

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE
CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

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Editor Frank J. Kovarik, 2502 So. Kedzie Ave., Chicago 23, Ill.

Vol. XI

December 1949

No. 10

EDITORIAL

It isn't often your editor borrows ideas from other philatelic writers. When an author presents something truly worth while, something new, or something old but couched in a new form, it should be passed on to others. The world is a library of thoughts; the best should be disseminated far and wide. Progress is built on a free interchange of thoughts; if these are kept within a limited circle they are worthless. We have often read that the world will beat a path to the door of the man who builds a better mousetrap. At first, someone had to conceive a mousetrap; others developed it until it reached a perfection called "foolproof." Mice are clever; they may fool the "foolproof" mousetrap inventor and a new idea to outsmart the mouse must be born.

We have before us the September 1949 issue of the *Mercury Stamp Journal*, edited by Edwin Mueller. On pages 241-243 is an article entitled "The Art of Collecting." We are sorry we haven't the space in our modest publication to reprint the entire article. To those of us who specialize, the following excerpt will be of interest.

"For quite a number of collectors, general collecting along the lines sketched above does not seem very attractive. They look for more concentration in a field which they especially like; they want to become specialists of one country, collecting not only the stamps and varieties listed in a general catalog, but everything in their field of interest connected with the creation, manufacture, issue and use of the stamps, as well as with the country's postal history. There are also so many possible variations of specializing that there is no danger of loss of individuality for the collector who chooses a certain field.

"It is not our job to analyze why a collector chooses just a special field for his philatelic activities. Sentimental considerations ("the old country of the ancestors"), special opportunities to acquire a useful stock to work on, but frequently no obvious reason at all, just a favorite field, may be responsible for the choice of a collector. The main thing is that it is a field which he likes and which satisfies him. The term "uncollectable," coined by narrow minded philatelists, should not exist in the philatelic vocabulary, everything which pleases a collector to collect is worthwhile to be collected and if he is aware of the "inner value" of the objects of his collecting activities, nobody should minimize his stature as a collector.

"It is quite interesting to consider the psychological roots of specializing. On the one hand, a collector who favors a certain group of stamps looks for an excuse to keep more than one copy of each in his collection. Specializing, which divides one catalog number into a somewhat larger number of varieties, gives him the perfect opportunity to put in his collection as many of the stamps he likes as shades, types and other varieties. On the other hand, specializing enables the collector to realize an old dream, to have "unique" items in his collection, items which nobody else has. While the general collector only when he possesses the famous 1c British Guiana can claim he has a unique item, it

is much easier to find and acquire some special variety of which no other copy is known and which therefore is, in the eyes of the specialist, as unique as the British Guiana.

"To make specializing a satisfactory and successful philatelic hobby, the collector needs not only time and patience but he has to be a talented philatelist, a gift which cannot be acquired but is part of a person's personality. A "born philatelist" will easily solve philatelic problems which give headaches to other collectors. He will eventually not be satisfied with specializing alone, he will invade the field of philatelic research and will try to uncover philatelic facts hitherto unknown. For a philatelic student, real philatelic talent is necessary and everybody who has not been born with it should leave his hands off of philatelic research work. But a philatelist who conducts research in any given philatelic field and is successful in his efforts toward solving philatelic problems will be highly rewarded by the knowledge that he has contributed to the advancement of our hobby.

"The straight path from the general collector to the philatelic research worker and student is only in relatively few cases an express road. Many stations along the way call for meditation and the pleasant philatelic views slow down the movement toward the ultimate goal, which only a very small percentage ever reaches. Many stay on the roadside because they found general or specialized collecting so pleasant and satisfactory that they have no desire to leave it. Many others turn into side roads, concentrating their collecting activities along philatelic sidelines, sometimes even entirely forgetting their original goal. Collectors who collect only cancellations of all kinds, or pre-stamp covers, or first day covers and cachets, or registration or airmail labels and similar groups frequently consider the stamps themselves as less important. They almost lose contact with stamp collecting which always was and always will be the basis of all philatelic activities....Such collectors are still "stamp collectors," but they nevertheless have driven on the side road to the fringes of philatelic activity."

