

# THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

A publication of the Czechoslovak  Philatelic Society of N. America

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Editor Frank J. Kovarik, 8748 Rockefeller Ave., Brookfield, Illinois

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No. 200

## THANK YOU

It is impossible to thank individually all our member-friends for the Christmas and New Year greetings sent us. We take this opportunity to thank them all; even to enumerate them would take much space in the Specialist. We appreciate their thoughtfulness.

## RESULTS OF THE ELECTION

The heaviest balloting in the history of the Society retained all the present officers in their positions of trust. Every organization is strong if the members give the officers their cooperation. Evidently, the moral and financial success of the Society during 1958 and 1959 proved that the officers and members worked in harmony. Following is the result of the balloting: President: Dr. J. J. Matejka, Jr., 79 votes, J. Velek, 1 vote; Vice President, East: Jos. Stein, 80; Vice President, Central: John Velek, 79; Vice President, West: Rev. Wm. Barta, O.S.B., 80; National Secretary: Jos. J. Jiranek, 80; International Secretary: Aug. J. Hrivnäk, 80; Treasurer: Geo. C. Kobylka, 79, Jos. J. Jiranek, 1; Councilor, East: Pat L. Flynn, 80; Councilor, Central: Ray Van Handel, Jr., 80; Councilor, West: Anton Cifka, 80; Editor: F. J. Kovarik, 79, Frank J. Rosner, 1.

Unfortunately, when the ballots were placed into the envelopes, member Frank Kaps received a blank. The officers are glad member Kaps took it so good naturedly.

## AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION ADOPTED

69 members voted in favor of the amendments to the Constitution and one voted against with the comment that it may create a dictatorship in the Society. I am confident that the members would take steps to remove any and all officers who would try to create a dictatorship. The full text of the amendments adopted is as follows:

### ARTICLE IV

#### (Officers and Council)

Paragraph 1. Second sentence which reads:

The president and vice presidents shall be elected to a term of two years and shall hold office for one term only.

To be amended to read:

The president and vice presidents shall be elected for a term of two years and may be re-elected for additional terms of office.

Paragraph 3. Second sentence which reads:

The councilors shall be elected for a term of two years and shall hold office for one term only.

To be amended to read:

The councilors shall be elected for a term of two years and may be re-elected for additional terms of office.

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#### FINANCIAL STATEMENT

As most members know the editor works against a deadline. He has an agreement with the printer when to deliver the copy to his printery. He accepts ads up to the 12th day of the month; he expects the officers to have their reports in by the 15th and usually the copy goes out on the 16th or sooner.

Your president appointed members Lawrence Linhart and John Velek to audit the books of the treasurer. As they cannot get together before Jan. 15 it is impossible to publish the financial report until in the March issue. We trust the members will bear with the officers.

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#### CHICAGO CHAPTER MEETING

Though we had discontinued reporting the Chapter meetings, so much of importance was accomplished in the January meeting we felt it must be let known to the members. Here is a brief summary:

It was decided to exchange publications with FILATELIE of Praha through the Ústředí Československých Filatelistů. Inasmuch as the editor subscribes to the Filatelie this publication should be sent directly to the librarian, member Kosik.

A National Stamp Show will be held in Bratislava and the editor is requested to enter the Specialist and a paper bound copy of our philatelic dictionary in the literature section of the exhibition. Members wanting a prospectus to exhibit at the Bratislava Show may contact our president, Dr. J. J. Matejka, Room 216, La Salle Hotel, Chicago 10, Ill.

Our president announced that the New York Chapter may participate in Interpex which will be held March 25-27, 1960. He urged all Chicagoland members to participate actively and members Jiraneck, Kobylka, Rosner, Matejka and Kovarik promised to show on a non-competitive basis.

