

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.

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EDITORIAL

Our editorial vacation came to an end very soon. Those two months went by so fast we hardly realized summer is almost over, the kids go back to school, most people have already talked themselves hoarse about the fine vacations they had and about the "big ones" that got away. Now we must get our nose to the grindstone again and try to satisfy a large number of Czecho addicts each month. With the vast majority this is very easy; there are small segments who collect material we do not understand and don't know if a sufficient number of members would be interested. In this category we place collectors of Field Posts, perfins, revenue and stamped paper (duty paper). Some years back we listed the various phases of philately our members pursued. Some avid collectors would require a page listing of their "specialties". (Incidentally, we found these to be one or two year members. They never could make up their minds what they really wanted to collect.) Perhaps we could list the specialties of Czechoslovakia such as: singles, blocks, tabs, commemoratives, plate varieties, first day cover, cancellation, postmarks, the various issues, etc. If a sufficient number of members shows interest we may incorporate this into next year's membership list.

Your editor has completed thirty years of service in the Chicago Post Office. A new law provides for an optional retirement of personnel after the age of 55 and 30 years of service. Together with our military duty we have 32 years plus of service to Uncle Sam. Our early years in the Post Office were happy years. A man doing his job conscientiously was never bothered. Then a new trend originated. By then we were a supervisor and the supervisor was beset with all kinds of responsibilities. He was sent to school where good public and employee-supervisor relationships were taught. But when we return to the workroom floor we must forget the beautiful lessons of getting along with our fellow employees. Much could be written on this subject but the writer prefers to leave well enough alone and instead of trying to remake the Post Office, prefers to retire as soon as the law allows. Your editor will join the exodus and in a few months after that we hope to catch up with our mail and some of the philatelic activities and then find a job to keep body and soul together. If we have in any way failed you please bear with us and in due time we shall reach your letter and take care of it.

In our last Specialist we implied that another story about FIPEX shall appear in this issue. We receive all the important philatelic publications of this country and Great Britain as well as other countries, and in these we found so much material about the Big Show that we feel sure our members will feel grateful to us for eliminating further discussion of the subject. We do publish two illustrations which appeared in STAMPS to place on record some-

thing other than our own selfish conceit which appeared in June.

A few days ago we received from Praha a most remarkable book explaining the Czech Postal Museum and its exhibits. This book comes paper bound as well as in hard covers and is a must in every Czecho collector's library. Even for those who do not understand Czech the illustrations are worth the cost of the book. We should like to make an exhaustive report on it but we must meet our printer's deadline and so, on another page, we give a brief resumé of this fine volume. To its author and compiler, Mr. Ervin Hirsch, our sincere congratulations on a task well done.

You will notice that this issue of the Specialist includes the membership list, we therefore omit the New Members and Change of Address lines. Should any error occur in the listing we hope our members notify us and are indulgent to our faults.

As you know our Annual Exhibition takes place next month. All contributions and donations of philatelic material should be sent immediately to the chairman of the auction committee, John Velek, 2523 No. Newcastle Ave., Chicago 35, Ill. All prospectuses must be sent on time to the General Chairman, Dr. James J. Matejka, Jr., Suite 216, La Salle Hotel, 2 No. La Salle St., Chicago, Ill. Let it not be said you were not warned. This show promises to be the biggest ever put on by our Society and every member should participate.

Due to the large amount of material ready for publication in this issue we omit the Parade of New Issues. This will appear in the next issue of the Specialist. Apropos of this: If our finances would permit we'd never need use an excuse like this. Pay your dues on time, bring in new members, work for the betterment of your Society, voluntarily increase your dues and rest assured your officers will strive to give you your money's worth.

CHICAGO GROUP MEETINGS

The May meeting of the group was held in the home of Dr. James J. Matejka, Jr., and it was gratifying that all six members who attended FIPEX from Chicago were present. Our moral success at the International kept no one in hiding. We recalled with pleasure our daily contacts with members of the New York group and the visiting members from other parts of the United States and Canada. We hoped to publish at least the names of the visitors at our booth but this would mean a loss of several pages of the Specialist, plus the chance we'd accidentally omit someone and more space would be allotted to explanations and apologies. Those of us who attended, deep down in our hearts are thankful for the opportunity and can relive our FIPEX experiences either in company of those we met there or in the solitude of our dens, smoking and enjoying our night cap. (What shall we do? We gave up smoking and our medical advisor cut us down on liquid refreshments, alcoholic, that is!)

