

# THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Official Monthly Journal of the  Society for Czechoslovak Philately  
Silver Bronze Award Praga 1968

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September 1973

No. 7, Whole No. 333

## NAPEX PROGRAM FIRMED UP

Bill Sandrik, Exhibition Chairman for the Society for Czechoslovak Philately, Inc., at NAPEX reports that all arrangements have been completed for the SOCIETY's participation at NAPEX '73 which takes place at the Merriott Twin Bridges Motor Hotel in Washington, D. C., on September 14-16th.

While it's too late to plan to exhibit, it is not too late to plan to attend and participate in the show's many activities.

All members of the SOCIETY attending NAPEX are requested to register at the Society Lounge which will be located at the show. SOCIETY members and their families are invited to attend a Sunday morning get-together brunch, hosted by the Washington Branch of the SOCIETY, which will take place in nearby Virginia. Please indicate your desire to attend when registering at the SOCIETY's lounge. Transportation will be provided.

Our speaker at the brunch will be Mr. Gordon Torrey, President of Rossica (Society for Russian Philately) and current Chairman of the Expertization Committee of SPA. Mr. Torrey won the Grand Award last year at SEPAD for his "Turkish Postal History" exhibit. At NAPEX Mr. Torrey will be exhibiting "Russian Post Offices Abroad." The subject of Mr. Torrey's talk at the brunch will be Turkish Postal History and related topics.

The Awards Banquet will take place on Saturday evening at the Merriott. At least six major awards will be presented to exhibitors of Czechoslovakia in addition to regular Gold, Silver and Bronze medals awarded by the American Philatelic Society.

## PORTION OF JOHN VELEK'S STUDY COLLECTION BEQUEATHED TO SMITHSONIAN

The SPECIALIST has recently received word that a major segment of the collection of John Velek, whose passing was announced in our June issue, was bequeathed to the Smithsonian Institution. Mr. Carl H. Scheele, Curator, Division of Postal History, states the following in a May 30th letter of acknowledgment to Mrs. John Velek:

" . . . We are very favorably impressed with it and wish to express our gratitude for such an outstanding acquisition.

Within the next several days, we will accession this collection . . . . The outstanding work performed by your late husband will be of great use to the many students of philately who do research with us. Moreover, we will be exhibiting portions of it from time to time and are certain that collectors and the general public will greatly enjoy viewing

such an interesting and comprehensive philatelic study."

In another letter, also dated May 30th and addressed to Dr. J. J. Matejka, Jr., Mr. Scheele notes:

" . . . Naturally, the collection can be used for exhibition and research purposes, and we intend to do both . . . As Ray Norby commented, this fills a great gap in the National Postage Stamp Collection because Czechoslovakian material has not been received in quantities which would enable us to form special study collections. The bequest from Mr. Velek, however, provides the Museum with an excellent and significant group of materials in this sector. The stamps were carefully selected with respect to condition, the research is superior, and the pages have been beautifully prepared."

Members of the SPECIALIST staff have contacted Curator Scheele for an opportunity to see the material and we hope to report on it in the forthcoming issue.

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## From the Editor's Stock Book

Summers used to be periods of relative philatelic inactivity. Our "Leisure" time was spent in keeping the grass below our knees, our vacations within budget (with an eye toward the fall auctions) and our philatelic activities were mainly confined to catching up on our readings. Not so this summer. Auctions in Europe as well as the U. S. are going strong at the time of this writing (end of July)—there was IBRA in Munich, preparations for POLSKA '73 (where we are exhibiting the SPECIALIST), preparations for NAPPEX '73 (where we look forward to seeing you all), our SOCIETY elections, the terrific philatelic cook-out at the Vondras in June and more than the usual quantity of mail from our readers.

Taking things in turn, our congratulations to SOCIETY members Charlie Chesloe and Dr. Matejka who have done their bit at IBRA in reversing the gold flow from our Country. Further congratulations are due two of our members in England: Yvonne King who won a Silver-Bronze at IBRA, and Cyril Wackett who won a Bronze at STAMPEX in London for his showing of VSOREC and RED CROSS overprints. Miss King also participated at STAMPEX with HRADČANY studies and "POŠTA" overprints, winning a Silver as well as a Crystal Vase presented by ARTIA. Finally, a number of names known through their philatelic writings for the SPECIALIST have been honored at HODONIN '73 (CZECHOSLOVAKIA), including Zdeněk

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Kvasnička who exhibited non-competitively, Fr. Žappach, small Gold, Jiří Nekvasil, two large Silvers, and a large Silver to Vojtech Maxa for his showing of perfins. Ing. Jan Karasek, Chairman of the Judges Committee reports strong participation by youth members—an aspect of organized philately which we have yet to master.

Dr. Matejka has informed us that part of John Velek's collection will be sold at auction by the Chicagoland Czechoslovak Philatelic Society sometime this fall. Out of town members wishing to bid may send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Dr. Matejka (Suite 216 Hotel La Salle, Chicago, Ill. 60602) and he will provide a list of materials to be auctioned. We have further learned that the bulk of John's philatelic holdings have been purchased by a prominent dealer and an auction is to take place later this fall. The dealer has been contacted for verification and for details which we hope to bring you in our next issue.