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#### THE THOMAS G. MASARYK STAMP

We trust every member read the last issue of the Specialist about our participation in the pilgrimage to Washington for the first day ceremonies; of our participation at the banquet in the Willard Hotel the evening before the first day ceremonies (this was originally scheduled for Monday evening but it is believed we can have a bigger attendance if held Sunday); the schedule of prices for various kinds of services on the first day covers and the program of events. Too bad the time is so short to give a more detailed account but those who come to Washington are requested to ask for Dr. Matejka's suite at the Willard Hotel where more detailed information can be furnished.

It was mentioned that the Chicago Chapter will charter a Greyhound bus which will leave from the office of member Jos. J. Janecka at 7306 Ogden Ave., Riverside, Ill. The easels and the mounted frames will be with us on the bus. The bus seats 38 people and 26 signed up at the Sunday meeting. We pay \$1064.32 for the bus regardless if it is full or leaving with only one passenger. The cost will come to about \$30 or less per person, child or grownup. First come, first served. This trip is financed solely by the Chicago Chapter members.



(Post Office Department Photograph)

Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield (left) and Senator Roman L. Hruska, of Nebraska, reviewing the art work for the Masaryk "Champion of Liberty" stamps, to be issued in Washington, D. C., on March 7, 1960. Senator Hruska is National Vice President of the Western Bohemian Fraternal Association.

(Reprinted courtesy of H. L. Lindquist Publications from "Stamps")

Those who go with the regular tour should learn from the Czechoslovak National Council, 4128 W. 26th St., Chicago 23, Ill., the detailed plans. At present we know that the trip from Chicago to Washington and return will cost about \$30 plus tax coach fare and \$10 additional plus tax with berth via the B & O railroad.

About a week ago the first advertisement of our official First Day Covers appeared in the Western Stamp Collector with others to follow. The first three days receipts brought in \$34.85 which is more than your pessimistic editor expected. If you want to avail yourself of this service we repeat the full schedule:

1 set of 2 cacheted blank envelopes -----	\$0.25
5 set of 2 cacheted blank envelopes -----	1.00
Single of the 4c stamp on FDC -----	.20
Single of the 8c stamp on FDC -----	.25
Set of 4c and 8c stamp on FDC -----	.40
Pair of 4c stamp on FDC -----	.25
Pair of 8c stamp on FDC -----	.35
Block of 4 4c stamps on FDC -----	.30
Block of 4 8c stamps on FDC -----	.50
Plate block of 4c stamps on FDC -----	.70
Plate block of 8c stamps on FDC -----	1.50

The People to People program of sending covers to collectors in Czechoslovakia at our expense is not readily understood. The Society will supply the covers out of the profit of this venture; you, the members, will supply the money for the stamps and Uncle Sam will deliver the service. To date (Jan. 10) the sum collected is \$19; a very small percentage of our goal. Act now! Next month is too late.

If for any reason these covers are not acceptable these donations will be turned into the general fund of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society unless the donor indicates to the contrary.

Members are asked to contact Dr. Matejka regarding the exhibit in Washington of their Masaryk material. Please be liberal with your showing as we want as diverse a showing of Masarykana as possible. You may have what we need. Remember, no charge for frames. Our member Janecka is loaning them with no cost to the Society nor to any individual.

**MASARYK STAMP ASKED TEN YEARS AGO**

In the last issue of the Specialist the editor remarked that member Zahradnicek was the first to ask for a Masaryk stamp within the framework of the Champions of Liberty series. On the occasion of Masaryk's 100th birthday member Frank Rosner brought up the idea of a stamp honoring Thomas G. Masaryk in a meeting of the Chicago group. It was feared at that time that Washington would not listen to the request at that time and so Rosner's idea seemed to be consigned to oblivion. As he is a great admirer of the President-Liberator, we are happy with him that his dream of more than ten years ago is now to become a reality.



**WORLD FAIR SHEETS**

ANY ONE OF THE FOLLOWING

**Each 75c**

- 1939—Black overprint on Bratislava, Praga or Newspaper Sheet.
- 1939—Canadian—Black overprint on Praga Sheet.
- 1940—On Praga Sheet—Black, green, red, blue or gold overprints.

