

# THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

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Czechoslovak Philatelic Society

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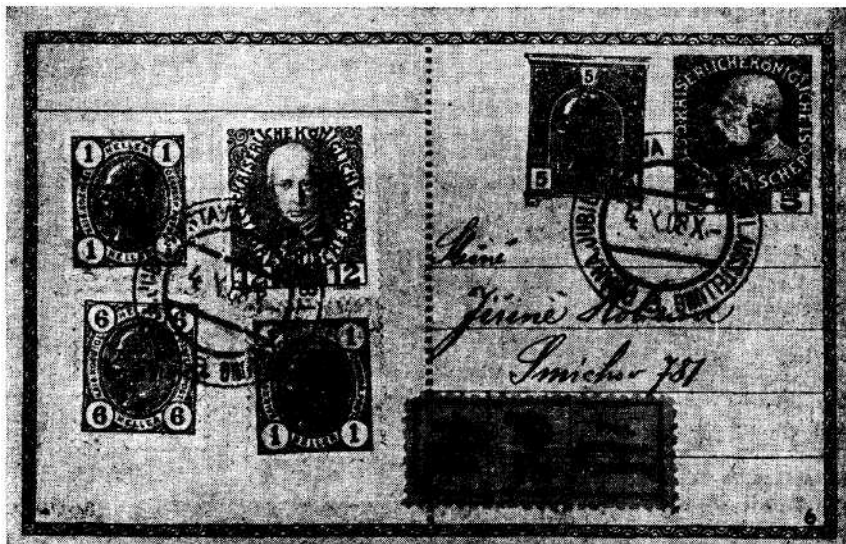
## Commemorative Cancellations of Austria-Hungary Used In Czechoslovak Areas

By Zdenek Kvasnicka — Translated by J. J. Verner

Reprinted from SPA Journal

The first use of a special cancellation while the Czechoslovak lands were part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire commemorated the meeting of the Assembly of 1848. I have attempted to compile a listing of all commemorative cancellations used on Czechoslovak territory up to October 28, 1918. The compilation may not be definitive, but if it stimulates additional interest in this neglected philatelic area it will do much good and perhaps will save many cancellations that have hitherto gone unnoticed.

Special post offices or postal counters were most frequently established



1908 Prague Jubilee Exhibit

at exhibitions that ran for long periods. Special mail boxes were often placed at smaller exhibits and celebrations. Mail from these boxes was collected and serviced by the local post office. The first larger manifestation having a special post office and commemorative cancellation was the World Exposition of 1873 held in Vienna.

During that period collecting picture post cards was the vogue and almost every family had an album in which they mounted the greetings received from friends. Many of these albums still are extant today and it would be useful if they were examined and evaluated from a philatelic point of view.

Commemorative cancellations are also of interest from the nationalist standpoint. Whereas German or bi-lingual texts predominate in most cancellations, we see that in 1912 the text of the cancellation commemorating the IV Sokol Slet was in Czech with only the place name (PRAHA-PRAG) in Czech and German.

Commemorative cancellations can be divided into two groups:

1. Cancellations which were used for only one event.
2. Cancellations used at certain exhibit cities and which were used at various times for various occasions.

The following listing is chronological and translations of the German and Hungarian texts are in parenthesis. The illustrations of the cancellations are indicated by numbers.

**Cancellations Used in Bohemia and Moravia**



1848 REICHSTAGS P. A. (1) 5.3. (To commemorate the meeting of the Kromer Assembly)

1880 TESCHEN, SCHLESEISCHE AUSSTELLUNG (2) 5.9-19.9. (Tessin, Silesian Exhibit)

1891 PRAHA VYSTAVA - PRAG AUSSTELLUNG (2) 4.9. (Prague Exhibit/Agricultural)

1892 OLMUTZ, INDUSTRIE u. GEWERBE-AUSSTELLUNG (2) 16.7-30.9. (Olomouc, Industrial and Trade Fair)



1893 AUSSIG A. (2) 1.7-30.7. (Trade and Agricultural Fair)

1893 TROPPAU - AUSTELLUNGS-PLATZ (2) 1.8-30.8. (Opava - Exhibit Grounds)

1895 IGLAU, STADT. SCHIESZ-STATTE-AUSSTELLUNG (2) 18.8-15.9 (Jihlava, City Shooting Range - Exhibit)



1895 PRAHA VYSTAVA - PRAG AUSSTELLUNG (2) 20.10. (Commemorating the Czech ethnographic exhibit)

1896 PRAHA VYSTAVA - PRAG AUSSTELLUNG (2) 15.6-19.9. (Exhibition of Architecture, Engineering and Motors)



1898 PRAHA VYSTAVA - PRAG AUSSTELLUNG (3) 20.8. (II International Medical Exhibit)

1899 IGLAU, VII. MAHR. LANDESSCHIESSEN (2) 27.6. (Jihavia, VII Moravian Shooting Competition)



1899 FERDINANDSHÖHE AUSSIG-PHILATELISTENTAG 24. Juli 1899 (Usti nad Labem-Philatelist day. This cancellation is known on a stamp but is in all probability a private collection)

