THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

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Czechoslovak Philatelic Society

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Vol. XXVI

September 1964

No. 245

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY

The present Administration's policy is to keep all our members informed of its activities and I therefore wish to report to you that by a majority vote (eight for, one against, with two abstentions) the eleven member Council revoked, until further notice, the privilege of our members in Chicago to meet and to conduct affairs as a Branch of the Society.

This action was taken because the leading members there, were refusing to abide by the rules as outlined in the Constitution of our Society. They were offering for sale a book published in another country in a manner not in conformity with federal regulations pertaining to non-profit organizations. They were undermining the national Society by not informing the Editor of the Specialist that they had been working on the translation of a book, which was to be a project of the national Society for the sole benefit of its membership. They had affiliated themselves with a commercial enterprise by asking for permission to translate and sell a translation "care of" that commercial enterprise.

Members of that area were called to a meeting on July 26, 1964, on a post-card with the designation of Chicago Branch—Czechoslovak Philatelic Society, with specification of the following program "Regarding expulsion of the Chicagoland Chapter from the Society." The then Secretary had been informed on July 6, 1964, that by decision of the majority of the Council, the Chicago Branch was dissolved. Nevertheless, three weeks later the Branch designation was still used. Though there was never a word about "expulsion" since that has a very different connotation than Branch dissolution, the sender of the postcard chose such a dramatic and untrue term. The Chicago Branch was dissolved, meaning that the MEMBERS remained in good standing. An expulsion would indicate that the members themselves individually were affected by the decision of the Council, which of course is not true and would be unconstitutional by this method.

We are interested in Czechoslovak Philately. We are eager to forward interest in the collecting of our specialty. We are not interested in self-glorification. We are happy to receive help or information from all quarters. I should be happy to be able to propose to the Council that the resolution regarding our members in Chicago be amended and that those members be able to meet again as one of our Branches. This could be accomplished only when members responsible for all this upheaval realize that a Branch is not the Society but only a subgroup of the Society, meeting as such by the permission of

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the Council, that a Branch has as its concern the local affairs of its members and not the national or international affairs which are the business of the mother Society.

Just before closing I received a letter from our members in Chicago, stating flatly that the Council had no power to dissolve a Branch because the Council had not granted the original designation. There is in EVERY organization a governing body which acts in conformity with accepted rules or procedures. Our Council, though adopted first by constitutional revision of 1957, is such a governing body—of the Society and of all its Branches. This letter could be called utterly ridiculous if it were not very sad and possibly of grave consequence. How can members act against their Society even through a misguided desire to work for a Branch of the Society?

Finally, I wish to state that on July 2, 1964, according to the Secretary of State of Illinois, an organization calling itself the "Chicagoland Chapter of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society" was incorporated. As President of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society I must request that, since this organization contains the name of the National Society and has no permission according to our Constitution to use the name "Chapter" the incorporators cancel this incorporation officially.

-L. M. Horechny, President

EDITORIAL

Preparations are progressing satisfactorily for the Convention, Show and Dinner in October, in celebration of the twenty-fifth Anniversary of our Society. We understand from the Nojex Chairman that requests for frames are coming in steadily and fine participation all around is expected. The following members were asked to serve as judges of the Czechoslovak Section: Thomas Buresch, Wolfgang Fritzsche and Dr. Wm. Reiner-Deutsch. We were also asked to be one of the Nojex judges.

This year in September one of the greatest exhibitions of any regional show will take place in Washington. Numerous large philatelic societies will hold their meetings and will also take part in the exhibition. The new wing of philately and postal history, will be dedicated at the Smithsonian Institute during the Show. Many collectors from all parts of the U.S. A. and Canada, as well as other countries, will be on hand.

We are indeed pleased to report that the member responsible for mentioning the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society in connection with the attempt to induce the United States Post Office Department to issue a commemorative stamp on the 100th anniversary of the Sokol movement in the States, has written a letter to our president expressing his regret at this action which was truly done inadvertently. Members will recall that this episode was mentioned in our June Editorial and we are glad that the matter is satisfactorily resolved.

There has been much said about judging of entries and about judges. We intend to reprint an article which appeared in the American Philatelist, but before then, right now, we will publish an article by our member Fritzsche which is very much to the point and as we understand it will have far-reaching and constructive consequences. It is high time that some type of order is introduced regarding the method of judging and the qualifications of judges.

We spent a very pleasant vacation in Chio again this summer. We had the opportunity to see only three of our members in Cleveland this time but the weather was not conducive to visiting. We saw members Klozar, Pata and Snow. We may expect some entries from our members there. During our stay, we drove over to Columbus to deliver a talk at the Columbus Philatelic Club. The most delightfully air-conditioned room with some forty members

present aided greatly to the pleasant time we had there. We showed 60 slides (most of those were made by our member Ken Woodbury) and had some interesting comments from members. That same evening, our friend in Columbus threw a small party for us, at which we met a collector who showed us a publication of the U. S. State Department dealing with territorial changes after 1918. We were very much surprised to see this booklet containing most of the cities and towns of Czechoslovakia with mention of all the known names. We have a Columbia Gazeteer which is of great help in locating the cities if only the German or Hungarian name is available but we have never heard of that publication before and we admitted it with amazement and gratitude.

Our compliments go to the members who decided to join our English friends, the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain. We have learned that Skopecek of California, Kosik of Wisconsin, Blizil of Florida and Verner of Minnesota are the most recent ones to become members of that Society.