All with folders. Limited Quantities.

**B. J. MILLER**

264 E. 180th St.

New York 57, N. Y.



# CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Some interesting offers from a large collection which I am breaking up.

1918-19 Hradcany beautiful collection of 56 essays on white paper 20h(25) 25h(2) 75h(5) 300h(24) -----	\$75.00
Hradcany Collection of 98 proofs, mostly on colored paper incl. 6 blocks of 4 (not to be mixed up with the common "printers' waste").	\$20.00
Hussite Imperf. gummed proofs (22) all different colors. 80h(4) 90h(18). A beautiful lot -----	\$20.00
1920-25 Pigeon and Chainbreaker 14 black proofs on white ungummed paper. Scott 65-73, 85, 88-91 -----	\$6.00
1920 Essays on white gummed paper, imperf. Scott 76 blue, 77 brown 78 lilac, 79 olive (4) beautiful colors -----	\$12.00
1920 Chainbreaker, enlarged, Scott 69 25h in 11 different colors showing date 28.X.1918 on left of stamp. All imperf on white paper. Very fine lot -----	\$25.00
Masaryk Scott 61 125h imperf on white gummed paper, no value inserted	7.50
Scott 61 125h olive (instead of blue), white gummed paper --	\$7.50
Scott 61 125h ultramarine imperf, printed both sides -----	\$7.50
Scott 62 500h jet black imperf., on gummed grey paper -----	\$7.50
Scott 63 1000h black on blue glazed paper imperf. -----	\$7.50
Unissued 140h Chainbreaker in 4 different colors on white gummed paper, large margins at bottom -----	\$8.00

Many more proofs, essays and other interesting items in stock.

MINIATURE SHEETS		per 1	per 10
1934	Scott 200a 1 Kr. compl. sheet in folder -----	\$15.00	----
1938	Scott B152 Masaryk and child -----	.40	\$3.00
1938	Scott B153 Jubilee -----	.40	\$3.00
1945	Scott 292a large Souvenir sheet (Scott \$5.00) -----	\$2.00	----
1946	Scott B158 Victory sheet -----	.30	\$2.50
1948	Scott 367a Gottwald -----	.25	\$2.00
	Ditto used -----	.20	\$1.50
1950	Scott 434a Prague sheet -----	.25	\$2.00

I have a very large stock of AUSTRIA, GERMANY and most  
EUROPEAN countries. Want lists for sets or singles always welcome.

Payment with Bankers' Draft or International  
Money Order after my confirmation of your order.

**MANO KATZ, 8A Richmond Mansions, London S.W. 5, (England)**

### PARADE OF NEW ISSUES

Issue of postage stamps with pictures of birds



In November 1959 the Czechoslovak Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications issued a set of seven stamps showing designs of birds. The values and colors are as follows:

- a) 20 h, The Woodpecker—*Dryobates major pinetorium*—Brehm, dark brown, blue and red.
- b) 30 h, The Blue-titmouse—*Parus caeruleus* c. L.—brown, green, blue, and yellow.
- c) 40 h, The Nuthatch—*Sitta europeo caesia*—Wolf, gray blue, rusty, brown and black.
- d) 60 h, The Song-thrush—*Oriolus, oriolus*, o. L.—yellow, orange, brown and brown black.
- e) 80 h, The Godfinch—*Carduelis, carduelis* c. L.—black, rusty, red, and yellow.
- f) 1,— Kės, The Bullfinch—*Pyrrhula, pyrrhula* L.—black, gray blue and red.
- g) 1.20 Kės, The Kingfisher—*Alcedo atthis* L.—brown, blue, green and brick-red.

All designs were executed by Prof. Karel Svolinský, the engravings by Ladislav Jirka. The stamps were printed by the Post Printing Office in Prague by rotary recess color print in sheets of 10. The dimensions of the stamp picture are 30 by 23 mm.

Validity of the stamps for internal and international postal use is from November 16th, 1959, until further notice.

