

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Official Monthly Journal of the



Czechoslovak Philatelic Society

Silver Bronze Award Praga 1968

Vol. XXXV

January 1973

No. 1, Whole No. 327

Hot New Issue—Maybe?

On April 7, 1972 the Czechoslovak Post Office issued a two denomination set, (60h and 1 Kčs) on occasion of the World and European Hockey Championship, which took place in Prague. Following victory of the Czechoslovak team, the set was overprinted in Czech (60) and Slovak (1 Kčs) as illustrated below.



The first day of issue of the overprinted set was May 22, 1972. There were no FDC's, and the overprinted issue is rumored to be extremely small—only 210,000. Part of the issue was canceled to order. The set has an approximate face value of \$0.245 (equivalent to 1.60 Kčs) and sold in the U. S. for \$0.34 to \$0.40, mint or CTO. It is further rumored that some dealers did not receive their "full quota."

While the above information has been provided through the courtesy of K-Line Publishing, Inc., a foremost new issue dealer, the **SPECIALIST** has conducted an independent survey, late in November, concerning the availability of the overprinted Hockey Set. We have found Gimbel's (New York City), Woodward and Lothrop (Washington, D. C.) as well as two Nassau Street dealers completely out of stock. (The latter are apparently the last two Nassau Street dealers normally stocking Czecho new issues). K-Line was out of mint sets but had a few CTO's. A check of sources in Czechoslovakia indicates that the price has already soared to shameless heights.

It appears at the time of this writing that the overprinted Hockey Issue may indeed be the hottest issue since World War II—or else, if greed again prevails—the hottest sucker bait since the Judaica issue.

From the Editor's Stock Book

HAPPY NEW YEAR! To all our readers throughout the world we wish a year of **HEALTH, PEACE,** — and enough **PROSPERITY** and **TIME** to enjoy our hobby.

Joe Stein writes that his young friend, CPS Junior Member and President of JPSA (Junior Phil. Soc. of America) Steve Page of 39 Main St., Sanford, ME 04073 is specializing in PRAGA '68 items and would like to "buy or trade for" such items as FDC's of FIP day at Praga '68, show covers and cancels, Balloon Post covers, etc. How about helping this outstanding Junior Member out!

In my correspondence with collectors in other parts of the world, particularly in Czecho, I have been often asked for space program-related material. This has long preceded the current NASA cover scandal, which, undoubtedly has stimulated interest in this type of material even further. "Space Covers" are collected with the aid of a comprehensive catalogue published by a Carsten Fuchs in Nuremberg, W. Germany, entitled "RAUMFAHRT KATALOG—Welt-raumbriefe," which began publication in 1968. If you need this type of philatelic (or even unphilatelic) material for your friends abroad (or even for yourself!) write to the MANNED SPACECRAFT CENTER STAMP CLUB, P. O. Box 58328, Houston, Texas 77058.

The 125th anniversary of the first U. S. postage stamp was commemorated with the issuance of a stamp as well as a lecture and reception which took place at the Smithsonian Institution, on Nov. 17th of last year. The occasion was highlighted with the opening (or rather re-opening) of the "HALL OF STAMPS AND THE MAILS" on the third floor of the National Museum of History and Technology. What was there of interest to collectors of Czechoslovakia? Watch for the February SPECIALIST (we've got to rephotograph it—you need a good picture to believe it).

We really like to hear from our readers—particularly from such as Dr. Frank J. Arnold who writes . . . "I wish to compliment you . . . you have injected a nice pleasant tone in the recent issues." Of course, if you have something nasty to say, we'll print that too—but please make it constructive.

A belated thanks to Bill Sandrik of Washington, D. C., for his generous contribution to the SPECIALIST fund. Yes Bill, we know it's Sandrik not Sandrick and we'll eventually get you listed correctly. Just keep those NOJEX medals polished!

Our Circuit Manager, Wolfgang Fritzsche is now back from his safari at the "foot of Mt. Kilimandjaro" in Kenya, and while not shoveling snow in his hometown of Canandaigua, N. Y. he is busy preparing new circuits. Wolfgang shot a leopard, a cheetah and two lions (on stamps), of course using a

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Vol. XXXV

January 1973

No. 1, Whole No. 327

Published monthly except July and August

Application to mail at second class postage rates is pending at
Lawrence, Kansas 66044

Office of Publication, 821 Vermont St., Lawrence, Kansas 66044

\$5.00 per year

Editor: Henry Hahn, 2936 Rosemoor Lane, Fairfax, Va. 22030

Assistant Editor: Edward O. Tabor, 7465 Keystone Lane, Forestville, Md. 20028

Postmaster: Send form 3579 to 821 Vermont St., Lawrence, Kans. 66044

camera so as not to damage the stamps.

