly specialized example of the philately of the Hradčany issue is Mr. T. M. Austin of Costa Rica. The exhibit received the Lowey Award of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society as well as a NOJEX bronze award. The exhibit features plate and printing varieties of the first issue including a 25h ultramarine on cover.

The next two frames, featuring the issues of Bohemia-Moravia and Slovakia by Emil J. Michaelson of New Jersey are on printed pages, published by K-Line Publishing. The exhibit receives the E. P. L. Apfelbaum award for the best exhibit on printed pages. We understand that lightning never strikes the same place twice, but nevertheless, Mr. Michaelson has received the identi-



cal award the second time in the past two years. Congratulations to Emil and CPS member George C. Kobylka, originator and publisher of these well illustrated and beautifully executed pages.

Our walking pace must now of necessity slow down as we approach the four frame exhibit by William A. Sandrik of Washington, D. C., entitled "Forerunners of Czechoslovakia." The period exhibited ranges from the stampless era to 1920. In addition to the NOJEX GOLD AWARD, the exhibit has also received the GOLD AWARD of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society, and a SILVER AWARD by the Postal History Society. Incidentally, Bill has also exhibited within the Postal History Section where in addition he has received the Postal History GOLD as well as another NOJEX GOLD AWARD. As Bill's back sags under the weight of all these awards all we can think of is what's he going to do for an encore? Among interesting items presented by Bill are some of the earliest postmarks of future Czechoslovak territories, so-called "Bundfrankatur," mixed franking, and other excellent examples of the truly "legitimate" days of philately.

Charles Chesloe of Illinois, author of SPECIALIST regular feature "Charley's Corner" will find his corner crowded by the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society's SILVER AWARD, the Paul von Stein PROOF AND ESSAY Award, as well as the NOJEX GOLD AWARD for his excellent showing of die proofs and die essays of Czechoslovakia 1920-1938. The excellent showing of Seizeinger die proofs, some signed, represents the most complete showing of this esthetically beautiful specialization of Czechoslovak philately. Charley's descriptions are simple but with such material, what need one say?

A single frame of propaganda cards relating to the Czechoslovak Legionaire Mails of World War I are presented noncompetitively by Dr. William Reiner-Deutsch, Chairman of the Judges Committee of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society. Dr. Reiner-Deutsch, former Editor of the SPECIALIST and Honorary Member of our Society has never failed to open new vistas to collectors of Czechoslovakia and the exhibit he presents forms an interesting side line to his famous and often exhibited collection of field posts.

A few "avenues" away from CZECHO AVENUE, due to late entry, and therefore also not listed in the NOJEX catalogue, we find the exhibits of Dr. L. V. Fischmeister and Mr. J. J. Janečka, Jr.

Dr. Fischmeister's showing of specialized P. Ā. 1919 is unprecedented in the U. S. with the possible exception of SIPEX in 1966, where Czechoslovak greats including Kvasnička, Herout and others exhibited in greater completeness but by far not as richly in terms of varieties, printing errors, offsets, natural creases, etc. As an example, Dr. Fischmeister shows six varieties of the overprinted 50h Hungarian Postage Due, not to mention multiple copies and varieties of most other "black numerals" of this rare issue. He showed 3 copies (one on cover) of the 2k Dark Blue as well as numerous other rarities by type. The showing of misprints of P. Ā. 1919 included both Austrian and Hungarian issues, many in blocks. In addition, the six frame exhibit included a fine showing of Hradčany gutters in large blocks, proofs, a number of Czecho Zeppelin Flight covers, and a good showing of švabinský-Masaryk trials. Dr. Fischmeister received the GRAND AWARD for 1972 of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society and the NOJEX BEST IN CLASS AWARD.

Last, but not least, we linger before Joseph Janečka's fine showing of the SOKOLS. Shown non-competitively, (Joe served as a CPS judge) the exhibit is representative of Joe's devotion to specialized areas of Czechoslovak philately as well as to the propagation of Czechoslovak culture and ideas in this country.

