

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

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EDITORIAL

The designation of members of a society holding the office we call treasurer or secretary here, is in Great Britain called honorary treasurer and honorary secretary, respectively. This means to say that those offices, actually doing most of the society's work, are not paid for the job. Our Honorary Treasurer is working hard to keep his books in order. He has been sending out monthly reports to the President and Secretary to enable them to see constantly the financial state in which the society finds itself. So here we are again with a request for the payments of dues, this time, of course, for 1963, with enclosed envelope for your convenience. This is, we are sure, quite boring to hear for two months at the end of a year and for three months at the beginning of the year. We could naturally eliminate the pestering lines early in the new year. It would be so simple if members would give this a few minutes of attention toward the end of the year and would send in their checks for the coming year to the Treasurer. If the year's dues are paid not later than the end of February there will be no need for the Treasurer to send out a reminder. This would not only be time-saving but money could also be saved for the ultimate benefit of the members. Let us get together on this!

Still not much detailed information is at hand on Praga 1962. We assume that member Velek is back at this writing though we have not yet heard from him nor from the other members who attended this most interesting exhibition. However, we can give you some data, nevertheless. We received a program book from Czechoslovakia. The volume in Czech contains the various addresses and articles. The latter are in the original and four other languages. The volume in German gives the complete listing of exhibits. Apparently there were listings published in the four other languages. A few small pamphlets are enclosed which contain information on all the stamps issued for the occasion and the diagram of various areas where the different exhibits were housed. All of it is in a very neat plastic folder which can be used for other purposes if so desired. The arrangement of the exhibits was according to the countries of the exhibitors. In each case the country's official exhibit (if submitted) preceded the possible court of honor and all the other exhibits. Because of this arrangement one could look for Czechoslovakia in numerous areas. This, of course, was true for any other country, also. There were Czechoslovak entries in nine sections, not counting the Czechoslovak exhibitors' material. This interested us very much because it gives us an indication of interest in the stamps of Czechoslovakia. Five of those came from western countries. From the United States

there was a total of twenty participants, of which number there were four from our society, Billig, Blizil, Velek and Verner.

The Prague Newsletter which has just reached us publishes the following information: J. J. Verner received the special prize and silver medal for the best collection of Czechoslovakia by a foreign exhibitor; Fritz Billig was the recipient of a silver plaque for his Billig Handbook, we have also information that George Blizil received a silver-plated medal for his "part of a specialized collection of the U. S. 3 cts of 1869 on covers from the years of 1869-70"; John Velek showed "research study on the 40 H Hradčany, reconstruction of plates 1 and 2." He received a silver-plated medal and an art piece. Member Kvasnička received a gold medal and a special prize from the National Philatelic Society for his collection of Czechoslovak Fieldposts which included essays and proofs, Army in Siberia, Italy, France, Great Britain and a brigade in the Civil War in Spain.

Other members who visited Prague, beside Billig, Velek and Verner, were Janecka, Kessler and Stach.

We were very much interested to note that (in spite of rumors to the contrary) there was philatelic material of the Czechoslovak Army in Siberia as well as Masaryk stamps on exhibition. This latter we must deduce from the years indicated on some entries. We will be interested to hear confirmation on it.

We have read a number of articles about the Exhibition. Some are quite objective, others are partial, noting nothing to criticize and one we read is outright foolish. This latter wishes us to believe that high awards were "foregone conclusions." This would not speak well of the international jury. However, we may be satisfied that this inference can be rejected because there is no proof of such shenanigans.

In 1929 when we "studied" for our examination before a judge of the Federal Court Southern District for our naturalization, we were again impressed by the careful thoughts of the builders of these United States when different amendments to the Constitution were proposed and enacted. At this time we especially refer to the first amendment which constitutes a basic principle of our mode of living. This amendment deals among other important matters with the freedom of the press. Without this we would not be able to enjoy reading the very varied newspapers and magazines. It is enjoyable, indeed, to read at times both sides of a story, to enable us to make up our minds on many controversial subjects.

When we offered our services as Editor of this publication we did not even think that we would ever wish to refer to this first amendment, especially as we received assurances without solicitation that we will have a free hand. We are happy to say that it is a pleasure to feel free to write whatever we think is right and true. We, as human beings with natural human failures, may be wrong at times but never because we were required to say something contrary to our true belief!