At the last Compex Show the following members participated in the Czechoslovak Section and awards were adjudged to the ones so listed. The Grand Award was given to Dr. J. J. Matejka, Jr., for selected pages showing trial printings, die proofs, varieties of the country, Eastern Silesia and Army Posts in Siberia. First awards went to John Velek for his horizontal and vertical gutter pairs of Hradčany and a detailed study of Hradčany 20h; to George B. Koplowitz for selected pages of plate numbers, 1920-38, mint only. Second awards were given to C. J. Pearce for his selected pages of the re-drawn agriculture and science issue and to L. M. Horechny for the allegory issue, tetebeche, proofs and essays. Third awards were presented to J. J. Verner for his showing of the 1920 Masaryk and the Hussite issues with different varieties, color trials proofs and essays and to Louis Divis for his collection of provisional postage due stamps between 1918 October 28 and 1920 June 8. Other exhibitors included Joseph Sterba, George Kobylka, Frank Kovarik and W.n. Reiner-Deutsch (non-competitive).

Members may be interested to hear that we received a diploma (the lowest class of award) at Paris Philatec in June, for our Czechoslovak entry. We shall exhibit at Nojex, non-competitively.

We are looking forward to seeing many of you in October!!!!

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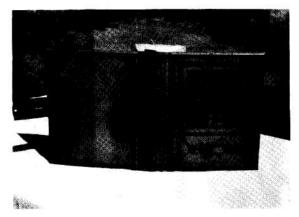
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SAMPLES OF ARTWORK BY MEMBER SKOPECEK



Palacký Dějiny. Small quarto. Full African Goat—cream color. Colors are inlaid leather, tooling is black. All tools and type handcut from brass.



Stamp album—Ships and Railroads. Quarto. Full pigskin. Initials inlaid leather, tooling in black.

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DOG SHOWS VERSUS STAMP SHOWS By Wolfgang Fritzsche

Reprinted from the Western Stamp Collector

There is little philatelic activity during the hot summer months, but it is the season in which kennel clubs hold their annual dog shows. Recently, while attending such a show, it came to my mind that one could compare a dog show with a stamp show. On one side we have the dog breeders and dog trainers, on the other side we have stamp collectors and philatelic researchers. After comparing these two types of shows point for point, one cannot help but conclude that the dogs get a better deal than our stamp collections.

To compare the two, we have to consider three basic points: the material shown, the system of judging and the judges themselves.

No one would try or attempt to show a mongrel or an untrained dog at a kennel show, no matter how much the owner loved his "best friend." Anyone who has attended a kennel show has seen only pure bred and well trained animals.

Now let's look at stamp shows. Except at international exhibits, the material shown, quite often, is below standard, not "pure bred" and the album pages often show no "training"; that is, one can see that the owner has done nothing with his stamps but having made a trip to a dealer, bought stamps and mounted them.

The "pure bred" collection in comparison would be one which painstakingly has been built up over a number of years, which shows material which is not always easily obtained in the next stamp shop; it is a collection into which lots of time and work has been put.

At dog or kennel club shows, definite, uniform sets of rules have to be followed. In a way, such rules exist in philately but lack uniformity here in our U.S.A., while many foreign countries and of course F.I.P. shows strictly observe definite and uniform rules.

Here every club, every group of clubs has different standards; some have none at all. The idea seems to be to please some collectors rather than to judge collections equitably.

Even our 'arge organizations have failed to even try to initiate uniform judging standards. Some feel that they do not have the right to "dictate" to their chapters and maybe also to the rest of the country, how to judge shows.

As a result of this lack of uniformity your collection may get a high award at one show at one time, no award at all some other time at another show. Which of the two was right?

On the other hand, if you show your collection at an international show, where definite standards are followed, you will find that you get the same rating whether it is in Turkey or Holland or Germany, etc.

It has happened that collections, which had had an international award got none at all at local shows. You have seen here that there is definitely something wrong with our way of judging.

These of course tie in with the system of judging. If we do not have a system, the judges are left to themselves, not having any rules to guide them.

I have learned that dog show judges have to learn their business before the kennel club allows them to judge at any of its shows. To become such a dog judge is a very lengthy process, one has to serve almost an "apprenticeship." Each learner then has to work some time with a qualified judge before being allowed to judge on his own.

Do we stamp collectors expect that much experience of the persons who judge our collections? Quite often we "appoint" judges, select persons with "big" and famous names rather than get ones who have a thorough and broad philatelic knowledge.

The feeling seems to be that "big names" draw people to exhibits, which may be true, but they are to judge and not to draw either crowds or exhibitors, which they may not if one considers that this type of judging will be one sided and unrealistic.

Now that we have seen that the dogs fare so much better than our stamps, what should or could be done about it?

First of all, to get good and wide spread results, some large philatelic organization has to take the bull by the horns and set up a program to train collectors who can be used later as "qualified" judges, then a system of judging has to be set up and promoted.

In many foreign countries standard rules are used wherever a show is being held. Why cannot we get our clubs to accept such a standard. There is nothing "dictatorial" about such a set up. All that is needed is good will and cooperation. Then, if a club holds a show and advertises that it will be judged according to the newly promulgated "XYZ" rules, the exhibitor knows that his collection will get an honest and fair appraisal, it also may be that then better collections will be shown.

Exhibitors have to be educated also, in order to succeed all the way around. Having judged many a show myself, I have found that stamp collectors seem to be bad losers, some do not even want to listen to advice on how to improve their collections. Most dissatisfaction seems to come from persons who show "mongrel" (as I called it above) collections.

We do understand that in our hobby and as a matter of fact in each hobby, one can do what and how one wants. In a competition, however, we have to be in step with each other. One who is out of step just cannot be in the picture.

Just like a dog is man's best friend, so is your stamp collection your best friend. Why discriminate and give dogs a better deal? Let's all get together and bring order in our philatelic exhibition chaos.



Two past Czechoslovak Philatelic Society presidents at UTAPEX, the spring A. P. S. exhibition at Salt Lake City. Viewing one of the frames is John Knollmueller (left) and George Blizil.

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