

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

A publication of the Czechoslovak  Philatelic Society of N. America

Copyright 1962 The Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of North America

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.

Vol. XXV

December 1963

No. 238

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY NUMBER

EDITORIAL

Our very good friend, John J. Britt, a member of long standing in our society, past President of the Collectors Club of New York and a member of its Board of Governors, has been honored by the Aero Philatelists at their last convention meeting. He received the Richard S. Bohn Memorial Award for distinguished service to aero philately. We cannot leave unsaid that during and after our illness in 1961, John was in constant touch with us. He has been and is a very considerate human being, always ready to give a helping hand whenever necessary. We salute you, John, and wish you many years of good health for your own sake, for the sake of your friends and for philately!

We received a communication from George Blizil in regard to the very fine attendance at the Convention of APS in Mexico City. The side trip to Acapulco was a very attractive one in spite of the very hot weather. The exhibition was fine with much local participation. Just today we heard from George again, telling us something very exciting. Before his departure for Mexico he received a phone call from B. Davis asking him to drive to Miami to meet a friend of Davis. George took time out for the drive and met Dr. Alice Masaryk, the daughter of T. G. Masaryk. He said it was a magnificent experience and will write us more about her after a visit with her later this fall.

We note with interest that whereas our predecessor often published names of collectors in Czechoslovakia who were desirous of exchanging stamps with U. S. collectors, we ourselves do not get any of those requests. We are not particularly sorry about this because in our experience those exchange prospects have hardly ever worked out satisfactorily. We recall quite vividly that someone placed our name into the ad section of *Filatelie* and thereupon we received over fifty letters containing stamps of Czechoslovakia from 1950 on, with the request that we send equal number of U. S. stamps. We returned about twenty such shipments and after that we stopped bothering. That type of a thing becomes too expensive without compensation or at least satisfaction. We have had some dealings with one collector who however wanted old U. S. mint stamps of great value to be discounted according to official exchange. This again was entirely out of order and we gave up the transaction.

Early in November we were invited to the annual dinner of the Flatbush Stamp Club in Brooklyn to say a few words about a member of their club, Norbert Feiwelsohn, who was to be honored that evening. We were indeed

pleased to oblige since we have known the collector for many years. He is a member of our branch and has been in faithful attendance at our meetings until the recent illness from which he recovered only a short time ago. Feiwelsohn received a beautiful plaque in recognition of his service to the club. Member Koplowitz, who is also a member of that club, distributed the awards of their annual exhibition and he was awarded the gold medal in the Honor Class.

We shall soon resume the reporting of the branch meetings. We have received no reports from Chicago nor do we have any from New York, but members would surely be interested to hear what has been going on at the meetings.

Member Fritzsche has just mailed us the cumulative index I-XXV which will be published in subsequent issues in a manner so as to enable our members to remove the index. Again our warm thanks to him for his great effort.

This time we have no more to say editorially except to wish you all

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

732 Sidney Taussig, 11 Saul Place, Plainview, L. I., N. Y.
61 W. D. Bryant, 724 West 6th St., Los Angeles, Calif. 90017

OMITTED FROM MEMBERSHIP LIST

574 Robert E. Breeding, 20 Hathaway Ave., Thompsonville, Conn.

ELECTION

November 6, 1963

To the Membership:

By virtue of my appointment as Chairman of the Election Committee by the president and having selected as a member of this Committee John Dunajcek to serve with me, we herewith report the results of the election. The ballots were received by me via Certified Mail on November 5, 1963, with a statement that each envelope had been examined by the National Secretary, Frank Kosik, and he verified the status of each voting member.

This committee invalidated two ballots because the members signatures appeared thereon, one mailed to the Secretary with no member's name on the envelope, and one not returned thru the Secretary. A total of 88 valid ballots were counted and the following officers are declared as elected:

President: Lolly M. Horechny
Vice President, East: George B. Koplowitz
Vice President, Central: Joseph J. Janecka
Vice President, West: Dr. H. J. Safarik
National Secretary: Frank J. Kosik
International Secretary: R. L. Spofford
Treasurer: Joseph Stein
Editor: Dr. Wm. Reiner-Deutsch
Council, East: Emil J. Michaelson
Councilor, Central: Clarence J. Kozak
Councilor, West: W. D. Bryant

We certify the above to be the true result of the counted valid ballots, extend our congratulations to the successful candidates, and having fully carried out the instructions given us, the services of this committee are terminated.

Respectfully,

James W. Adler #386, Chairman
John Dunajcek #524, Member

Your Editor is pleased to note that a record number of members have and we wish all incoming officers a pleasant, fruitful term of office.

Czechoslovak Philatelic Society

1939-1964

Brief histories of this Society have been written on various occasions and published in different philatelic journals. The last brief outline of it was made by J. J. Jiranek in the Specialist for a membership drive in 1959 when the Society had reached the age of 20 years.

I am quite pleased at this occasion because I enjoy looking back to the very interesting times I had in those early days with the members of the fledgling Society. I believe this little story in combination with that of Frank Kovarik next month on the Specialist will cover as thoroughly as possible everything that has happened to this group of men and women interested in a specialty and a country which had the most glorious beginning after the first world war.