We wish to publish a request from member Mark Snow, 808 Leader Bldg., Cleveland 14, Ohio. He is in need of a short biography of the following whose likeness appears on certain essays. He wants the year born, the year they died and a few facts indicating why they rated a proposed stamp:

Ernest R. Denis

Juraj Janosik

Johnes De Ruffynnes

Samo

Jeronym Prazsky

Any one having data on these, kindly communicate with Mr. Snow who will very much appreciate this effort.

We are pleased to inform you that upon proposal of two Council members, the following foreign members were elected to honorary membership in the

society by an overwhelming majority of the Council.

Zdeněk Kvasnička

Jan Karásek

Finally, Mr. Kovarik in a letter to Mr. Kosik, points out an error in the March Specialist issue, page 36. The 2 Kč stamp's second language is not Swedish but Esperanto.

NEW YORK BRANCH MEETING

The September meeting of the Branch was well attended. We were able to greet a new member of the society, Mr. Taussig. Chairman Horechny was unable to be present. Dr. Reiner-Deutsch brought along a part of the Verner collection of Czechoslovak Army in Siberia, which evoked great interest. This collection consists of many unusual items and most complete fieldpost markings. It was decided to hold the exhibition of branch members on November 17th if the meeting room could be secured. Dr. Reiner-Deutsch volunteered to arrange for it. At this writing, member John J. Britt, past President and present member of the Board of Governors of the Collectors Club, has already secured the necessary permission for which all members will be grateful. This exhibition will be held during the ASDA show which may bring more visitors.

NEW MEMBERS

732 Sidney Taussig, 34-29 41st Street, Astoria, New York
 733 Oldrich Kalal, 3321 West 54th Street, Cleveland 2, Ohio

The following unbound back numbers of the Czechoslovak Specialist are available. We do not yet have a compilation of the bound volumes.

1940	Jan., Feb. and Dec. missing -----	\$1.40
1941	April and August missing -----	1.60
1945	Jan, Feb. and April missing -----	1.40
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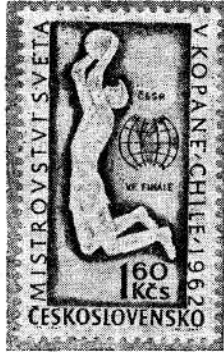
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Parade Of New Issues

Edited by Frank Kosik

A Single Commemorative—Czechoslovakia in Football Final



The Ministry of Transport and Communications issued on June 20, 1962, a single commemorative stamp on the occasion of final matches of the World Football Championship in Chile. The denomination is 1.60 Kčs.

The stamp was designed by the academic artist Jan Černý and engraved by L. Jirka. The design is identical with the one used for the 1.20 Kčs value of the Sports series issued on 5th February, 1962. Only the color of the recess print has been changed from black to green, and the intaglio ground tint is yellow. The stamp is furnished with the inscription "Czechoslovakia in the Final".

The stamp was printed by the rotary recess print combined with photo-gravure in the Post Printing Office in Prague. The dimensions of the stamp picture are 23x41 mm.

The stamp is valid for both internal and international postal use from 20th June, 1962, until further notice.

One First Day Cover was issued, designed and engraved by B. Housa.

New Stamps on the Occasion of the 2nd Summer Spartacist Games of Friendly Armies



On July 20, 1962, the Czechoslovak Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications issued a set of stamps on the occasion of the 2nd Summer Army Spar-

tacist Games which took place in Prague in September 1962.

1. 30 h—a shot of a swimming relay race—green and blue;
2. 40 h—soldier jumping over a hurdle—violet and yellow;
3. 60 h—football player in sport wear—brown and green;
4. 1 Kčs runner in soldier's uniform with rifle—dark blue and red.

All stamps bear in their lower part the inscription: "2nd Summer Spartacist Games of Friendly Armies—ČSSR—September 1962".

The stamps were designed by the academic artist Josef Baláž, and engraved by J. Goldschmied according to the drawing by J. Schmidt, 2. by J. Mráček and 3. by B. Housa and 4. L. Jirka.

The stamps were printed in the Post Printing Office in Prague by the rotary recess print combined with photogravure in sheets of 50. The dimensions of the stamp picture are 23x41 mm.

The stamps are valid in internal and international postal use from July 20, 1962 until further notice.

Two First Day Covers were issued with this emission, designed by J. Baláž and engraved by J. Goldschmied.

