

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

A publication of the Czechoslovak  Philatelic Society of N. America

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Dr. Wm. Reiner-Deutsch, Editor, P. O. Box 24, Bayside 61, N. Y.; W. Fritzsche, Canandaigua, N. Y.; C. J. Pearce, Coalgate, Okla.; J. Velek, Chicago, Ill.; J. J. Verner, Poznan, Poland. Editor Emeritus: Frank J. Kovarik.

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EDITORIAL

We have never thought that being the Editor of a publication might have advantages and not just constant concern about it and much work connected with it. It is indeed of great advantage that we can criticize the copies of the Specialist freely because we are responsible for them and would not send letters of indignation to ourselves.

In the January issue we found a number of errors and also a few omissions. In our Editorial we stated that it was being written before the receipt of the November Specialist, when we meant to refer to the December issue and the November 18 date was in reference to the submission deadline of that issue. Somewhat mixed up, we should say. In the Mozart sketch when we rechecked the original Czech copy we found that Mozart's ghost must have gone to Praha at the end of August 1791 since further down one finds that he died on May 12, 1791. Of course, Mozart died on December 5, 1791, as one can see in the introduction of that article. Now, the author himself, the Translator, the reviewer as well as the EDITOR, missed seeing that error.

Naturally typographic errors will occur from time to time. It is not possible for us to proofread the issues because this would increase the cost of the publication. It was not our intention to single out ourselves on the Masthead and this was corrected in the February issue. Mr. Frank J. Kosik's name did not appear under the Parade of New Issues, which is, of course, due there as he is taking care of that phase of the Specialist. Finally, Chapter Meetings had to be corrected to Branch Meetings as called for in our Constitution.

As we said before, we will do our best to give you a good Specialist but no one is omnipotent and if every member will do his best to promote our society, we really cannot ask for more. In our first issue we emphasized the need for obtaining the dues from our members. Without sufficient funds no one can produce a publication. We are reducing our issues to 12 pages, not because of lack of material but because we cannot obligate ourselves financially unless we have the funds to cover our expenses. You must all realize that ads would be of great help, but first of all everyone receiving our Specialist should make it his business to send his dues check to our Treasurer, Mr. Joseph Stein, 673 Hinsdale Street, Brooklyn 7, N. Y. We wish to repeat: Dues for active members is \$3.00, sustaining members \$5.00 and patron members \$10.00. We sincerely believe that members get at least five dollars worth of Specialist annually. According to our Constitution any member who has not paid his dues by June, must be dropped from membership until the dues are paid. This has not been done usually in the past but we will ask our friend who is mailing the Specialist to our

members, that no copy of it be mailed out in September to anyone who paid no dues for the current year.

Members who paid their dues for 1962 but received no membership card, please contact the Secretary, Mr. Frank J. Kosik, Route 4, Box 286, Delavan, Wisconsin.

You received the February issue which contained a brief note about Compex as well as an entry blank. Our President, the moving spirit behind Compex, wishes to emphasize over and over again that participation in Compex is an affair of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society and not that of the Chicago Branch alone. It is true that all the labor falls on the shoulders of the Chicago members and the least that all outside of that area can do is to support Compex by sending your exhibit there, by supplying stamps for free distribution and by sending stamps for auction as well as by supporting the Directory with your ads. Last year, due to all types of expenses, we understand that the National Society received only \$20.00 from Compex participation but in previous years the amounts received were very much higher.

We believe that there will be no longer a delay in the mailing out of the Specialist. We had the advance copy of the January issue in our hands shortly after the New Year and the February copy reached us on January 26th. We are trying here to get ready with our issues as early as possible, so as to give all of you the best possible service. Our printer is a very helpful individual and we are enjoying our dealings with him.

Praga 1962 will be held on August 18-September 2. This exhibition will honor the 75th anniversary of philately in Czechoslovakia (Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia). Data may be obtained from the Federation of Czechoslovak Philatelists, P. O. Box 804, Prague 1, Czechoslovakia. Mr. Moebs of West Germany, the official expert of the stamps of Czechoslovakia there, wrote us that he will be one of the judges. Mr. Moebs and co-workers are planning to write a number of Handbooks on Czechoslovak stamps in the German language. We suggested that it would be better to write them in English but he has disagreed with us.