1901 SCHRIEBWALD, XII. MAHR. LANDESSCHIESSEN (2) 28.6-6.7 (XIII Moravian Shooting Competition)

1902 OLMUTZ, 2. INDUSTRIE u. GEWERBE AUSSTELLUNG (2) 16.6-30.9 (Olomouc, 2 Industrial and Trade Fair)



1903 AUSSIG-AUSSTELLUNG (4) 14.6-20.9 (USTI n. LABEM - Fair) a, b



1903 PARDUBICE VYSTAVA-PAR-

DUBITZ AUSSTELLUNG (3) 26.7-15.9 (Pardubice Fair)



1903 HORICE VYSTAVA - HORITZ AUSSTELLUNG (3) (Regional Fair of the Czech Northeast)



1906 REICHENBERG AUSSTELLUNG 1906 (5) 19.5-9.9 (Liberec Fair 1906)

1907 BRNENSKÉ TRHY - BRUNNER MESSE (6) 2.6 (Brno Fair)

1907 OLMUTZ AUSSTELLUNG (2) 10.6 (Olomouc Fair)

1907 PRAHA VYSTAVA - PRAG AUSSTELLUNG (3) 12.6. (Prague Agricultural Fair)



1908 PRAHA, JUBIL. VYSTAVA - PRAG JUBIL. AUSSTELLUNG (6) 18.10 (Prague Jubilee Exhibit) a, b, c, d, e



1908 KROMERIZ VYSTAVA -  
KREMSIER AUSSTELLUNG (6) 15.6  
-15.9 (Kromeriz Fair)



1908 Celebration of the 70th anniversary of the reign of Emperor Franz Joseph. The cancellation used in several cities has the same design and is red in color. (7)

PRAHA-PRAG  
BRNO-BRUNN  
TROPFAU (Opava)

1909 PRAHA VYSTAVA - PRAG  
AUSSTELLUNG (3) 6.6 (An agricultural fair)

1909 KLATOVY VYSTAVA-KLAT.

TAU AUSSTELLUNG (6) 29.6 (Klatovy Fair)

1909 KARLSBAD XXI. PHILATELISTENTAG (8) 20.8-24.8 (Karlov Vary, XXI Philatelic Congress) Color of the cancellation is purple.



1909 TROPFAU - AUSSTELLUNG (9) 28.8-14.9 (Opava Fair)

1910 FOTOGR. VYSTAVA v BRNE  
1910. - PHOTOGR. AUSSTELLUNG  
BRUNN 1910 (6) 28.5-15.7. (Photographic Exhibit in Brno 1910)



1912 VI. SLET SOKOLU - PRAHA - PRAG (10) 28.6-1.7. (VI Sokol Slet - Prague) a, b



1912 MLADA BOLESLAV VYSTAVA - JUNGBUNZLAU AUSSTELLUNG (6) 12.6-19.9. (Mlada Boleslav Fair - Northern Czech Exhibit)

1913 FREUDENTHAL, SCHELES. - AUSSTELLUNG 1913 (4) 3.6-20.9. (Buntal, Silesia - Fair)



1913 DEUTSCH - BÖHMISCHE LANDESSCHAU - KOMOTAU 1913 (5) 3.6-20.9 (German-Czech land exhibit - Chomutov 1913)

1913 TETSCHEN a d. ELBE - 50 JAHR, GRUND. - FEST d. FEUERWEHR (II) (Decin n. Labe - 50th anniversary of fire fighting) 25. VI.

1913 100 JAHRFEIER m. FAHNENWEIHE d. K. K. SCHUTZENKOPS - BÖHM. LEIPA (11) 24.7 (100 Anniversary of the shooting club Ceska Lipa)



1913 ZEPPELIN SCHIFF SACHSEN \* FLUGPLATZ HAIDA BÖHMEN (5, 12) 20.10, 2.11, 9.11. (Zeppelin Sachsen Airport at Ceska Lipa, Bohemia)

1914 KÖNIGSFELD, SOKOLFEST (2) 28.6-29.0. (Kralove Pole, Sokol Slet)

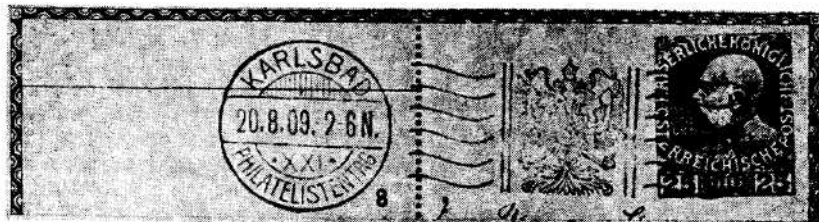
1914 BUNDESFEST WARNSDORF (4) 18.7-20.7. (Club Festival - Varnsdorf)



1913 50 JAHR. GRUND. - FEST D. FEURWEHR - KARLSBAD (11) 28.9 (50th Anniversary of Firefighters, Karlovy Vary)



1914 FRIEDLAND in BÖHMEN -



1909 Karlsbad Philatelic Congress

900 JAHRE (13) 25.7. (Frydlant in Bohemia - 900 years)

1914 32. NORDBÖHM. GAUTURN-FEST - BÖHM. KAMNITZ (4) 25.7. (32nd Northern Czech Gymnastic Festival - Ceske Kamenice)