World Stamp Exhibition PRAGA 1962



The Czechoslovak Ministry of Transport and Posts issued on August 18, 1962, a second set of stamps for the World Stamp Exhibition PRAGA 1962 in the denominations of 30h, 60h, 80h, 1 Kčs and 1.40 Kčs. The series also includes special exhibition sheets valued Kčs 5 (perforate and imperforate), and another sheet valued Kčs 3.60.

All stamps have been designed by Josef Liesler, engraved by Jindra Schmidt, Ladislav Jirka, Jiří Švengsbír, Jan Mráček, Bedřich Housa and Josef Herčík.

The motto of the exhibition is symbolically expressed in the subjects of the designs which relate to a peaceful life and work, to music and dancing, to the solidarity among workers all over the world and to the conquest of the universe.

The stamps were printed in the Post Printing Office in Prague by flat re-



cess print in four and five colors in sheets of ten. The dimensions of the stamp picture are 23x37 mm.

The stamps are valid in internal and international postal use from August 18, 1962, until further notice.

International Day of the FIP



On the occasion of the FIP Congress which took place on September 1, 1962, a commemorative stamp in the denomination of Kčs 1.60 was released by the Czechoslovak Ministry of Transport and Posts.

Apart from a flying swallow, the stamp shows the emblems of the FIP and of the PRAGA 1962 exhibition.

The stamp was designed by Josef Liesler and engraved by Bedřich Housa. It was printed in the Post Printing Office in Prague by flat recess print in five colors. Dimensions of the stamp picture are 23x37 mm.

The stamp is valid in internal and international postal use from September 1, 1962, until further notice.

SALES DEPARTMENT

Sales books are urgently needed. A month ago only 2 circuits were in circulation, recently another one was sent on its way. This is an all time low. We always had between 10 and 12 circuits going at a time.

Please make up new books and send them to me. There are plenty of blank books available here, just let me know how many you need. We sell them at 7c each plus postage.

Again: SALES BOOKS ARE URGENTLY NEEDED.

—Wolfgang Fritzsche, P. O. B. 8, Canandaigua, N. Y.

1920-1926 Allegorical Issues

by C. H. Osbourn

(continued from last issue)

- 166 78 300 H Vermillion (Line 13 $\frac{3}{4}$) (Comb 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ x13 $\frac{1}{2}$)
 (a) Dark Red (Line 13 $\frac{3}{4}$)
 166/1 Offset (Line 13 $\frac{3}{4}$) (Comb 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ x13 $\frac{1}{2}$)
 Weak printing
 166/2 Printed on gummed side (Line 13 $\frac{3}{4}$) (Comb 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ x13 $\frac{1}{2}$)
 Printed on gummed side with 400 H overprinted
 Double printing
 Triple printing
 166/3 Striped paper
 Transparent paper
 166/4 Lower border with double perforation
 Color error: Green (Imperf) (possibly proof)
 166/R Imperforate
 Plate errors:
 (1) White horizontal line under the value
 (2) Dot underneath the right corner
- 167 79 400 H Brown
 Type I—Narrow 0 (Line 13 $\frac{3}{4}$)
 Type II—Wide 0 (Line 13 $\frac{3}{4}$)
 (a) Dark Brown (Line 13 $\frac{3}{4}$)
 (b) Grey (Line 13 $\frac{3}{4}$) (Ekstein lists this as a counterfeit)
 167/1 Offset
 167/2 Striped paper
 167/3 Very strong paper
 Vertical creases
 167/4 One side with double perforation (vertical)
 167/5 One side not perforated (horizontal only)
 Printed on the gummed side, with positive 300 H on gummed side
 Color error: violet (Imperf) (possibly proof)
- 167/1R Imperforate—Type I
 167/2R Imperforate—Type II
- 168 80 500 H Gray Green (Line 13 $\frac{3}{4}$) (Comb 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ x13 $\frac{1}{2}$)
 (a) Blue Green (Line 13 $\frac{3}{4}$)
 80a (b) Olive Green (Line 13 $\frac{3}{4}$)
 (c) Black Green (Line 13 $\frac{3}{4}$)
 168/1 Offset
 168/2 Printed on gummed side (Line 13 $\frac{3}{4}$)
 Weak printing
 Creased
 168/R Imperforate
 Plate errors:
 (1) Broken border
 (2) White points in various places
- 169 81a 60 H Dark Violet (Line 13 $\frac{3}{4}$) (Comb 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ x13 $\frac{1}{2}$)
 81 (a) Light Violet (Line 13 $\frac{3}{4}$)
 (b) Red Violet (Line 13 $\frac{3}{4}$)
 169/1 Offset
 169/2 Printed on gummed side (Line 13 $\frac{3}{4}$) (Comb 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ x13 $\frac{1}{2}$)
 Yellowish gum

