

# THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Official publication of the  Czechoslovak Philatelic Society

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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

Indeed very fascinating is this job of an Editor! One would think it is not at all simple to figure out what to say in an Editorial. Our main problem has been, most of the time, what not to say.

The Chicago Branch of our Society will participate in Compex 1964, as all of you may note from the report of its January meeting, as well as from the enclosed entry form. We urge all of you to support the efforts of the Branch in Chicago and we wish to assure you that this will be done by us and by other members in the New York area.

This year promises to be a really busy one for the members of our Society. You will also note in this issue that plans are being made to hold a National Convention and Exhibition on the occasion of the 25th anniversary close to its birthplace, as guests of Nojex in Newark. Considering the exciting World's Fair in New York, many members should try to combine the two events and visit New York early in October.

We have received a most interesting letter from Mr. George Pearson, Chairman of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain. Since we are positive that every member will find his description of his efforts and those of others good reading we shall publish excerpts from his letter. We wrote Mr. Pearson of our eager willingness to inform our members of the activities of his Society whenever notices reach us.

Our Secretary Mr. Kosik, who is Chairman of the Hradčany Study Group, wishes to state in response to what Member Skopecek had to say (see the January Editorial of this publication) that members of the Study Group definitely know the difference between a plate variety and a printing fault or blemish. Mr. Kosik believes that Mr. Skopecek must have referred to some of the articles which appeared in Filatelie written by individuals who consider themselves specialists of the Hradčany issue but apparently are not.

Member Dr. Knauer wishes to remind us—and very rightly so—that if we wish to emphasize that dues are payable, we should state the amounts and to whom such dues be sent. We have expressed our thanks to him.

### Membership dues are as follows:

Active (associate) membership	\$3.00
Sustaining membership	\$5.00
Patron membership	\$10.00

Dues are payable to Treasurer Mr. Joseph Stein, 585 East 21st Street, Brooklyn, N. Y. 11226.

Sustaining members shall receive one additional set of all issues at the end

of the year. Patron members shall receive one additional bound volume at the end of each year.

We hope members realize that they are getting a minimum of 160 pages of philatelic literature annually and with the present cost of printing we can manage only because of the personal interest of Mr. H. Miller, who has been doing our printing for 25 years. However we honestly doubt that he will be able to keep our costs at such a low figure for long. Members are urged to raise their membership status to enable the officers to set aside funds not only for a new publication but to have them when the printing costs go higher.

#### NEW MEMBERS

- #749 Darwin E. Hancock, 5371 Joseph Lane, San Jose, Calif. 95118
- #750 Mrs. M. Louise Roberts, 708 N. Orange Street, Glendale, Calif. 91203
- #751 Alec McMillan, 7b Audrey Road, Takapuna, Auckland, New Zealand

#### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

C. H. Osbourn, 3454 Haines Road, St. Petersburg, Florida

#### CHICAGO BRANCH MEETING

The regular meeting of the Chicago Branch took place Sunday, Jan. 12th. The attendance was normal with one guest present. On the agenda was a dinner to be held Saturday, April 11, at about 6 p.m., at the Old Prague Restaurant. The dinner will mark the silver jubilee of the Society which means that as a group our Chicago members have been meeting for 25 years. Two of the original members, Velek and Kovarik seldom miss a meeting and August Hrivnak comes when he can. The dinner is \$4 per plate and it will be held in the lower hall where several of our dinners were held in the past. We are promised guests from New York and we certainly hope that our Chicago members, accompanied by their families and friends will make a creditable showing. Of course, all members of the Society are invited to participate. After all, 25 years is a long time. Kindly send your reservation and money to Joseph J. Janecka, 7306 Ogden Ave., Riverside, Ill.