#### Cancellations Used in Slovakia

1918 POZSONY - HIDASNAP (14) 18.8. (Bratislava - Sapers Day)

1918 POZSONY - HONVEDNAP (14) 1.9. (Bratislava - Army Day)



#### EDITORIAL

Last week was an eventful one because our good friend Jerry Verner returned to the States for a short official visit. We wish to mention that he was invited by the Federation of Czechoslovak Philatelists to attend the Brno Exhibition last September and also to exhibit in the Honor Class. He was unfortunately too busy with his assignment and therefore was able only to send some of his holdings for exhibit. He received a high award and an impressive certificate. He spent an evening with us and promised to attend a meeting of the N. Y. Chapter of the Postal History Society where we happened to be the scheduled speaker. At the meeting we called on Jerry to contribute comments on our subject which was the FPs of 1918-20. All postal historians present truly enjoyed the opportunity to hear him. It was indeed a great pleasure to have him among us even for a very brief time.

As you all know our International Secretary, George Blizil, will attend the Amsterdam International Exhibition in May where he will participate as a member of the International Jury. We understand that jurors were asked to forward some pages to the Committee for placing them into a special class of the jury.

We understand that two of our members in Czechoslovakia are working hard on the handbooks and there is hope that the first volume will be out by the time of the International Show in 1968. We hope to attend this affair in June 1968.

Member Janecka has been working hard on the projected U. S. commemorative as can be noted from one of the brief reports on it in this Specialist.

The Czechoslovak Philatelic Society is scheduled for an issue of Linn's in August and we are wondering whether any of our members could be induced to write an article of a general nature on the stamps of Czechoslovakia. This is an appeal to you all!

Just recently two members wrote letters of praise about the Specialist to the editor and treasurer. Another member expressed his disappointment that we did not illustrate the Padělky translation.

Members, we expect all of you who happen to visit INTERPEX to partake in our get-together on March 18, 1967, at 3 p.m. at the Americana Hotel in Room A.

This is the last appeal to all of you who have not yet paid the dues to send your checks to the treasurer promptly. Due to the high cost of production and possible increase in postal rates we shall be forced to discontinue the mailing of the Specialist to those who do not respond to our request.

#### NEW MEMBER

854 B. J. Rozehnal, 127 E. Cascade, River Falls, Wisc. 54022

**TO OUR MEMBERS!**

There were four American stamps issued during the last 25 years commemorating Czechoslovakia and its history. The first one was the 5 cent stamp with the Czechoslovak flag in the "Overrun countries" series—the date of its issue was July 12, 1943. Then in 1960 followed two stamps (4 and 8 cent) in the "Champions of Liberty" series, honoring the President-Liberator of Czechoslovakia, Thomas Garrigue Masaryk. These stamps were issued March 7th, 1960, the day of the 110th anniversary of his birth. Five years later, another American stamp relating to Czechoslovakia was issued February 15, 1965, commemorating the Centennial of the American-Czech Sokol Organization in connection with the late President J. F. Kennedy's Physical Fitness program.

Could there be yet another American commemorative stamps issued in the near future honoring Czechoslovakia again? The answer is yes, because there is an important event in the Czechoslovak history upcoming—the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Czechoslovak Independence here in the United States by Thomas G. Masaryk in October 1918.

The First Czechoslovak Philatelic Club of America (established in 1924) and The Czechoslovak Philatelic Society (established in 1939) have joined their forces to work for this worthy cause. The respective postal authorities in Washington have been already notified—officially and personally—by myself, about our intentions and about the fact that we do enjoy a moral support in this endeavor of many important American-Czechoslovak organizations.

It should also be noted that our postal authorities issued on August 16, 1960, a stamp commemorating the 150th anniversary of Mexican Independence. There are also no less than six American stamps connected one way or other with Poland and Poles. These honor Polish patriots Pulaski (1931) and Kosciuszko (1933). Poland itself was included in the "Overrun Countries" series of 1943. Then came in "the Champions of Liberty," two stamps honoring the first President of modern Poland, Paderewski. Finally last year there was another special American stamp commemorating the Polish Millennium.

So far 14 leading American-Czechoslovak organizations have joined officially our efforts and their supporting statements were recorded with the respective postal authorities in Washington. These are as follows:

The American Sokol Organization, Mr. Stanley Barcal, President  
 The National Alliance of Czechoslovak Catholics, Dr. Joseph Cada, President  
 The Unity of Bohemian Ladies, Mrs. Joseph Drnec, President  
 The Midwest District of American Sokol Organization, Mr. Joseph Drnec, Pres.  
 The Czechoslovak-American Engineers Assn., Mr. W. A. Graf, President  
 The Western Bohemian Fraternal Union, Mr. M. L. Hromadka, President  
 The Czechoslovak Philatelic Society, Mr. Lolly M. Horečný, President  
 The Sokol Exile Organization, Dr. Ant. Hrebik, President  
 The Alliance of Czech Legionnaires, Mr. Anton Hruška, President  
 Hon. Roman L. Hruska, U. S. Senator, Nebraska  
 The First Czechoslovak Philatelic Club of America, Mr. Joseph Janecka, Jr.,  
 Hon. Otto Kerner, Governor of the State of Illinois  
 The Catholic Sokol Organization, Mr. F. J. Kovarik, delegate  
 The MATICE of Higher Education, Dr. Jan Micka, Secretary  
 The OREL Gymnastic Organization, Mr. Emil Nastraha, President  
 The Philadelphia SOKOL Organization, Mr. E. J. Prostrednik, President  
 The Slovak Gymnastic Union Sokol, Mr. Andrew Valuchek, President  
 The Czechoslovak Society of America, Mr. Frank J. Vodrazka, President