We should have published in our February issue that our very good friend Jaroslav J. Verner and his wife are expected back in the States, just for a visit, in February. However, since they intend to stay until April, we feel this information is not out of order even at this date. Mr. Verner is on our Editorial Board. He is in the foreign service and is at present U. S. Consul in Poznan, Poland. He is a very fine student of Czechoslovak philatelic material and a most marvelous representative of our country in foreign lands. We have not seen them for nearly three years and are looking forward to some very delightful hours with them both.

NEW MEMBER

722 Charles F. Boubelik, Box 777, Craig, Colorado

HRADČANY SPECIALIZED

by John Velek

This fine volume can be had for \$3.00 from the publisher, postpaid. Kindly send your orders to Fritz Billig, 168-39 Highland Ave., Jamaica 32, N. Y. By buying this book you are helping your Society; a percentage from the sales of this book is paid to the treasury. Be sure to mention you read this in the CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST.

Parade Of New Issues

Edited by Frank Kosik



New Series Issued on the Occasion of the PRAGA 1962 World Stamp Exhibition (Part Two)

On December 18, 1961, the Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications issued the second part of a new postage stamp series to mark and propagate the PRAGA 1962 World Stamp Exhibition.

The stamps have the following denominations, designs and colors:

1. 1.— Kčs Plzeň, red-brown and green
2. 1.60 Kčs The High Tatras, brown and green
3. 2.— Kčs The K. Gottwald Ironworks at Ostrava-Kunčice, black and violet
4. 5.— Kčs Prague.

All these stamps were designed by Prof. Cyril Bouda. The values of 1 and 2 Kčs were engraved by Ladislav Jirka, that of 1.60 Kčs by Jan Mráček, and that of 5 Kčs by Jindra Schmidt. The stamps have been printed by the Post Printing Office in Prague. Stamps 1—3 are 41x23 mm (size of the stamp picture) and are printed by a combination of rotary recess print and photogravure. Stamp No. 4 has been printed in five color recess print and the stamp picture is 49x30 mm.

All stamps are valid in internal and international postal use from December 18, 1961, until further notice.

The stamps are displayed on two First Day Covers, the 5 Kčs on one cover, the remaining three on another.

In the case of the stamp with a picture of Plzeň, Professor Bouda based his design on the popularity of the town's breweries, which are depicted in the right half, while the left gives a glimpse of the historic part of the town. A bottle of 12° Pilsner Urquell encircled by a hop sprig completes the design.

Plzeň is a big industrial town. The V. I. Lenin Works produces machinery and machine equipment for mines, foundries, rolling mills, electricity works, etc. The second language used on the stamp is Chinese.

The subject of the Kčs 1.60 stamp is Czechoslovakia's highest mountain—the High Tatras. The stamp depicts the jagged peaks, the mountain flora, and a bird of prey typical of that region, the kestrel. The High Tatras are the most popular mountains in this country. The sport of mountaineering is symbolised

on the stamp by a pair of mountain boots, an ice-pick, and a length of rope.

The second language used for the inscription is German.

The Kčs 2 stamp shows the Klement Gottwald Ironworks at Ostrava Kunčice. Professor Bouda has succeeded in making the huge complex of industrial installations part of a composed whole. The attribute of this stamp, characterizing the manufacture of gigantic cranes, is a large steel hook.

The second language used is Swedish.

The Kčs 5 stamp displays the same view of Prague as the 30 h denomination (from the first part of this series), only the flags of the countries taking part in the exhibition are spread across the stamp picture both at top and bottom. The stamp is of the largest dimensions used in Czechoslovakia—49x30 mm. It is printed from five engraved plates, so that it retains the same color scheme as in the original design.

The second inscription is in French.

The printed sheet includes four Kčs 5 stamps. Above each of the upper two as well as under each of the lower two is the inscription "PRAGUE — HEART OF EUROPE".

Czechoslovakia—Two Essays For the First Issue

John Velek

Reprinted from the *Essay-Proof Journal*, quarterly publication of the Essay-Proof Society, 1236 Grand Concourse, New York 56, N. Y.

Not many essays of the first issue of Czechoslovakia (the Hradčany) have come to light. Probably not many exist. In the period between the declaration of the Czechoslovak Republic on October 28, 1918, and the issuance of the first Hradčany stamps on December 18, 1918, not enough time elapsed to do much experimenting with designs.

Alfons Mucha, foremost Czech artist of the time was pressed into service to rush a suitable design to advertise the Republic. He chose the Hradčany, home of the Bohemian kings and seat of the modern Republic as the central motif of the stamp. This he surrounded with a decorative design which included the symbolic linden leaves and the two roosters proclaiming the birth of a new Republic. Prague's largest printing plant, the Grafic Union was commissioned to the printing of the stamps.

