# THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

### OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

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Vol. XVIII

December 1956

No. 168

#### **EDITORIAL**

This is the last issue of volume 18; it is the end of another year. As we look back we mustn't complain. We gained 42 new members this year; only our treasurer can tell us how many dropped out by death, resignation or non-payment of dues. This is the bane of many specialist organizations. If the organization helps increase wages or any other income, then the management simply increases rates or dues knowing full well that those remaining must dig into their pockets and pay. In a hobby society it is different. The member belongs only as his interest remains alive. There are others who belong because of the contacts, financial or otherwise, they can make to improve their knowledge of the particular phase of the hobby they pursue. Our Society has placed itself definitely on the philatelic map of the world. In our formative years we encountered nothing but difficulties. Czechoslovakia as such ceased to exist at the very time of the formation of the Society. The few members who decided to carry on believed that Hitler was only a temporary road-block; the war must end with the total destruction of Nazi totalitarianism. Finally the day of victory came, but with it appeared a hydra which was and is by far worse than the provocative SS. An uneasy armistice-like peace reigned in Czechoslovakia until February, 1948, when the friends of the poor, abused workingmen came to their rescue, murdered Jan Masaryk and brought to an untimely death the constructive president Eduard Benes who was ousted in favor of a wine-bibbing ignoramus who only a short time ago accompanied his partner in crime, Josef Stalin, into Hades. May their bodies fry to a crispy brittleness! But even then and now the membership of the C. P. S. believes that complete victory for the forces of democracy. is not too distant. That the communist paradise is not a bed of soft grass but of thorny wild roses has been proved by the uprisings in Poland and Hungary. It is understood that the Czechs' standard of living is higher and therefore the urge to throw off the shackles is not as great. But even there the day is not distant when true demogracy will assert itself. Every little voice can be magnified and if you pay your dues for 1957 now, using the envelope enclosed with this issue of the Specialist, you are raising your voice in favor of liberty, besides helping yourself obtain the information your publication dispenses.

Those of you who subscribe to the magazine STAMPS noticed that the October 20 number was a special issue honoring our Society. One other article was submitted but it was so lengthy that it could create a hardship on the publisher and it was agreed this article, an exhaustive research into the history of the Trans-Siberian trek of the Czech Legionaires to Vladivo-

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stok and home after the first world war, shall appear at a future date. This is the first work of an enthusiastic youngster in Chicago of whom we shall hear more in the not too distant future. The publisher sent the editor and the authors of the published articles a number of extra copies and an additional supply to the Society with permission to sell these for the welfare of our depleted treasury. While they last they will be sent post free at 10 cents a copy to members of our Society. Incidentally, we have about a dozen copies of the November 12, 1955, Czechoslovak issue at the same price. We know of several members who are making a collection of these special Czecho editions. If interested send your dimes to F. J. Kovarik, 2502 So. Kedzie Ave, Chicago 23, Ill.

In the last issue of the Specialist we published the name and address of a Czech collector who wishes to exchange First Day Covers and new issues on cover. Another request which we do not want to ignore came from Mr. Jaroslav Frys, Nymburk, Nadrazni ul. 385, Czechoslovakia.

Last month we devoted a paragraph to the future fate of the manuscript of the first handbook we may publish. This month's meeting (November) of the Chicago Group shall be devoted in a small part to the report on our show and auction but to a great extent to this new venture. Our first try in a publication project didn't turn out so good. Our dictionary sales did not meet the cost of printing and binding. Some ventured the opinion that the book cost too much. We doubt we could sell more copies at a buck a throw than we do at the present price. Yet at a dollar a copy we'd lose a lot of money even if we sold every copy. As we stated last month our Bohemia-Moravia and Slovakia Section is ready for publication except for minor details which must yet be ironed out. To date only two members sent in checks of \$10.00 each to start the presses going. For \$20.00 the printer will not even look at us. If you want us to operate a publishing establishment you must show more practical interest than you have until now.

Despite the above tongue lashing your officers and editor assure you that from the very depths of their hearts they wish you and all those dear to you a

#### MERRY AND HOLY CHRISTMAS and a PHILATELICALLY GOOD NEW YEAR

#### REPORT OF THE STAMP SHOW

The 1956 stamp exhibition of your Society was the largest and best show ever staged by us. Even the elements were favorable; in fact, fear was expressed that Saturday early afternoon: "Who'd want to see stamps on such a beautiful, balmy day?"