Any other organization wishing to join in supporting our efforts please notify us officially and in writing on their official stationery. There will be NO financial obligations involved. All officially designated representatives or

delegates will be invited to participate in regularly scheduled meetings. We welcome all inquiries from interested parties which should be directed to

Joseph J. Janecka, Jr., President  
First Czechoslovak Philatelic Club of America  
7306 Ogden Avenue, Riverside, Ill. 60646

#### PETER KREISCHER

We were shocked to receive the news of the passing of Peter Kreischer, Charter Member #20, of our Society, and one of the past Editors of the Czechoslovak Specialist. He took the post of Editor in the early days of our Society and served in that capacity from May 1940 until the end of 1941 when he was forced to resign due to obligations in connection with the war effort.

He was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, but was a life-time resident of Chicago which city he left in June 1958 to take up residency in Phoenix, Arizona.

Mr. Kreischer was in his sixtieth year and his wife and he had flown to California to be with one of their daughters for the holidays. He passed away on January 4, 1967.

The officers and members of the Society express their heartfelt sympathy to his widow and three daughters. He is survived also by a brother and a sister.

#### CORRECTION

By some freak accident the name of the author of the very unusual article in the February issue of the Specialist entitled "The Stamp Designer's Sketchbook" was omitted. He is OTAKAR KUTVIRT.

#### POSTAL STATIONERY COLUMN

Wolfgang Fritzsche

NEW ISSUES 1966

#### Envelopes:

Issued for Brno Philatelic Exhibition and Fair, imprinted stamp is 60 h blue of the current town set, showing Brno. At lower left a sketch showing Brno, a coat of arms and a posthorn. Inscription: Celoštatní Výstava Poštovních Známek Brno 1966. Envelope comes in two sizes: 175x125 mm and 200x110 mm.

Issued for an exhibition of specialized subjects, imprinted stamp 60 h red brown showing an old fashioned horsedrawn coach on Charles bridge, background Hradčany and Small Town Bridge Tower. At lower left a round seal inscribed: Výstava Specializovaných Oborů, Praha 1966 (SCSF). Size 164x94 mm., side seam envelope.

## CZECHOSLOVAKIA

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### THAT PICASSO STAMP!

By George A. Blizil

Czechoslovakia, like other Eastern countries, observed the 30th anniversary of the Spanish Civil War last July 5th with a commemorative stamp issue. The anniversary was really for the establishment of the international brigade, units of foreign volunteers within the ranks of the Spanish Republican Army in the war against so-called fascist insurgents and German and Italian interventionist armies.

Volunteers from more than fifty nations fought in the international brigade, the most numerous being the French, Italians, Germans, Poles and English. Czechoslovaks numbered some 2300 of which several hundred laid down their lives. Following the defeat of the Spanish Republic, the volunteers retreated to France where they were interned in concentration camps. Many took active part in the Second World War or waged war against the fascists as members of an underground movement.

Organizers and members of the international brigade in Spain in the years 1936-1939 were personalities in the international revolutionary workers' movement. Volunteers served in the artillery, tank units, as pilots, in various specialized units, as doctors in field hospitals and as guerrillas in the rear. The Spanish Civil War of the 30's was a prelude to WW II. This era will never be forgotten philatelically.

It is recorded in philately with postal history items. The Spanish Civil War Group is still conducting research on the saga. Now Czechoslovakia has entered into the philatelic picture with its 60h anniversary commemorative.

The stamp was issued at the request of the Czechoslovak Union of Antifascist Fighters. It is unusual inasmuch as both picture and format are different. Depicted on it is a work of art known to the whole world. It is a painting which truly belongs to the Spanish people, but hangs in the Museum of Modern Art in New York City. Entitled "GUERNICA" it was painted by Pablo Picasso in May and June of 1937.

Guernica, a Basque mining town, was destroyed by planes bearing the swastika on April 28, 1937, the day of its annual fair. Explosives and incendiary bombs rained down for three and a half hours leaving the town in ruins and killing 2,000 people. The fascists had tested the effects of bombing on the civilian population. The raids had the approval of Reich Marshal Göring.

Pablo Picasso fulfilled his promise to paint a picture for the pavillion of the Spanish Republic at the 1937 Paris World Exhibition. He made preliminary sketches shortly after he heard the news of Guernica's destruction. He observes his 85th birthday this year.