An article by the late Joe Lowey, reproducing some of Mr. Mucha's drawings of various parts of the design appeared in *The American Philatelist* in the Nineteen-thirties. Their whereabouts today is not known to me. Two or three essays have been illustrated in the Czech press over the years but the two essays illustrated are the only ones that have been seen by the author. They were brought to this country by a well known Czech dealer who acquired them from a source believed to have been close to the Grafic Union.

The essays measure about 4x4¼ inches and are printed on heavy white paper. The top item #4pa (number from Billig's *Specialized Handbook* #10), differs from the issued stamp considerably in that the entire panel surrounding the central design has a white background. It is known in dark red, light green, light brick red and light brown. The bottom item in the illustration #4pb is very close to the design used for the 100, 200 and 400h values, Scott #8 to 10. Only the long ray over the sun is missing. This design was not used for the 20h value shown, as the values from 3h to 40h, Scott #1 to 7 used a similar design but with inscription in white on colored panels. The essay illustrated is the only copy known to me and is in brick red color of the 40h stamp.

If any readers have other essays, it would be appreciated if they would send them to me to be recorded.



NEW YORK BRANCH MEETINGS

At the November 17, 1961, meeting, Mr. Stein reported on the Convention held by the Society in Philadelphia during Sepad on November 4th at the Adelphia Hotel. At this meeting the following members were present: Dr. Matejka, Frank J. Kovarik, Richard L. Spofford, Joseph Janecka, John Velek, Pat Flynn, Norbert Feiwelsohn, George Koplowitz and Joseph Stein. Among many other matters, the orderly transfer of offices of the Treasurer and Secretary were discussed as well as that of the Editor. The problem of moving the large supply of the Bohemia-Moravia Handbook and the Vocabulary was also taken up. It was decided to offer the Handbook for \$1.50. The President appointed George Koplowitz Membership Drive Chairman.

Member Pat Flynn showed his collection of Czechoslovak Postal Cards. All enjoyed the multitude of design and the very beautiful pictures.

Member Kantourek agreed to speak at the next meeting on Czechoslovak Subjects on foreign stamps.

Lolly M. Horechny presided at this meeting where ten members attended.

At the January 19, 1962, meeting there were eleven members present with Lolly M. Horechny in the chair.

Dr. Reiner-Deutsch who after several months of absence due to illness, attended this meeting and gave some information on Compex. He stated that some material has already been forwarded to the printer to appear in the Specialist. He urged that all members of the Branch support individually the exhibition which is of great credit to our society. When a member mentioned the very poor handling of his entry at Compex, Dr. Reiner-Deutsch emphasized that Mr. Velek did a most marvelous job last year and that he again will be responsible for the Czechoslovak Section at Compex. A number of members decided to participate at Compex.

Mr. Kantourek showed a very interesting collection of "Czechoslovak Subjects on Foreign Stamps." His explanations were of great interest to all present. Dr. Reiner-Deutsch asked the speaker to submit an article on this subject for the Specialist.

Mr. Stein advised the Branch that publicity in regard to these meetings will also be requested by the daily newspapers and not only the philatelic press.

At the February meeting there will be a round table discussion on "Czechoslovak Oddities" and in March the meeting will be devoted to a discussion on the Czechoslovak Issues at the Worlds Fair 1939. Mr. Alfons Stach and Mr. Rudolf Secky will be asked to participate.

CHICAGO BRANCH JANUARY MEETING

As in the past two months, the branch chose a really rough day for its January meeting. At about 2 p.m. a snow storm started and, just as the weatherman predicted, our area had almost 7 inches of snow on the ground before midnight.

About 15 members attended the first meeting of 1962. A short business session resulted in a decision that the branch revert to its original form of meetings, with no elected officers. Frank J. Kovarik, who acted as moderator for so many years, was appointed by Dr. Matejka, with the approval of all those present, to his former task. The only difference will be that we now meet in the meeting hall of the Lincoln Federal Bank whereas formerly we met in one another's homes. Another innovation is that the members contribute a small sum of money for current expenses such as sending out notices of the meetings, gratuity to the doorkeeper, an occasional social, etc. At this meeting the Society president appointed John Velek to be chairman of the Society Exhibition Committee at Compex 1962 and Frank J. Kovarik to be program chairman for our

part at Compex. Any member who wishes to place an ad in the Compex Program will have that opportunity and as soon as the prospectus is ready you will receive it with the Specialist. Only two non-Chicago members contributed \$1.00 each to the Goodfellows whose names appear in the Compex Directory; we hope many more do so this year. The exhibition prospectus is being prepared. Our last Compex, financially, was not as successful as those preceding; one of the reasons was that there was no first day of issue. This reason will be eliminated this year. Other reasons could be enumerated, but corrections have been agreed upon, so why bring them up?

