

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

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Editorial Board:

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

Our Society should be proud to hear that another of its members has received the Luff Award of the American Philatelic Society. Last year it was Frank Kovarik and this time it is our old friend George A. Blizil of Cleveland. He was given the Award for Exceptional Service to the American Philatelic Society. As most of you know, member Blizil has been Chairman of the International Relations Committee of the APS for a number of years. Our heartiest congratulations to you, George!

We have been wondering whether it would be a good policy to report on high awards received by members at international exhibitions for any entry and all types of awards received by members at any given exhibition for their Czechoslovak entries. It may be a good idea, since our membership would gain additional information about the activities of its members. Dr. J. J. Matejka received the Grand Award at Luposta in Berlin for his Newfoundland airmails and John J. Britt received a gold medal for his airmail essays and proofs at the same exhibition.

In this issue we are publishing a brief account of Praga 1962 written by one of the participants, John Velek, who will write an article on his visit to the Philatelic Museum. You may recall that he wrote an article two years ago after his return from Prague. We are sure we will hear new interesting comments from him.

While busy with this editorial, we received the latest issue of *Die Sammler Lupe*, one of the finest West German philatelic publications. In it is a long article on Praga 1962. We wish to say a few words about this. The President of the International Philatelic Federation, M. Lucien Berthelot, stated that this exhibition carried the title of "World Exhibition" which has never before been used. He further stated that there were 1800 participants from 80 countries. A truly world exhibition. The Editor of *Sammler Lupe* felt that the territorial division of all exhibits, an entirely novel idea, had great advantages. In the first place, the viewer was able to judge the method, approach and extent of collecting in the various countries. He further said that this arrangement permitted the visitor to decide which frames to study with more interest, depending on his preference for any particular country.

No mention was made of the somewhat difficult, close to impossible, arrangements for the obtaining of different issues in connection with the Show. We believe that only a very few people in the country were able to secure all the sets or sheetlets issued, since it cost too much money to do so. We will not

go into the intricate policies pertaining to the regulations covering it. This would serve no purpose!

The October issue contained the first instalment of an article on "Religious Thought and Philosophy on the Stamps of Czechoslovakia." This article will be continued in due course. We will then repeat a request by the Editor of *Coros*, in regard to the article, after it has been presented to our readers. Here we wish only to remark that the Editor is eager to obtain any additional information anyone may have on the architecture or other details of individual churches or of any omissions. Mr. Osbourn, the author, is naturally very much interested in this also.

We have just received the manuscript of the *Hradčany Essays and Proofs* on which the Hradčany Study Group spent quite some time. This material is being sent to the printer for publication.

At the Postal History Society Exhibition on October 26th, member J. J. Verner received a silver medal for his showing of Czechoslovak Fieldposts in Russia. He may be quite proud of this, because at the Exhibition there were 180 frames of the most outstanding postal history material ever assembled.

Do not neglect to send in your dues for 1963 to the Treasurer. Last month the dues envelopes were included with the *Specialist*.

We wish you all a very happy Holiday Season! Let us hope that there will be more understanding among the nations of this world in the coming year and that all of us will be able to follow our occupations in a peaceful frame of mind!

CHICAGO BRANCH OCTOBER MEETING

One of the best attended meetings of our chapter took place Sunday October 14th when more than 50 of our friends and members, many from the First Czechoslovak Philatelic Club, came to hear John Velek report on the Praga World Stamp Show which was held in Praha this past August. He explained the innovation of showing the stamps, not by subject matter, but by the collection's origin. This made it rather inconvenient if you were interested say—in the stamps of Czechoslovakia, in order to see them all, you had to visit the exhibition space of every country whose citizen exhibited Czechoslovakia. Janecka showed movies of the exhibition palace and other places of philatelic interest. Both participants agreed it was the most publicized stamp show they ever attended. Excellent advertising of a strictly philatelic nature appeared in every window in downtown Praha and every citizen of that city was very happy to give directions so that one could not get lost. Both Joe and John feel sure that no stamp show was so well attended anywhere else. Every person present at this meeting was urged to ask questions of a philatelic nature; political or economic questions were left unanswered.