The designs of the two First Day Covers were also executed by Prof. K. Svolinský, and engraved by Ladislav Jirka.



## FEBRUARY MAIL AUCTION

Lot No.	★ Mint	○ Used	Suggested Minimum Bid:
1	★		Boy Scout, light color shades ----- \$6.00
2	★		Horner Provisorium—poorly made imitations, 39 values ----- 12.50
3	★		Essay—Czech Lion 20h red, very nice ----- 2.50
4	★		Newspaper provisorium "České Slovo" Red on white ----- 4.00
5	★		Newspaper provisorium "Pilsner Tagblatt" Black on pink ----- 4.00
6	★		5 diff. Essays by Svolinsky, perf., no values ----- 12.50
7	★		43a 10h green, imperf ----- 2.00
8	○		45a 20h red, imperf., nice cancellation ----- 3.50
9	★		61a ultramarine, PROOF ----- 3.50
10	○		61 125h imperforated ----- 4.50
11	★		71 40h brown, Type II, IMPERF block of four ----- 1.50
12	★		84a 20h orange, tete-beche ----- 5.75
13	○		same as above only used ----- 2.75
14	○		87a 50h green, tete-beche ----- 3.75
15	★		68, 70, 72, 73 Republic, black proofs, wh. paper, o.g. ----- 6.25
16	★		69, 71, 72 Republic, colored proofs br. paper ----- 5.75
17	★		90 185h Black Proof on wh. paper ----- 2.50
18	★		Agriculture, 100, 200, 300, 400h, Impf. ultra., wh. paper, PROOFS 6.00
19	★		80, 81, 500 and 600h perf. on yellow paper PROOFS ----- 1.75
20	★		175-8 Lower left corner Plate (1) block of four with marg. -- 12.50
21	★		307-9 Vertical Gutter Pairs with 4 stamps each ----- 7.50
22	★		719 Int. Phil. Exh. Sheet, Imperf. and Perf. ----- 8.75
23	★		719 same as above, nicely cancelled, actually used, V. SCARCE 11.00
24	★		832-35 Costumes III, blocks of 10 ----- 9.00
25	★		10 different FDC's after 1945 ----- 2.50
26	★		B150-1 Upper right corner, block of four with coupon ----- 2.00
27	★		B150-1 Lower corner blocks of four with coupons, L and R ----- 6.50
28	★		B8a Pošta Ceskoslovenská 20h LIGHT green ----- 7.50
29	★		B125 Black proof, imperforated ----- 1.25
30	★		B127-30 5 diff. sets of Imperf. PROOFS, 15 values ----- 10.50
31	★		B144-6 Lower left corner plate block of four "1" ----- 4.50
32	★		B144-6 Lower left corner plate block of four "1A" ----- 4.50
33	★		C11 Perf. 13¼x12¼ ----- 1.50
34	★		C11 Perf. 12¼ ----- 3.50
35	★		J14 2000h pair ROULETTED perforation ----- 5.00
36	★		Siberia 36-45 ----- 15.00
37	○		Eastern Silesia 20a, 500h black overprint ----- 1.00
38	★		Eastern Silesia 21a, 1000h black ovpt., nice wide margins ----- 12.50
39	★		Eastern Silesia J1 Gray black ovpt. ----- 1.75
40	★		Eastern Silesia 10h Hradcany imperf. carmine with black ovpt. 2.50
41	★		Eastern Silesia 25h Hrad. ultram. perf. with red ovpt. ----- 4.50
42	★		Plzen U.S. Army Local 1945 Issue on Hitler heads 10-50k (4 v.) 2.50
43	★		London Exhibition Sheet ----- 3.50
44	★		Czechosl. Field Post in England, 3 diff. pieces ----- 3.00
45	★		SLOVAKIA Complete Country 1-P36 incl. "a" numbers ----- 65.00
46	○		Slovakia 2-23 the first set on COVER, very SCARCE ----- 32.50
47	★		Slovakia No. 22 5 kcs with coupon to the right ----- 2.50
48	★		Slovakia No. 23 10kcs with coupons to the left and right, 2 v. -- 45.00
49	★		Slovakia B1 Mint, all 4 corners in block of four ----- 3.50