Among the newly elected officers of the Collectors Club of Washington, D. C., we find the name of our own Bill Sandrik as the Club's new executive Secretary.

Lastly, we look forward to seeing ALL of you at NAPEX '73, particularly at our backyard brunch (hosted by the Washington Branch) on Sunday, Sept. 16th. Stop by the SOCIETY booth to arrange for transportation, or notify Bill Sandrik, our NAPEX Chairman. If you care to do some informal swapping in the breeze once brunch and formalities are over, here's your chance.

—HH

#### NEW JERSEY BRANCH HOLDS REGULAR MEETINGS

The first half of this year was a busy one for our New Jersey branch. From January to June, it met regularly each month and enjoyed some very interesting philatelic activities.

The January meeting kicked off with an absorbing talk by Joseph Lacko on the Kosice Marathon. Lacko, who is Vice-President of Sports Philatelists Inc., showed stamps and cancelled covers of this memorable sports event. In February, Mirko Vondra showed his collection of "Posta 1919" along with his S.O. (Eastern Silesia) overprints. In March, Tom Buresch showed his fine collection of Hradčany varieties, including proofs and color trials. Olech Wyslowsky took care of the April meeting by showing philatelic material covering the highlights of soccer in Czechoslovakia. In May, Emil Michaelson deviated from the usual line of Czechoslovak topics by showing censored covers beginning with the Boer War in Africa and ending with Vietnam.

The first half of the year came to a close with an outdoor cookout at the home of our President, Mirko Vondra. Combining with members from the New York branch, the meeting was highlighted with a talk by SPECIALIST Editor Henry Hahn of our Washington, D. C., Branch. Hahn spoke on the 1918 revolutionary issues and buttressed his talk with a remarkable display of colored slides. At the business portion of the meeting, Joseph Stein and Dr. Henry Stollnitz were appointed a two-man committee to undertake to revive the activities of the New York branch which heretofore had been meeting at various members' homes in Brooklyn, but which this year had been somewhat dormant.

All in all, it was a successful six-months for the New Jersey Branch. The first meeting of the fall season has been scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 11 at the home of Mirko Vondra. All New Jersey members and those in the immediate area are invited to attend. Guests of the members are also welcome.

## Charley's Corner

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

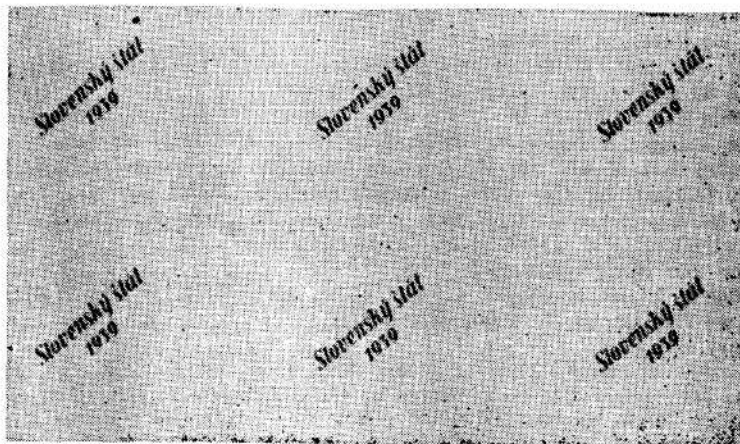


Fig. 1

Czechoslovak philately is replete with overprinted issues, a facet interesting in itself because of the profusion of perfectly legitimate varieties of the various overprints challenging the serious collector at every turn. The overprints of the World War II period are no exception. Several oddities of the first issue of Slovakia, bearing the overprint "Slovenský štát 1939," are well worth considering. They are listed by Scott as numbers 2 through 23, and, although they are not listed by Pofis, many other European catalogues describe them.

The overprint was applied to various Czechoslovak stamps by two processes, one of which was the photogravure process which was used in two formats for different size stamps. The first group to which the overprint was applied includes the values from 5 hellers to 1 Kč. The same photogravure method was applied to the values from 5 Kč to 10 Kč except that the overprint was applied diagonally to fit the size of the stamp. This is shown in Fig. 1.