Coffee, koláčky and cookies were served to those present. Special thanks to Mrs. Hoch and Miss Kovarik for the preparation of cookies and koláčky and to Joseph Janecka for Czech bakery, coffee and cream. Thanks to Mr. Václav Šaña for his effort to publicize this meeting in the Czech press.

Our November meeting will feature remarks by member Kovarik on the theme "What Philately meant to me since my retirement." Our December meeting will consist of a Christmas party and Benefit Auction. All members are asked to voluntarily offer something of their duplicates; the proceeds to be used to cover the expenses of the Chicago Chapter. The Chicago area members especially are urged to contribute and then bid high. Send your contributions to the chairman of the Program, Dr. James J. Matejka, Jr., Suite 216, Hotel LaSalle, 10 No. LaSalle, Chicago 2, Ill. Coffee, milk and vanocka will be served. Everybody welcome.

PRAGA 1962

By John Velek

When I read some of the early press releases of the Praga 1962 show I was skeptical of some of the plans being made for it. Having attended the International stamp shows in New York in 1956 and London in 1960, I doubted these shows could be surpassed or even equaled.

When I arrived at the Fucik Park in Prague and walked through the two large halls housing the exhibition I realized that the press releases were no idle boast but that Praga 1962 indeed surpassed all previous international stamp shows.

Not only were the 8000 frames the largest exhibit ever but the settings incorporating a philatelic theme were elaborate and often artistic. A large percentage of the exhibits were thematic but there were still a great many collections of beautiful old classics and rarities. The exhibits of U. S. collectors attracted a lot of attention and especially the Post Office Department frame of the U. S. astronaut stamp.

The attendance at the exhibit was heavy and at times one could hardly get through the aisles to view the frames. This was a result of the tremendous publicity the show received. Virtually every store window in central Prague had a Praga 1962 display. Not just a sign advertising the exhibit but elaborate displays with a philatelic theme were shown. People stood in lines all day to buy the exhibition commemoratives and to get the special cancels.

Several of our members exhibited and won awards. The principal awards were won by our members Zdeněk Kvasnička of Prague who got the gold medal for the best collection of Czechoslovakia and Jerry Verner of St. Paul who received a silver medal for the best collection of Czechoslovakia shown by a foreigner. Both of these gentlemen were also awarded large pieces of art glass.

Praga 1962 must be considered a big success. Of course it is unfair to compare it with international shows put on in the West. The New York exhibition for example, was put on by the collecting fraternity, whereas Praga 1962 was promoted by the Czech government with all the finances and promotion that it could supply.

NEW YORK BRANCH OCTOBER MEETING

Mr. Horechmy presided at this meeting when member Flynn presented a very interesting talk on postal stationery. He showed us Orbis picture postcards which were of great interest to the members. We learned that there exist 36 sets of these beautiful cards and of course, it would be an expensive proposition to secure all those sets. Many members had never seen any of these items.

The forthcoming exhibition on November 17th was then discussed in great detail. All members will participate and we had the assurance of member Stein that Mr. Kessler, though not yet back from Europe, will have some material available. We intend to have a poster publicizing our exhibition, displayed at the ASDA show. This will make it possible for some visitors to take in our show. Two frames of the Verner pages will be shown from his collection of Siberian Fieldposts.

NEW MEMBER

734. Dennis Kaplan, 84-24 43rd St., Astoria, L. I., N. Y.

STAMPS OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK FIELD POST IN RUSSIA
THINGS KNOWN AND UNKNOWN

By Zdenek Kvasnička

Translated by J. J. Verner

Reprinted from Compex Directory 1962

The Czechoslovak army in Russia had during the years 1918 to 1920 its own, well functioning, postal system that connected the individual army units strung out along the Trans-Siberian Railway. These units were moving east to Vladivostok from which point they were gradually transported by ship to Europe. Full use of the postal system was also made by other allied troops and civilian population because of dependability of these facilities.