On a serious note, our SECRETARY Edward Lisy, who is preparing a major membership drive, notes that while our membership numbers—assigned on joining—are all the way up to #980, our current paid-up membership is far smaller. He's after the DROPOUTS—and he is appealing to every member to help the SOCIETY bring the DROPOUTS back. So check your philatelic friends who you THINK are members—just to be sure they still are.

Lastly, the SPECIALIST needs original philatelic contributions as well as translators. We need both old timers who have contributed of their philatelic knowledge with great generosity in years past, as well as writers with new and original ideas.

—H. H.

CZECHOSLOVAK FIRST DAY COVERS FROM RADIO PRAGUE

"Radio Prague," among its varied services, conducts a philatelic program during which the answer to a question is sought. When a short-wave listener mails an answer to the station, Radio Prague rewards him with an unaddressed FDC of one of the stamps currently being issued in Czechoslovakia. The cancellation and the cachet are artistically designed to accentuate the subject of the issue.

We are indebted to member Mixa of Washington, D.C., for the following schedule of broadcasts and frequencies for Radio Prague currently in use for reception in the eastern half of the United States. Broadcasts are scheduled for 8:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. seven days a week on the following frequencies: 7.345 mH, 9.540 mH, 9.631 mH, and 11.990 mH. In addition broadcasts which include the philatelic program are transmitted at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings on the following frequencies: 15.440 mH, 17.840 mH, and 21.450 mH.

Incidentally, Heinrich Hertz, for whom the unit of radio frequency is named, was honored in 1959 on Czechoslovak stamp Scott #953.

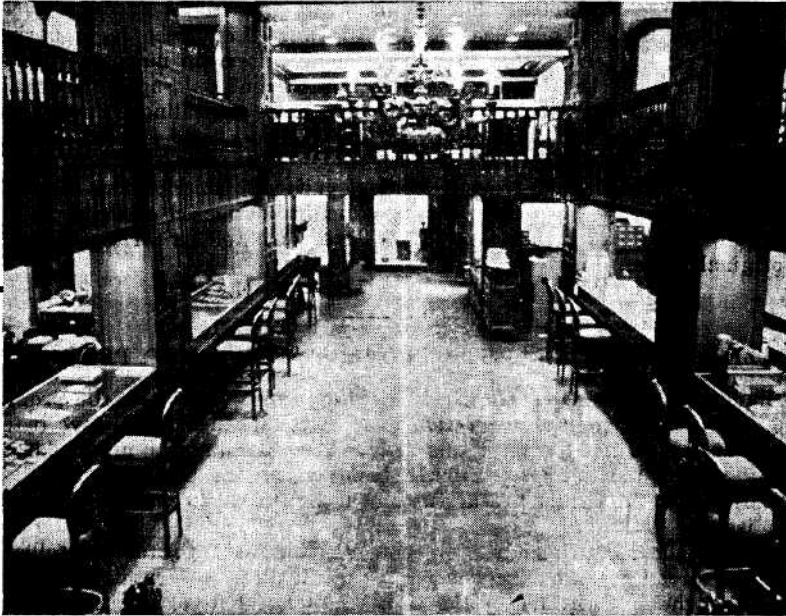
—E. O. T.

NEW MEMBERS

- #973 Rose Eisner, 205 East 82nd St., New York City, N. Y. 10028
- #974 Russell Wright, Jr., 11531 Hickory Cluster, Reston, Va. 22070
- #975 Henry Samek, Jr., 138 Burlington Ave., Paterson, N. J. 07502
- #976 Carolyn S. Gentry (Mrs.), 1331 Plass Ave., Topeka, Kansas 66604
- #977 Dr. Andrew A. Hruby, 3125 West 103rd St., Chicago, Ill. 60655
- #978 Milan Yurosh, 32 Foote Ave., San Francisco, Calif. 94112
- #979 William J. Takach, 2311 Carpenter Ave., Des Moines, Iowa 50311
- #980 Jeffrey T. Browne, 4400 East West Hway, Bethesda, Md. 20015

CHANGE IN ADDRESS

- #781 Edna B. Cummins; Route #3, Box 3079, Wilcox Rd., Red Bluff, Calif. 96080
- #957 Ellen P. Geisler, 3 Fellows Place, Orono, Maine 04473
- #427 Edward J. Benchick, P. O. Box 687, Notre Dame, Ind. 46556
- #722 Chas. F. Boubelik, Box 1737, Boulder, Colorado 80302
- #942 Ch Capt. Gilmore K. Creelman, Box 3924, APO New York 09009
- #673 David Lidman, 163B Heritage Village, Southbury, Conn. 06488
- #61 W. B. Bryant, Calle Rio Neva 8—7 Piso, Mexico 5, D.F., Mexico
- #931 Thomas H. Hornick, Jefferson Ct. Apts., 3246 Winter Rd. So., Rochester, N. Y. 14623



Interior view of two of our 4 floors at 3 East 57th Street

we're more than just a pretty face or the world's most beautiful stamp store

Our activity in the editorial management of the Scott's Catalogs and our unique tradition as the world's first major stamp auction house, are your assurance of unparalleled expertise and integrity.