THE END OF THE YEAR

We are sure that every member knows what follows the above heading. Yes, you can save the Society much money and the treasurer much work by paying your dues promptly. We have never burdened our members with high dues. We are convinced that our members get much more for the money they put into the Society than members of any other specialized group in the U. S. Most of these organizations ask \$3.00 per year or more, depending on the popularity of the specialty, the number of members and the type of information they give in return for the dues. We have three classes of members. The regular membership is \$1.00 per year. This member is directly active, is entitled to vote for the officers who conduct the activities of the Society and to receive the **Specialist** as it appears. Then we have the associate member who pays \$2.00 or more. This member is entirely equal to the regular member, but he realizes that if all members paid only one dollar per year, the **Specialist**, which absorbs 100% of the dues paid, could not maintain its present status and high caliber, so he enhances the treasury with a 100% increase in dues. In recognition of this sacrifice, the Society mails to him at the end of the year the entire volume mailed flat, ideal for either binding or filing. Then we have the patron member who pays \$5.00 a year or more. This member sacrifices himself to a considerable extent by giving more than he gets in return; he is the true Maecenas of our Society. He gives because he realizes that the work we are doing can mean much for the healthy growth of our Society and its aims. In the olden days these members received the year's volume bound. In the immediate post-war years the cost of binding has increased about 400%. Most of the patron members assured us they are willing to contribute \$5.00 for two years to obtain two volumes bound in one. Thus their contribution again means substantial help to the Society. This means substantial help to the regular member who gets more than his dollar's worth of information on Czech stamps each year.

This next year your Society hopes to publish a handbook of the stamps of

Czechoslovakia. The favorable or unfavorable acceptance of our first attempt will influence our specialists. If this, our first attempt, is successful, other handbooks, more detailed and specialized, will appear. It is not the intention of the specialists in your Society to reap any benefit from their work. All profits will go to the Society and ultimately every member gains.

Now, dear member, you are ready to go to your desk and make out a check to the treasurer, Mr. Edward Sabol. Before you reach that "\$" in your check-book, stop and meditate. (We'll help you: What did the membership in the Society mean to me? Did I gain valuable knowledge? From a purely materialistic viewpoint—did I get help from the **Specialist**? Am I robbing myself and others by contributing only one dollar? Can I afford to give more? Then why don't I?) This does not apply to members in most countries outside the U. S. A. where Treasury regulations forbid the export of money. Most of these members have their dues paid by members within the U. S.

You are a member of the finest specialist organization in this country. You certainly want to keep it on as high a plane as possible. Do your bit! Your officers are sacrificing time and money to give you information you couldn't glean anywhere unless you could speak and read Czech or Slovak and subscribed to all the philatelic publications over there—plus!

Now that we have had our little talk—fill in the amount according to the dictates of your conscience. Oh, sure, we'll accept more than \$5.00! But to all—the poor and the rich (in giving)—your officers wish you and all those you hold dear

A Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year
1950!

REASON FOR ORBIS

The philatelic column in the Praha daily "Prace" (Work) has explained the reason for government control of stamp collecting. According to the columnist it is for the good of every Czech collector because stamp dealers and shady operators have been smuggling CSR stamps abroad and selling them at enormous discounts. By selling coupons, plate numbers and gutters at exorbitant rates they could dispose of the rest of the stuff cheaply and thus hurt both the Czech crown and stamps. To get rid of these "thieves and chisellers" who earn a good living without work, the government through Orbis sells to every collector one set of mint stamps at face and as many sets as desired on first day covers and philatelic "favor sheets." If a Czech collector wants a block of 4 or more he can purchase select material from Orbis in any quantity. If an American collector writes to Orbis and mails them American dollars he can get anything he wishes at face. But Orbis, by protecting the small worker-collector in Czechoslovakia, has computed the prices for him this way: "For instance, the Day of the Miners issue costs 9.50 Kcs. face and at the present rate of exchange that means 19 cents. If, however, we figure this 19 cents according to the Swiss Money Bourse, it costs about 95 Kcs. Orbis, in its endeavor to help the poor collector, sells them at a 30% discount, that is, 70 Kcs. In this way the smuggling of our stamps abroad will cease."

We are not very intelligent because we cannot understand how 9.50 Kcs. less 30% can equal 70 Kcs. We may have to go to school to understand this modern mathematics. We are also anxious to know the meaning of "thieves and chisellers," for doesn't Orbis practice what it accuses "smugglers" of doing?

From the same column we learn the results of a Drufila auction of Czech stamps. We are sure our members will be pleased with this information.