169/R Printed on gummed side, positive printing of 500 H
 Imperforate
 Plate errors:
 (1) Inverted 'C' under tablet
 (2) Broken border

EXPERIMENTAL PRINTS

There exist many experimental colors on different colored papers, both imperforate and perforated, colored and black prints in all values.

Copper print

300 H Green 13¾
 400 H Violet 13¾

These stamps were not in general circulation and must be considered as "unissued".

Photogravure (Neotype)

100, 200, 300, 400 in different colors, on standard paper, also carton paper, either gummed or ungummed, in blocks tete beche, or single with or without authors name under the stamp. Imperforate or line perforation 11½.

Typographed (Book print)

All values in different colors, on white to red papers, white chalky paper, also horizontally striped.

Wood Block print

100 H Blue, brown, imperforate or perforated line 11½.

SCIENCE AND AGRICULTURE

Re-Engraved Issue

In 1923 this series was reissued with re-engraved plates and a change in colors. The basic design of Jacob Obrovsky was retained, with minor modifications.

Perforation—Line 13¾ and Comb 13¾x13½

Paper—Yellowish, but ranging from white to reddish, and varying considerably in thickness.

Proofs—Exist in various colors and sizes, on gummed and ungummed paper and cardboard.

Varieties—Many minor plate errors exist, as well as other discrepancies.

Engraving—Three distinct engravings are noted, which produce three types:

Type I—Rib of leaf below O of Posta is straight and reaches almost to the top. White triangle over book only on left side of stem.

Type II—Rib of leaf crooked and does not extend as far as Type I. Triangle over book protrudes on right side of stem.

Type III—Rib of middle top leaf broken, rib of leaf under O very short. Lower line of P clean, not mutilated as in Types I and II.

Denomination	Issued	Demonetized	Quantity Issued
100 H Red	January 24, 1923	December 31, 1925	381,100,000
200 H Blue	February 24, 1923	December 31, 1925	34,250,000
300 H Violet	February 1, 1923	December 31, 1925	26,910,000

NOTE: Stamps of this series are extremely sensitive to water.

Line Perforation 13 $\frac{3}{4}$

- 173 92 100 H Red—Type I
 100 H Red—Type II
 173/II/ (a) Carton paper
 173/II/R (b) Imperforate
 100 H Red—Type III
 173/III/1 (a) Right margin not perforated
 Plate errors:
 (1) Ring by horn—Type I
 (2) Broken frame by tablet—Type I
 (3) White dot under tablet—Type I
 (4) Broken K in SKA—Type I
 (5) Flame at sword hilt—Type I
 (6) Broken frame top left—Type II
 (7) White dots in vignette—Type II
 (8) Broken 0 of last numeral—Type II
 (9) Broken L in SLOV—Type II
 (10) KA of SKA joined—Type II
 (11) White dots in vignette—Type III

Comb Perforation 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ x13 $\frac{1}{2}$

- 173 92 100 H Red—Type I
 100 H Red—Type II
 (a) Dark Red
 (b) Partial offset at left
 (c) Complete offset
 (d) Perforated right side only
 173/II/2 (e) Printed on gummed side
 (f) 100 H Red—Type II and Type III in vertical pair
 (g) 100 H Red—Type II and Type III in horizontal pair
 100 H Red—Type III
 (a) Dark Red
 Plate errors:
 (1) Under SKÁ a blue point—Type II
 173/II/3 (2) Retouched tablet—Type II
 173/III/2 (3) White hook on sword—Type III
 173/III/3 (4) Broken K in SKÁ—Type III
 173/III/4 (5) Branch by sword burning—Type III
 173/III/5 (6) Broken second 0 of 100—Type III
 (7) Upside down "V"
 (8) Between 1 and 0 colored dots