Joseph W. Lowey was a commercial artist, a hard worker though a sufferer from severe sinusitis. I must mention the latter because I have never met a man with a severe sinusitis so full of energy as our Mr. Lowey was. He dreamt of a Czechoslovak Philatelic Society and though he had his doubts in the beginning and even more a little later, he forged ahead with great force. He began sounding out collectors of our specialty around the middle of 1938. He began a long time before Munich but went on in spite of the loss of the Sudeten area in October 1938, in the hope that this would make no difference. The hyphen in Czecho-Slovakia did not bother him. He communicated with people in Chicago, primarily Frank Kovarik, who, according to one of his letters to me "probably has the biggest Czecho collection in the Country." Kovarik did go ahead because naturally the idea appealed to him too to have a Czechoslovak Philatelic Society. In New York a Masaryk Club was organized in March 1938 with the able direction of Joseph Stein and Lowey contacted members of that Club whom he had learned were stamp collectors. So he got hold of me very early in the game and I helped him with a number of suggestions. I will reprint Lowey's circular letter to collectors because it contains much valuable information.

CZECHO-SLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

J. W. Lowey, Secretary

201 Marcy Place, Bronx, N. Y.

March 1939

Dear Fellow Collector:

You have expressed the desire to affiliate yourself with our new organization. Thank you for the interest, and may our further relations be pleasant.

Although it was planned originally to elect officers immediately after the formation of the Society, your organizing committee believes that this would retard organization materially. As it is our wish to get the society organized completely and functioning as soon as possible, we ask that your committee be allowed to serve as officers until September 1939, when a general election by the membership can be held.

Since ours is a national organization covering the vast territory of the United States and Canada, very few members of the new Society know other members. Nominated officers would be unknown to the members and therefore their qualities would also be unknown. By September, however, new acquaintances will be made and it will be easy to ascertain who among the membership has the qualifications of officers. If your temporary committee is found to be lacking, a vote will show the will of the membership.

If this plan does not meet with your approval, please forward your protest immediately. It will receive our earnest consideration, as this is the time to settle any internal differences that may arise.

Therefore, I propose that the following temporary officers of the Czecho-Slovak Philatelic Society of North America be appointed to serve until September 1, 1939:

President: George F. Smyth, 945 Main Street, Bridgeport, Connecticut
 Secretary: J. W. Lowey, 201 Marcy Place, Bronx, New York
 Treasurer: Guy Greenawalt, 2301 Cathedral Ave., N. W., Washington, D. C.
 Librarian: J. M. Stephen, 37 Queensdale Ave., Toronto, Canada
 Editor: Tod Raper, 1553 Clifton Avenue, Columbus, Ohio

Remaining officials, such as vice presidents, accountants, members of the rules and expert committees and judicial board will be either named or nominated and elected in September.

I can assure you that the above temporary officers will fulfill their duties in the next six months to the best of their abilities and intentions, and will bend their every effort for the best benefits of the organization.

Enclosed find an application blank and a temporary constitution which will be in force until September. In a short time I will appoint a committee to receive suggestions for re-drafting and re-phrasing the constitution.

In closing, may I be permitted to say that the response to our publicity has surpassed all expectations. I received over 50 pledges from many states and Canada; approximately the same amount of inquiries, and since some of our publicity has come too late for February editions and therefore will appear in March editions of various stamp magazines, I expect many more applications. I therefore express my sincere opinion in saying that the Czecho-Slovak Philatelic Society of North America will be a truly worthwhile philatelic organization.

Sincerely yours,

J. W. Lowey

In my first letter to Mr. Lowey before we had met, I mentioned my service as an officer in 1918-19. In his reply he said "I have been interested to hear that you served in the Czechoslovak Army. I myself 'served' but mine was the Austrian Army during the world war. Permit me to introduce myself: Joseph Lowey, Oberleutnant d. R., k.u.k. Infanterie Regiment No. 28. Drafted in 1915. Never went to the front but for 3 years supervisor of a Unit in the Ammunition Plant at Woellersdorf and short time before the Armistice transferred in the same capacity to Waffenfabrik at Steyr." I must first translate some of this. He was First Lieutenant in the 28th Infantry Regiment Reserve. Let me remark here that he had done very well indeed because not many soldiers reached his rank who were drafted in 1915 unless they had received a field promotion. In response I told him that I also had been ordered to active duty when Charles of Habsburg attempted a comeback in Hungary. I added that I still had my traveling orders from Praha to Bratislava and my military book of reserve service. In January 1924 I left Czechoslovakia for the U. S. A. and I am the only one that I know of who requested and received release from Czechoslovak citizenship when becoming a citizen of U. S. A. I believe our members will be interested in these few personal glimpses.

On May first 1939 Lowey reported that the Society already had thirty members. The first issue of the Specialist was out already and that definitely helped with the securing of members. He asked Kovarik to formulate a Constitution which Kovarik mailed to him in October. This draft reached Lowey just before his departure for Sepad in Philadelphia. He said in his note, "I received from Kovarik the draft in the morning just before going away. During the two days which we spent in Philadelphia neither I nor Smyth had a good chance to digest the draft thoroughly. Also remembering that there were only a few days left in which I had to submit same to Raper for printing, I alone in my hotel room gave it a quick glance and straightened out some

things which needed correcting. Then I gave the draft which was written by pen, to Smyth, asking him to read it as soon as he would get home, have it typewritten by his secretary and then to send it on to Tod by airmail." So was the first more detailed Constitution born. I was asked to make a few additional suggestions which were then incorporated. In this same letter Joe wrote "I would like to propose for 2nd Vice President, member Ferryman. Though he is a dealer I would like to put him up purposely, because all he will have to do is to pass his opinion to me on new applicants. He has a vast amount of customers, in fact many of our members are his customers and he told me about them before I invited him to join. I did not ask Ferryman yet whether he would accept, but will do so tomorrow and I am pretty sure that he will accept." This little story is mentioned for historical significance as well as for an outstanding feature. Joe stated that he must ask Ferryman first before putting his name up for office. I sincerely believe it is of primary importance to ask members who are not in a particular office whether they would be willing to accept a nomination. I wish to tell of an experience of thirty years ago. The Nominating Committee I appointed, in a large scientific organization, placed a university professor in nomination for president without asking him whether he would accept such a post. The ballots went out and I received a very unpleasant letter from the gentleman telling me that no one had authorized the Nominating Committee to place his name on the ballot. We had to apologize to the entire membership and send out another ballot with someone else as President. Maybe this will serve as a hint to the future presidents of this society to properly instruct the Nominating Committee they appoint.