		Drufila Cat.	Sold for
1919	30h red violet Hradcany	3,000	2,600
1926	Sokol set	2,000	1,300
1932	Sokol (Tyrs) set	500	250
1933	Nitra set	160	95
1935	Arras—plate blocks	—	160

1937	Little Entente in gutter prs.	120	100
1930	Air mail—1 Kc line perf 12¼	500	280
1922-26	Postage due provisionals complete	532	340

NEW MEMBER

400. Alexis E. Kellogg, 120 John R. St., Detroit 26, Mich.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

307. David Martin, 13182 Nina Pl., Garden Grove, Calif.

389. R. A. Boydston, Box 652, Ancon, Canal Zone.

We are looking for the new addresses of Jos. Janousek and M. R. Gardner.

JULIUS FUCIK

Last issue of the Specialist we chronicled the new 2.Kcs stamp featuring Julius Fucik. Fucik was editor of "Rude Pravo" (Red Rights) and was executed by the Nazis. While in prison he wrote a book entitled "Reports written in the Noose." The manuscript was smuggled out of the prison and was published after the war. It has been extensively translated (Russian, Polish, Hungarian, etc.)

MISCELLANY

In two of the recent shows in Chicago, member Rud. Novy was awarded a trophy for his C. A. M. covers at the Airpex; Members Chas. Waldmann and Mildred Glueck were awarded trophies at the Chicago Philatelic Club's show; Mildred showed her beautiful collection of Czech town cancellations on stampless covers and early Austria and Charles showed his study of the first three air mail stamps, which included proofs, printers waste, the stamps on and off cover, and a comprehensive showing of counterfeits.

The Federation of Czechoslovak Philatelic Clubs informs us that on December 18, 1949, designated as Day of the Postage Stamp, Dr. Al. Neumann, Minister of Posts, will deliver an address. For this occasion the Federation will issue a postcard and an envelope bearing the emblem of the imminent International Postage Stamp Exposition "Praga 1950"; these were designed by A. Jonas and engraved by Goldschmied. Elsewhere in this issue is chronicled the "Child Welfare" issue of stamps; these stamps will be attached to the postcards and envelopes and mailed on the first day of issue. Any member wanting these may send two international reply coupons for one cover or one postcard (state which you prefer) and address to: Praga 1950, Praha II, Vaclavske Nam. 41, Czechoslovakia.

We are in receipt of several copies of a list of bona fide Czechs who wish to exchange stamps and other philatelic material. The collectors enumerated in the listing "have given their word of honor to their Clubs to honorably fulfill every exchange obligation." This may come in handy when exchange is again possible. You may obtain this pamphlet by sending a stamped addressed envelope to the editor or to the president, Mr. Geo. A. Blizil, 2364 Queenston Rd., Cleveland Heights 18, Ohio.

Fifty years ago the Austrian Post Office started a pneumatic post in Praha (Vienna had it since 1873) and for this purpose it issued labels whose strange characteristic was the use of Czech inscription first and German last. That year, too, marked the devaluation of Austrian currency and the substitution of heller and kronen for kreuzer and gulden.

In the newly issued airmail overprints we find on the 15/24.Kcs two shades of the overprint: one is light blue, the other dark blue.

We read in stamp columns of Czechoslovak newspapers that on December 2, 1949, the Post Office Department in Praha will issue a commemorative 3. Kcs stamp for the birthday of Generalissimo Josef Stalin. It is possible we shall receive a confirmation of this from Praha soon.

**A LISTING OF COMMEMORATIVE POSTMARKS USED IN
CZECHOSLOVAKIA DURING THE YEAR 1948**

(Continued from last month)