We know that the administration of the Czechoslovak Field Post overprinted, in black, a small number of 10 kopek Russian stamp with the words "Česká Pošta" to facilitate identification of correspondence that passed through Russian Post Offices between civilians and military personnel.

However no philatelic publication has heretofore noted that in 1919 the Field Post made the first attempt to print its own stamps. The director of the Field Post, Captain Novotny, wrote about it in a small brochure, and it was not until after his death that eight essays of this unknown stamp were found in his effects.

Trial printings were made in Celjabinsk following the simple design of Legionnaire Cervensky. These were then submitted for approval to Lt. Colonel Klecanda, Commander of the Field Post, but final approval was never given.

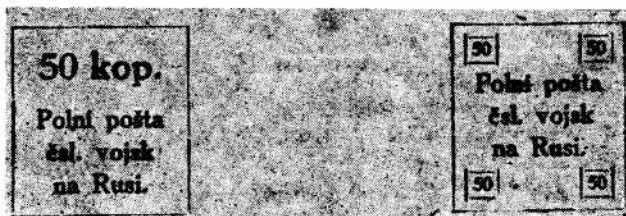


Figure 1

(courtesy of Dr. Wm. Reiner-Deutsch, photo by Boutrelle)



Figure 2

It was only with the issuance of the so-called "silhouette" issue in 1919 (Scott 31, 32, 33) that the Field Post got its own stamps. These stamps were printed in the printing shop of Makushin and Posochin in Irkutsk, by lithography. The denominations were 25 kopek, 50 kopek and 1 ruble. During this period the printing shop was rented by the Education and Printing Committee of the Czechoslovak Army. The designs of the 25 kopek (the Irkutsk cathedral) and the 50 kopek (Armored train) were drawn by the Legionnaire Jaroslav Maly. The author of the 1 ruble design was the Legionnaire artist Otakar Cila.

In the photograph we see the first pencil sketch and a definite drawing in brown as the design for the printing. The porous paper used had weak and strong watermarks and was imported from Japan. The 25 and 50 kopek stamps were printed in sheets of 120 (10x12) and the ruble stamp in sheets of 105 (7x15). The first two stamps were printed on one large sheet simultaneously but were separated by a large white gutter. The one ruble stamp was printed two sheets at a time, one under the other, and also separated by a wide gutter. Gutter pairs of both varieties are very rare.



Figure 3
(courtesy of Dr. Wm. Reiner-Deutsch, photo by Boutrelle)



Figure 3a
(courtesy of Dr. Wm. Reiner-Deutsch, photo by Boutrelle)

This printing procedure lead to the formation of six types of each stamp value. Each type appears regularly on each sheet and each block of six with the exception of the 10th perpendicular row in the two lower denominations and the bottom row of the one ruble stamp.

25 Kop.					1 RuBl					50 Kop.				
1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	2		1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1	
4 5 6	4 5 6	4 5 6	5		4 5 6	4 5 6	4 5 6	4 5 6	4 5 6	4 5 6	4 5 6	4 5 6	4	
1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1		1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	3	
4 5 6	4 5 6	4 5 6	4		4 5 6	4 5 6	4 5 6	4 5 6	4 5 6	4 5 6	4 5 6	4 5 6	6	
1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1		1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	2	
4 5 6	4 5 6	4 5 6	4		4 5 6	4 5 6	4 5 6	4 5 6	4 5 6	4 5 6	4 5 6	4 5 6	5	
1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	3		1 2 3	4 5 6	1 2 3	4 5 6	4 5 6	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1	
4 5 6	4 5 6	4 5 6	6							4 5 6	4 5 6	4 5 6	4	
1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	2							1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	2	
4 5 6	4 5 6	4 5 6	5							4 5 6	4 5 6	4 5 6	5	
1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	1							1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3	3	
4 5 6	4 5 6	4 5 6	4							4 5 6	4 5 6	4 5 6	6	

Figure 4

An examination of preserved whole sheets reveals errors that appear consistently on each sheet, or at least in a significant part of the issue.

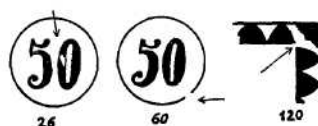


Figure 5

Collectors have not been informed of these errors before.