All bids MUST be AIRMAILED (7 cents) and reach me by end of February

V. J. FLEISCHER, American Consulate General, A.P.O. 108, New York, N. Y.

## 23rd MAIL SALE

★—Mint      ○—Used

No.	Suggested bids:
1. Scouts 10h and 20h ★	\$2.50
2. Scouts 10h and 20h each on cover	7.50
3. Budejovice, complete set up to 1K on fine cover	2.50
4. High values 2, 3, 4, 10K on piece	3.00
5. Austrian postal stationery used in Czech territory, 38 cards	3.00
6. 62 picture postcards of diff. Czech towns with stamps	4.00
7. Covers with Austrian stamps, but all used in Czech territory (31)	3.00
8. 44 labels all Czech	2.00
9. 38 diff. proofs and reprints and waste prints	3.00
10. Small collection of favor sheets, altogether 18	2.00
11. Overprints: T and D and Porto on 35 stamps ★ and ○	4.00
12. Newspaper stamps (provisionals) 13 some ○	4.00
13. 6 stampless covers BEFORE 1850, Czech town names	3.00
14. 34 stationary ★ and ○ mostly Hradcany	3.00
15. 37 postcards with PRAHA picture and with stamps	2.00
16. Similar lot only 42 cards	2.00
17. Austrian stamps with Czech cancellations, 22 mostly diff.	2.00
18. HRADCANY, 1h complete sheet	1.00
19. 3h complete sheet of 100	3.00
20. 34 waste prints	3.00
21. 68 covers all with Hradcany stamps, early time 1918-1920	5.00
22. 10h, 20h, 30h SUPERB copies IMPERF	15.00
23. 300h in 2 different colors, proofs	3.00
24. set up to 1000h ★ (18 diff.)	2.50
25. 2,250 Hradcany stamps all USED, mixed (for colors, canc.)	4.00
26. Hradcany different perf., 17 different	1.00
27. Collection of only Hradcany stamps ★ and ○ on album pages, specialized, some waste prints, some reprints, some on pieces, nice	11.00
28. Small Czecho collection in stockbook, about 800 stamps, also blocks mostly used	6.00
29. LEGIONAIRES, different perfs in blocks (16)	4.00
30. on 6 favor sheets	.50
31. POSTA 1919, 10k light violet superb	20.00
32. airmails compl. set ★ superb	75.00
33. 10k blue PORTO ★	20.00
34. 10K Parliament ★	50.00
(All of these signed)	
35. Set of 48 different all ★	5.00
36. 8 stamps with INVERTED overprints	5.00
37. MASARYK 1920, 1.25, 500, 1.000 all ★	1.00
38. 125 perf and imperf ULTRAMARINE	4.00
39. 1923 complete set ★	1.25
40. Congress complete ★	6.00
41. slet complete set ★	5.00
42. 1925 2k with vertical watermark and PLATE no., superb	30.00
43. 5k ★ and ○ vertical watermark	1.00
44. vertical watermarks complete set ○	3.00