Buying or selling . . . at auction or through direct sale . . . the extraordinary facilities of Harmer Rooke mean efficient, expeditious and courteous service.

NO DISTANCE TOO GREAT! NO PROPERTY TOO LARGE!

**DIRECT INQUIRY MAY BE MADE BY CALLING, TOLL FREE,
ON THE HARMER ROOKE "HOT-LINE" 800-221-7276**
from anywhere in Continental U.S.A. except New York State
(In New York, Call (212) PLaza 1-1900)

HR

Harmer, Rooke & Co., Inc.

INTERNATIONAL AUCTIONEERS • SALES AGENTS • APPRAISERS

3 East 57th Street New York, N.Y. 10022 (212) PLaza 1-1900

ESTABLISHED: LONDON 1903 • NEW YORK 1939

Charley's Corner

By Charles Chesloe, Box 237, Willow Springs, Ill. 60480

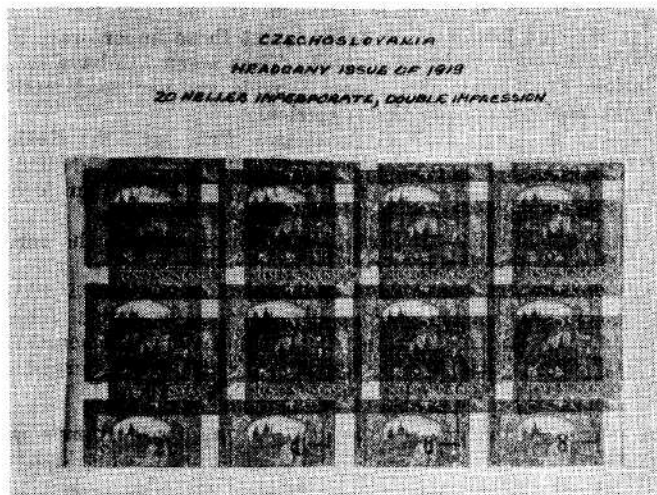


Fig. 1

Among the most popular errors of the 1919-1920 period are the 10-heller green, the 20-heller carmine, and the 30-heller red-violet imperforates of the Hradčany issue. They are type V, and are catalogued by Scott at #43a, 45a, and 47a. In the Pofis catalog, they are listed as #6, 9, and 13.

Since these varieties have a substantial catalog value, they have been extensively forged. The methods of detection of such forgeries have been adequately described in the book on this subject,* published originally in Prague. It is a "must" for every serious collector of Czechoslovak stamps; a translation of it was published over a period of several months in the SPECIALIST. If you can't locate it, let me know and I'll see if I can help you.

Two very rare varieties of the 20-heller error are pictured herewith.

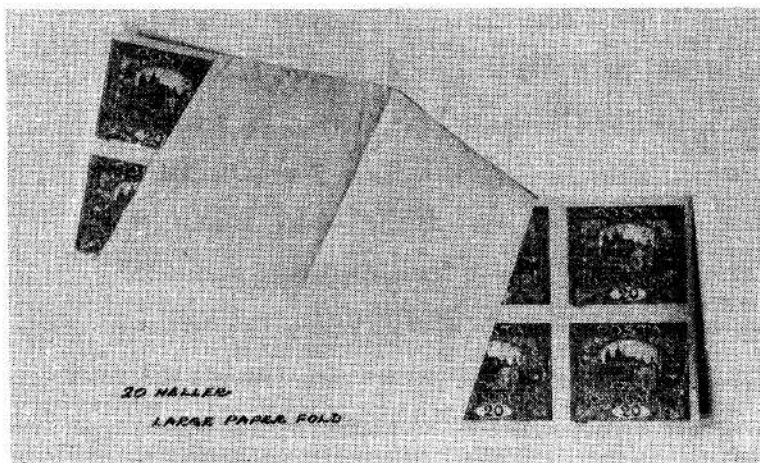


Fig. 2

Figure 1 shows a large piece that also was printed double, and Figure 2 shows a block of four including a large paper fold. Both examples are on the usual stamp paper and are fully gummed.

The three values were printed to be perforated, as suggested by the catalog prices for the common perforation varieties, but these imperforate sheets were overlooked and sent out. Only a few post offices seemed to have received them and cancellations from these few towns provide another good method of distinguishing the real ones from the forgeries.

The 10-heller was delivered to Bratislava, Brno, and the Košice district. The 20-heller was delivered only to Brno and Opava. The 30-heller value was delivered only to Janské Lázně. It may be assumed that other town cancellations would be most unlikely or made for philatelic purposes.

If you have any of these imperforates with or without the corresponding town cancellations—congratulations!

Some of you may have noticed that in the November SPECIALIST, page 140, Figure 5, I showed an unidentified expertization marking. This has been identified tentatively as "AD," the mark of one A. Diena; a somewhat controversial "expert" who is said to have expertized quite a few forged overprints.