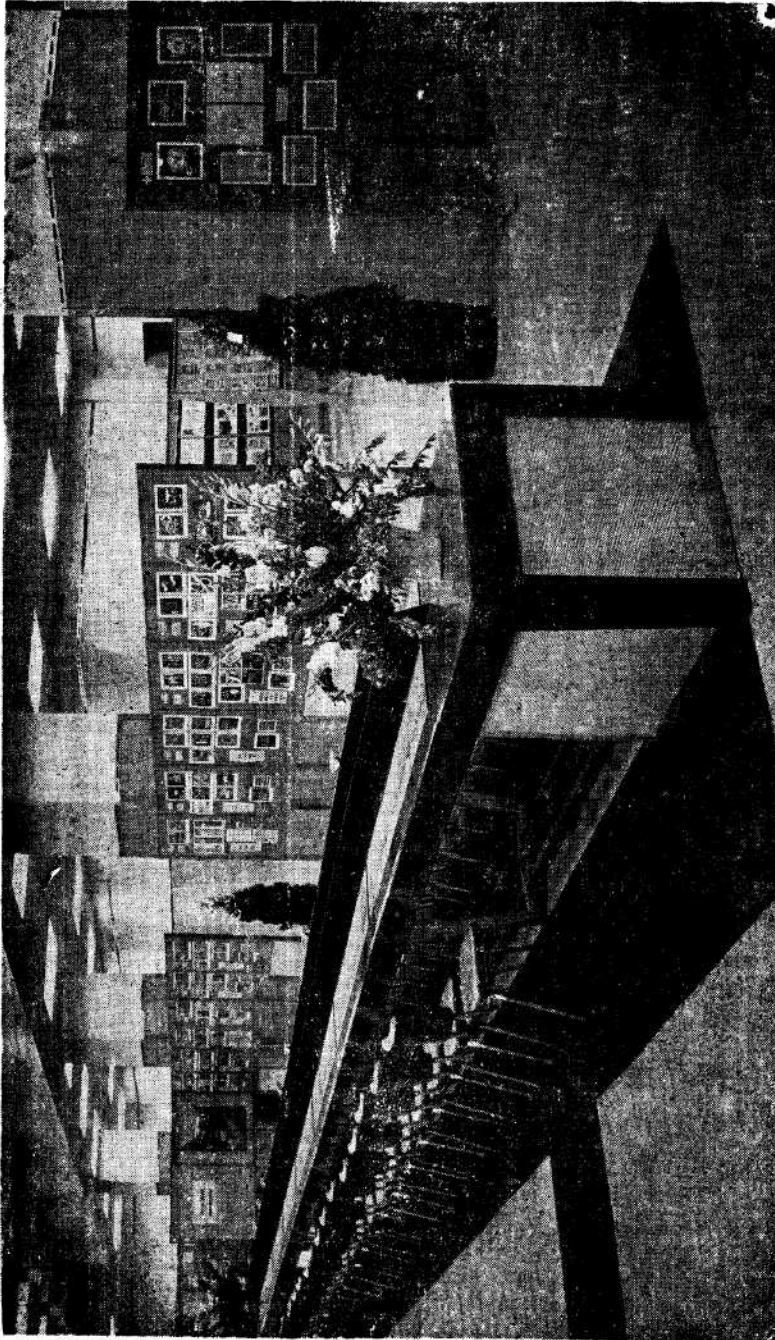
At the June meeting in the home of member Charles Chesloe pure and unadulterated business was on the agenda. The reports given by the various committee chairmen were presented and from all appearances the next show of our Society will surpass the show we had last year.

Every member of the Society whether residing in Chicago, New York or Timbuctoo is urged to put his shoulder to the wheel. Remember our next project we hope to inaugurate this year. The manuscript for the handbook you all clamor for is almost ready (three sections of this second part are ready for the printer). The rest is up to you.