Some further quotes from a letter of Lowey, "It would take long to give you a report of my organizational work. However I have used all means to get to the Czech collectors of this hemisphere. Just because you mention the Czech paper in Pittsburgh, I must say I have a better source for rounding up members there and vicinity, member V. Losa, D.D., publisher of a catholic paper. In response to my membership drive starting in March (unfortunately coinciding with the political crisis) I received about 200 inquiries from all parts of the U. S. and Canada. I am sure that many more would have joined than did, but believing that there will be no more Czech issues, they probably decided not to join. Also yesterday member Kovarik, in cooperation with Czech leaders of the Berwyn Club, has held a meeting with 30 invited Czech specialists and I am sure that there will be results." Further he said "We now have 50 members."

I could give many more details on the beginnings of our organization but that would make it simply impossible to review twenty-five years of the society. I have letters here indicating that copies were sent to Lowey, Fred Peters, Reiner-Deutsch and Kovarik, signed by Smyth and letters from Lowey with copies to Reiner-Deutsch, Peters, L. Ruzicka, Greenawalt, Kreischer, Kovarik, Smyth, Horechny, Secky and Fritzsche. These were the early active workers of our Society.

I believe it is appropriate now to list the names of members who joined in 1939 and are still on the rolls of our Society:

1 Mrs. Joseph W. Lowey (honorary)	26 Wolfgang Fritzsche
5 Frank J. Kovarik	27 Wm. Reiner-Deutsch
9 A. J. Hrivnak	34 L. M. Horechny
11 John Velek	42 W. L. Russell
15 H. H. Smith	45 G. R. Skopecek
17 C. J. Pearce	46 Vincent Domanski, Jr.
20 Peter Kreischer	47 A. I. Kessler
23 Alfons Stach	50 Rudolph Novy
25 Julius Pearl	52 Rudolph Secky
	53 C. E. Brown

The writer of this little story wishes to express his hope that all the above Charter Members will continue to support our Society for many years to come.

I feel it also proper to mention the list of Presidents as well as the list of Secretaries and Treasurers. I believe Frank Kovarik will give all the details about the editors of the Specialist, hence this I will omit.

Presidents:

G. F. Smyth	1939-40
Wm. Reiner-Deutsch	1941-42
R. Secky	1943-44
Chas. Zahradnicek	1945-47
G. A. Blizil	1948-49
J. Knollmuller	1950-52
W. B. Bryant	1953-55
J. W. Adler	1956-58
J. J. Matejka	1958-63

Due to changes in the Constitution, Dr. Matejka took office during the second half of 1958, hence the same year given to two presidents.

Secretaries:

J. W. Lowey	1939-45
John Velek	1946-55
M. F. Klozar	1956-58
J. J. Jiranek	1958-61
F. J. Kosik	1962-

Treasurers:

Guy Greenawalt	1939-48
E. J. Sabol	1949-52
G. C. Kobylika	1953-61
Joseph Stein	1962-

I will try to describe the major activities of the Society which are of great significance without making this too long an article. The circuits were conducted by charter member Fritzsche since the inception of the Society. Aside from the aid he has been giving to members for the securing and disposition of philatelic material, he most definitely has been a constant supplier of funds for the running of the Society, needed mainly for the publication of its Specialist. The everlasting gratitude of our membership is due to Wolfgang who has so faithfully carried on this work for twenty-five years.

You all will have the opportunity to read in the next month's issue details about the publication of the Specialist. Now as to the three branches of our Society, Chicago, New York and Cleveland. As far as I can tell, a number of collectors of Czechoslovak philatelic items had known each other for many years in the midwest area. I know, for example, that Kosik was acquainted with Pearce many years before the formation of our Society. Evidence on hand indicates that Frank Kovarik had many dealings with Czech collectors due to his activities in stamp clubs long before 1939. Therefore it is not surprising that an active group of our members in the Chicago area decided to form a branch of our Society in the early days and they held exhibitions and auctions long before the regional show, Compex, was organized. Auction income had been donated to the treasurer of our Society and for many years those amounts were of great importance for the maintaining of our Society. The members used to meet in the homes of different members until fairly recently when they acquired permission for a regular meeting place at the Lincoln Federal Loan and Savings Association Bldg., 6635 Cermak Road, Berwyn, Ill. For five years there was participation in Compex in the name of the National Society and work performed by the Chicago members. This year the participation has been by the Chicago branch as such, since all the other participating organizations are Chicago-based and the responsibility is carried by local organizations as part of Compex.

Mr. Lowey started the local activities of the New York members in 1939. We met first in the back room of a restaurant and after that, in succession, in the back room of a candy shop, the Bohemian Hall and in 1942 in the office of Mr. Stach. After the passing of Mr. Lowey we formed a unit of the Masaryk Club to enable us to meet in a hotel. This continued for a few years. Then we met in the offices of Mr. Vinson until he moved out of the city. Since October 1956 we have been meeting at the Collectors Club. Here I wish to quote again a few lines from a letter of Mr. Lowey. "Now I have to ask a favor of you. Since I will be unable for reasons given below to attend our

monthly meeting on Monday, November 6th (1939), would ask you to be there, because there may be some new members or prospects present. I know you are a person who would be able to handle any newcomers or interested parties." Lowey was to be operated on but his worry was the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society.