Early in the morning a very few members of the Chicago group arrived at Stefanik Court to set up the exhibition, a task not too difficult because the previous evenings they prepared about 90 frames in the home of the General Chairman, Dr. James J. Matejka, Jr. It is unfortunate that so few come to do the actual work. Many fail to understand the meaning of the word cooperation. Yet it was heartening to see one member who had a foot injury come to help and worked until the pain forced him to leave. The following evening another member came to help tear down the show, his face bandaged. Despite his head injury he came with a non-philatelic friend to do his stint. Such devotion deserves the praise and thanks of the Society. Chuck and Paul, our appreciation!

Another reason for the success of our show were our frames and easels with a new added feature, a distinct improvement in the lighting of the frames. Each set of three frames was flood-lighted in such a way that almost perfect daylight effect was achieved and for the first time in our ex-

perience of attending stamp shows everybody was pleased and satisfied with the lighting results. For this our most sincere thanks to Joseph Janecka who not only worked himself and his force overtime but financed the whole pro-

All through the afternoon and until the large crowds came in the evening the visitors were regaled with recorded music on long playing records featuring Czech composers, conductors and musicians. Smetana, Dvorak, R. Kubelik, Jirka and others were heard from the Hi Fi phonograph loaned to the Society by Mr. Louis Solar, a dealer neighbor of your editor.

At 10 P.M. the show closed for the evening. When all necessary precautions were taken so nothing would get lost, 45 participants repaired to Sramek's Restaurant in Cicero where good food and music were served to the happy throng. Happy because the previous Sunday during a meeting of the Chicago Group in the home of member Peter Kreischer, we feared the show would be a total flop. Less than 50 frames were bespoken until then. Our members must learn that in order to get the greatest benefit from a stamp show they must fill out and send in the prospectus long before the exhibition. It can save on the wear and tear of the hearts of your Committee members. Among the gathered celebrants were Mr. and Mrs. Arthur I. Kessler, of New York, Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Markovich of Milwaukee, Mr. Louis Kugelman of Toledo, Mr. James W. Adler, president of the Society and Mr. Greg Rehme, both of St. Louis. We feel there were more members of the Austin Stamp Club than our own. Everybody was happy, especially the general chairman who that evening celebrated his fortieth birthday. Remember, Jimmy, life begins at 40!

We present the list of exhibitors, their showings and awards. Dear member, why weren't you represented?

In the Court of Honor appeared pages from the editors' albums.

1-2 THE AMERICAN PHILATELIST-American Philatelic Society Charless Hahn, Winnetka, Ill.—Great Britain #1

THE S. P. A. JOURNAL-Society of Philatelic Americans J. E. Zinsmeister, Chicago, Ill.—Arab Postal Union

5-6 THE AIRPOST JOURNAL-American Airmail Society J. Eisendrath, Highland Park, Ill.—Crash Covers

THE COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST-Collectors Club of N. Y. H. M. Goodkind, New York, N. Y .- Czech Air Mails on Cover

THE PHILATELIST OF LONDON Robson Lowe, London, England-Railway Stamps of Britain.

THE AERO PHILATELIST ANNALS H. M. Goodkind, New York, N. Y .- Ethiopia Airs

14-15 THE JACK KNIGHT AIRLOG E. Wellman, Brookfield, Ill.—Private Canadian Airs

NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE 16-17

Ernest Kerr, New York, N. Y .- Classics of Egypt

18-19 LINN'S WEEKLY STAMP NEWS Carl Rueth, Sidney, Ohio-Vatican Maximum Cards

20-21 WEEKLY PHILATELIC GOSSIP Harry Weiss, Holton, Kans .- Philatelic Studies

STAMPS

22-25

H. L. Lindquist, New York, N. Y .- Demonstration Collections

26-27(Substitution) - Danzig

28, 29, 29X CHICAGO TRIBUNE

R. McP. Cabeen, Chicago, Ill.—Stamped Env. with U.S. and Br. Collars

CLASS 2 — CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELY

Selections from provisional issues-Jos. Jiranek, Cicero, 2nd award. The Coupon Stamps-John Dunajcik, St. Louis.

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Commem and Special pmks., 1st Rep.-W. Fritzsche, Geneva, N. Y. 42-46 Slovakia-G. Kobylka, Berwyn, 3rd award.