It is said his "Guernica" is a terse but passionate call to arms. While the painting is considered great, it is also considered depressing to most viewers not familiar with modern art. It is received in Czechoslovakia with mixed emotions, just like the 5c U. S. Fine Arts commemorative of 1964 (Scott 1259) was received in America. The CSSR P. O. department cannot be blamed for the somber colors—they are exactly the same on the original. The stamp measures 75x30 mm and was printed rotary recess print, combined with photogravure, in sheets of 15. On the right margin of each sheet are 5 coupons measuring 23x33 mm each, bearing the inscription "Picasso—Guernica—1937" and the picture of a hand clutching a broken sword (a detail from the painting).

The commemorative was engraved by young Josef Herčík (1922), a creative and precise artist. He has engraved several Czechoslovak stamps since 1962. Herčík worked six months on the engraving. The exceptionally large size of the stamp picture required about 30,000 incisions made with 4 different types of tools. The black, gray and pale pink colors of the original required

sensitive graduations of depth of cut in the several hundred times smaller reproduction. Needless to say, Herčík's effort was successful.

Whether one likes Picasso or not, the fact remains Czechoslovakia has come up with another gem in philatelic production. It will be an important candidate for honors in the British international "Best Stamp Issued for 1966" contest. It will be interesting to see if "Guernica" does get recognition.

#### 1967 STAMP PROGRAM IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Three commemorative stamps were issued in January to mark the Sixth Trade Union Congress, the Fifth Congress of the Czechoslovak Union of Youth, and appeal for "Peace and Freedom for Vietnam."

In February the commemorative set depicting water fowl will be issued. This, for technical reasons, was postponed from December. Another February set will present the historical cities of Prague, Brno, Bratislava and Jihlava, to help celebrate the U. N.-sponsored "Year of International Tourism."

Six more stamps with the theme "Investigating the Universe," a subject on which a number of commemorative stamps have been issued in recent years, will come out in March.

Sometime during the first quarter of the year, the "Monuments of Jewish Culture" set, originally planned for the end of 1966, will appear.

In April, the World Exposition in Montreal will be marked by a set of six stamps and a souvenir sheet. A set of "sports" stamps will appear in the same month, to mark the world championships in water sports, canoeing, women's basketball and the 20th Prague-Berlin-Warsaw Peace Cycle Race.

Two stamps and a souvenir sheet will appear in May as part of the traditional "Prague Castle" emission. Another commemorative issue will recall the 25th anniversary of the destruction of Lidice by the nazis in 1942, and mark the "Prague Spring" music festival.

June will see the issue of stamps depicting the Slovak towns of Skalice and Prešov and the Czech mining town of Příbram, and a commemorative set of seven stamps with flowers from botanical gardens.

In July, two commemorative stamps will be issued on the occasion of the Ninth Congress of the International Union of Architects, and in August a set of six depicting the fauna in Slovakia's nature reserves. Another August issue will consist of three commemorative stamps advertising the "Praga 1968" World Philatelic Exhibition.

Six stamps with aircraft will be issued in September, and in October one marking Czechoslovak Army Day and three commemorating the 50th anniversary of the October Socialist Revolution in Russia. Also planned for October is a second set of seven stamps celebrating the "Praga 1968" exhibition.

Art lovers can look forward to November, when another five stamps with reproductions of works of art will be issued, following in the tradition established by Švengsbir's engraving of Titian's "Young Woman at her Toilet" and the five commemorative stamps issued last December.

The only issue planned for December is a commemorative stamp marking "Czechoslovak Postage Stamps Day."

The program for 1967 seems extremely full, especially to those who are aware of the agreement concluded between Czechoslovak postal authorities and the Union of Czechoslovak Philatelists, providing that no more than 75 new stamps should be issued in a single year and that their face value should not exceed 70 crowns (£2/10 or \$10.00). In 1967 and 1968, however, these limits will be exceeded in connection with the "Praga 1968" exhibition.

In addition, on the initiative of the Union of Czechoslovak Philatelists a plan for stamp emissions up to 1970 has been worked out. This will give designers and engravers time to devote the utmost care to their work.

### U. S. ARMY POST OFFICES IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

by Capt. Edward J. Benchik, USAR

At the end of World War II, the American Army concluded part of its advance over the Axis Powers in Czechoslovakia. From May 1945 until January 1946 the U. S. Army had 13 post offices in the western extremity of Czechoslovakia. During the later part of 1945 and the beginning of 1946, the U. S. Army withdrew from Czechoslovakia back into Germany and Austria as prescribed by the provisions of the Yalta and subsequent agreements. Not all of these Army Post Offices remained in the same location as most of them were servicing infantry and armored units, which were always on the move. Therefore three of the APO's (2, 258 and 445) were each located in two different Czechoslovak towns and two of the APO's (79 and 94) were in three different Czechoslovak towns as shown by the table below:

APO	Town	Opened	Closed	Unit
2	Pilsen (Plzeň)	12 May 45	8 Jun 45	2nd Inf Div
2	Domazlice	8 Jun 45	11 Jun 45	2nd Inf Div
5	Winterberg (Vojtanov)	11 May 45	21 May 45	5th Inf Div
26	Wallern	24 May 45	15 Aug 45	26th Inf Div
79	Eger (Cheb)	4 Jun 45	14 Jun 45	79th Inf Div
79	Asch (Aš)	14 Jun 45	13 Jul 45	79th Inf Div
79	Franzensbad (Frantiskovy Lázně)	13 Jul 45	10 Aug 45	79th Inf Div
80	Marienbad (Mariánské Lázně)	25 Sep 45	Dec 45	80th Inf Div
94	Strakonitz (Strakonice)	11 Jun 45	5 Jul 45	94th Inf Div
94	Schüttenhofen (Sušice)	5 Jul 45	28 Jul 45	94th Inf Div
94	Prachatice	28 Jul 45	Dec 45	94th Inf Div
137	Pilsen (Plzeň)	11 May 45	3 Oct 45	*
205	Pilsen (Plzeň)	Aug 45	20 Sep 45	*
254	Schüttenhofen (Sušice)	11 May 45	14 Jun 45	4th Armd Div
258	Rokycany	11 Jun 45	Jul 45	8th Armd Div
258	Holisov	Jul 45	26 Sep 45	8th Armd Div
305	Pilsen (Plzeň)	11 May 45	Jan 46	V Corps
412	Plan (Plana U. Mar. Lázní)	16 May 45	15 Sep 45	16th Armd Div
445	Konstantinovy	11 May 45	13 May 45	97th Inf Div
445	Tachau (Tachov)	13 May 45	19 May 45	97th Inf Div

( ) Indicates the Czechoslovak name of the town when the Germanized version appeared in the official record.

\* Title of using military unit unknown, probably a garrison type outfit instead of a tactical unit as are all the others listed.

All the Army Post Offices in this article were from New York. If New York is not indicated in the cancellation, the APO can still be identified as the APO numbers that were assigned to New York were only for New York. No other of the cities that had APO's were given the numbers for New York. Each city that had an APO was assigned APO numbers only for that particular city. For example, if the postmark read "APO 137" it was from New York. There wasn't an APO 137 from San Francisco, Seattle, Miami or New Orleans.

The entire record is not complete because in some instances the month is known for either the opening or closing of an APO at a certain location. However the exact date of that month is not known. Those of you who have covers with the APO number in the time frame indicated can be sure the cover was posted in Czechoslovakia.

#### THE BARTERED BRIDE CENTENNIAL SOUVENIR SHEET

The Czechoslovak Postal Administration issued on March 21, 1966, an im-

perforate souvenir sheet with the 3 Kčs commemorative stamp for the Centennial anniversary of the first performance of Bedřich Smetana's immortal opera the Bartered Bride (*Prodaná nevěsta*).

He began work on his opera from the text by a Czech writer Karel Sabina in May, 1863, and completed it in March 1866. Its premiere was held on the stage of the so-called Prague Provisional Theatre, May 30, 1866, with Smetana himself conducting. At its one hundredth performance in Prague, May 5, 1882, Smetana said: "I did not compose it from any ambition desire but rather as a stubborn defiance, for critics accused me after my first opera, *Brandenburgers in Bohemia* (*Branibořic Čechách*) of being a Wagnerite, one that could do nothing in a light and popular style." The *Prodaná nevěsta* was an instant and tremendous success. However Smetana kept on improving this work. Its original form has some twenty lyric arias connected with spoken dialogue, so by modern standards it could be called a musical. However for its French premiere in Paris Opera Comique, Smetana enlarged his opera considerably: he added new arias for title female role *Mařenka* (*Marie*), also a male chorus, and a very rhythmically intricate dance piece, the famous *Furiant*, which holds its own with the best peers in jazz syncopation! He also divided the two original acts into three. And for the Russian premiere of his opera, in 1871, in St. Petersburg, he changed the spoken dialogue into recitative, thus finalizing his opera in its present form. The 1000th gala performance of the Bartered Bride in the Prague National Theatre was given May 30, 1927, with the 2000th performance following February 9, 1953. By the end of 1965, this grand total rose to 2587 performances. But to this total, other performances of this opera by other Czech and Slovak theatres must be added, reaching surely additional thousands. Then of course there are additional thousands in theatres abroad.

It should be of interest to our readers that the American premiere of this Smetana's immortal opera was given in 1909 at the famous New York Metropolitan Opera House under the direction of another famous Czech composer Gustav Mahler and with leading soprano role of *Mařenka* (*Marie*) sung by Emmy Destinn, also a Czech. These two outstanding artists and a group of American Czechoslovak leaders in New York were responsible for persuading the Metropolitan's general manager Giulio Gatti-Casazza to produce the opera. Again the Bartered Bride scored a tremendous success. It was sung in German as was the custom of those days when no translation in other operatic languages was available. However very soon there were no less than 3 different English translations of this opera published and the first ENGLISH rendition of the *Prodana Nevěsta* in the United States was sung again in the Metropolitan Opera House in its winter season 1937. Since then in other translations, the opera was performed all over the United States and continues to give added pleasure and satisfaction not only with its exquisite and beautiful music score but its heartwarming and comic lyrics and dialogues as well which our American audiences can now fully understand and enjoy and be charmed by just as was the first audience which gathered in one Prague theatre to listen to it some one hundred years ago. —lhv

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#### NEW YORK BRANCH MEETING IN JANUARY

Chairman Flynn presented part of his fine collection of postal stationery which was of great interest to the members. We had the opportunity to greet member Kessler on this occasion. The Chairman proposed that our Branch should again hold a dinner meeting in June and Joe Stein expressed his willingness to investigate the various restaurants in the midtown area.