The noteworthy contribution of our branch before becoming a "study group" at the Collectors Club has been our arrangements for a dinner on the occasion of Fipex when many out-of-town members visited our city. We also honored Frank Kovarik for his service to the society. We had 82 members and guests at that dinner but we did not hold a convention meeting.

Our Mr. Horechny has done much for the society. He has always been ready to have necessary material printed at his own expense, like the beautiful job on the Constitution promulgated in 1957 by request of then President Adler. Mr. Adler asked me to Chair a Committee of three, consisting of L. M. Horechny, Joseph Stein and the writer for the revision of the Constitution and By-Laws, as the original one though quite satisfactory when we had only a small number of members but not very useful in a medium-sized membership organization. Our member Horechny expressed his willingness to have enough copies of the revised Constitution and By-Laws printed in the future to enable us to mail a copy to every member of the Society. He designed and executed a fine participation certificate which is in use in New York at our Shows and was in use in Chicago for years. In New York, since our meetings have been at the Collectors Club, we have endeavored to have an annual exhibition of our members' material. Of course, the Collectors Club being an Educational Institution, it is against the law to charge admission fees or to have any other business transactions within the walls of the building. Therefore none of these shows were of any financial value to the Society except for the fact that we frequently have secured new members and therefore, in a fashion, we did help the Society financially.

Speaking of finances, we are pleased to note that our Treasurer is doing a marvelous job and we have in the treasury more money than we ever had, so soon we will be able to think of the publication of another Handbook. Our Society must do everything in its power to disseminate knowledge in our philatelic field. In the past, it was of great concern when a publication was proposed. Many members advanced small, to quite large, sums for the financing of a publication. This in turn mortgaged the income from dues and sales for years and there was constant worry as to the funds required for the printing of the Specialist. In their enthusiasm, the leaders went ahead but it is most difficult to operate in that manner and we can freely say that it was only by the grace of God that we did not founder! All credit is due to the instigators of the idea of publication of a Handbook but risk was great indeed.

Cleveland with its large group of members in our Society had active branch meetings for a number of years (1945-49) and there were serious attempts made to renew these activities, once in 1958 and this year also. They have there many collectors who regularly attend the Garfield-Perry Club meetings or those of other Clubs. George Blizil (now in Florida) is an active worker for our Society and Charles Zahradnicek another one. The three city areas mentioned in this article compose about one half of our membership. Interestingly enough, Lowey and I thought that we would secure many members in Pittsburgh and its area. Now I find, however, that we have only one member from there.

We have outstanding members in our specialty all over the U. S. A., Canada, Australia and England. We have numerous members in England, where there is a Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain. I was truly not aware of this organization and therefore when I received a letter during my work on this history from the newly elected Public Relations Officer, J. A. F.

Austin, I was very much pleased and very much embarrassed. Just imagine the Editor of the Specialist, a member of long standing, not even knowing that there is such a Society in Great Britain in existence for at least ten years. I learned from the above-mentioned letter that E. H. Rogers retired as Hon. Secretary after ten years of service and that his place was taken by K. C. Riddle. George Pearson was re-elected chairman of the Society. Rogers, Pearson and Riddle are members of our Society and Austin is joining us, My apologies for my ignorance!!! Russell of Australia, Osbourn of Canada, Kvasnička and Karásek of Czechoslovakia are all of active assistance to us, as are Van Handle of Wisconsin, Pearce of Oklahoma, Knox of Texas, Skopeczek of California and Verner of Poland, just to mention a few.

Our Society published an English-Czech and Czech-English Vocabulary in 1953. Member Skopeczek wrote it with the assistance of Joseph Stein and George Kobyłka and others. I believe another more comprehensive vocabulary could greatly advance the collection of Czechoslovak material. In 1958 our Society published a Handbook on Bohemia-Moravia and Slovakia. This is a beautifully executed book compiled by George C. Kobyłka and George A. Blizil with the assistance of Frank J. Kovarik, Richardson L. Spofford, Joseph J. Jiranek and C. H. Osbourn, who all deserve lasting thanks for a job very well done. Volume 10 of Billig's Specialized Catalogues is John Velek's First Issue of Czechoslovakia, the Hradčany. This book is easily readable and contains numerous illustrations.

During the lifetime of Lowey we had a number of convention meetings but later on there were only small meetings whenever a few members gathered at a Congress meeting and show. Our Society is large enough for a better attended meeting and I sincerely hope this will materialize in the not too distant future.

At the first Convention Frank Kovarik was named Chairman of the Rules Committee and the following year I was named Chairman of the Judicial Board. This latter assignment was a very difficult one because my committee had to pass judgment on some misdeeds of members and over non-acceptance of candidates against whom there were definite doubts expressed. This committee was essential in those early days. I may be wrong but apparently we no longer have difficulties in connection with the circuits. Seemingly our members faithfully carry out their obligation, do not remove a stamp without marking the space, do not substitute a poorly centered stamp for a well centered one, etc. Also, we rarely hear of complaints that a member does not pay amounts due to a dealer. All in all, we can be very proud of our Society and the only thing we must look for is young blood for important jobs. Unfortunately the young ones are eager to make a good living and naturally wish to advance in their work for the better support of their families. This decreases their time available to spend on Society affairs. We who have retired are happy to do the work but are always concerned about not having a young understudy. The office of a secretary, if faithfully carried on, is a serious one and very time-consuming. Actually it is one of the most important jobs in an organization. A secretary can make or break a society. We have had only a few secretaries and John Velek was on the job for the longest period. Joseph J. Jiranek initiated a very thorough and ambitious program for secretary. Though he was a young man, he had the time to do the job as planned by him because he was single and had no specific responsibilities. He left no stone unturned when there was a chance to forward the interests of the Society. But then he got married which state has been very good for him but not good for his plans for the Society! He was succeeded by Frank J. Kosik, who though a married man, was able to manage the library of the Society for a number of years and to act as a most efficient information center quite remarkably. His duties as

secretary represent an additional amount of work which he is trying hard to carry on conscientiously.