Selected pages of semi-postals-J. Adler, St. Louis, 1st award. 47-48

49-52 Selected pages of rarities not for competition-A. I. Kessler, N. Y. World War pmks. of army and air force in England-J. Jiranek, 53-57

Cicero, Grand Award and Central Federation historical award.

Commem Cancels-F. Stupka, St. Louis.

Selected pages of commems-P. Kreischer, Chicago, pres. award. 60-64

CLASS 3 — NON-CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELY

German S. W. Africa, on and off cover-J. Adler, St. Louis, S. P. A. 65-69 research award.

70-72 United Nations-J. Dunajcik, St. Louis.

- 73-77
- Selected pages of Romania—G. Koplowitz, New York, 2nd. Selected pages of Estonia—H. Stromberg, Chicago, 1st. 78-84
- 84a-84c Modern Hungary on covers-N. Feiwelsohn, Brooklyn
- 85-86 Great Britain, Scott #3-C. Aikins, Toronto, Canada.
- 87-91 International Olympic Games-G. Kobylka, Berwyn.
- U. S. Twentieth Century-P. Marusic, Jr., Chicago. 92-96

Farley Follies-F. Kovarik, Chicago.

Canada Stamp Books and Panes-P. Kreischer, Chicago, 3rd. 102 - 106

111-113 Austria 1st issue on cover, not for competition-Dr. J. Matejka, Chi.

#### CLASS 4 — THE CHAMPIONSHIP CLASS

114-117 First Czecho Air Mails-J. Velek, Chicago.

Czech Army Post in Siberia on cover, not for competition-Dr. J. 118-119 Matejka, Jr.

Posta Ceskoslovenska 1919-F. J. Kovarik, Chicago, A. P. S. re-120-123 earch award.

124-128 Early Czech Forerunners-Mildred A. Glueck, Chicago, Championship winner.

Though the show was advertised for Sunday as opening at noon, one Chicago newspaper erroneously had it open at 10 A.M. Some of the members did not want any guests disappointed and opened the hall early enough to satisfy the guests. Oh, yes, about ten were there.

By the time the auction got under way the Hall was well filled so that the chairman of the Bourse, Mr. R. Reinowski told us that the dealers were well satisfied. Mr. Leo Eaton of the Liberty Stamp Shop in Chicago conducted the auction so well and so smoothly that your editor who waited in the side line to take over when Leo got tired remained a satisfied supernumerary. As far as the result of the auction is concerned we must await a full report from the committee consisting of members Velek and Kobylka, which is to be submitted at the next meeting of the Chicago group Sunday Nov. 25, in the home of member Dr. J. J. Matejka, Jr.

At 6 P.M. the members who were yet in the hall helped tear down the show. With the cooperation of those present and especially because of the ease with which the new frames can be manipulated shortly after 7 P.M. the members dispersed to their homes to clean up and then returned to the home of Dr. Matejka to celebrate his birthday.

To all those who in any way helped to make this our annual show a success, our hearty thanks.

#### CHICAGO GROUP MEETINGS

No meeting of the Chicago group is scheduled in the month of December and the January meeting will take place in the home of member Frank Kovarik, 2502 So. Kedzie Ave., Sunday, January 20, 1957 - 2:30 P.M.

#### 

### **New Album Releases**

#### OLYMPIC GAMES-1st through 15th

(1956 Games ready in January) \$3.00 plus 35c postage

#### CZECHO. Suppl. No. 4

55c plus 15c postage

#### **EASTERN SILESIA**

(Complete — 18 pages) \$1.65 plus 15c postage

#### POLAND-1944-1955

\$7.00 plus 50c postage

#### POLISH AIR-MAILS

(Complete to 1955 — 13 pages) \$1.20 plus 15c postage

#### IN STOCK

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- T

#### CZECHOSLOVAKIA

1st Republic, 1918-1939 (115 pages) \$9.00 plus 45c postage Bohemia & Moravia, 1939-1945 (38 pages) \$3.50 plus 25c postage Slovakia, 1939-1945 (35 pages) \$3.25 plus 25c postage 2nd Republic, 1945-1953 (73 pages) \$6.25 plus 35c postage Supplement No. 1 (1953-54) \$1.20 Supplement No. 2 (1954) 45c

Supplement No. 3 (1955) 85c

#### IN PREPARATION

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#### PARADE OF NEW ISSUES

#### Postage Stamps with Sports Motives (Second part)



On September 8th, 1956, the Ministry of Communications issued the second part of three postage stamps with sports motives. The denominations and colors of the stamps are the following:

- 1. 60 hal. value. Great Pardubice steeple chase 1956. The colored ground is printed in photogravure, chamois, the recess-print dark blue.
- 2. 80 hal. value. International Marathon race of Peace, Košice 1956. The colored ground printed in photogravure light violet, the recess-print dark violet.
- 3. 1.20 Kčs value. The XVIth Olympic Games in Melbourne, 1956. The colored ground printed in photogravure yellow, the recess-print dark green. The author of the stamps:

#1, Emil Kotrha, painter-artist. #2 and 3, Anna Suchardová-Podzemná, painter-artist. The engravings are executed by Jiří švéngsbír (1 and 3) and by Jiří Mráček (2).

All the stamps were recess-printed by the Post Printing Office, Prague, by the combined photogravure and recess-print, the stamps Nos. 1 and 2 in sheets of 50 copies, dimension of the stamp picture 41 mm by 23 mm. The stamps No. 3 were printed in sheets of 25 copies, dimension of the stamp picture 49 mm by 30 mm.

The First Day Cover was designed by Anna Suchardová-Podzemná, engraved by Bedřich Housa.

Validity for postage from September 8th, 1956.

#### Issue of Postage Stamps "The Wealth Of Our Country"

The Ministry of Communications has been continuing in the propagation of agricultural products by issuing a new series of four postage stamps "The Wealth of our Country." The denominations and motives of these postage stamps, issued on October 20th, 1956, are the following:

- 30 hal. value "Harvesting of grape-vine," color red.
   35 hal. value "Picking of Hops" color green.



- 3. 80 hal. value "Fishing out of a pond," color blue.
- 4. 95 hal. value "Transportation of timber," color brown.

The topics of the stamps are evident from their pictures.

The author of all four designs is Mario Stretti, painter-artist. The stamps engraved (1) Jan Mráček, (2) Jindra Schmidt, (3) Ladislav Jirka, (4) Jaroslav Goldschmied. The line-drawing of the motives was executed by Jindra Schmiedt.

All the stamps were recess-printed by the Post-Printing Office in Prague, in sheets of 50 copies. Pictorial size of 0.30 and 0.35 stamps is of vertical form, and that of 0.80 and 0.95 of horizontal form. The dimension of stamps being 23 by 41 mm and 41 by 23 mm respectively.

Validity for postage from October 20th, 1956.

A First Day cover was designed by Mario Stretti, the author of the stamps, the engraving was by Bohdan Roule.

#### ADD TO YOUR VOCABULARY

A very important word was omitted celina entire, postal stationery entire celina postal stationery celina

#### STOP PRESS NEWS

We have received news from Praha of the death of Ervin Hirsch, perhaps the most controversial figure in Czechoslovak philately. Many arguments with him brought us the understanding that in our hobby he was the autocrat and woe to the man he decided to kill! We hope to write more about him and his work in an early issue of the Specialist.

### CZECHOSLOVAKIA Plating the First Issue

By John Velek
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from the American Philatelist.
(continued)





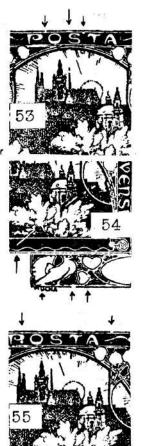
Position 51. There are breaks in both left hearts. The downstroke of the A of MUCHA is long. There is a tiny break in the spire near the middle.

Position 52. There is a break in the left branch and in the long ray. The top frame is broken at the right end. There is a white dot between the S and K of SLO-VENSKA. The fourth left leaf is broken.

Position 53. The top frame line has a tiny break between the P and O of POSTA. There is a white dot between the S and T of POSTA. The spire is broken near the top. The bottom frame is broken below the left dove.

Position 54. There is a long scratch on the plate starting at the V of SLOVENSKA and extending diagonally thru the large bush. There is a break in the lower left heart, in the frame below it and in the tail of the left dove.

Position 55. There is a white spot on the P of POSTA. The top



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frame is broken towards the right and the right frame is broken over the O of SLOVEN-SKA.

Position 56. There is a dot beside the long ray. The top frame has a break towards the right. There is a point on the lower left corner and a dot at the upper left. The tablet line has a tiny

break over the 3.

Position 57. There is a white spot over the large bush. There is a break in the top frame line over the P of POSTA and in the long ray. The spire has a dot beside it. The right frame is broken over the K of SLOVENSKA and there is a break in the neck of the left dove and in the lower left heart.