Kovarik read a note from the editor of the Specialist, Dr. Wm. Reiner-Deutsch, in which he assured his cooperation with the Chicago Branch in its participation in Compex '64. Because the Chicago Branch has a weak treasury it will again be necessary to ask the members to advance individual loans toward the expenses of participation. Despite the fact that we had no income from frames last year, our returns from Compex were quite satisfactory. We ask all members of the Society, not only those in the Chicago area, to exhibit their material. It was decided to permit the showing of material other than Czechoslovakia, the Czecho material is preferred.

At this meeting we were privileged to see a very fine collection of provisional postage dues of the early days of the Republic. We hope the owner shows this at our May exhibition.

The Chicago area members are urged to participate in the Branch meetings. If we look at it from a selfish viewpoint we are foolish not to attend. By active participation we are advertising the stamps of our favorite country and we interest more collectors to join our ranks. Yes, we often say: "I collect for the fun of it." But back in our minds we hope that our collection can be a means of income at a time when circumstances compel us to dispose of it. Do your part. In a TV commercial in our area we hear "Be good to your money and it will be good to you." I say "Be good to your collection and it will be good to you."

**Editor's Note: We have given permission to Mr. Kovarik for the enclosure of an application blank with this Specialist. Please fill out the blank and mail**

it to the Exhibition Chairman, Joseph J. Janecka with the payment of \$2.00 per frame.

#### NEW YORK BRANCH JANUARY MEETING

We had a most interesting evening at the Collectors Club. After a brief business report, Dr. Reiner-Deutsch introduced his talk by showing a unique cover. This cover had been mailed at Šaštín in Slovakia in October 1940, addressed to a person at P. O. Box 506 in Lisbon. It was picked up by Thomas Cook & Co. and a yellow sticker placed on the face of it, covering up P. O. Box 506 and Lisbon and readdressed to a soldier in the Czechoslovak Army in Nr. Malpas, Cheshire. The postal marking of Lisbon, Thomas Cook & Co. handstamp with "enemy mail" notation, as well as the arrival postmark in London can be noted. The speaker confessed that he had had this cover in his Czechoslovak Army in Great Britain stock book but had paid no attention to it at all. When Dr. Reiner-Deutsch received an article from Canada from a member of the Postal History Society describing this unusual method of correspondence, authorized by the government of England, he suddenly remembered the cover with the yellow sticker. It is of great interest to state that so far this is the only such cover known to have originated from Slovakia. Author Rowe described covers from Austria, Italy, Belgium, Holland and Rhodes. No others had come to his attention.

Then the speaker showed part of his Siberian collection. This time he had brought along one soldier's correspondence, starting with his service in the Austrian Army, continuing with POW cards from Tyumin, Omsk, Petropavlovsk, Tomsk and from a number of other places in Siberia and finishing up with covers from the Czechoslovak Legion from Omsk, Semipalatinsk, Irkutsk, Vladivostok and Quebec, Canada. A very interesting collection! After these items we saw additional covers, one of which had been sent via a courier to Prague.

#### CORRECTION

In the October issue of the "Czechoslovak Specialist," I briefly discussed a stampless Feldpost (military mail) card sent by a German evacuee in Slovakia in 1942 to a member of the Luftwaffe (the German airforce). One of the assertions, unfortunately, was incorrect. Alfred Clement, in his "Kleines Handbuch der Deutschen Feldpost 1937-1945," indicated that certain special mailing privileges were given to Slovaks serving in the German armed forces. He implies that these privileges were restricted to them. However, in following his statements, I made an error. Actually, the agreement between Germany and Slovakia which made these privileges possible, was concluded in October, 1940, before many Slovaks were in fact members of Germany's armed forces. Moreover, as I read this agreement, no restrictions were imposed in regard to the identity of the users of this privilege. Theoretically, at least, any Slovak could write any German soldier and send the letter free of charge, if it weighed less than 100 grams; of course, the converse also held good. Thus, Slovak volunteers and "volunteers" from the Germany minority did not receive special postal concessions, as I stated in my article on the basis of Clement's listing.