There have been some erroneous statements in our publication at one time or another. We may note that Mr. Lowey stated that Mr. Stephen, our first librarian, was the only foreigner who possessed a Czech-English Dictionary. Thereupon Lowey received a letter from Mr. Russell of Australia saying that he also had one. One month later we read that Mrs. Verda of Michigan expressed her surprise that Mr. Lowey believed it so unusual to possess such a dictionary and could not understand why he should think so. I mention the above to show how thoroughly our members read the 4-6 page Specialist in our days of early development.

I have tried to give you a brief account of our Society during its twenty-five years of existence. I will not be at all surprised to hear that I have omitted many important features. This will always happen, especially when one feels that one does not wish to occupy too much reading space. I had fun while writing this and I hope you all will enjoy reading it.

Good Health and Happiness to our 240 Members!! —W. R.-D.

Postal Service In Slovakia

Klement Ptacovsky

Translated by George R. Skopecek
Reprinted from Filatelie

The exchange of news and other information between various localities by means of couriers, dates back to the ancient times as shown by many records. However, this service was exclusively for state, governmental or economic use.

In Hungary, King László I issued a decree in 1093, giving to the couriers, who carried messages orally, the right of the road and sustenance while on their assignment. King Kálmán changed this decree somewhat in 1100. During the reign of King Béla III (1173-96) the couriers already carried messages written on dog skins or on parchment. At the time of Lajos the Great (1342-82) and Corvin Mátyás (1458-90) the commerce increased so much that some improvement in the service was necessary. For this purpose stations were established on the principal routes. These stations were under the control of the towns through which the route passed or private companies, and received different privileges from the state. On secondary routes the inhabitants along the route were obliged to furnish the courier board and lodging. A novelty was introduced on the main route between Vienna and Buda. This was a continuous service, day and night, with changes provided for couriers and passengers. New, light wagons (stages) were introduced, called "kocsi," from the town of Kocs near Komarno where these stages were manufactured. The name "kocs" was universally adopted and became in Czech "kocar," in German "kutschen," in Italian "cocchio," in English "coach" and others.

Spurred by the success of the State enterprise, a number of private entrepreneurs went into the transportation business. These were the free cities, monasteries, universities, guilds, etc. This information is substantiated by records in Bratislava (Pressburg, Pozsony), showing that they had their own couriers, teamsters and equipment. However there did not seem to be any profit in these enterprises but only expenses. The couriers did not only carry mail and passengers but on the side procured various commodities such as gun powder, wine, etc., for outsiders. Bratislava records of 1527 show that the city received a share of the profits on such business which was done on its territory.

The first postal route into Hungary was established in 1528 from Vienna to Buda and the second from Vienna to Bratislava in 1530. They were estab-

lished in very unsettled times. There had been a second invasion into Hungary with the battle at Mohács, the siege of Vienna from September 22 to October 15, 1529, internal quarrels, two royal coronations, Ferdinand I and Jan Zapolsky, the rebellion of the Hungarian nobility and still another invasion by the Turks in sight. The Turks occupied Buda in 1541. The occupation of a large part of Hungary enhanced the importance of Bratislava. The diet, in its session at Trnava (Tyrnau, Nagyszombat) in 1535, declared it the Capitol of the Habsburg Empire and the seat of the Royal Vice Regent and Royal Exchequer. However, Vienna, Praha and Innsbruck remained the resident cities. Bratislava remained the Capitol and Crowning City of Kings until 1784 when Buda was made the Capitol again.

The King reserved to himself the control of postal service through his Postmaster General with offices in Vienna. A Deputy Postmaster General was appointed for Bratislava in 1530 and the first one to hold office was Peer Paar, then Bartholomeus Paar and after that their descendants. According to Dr. Vilem Hennyey these Paars were not of the same family as those who had secured a hereditary postmastership in later years. At this time the Vienna and Bratislava Postmasters General were paid Austrian officers. In Vienna Count Taxis was the cause of dispute over the control of Posts with the result that on August 1, 1555, the Bratislava Diet assumed a temporary control and a definite control on October 1, 1558, with administrators who were members of the Diet.

From 1596 to 1613 the Postmaster General for Hungary was Pompeius Paar. In 1622 the Paar family moved to Vienna.

The Hungarian Estates gained so much independence from Vienna that in 1622 they had the Postmaster General installed in Bratislava and the first was Bornemissza István. The official language was Hungarian.

The Hungarian Diet caused so much trouble with their constant complaints for Emperor Ferdinand II that on September 4, 1624, he abolished the apparent independence of their postal service and merged it with the Vienna postal service. At the same time the Emperor granted to the Paar family the Postmaster Generalship with Johann Christopher Paar as the first one appointed. The Bratislava Postmasters were appointed from the membership of the Diet.

After Bornemissza Istvan, 1622-34, the following men held the office: Ekker Lukács, 1635-43; Serpentem Ferdinánd, 1643-45; Angarani Tamás, 1645-57; Lanzer Gáspár, 1657-64 and Pakay Benedikt 1664-75. This officer died as a result of a beating received from the Commander of the fortress of Komarno (Komarom), because of slow postal service. Andrassy János, 1675-79 was followed by Eysperk Ferdinand, 1680-1716. During all this time the Paar family held the hereditary Postmaster Generalship granted to it in 1624 and validated by a new decree in 1690. The postmasters of Bratislava were subject to the orders of the Postmaster General and their postmen no longer could sound their horn to clear the road. In Eastern Slovakia (Northeastern Hungary) Paar established a sub-station at Spišske Pohradí (Kirchdrauf, Szepesváralja).