HERE'S WISHING YOU ALL A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

*A fine reference to checking the margins on these stamps is p: 46 of "PADĚLKY ČESKOSLOVENSKÝCH ZNÁMEK" by J. Karásek, Z. Kvasnička and B. Paulíček, published by POFIS, Prague 1963.

OFFICERS CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President

Mirko L. Vondra, 143 Stanmore Place, Westfield, N. J. 07090

Vice President, East

Wolfgang Fritzsche, Box 8, Canandaigua, N. Y. 14424

Vice President, Central

Edwin J. Jirousek, 16214 Maplewood Ct., Maple Heights, Ohio 44137

Vice President, West

Emil L. Cuhel, 3836 Broadlawn Drive, Hollywood, Calif. 90028

National Secretary

Edward Lisy, 87 Carminta Ave., Rutherford, N. J. 07070

International Secretary

George A. Blizil, 5208 Jackson St., Hollywood, Fla. 33021

Treasurer

Dr. Thomas Meeks, 532 West 1145th St., Apt. 6, New York, N. Y. 10031

Editor

Henry Hahn, 2936 Rosemoor Lane, Fairfax, Va. 22030

Assistant Editor

Edward O. Tabor, 7465 Keystone Lane, Forestville, Md. 20028

Managing Editor

Harlan W. Miller, 821 Vermont St., Lawrence, Kansas 66044

Councilor, East

Edwin J. Hanish, 5 Concord Drive, Old Bridge, N. J. 08857

Councilor, Central

Charles A. Matiaska, 11217 Methyl Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44120

Councilor, West

Mrs. Edna B. Cummins, 3287 Josephine St., Lynwood, Cal. 90262

Sales Manager

Wolfgang Fritzsche, Box 8, Canandaigua, N. Y. 14424.

Librarian

Jay T. Carrigan, 12448 Over Ridge Rd., Potomac, Md. 20854

Our 19th Year

K-Line's Czechoslovakia Pages

SUPPLEMENT No. 19-1971

\$1.90 plus 50c postage

(Fully illustrated and expertly annotated)

Our Motto:

"You will find cheaper pages—but better will be hard to find"

**AS A SPECIAL FEATURE WE PROVIDE A
CZECH NEW ISSUE SERVICE**

As a subscriber to our K-Line's Czecho New Issue Service you will receive next year's supplement at no charge, except for postage. Write for details.

K-LINE PUBLISHING, INC.

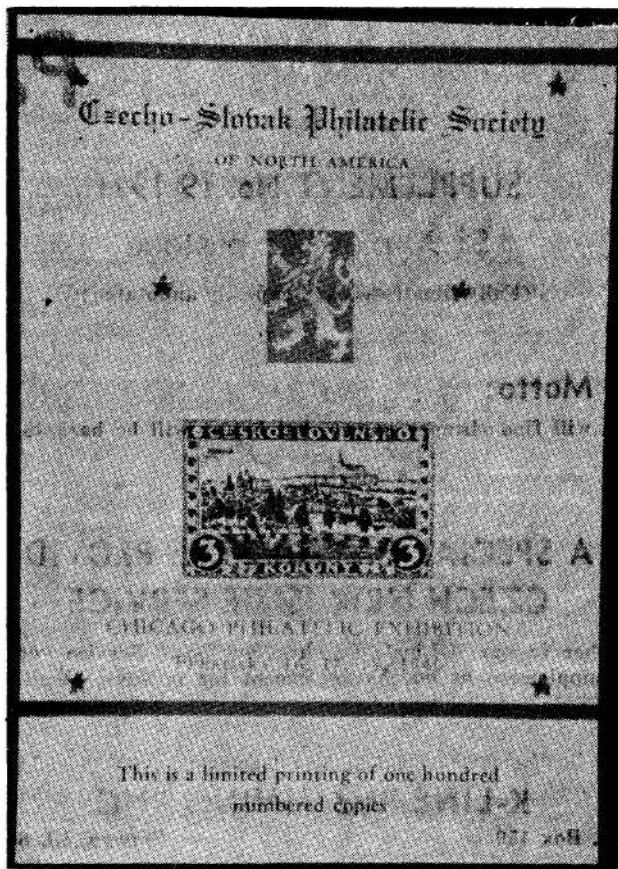
P. O. Box 159

Berwyn, Ill. 60402

P.S.—Besides Czecho, we have a line of pages for 15 countries and 11 Topics.