While on the subject of Slovak use of German Feldpost facilities, I may mention that Clement, in his "Handbuch der Militär-Luftpost 1793-1954," states that during 1943-44, Slovakian forces on the Eastern Front used German military air mail services. My only addition to this is that, apparently, this kind of usage had ended by August 25, 1944. I have a list from that date which includes all foreign units attached to the German army with their Feldpost unit numbers. No doubt, the front was so near Slovakia by then, that air mail service was superfluous. At any rate, no Slovak units at all are listed.

—B. R. Beede

## 32<sup>nd</sup> MAIL SALE

Lot No.	Suggested MINIMUM bids:
1. Scout stamps *	-----
2. Same used on pieces	-----
3. Scout stamps on two covers	-----
4. Budejovice set up to 1K on cover	3.00
5. Set up to 10K used	5.00
6. Srobar 8 values mint and used	5.00
7. Jehliczka, 5K block of four *	2.00
8. Same perforated in bl. *	2.00
9. Sokol Congress labels (old), 12 diff.	2.00
10. 38 cards used on Czech territory before 1918	3.00
11. Covers with Austrian stamps used on Czech territory before 1918, also cards (36)	4.00
12. Picture postcards of Czecho 59 diff. all with stamps	3.00
13. Picture postcards with ONLY Prague, 72 diff.	3.00
14. 8 stampless covers before 1950 all with Czech cancellations	4.00
15. Emergency newspaper stamps, blocks stamps altogether 18, * & used	5.00
16. SIBERIA: set of 3, 25, 50, 1R *	-----
17. Same used perf. 11 1/2	-----
18. Set of lions complete * (scarce)	-----
19. 25 kop both types *	-----
20. Essay of this issue *	-----
21. Small sheet with both types in diff. color than the original	10.00
22. Cover but no stamps	-----
23. HRADCANY: 4 complete sheets * and used	8.00
24. 22 waste prints	2.00
25. Set up to the 1000 h * also perf., 29 values	2.00
26. 117 covers with Hradcany stamps	6.00
27. With "T" and D overprints (tax)	4.00
28. Coll. * and used, some varieties	5.00
29. Essays and proofs (8)	8.00
30. About 2,000, also others all used	4.00
31. A nice collection with Hradcany and all the other issues in an album, nice collection to start Czecho with, mostly used	5.00
32. Similar collection on pages	6.00
33. LEGION stamps mostly in blocks, also diff. perf., altogether 67 stps.	5.00
34. Cover with complete set	.50
35. POSTA 1919, set up to 10K, complete vf all *	23.00
36. Airmail set complete * and signed	70.00
37. 20 filler black on gr. UNissued value, scarce, signed	6.00
38. 6 different all INVERTED overprints	6.00
39. CONGRESS complete set *	-----
40. SLET complete set *	-----
41. Same used on piece, vf	-----
42. 1925 vertical watermark, 2K scarce *	30.00
43. 1925 vertical watermark, 3K scarce *	60.00
44. Complete set used 1K to 5K	3.00
45. 50h green TETE BECHE superb block used	10.00
46. 20h orange TETE BECHE "long" used	4.00
47. Complete set of Allegories and Dove up to 600h perf *	4.00
48. 5h brown in color of 2h Error (Special Delivery)	3.00