Next meetings of the Chicago group are scheduled as follows:

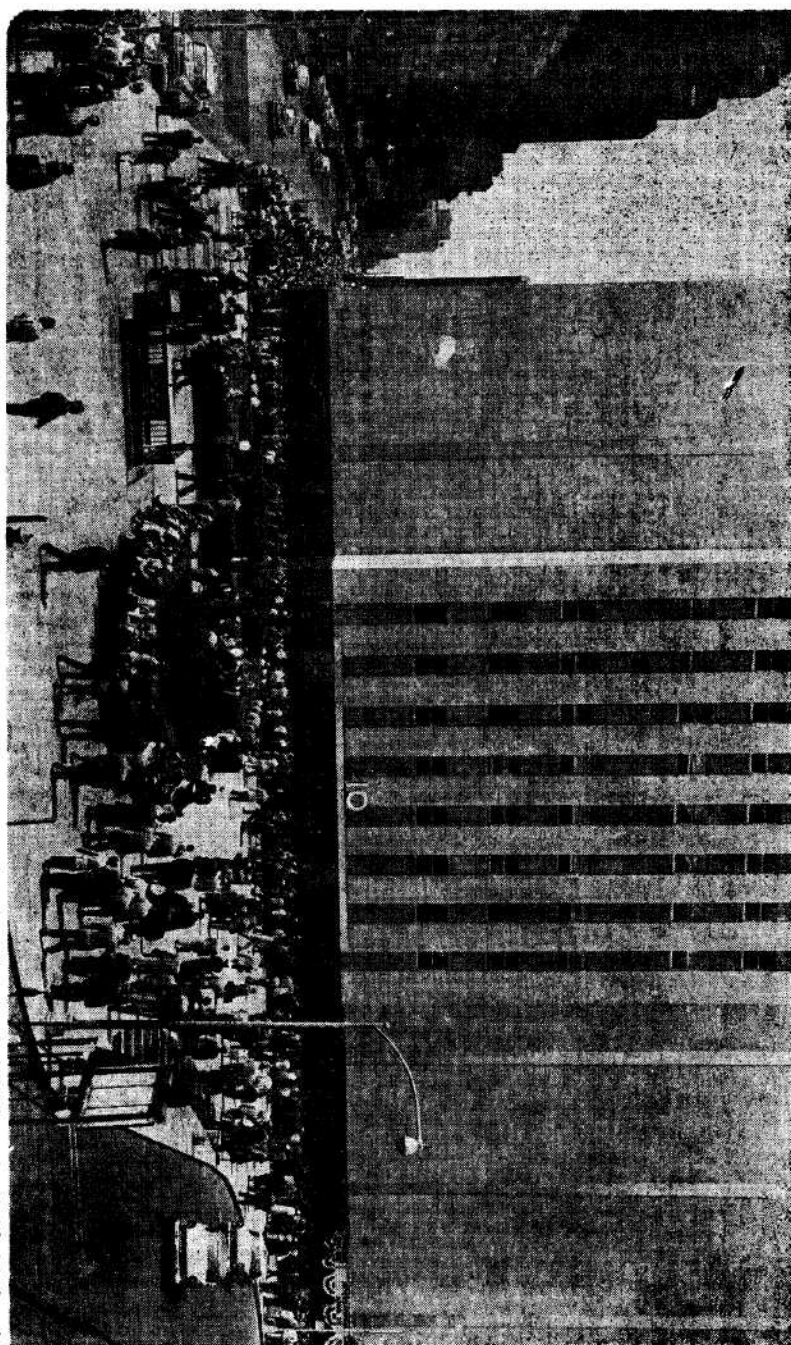
September 16, 1956, in the home of member John Velek, 2523 No. Newcastle Av., Chicago — 2:30 p.m.

October 21, Peter Kreisler, 251 W. 108th Pl., Chicago — 2:30 p.m.



A view of a portion of the remarkable Swiss exhibit, one of the highspots of the FIPEX show, occupying a space of 140 feet long and 25 feet wide. The counter-style exhibition case with seats behind it which you see in the picture is the moving showcase where visitors to the show could sit and watch the exhibit of Switzerland's stamps as it passed in review.