### A NEW LOOK AT TWO PRE-WAR CZECH STAMP COUNTERFEITS

The weekly "Filatelie," the organ of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Federation, has published in its issue of November 23, 1966, an article by Dr. Stanislav Kaps with some more details on two pre-war counterfeits of Czechoslovak stamps, namely the 50 haléřů Smetana stamp (Pofis 275, Scott 194) and the Arras 1Kč stamp (Pofis 289, Scott 206). The writer recalls that these counterfeits were described in the recently published monograph on counterfeit Czechoslovak stamps (Padělky Čs. Pošt. Známeček)—the Czechoslovak Specialist just completed the publication of its translation of this valuable reference book—and objects to the classification of these counterfeits as intended "to defraud the philatelist" by the authors of the above mentioned book. First he quotes from the prewar Czech philatelic magazine "The Tribuna" (No. 16 from 1935) which announced the discovery of these counterfeits in the following manner: During August 1935 the police authorities have confiscated from the Krnov (Silesia) printshop of Messrs Maschek and Janetschek some thirty quarter-sheets of paper used for printing stamps. Each of these sheets had already a strip of four 50 haléřů Smetana stamps or 1 Kč Arras stamps printed on it in the form of a sheetlet. The size of these sheetlets is 16.5 centimeters by 10.5 centimeters (6.49x4.13 ins.) with 10½ line perforation. A yellowish glue was used on counterfeits and was applied to the paper BEFORE the printing. The method of printing used was that of typography. Technically these are very imperfect counterfeits, easily recognizable by any stamp collector. However, we do not doubt that these forgeries could have escaped for some time the attention of postal authorities especially at post offices handling large amounts of mail. Now the authors of the Padělky state that these were the counterfeits to defraud the collectors. However I cannot agree with this classification because I am convinced that these two counterfeits must be considered as intended to defraud the Post Office exclusively. My assertion would be, I believe, supported both legally and factually, to wit:

1. Both counterfeits were printed and distributed during the postal validity of these two stamps (the Smetana stamp was valid for mail use from March 24, 1934, until February 28, 1937, and the Arras stamp from May 4, 1935, until February 28, 1937).

2. Both counterfeits were produced during 1935 when both counterfeiters were arrested and part of their printing was confiscated by police authorities.

3. Both men were convicted by the Opava District Court to stiff prison terms as reported by the Philatelic magazine Tribuna in its issues Nov. 23, 1935, and Nov. 8, 1936. According to the then existing penal code, their deed was a fraud, thus punishable as a crime.

4. All previous catalogs of the Czech stamps, classify these two counterfeits as intended to defraud the Post Office. See, i.e., the Stach catalog of 1937, the Novotny catalog of 1949. According to a report published by the Magazine Tribune No. 23, 1935 (published in December 1935) a letter with the counterfeited 1 Kč Arras stamp was sold during one recent Prague stamp auction. This letter was cancelled by the Post Office in Neplachovice, a village in the most immediate vicinity of the residence of both counterfeiters.

5. During that period the stamp dealers openly sold other counterfeits of Czech stamps intended to defraud the postal authorities, although the philatelists appealed in vain for enactment of a special law against stamp counterfeiters. Anyway if these two counterfeits were not intended to defraud the postal authorities, the counterfeiters would never have been prosecuted and punished by the Czech authorities.

6. The collectors were not fooled by these two counterfeits owing in part to their different method of printing, which has changed drastically their appearance, also in part due to their very different color from the genuine, especially in the case of the Smetana stamp.

lhv

### FROM GLUTINOUS WASH TO CURIOUS SMEAR

Ed. Note: Recently we came across a delightful spoof on philatelists and their hobby. It appeared originally some time ago in the famous British Magazine "Punch." In spite of its British "angle," we think that our readers will enjoy it as much as we did. So with acknowledgments to Punch and with our tongues firmly in our cheeks we reprint the following article originally published in 1964.

Philatelists are funny. Funny droll and funny daunting. At first sight, quaint, documentary squirrels compulsively hoarding, in the words of Rowland Hill, "small, stamped, detached labels about an inch square prepared on the back with a glutinous wash." Less cuddly, though, at harder look. Traitors to their species in the long march of evolution. While mankind strives towards perfection, the philatelist pursues imperfection. The errors of his fellow-men are his one true delight. While they aim for the better, he hopes for the worst. Society decries poor workmanship, but the stamp collector applauds the flaw, esteems the blemish and rejoices to see the nose of our noble Queen stuck on the wrong way round.