The expansion of postal nets was quite slow mostly dependent on military and local conditions. The conditions improved greatly in 1696 with the liberation of Buda and with other victories. After the signing of a peace pact in 1699 a large part of Hungary was returned to the Empire. After many years of struggle by the Hungarian Counts Bethlen, Bocskay, Thököly and Rákoczi (who kept up the postal service) for religious freedom and against the Habsburgs, peace was finally established in 1711. In 1723, during the reign of Charles III, the State bought out the Paar family's interest in the postal service and it all was again under the Royal Diet. This is also the time when postal stations were first developed in Slovakia. The term "post office" did not appear until about 1800. The first station was established in Bratislava on April 10, 1725.

The postal service was organized and directed in the following manner. All post offices in Austria and Hungary were under the K. K. Postdirectorium (Imperial Royal Post Directorate) in Vienna. Charles Paar was appointed administrator and after him his descendants. Hungary was divided into eight districts, two of which, Bratislava and Košice (Kaschau, Kassa), were in Slovakia. These districts were again divided into regional stations called "post-brigades" and renamed in 1807 "Postdirection." These, in turn, controlled local stations. In small towns where establishment of a station was not profitable, collection boxes (literarum collectorum) were provided for. In Hungary only a native born nobleman could hold the office of postmaster who was then excused from military duty and paid no taxes. The official language was German and not Latin as heretofore. Postage was assessed at 8 Kr for a letter of $\frac{1}{2}$ lot (half an ounce) per station, the addressor paying one-half and the addressee the other half. Registered mail was also instituted.

For passenger service a coach was used, called "cariol" and the service "cariolpost." There were three classes running over set routes and at set fares. The "common" (ordinario) used two horses, "cross" (Kreuzpost) with three horses and an "extra" or "double" (extraordinario) with four horses. This passenger service was reorganized in Austria in 1749 and in Hungary in 1752. Large coaches (diligencie), painted yellow, with two or four horses were put into service. These coaches had four or six seats and leather roof. The driver's (postillion) uniform consisted of a bright cutaway coat (frak) with yellow gallons and double eagles, yellow britches, high riding boots, red tricorne hat, long whip and on a cord across his chest a posthorn. When he sounded this horn every vehicle had to give way or even get off the road.

The mail service was operated in this manner: The addressor first paid the postage, then made out a transit slip (passus) and received a receipt (attestum). On both slips was shown the amount of postage. The passus went with the letter to the station of delivery. There the addressee signed the passus which was sent back to the station of origin. This was then delivered to the addressor upon his producing the attestatum. Letters which could not be delivered were returned to the sender free of charge. In about the middle of the 18th century the rules were slightly changed. If the letter was addressed to someone in the interior the addressor did not pay the postage but the addressee did according to the distance. Again in 1790, according to an article in Wienerisches Sekretar by F. X. C. Riedl, the procedure was changed. The sender wrote his name on the letter (return address) and paid half of the postage, showing the amount paid; this was validated by a black or red handstamp. At the destination a handstamp of the station (Dilig. No.____) was added. When the letter was delivered to the addressee, he paid the other half of the postage and the letter was datestamped for the third time. In case the letter could not be delivered it was returned to the sender but the other half of the postage was not collected. This complicated system, especially the use of all those handstamps was hardly ever actually used. So far, I have never seen a letter of this period with all the three handstamps. In the revolutionary period of 1791 to 1817, letters were not stamped at all. Ordinary letters had to be handed in at the station at least one hour and registered letters two hours before the departure of the stage. The postage charges were often changed.

The Vienna Postdirectorium was abolished in 1755 and a new Hofpostkommission (Supreme Post Commission) was created with a Postmaster General at its head, who again was a member of the Paar family. Emperor Joseph II abolished this Commission in 1783 and placed the supervision of Hungarian Posts in the hands of a newly organized Royal Gubernium seated in Buda instead of in Bratislava. The official language was German until 1838 when the Gubernium ordered the stations to report in Hungarian. This action was legalized in 1844.

In 1558 the direction of postal service was taken over by the Bratislava Royal Diet. The Bratislava station had the eight horses and from 1593 on it had ten horses. It operated in three directions: Bratislava-Fischamend-Vienna, Bratislava-Komárnó (Komorn, Komárom) and Bratislava-Hlohovec (Galgocz)-Ružomberok (Rózsahégy, Rosenberg)-Levoča (Leutschau, Lőcse)-Prešov (Eperjes)-Košice, with a branch toward Krakov from Ružomberok.

Passenger service was established between Bratislava and Vienna in 1752 which operated daily. The time of the trip was seven hours at the cost of three gulden. Empress Maria Theresia favored this project in the hope that it would improve business contacts. This particular service was not under the Postal direction but under the Supreme Postchaise Director (Haupt Postwagen Direction) in Vienna.

After all the wars and revolutions, the 19th century arrived peacefully and the Postal and Postchaise services proliferated in all directions. A fast schedule was started between Vienna and Buda. It operated day and night, making the trip in 31 hours against the ordinary postchaise called "Mellepost" making the run in 48 hours.