## From the Editor's Stock Book

As the exciting week-end at NOJEX drew to a close, one of the active and rather young participants was overheard to say . . . "I wish we had a CPS convention every year—I wonder why they ever decided to wait two years between these get-togethers" . . . we tend to agree, for NOJEX was another GREAT convention, in terms of the showing at the exhibition hall, in terms of our Convention speakers, and especially in terms of accomplishments at two rather lengthy Council meetings.

Looking back to SEPAD '70, the number of exhibitors, counting members of the CPS exhibiting in various classes, was about the same. Attendance at SEPAD by our membership was somewhat better in spite of the proximity of NOJEX to the New York metropolitan area, which supposedly has the highest density of members. Could our "population center" be shifting? Could it be toward the South—in which direction the highest awards in both shows traveled?

On the lighter side, we'll never know where Emil J. Michaelson, our Convention Chairman, liberated that delicious birthday cake which found its way to the back of the Convention room—but whose-ever birthday it was—Cheers.

We are pleased to report that CPS Junior Member Stephen Page of Sanford, Maine, is the new president of the Junior Philatelic Society of America. Congratulations and our best wishes!

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### BOOK REVIEW

**Československo 1973: katalog známek (Czechoslovakia 1973: Stamp Catalog), Praha, 1972, 489 pages.**

Stamp catalogs are a basic tool for every stamp collector, be he an accumulator or a highly specialized student of philately. They give us the orientation and basic information needed to put together the material we have on hand and, at the same time, serve as a guide in our never ending search for those items that continue to elude us. Few collections have been put together without at least periodic reference to a good catalog.

Collectors of Czechoslovak stamps are fairly fortunate in the quality of the philatelic literature available on their subject. And this includes the series of Pofis catalogs. These catalogs have been improved steadily over the years, each edition containing some innovations and/or improvements. *Československo 1973* is no exception.

*Československo 1973* retains the oblong format introduced in the 1971 Pofis catalog. The same typeface and quality of illustrations is present, but the number of pages has increased by 43. This increase is accounted for mainly by the continued generous space given each new series of stamps issued, and we all know that Czechoslovakia keeps its stamp presses fully occupied (in 1971 Czechoslovakia issued 21 sets for a total of 68 individual stamps).

Still, sections other than the new issues have been expanded or had changes made. The reader begins the catalog with a new section. Page 11 has a short paragraph and two illustrations referring to postal history. While this nod in the direction of postal history is brief indeed, it is a first in the Pofis catalogs and one would hope that future editions will expand this section considerably. The following sections on forerunners and provisional newspaper stamps are essentially the same as in the last catalog, though some of the text has been changed and different illustrations used.

The Hradčany section has been somewhat reorganized. The improvement here is not the reorganization, however, but the addition of a table listing the

stamps, values and perforations, which were overprinted with "VZOREC." The reader may recall that a listing of stamps with this overprint was included in earlier editions of this catalog, but the table format makes it possible to classify and organize such material at a glance.

Two other tables have been added to this catalog to assist the collector. One lists the joined types of the Hradčany stamps with the "Doplatit" overprints, and the other lists the perforations of those Hradčany stamps bearing the "SO 1920" overprint which were never officially issued. One deletion should be noted. The editors for reasons of their own dropped the details of the different types of the 1945 Košice sheetlet.

And then there is the question of price changes so dear to many collectors' hearts. This reviewer placed this aspect of the catalog near the end because that is how he views its importance. However, in this review the question of price changes must also come near the end because there are surprisingly few of them in this catalog. Pofis continues to list prices they actually charge for items in their sales outlets—when they have them in stock. Also their buying price is based on a percentage of the selling price. So from the point of view of Pofis, price stability is a good thing. It also can be argued that from the point of view of the collector it is also a good thing. But the point here is not whether price stability is desirable, but whether it is realistic. And realistic it isn't. Of course there are price changes, all upward (surprise, surprise) that we should note. The more important changes occur in some of the better values of the "Pošta" series, some newspaper stamps, and the "Cheshskya poshta" overprinted stamps.