Courtesy of STAMPS



Scene outside the Coliseum several hours before the opening of the Fifth International Philatelic Exhibition, April 28, 1956, where long lines had already formed of stamp enthusiasts awaiting entrance.

Courtesy of STAMPS

BOOK REVIEW

Studie o filatelistických sbírkách Poštovního Musea.
A Study of the Philatelic Collections in the Postal Museum.

A year or so ago we received a pamphlet which contained a listing of the philatelic items to be seen in the Postal Museum in Praha. This pamphlet was very interesting but woefully incomplete.

When the present volume of 136 pages came into our possession we were more than pleased with the arrangement and the contents. The jacket on the hard bound booklet is beautifully designed with the linden leaf watermark motif (engraved by Jaroslav Goldschmied) and contains a small ad telling the reason for the book.

Let us quickly glance at the table of contents. It begins with "an introduction" and then with "contents of Cases I and II—Stamps of Europe 1840-1939." This is followed with Case III, stamps of the USSR and Peoples' Republics; case IV, Europe since 1940; Case V, Great Britain and Sweden; Case VII, Czechoslovakia, 1918-1939. The second section deals with albums and short articles on the U. P. U., classical stamps, Austrian Mercuries, Fournier Counterfeits and "At the Dawn of Philatelic Literature".

From page 61 on we come to the most interesting parts of the book. Short and concise articles, well illustrated with material from the museum, touch on subjects which can give rise to more thorough and profound studies of the stamps of Czechoslovakia. Here are chapter headings which every serious student of Czech philately should like to read and study: Varieties of printing plates of Czechoslovak stamps; se-tenants; printer's vocabulary in philately; black die and plate proof prints; essays; reasons for varieties and printer's waste. It is not surprising that the first issues of Czechoslovakia should get such a billing and that so much space is devoted to this study. We shall ask some of our more advanced students of Hradčany stamps to give us a resumé of the more important chapters dealing with the issue.

The next section of the book is no less interesting, to your editor even more interesting than the preceding. It deals with the overprinted Austrian and Hungarian stamps with the legend POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ 1919. It illustrates the original dies from which further stereotypes were made and complete matrices employed in the production of these stamps. The original theories held until now of how the stamps were produced must be altered to conform to the proofs which have so long been buried in museum dust. It is possible that the reason for such lack of interest in this issue is due to the large number of stamps comprising the issue and the scarcity and hence high cost of many of the stamps. Another reason may be that so much of the material has been counterfeited that even serious collectors of Czechoslovakia keep away from them. (It is your reviewer's desire in the future to devote much spare time to this issue which we have complete except for the two rare items, the 4 and 10 Kčs on granite paper.) While this book opens the door to much that is new, the door is not ajar and in some instances only a peek is permitted. But it illustrates all the major overprint types, shows photos of the original stereotypes and is therefore an invaluable aid to anyone who wants to know more about these stamps and how to detect forgeries in them.

Our treasurer George Kobyłka will accept orders for this booklet to the end of September. They will cost \$3 for soft cover and \$3.50 for hard cover, postpaid. George cannot build a stock pile of this item and proposes to help members to obtain the booklet with a minimum of effort but he must set a time limit to do this.

Mention this publication when answering ads. Thanks!

NECROLOGY

We have received news of the death of our member Mr. J. Vine of Eastbourne, England. To his widow and friends the officers extend heartfelt sympathy.

NOTICE FROM SALES MANAGER

Mr. Wolfgang Fritzsche, Box 402, Geneva, N. Y. writes: Please tell the members in the next Specialist that I have a large number of post war Czecho postal cards, also pictorial government cards and govt. photo cards. Of some sets I have 5 each. Too bulky to include in the circuits, therefore interested members should write to me.