45.	Dove and Allegory, complete TETE BECHE ★	15.00	
46.	same USED, superb	15.00	
47.	Airmails, first set ★	5.00	
48.	Second set ★ vf	10.00	
49.	third set ★	1.00	
50.	fourth set ★	1.00	
51.	fourth set in blocks of 4 ★	4.00	
52.	Newspapers first issue, 4 complete sheets	4.00	
53.	Special delivery stamps, Scott 1 to 6 PLUS the error 5h in the color of 2h ★	8.00	
54.	Postage due stamps. Overprints on Austrian and Hradcany (14)	2.00	
55.	Def. issue set up to 2000 ★	4.00	
56.	Overprints complete INCL. the rare J28 ★	11.00	
57.	ERROR 50 on 400h (instead of 60) signed GILBERT	50.00	
58.	S. O. complete set up to 1.000h (no scarce values, but compl.) ★	3.00	
59.	5h and 15h IMPERF ★	4.00	
60.	500 and 1.000 Masaryk ★ vf	16.00	
61.	Collection of S.O. on album pages, all compl. ★ and ○ inc. Masaryk	22.00	
62.	MINIATURE SHEETS, 12 different ★ and ○, N. Y. Worlds Fair 16 different	7.50	
63.	Same on 5 covers used (registered mail)	4.00	
64.	Different plate blocks (bl. of 4) 28 vf lot	5.00	
65.	Favor sheets (with stamps) sold in Prague at different occasions 20 different	5.00	
66.	21 stamps with tabs ★ and ○	2.00	
67.	World War II, Czech fieldpost in England, cards and covers (8)	3.00	
2	68	Sudeten, Boh. Moravia, 18 covers and cards used during the Sudeten crises	4.00
69.	Boh. Moravia specialized collection on album pages incl: covers, sheets, cards, proofs, reprints and favor sheets on album pages, nicely collected	24.00	
70.	Czech collection ★ and ○ in German album, nice high Scott	31.00	
71.	Second republic 78 covers, nothing rare	4.00	
72.	Third republic 1100 picture stamps, mostly ○, high cat.	5.00	
73.	All unused stamps face value Kcs. 500	3.00	
74.	54 different FDC all vf.	7.00	
75.	1100 used stamps partly in sheets	3.00	
76.	40 miniature sheets (duplicates too)	3.00	
77.	Covers of the I and II and III republic altogether 200 covers	4.00	

z. v. d. ?

Send your bids soon — Books close February 28th, 1960

ALFONS STACH

P. O. Box 387

Lenox, Mass.

### The Most Famous Radio-Inventors of the World



The Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications issued on the 7th December 1959, six stamps to commemorate the world's most outstanding radio-inventors. They are:

- a) 25 h—Nikola Tesla (1857-1943) Yugoslav, black and red
- b) 30 h—Alexander Štěpanovič Popov (1859-1905) Russian—black and light brown
- c) 35 h—Edouard Branly (1844-1940) French, black and violet
- d) 60 h—Guglielmo Marconi (1874-1937) Italian, black and blue
- e) 1,— Kčs Heinrich Hertz (1857-1894) German, black and green
- f) 2,— Kčs Edwin Howard Armstrong (1890-1954) American, black and yellow brown.

All the stamps have been designed by the artist prof. Cyril Bouda and engraved by: 25 h (after the drawing by Jindra Schmidt) Jaroslav Goldschmied, 30 h — Ladislav Jirka, 35 h — Bedřich Housa, 60 h — Jan Mráček, 1,— Kčs Bohdan Roule and 2,— Kčs Jindra Schmidt. Each design has on it the inventor's portrait, his name, dates of birth and death and a sketch of his invention.

The stamps were printed by the Post Printing Office in Prague by the rotary recess print combined with photogravure in sheets of 50 stamps. The dimensions of the stamp-designs are 41x23 mm.

Validity for internal and international postal use is from 7th December, 1959, until further notice.

The two First Day Covers were engraved by Jaroslav Goldschmied after designs by prof. Cyril Bouda.

#### CHAPTER MEETINGS

The New York Chapter meets every third Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the Collectors Club, 22 East 35th St., New York City.

The Chicago Chapter meets every second Sunday of the month at 2:30 p.m. in the Lincoln Federal Loan and Savings Association Bldg., 6635 Cermak Rd., Berwyn, Ill.

#### NEW MEMBERS

673. R. Paul Hale, Box 206, Brighton, Illinois.
674. Anton Kunz, Box 194, Spencer, New York.
675. H. E. Lauffer, 290 West End Avenue, New York 23, N. Y.
676. Louis Spiegel, 62-60 199th Street, Flushing, L. I., N. Y.

#### CORRECTION OF ADDRESS

Egon Berka, 5475 Everett Ave., Chicago, Illinois.