In the 50 kopek, green, they are:

Stamp No. 26: A small line appears in the zero of the number.

Stamp No. 60: There is a break in the circle enclosing the number.

Stamp No. 120: The decorative square in the upper right hand corner is damaged.

In the 1 ruble, brown, stamp:

Stamp No. 86: Above the head of the soldier there is a white line (only in part of the printing).

Stamp No. 91: A fault appears below the OS in Posta.

Stamp No. 104: A line appears above the letter O in the word Vojenska.

We have not been able to determine from which part of the printing plate these errors occurred, whether they are from the upper or lower sheets. However, we still have much information on the issue which will interest the readers.

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1920-1926 Allegorical Issues

by C. H. Osbourn

(continued from last issue)

5 H Violet

- 144 82 Without plate mark
 As above, line perf 13¾
 As above, perf comb
 Without plate mark, with protecting frame, line perf. 13¾, without counter, tete beche print.
 Without plate mark, with protecting frame by stamp #100, narrowing to a wedge shape.
 As above, line perf 13¾.
 Without plate mark, protecting frame at 100th stamp, cut out in circle.
 As above, line perf 13¾.
 Without plate mark, wide protecting frame with two colored dots at 100th stamp, between counter 5.- and end protecting frame.
 As above, line perf 13¾.
 — (One gauge line in protecting frame at 100th stamp, copy of previous plate, to which was engraved one afterwards.)
 As above, line perf 13¾.
 = (Two gauge lines at 100th stamp) SPLICE IN 2 HL
 As above, line perf 13¾.
 3 (In protecting frame behind stamp #90)
 4 (As above)

10 H Green

- 145 66 Without plate mark
 1:— —
 1:— — —

10 H Olive

- 146 83 Without plate mark on protecting frame.
 Without plate mark with protecting frame.
 Without plate mark, with protecting frame, and without counter, (tete beche print), line perf 13¾.
 1. — — (With protecting frame)
 1. — — and 41 (Without protecting frame, between counters 1 - and 2 - Number 41)
 1.—.— (Same protecting frame as on plate without marking with protecting frame).
 5:— — (Under 95th stamp)
 5:— — (Under 95th stamp with comb perf)
 10.— (Without protecting frame)
 10.— — — (With protecting frame)
 — (Gauge line in protecting frame by 100th stamp)
 = a 10:— (Two gauge lines in protecting frame by 100th stamp)
 = a 10:— — — (Same drawing, protecting frame and gauge lines but decimal dash in counter cut three times.)
 ≡ (Three gauge lines in protecting frame below 71st stamp)
 ≡ (Four gauge lines in right protecting frame)
 5 (In protecting frame by 100th stamp)
 6 (As above)

SERIAL NUMBERS AND DATES

1926			
5 H	1	—	26
1926	2	—	26

1924			
10 H	1	—	24
1924	2	—	24
	3	—	24
	4	—	24
	5	—	24
	6	—	24
	7	—	24
	8	—	24
	9	—	24
	10	—	24
	11	—	24
	12	—	24
	13	—	24
	14	—	24
	15	—	24
	16	—	24

1925			
10 H	1	—	25
1925	2	—	25
	3	—	25
	4	—	25

NOTE: Serially with serial number 1 to 4, number 4 is missing, and decimal dash in counter 1.— is cut.

1926			
10 H	5	—	26
1926	6	—	26
	7	—	26 Type I
	7	—	26 Type II
	8	—	26 Type I
	8	—	26 Type II
	11	—	26
	12	—	26
	13	—	26
	14	—	26

NOTE: Plate Mark 7 — 26 and 8 — 26 have two different drawing serial numbers.

1928			
10 H	1	—	28 Type I
1928	1	—	28 Type II
	2	—	28 Type I
	2	—	28 Type II

NOTE: Both plate marks have two different drawings, serial numbers and dates.