In conclusion it must be said that Československo 1973 is an improvement over previous editions and should be on the desk of every collector of Czechoslovakia. For the American collector the catalog's usefulness is, to be sure, lessened by the fact that it is in Czech. But this is not a major drawback. The catalog is so well illustrated that the interested collector should have little difficulty. Nor is there anything like it available in English.

J. Verner

## SPECIALIST BOOK & 1973 POFIS CATALOGUE SALE

The following books are offered for sale by the CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST on a "first come first served" basis:

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CATALOGUE OF THE "PRAGA '68" EXPOSITION .....	2.25
DR. JAN KOSTELKA: BOHEMOSLOVENIKA (78 pages) .....	.60
POFIS 1973 CATALOGUE .....	5.00

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Mr. Edward O. Tabor, Jr.  
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## Charley's Corner

By Charles Chesloe, Box 237, Willow Springs, Ill. 60480

One of the first governments to realize fully the potential of making money from the issuance of postage stamps was Adolph Hitler's Third Reich.

A lot of money was pumped into the German war machine from the sales in Germany as well as in the other occupied territories under Nazi domination. No less than 181 major varieties were issued by the Protectorate of Bohemia-Moravia and 206 by the "state" of Slovakia. It is especially noteworthy how the surcharge on semi-postal issues increased during the last two years of the Third Reich.

Although the majority of issues of the Third Reich are fairly inexpensive and easily obtainable, there are some varieties that are quite rare and difficult to find. One item that I have been looking for for a long time is the topic of this month's CORNER.

Patriotic Czechs alive at the time will never forget 4 June 1942; that was the day the Reichsprotector Reinhard Heydrich was assassinated. He was ambushed in Prague by Josef Gabčík and others as he was driven at high speed in his limousine; cut down by machine-gun fire and hand grenades.

A semi-postal stamp was issued one year after his death. A souvenir sheet consisting of a single stamp was also prepared and given to the 1,000 high officials who had attended his funeral.

The sheets were numbered from 1 to 1,000 and enclosed in an envelope which was numbered identically to the sheet. The paper is rather buff in color and fully gummed. The numbers are well formed. One sheet is known to exist without a number, probably a unique copy. I have never heard of any forgeries even though the sheet is rare and expensive.

If you can afford the price, I strongly urge you to purchase one of these Heydrich sheets as an investment because I am sure that during the War many of them were destroyed. In the last few years these souvenir sheets have continually increased in value, and there is no evidence that this trend will change. For instance, the recent quotation in the 1970-71 Michel catalog was 1,250 marks.

On the other hand, if you can't (or won't) invest in the Heydrich souvenir sheet, you can still have fun with the Heydrich issue, particularly if you happen to have a full sheet. If not, take a look at your singles or blocks for two plate varieties. The first is the "egg on top of the head." It appears, big as life, right at the very top of the death mask. To the less imaginative it is merely very light shading on the top lock of the hair. On most sheets it appears in position 19, 29, 39 and 49—most prominently though in position 29. A second variety appears in the date "1942", which in some positions looks more like "1842". On a few positions it is hard to tell whether the supposed 9 is a 9 or an 8, but in general the distribution in a regular sheet of 100 (10x10) is as follows:

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8 9 8 8 8 9 9 9 9
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9 9 9 9 8 9 9 9 9 9
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9 9 9 9 9 8 9 9 8 8
9 9 9 9 9 9 8 9 8 9
9 9 9 9 8 9 9 9 8 8
8 8 9 9 9 8 9 9 8 9
8 9 9 9 9 8 8 9 8

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Finally, the sheet has no plate number or marking, except for the name "BILDHAUER F. POTTER" under the 100th stamp.