49.	POSTAGE DUES, emergencies 16 diff., diff. overprints -----	2.00
50.	5h to 2000h complete set * -----	5.00
51.	400h ORANGE in color of 250h -----	2.00
52.	Overprints incl. No. J28, set of 41 diff. all VF and * -----	10.00
53.	50h on 400h RARE error (instead of 60h on 400) signed "Gilbert" cat. NET \$100 -----	40.00
54.	1928 5h to 20K * set -----	1.00
55.	S. O. Eastern Silesia set up to 1000h Hradcany and postage dues up to 1000h -----	40.00
56.	500h and 1000h MASARYK, vf SCOTT \$70 -----	15.00
57.	VF collection on album pages incl. Masaryk and some better -----	21.00
58.	Plate BLOX: vf nice lot of ALL BLOX of 4 with plates, 58 diff. --	14.00
59.	Slovakia, plate blox, 16 different -----	4.00
60.	FAVOR SHEETS, sold in Praha on diff. occasions, collection 14 diff.	10.00
61.	STAMPS WITH COUPONS, 28 some used and * -----	2.00
62.	6 different gutter pairs -----	2.00
63.	11 different miniature sheets * and used -----	2.00
64.	Collection of 32 different N. Y. World's Fair sheets -----	25.00
65.	50h Benes autographed by the president Eduard BENES, sold at the fair for \$15 -----	6.00
66.	3 sheets used, actually on covers at the fair with U. S. stamps -----	2.00
67.	Czech fieldposts in England, 6 covers -----	3.00
68.	Czech fieldposts in England, 15 nice covers -----	5.00
69.	4 French stamps used, "ARMEE czechoslovaque en FRANCE," very rare -----	8.00
70.	SUDETEN, 26 cards used during the Sudeten crisis -----	6.00
71.	CZECH FIELDPOST in England, 6 covers -----	3.00
72.	21 different Sudeten stamps * and used -----	6.00
73.	Airmail set from 50h to 20K -----	1.00
74.	Bohemia, Moravia, cover collection consisting of 126 covers used during the occupation -----	14.00
75.	Specialized collection with sheets, covers, proofs, reprints, vf on album pages -----	25.00
76.	SECOND REPUBLIC Scott #307 to 309 VERTICAL GUTTERS * -----	8.00
77.	Same HORIZONTAL GUTTERS * -----	8.00
78.	THIRD REPUBLIC 300 different stamps, used, mostly picture stamps, also a sheet -----	2.00
79.	44 different first day covers -----	4.00
80.	Unused stamps, face value KC200 -----	2.00
81.	1000 used stamps in sheets -----	5.00
82.	Covers and Second Rep., total 140 covers (some commons) -----	3.00
83.	SLOVAKIA, complete country on album sheets incl first set signed	42.00
84.	38 covers, all diff. -----	4.00

Books close on March 31, 1964

The sooner we get the bids the better we can take care of them.

# Alfons Stach

P. O. Box 387

Lenox, Mass.

**TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION  
CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY**

**October 9-11, 1964**

The first meeting of the local committee appointed by the President was held on January 17th for the discussion of details in the planning of the events. Dr. Reiner-Deutsch was asked to handle all the matters pertaining to affiliation as guests, with Nojex, since he has had extensive experience in organization and management of shows.

Invitation to participate has been received from Col. L. H. Smith, Jr., president of Nojex. It is planned to hold our convention meeting at 2 p.m. on Saturday. The night before the convention meeting it is planned to have our own society's dinner in a restaurant where the awards of the Cz. P. S. will be presented. Members must realize that Newark, the site of Nojex, is only 20 minutes away from downtown Manhattan (New York) via bus or "Hudson Tubes." The bus stop in Newark, as well as a station of the Hudson Tubes, are four blocks away from the hotel where the show is to be held. Considering the most important fact that we will have no financial involvement if we participate with a scheduled show, we felt that the distance to Newark is close enough for having out-of-town members stay in the city.

We "guaranteed" to take fifty frames, holding 16 pages of 8½x11. We do not pay for the frames as a society as all reservations and payments for frames will be mailed by the exhibitor to Nojex directly. The Nojex Committee consists of very able and willing collectors and there will be no problem about care exercised in the handling of the material of an exhibitor. If last year's practice will be followed, Nojex will mail out to each of you a prospectus in due course. We do not as yet have those details.

We expect to have three judges for our exhibits. An exhibitor may receive an award from Cz. P. S. as well as from Nojex. The judges of Nojex are selected by the Chairman of the Show and it is the custom to ask the Chairman of the judges of a large participating society to serve on that panel also.