Bratislava became the hub of a net of rapidly expanding connections. There was Bratislava-Vienna and return daily (Journalpost). Tuesdays Bratislava to Presov, Košice and Tokay. A branch ran from Prešov to Rzesom and Lvov. Another branch from Hlohovec to Banská Štiavnica (Schemnitz, Selmec), Kremnica (Kremnitz, Kőrmöczbánya) and Jasov (Jászo). On Mondays and Thursdays ordinary post arrived and departed from Poland, Upper Hungary, Bánát towns and Moravia. Tuesdays and Fridays were the days for ordinary post from Šamorin (Sommerein, Somorja), Transdanubian district and Croatia). There were daily connections for Vienna, Buda and towns in Lower Hungary. The postchaises (stages) from Vienna arrived at about 8 a.m. and departed at 6 p.m. to Buda. Bratislava also had direct connections with Bregenz (53¾ postal units), Debreczen (31½ p.u.), Cheb (Eger) (33¼ p.u.), Černovice (67 p. u.), Nagyszében (53 p. u.), Rjeka (33 p. u.), Graz (18¾ p. u.), Innsbruck (38½ p. u.), Košice (29½ p. u.), Trnava (3¼ p. u.), and Nové Město n. v. (Vagujhely) (4¾ p. u.). In Austria a "postal unit" was a fare of 37 kr for one inside seat and 32 kr for an outside seat with the postillion. In Hungary the "unit" was 32 kr. for an inside seat and 28 kr for outside seat. The new era in postal service began with the introduction of postage stamps on June 1, 1850.

Postal Routes in Slovakia at the Beginning of the 19th Century

In the following roster of routes and places, the date of establishment and discontinuance of routes or stations (offices) are given when known. The names of towns as listed are: first the present official name followed by old name or names.

Bratislava-Vienna

This was the first postal route in Slovakia.

Bratislava-Posonium-Pressburg-Pozsony. The station was established on April 10, 1725. Other stations on this route were Hainburg, Regelsbrunn, Fischamend, Schwechat and Vienna (Wien).

Bratislava-Komárnó

This route was established in about 1730. It followed the right bank of the Danube on Hungarian territory until it connected with the Vienna route, then it crossed over to the left bank for Komárnó.

Bratislava-Ružomberok-Morad

(Krakov)

Bernolákovo-Czecklész. Established on September 4, 1753.

Blatná-Sáefeo. Established on June 17, 1789.

Trnava-Tyrnau-Nagyszombat. Established on May 3, 1747.
 Hlohovec-Galgócz. Established on January 8, 1752.
 Velké Ripňany-Rippin. Established before 1749.
 Topolčany-Nagytopolcsány. Established in 1749.
 Nitranské Žabokreky-Nyitra Zsábokreth. Established on Jan. 8, 1729.
 Hornie Vstenice-Vestenicz. Established before 1749, discontinued 1817.
 Rudno-Thurocrudnó. Established April 26, 1756.
 Turčiansky Svätý Martin-Turóczszentmárton. Did not have a station, only a collection box, established March 22, 1729. An office was established in 1838.
 Turčianské Žabokreky-Thurocz Zsábokréth. Station established August 6, 1756, and moved to Košťán nad Turcom.
 Nolčovo-Nolcs-Nolcsova. Established before 1749 and moved to Velký Turan in 1845.

Ružomberok-Rosenberg-Rózsahegy. Established before 1749.
 Mokrad-Mokrágy. Established before 1749, discontinued 1786.
 Námestovo-Námesztő. Established before 1749, discontinued 1786.
 The route continued on to Poland through Jerdanov, Myslenice to Krakov.

Ružomberok-Prešov-Košice

Dehráry-Pentendorf. Established before 1749 and discontinued 1850.
 Okolióné-Okololicsna. Established Nov. 20, 1754.
 Hyby-Ybbe. Established before 1749, moved to Vychodnej (Vichodna) 1767.
 Lučivna-Lucivna. Established before 1749.
 Poprad-Poprád. Established 1809.
 Švabovce-Svábov-Svábfalva. Established before 1749, moved to Gemerskej Horky-Lándzsásotfalu-Horka in 1767.

Levoča-Leutschovia-Lőcse-Leutschau. Established before 1769. There was a branch from Levoča to Spišská Nová Ves until 1803, when an office was established.

Bijacovce-Szepesmindszent. Station moved here from Korotnok 1763 and returned there 1788.

Kortnok-Korotnok. Established before 1749, moved to Bijacovce in 1763 and returned in 1788.

Bertovce-Berthot-Bertót. Established before 1749 and discontinued 1853.

Prešov-Eperjes-Eperiesinum. Established before 1749.

Likartivce-Licsérd. Established Jan. 14, 1751, moved to Lemešany-Lemesan-Lemes, 1755.

Lemešany-Lemeson-Lemes. Station moved here from Likartivce 1755 and moved to Chabžan-Boki, Jan. 19, 1807.

Košice-Kassa-Cassovia-Caschau-Kaschau. Established before 1749.

Turčianské Žabokreky-Čadca

(Těšín-Krakov)

This route branches off for Turčiansky Žabokreky before Nolčov.

Žilina-Zsolna-Sillein. Established 1763.

Čadca-Csácsa-Scatca. Established 1763.

And on to Těšín and Krakov.

Hlohovec-Levice-Banská Bistrica

(Ružomberok)

Nitra-Neutra-Nyitra. Established March 18, 1769.

Vráble-Verbély-Verebély. Established 1769.

Tekov-Bars. Established 1769 and moved to Levice-Léva 1780.

Batovce-Báth. Station moved here from Pukanec March 26, 1792.

Pukanec-Bakabánya. Established in 1769 and moved to Batovce 1792.

Banská Štiavnica-Selmechánya-Schemnutium-Schemnitz. Established March 18, 1769.

Budča-Zolyombicz-Bucs. Station moved from Kozelnik 1781.

Kozelnik-Zólyomkecskés-Kecskés. Established 1777, moved to Budča 1781.
 Banská Bystrica-Neosolium-Neusohl-Besztercebánya. Established March 18, 1769. An extension to Ružomberok established 1775.