For the values between 1.20 Kč and 3.50 Kč—Scott #13 through #20—the overprint was applied by a letterpress method, similar to the method used to overprint the "Pošta Československa 1919" series, lending itself to the detection of forgeries by much the same methods. An excellent book on this overprint is available from the Society of Philatelic Americans for \$2.50. It is a translation of a work by Hugo Kaufmann written in Bratislava in



Fig. 2—10h

Fig. 3—40h

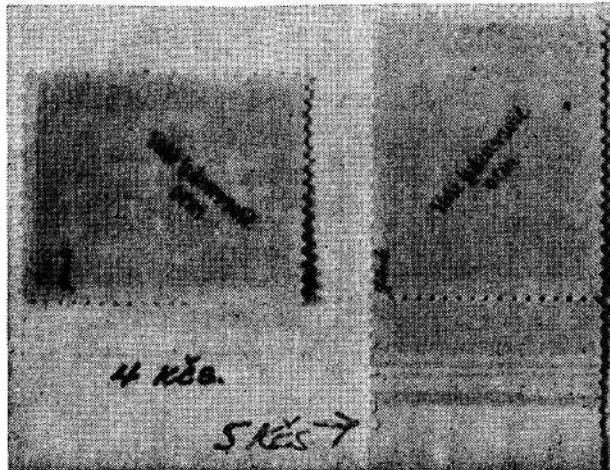


Fig. 4

1939; he was a specialist on this issue, and his book is a "must" for collectors of Slovak stamps.

Figs. 2, 3, and 4 show examples of the offset of the photogravure overprint. These offsets are known to exist for both printing processes on the stamp values up to the 2 Kč and for the 4 Kč value shown.

Inverted overprints are found through the whole set. Figs. 5 and 6 show these inverted overprints, Fig. 6 including an inverted overprint on the selvage of a rejoined pair as reproduced from the Kaufmann study mentioned above. The 10 heller value exists inverted in both normal and shifted positions. Other inverted overprints are known for the 20h, 25h, 50h Stefanik and the 4 Kč value.



Fig. 5

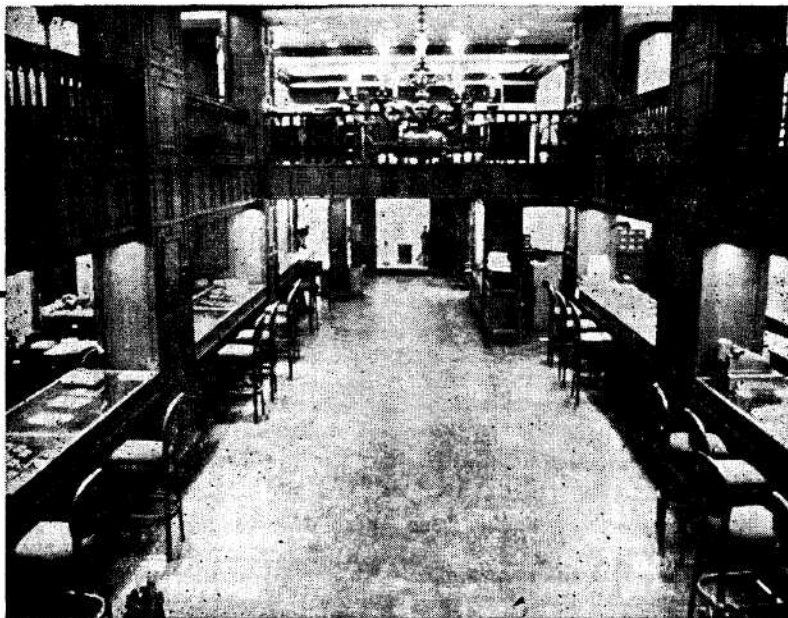
(to be continued)

#### NECROLOGY

We note with sadness the passing of member Jerry Bobek (#575) of Chicago, Ill. The SOCIETY extends his family and friends its heartfelt condolences.

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## POSTAL STATIONERY COLUMN

By Wolfgang Fritzsche

### ENVELOPES

June 4, 1973, for the 27th meeting of the council for joint economic help in Prague which took place June 5 to 8. It is a sideseam envelope, size 192 x 115 mm. The imprinted stamp is multi-colored depicting 3 towers, 2 circles with RVHP and XXVII, several flags and a red star with hammer and sickle. Value 3.60 Kčs (sales price was 4.10) left side of envelope shows a ringed emblem and below the legend: XXVII ZASEDÁNÍ RADY VZAJEMNÉ HOSPODÁŘSKÉ POMOCI V PRAZE 1973.

### AEROGRAMME

May 1973. The current 3.80 Kčs aerogramme now has the legend on back in one long and one short line, 117 mm and 81,5 mm. This is called Type III. The 1971 issue was type I and had one long and one short line on back but they measured 135 mm and 62.5 mm.

### REPORT OF WASHINGTON BRANCH MEETING

The July meeting of the Washington Branch took place at the home of Milan de Lany in Bethesda, Md. While the men considered the finer points of some early CSR stamps, ably illustrated by a set of slides by Henry Hahn, the ladies met separately for some chit-chat of their own. However, they joined the meeting for an interesting report, also illustrated by slides, by Jeff Brown who had just returned from a visit to Czechoslovakia. Highlights of Jeff's visit included a meeting with Prof. R. Gilbert, noted and venerable expert on First Republic issues and an "attempt" to visit Terezin. (Jeff never did get to Terezin—but it was exciting nevertheless.) Jeff's fine slides of Prague evoked nostalgic comment.

The Washington Branch continues to meet the first Saturday evening of each month. Those in the Washington area wishing to receive meeting notices should contact the SPECIALIST.

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