B. R. Beede was asked to represent the Society at Nojex Committee meetings. We understand the first one is to be held on February 6th. Member George Koplowitz was appointed to weigh the desirability of award types. Naturally, there will be a Grand Award which will be listed as the Lowey Award. President Horechny has the original one in his possession and that type may be copied.

Members from all parts of the country are asked to contact either L. M. Horechny, R. D. 1, Box 78, Stockholm, N. J. or Wm. Reiner-Deutsch, P. O. Box 24, Bayside, N. Y. 11361, for any information they wish to secure.

Member E. Michaelson is investigating the selection of a restaurant for the dinner and he will report back in the near future.

At the first meeting, the President brought up the important point that we should have a special issue of the Specialist on the occasion of the 25th anniversary meeting of the Society. This appealed to the members of the committee as well as to the Council committee very much and we are already asking you to participate in the success of this issue. This issue is to commemorate our efforts in keeping Czechoslovak philately alive.

We will need ads or any other financial help to defray the expenses, which will be small but still outlays. Members please think about this! You are asked to support a worthy cause and we hope that many of you will be able to combine a visit to the world's Fair with a visit to our Show and do not forget to Exhibit!

We sincerely hope that we will receive responses to this first descriptive notice.

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Compiled by Wolfgang Fritzsche

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**TRANSITION POSTMARKS (see "Postmarks")**

(to be continued)

**Mr. George Pearson, Chairman of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society, England Writes . . . in January 1964:**

During 1942, a large area of Westcliff-on-Sea was occupied by members of the Czechoslovak Army and Air Force in Great Britain. Several were stamp collectors and naturally some attended the meetings of our local philatelic society. I took a personal interest in a number of these with the result that they were invited to my home, becoming regular visitors. As the majority could speak good English, no difficulty arose in our conversation. I learned much about Czechoslovakia and the reasons for their hurried exit from the country. A few managed to bring out supplies of postage stamps, and from these I commenced making a collection of Czech stamps. Naturally, I visited many of the soldiers here seeking mail conveyed between the various Czech units in this country, thereby providing me with an excellent basis for this section. The gift of an Ekstein Specialized Catalogue for 1939 indicated the extent to which a collection of Czechoslovakia could extend.

An article in a philatelic magazine early in 1943 referred to the formation of the Czechoslovak Society in London, Mr. J. Tauber being Secretary. I decided to join and attended a meeting at the Czechoslovak Institute, 18 Grosvenor Place, London, S. W. 1. I found many many in attendance but to my consternation, everything discussed was in the Czech language, and it was only occasionally that Dr. Winzer, one of the members, came to me to advise me of the matters being dealt with. I was invited to become one of the senior officers but obviously had to decline in view of my entire lack of knowledge of the language. My membership brought much useful information as well as examples of all special cancellations used by the Field Post Office here. When the Exhibition of Czechoslovak Stamps was staged at the Institute from November 8th-20th, 1943, I was asked to cooperate by providing some material from my rather meager collection, and concentrated on some of the commemorative issues. The method of writing-up which I employed attracted much attention, a rather strong point throughout my philatelic associations. I was most gratified to receive a beautifully designed diploma incorporating the special Miniature Sheet sold at the Exhibition, the Hradčany and London's Tower Bridge and bearing the signatures of President Beneš and Colonel J. Broz, C. G. S. of the Czechoslovak Ministry of National Defense in Great Britain. Only 100 of these diplomas were prepared.

Following the cessation of hostilities in 1945, the Czech Society became more or less non-existent, but a few managed to keep in touch with each other until it was decided to form a revised organization with permanent features, with definite officers and rules. It was this beginning that the present society developed, and it is pleasing to note that some of the original London members are still with us. Our meetings are now held at the private residence of Mr. R. M. Tragar in London. He was also a member of the original body and his knowledge of the background of Czech philatelic history is of invaluable assistance to us. We have several Czechs with us still and it is pleasing to hear them talking about the country of their birth and the adventures which befell them.