The feature of the meeting was a talk on the Czechoslovak Army in France during WW II, given by Joseph J. Jiranek. He told the story of the taking over of the Sudetenland, of the grab by Hitler of Bohemia and Moravia, the grab of the Sub-Carpathian province by Stalin, of the secession of Slovakia. He told of the escape of some Czechoslovakian military personnel into Poland and of their exodus, later, to France. He related how the Czechoslovak Army in Exile formed at Agda, in southeastern France and of the postal service there. Then he concluded with the flight from Agda to Britain and told of the ship which sank off the southern coast of Portugal, with all records lost at sea. He passed around very interesting covers, postmarks, watercolor paintings of the camp at Agda and finally ended with photographs of the Czech Army in England. He finished that part with the words: But that is another story, and so we have something more to look forward to. We learned that these Agda covers are real rarities, whether legitimate or philatelic, and the speaker presented a convincing argument to support the statement.

At our next meeting Joseph J. Janecka promises to show movies of the Carlsbad Caverns of New Mexico and tentatively we are promised a talk on color photography and its connection to stamp collecting.

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Postmarks and Politics

By Vernon McKenzie

(Reprinted by permission from Western Stamp Collector)

One reason that I (and, many others), have a special interest in covers is that they often, especially in Europe, portray the effect of Military, political or economic crises. A sequence of covers, from year to year, from month to month (or even from day to day) can serve as vivid illustrations of many of these crises. German covers illustrate, at least as well as any other nation, how a "run" of covers may have historical as well as philatelic interest.

A classic example would be German covers of November 1923, the final 30 days before the Weimar Republic's catastrophic inflation ended. November 1 a 100 million Mark stamp was issued (at pre-inflation rate of exchange, about \$25 million). In the later days of that same month there was issued a 10 billion Mark stamp.

Germany specialists who have been able to get a Bedarfsbrief (genuine commercial cover) for each day from November 1 to November 30 are envied by their colleagues. However, a word of warning: mint, nearly all later inflation stamps are "wall paper"; used, loose, they should have certification from the German group which expertizes these; even on cover they may be suspect.

One sequence of covers which graphically depicts a world crisis, runs from October 1 to October 15, 1938—Hitler's peaceful occupation of the Sudetenland portion of Czechoslovakia. It will be recalled that as a result of the Munich Conference President Edouard Beneš was forced to agree that, starting October 1, the Germans could slice away a portion of his country. German troops, after crossing the frontier, moved forward, in a wide, sweeping movement, until at the end of 15 days they had taken control of the Sudeten portion of the Czechoslovak Republic. As they moved in, Czech government forces moved out.

Postal officials withdrew too, sometimes with their stock of stamps and even cancellers. As a result, we find Czech and German stamps in mixed franking and, occasionally, city seals used to cancel.

During the period of Czech Republic (1918-1939) the post office permitted, in a cancelling device, both Czech and German spellings (or versions) of the city's (or town's, village's) name. In some of my covers illustrating the 15 days' take-over the cancel shows both names; in most, the indefatigable Germans had already cut out the Czech version, at top of cancel.

Oct. 1: A favor cancel. Jindrichov remains at top; (German) Hennersdorf at bottom. In addition a propaganda cancel, 1.X.1938, "The Liberated Sudetenlanders."

Oct. 2: Normal and propaganda cancel already combined in one (at top) "Ein Volk, Ein Reich, Warnsdorf, 2.10.38, with Ein Fuehrer".

Oct. 3: Koenigsberg, with red propaganda cachet: "Heil Hitler! Freed by German Troops".

Oct. 4. Marienbad: Day of Liberation with swastika.

Oct. 5. Cancellor shows Czech name Dečín has been cut out of top; Teschen, German form of this town's name remains. This card has no stamp, as it is marked "Feldpost" and is sent by SS Major General Erwin Schultz to his wife (Schultz got 20 years' sentence, but served only a small portion of his term).