Philatelists are crazy, mixed-up people. Heaven has lately been bombarded with their confused prayers for the disfigurement of Sir Winston Churchill . . . "Dear Lord, who made heaven and earth and the British Guiana One Cent of 1856 now worth £200,000, please arrange that the Churchill Commemorative stamps I buy on the day of issue be spoilt by every possible error of printing, watermark, gumming and perforation. May the printer who runs off my sheet be inefficient, three-fingered, drunk, color-blind and afflicted by ague. On the other hand, O Lord, may the postman who date-stamps my first-day cover be the soul of efficiency, diligent, meticulous and so devoted to his duty that the artful botchery of my stamps shall receive a date-stamp of transcendent clarity" . . . Her Majesty is, of course, the regular target for such invocations, and it is not widely enough known that she maintains her printed beauty against the deformities wished upon her by philatelic malediction only at considerable expense in voodoo retainers and white cockerels.

Philatelists are base materialists. They are as obsessed with money as Midas and place a price on everything they possess. It is a frightening experience for one uninfected by philately to sit, trapped by ponderous albums across his knees, and watch the ice-light of avarice creep into the eyes of his best friend as he quotes the catalogue price, profit to date, and mercenary expectations of each portion of gummed paper in his collection.

Philatelists are filled with Freudian death-wish. What else could drive a man to devote his precious days here below to the contemplation of such minutiae of human failing as recently exemplified in the Philatelic Magazine:

#### Curious Smear

Globe Stamp Co. Ltd. (London) have shown us a part sheet of the Great Britain Forth Bridge 3d value with a colour smear which obliterates the value down the right-hand side. The variety occurs in the third vertical row and appears on each of the last twelve stamps.

Can a man be legally sane and yet pay out hard-earned money to possess a Curious Smear? People have been put in straitjackets for less.

Philatelists are self-hypnotic. Otherwise, how could they get themselves conned into believing that because a sheet of 2d stamps—worth £2 in postal services or about 1½d in paper, ink and gum—came to miss the perforating machine in 1957, it forthwith achieved a value of £12,000? Particularly, mark you, when, until 1854, all stamps lacked perforation anyway. And can we be in the same world as income tax, dustbins and South Vietnam when we read in Gibbons' Stamp Monthly.

### Legless Wonder

Just before going to press I was handed a complete sheet of fifty stamps of a newly discovered variety of British Honduras, a completely missing colour which results in albino legs to the Jacana Bird . . . I can now take bookings for individual stamps at £35 apiece.

The Jacana Bird stamp, complete with fully coloured legs, retails in British Honduras post offices at three cents apiece.

Philatelists are gullible. With victims eager to pay folding money for imperforates, curious smears and legless Jacana birds it is not unsurprising that philately has ever been a happy hunting-ground for forgers. It is estimated that the number of spurious Speratis displayed proudly in stamp collections is rivalled only by the number of fake Corots revered in American art galleries.

Philatelists are masochists. They do not want to be cured of their sad addiction. Lately, in the United States, a printer's gremlin contrived to omit a complete bridge from fifty copies of the four-cent stamp, which then became saleable for a total of £3,500. The Post Office kindly proposed to release the victims from the dealers' thrall by printing another 770,000 bridgeless items, but the self-inflicting philatelists rallied in protest and the department was forbidden to do so by a Federal judge in Washington.

Philatelists are unscrupulous. Stamps may bring out man's inherent amorality. Specimens stolen in planned burglaries vanish into secret albums and never reappear on the market. One enthusiast will never leave his collection alone in the presence of another. Two rabid collectors negotiating a swap provide a spectacle of chicanery and double-dealing comparable only with the prospect of a Greek selling a second-hand motor-car to an Armenian. The British Museum has the stamp squirrels weighed up. If you take a head count, you'll find that there are more attendants to the acre in the Stamp Room than in any other part of the building. It would be easier to knock off Nefertiti's mother-in-law than to whip a few penny blacks up your jumper.

Philatelists are fanatics. To a victim of severe philatelic neurosis, everything else in life—career, marriage or getting the coal in—are badly also-rans to his glutinous obsession. At the last census, there were more stamp widows than golf widows. A brave, but now divorced, philatelic neighbour had to fight his way through the flames twice when his house caught fire. On the first heroic dash he collected only his British Colonial Overprints and clean forgot his wife.

But, in the final count, philatelists are wonderful. Unwavering philanthropists ever ready to pour their savings into new issues, no matter how obvious may be their own exploitation nor how blatantly commercial the design. They have ever been the gallant supporters of tottering South American economies, providers of cream on stamp dealers' cakes, and God's gift to the treasuries of emergent African nations. But perhaps their finest hour is yet to come.

My most mercenary philatelic acquaintance assures me that in the field of really long-term investment, the laying-down of mint sheets of British high-value stamp issues is surpassed in profitability only by the laying-down of port. A full sheet of the 1s 3d Churchill Commemorative costs £7 10s. It's not really a high value but well worth salting away. If each of the thirty-two million working adults in the country bought a sheet each for long-term storage, the Post Office would be out of the red overnight with about two hundred millions to spare. And if they'd all come again on 14th June and buy a sheet each of the 2s 6d 700th Anniversary of Parliament issue at £10 a time, George Brown would be able to settle our Balance of Payments problem and pay us our Post War Credits as well. Vive les Philatelists Genereux . . . Long Live the Saviours of the Pound.

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