Out Of the Past: Our First Conventions

Plans for the first convention of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society are described in the second issue of the SPECIALIST dated June 1939. According to the story, the first convention took place on June 17, at the Bohemian National Hall in New York City. The convention, which met at 6:30 p.m., featured excellent cooking at that well known establishment. To the best of our knowledge, there was no exhibition. By issue deadline 12 members of the newly formed Czechoslovak Philatelic Society had indicated their intention to attend. These included Mssrs. Bogdan, Cicak, Ferryman, Greenwald, Kovarik, Lowey, Pozdena, Reiner-Deutsch, Smyth, Stach, Zemany, and Evans. Though we know very little of the agenda of our Society's first convention, we are indeed fortunate in having among our members several of the attendees who undoubtedly worked hard at that convention to lay the ground work of our Society.



The Society did not wait two years as it does now between conventions. The Society's second convention was held in conjunction with the 1940 CHIPEX exhibit held in Chicago at the Hotel LaSalle on February 16, 17, and 18, 1940. CHIPEX featured a 500 frame philatelic exhibit of which 20 frames

were underwritten by the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society. This, the first exhibition officially sanctioned by the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society, may have been the first organized showing of Czechoslovak Philately in America. The exhibit, which eventually grew to 600 frames, together with a large bourse, occupied virtually the entire mezzanine floor of the La Salle Hotel. A special souvenir sheet, was printed on two types of paper. The heavier paper variety, illustrated here, was numbered and distributed to the entire membership of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society. The convention program included a banquet on Saturday evening, September 17, and a convention meeting the following day at 2:00 p.m., which highlighted a discussion of Czech issues and how to bring "our findings of a specialized nature before the membership through our magazine." One of the results of the convention was a vigorous membership drive in the Chicagoland region.

According to New York dealer F. R. Ferryman, advertising in the February issue of the SPECIALIST, 1,500 copies on white paper of the Chicago exhibition souvenir sheet were offered at 5c each or \$1.00 for 25 copies. In addition, of the 100 heavier paper copies numbered and issued to members of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society, 32 copies were offered for general sale at 50c each. Additionally, "a few proofs, and errors" were available through Mr. Ferryman. It is interesting to note that if 100 heavy paper souvenir sheets were made for members, and 32 were available for sale, a Czechoslovak Philatelic Society membership of 68 would be indicated. However, according to a membership list published in May 1940, the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society numbered only 60 members at that time.

While the Society's third convention was still some time off, the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society participated in another exhibit during the latter part of 1940. This was the Cicero-Berwyn exhibition which, according to the 1940 issue of the SPECIALIST, was a huge success. Four members of the society exhibited and three received awards. These included Frank Kovarik, who received a First (Gold Cup) for his excellent showing of the 1920 Švabinský Masaryk issue including essays, proofs, color trials, and varieties. Fred Peters received a First (Gold Cup) for his U. S. commemoratives and John Velek received a "Second Award" for his collection of covers of Post World War I Czechoslovakia. Peter Kreischer, editor of the SPECIALIST at the time, received honorable mention for his showing of Canada.

The third convention took place on May 17, 1941 at the Bohemian National Hall in New York City. The convention which was well attended in spite of torrents of rain which fell that night, was called to order by president of the Society Dr. William Reiner-Deutsch, whereupon the other officers of the society made their reports. A significant motion was made, seconded, and passed that "any member of our society who is called into the service of our country shall be carried on the membership rolls as a paid-up member until his return to civilian life." It is significant that this motion, made by SPECIALIST editor Kreischer, was passed eight months before the U. S. entry into the war. Among other actions taken by the convention were to keep the society dues at \$1 per year, except that an Associate Membership at \$2 and a Patron Membership at \$5 were created. An auction followed the business meeting, which was reported to have been a huge success. Some very fine material was donated by members and sold for the benefit of the Society. A post-convention meeting was held by the officers of the Society at which it was decided that election of officers would take place every second year.

Be a BIG DADDY—enroll a JUNIOR MEMBER

Stumped On Stamps? ? ?

By Richard Gray

3466 Mildred Drive, Falls Church, Virginia 22042

Here is a question received through one of our officers from an unidentified prospective member (in brief):

I cannot identify a miniature sheet. It is identical to the "London" miniature sheet, issued in 1943 for the Czechoslovak Stamp Exhibition held in London. The colors are green and brown (instead of red and blue) and the stamps are overprinted "Waterlow and Sons Ltd. — Specimen". What is it and what would be its fair price

The first part of the question is easy to answer: the miniature sheet is a color trial of the London miniature sheet, which was printed by Waterlow and Sons Ltd. The final red and blue color sheet was issued in London with the consent and sanction of the Czechoslovak Government in Exile to publicize and promote the exhibit and the Czechoslovak cause. The stamps on the sheet had no franking value in Great Britain or elsewhere. Therefore, the item is not listed in recognized stamp catalogues and according to most purists had no philatelic value. On the other hand, the London sheet and its varieties is collected for its historical and sentimental value and its price is at the discretion of the buyer and seller. Philatelically it is roughly in the same category as the N. Y. Worlds Fair items, except that the latter were overprinted on then valid (in 1939) Czechoslovak postal issues.