1929			
10 H	1	—	29
1929	2	—	29
	3	—	29
	4	—	29

- 147 67 15 H RED BROWN
 3 — — (Under 92nd stamp)
 3 — — — (Under 92nd stamp)
- 148 84 20 H RED ORANGE — TYPE I
 Without mark and with protecting frame.
 4 — — (Under 95th stamp, protecting frame same as plate without marking.)
 Without marking, with protecting frame, and with counter (tete beche print), line perf 13¾.
 ≡≡ (Two gauge lines by 100th stamp)
 ≡≡≡ (Three gauge lines by 100th stamp)
 ≡≡≡ (As above, line perf 13¾)
 ≡≡≡ (Three heavy lines before 21st stamp)
 ≡≡≡ (Four gauge lines by 100th stamp)
 15 (In protecting frame by 100th stamp)
 ∞ (As above)
 ∞ (As above, line perf 13¾)
 7 (As above)
 8 (As above)

NOTE: Protecting frame by plate mark 5 is non-continuous. This protecting frame has on the right edge, opposite horizontal stamp strips, arabic numbers 1-9 agreeing with horizontal stamp strips.

		1924	
20 H	1	—	24
1924	2	—	24
	3	—	24
	4	—	24
		1926	
20 H	1	—	26
1926	2	—	26
	4	—	26
	4	—	26
	5	—	26
	6	—	26
	7	—	26
	8	—	26 (less numbers, X in squares)
	9	—	26
	10	—	26
	11	—	26
	12	—	26
		1927	
20 H	1	—	27
1927	2	—	27
	3	—	27 (Without numerals, X in squares)
	4	—	27
	5	—	27
	6	—	27
	7	—	27
	8	—	27
	9	—	27
	10	—	27
	11	—	27

		12	—	27
		13	—	27
		14	—	27
			1928	
20 H		1	—	28
1928		2	—	28
		3	—	28
		4	—	28
		5	—	28 (Without numerals, X in squares)
		6	—	28
		7	—	28
		8	—	28 (As above)
		9	—	28
		10	—	28
		11	—	28
		12	—	28
		13	—	28
		14	—	28
		15	—	28
		16	—	28
		17	—	28 (As above)
		18	—	28 (As above)
		19	—	28
		20	—	28
148	84	20 H RED ORANGE — TYPE II		
		Without marking, without protecting frame.		
149	85	25 H BLUE GREEN — TYPE I		
		Without marking, without protecting frame.		
		25 H BLUE GREEN — TYPE II		
		Without marking, without protecting frame.		
		Without marking, with protecting frame.		
		— (By 100th stamp)		
		≡ (As above)		
		≡≡ (As above)		
		≡≡≡ (As above)		
150	86	30 H RED VIOLET		
		SERIAL NUMBER AND DATE		
		1925		
30 H		1	—	25
1925		2	—	25
		3	—	25
		4	—	25 Type I
		4	—	25 Type II
		1926		
30 H		1	—	26
1926		2	—	26
			—	3
			—	4
		5	—	26
		6	—	25
		7	—	26
		8	—	26

(to be continued)

THE FUTURE OF THE GENERAL CATALOG

Reprinted by Permission from the Mercury Stamp Journal

In these days we are celebrating the centenary of the stamp catalog. Late in 1861, F. G. O. Berger-Levrault of Strasbourg published his first list of postage stamps, and in December, 1861, Alfred Potiquet came out in Paris with a list of 1080 adhesives and 132 envelopes. These are considered to have been the first examples of stamp catalogs; some price lists of dealers, forerunners of the catalogs, had already been published at an earlier date. The famous J. B. Moens followed early in 1862 with his own catalog, and the same year saw stamp catalogs published in London and Philadelphia which for the first time showed illustrations.

From a few pages, the general catalogs—as we call those comprising the whole world—have grown to fat volumes of thousands of pages. Today, the slimmest general catalogs have about 2500 pages, the fattest ones over 3600 pages, with the only general catalog published inside the “Iron Curtain” showing a record number of more than 4250 pages. All general catalogs are now published divided into two or three volumes, the “Iron Curtain” catalog also being “ahead” of the others by being divided into six volumes. The division is a geographical one for all catalogs, only the subdivisions of the “Iron Curtain” catalog are based also on chronological considerations.