I maintained contact with some of the Czechs after leaving this area, some returning to their homeland whilst others settled elsewhere. My most valuable correspondent searched throughout Europe for anything out of the way in Czech material for me, and during the eighteen years of constant contact, I was able to amass a first-class collection, many of the items obtained being unique. His sudden death was a great blow to me for apart from being one of the most charming persons I have ever met, his generosity knew no bounds. He always wished to do something in return for the hospitality my wife and

myself had extended to him during the war years and this was reflected in the numerous gifts he gave both of us. In addition, he would never charge a penny in excess of what he had paid himself for items, with the result that many outstanding bargains came my way.

I have managed to continue with a few correspondents in Czechoslovakia. Two correspondents undertake the translation of any article of special note in "Filatelie" which is one of the publications I receive regularly gratis.

An article which I wrote for our County Association Journal on the Czech Legionnaires was sent to Prague with a request for certain information regarding production. I had a most exhaustive reply from the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs, together with a copy of a fine publication to commemorate Thirty Years of Czechoslovak Stamps, and the information that some of the employees had been members of the Legion. A further request provided me with a complete translation of that work and several special articles on production with many hand-drawn diagrams to illustrate positions of entries, etc., and in intimation that the authorities would be willing to give me assistance I required relative to Czech stamps.

My interest in the stamps of Czechoslovakia was instrumental in my appointment to the Jury for the Bratislava National Philatelic Exhibition. It was a wonderful experience for me throughout at no expense to myself. I found many good collector friends out there and everything possible was done to make my stay of ten days pleasurable. A fascinating two days' tour of Slovakia and Moravia will ever live in my memory, the festivities provided at the major places visited being exceptional, so much so that when I returned to Bratislava, I could not look food in the face for at least 25 hours. During my stay, I received three different albums of mint stamps, together with numerous souvenirs. I have since given talks in this country on my experiences, and the many photographs taken demonstrate in full the reception received. Many were astonished at the extent of my knowledge of their stamps, this being particularly so with Jan Karásek as we had similar interests. His name has often featured in articles appearing in Filatelie and subsequently in the Specialist. He has a most charming personality and we have since corresponded respecting queries on certain issues.

Perhaps some reference to the extent of my collection will not be out of place here. I have 45 albums, 10 of which are devoted to the Hradčany issues, these including many of the outstanding varieties, with special emphasis on cancellations and scarce perforations. The Allegory issues are housed in four large albums with very few missing items, particular strength being in the 1928 issue, all of the very scarce perforations being in superb mint condition in quantity. One vertical strip of the 100h value showing Types III, II and III respectively comprises one of the very few pieces known. The 500 and 600h of the Economy & Science issue are seen both in mint and used with comb perforation. I also have large blocks of the Dove and Chainbreaker issues with the 13% line perfs from normal sheets and not from those intended for booklets with tete-beche varieties. Many of the issues from 1918 to 1925 are in complete sheets as well.

I have made a special study of the 1919 overprints, so much so that I do not experience too much difficulty in sorting out the forgeries. For some time past, my opinion has been sought by the British Philatelic Association on the authenticity or otherwise of Czech stamps, particularly of overprints, and my decision has been invariably accepted as final. My own collection does not include the most outstanding rarities, but is replete with many unusual varieties, and has a special forgery section for reference purposes.

One album is confined to the Red Cross issue of 1920, this including the

original series of sketches passed to Jaroslav Lešetický for consideration and the Postal Counsellor's written suggestions and alterations embodied thereon. All the various trials are included with many large blocks and varieties, and the section is complete in accordance with Ekstein. One strip has the specially printed 40 and 60h with gutter between.