ENGLISH-CZECH and CZECH-ENGLISH PHILATELIC VOCABULARY

(Published by the Society)

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G. C. KOBYLKA

1433 S. Cuyler Ave., Berwyn, Ill.

Czechoslovakia

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166	4 Kr. Tatra	3.50	---	---	351-354	Sokol	.50	1.25	5.00
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213-214	Macha	.60	---	---	369	CSR—Russia	.15	.30	1.25
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326-328	Adalbert	.50	1.25	5.00	230-231	Entente	---	---	4.00
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336-337	Moysec	1.00	2.00	7.50	307-309	Reds	---	---	9.00

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3. BEFORE 1918 cards and covers with Czech cancel (on Czech territory) 78 pieces	15.00
4. Provisional Porto stamps (mostly on Hradcin stamps * and ° altogether 22 stamps	8.00
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8. Austrian postcards before 1918 with Czech cancel, 37 cards	4.00
9. 16 Covers with fancy cancel. (in colors)	5.00
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15. Legionnaires in 6 favor sheets	1.00
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17. 3 h complete sheet of 100	3.00
18. 5h Compl. sheet	10.00
19. Different sheets (diff. issues all sheets of 100) 9 different	3.00
20. 28 Cards and covers with HRADCANY	3.00
21. 44 waste prints	7.00
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24. 40 h to 5K set * Scott 95 to 101	3.00
25. Vertical watermark 1K to 5K used	1.00
26. 1930 Complete set *	2.50
27. Same with UPPER coupons *	2.50
28. Same with lower coupons *	4.50
29. Congress compl *	4.50
30. Slet compl *	2.00
31. TYRS compl. set *	8.00
32. Same in blocks of four	5.00
33. Special delivery on yellow and white paper (6 stamps)	3.00
34. S. O. complete set up to 1000 h and Tax stamps to 1000 h	15.00
35. Masaryk stamps 500 and 1000 h with S. O. superb, Scott \$70	2.50
36. 5 covers with S. O. stamps	6.00
37. 6 errors	6.00
38. Bohemia and Moravia collection complete	22.00
39. Similar collection but specialized with gutterpairs, coupons, favor sheets, covers, reprints in spec. album, v.f.	14.00
40. 134 covers of the occupation 1939/1945	12.00
41. 3rd Republic, 156 covers, v.f. lot	6.00
42. 2200 stamps used in sheets. Scott cat. about \$110	5.00
43. Small collection of Czecho	8.00
44. 123 postal stationery all *	10.00
45. 138 " " all °	25.00
46. 204 " " with VZOREC	6.00
47. Helmet set WITH GUTTERS	44.00
48. SLOVAKIA collection with plate #s and gutterpair very specialized	29.00
49. Box Czecho bundles, about 100 bundles diff. issues (abt. 10000 stps)	8.00
50. 16 sheets all used (third republic)	

All bids to reach us by Sept. 23rd.

Alfons Stach

P.O.B. 378

Lenox, Mass.

LIBRARIAN'S COMMENTS

Following are further donations to the library from our members. Mr. Jiranek, 58 various issues of the Specialist, various copies of early Český Filatelista (1926-30) and copies of the Zprovedoj noší filatelie. From our society's New York group via Mr. Stein, secretary, the Fipex catalogue. Mr. Nouss sent a very interesting donation. His letter speaks for itself—"When I was trying to complete my file with all issues of the Specialist the librarian loaned me the first issue of Vol. I which up to that time I did not have. With Mr. Frank Kovarik's permission I had them photostated so that I could at least have a complete file. Later on I secured Vol. I and had no further use for the photostats. Perhaps someone may want to have copies of these made. The society could have positives made of these negatives and sell them to the applying party. In some way or another they may be of some use to the society and I give them to your keeping herewith—" I might make a comment here which is going away from our beloved Czech stamps, but it is interesting to know that our member Mr. Nouss had a magnificent collection of local and bureau precancels. In Stamps Vol. 95 No. 7, May 19th 1956 the fine precancel column by Adolf Gunesch has this to say about our member—"We have just heard that Henry O. Nouss collection of Bureau and Local precancels was sold at a much higher price than the Dr. Mitchell collection which we reported a few weeks ago. What makes this news outstanding is that a dealer in straight postage stamps right in Mr. Nouss's home town of St. Louis made the purchase. Precancel collectors and dealers did not have a chance at it. This means an entirely new era in precancels has opened up—" It is always of great interest to your librarian to come across the name of a member in the philatelic press or otherwise. Also have noted in the Catholic Herald (Wisc.) where member Ray Van Handel and son were judges at a hobby show up Sheboygan, Wisc., way. Member Doc Matejka also dabbles in many other countries besides Czech. Your librarian never gave it a thought that Doc collected other philatelic lines besides Czech and Austria. In the Fipex catalogue his name and exhibit is listed a couple of times as following—Postal History of the Territory of Alaska. A collection with many early items including a cover of the "U. S. S. Russia" etc. 4 frames 1 album. —Czechoslovakia. A collection of engraver's models, essays, progressive and completed proofs of dies engraved by K. Seizinger during period 1928-38. 4 frames. — Newfoundland Aerophilately. A display of the stamps and covers of both internal and trans-Atlantic flights, with essays, proofs and including rarities. 4 frames 1 album. — Now here is a member who really roams the philatelic field—from Czech to Alaska to Newfoundland.