Oct. 6. Favor cancel, Czech name cut out, both German and Czech stamp; with propaganda cachet—"We thank our Fuehrer, Berg-stadt Johannesthal".

Oct. 7. "Liberated by Adolf Hitler 7.10.1938, in Olbersdorf".

Oct. 8. Special box cancel Schaiba, 8 Okt. 1938, with propaganda cachet—"Sudetenland comes home to the Reich".

Oct. 9. German and Czech stamps. German postal propagandists are already equipped with date and propaganda in same canceller. In oversize circle:

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Just returned from a tour of Czechoslovakia. Have anything you need, in stock, such as Scarce Provisionals; essays and proofs since 1918; autographs. Scarce coupons of all issues with all positions, right, left, upper or lower portions; mint or used. Control and addition numbers as well as Plate numbers. Tete-Beche and Gutters. All positions of Watermarks, errors and shades. First Day Covers and Festival or Special Cancellations. Stationery and Revenue. Even some Silver Coins.

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"Postamt Troppau, swastika, 8.10.1938, Day of Liberation".

Oct. 10. Czech PO cancel, with Jaegerndorf at bottom and Czech name for town, Krnov, morticed out.

Oct. 11. Czech name Usti excised, German name, Aussig, remains.

Oct. 12. From Schultz to wife: oval RR cancel Zug 438-12.10.38.

Oct. 13. Favor cancel with Lindenau town seal.

Oct. 14. No cancel but cachet—"Heil Hitler, Aussig, 14.10.38.

Oct. 15. Moravska cut out, German Maehrisch Truebau remains. Stamp used shows Czech patriot Fugner.

Just one more: October 17. This card from Salesel, favor cancelled, has usual swastika cachet-cancel, and in addition there is rubber stamp reading: "Finally free from the Czechs, 17.X.1938". Note that the form "Czechs" is an insult, equivalent to calling an Italian a Wop. The insult-form was frequently used by Hitler, when denouncing President Beneš and his country. This may be called propaganda-by-insult.

Some Czech covers of this uneasy period have overprinted Czech stamps, although many of the covers known to me are favor-cancelled. But they are Bedarfsbriefe.

The most common in an overprint in machine type: "Wir sind frei (We are free) with swastika below. Some show Wir sind Frei with revaluation. One series of stamps depicting President Beneš has, diagonally across his face "Heil Hitler". That might be called the utmost in Nazi (philatelic) bad manners.

These overprints and others, are listed in German catalogs, Michel and Mueller. Collectors should be warned, however, that every Sudetenland cover should be suspect unless proved otherwise. The majority have been concocted by dealers, both German and Czech.

THREE NEW STAMP SOCIETIES JOIN COMPEX 1962

The Board of Directors of COMPEX (Combined Philatelic Exhibition of Chicagoland), have admitted the Hammond Philatelic Society, the Vatican Philatelic Society (Chicago Chapter) and the United Postal Stationary Society (Midwest Chapter). These three clubs are fully recognized members along with the American Topical Association (Chicago Chapter); Austin Philatelic Club; Chicago Precancel Club; Czechoslovak Philatelic Society; Germany Philatelic Society (Chicago Chapter); Israel-Palestine Philatelic Society; Philometer Society of Chicago; Jack Knight Airmail Society; North Shore Philatelic Society; Roosevelt Philatelic Society; and the Scandinavian Philatelic Society.

At this time an election of officers took place with the following elected. Dr. James J. Matejka, M.D., president; Roger A. Swanson, Vice-President; Howard J. Selzer, Secretary; and Earl Wellman, Treasurer. Mr. Ben Reeves was re-elected Honorary Chairman.

The theme for the 1962 exhibition will be TOWARD UNITED NATIONS. Co-operation with the Postal Administration of the United Nations and the United States Post Office Department will be asked.

There will be 40 dealers at the bourse and a 1,000 frame exhibition as had been the case in the past four consecutive exhibitions. Admission will be 50c for adults and children will be admitted free. A souvenir directory will also be published giving the high-lights of the exhibition together with interesting original philatelic articles by club members. This directory will be sold at the show for 50c.

With the philatelic know-how of the previous shows, and with the gala program planned for this year, there can be no question but what this exhibition will be among America's finest for 1962.

All those interested in what COMPEX is doing, please write COMPEX 62, Hotel La Salle, Chicago 2, Illinois.

SLOVAKIA

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