Line Perforation 13 $\frac{3}{4}$

- 174 93 200 H Blue—Type II
 (a) Dark Blue
 200 H Blue—Type III
 (a) Dark Blue

Comb Perforation 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ x13 $\frac{1}{2}$

- 200 H Blue—Type II
 (a) Dark Blue
 200 H Blue—Type III
 (a) Offset
 174/III/1 (b) Printed on gummed side

Line Perforation 13 $\frac{3}{4}$

- 175 94 300 H Violet—Type I
 (a) Displaced (crooked) perforations, with the middle imperf.
 300 H Violet—Type II
 300 H Violet—Type III
 (a) Light Violet
 Plate errors:
 175/I/1 (1) SKY instead of SKA—Type I
 (2) Point under 'os' of kosl—Type I
 (3) Mutilated 'O' in SLO—Type I

Comb Perforation 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ x13 $\frac{1}{2}$

- 175 94 300 H Violet—Type III
 175/II/L (a) Yellow carton paper
 300 H Violet—Type III
 (a) Dark Violet

Experimental Prints

There exist proof printings in all values, and almost all types, on white, gray, blue, green and red paper, also on yellow, which however is very rare. These were both imperforate and perforated, comb 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ x13 $\frac{1}{2}$ and line 13 $\frac{3}{4}$. Color experiments were many in all colors, on various colored papers. Black prints exist on ordinary white paper, or on chalky white paper.

ALLEGORICAL ISSUES**PLATE MARKINGS**

The Plate Marks for the Allegorical series, constitute a very rich collection. It is divided as follows:

1. Stamps printed without a printing plate marking,
 - (a) Without protecting frame, and
 - (b) With protecting frame.
2. Without decimal dot in counter (value totals at bottom of sheet).
3. With cut in decimal dash in counter.
4. With gauge lines in protecting frames.
5. With numbers and other marks in protecting frame.
6. With serial number and date in left and right lower corners.
7. With arabic numbers in print without protecting frames.

DOVE 1920-1926**5 H Dove**

- 143 65 Without plate mark in protecting frames.
 6 — — (cut in decimal dash under 100th stamp)
 3 (cut in decimal dash behind 90th stamp)
 4 (as above)
 4 (as above, protecting frame non-continuous)
 1-26 (serial number in left, date at right)
 2-26 (as above)

NOTE: Protecting frame is solid by plate mark 2-26

(continued in next issue)

FROM THE HISTORY OF THE PRAGUE POST OFFICE

Reprinted from the PRAGA Pamphlet

The city of Prague, situated in the center of Bohemia, and thus in the heart of Europe, is an ancient, historic town. Since the 2nd century of our era, the territory of Bohemia was inhabited by the Slavs, as has been confirmed by the discovery of remnants of ancient Slav ceramics in the region of Prague. After the Slav tribes united in Bohemia in the 9th and 10th century, the seat of Bohemian sovereigns and the political center of the Slav tribes was founded in the heart of Bohemia. Owing to its favorable position at the crossroads of the old commercial passes, the wealth of the country and last but not least to the high cultural level of its population, Prague has for centuries played an important role in the political happenings of Europe.

This political, economic and cultural position of Prague and Bohemia in Europe was one of the reasons why the transport of messages—postal service—was organized in Bohemia from the very beginning. At first, only for the needs of the court, the clergy, the convents and the merchants, and gradually, as society developed for the rest of the population. The transport of messages in Bohemia was first entrusted to occasional couriers, at first only now and then, later regularly. These couriers, on foot or on horseback, were kept by those who needed an exchange of correspondence.

Such a privately organized system of postal services already existed in Bohemia from the beginning of the Czech state till the 16th century A. D. when Prague was incorporated into the postal service of the Habsburg Empire, to which Bohemia then belonged. The activity of these various couriers was not co-ordinated or regionally limited, so that on some roads and between some settlements, this postal service was very lively. This was the case, for instance, during the reign of the Přemysl dynasty—(1197-1306), when the Czech state achieved a remarkable political, economic and cultural boom. In the 13th century, Prague was connected by merchant postal service with Leipzig, Dresden, Magdeburg, Berlin, Vienna, Nuremberg and other European cities.