I suppose my strongest section is that of the various Masaryk issues. This is exceptionally extensive, comprising many proofs in various stages of production, all the known imperfs and rarer perforations. I have a block of 20 without value, similar to one illustrated in an earlier issue of the Specialist. I noticed an article in the Specialist for December 1954 relative to the two engravings of the unissued 2000h value, this being followed by a descriptive report by George W. Brett which appeared in the issues for September and October 1957. At the end of the first paragraph on page 122 (Oct.), Mr. Brett questioned the existence of the second type on paper to confirm production by recess printing. I have three examples of the type with larger figures printed in bright carmine on gummed white wove paper, a single and one with two impressions with 11¼ mm. spacing and not in correct alignment. As each has identical flaws, they were obviously from the matrix die. The recessing is very obvious at the back of the impressions. I also have an example of the 1000h in blue in a larger size, namely 24x34 mm. in which the engraver's name is missing and also several of the same value in a very small size, 21½x30 mm. in which either no names appear at foot or only that of M. Švabinsky. I have a proof of the 1000h in rotogravure which distinctly shows that the portion bearing the name of Eduard Karel had been removed by cutting away the lettering. This no doubt followed upon the dismissal of Karel from the Unie Printing Works, and although printings of the 50h, 1200h and 2000h were made, the possibility of action apparently arose and no issue of these values resulted. I have a large volume devoted to these unissued stamps in which every stage of production is shown, with numerous color trials and complete panes. Later on I hope to be able to get down to a real study of all Masaryk issues in the hope that I will be able to elucidate some of the problems raised by Mr. Brett, although I am not aware whether any other member has furnished him with additional data since his article appeared.

There are two large volumes of Proofs and Essays, including some dated initial "takes" from the original die before hardening. Some of the items are believed to be unique, having been submitted by various Art Schools and printing establishments, and a few have the signature of the artist.

Of the later issues, mention may be made of the Arras issue of 1935 with the scarce APRAS varieties (Ekstein 944 a and b). These are in positional blocks mint, with coupons, and also in used condition. The National Anthem sheets, original and forgeries are included, as most of the major items.

Although I have continued to collect everything emanating from the country, my principal interests are the 1918-27 issues, but I do happen to have two large albums with mail bearing the provisional postmarks of Czechoslovakia employed during 1945 as they are analogous to those following the formation of the Republic in 1918.

The foregoing can provide only a partial picture of the full contents of my collection, and I can only regret that I am unable to let your members have an opportunity of viewing it as I feel certain that it contains something which would be of interest to all collectors of the stamps of Czechoslovakia.

Some of our members concentrate on specific sections, for example. Mr. A. J. Stoyel possesses an exceptionally fine accumulation of pre-Republic material with special emphasis on early postmarks, mainly in the finest possible condition. He also has a splendid accumulation of Silesian and similar mater-

ial associated with Czechoslovakia, the result of many year's of search.

In general, our members could be called upon to produce a very fine representation of the postal history of Czechoslovakia throughout the years, and I can only hope that the information given herein will help you to appreciate the work and the extent of our own Czech Society.

Before concluding, I take this opportunity of wishing the North-American Society the success it fully deserves, and look forward to receiving the Specialist for many years to come. I possess most copies since the four-page issues of the early days, and constantly refer to data on various issues of stamps. In addition I have nearly every Czech Catalogue published, and endeavor to do my own translations with the aid of my Czech-English and English-Czech Dictionaries by Otto Holtze.

Although correspondence with American colleagues in the past has been very limited, I hope to be able to settle down to the preparation of some articles which may be acceptable to your readers, incorporating data which does not appear to have been included in past issues of the Specialist.

Editor's Note: We have found the descriptions in the foregoing letter so very interesting and so much to our own benefit that we felt it to be valuable reading matter for all of our members.

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## Parade Of New Issues

Edited by Frank Kosik

A Single to Complete the Castle Series



A single depicting the castle of Krivoklát was released on October 15, 1963, in denomination of 50h.

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