## PHILATELY IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

By Frieda B. Bulger

(Reprinted with permission from "Stamps")

We stamp collectors know that philately is a world-wide hobby and in a sense a universal language. What a true brotherhood it is was demonstrated to me in Czechoslovakia.

My friendship with the philatelists of Czechoslovakia began two years ago at JUFIZ III, the international stamp exhibition which was held at Zagreb, Yugoslavia. A group of Czechs attended the show, and I started an exchange correspondence with one of them. In the spring of 1958 I planned a two-day stop in Prague on my way to the U.S.S.R., and of course advised my correspondent of my intended visit. Also, two American friends, prominent in the stamp world, notified their contacts in Prague of my impending arrival, and what a warm reception was given me!

It was my first visit to Czechoslovakia, but I was at once made to feel that I was among friends. When I reached my hotel in Prague, there were flowers in my room and a guide book of the city (in English), along with a note of welcome from my correspondent. This was followed by visitors and invitations.

I was conducted around the city, on one occasion by philatelists, and on another by a gentleman from the Communications Ministry, a member of the Philatelic Center, and a gentleman from "Artia." They took me to the Postal Museum, where I was invited to sign the Guests of Honor book and presented with one of the philatelic publications. I was invited to lunch; given a dinner by a dozen of the JUFIZ III group; had a fine reserved seat for the May Day parade; and at the Philatelic Center some films were run off for me, showing scenes from various stamp exhibitions, children's clubs, etc. It was a sort of philatelic propaganda movie—and very well done. I found it most enjoyable.

All this was crowded into two days. The beautiful city of Prague and the cordiality of the people made such a favorable impression on me that I vowed to return soon.

And so five months later I again went to Czechoslovakia. This time I planned to see more of the country. I was met at the airport in Prague by two philatelists, with flowers; and after spending several days with them and their families, visiting their homes and being treated to some of their wonderful Czech cooking, I set forth on an eighteen-day motor trip through the countryside. This is a philatelic story so I shall not dwell on the beauties of that trip, though they could be an article of themselves.

Before I left Prague, I decided that I wanted to give a party upon my return. Dr. Petr Lavrov undertook all the arrangements and was major-domo of the affair. There were thirty of us. The menus bore the recently issued "mushroom" stamps of Czechoslovakia, duly cancelled with the date of the dinner, October 18, 1958.

There were complimentary speeches. I made one, of course, and surprised my guests by saying "Vasa Vlast je krasna" (your country is beautiful), and a few other phrases in Czech—a most difficult language. We toasted each others countries and philately, which had brought us together. I received handsome presents of Bohemian glass, an album of stamps inscribed by the Minister of Communications, books published by "Artia," among other things. And I gave a pair of U. S. covers to the Postal Museum. I think everyone had a good time. I know I did.

The following day, Mr. Zavrel of the Ministry of Communications took Prof. Dr. Gruss and me on an all day trip by car to Karlov Vary, Marianske Lazne, and Plzen.

On the day of my departure a group of my philatelic friends there came to the hotel to have a last cup of coffee with me, and several accompanied me to the airport in a car furnished by the Communications Ministry. And so it was "Na sledanou" until 1960, when I promised to return to take in the stamp show at Bratislava.

#### Organized Philately in Czechoslovakia

In response to my questions regarding organized philately in Czechoslovakia, Mrs. Bohumil Matejka, of the Philatelic Center, supplied me with the information which follows. But first, to start off with a clear perspective, it should be mentioned that Czechoslovakia is a small country, having 49,591 square miles, about the size of New York State (49,576 square miles), with a population approaching thirteen million. The capital and largest city is Prague, with a population of about one million.

There are about 60,000 organized philatelists in the Republic, and an additional number of about 60,000 who do not belong to philatelic clubs and activities. This can be estimated quite accurately by the number of new issues sold in the government stamp agencies, called "Pofis."

Club members must be at least 18 years old, and an individual can be a member of only one club, but this according to his choice. New issue service, at nominal value, is tied to membership.