During the reign of the Luxembourgs, (1310-1346), the postal service to Bohemia was also very lively, especially between Bohemia and France and Italy, with whom Bohemia maintained active political, economic and cultural relations. Under Charles IV (1346-1376) Prague with its 40,000 inhabitants, became the largest town of central Europe and at the same time the capital of the large Empire of that sovereign. Hence it is natural that Prague was also the postal center and that it had postal communications with all the European seats of reigning monarchs.

The year 1526 was a turning-point in the development of the postal service in Bohemia. At that time, at the occasion of the election of a new Bohemian king within the Habsburg Empire, a regular mounted service was founded between Prague and Vienna. In this way, Prague and Bohemia were incorporated into the European network of regular postal communications, then existing in the large Habsburg Empire. Since then, Prague was the seat of the highest court officials—the postmaster-general in Bohemia. In the years 1526-1564, these posts were held by the Counts of Taxis and in the year 1622, another family took over, the Paars.

The service between Prague and Vienna was the only one that lasted, except for one interruption in the years 1535-1538, till the 19th century. At that time, it was replaced by the railways and abolished.

Other postal communications, gradually founded in Bohemia, also started from Prague. Thus in the year 1530, a postal service was started from Prague to Silesia, using the old road to Kladsko, and from there to Vroclav and Cracow. In 1533, a postal service was founded from Prague through Pilsen to Re-

gensburg and Augsburg, by the old Bavarian road, and in 1621, a postal service using runners, was founded from Prague to Saxonia, to Dresden and Meissen. This postal service was maintained by both the Prague and the Leipzig postmasters.

Apart from these postal communications, most of which were permanent, many occasional communications existed, using usually less important roads.

From 1526 onwards, Prague was the seat of the postmaster general for Bohemia.

The Prague postmaster was always nominated by the Imperial postmaster-general in Prague, but sometimes his nomination was decided by the monarch himself. The nomination of postmasters at all other post offices in Bohemia was left to the discretion of the postmaster-general in Prague. The Prague postmaster usually only gave references.

In Prague, the mail was despatched by the postmaster always on certain days, usually once, later twice a week, and it also arrived on certain days. This was organized according to a time-table, and therefore letters had to be handed in at the post office always till a certain hour.

The speed of transport depends on the type of couriers used: either on foot or on horseback. Around the year 1573, a runner used to pass Prague from Wroclaw in Silesia to Nuremberg. He had to travel this distance in 10 days during the summer month and in 11 days in winter. He was allowed to spend only half a day in Prague, in order to deliver the mail from Wroclaw and accept the mail for Nuremberg.

In 1622, the transport of mail on horseback from Linz to Prague usually took from 3 to 4 days, from Prague to Wroclaw on foot, in 1640, from 4 to 5 days.

The office of the Imperial postmaster-general and the Prague post office were first located directly at the monarch's residence in the Prague Castle. Later, when these two offices were no longer in the hands of the Taxis family, they were located at various places in Prague. The exact location of the Prague post office at that time is not known, but we may presume that it changed according to the person of the postmaster. The post office, however, never left the Small Town of Prague. Approximately in the middle of the 17th century, the post office was located on the Maltesian square of the Small Town, No. 480, where it stood until 1723, until it was transferred to the house opposite, No. 482.

Another milestone in the development of the postal service in Bohemia and Prague was the year 1722, when the hereditary right to administer the postal service in Bohemia was taken from the Paar family, leaving them only the rank of supreme postmaster-general and a certain influence at the nomination of postmasters in less important places. Since then, the postal service in Bohemia was administered by the state, and the Prague post office continued to supervise all postal stations in Bohemia. In the middle of the 18th century, the Prague postmaster and a few officials became employees of the "regional government."

The fact that the state took over the administration of the postal service meant that the future development of the postal service in Bohemia was put on sounder foundations. This was important, because postal service is indispensable to the state. For this reason various rules and regulations were laid down, concerning the use of postal service. Collecting offices were founded and roads were built. The network of post offices also expanded.

The network of postal communications, however, even after these changes, was still confined to regional roads. Nevertheless, in 1740, 87 postal stations existed in Bohemia, while there were only 47 of these stations in the year 1720.

In Prague itself, the postal service was not very large. In 1753, the Prague

post office consisted merely of 5 officials and one postman, who delivered the mail in all four towns of Prague—the Small Town, the Hradčany, the Old Town and the New Town with Vyšehrad. In 1742, the post office was transferred from the Maltesian square to the Lichtenstein Palace on the Italian Square, No. 258, where it was kept till 1791.