Motyčky-Martalja. Established 1775, moved to Staré Hory 1785.
 Staré Hory-Óhegy-Óvár-Veters Montes-Altgebiereg. Station moved from Motyčky.

Liptovska Osada-Osada. Established 1775.

Budča-Halič

(Pest)

Viglaš-Végles. Established 1769, moved to Zvolenska Slatina 1818.

Mýtna-Vámosfalva. Established March 22, 1789.

Halič-Gács. Established 1769, moved to Lošonca 1843.

The route continued on to Nográdzszakál and Pest.

Halič-Rožnava-Košice

Zelené-Ipolyszéle. Established 1781, discontinued 1943.

Rimavská Sobota-Rimasszombat. Established 1769.

Šafarikovo-Rornallya. Established 1769.

Rožnava-Rozsnyó-Rosenau. Established 1769.

Smolník-Szomolnok-Schmolnitz. Established 1769.

Nižný Medzev-Metzenseifen-Necenzéf. Established 1787.

Jasov-Jászó. Established 1769, moved to Jasovská Ves-Jaszóujfalu in 1787.

Banská Štiavnica-Kremnica

This branch leaves the main route between Banská Štiavnica and Budča to Hronský Svätý Križ-Garamszentkereszt and Kremnica-Cremnitzeum-Kormocbánya-Kremnitz

Stations were established in these two towns in 1769 and discontinued in 1778. Then in 1803 a postoffice was opened in Kremnica.

Bratislava-Malacky

(Cejč)

Stupava-Stampfen-Stompfa. Established August 20, 1771.

Malacky-Malacka. Established August 20, 1771.

Šaštín-Sassin. Postoffice established in 1801, discontinued 1828, reestablished 1844.

Senica-Szenitz-Szenice. Established April 12, 1769, discontinued August 20, 1771 and reestablished in 1844.

Holič-Holics. Established in October 7, 1769.

Route continued to Čelč.

Prešov-Vyšný Komarník

(Dukla)

Terňa-Ternye. Established 1793 and moved to Vyšné Raslvice 1830.

Bardejov-Bártfa-Bartfeld. Established 1773.

Vyšný Orlik-Felsőodor. Established 1773.

Vyšsy Komarník-Felsőkomarník. Established 1773.

Route went on to Dukla and Poland.

Levice-Kamenín

(Esztergom)

Levice-Léva. Station moved in from Tekova 1780.

Želiezovce-Zselin. Established 1777, discontinued 1843.

Kamenín-Kemend. Station moved in from Köhigyharmát in 1781.

Köhigyharmár. Established 1778, transferred 1781.

Route went on to Esztergom.

Košice-Sobrance

(Užhorod)

Svinica-Petöszinnye. Established August 24, 1766.

Sečovce-Gálszécs. Established 1766, transferred to Vojčice 1791.

Vojčice-Vecse. Established November 20, 1791.
 Michalovce-Nagy Mihály. Established August 24, 1786.
 Sobrance-Szobranc. Established 1786.
 Route went on to Užhorod.

Košice
 (Hidasnémethy)

In 1752 there already was a road south to Hungary and the first station was Abaujszina which transferred to Hidasnémethy in 1789. The road continued to Tokaj, Debreczen and Pest.

Vojčice-Velaty
 (Sátoraljaújhely)

Velaty-Velejte. Established November 20, 1786. Road went on to Hungary.

This roster is not entirely accurate or complete. It will be necessary to study the archives further for corrections, amplifications and additions.

Translators Note

Readers should understand that the Postal and Postchaise Service were integral, except in rare cases. The stages always carried mail. I have at hand an original circular, issued in Praha on April 13, 1880, signed by Count Franz Kolowrat, setting tariffs for Postal stages:

	AUSTRIA		HUNGARY	
	Hard Money Gulden Kr	Paper Money Gulden Kr	Hard Money Gulden Kr	Paper Money Gulden Kr
One seat inside coach	32	1 20	24	1 —
One seat outside coach	24	1 —	18	45
Child on lap	6½	16	5	12
Child between passengers	8	20	6	15

Basic Fare For One Station

Tips to drivers: For each station: 3 kr hard money, 7 kr paper money. Apparently traveling in Hungary was cheaper. With the arrival of railroads many routes were discontinued but in the back country the service continued well into the 1890s. When a very small boy, I made a trip from Plezeň to Pisek in a postchaise. It was very much like our stages with a bustle on back and leather cover. In that was deposited mail and baggage. I was allowed to ride part time with the postman (počták). His uniform was drab, very much like an old army uniform and he had his horn on which he would blow his postman's tune ever so often.

The term "hard money" means COIN and paper money, also called Vienna money (Wiener valuta) was the inflation money—officially recognized. It fluctuated between ¼ and ¾ of the Coin value. Thus the empire had two currencies. The inflation was caused by the Turkish and Prussian wars.

A "station" in the tariff was the distance from one station to the next one.

K-LINE SUPPLEMENT FOR CZECHOSLOVAKIA

#10—1962 Now Ready

\$1.30 plus 30c postage

Ask us about the Special Price on complete Czechoslovakia Pages
 to new members.

K-LINE PUBLISHING, 1433 So. Cuyler Ave., Berwyn, Ill.

WANT TO BUY

MINT MINT
CZECHOSLOVAKIA

ISSUES 1923-1926
(Scott Nos. 92-118)

Full Sheets

Part Sheets

Blocks

Die Proofs

Color Trials

Plate Proofs

Rare Perforations

Varieties

Rare Watermark Positions

ARTHUR I. KESSLER

551 Fifth Ave.

New York 17, N. Y.