There are 1220 philatelic clubs in the country, the largest number of them being in Prague. Prague itself has 220 philatelic clubs, with a total of about 10,000 members. The largest club has 1,500 members.

These clubs are organized (1) either in larger working centers or factories under the patronage of ROH (Trade Unions) where they can carry on their activities in Cultural Club Rooms of the working centers free of charge; or, (2) in Popular Culture Centers of the National Committees, which are local governing organs. These are in every city, village, or hamlet.

The smallest village has its Cultural club rooms for cultural activities of its citizens, and without the necessity for maintaining their own club rooms, most clubs are able to be active without any fees. In addition, both the Trade Unions and the Popular Culture Centers take great interest in the cultural activities of the people, and support these clubs with small subsidies. However, the larger clubs usually decide on a small membership fee to cover expenditures connected with their greater activities, such as stamp exhibitions, correspondence, and stamp prizes for the members. Seven members can start a philatelic circle. In the schools, boys and girls up to 18 years of age can organize school clubs, usually having for a patron some philatelic club of regular members. There are about 5,000 such circles.

#### Center of Czechoslovak Philatelists

The activities of all these clubs are led and coordinated by the Center of Czechoslovak Philatelists, with its seat in Prague: Ustredi Ceskoslovenskych Filatelistu, Jindrisska 18, Prague II.

The Center consists of a committee of eight philatelists nominated by the clubs from their midst, and appointed by the Minister of Communications. It is an honorary post for the duration of three years. This Center also acts as an Advisory Board to the Ministry, and as a liason between the clubs and the Ministry. The Center publishes a philatelic magazine called "Filatelie," through which it can contact every club in the country.

The small clubs and circles are helped by the Center in giving exhibits by lending them frames and donating prizes. The Center entrusts clubs in larger cities, and cooperates with them in organizing regional and state exhibits under its patronage, such as Brno 1958. The Center itself organizes all the big international exhibitions held in Prague, like Praga 1955.

All big exhibitions are subsidized by the Ministry of Communications.

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The Center will now start work on the "Universal Stamp Exhibit Praga 1962," as passed by the Congress of the F. I. P. in Brussels this past September (1958). The Center, representing all organized Czechoslovak philatelists, is a member of F. I. P., Czechoslovakia having been one of its founders in 1928.

The Center has a central card index of all organized members in the country, and issues the membership cards. It issues permits to its members to exchange stamps with foreigners, and expels any member who does not conduct himself in a manner becoming a member. It has a board of experts for expertization service, and appoints judges for juries at stamp exhibits from within the ranks. It grants permits to its members to send out their exhibits to foreign exhibitions, weeding out collections that do not come up to international standards.

#### Pofis

Pofis is a governmental stamp agency, with stores in all larger cities of the Republic, and handles internal trade only. It sells stamps mint and used, not only of Czechoslovakia, but of other lands. Private stamps stores are practically non-existent. Pofis also handles the new issues service for all Czech philatelists, the organized ones getting theirs at face value. It publishes philatelic literature and a catalog of Czechoslovak stamps. Unfortunately, they have published no new catalog since 1952—only supplements—in spite of their great demand. A new, up-to-date one is being promised at the end of 1958.

#### Artia

Artia is another state agency, which deals in foreign trade only. It handles not only stamps, mint and used, but also other cultural items, such as books, phonograph records, works of art, etc. Any foreign business man interested in obtaining stamps or other items Artia handles should write to Artia, Smecky 30, Prague II, Czechoslovakia.

#### Foreign Exchange

The exchange of stamps with foreigners is hedged in by many regulations. Stamps, being considered as good as currency, are not allowed to be sent out of the country without permission and supervision. Only an organized philatelist can apply for permission to exchange with a foreign partner. He is then put on the list at the Foreign Exchange Center at the Customs, where an account is kept of all his exchanges, which are controlled. He may exchange only 300 Kcs. yearly, and may send out only Czechoslovak stamps.

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