31. Bratislava 1	bl I. celonarodna konferencia SSM First allstate conference of SSM	5/22-23
32. Terezin	b III. Narodni tryzna Third National	6/6
32a. Svatava	b Odhaleni pomniku TGM Unveiling TGM monument	6/6
33. Hronska Breznica Temporary P. O.	b Trat mladeze Line of Youth	from 5/15
34. Frydek 1	b Slet sokolske zupy Tesinske Tesingroup Sokol Meet	6/6-20
35. Turnov 1	b Slet Sokolske zupy Jestedske Jested group Sokol Meet	6/13
36. Duchcov	b Slet sokolske zupy Krusnohorske Krusna Hora Group Sokol Meet	6/13
37. Hrad Karlstejn	b 1348—600 let—1948 Sun. & Hol. 600 years	6/13-8/15
38. Bustehrad	b Lidice-Narodni pout Lidice National Pilgrimage	6/13
39. Praha 10 Hrad	r Volba presidenta republiky Election of president of Republic	6/14
40. Praha 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 1e, 1f, 1g, 1h, 1i, 1j, 1k, 2e, 2f, 2g, 2h, 2i, 2j, 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 3e, 3f, 3g, 3h, 3i, 4a, 4b, 4c, 4d, 4e, 5a, 5b, 5c, 5d, 5e	b XI. Vsesokolsky slet Eleventh All Sokol Meet	6/18-7/8
41. Praha Auto- posta a, b	b do	do
42. Kromeriz 1 a, b, c	b Vystava 100 let ceskeho narodniho zivota—1848-1948 ? Exposition of 100 years of Czech national life	
43. Opava 1	b 30. vyroci zalozeni ppl. 34 Strelce Jana Capka 30. anniversary of 34th infantry reg.	6/26-27
44. Vrbatuv Kostelec Lezaky	b III. Narodni pout Third national pilgrimage	6/27
45. Doksy	b Den radosti u Machova jezera Day of joy at Macha Lake	7/11
46. Franstat pod Radhostem	b Ceskoslovenska-polska manifestace Czechoslovak-Polish Manifestations	7/15&19
47. Praha 7 Letecka Posta	b I. let Praha-Beyrouth First flight Praha-Beyrouth	7/21
48. Zlin 1	b I. Mezinarodni filmovy festival pracujicich First international film festival of workers	7/28-8/8
49. Kaplice	b II. Narodni slavnost Second national celebration	8/1
50. Pardubice 1	b Vystava Vychodni Cechy Republice Eastern Bohemia to the Republic Exposition	8/8,15,29 9/12,19, 26,10/3
51. Zlin Auto- posta	b Mezinarodni Motocyklovy Maraton Medzinarodowy Maraton Motocyklowy International Motorcycle Marathon	8/9,10,11
52. Brno Auto- posta	b do	8/12
53. Kromeriz 1	b Zemska Manifestacni Slavnost KSC National Celebrations of KSC	8/14,15
54. Broumov	b 600 let mesta Broumova 600 years of the city of Broumov	8/14,15
55. Pisek 1	b 30 let ppl. 11 Frantiska Palackeho 30 years of 11th Inf. Reg.	8/14,15
56. Zlin 1	b 100 let Zlinske posty Centenary of Zlin Post Office	8/15