At present, six general catalogs are published in the world—two in the United States (Scott and Minkus) and one each in Great Britain (Stanley Gibbons), France (Yvert-Tellier), Western Germany (Michel) and Eastern Germany (Lipsia). While the four catalogs published in Europe each have a separate volume for the countries of Europe, they differ in details. The two German catalogs include the German Colonies, while the British and French ones exclude the British and French Empire respectively and place them in separate volumes. In their “overseas” volumes, the German and French catalogs embrace the independent states as well as the various colonies, while the British catalog groups the colonies with the mother countries in the Europe part and has the independent countries of Asia and Africa in a separate volume. The two American catalogs have, as seems natural, a different approach. They both form separate groups of the United States, the British Empire and Latin America, but they differ in the treatment of the balance of the countries. While Scott has them all lumped together in one volume, alphabetically mixing the countries of Europe and their colonies with the independent countries of Asia and Africa, Minkus has formed a separate group of the latter and put them with the other three groups in one volume, leaving only Europe and its colonies for the second volume. This seems to us a much more sensible solution, as it creates two volumes of almost even size, while the Scott Volume II has almost 50% more pages than Scott Volume I. This unevenness will increase from year to year, due to the creation of many new independent countries in Asia and Africa with their rather large stamp production. Although we know that it is hard to follow the example of a competitor, it would be a wise move by the publishers of the Scott Catalog to extract the independent countries of Asia and Africa from Part II and devise of them a separate group to be included in Part I. It would not only create a better balance between the two volumes, but also relieve Part II of a burden which bears down steadily on the European countries, which are in danger of being submerged in the flood of issues of the new countries of Asia and Africa.

When speaking of grouping, it would make the Scott catalog much more usable if it followed the example of all other catalogs by putting together the Old German States and the Old Italian States and inserting them before Germany and Italy respectively. Another move, practised by the Stanley-Gibbons Cata-

log and copied by the Minkus Catalog, puts all colonies together and places them after the mother country. The other catalogs are inconsistent in this respect, Scott doing it only for the possessions of the United States and Great Britain, Stanley-Gibbons for the British Possessions, Yvert-Tellier for the French Colonies and the German catalogs for the German Colonies. A uniform grouping of all colonies after the mother countries would be of considerable advantage.

Our discussion of the general catalogs would be incomplete if we did not mention those catalogs which are published regularly, following the principles of the general catalogs but comprising only the countries of Europe. Four such catalogs exist, the only one generally known being the Swiss Zumstein Catalog, which contains the same countries as the Michel Europe part. The other three catalogs, the Italian Landmans Catalog, the Italian Sassone Catalog and the Danish AFA Catalog, are practically unknown outside Italy and Scandinavia respectively. The number of pages varies for these catalogs between 1500 and 1800 pages.

Not all philatelists seem to be aware of the importance for our hobby of the general catalogs and their regular yearly publication. It would have unimaginable consequences if this basic source of information suddenly dried up. Philately would never have gained its present status without the general catalogs, and their disappearance would leave philately a stale and unexciting hobby which would have lost a great deal of its attractiveness. This is the reason that every philatelist must be deeply concerned about the future of the general catalogs and scrutinize the trends and problems which may impair their healthful development and their continued usefulness, or which may even threaten their very existence.

There are mainly two developments which have created serious problems for the catalog publishers. The one is a rather old one and is connected with the steadily increasing flood of new issues, the other is of more recent vintage and is the result of the split which has developed in philatelic collecting methods, the "classical" and the "modern" one. While the first problem has been solved, at least temporarily, by the division of the catalogs into more than one volume—a division which theoretically can go on ad infinitum, but eventually will make the general catalogs too extended to be of handy use—the second problem has only started to trouble the catalog publishers, but in our opinion it will become a serious menace to the very existence of the general catalogs. It therefore seems necessary to give it serious thought and to try to find a solution which will satisfy all parties involved.