A reader in Lincoln, Neb. inquires about the POFIS catalogue numbers used in this column. He is unfamiliar with this catalogue and would like to know where it may be obtained. The answer may be found in last month's SPECIALIST (see dealer's ad or buy from CPS). The price is \$5 plus shipping. This catalogue, while not as detailed as the NOVOTNÝ Handbook, is nevertheless a specialized catalogue and is indispensable to any serious Czechoslovak stamp collector. It is written in Czech, and we therefore recommend that non-Czech speaking collectors use it in conjunction with the Czech-English Philatelic Dictionary available from the SOCIETY. The prices listed in the POFIS catalogue are of course in Czechoslovak crowns.

The 1973 Pofis catalogue was reviewed by member J. J. Verner in last month's issue. I was particularly pleased to find that the question raised in this column earlier (October '72), was almost completely answered. The 1973 POFIS now lists the Scott C9, Pofis #6 as "type I or II" and the se-tenant pair. For the Postage Due (Scott J48, Pofis 45) the listing remains the same, with the se-tenant pair of type I and II listed, though the singles are not listed by type. The answer to the October question could of course be gotten by consulting Monografie II, where it is stated that from the original issue of 9,880,000 stamps, 2,720,000 were used for Airmail and 4,770,000 for Postage Due overprinting (p. 364). Position in pane and number by types in the pane is described on p. 366. So start looking through your duplicates for se-tenant pairs and types in both the Airmail and Postage Due overprints, even though you may not find them in your old catalogue.

I'm hoping for more mail from our readers with questions and answers to some of our old ones. Please write me directly at the above address.

Have you made a philatelic discovery? Tell your friends about it via the SPECIALIST.

Notes On Three Czechoslovak Liberation Overprints of 1945

A. The Pardubice Overprints

(Figure 1)

Eduard Kalman, a dentist in Pardubice, started his notes with the following disclosure: "When I secretly engaged the engraver of Smíchov, Tryba, to prepare an overprint die in 1944, I intended to create an honest revolutionary die for stamps as a remembrance of the memorable days of our approaching overthrow of the German occupation. But when I see the end result, and see myself placed in the ranks of the later post-revolutionary overprinters, I regret having undertaken it at all."

Kalman hid the engraved printing device in his dental office, and later buried it in the garden of a friend in Nemošice. The postmaster of the post office Pardubice 5, had already promised that stamps overprinted with this device would be sold postally during the overthrow. After eight months the military front approached, and Kalman showed the prepared overprinting die to the chairman of the Club of Philatelists of Pardubice. At his suggestion the word "POŠTA", originally located above the text "ČECHY-MORAVIA" was removed. At the same time he admitted his intention to have his fellow philatelist, A. Žák, of Pardubice do some of the overprinting, because he was a printer and was familiar with overprinting and with dies.

Pardubice was not actually liberated until 9 May 1945, but already by May 5th a nationalized hand-cancel was in use at the Pardubice 5 post office—a truly revolutionary action!

In Žák's home on 8 May eighty sets of regular Protectorate stamps from the 10h to the 20K and the St. Vitus set—a total of 23 stamps per set—were overprinted by hand. Except for the 10h and the St. Vitus set which were in red, the overprints were black; the stamp coupons in each case were overprinted in the alternate color. That same evening Žák prepared commemorative sheets bearing the inscription, "Commemorative Sheet—Pardubice 9.5.1945" (q.v. Pamětní list). To these sheets he affixed the 10h and 80h denominations which were postally cancelled, "Pardubice 5, 9 May 1945," at which time that post office placed on sale the first group of these overprinted stamps. They were sold at face value. On the same day regular and registered letters franked with these overprints were mailed from Pardubice and also from Bahdaně, Chrudim, and Holic. Having himself prepared letters hurriedly the evening before, the author of the overprint sent 130 pieces of mail from Pardubice addressed to various philatelists in Bohemia and in Moravia.

Kalman realized that he would not have as much time as Mareš, Horner, and others did in 1918, for, by the afternoon of 9 May 1945, the postal admin-



Fig. 1 (Pardubice); Fig. 2 (Litovel); Fig. 3 (Prague)

istration of Pardubice announced in a telegraphic circular that the privately overprinted stamps were invalid, and the sale of Kalman's was immediately terminated; the following day, the new regulation appeared:

"Currently regular stamps retain their validity. Mail bearing privately overprinted stamps will not be forwarded."

Stamps of the Protectorate remained in use in Pardubice until 16 May 1945. But overprinting of stamps with the Kalman overprint continued during May until the original inks were exhausted. Reports indicate that 461 complete sets were overprinted. Over 300 commemorative sheets were prepared, about half of which were not cancelled. The cancelled stamps were divided among the author, the printer, and others "in" on the plot. The overprinted stamps were used primarily to exchange for other revolutionary issues. But, eventually, printing varieties or peculiarities began to appear, and caused serious friction between the author and the printer. Evidence of the conflict also appeared in the matter of the commemorative sheets in the form of each of them claiming his own authorship on the reverse side of the overprints. But it was not until 17 July 1945 that the overprinting device was destroyed by filing at the Philatelists' Club of Pardubice. An official copy of the statement of destruction together with the filed overprinting device was sent to Prague to the Headquarters of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Organization.