57. Kosice 1	g	II. Celoslovensky esperantsky kongres Second All Slovak Esperanto Congress	8/21-23
58. Mnichovo Hradiste	b	Oslavy steho vyroci zruseni roboty Celebrations of centenary of end of serfdom	8/22
59. Podebrady	b	Mezinarodni zavod v chuzi 50km Praha-Podebrady International 50km walking contest	8/22
60. Brno 28	b	IV. manifestacni oslava prace KSC Fourth celebrations of work of KSC	8/22
61. Bratislava 1	b	XX. jubilejni sjazd cs. sachistov 20th jubilee meet of Cz. Chess players	8/15-3/1
62. Karlovy Vary 1	b	Postovni celostatni vsesportovni hry Postal workers sport games	8/25-29
63. Kosice 1	r	Ste vyrocie udalosti 1848 2 types Stvrte vyrocie slov. narodneho postania Centenary of 1848 happenings 4th anniversary of Slovak uprising	8/27-29
64. Pardubice 1	b	II. sjezd budovatelu republiky KSC 2nd convention of KSC builders of the Republic	8/29
65. Zidlochovice	b	75. vyroci povyseni na mesto 75th anniversary of elevation to city	8/29
66. Praha 1	b	Divadelni zatva 1948 Theatre	9/3-4-10/23-28
67. Pardubice 1	b	Vychodoceske vystavni trhy East Bohemian Exhibition Markets	9/5
68. Praha 1 a, b, c, d	b	Dr. Edvard Benes—Druhy president Ceskoslovenske republiky Dr. Edward Benes—Second president of Czechoslovak Republic	9/8
69. Domazlice	b	30. let ppl. 35 "Foligno" 30 years of 35th Inf. Reg.	9/11,12
70. Zilina 2	bl	Oblastny den KSS Jubilee day of KSS	9/12
71. Praha Autoposta	b	PVV Prague Sample Fair	9/12-19
72. Cheb 1	b	I. Oblastni sjezd cs. hasicstva First convention of Cz. Firemen	9/18,19
73. Myjava	r	1848-1948 Storočnica I. slovenskeho nar. postania Centenary of Slovak national uprising	9/19
74. Sturovo 1	bl	Narodne oslavy vlasteneckeho okresu National celebrations of patriotic county	9/12
75. Litomerice	b	Oslavy M. P. Stranskyho M. P. Stranski Celebrations	9/25,26
76. Pisek 1	b	170 let piseckeho gymnasia 170 Years of Pisek College	9/25,26
77. Praha 1	b	Mezinarodni druzstevni sjezd International Congress of	9/26-30
78. Bratislava 1	bl	Posviacka r. k. kostela na Kalvarti Blessing of R. C. Church "Calvary"	10/3
79. Usti nad La- bem Auto- posta	b	Krajova manifestace "nikdy jiz Mnichov" Local manifestation "Never again Munich"	10/9
80. Pardubice Zavodiste	b	Velka Pardubicka steeple-chase Grand steeple-chase in Pardubice	10/10
81. Caslav	b	30. vyroci zalozeni ppl. 21 "Terronskeho" 30 years of 21st Inf. Reg.	10/23,24
82. Praha 1 a, b	r	Tricet let Ceskoslovenske Republiky 30th anniversary of Cz. Republic	10/28
83. Praha 10 Hrad	r	do	10/28
84. Praha 29 N.S.	r	do	10/28
85. Pardubice 1	r	do	10/28
86. Usti nad La- bem	r	do	10/28
87. Plzen 1	r	do	10/28
88. Tabor 1	r	do	10/28
89. Brno 1	r	do	10/28
90. Olomouc 1	r	do	10/28
91. Opava 1	r	do	10/28

92. Bratislava 1	r	Tridsat rokov Ceskoslovenskej republiky 30th anniversary of Cz. Republic	10/28
93. Kosice 1	r	do	10/28
94. Kosice 1	bl	XVIII. Medzinarodny Maraton Slobody 18th international Marathon of Liberty	10/28
95. Cvikov	b	Odhaleni pomniku generalissima J. V. Stalina Unveiling of monument to Generalissimo J. V. Stalin	11/7
96. Praha 1 a, b	b	52.narozeny presidenty republiky Klementa Gottwalda 52nd birthday of president Gottwald	11/23
97. Vyskov 1	b	1896-1948—Dedice—Rodiste presidenty republiky Klementa Gottwalda Dedice—Birthplace of pres. Gottwald	11/23
98. Praha 1	b	Vystava Tricet let ceskoslovenske znamky Exhibition 30 years of Cz. Stamp	12/11-18
99. Praha 1 a, b	b	5. vyroci ceskoslovensko-sovetske smlouvy 5th anniversary of Cz.-Soviet Pact	12/12
100. Praha 1 a, b	b	Den postovni znamky Day of the postage stamp	12/18
101. Brno 1	b	do	12/18
102. Praha 7	b	same as no. 98	12/18-1/6,1949

A friend gave us a very interesting cover. It bears the 1930 Masaryk, 1. Kcs carmine and is cancelled Pardubice, November 22, 1923. Such errors do not occur too frequently.

WANTED TO BUY

Volumes 1 through 7 of the CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST, any or all of them.

HENRY O. NOUSS

405 N. Elizabeth Ave.

Ferguson 21, Mo.



On September 1, 1949, A. N. Weiner and E. J. Fein, combined in business to offer stamp collectors PHILATELIC LITERATURE and postage stamps (on and off cover).

We offer the Book published by the Ministry of Posts of Praha and entitled

TRICET LET CESKOSLOVENSKE POSTOVNI ZNAMKY (30 years of the Czechoslovak Stamp)

This volume contains plates picturing die proofs of earlier issues in original color. Price \$5.00 postpad.

We also have on hand a few Hirsch-Mrnak catalogs—1949—at \$1.00 each.

We solicit orders for the various catalogs and books published in Czechoslovakia and in other parts of the world. We handle every order, large or small.

Until further notice please make all remittances payable to A. N. Weiner.

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