Before we continue in our discussions, which may be critical of one or the other of the various possibilities of collecting activities and of their influence on our hobby, we want to make clear that in no way do we want to discriminate against any kind of collecting of postal stamps. The collector who collects butterfly stamps and derives his pleasure from it is just as right as another collector who gets his ecstasy from successful plating of the first issue of Kashmir. We condemn any one who tries to tell collectors how and what they should collect. As long as they know what they are doing, as long as they are not misled into believing that they collect bona-fide postal documents while they are treated to material especially created for collecting purposes only, any kind of collecting which pleases a collector should be immune from attack by other philatelists. Tolerance is a virtue which should have a prominent place with all dealings in our hobby.

It seems to be necessary to discuss first how further divisions of the general catalogs should be contemplated. At the ascending rate of new issues, which have jumped this year to over 4000, the volume of the general catalogs presently increases about 5% annually. When we assume that the number of new issues will continue to rise—as we have all reason to believe, considering

the advent of new states and the new-issues-promoting activities of the various philatelic agencies—the volume of our general catalogs will have doubled in less than fifteen years. Therefore, the question of further divisions will become pressing in a few years and should be very much on the minds of the publishers of the general catalogs.

GEOGRAPHICAL DIVISION is, of course, the easiest one and, we are afraid, still seems to be the only course the catalog publishers are contemplating. Splitting up the countries into more groups does not institute serious problems, but we consider such breaking up of the catalog as harmful to philately, favoring regionalism and inducing the collectors to restrict their collecting activities—and with it their philatelic outlook—to fewer and fewer countries. For the Scott Catalog, splitting Part II would not be too difficult, separating the independent countries of Asia and Africa from those of Europe with their colonies. It would be still easier to split Part I, as it is divided into three groups anyway. Combining one of these groups with the new group of Independent Asia and Africa would provide a suitable third volume. Later divisions undoubtedly will be greatly influenced by the end of colonialism and the appearance of new independent countries replacing them, so that probably the independent countries of Asia and Africa will soon need a separate volume (as Stanley Gibbons already has), and all colonies, having ceased to exist as stamp-issuing entities, could be grouped together, relieving the growing Europe volume. In any case, dividing by geographical considerations will work for quite a time to come, but whether it will be advantageous for philately to have a catalog of three, four, or five volumes will have to be seen.

A different approach to the question of dividing the general catalogs is provided by the possibility of separating the countries into two groups: those which have ceased to issue stamps, the so-called "DEAD" countries, and those still issuing stamps, which we would call "LIVE" countries. The "dead" countries, their number being today about 225, greatly increased because of the many previous colonies which now belong to this group, are a rather formidable combination. Each of these countries is a completed entity; additions to a volume of "dead" countries would come only from further countries becoming non-operative and ceasing to issue their own stamps. The increase in volume would be restricted entirely to the "live" countries. At present, there are almost 200 such countries, of which about 90 are still colonies, and the balance independent countries, including dominions of the British Commonwealth. In any case, with all colonies gradually becoming independent or achieving dominion status, there will be little more than 200 stamp-issuing countries in the world, of which only about 35 will be in Europe, 20 in the Americas, 2 in Australia and the balance of about 150 in Asia, Africa and Polynesia. As on an average every country at present issues about 20 stamps a year, it can be easily seen in which group the big growth of new issues will be likely to occur and how this group will overgrow all others.

The division of the catalog into "dead" and "live" countries would have the advantage that it would be sufficient to issue new editions of the "dead" countries part only every second or even third year, while the "live" country part would have to appear each year and publication of a revised volume every six months would have to be considered. But the disadvantages of such a solution could not be neglected. It would not only make the "dead" countries philatelically really "dead" for the large majority of the collectors, but it would also separate countries which belong together, such as the Old German States from Germany, the Old Italian States from Italy, the Confederate States from the United States and so forth. We are afraid that therefore such a system of division would not find too many advocates.