In connection with postal reforms, collecting offices were founded in Prague in the year 1753 in order to facilitate and improve postal service. One of these collecting offices was established in Dlouhá ulice No. 92, another at Kinský trh No. 823 and a third in the Jewish town of Prague, at No. 167. Thus, the citizens of the Prague towns were not obliged to carry their mail to the post office of the Small Town any longer. At the same time, the number of postmen of the Prague post office was increased to three.

Furthermore, in 1782, a private service of mail-collectors was established in the city of Prague. These collectors walked up and down the streets using a clapper to attract the attention of the citizens, collecting letters and parcels for the Prague post office. For this reason, the service was called "clapper-post" or "little post." In the year 1789, it was abolished because of the dispute between this service and the Prague post office.

As the exchange of letters and parcels grew, it became necessary to increase the number of post office personnel. In 1784, Prague had approximately 3,000 houses and 80,000 citizens. The personnel of the Prague post office was increased to 19 employees, but only three of these were postmen. Only in 1792 another postman was employed. The Prague post office was run with four postmen till 1822.

In the year 1792, the Prague post office moved to adapted halls of the former monastery of the Dominican order in Karmelitská ulice No. 388, where it was till the year 1849. The reforms introduced in that period resulted in extending the network of post offices and stations, that towards the end of the year 1790, Bohemia had 94 post offices and postal stations, 65 collecting offices and one post office in Prague with its 3 collecting offices. Bohemia, at that time, had a population of approximately 4 million people. In the year 1823, new means of transport were introduced, namely light coaches for the transport of mail and passengers. Their use was made possible by building new roads so that the journey from Prague to Vienna in one of these coaches took 37 hours, while before it used to take more than 72 hours.

One of the important reforms of the postal system in Bohemia made at this time was the introduction of post boxes in the year 1817. These pillar-boxes were placed at various places in Prague and the people put letters into them for the post office to collect.

In the year 1836, Prague had 3,888 houses and a population of about 104,000. The mail was distributed by ten postmen. The post office in 1843 had 41 employees and there were 20 pillar-boxes in the city of Prague. The fact that the Prague post office was a very busy one at that time is proved by its having postal communication with 105 local and 32 foreign post offices in 1832. Every week, 100 stage coaches left and arrived in Prague. About 3000 deliveries were made every day.

On the 1st of June 1850, postage stamps were issued for the first time, to show that postal fees had been paid. In the same year postal pay checks were introduced, in 1860 payment upon receipt and in 1869 express service. In the years 1869 till 1873 postal service was extended even to towns and villages without a post office of their own. In 1882, postal saving accounts were started. The net work of post offices and communications was also systematically extended. In the year 1874, Bohemia (as part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire) was incorporated into the International Postal Union in Bern.

The main post office in Prague was located, since 1849, in the building No.

1035 Na Poříčí; it had 42 employees and 40 postmen who distributed mail four times a day. Prague was growing fast, in 1860, it already had over 200,000 citizens. The post office was too small for the growing traffic and it was therefore decided to build a new one at No. 909 in jindřišská. In 1873, the post office was moved to the new building and there it stays till now.

Bohemia had a population of over 6 million people around the year 1900. The number of post offices increased to 1357. The population of Prague also increased to 514,345. In 1900, Prague had 20 post offices.

This, briefly, is the history of the Prague post office. We have seen that Prague has always played an important part in the development of postal service in Bohemia and that this city has been an important crossroad in the conveyance by post to this day.

POSTAL STATIONERY COLUMN

Wolfgang Fritzsche

NEW ISSUES: For this year's PRAGA stamp exhibition several items of stationery were issued.

AIRLETTER SHEET: Stamp design the same as the current 1.20 Kčs but in gray, aerogramme in blue; on the bottom of front in red: the PRAGA emblem and in one line along bottom: SVETOVA VYSTAVA POŠTOVNICH ZNÁMEK PRAGA 1962.

ENVELOPE: In the conventional European size: 175x125 mm, imprinted 60h stamp in a special design showing the Hradčany and the Charles bridge and bridge towers, in blue; on lower left in red a large PRAGA emblem and below it in 2 lines: PRAHA 18. srpen - 2. zari 1962 Československá pošta.

POSTAL CARDS: A set of cards was to be issued, however at the time of writing this report none have arrived here as yet.

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