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## Look Out For Forgeries of the 40h Type I Chain Breakers

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Translated by Lawrence J. Huml

In examining stamps for genuineness, within the past year, I have met with a rather unusual manifestation. This manifestation concerns the so-called Chain Breaker, i.e., Allegory of the Liberation of the Republic (Scott type A-6) issue, in particular the 40h red-brown, Type I, showing 9 linden leaves. These stamps have come to me from various parts of the Republic. The difference in price between Type II showing 10 linden leaves, and the aforementioned Type I, is considerable as quoted below from the most recent Pofis catalog:

Type I — comb perforation 14 — mint 65 Kčs, used 30h  
line perforation 13% — mint 350 Kčs, used 60 Kčs  
Type II — comb perforation 14 — mint 1 Kčs, used 10h  
line perforation 13% — mint 3 Kčs, used 1 Kčs

Se-tenant:

Type I & II — comb perforation 14 — mint 1000 Kčs, used 400 Kčs.  
line perforation 13% — used 800 Kčs

Type I — comb perforation (sideways) mint 150 Kčs, used 60 Kčs

The above quotations appear reasonable in my opinion with the exception of Type I, line perforated 13% used. This quotation, I believe, should be substantially lower, in the neighborhood of 20-25 Kčs, which would be logical in comparison with the price of the comb perforated variety (sideway comb perforation), which is listed at 60 Kčs.

The substantially lower price listings of the Type II stamps (particularly those which are line perforated) give rise to the opportunity to forge the Type II to make it the more sought after Type I. Forgeries of this type have reached extreme proportions in recent months as a result of which I feel obligated to warn collectors the world over.

The submitted forgeries are almost entirely of the line perforated variety, and for the most part in the used condition. Forgers skillfully cover the 10th leaf of the Type II with color. This is most noticeable when they select for this purpose a stamp with a cancellation that does not reach the area of the tenth leaf. This is done in order that the color not touch upon any part of the cancellation. The same thing is, of course, more easily accomplished with



Type I left, Type II right

unused stamps, though I have seen a substantially lesser number of mint forgeries.

However, I have examined a large block of unused line perforated stamps of Type I. Unfortunately, I concluded that even this block was a forgery. This forgery, incidentally, went unnoted for nearly 50 years, though admittedly, it had not been expertized up to now.

In general, identification of over-coloring of the 10th leaf can not be accomplished by examination at 5x to 8x magnification alone. In addition, strong light or even a quartz lamp will not suffice.

As a minimum, identification of this type of forgery requires the aid of a microscope with a magnification of 24x to 30x along with excellent lighting.

As far as is known, similar counterfeiting of setenant types has not as yet been accomplished, or in any event, a sample of such a forgery has not yet been submitted. This situation is similar in some respects to the case of stamps with sideway comb perforations. In the latter case, forgery is singularly impossible because stamps of Type II with comb perforation (sideways) never existed.

While there are other means of detecting forgeries of the Type I chain breaker, I shall not cite further details of identification because such information would aid forgers and thus lead to further forgeries.

One of the purposes of this article is to warn against possible disappointment to the purchasing collector. It is essential to know, first of all, who our dealer is and we must have a guarantee of returning any stamps purchased or be otherwise compensated for loss. In the absence of such guarantee, we must demand other forms of guarantee of genuineness of stamps of this variety such as expertization by a member of the Commission of Judges of the Federation of Czechoslovak Philatelists. We make a particular point of the latter because expertization marks by others than members of the Commission have on occasion been found to be incorrect.

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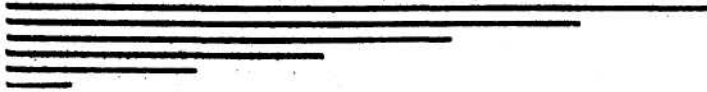
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