The third possibility of division is that by CHRONOLOGICAL considera-

tions. This has been tried by the Lipsia Catalog, but more as a matter of convenience—to make it unnecessary to print a new edition of the whole catalog every year—than of principle. As was done with albums until several years ago, a sensible division could be made between 19th and 20th century stamps, or, as the 19th century group would be dwarfed by the 20th century material, between pre-war stamps—meaning those up to 1918 or up to 1945—and post-war issues. In any case, arrangements would have to be made to avoid break-up of sets, just because one or two denominations were issued prematurely or delayed in another period. Such a division would profit from the same possibility as the previously discussed one, namely that it would be unnecessary to publish the catalog of the older group every year and that instead, the newer one could be published at more frequent intervals. There can be no doubt that there are merits in this proposition, although the dividing date would in any case have to be chosen arbitrarily. Of course, in later years, the dividing date could be shifted or a second one inserted, for example 1950 as the half-century mark.

There are certainly still other ways of division, one of them being connected with the new trends in collecting with which we will deal after discussing the impact of these new trends on the general catalogs.

Before the first world war, collecting postal stamps was a rather uniform avocation. The fields in which the collectors were interested varied, but the collecting methods were the same, people were interested in and collected everything which had to do with the manufacture and with the use of the stamps, from the earliest essays to the use of the stamps on mail. A collector enjoying this "classical" type of collecting was interested in the printing process and its influence on the finished product, in the paper, the printing ink, the perforation and all other particularities which distinguish a stamp. There are today more collectors of this type than ever before, but they are obviously outnumbered by those collectors who enjoy stamps in a completely different way. The first signs of these new developments made themselves felt in the period between the two world wars, but only after World War II did they become widespread and started to influence collecting activities. This "modern" type of collecting has thrown overboard everything which is dear to the collector of the "classical" type, it does not care a bit when a stamp was issued, what is its denomination, how it was printed, on what kind of paper, and which perforation, if any, it has; even the color is unimportant for them. Who designed a stamp, why it was issued and how it was used and other philatelic details are not of the slightest concern to this type of collectors, they have only one interest, the picture of the stamp. "Research" for them does not mean a difficult search in the official files for data related to the production of a particular stamp or its use, or the inspection of minute details of a stamp to prove a point in its production method, but consists of the investigation of the biographical data of a statesman pictured on a stamp or of the correct Latin name of a flower adorning another modern stamp product. This "thematic" or "topical" collecting brings considerations into our hobby which previously were rather unimportant, as lying outside the main philatelic interest, but are now becoming for these collectors features of major importance. Of course, the choice of these "modern" collecting fields is often connected with the profession of the collector—a banker may collect only stamps which show the dollar sign, a dentist stamps with portraits on which the teeth are visible (one will be surprised how few they are, as rarely is any personality pictured smiling), or an undertaker collecting stamps which show corpses (not a rare occurrence on battlefield scenes), coffins or mausoleums. In this way, actually everyone can have a collecting field which suits his extra-philatelic activities. While the "topical" collectors are undoubtedly the largest group among the "modern" type philatelists, there are others, less num-

erous ones which make themselves felt, such as the "temporary" philatelists collecting only special issues, for example Stamp Centenary or U. P. U. or Refugee Year stamp issues of the various countries or starting to collect the "Europa" issues of the different European countries, under the pretext that they will be the forerunners of the stamps of the United Europe of the future.

All this would be quite all right and would not cause any great collecting problems, both kinds being able to live peacefully, although it proves more and more that this will be possible only as a kind of co-existence, side by side and not with each other. Until now, philatelic magazines, especially the weeklies, philatelic organizations and exhibitions have catered to both groups, with rather unsatisfactory results. The "topical" and "temporary" collectors have in addition created their separate literature, including rather primitive catalogs of their own. The general catalogs have remained untouched by the new trends, although they must give the publishers quite something to think about. We are afraid that the result of such considerations will be something less than satisfactory. A new feature in Scott's Monthly Journal, called "By the Topic," indicates that the publishers believe they will be able to serve both kinds of philately, the "classical" and the "modern" type. This is a very dangerous mistake which is calling for trouble and can only diminish the usefulness of our general catalogs. The two groups of philately are so different in their collecting philosophy, in their interest for philatelic matters, that it is undoubtedly impossible for a catalog to serve them both in a satisfactory manner.

(to be continued)

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