Position 58. There are several breaks in the right frame towards the bottom. The long ray is broken. There is a break in the left branch.

Position 59. There is a white spot over the small bush. The value tablet has a tiny break over the 3. The P of POSTA is short. The right frame has a dot and a break near the lower scroll.

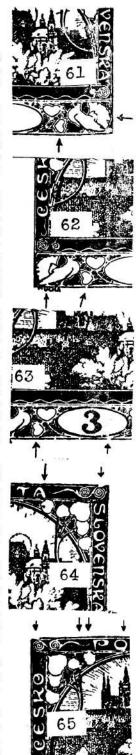
Position 60. There is a nick in the spire near the top. The value tablet is broken at the right. Many of the usual rays are missing to the left of the first left tower. There is a position dot in the right margin 9 mm. from the edge of the stamp.

Position 61. There is a break in the right dove and the upper right heart. There are two dots to the left of the first left tower.

Position 62. There is a break in the wing of the left dove, in the lower left heart and in the frame below it.

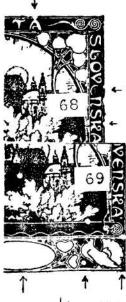
Position 63. There are breaks in the lower left heart, the value tablet and the frame below it. The sun has a dot above it.

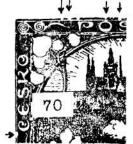
Position 64. There is a dot in the first right leaf. The top frame is broken at the right end. There is a small spur on the











right side of the 3. There is a dot over the K of SLOVENSKA and a white dot between the S and K of CESKO.

Position 65. The upper left corner is broken. There are tiny breaks in the fourth and fifth left leaves. There is a tiny break below the O of POSTA. The lower left and upper right hearts have a break each.

Position 66. There is a line thru the O and T of POSTA. The sun is broken in three places. There is a tiny break in the breast of the left dove.

Position 67. A ray joins the two left towers at the top. Most printings show two or more tiny dots over the sun.

Position 68. The top frame is broken over the A of POSTA. The E of SLOVENSKA and the right frame are damaged. The second left tower is nicked.

Position 69. There are three large white dots in the design. These were transferred from Plate I but Plate II can be distinguished by a break in the right frame above the dove.

Position 70. The left frame is broken near the C of CESKO. There are several breaks in the top frame line. There is a dot in the fourth left leaf.

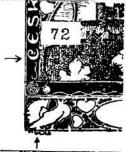
Position 71. There is a sharp spur on the right branch of the large bush. The top frame has a tiny break over the P of POSTA.

Position 72. The wing of the left dove is broken. There is a dot on the top of the small bush. The fourth left leaf is broken. There is a white spot on the stems of the second and third right leaves which was transferred from Plate I.

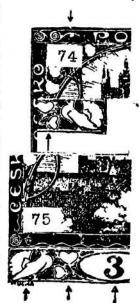
Position 73. The left frame is bent near the lower end. The bottom frame is broken below the right heart.

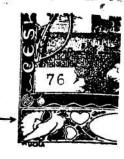
Position 74. The top frame is nicked above the left scroll line. There is a tiny break in the lower right heart. A ray joins the second right tower.















Position 75. The top of the 3 has a nick. Part of the H in MUCHA is missing. There are tiny breaks in both left hearts. The upper right corner is pointed.

Position 76. There is a break in the left dove. The P of POSTA is short. There is a fine line thru the bottom of the first S of SLO-VENSKA.

Position 77. The top frame is broken over the P of POSTA. The ray over the sun is short and is broken near the top.

Position 78. There is a scratch on the plate beginning in the S of CESKO and extending to the right almost half way across the stamp. There is a dot on the right dove and another on the sun. The top frame is broken over the S of POSTA.

Position 79. There is a white spot over the large bush and another on the K of CESKO. These two varieties were transferred from Plate I. The 1ay over the sun is very short in Plate II. The top frame line is broken over the O of POSTA and there is a dot beyond its left end. There is a break in the short tail feathers of the left dove.

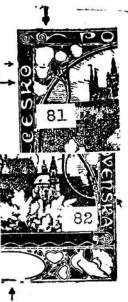
Position 80. The tablet line is broken. There is a dot in the lower right heart.

Position 81. The third left leaf is broken in two places. The left frame line is bent over the O of CESKO. The left towers have short rays touchinng the side and the top. There is a tiny break in the second and fifth right leaf.