The Kalman overprint is obviously private. Its text, which is not particularly revolutionary, may easily be explained by its origin in time of actual war, in 1944. Thus, the pre-revolutionary preparation of the overprint die, its short-term postal sale, and the actual delivery of mail to distant localities are in its favor; but the case "for" the issue is substantially weakened by the extremely small number of originally overprinted, cancelled stamps, and the continued overprinting after the official repudiation by the Pardubice postal authority.

B. The Litovel Overprints (Figure 2)

The collectors of revolutionary issues and overprints had an extensive correspondence among themselves during the period following the liberation in 1945. Not only did they exchange revolutionary stamps but also traded historic facts, hearsay, and much personal opinion concerning the origin of the issues and overprints. Ing. V. Schiebl of Brunn has made available his correspondence with the philatelists of Litovel, and it was through this correspondence that the origin of the Litovel local overprint became available.

The town of Litovel with a population of 5,000 was liberated by the Soviet Armies on 19 May 1945. Immediately the Philatelists' Club of Litovel set in motion a plan formulated earlier by one of their officers, F. Koupil. An overprint die was prepared by J. Tyl, a club member and typographer employed by the printing firm of Jan Rehledel & Co. On 12 May 1945 the last issues of the Protectorate stamps, from the 10h to the 50 K in addition to the St. Vitus issue, were overprinted on the presses of this printer; altogether 25 values were overprinted. The overprint bears the inscription, "OSVOBOZENÉ ČESKOSLOVENSKO 1945 RUDOU ARMÁDOU" (Liberated Czechoslovakia 1945 by the Red Army).

The color of the overprint is black except in the cases of the 10h, 40h, 50h, and 60h, on which it is red. The dimensions of the overprint, the slope of the lettering of "ČESKOSLOVENSKO", and the size of the lettering were adapted to the varying sizes of the overprinted stamps. There were 1,000 short sets from the 10h to the 80h denominations overprinted, 250 sets of the St. Vitus issue, and somewhat fewer than 100 complete sets up to the 50K denomination.

The overprinting dies were destroyed on the same day, 12 May, in the presence of three club members who had also witnessed the overprinting. The overprinted stamps were sold at the local Philatelic Club, the short set to all comers for 10Kč, and the complete set to Club members only for 170Kč. The sale was terminated on 24 October 1945, upon which date the 10,000 Kč realized from the sale was given to charitable institutions. The overprinted stamps were seldom used postally, but the local post office accepted mail franked with them, primarily out of benevolence and ignorance of the new rulings, though also due possibly to the shortage of stamps which were removed by the retreating German army. Besides, the local post office was busy at the time with its own enterprise which was stamping mail with a red rubber stamp reading, "LITOVEL 9. 5. 1945 — OSVOBOZENÍ LITOVEL RUDOU ARMÁDOU," at a charge of 50h. The proceeds from this effort were also made available to charities.

The Litovel overprint is, of course, of private origin. In every respect it remained the concern of the local philatelic club, which created the entire set purely for themselves as a remembrance of the day of liberation of Litovel.

C. The Prague Overprints

(Figure 3)

The history of the revolutionary Prague overprint has been summarized in the account given by its originators, the Prague philatelic editor, F. Novotný, and the printer and album publisher of Prague, E. Stiburek.

As early as 1940 Stiburek brought to the then-hospitalized Novotný the first trial printings of a "liberation" overprint. These were merely trials on a few mint and used stamps on the current landscape issue. The text of the overprints was set in ordinary type, although it agrees with the final text, "SVOBODNÉ ČESKOSLOVENSKO VE SVOBODNE EVROPE" (Free Czechoslovakia in Free Europe). Stiburek burned the trial overprints out of caution. At a later date some houses in his neighborhood were searched for a secret transmitter.

At the urging of Novotný, Stiburek set the type again and prepared some trial overprintings. Novotný then had the printing firm of Moravec in Prague II prepare ten reduced-size dies; this during the week immediately following the assassination of Heydrich. These dies were prepared personally by the Moravec firm's owner in the absence of his employees. Two of these dies were unsuccessful and were left on a table, but they escaped the notice of the police who shortly thereafter searched the premises. The successful dies were hidden by Stiburek in his own printing shop. Because the personnel of his print shop were drafted, Stiburek began to overprint stamps himself on 29 April 1945; he assembled the dies and in consultation with Novotný began the overprinting with blocks of ten. He worked on the 10h, 30h, 40h, 50h, 60h, and 1.50Kč denominations of the last issue of the Protectorate. The overprint is red except for the 1.50Kč on which it is black.