Member Jiranek loaned me part of his collection for examination. He has a very novel way of illustrating the Hradcany & Masaryk types. Among his many interesting items is a postal card on which is printed the green 50 h liberated republic stamp. What is odd about it is that the stamp contains the egg variety! Does any member have or know about another? Mr. Velek picked up at the last Cross auctions a rare Hradcany "piece de resistance" — a 5 and 10 h se-tenant gutter. The estimate value was \$150.00. While at Fipex, Mr. Kessler told Mr. Velek an interesting history about this item. Mr. Velek hopes to write an article on his in the near future.

All donors to the library have the society's many thanks and be rest assured we appreciate your thoughtfulness. Any Czech literature, catalogues magazine etc. are wanted. Magazines need not be complete volumes. If you have any questions or are doing any research on any particular Czech stamp etc. don't hesitate to write. I'm sure our library will have the answer.

Frank Kosik
Librarian

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**Zdenek, Jas. C., Rt. 6, Box 93, No. Charleston Branch, So. Car. -----	#395

DECEASED DURING 1955-1956

#24 Zeman, Michael Jr.

Ceske Budejovice

Ladislav Kropáč

The confluence of the rivers Vltava and Malše looked good as a townsite to King Přemysl II, no doubt for strategic reasons, so he instructed the Burgrave of Zvíkov, Hizo, to drain the marshes and lay out a town. This Hizo did, laying out a town of wide streets intersecting at right angles with a great square in the center. Thus ČESKÉ BUDEJOVICE was introduced in the Gothic period.

The Renaissance of the 16th century decorated the town with a great number of ornamental house fronts and the Baroque influence of the 17th and 18th centuries added still more and different décor. Artistic sculptures of the Virgin, Holy Trinity and fountains were scattered about the streets. Outstanding is the fountain by Baugut in the town square. The Baroque style townhall dates from the year 1730.

The postal authorities honored the town by issuing a postcard in 1935 with a Masaryk 50 hal. stamp.
postcard in 1937 with a Masaryk 50 hal. stamp.
postcard in 1938 with a Beneš 50 hal. stamp.
Protectorate postcard in 1939 with a 60 hal. stamp.
Protectorate 6K stamp, designed by V. Silovský, engr. by J. Goldschmied.
3 Kčs stamp, issued Dec. 10, 1954, des. by C. Bouda, engr. by B. Housa.

Telc

Ladislav Kropáč

On the banks of Moravská Dyje near Javořice, the highest peak in the Czecho-Moravian Highlands lies the ancient stronghold of TELČ. This exceptionally pretty town somehow retained its quiet old atmosphere and medieval look, much more than its rival Olomouc. Most pronounced are the remains of the old moat, which was flooded with water from the river Moravská Dyje and the Baroque gables of its houses. Outsiders may wonder how this could happen in this busy, speedy age.

The church of St. Jacob, built into the southwest corner of the old fortifications was founded at the same time as NEW TELČ, sometime in the first half of the 14th century! About 1385 it burned down and was still in ruins in 1443, so that Cardinal Julian was forced to hold masses at an open air, portable altar. Not until sometime between 1469 and 1488 were new altars built. During the 1892 renovation of the church, a seal of the Olomouc bishop Bohuš of Zvole was found (1454-1457). From the date we can assume that the church was rebuilt at that time.

A large stamp, showing a street with its medieval gables was issued Dec. 10, 1954. It was designed by C. Bouda and engraved by B. Roule.

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