Position 82. There is a large break in the value tablet and the frame below. The right frame is broken over the second S of SLO-VENSKA. The M of MUCHA is underlined.

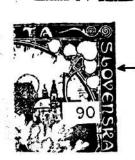
Position 83. There is a point on the upper right and the lower left corner. The fourth right leaf is broken. The bottom frame has a break below the foot of the left dove.

Position 84. The third and fifth right leaves are broken. The









right frame is broken below the A of SLOVENSKA. There is a break in the upper right heart and two in the upper left heart.

Position 85. There is a break in the design above the S of POS-TA. The long ray is missing. There is a short line over the first right tower. The left branch is broken. There are two breaks in the left dove and one in the lower right heart.

Position 86. The ray over the sun is short. The right frame is broken over the first S of SLO-VENSKA. There is a dot below the lower left corner. There is a tiny line in the E and a spur on the K.

Position 87. There is a tiny break in the spire and the arch is broken below the A of POSTA. The lower left heart is broken as is the value tablet above the 3.

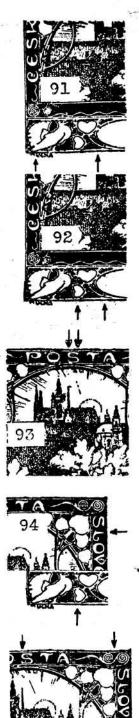
Position 88. There are two breaks in the right dove. There is a dot at the upper left corner.

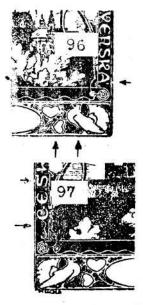
Position 89. There is a dot on the top frame over the O of POSTA and a break over the P. The letter P is also broken. There is a break in the second left leaf. The upper right corner is pointed.

Position 90. The left frame is broken near the bottom. There is a large break in the arch and the branches below the right leaves. This remarkable variety was retouched before some of the later electrotypes were made and the retouch is illustrated at the beginning of this section. This is one of the most elaborate and successful retouches made on all the Hradcany stamps.

Position 91. There are tiny breaks in the left side of the tablet and in both doves. The ray is short. The top frame is broken over the P of POSTA. The control number in the bottom margin is —.30.

Position 92. There is a dot on the inside of the tablet line. The upper left heart is broken. The control number is —.60.





Position 93. The design is broken below the S of POSTA. The ray is short and broken. The spire is bent at the top. There is a break in the top of the tablet line. The control number is —90 and the decimal point is missing. This is the engravers identification of Plate II.

Position 94. There is a break in the third right leaf and part of its stem is missing. The lower left heart is broken. The tablet line is bent below the 3. The control number is 1.20.

Position 95. There is a serif on the bottom stroke of the S of POSTA. The third and fifth right leaves are broken. There is a dot following the bottom stroke of the E of CESKO. The control number is 1.50.

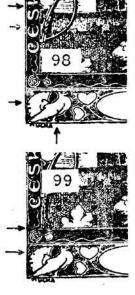
Position 96. The right frame is broken above the A of SLOVEN-SKA. There is a break in the upper right heart and the right dove. The long ray is missing. The control number is 1.80.

Position 97. The two left branches of the small bush are almost joined by a white line. The left frame is broken over the S of CESKO. There is a white dot to the left of the T of POSTA. The ray over the sun is short. The control number is 2.10.

Position 98. There is a dot and a break in the left dove. The first

left leaf is broken and there is a break in the left frame over the E of CESKO. There is a break in the upper right heart. The control number is 2.40.

Position 99. There are two dots in the left dove. The frame line below the small bush is broken. There is a dot over the spire and the long ray. The control number is 2.70.





Position 100. There are tiny breaks in the right dove and hearts. The fifth right leaf is broken. There is a tiny dot on the sun. There is a short line in the right margin opposite the V of SLOVENSKA but this was removed when the plate was retouched. The control number below the last stamp in the sheet is 3.—.

#### NEW YORK GROUP MEETINGS

We know these meetings are taking place and request the members to kindly send a report to the editor. We in Chicago are anxious to watch your progress.

#### **NEW MEMBERS**

- 115. Kotab, William J., 12706 Melgrove Ave., Cleveland 5, Ohio (reinstated)
- 569. Trojek, Rose Mary, 31 Manor Ave., Roslyn Heights, N. Y.
- Jirousek, Anthony J., 2541 So. Springfield Ave., Chicago 23, Ill.
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