The sum of all the overprinted denominations is 4.20Kč, which was the postage for registered letters. The overprints were to be used for the franking of a large number of such letters; Stiburek prepared 127 letters and Novotný probably twice that number. These letters were addressed to possible subscribers to his new issue service and contained a mimeographed announcement of a forthcoming philatelic publication "Zpravodaj Filatelistu."

After inconclusive discussions with postal clerks at the Prague 33 Post Office and at the Ministry of Posts the letters were finally accepted at the Ministry of Posts during the morning of 5 May 1945. All the letters and their previously filled-out Registry receipts were properly numbered and the correspondingly numbered labels were affixed to the letters. A portion of the

mailing was cancelled the same morning with the bilingual post mark, but the post office had to be closed before all were cancelled due to the start of street warfare. One postal clerk mentioned the letters while on the barricades to Ing. Mach, a member of the board of the National Collectors Association (Národní Spolek Sběratelu), and raised the question about the date with which the rest of the mailing should be cancelled. Mach was in favor of the original date, and this was actually used when the post office resumed operations on 10 or 11 May. The post mark, however, was nationalized, that is, the German portion of the cancellation was removed. Post Office Prague 33 then transferred the mailing to the main Post Office Prague 31, which, in turn, returned the majority of the letters to the sender.

Altogether 1000 sets were overprinted; the two originators divided these evenly. Some were used in franking the registered letters mentioned above; some were exchanged for other revolutionary overprints; some few were given to philatelists. The overprinting dies were sealed and deposited with Dr. Munk in Prague.

An assessment of these overprints may be made from the contents of the mimeographed letter that Novotný put in the registered mailing that had been franked with the overprinted stamps.

"On the eve of the liberation of Prague I send you a joyous greeting.

On the cover you will find stamps which were prepared during the week of the death of Heydrich. Do not attribute any other significance to the stamps than as a remembrance.

"I hear from all sides that philatelists are preparing overprinted stamps. I should like to call your attention to the fact that these are private issues, just as those you see on this cover. In anticipation that even before you receive this letter, this war will be ended; I greet you most heartily."

Advertising Rates of the Specialist

Amount of space	One issue	Three issues	Five issues	Ten issues
Full page	\$12.00	\$34.50	\$54.00	\$100.00
Half page	8.00	22.80	36.00	64.00
Quarter page	6.00	17.10	27.00	48.00
Eighth page	3.40	9.80	15.30	27.20
Sixteenth page	1.80	5.10	8.10	14.40

(4 lines across page)

1. All amounts are total cost.
2. Discount of 10% for members from total cost if prepaid.
3. For the sixteenth page (4 lines) and thirty-second page (2 lines) ads, there are 70 characters per line for all letters, numbers, punctuation and blank spaces between words.
4. Have your ad double spaced between lines and typed or legibly printed.
5. It is the advertiser's responsibility that his or her copy is correct (proper spelling, abbreviations, punctuation, etc.), as the ad will be printed exactly how it is received.
6. All cuts, mats, etc., will be furnished by the advertiser unless special arrangements are made with the Editor, in which case all charges must be paid by the advertiser for any additional services.
7. The Specialist reserves the right to refuse any advertisement.
8. Send your copy and payment to the Treasurer:

THOMAS MEEKS

532 West 145th St., Apt. 6, New York, N. Y. 10031

Postcards With A Difference

By Milan de Lany

Most of a country's stamps and some post cards reflect that country's history, art and progress. Czechoslovakia is no exception, in fact many of the tragedies and heartaches, as for instance Lidice and Ležáky are memorialized in stamps.

Four and a half years ago Czechoslovakia was invaded by Soviet armies, ending Czechoslovakia's quest for liberalization. While numerous fled Czechoslovakia, others were persecuted and imprisoned. Suffering among them was the intrepid leader of Czechoslovak liberalization, Alexander Dubček.

In August of 1972, on occasion of the fourth anniversary of the invasion, a sympathetic COMMUNIST group in France printed 20,000 post cards bearing a printed message to Dubček. This reads: "Dear Comrade Dubček, we are sending our cordial greetings to you and to all Czechoslovak Communists and Patriots. We believe you are persisting in your struggle. We are with you, so be with us."

Both sides of the unused propaganda post card are illustrated below:



The post cards bear the message in Czech and in French, and the illustration of John Huss bears the caption "PRAVDA VÍTEŽÍ"—Truth Precails. The cards, primarily mailed from France, will no doubt number quite a few mailed from other countries, including Africa. A detailed article concerning the cards and extoling Dubček appeared in the "Daily News" as far away as Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, East Africa.

No legitimate, postally used cards of this type have thus far come to our attention. Should these appear, they would become items of postal history interest, and we therefore hope that Mr. Dubček is carefully filing his mail.

Please mention this publication when answering ads. Thanks!

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

221 East 78th Street

New York, N. Y. 10021
