

# THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Official Monthly Journal of the  Society for Czechoslovak Philately, Inc.

Silver Award — INTERPHIL '76

A.P.S. Unit 18

S.P.A. Branch 284

Vol. XXXVIII

November 1976

No. 9, Whole No. 364

## Chicagoland Souvenir Card



In conjunction with Compex-76 and the celebration of the United States Bicentennial, the Chicagoland Czechoslovak Philatelic Society issued a souvenir card honoring our nation and our historical Czechoslovak heritage.

Superimposed upon the background of the card is a picture of Thomas G. Masaryk, the Republic's founder and first president, signing the Czechoslovak Declaration of Independence. Masaryk signed the declaration seated in the same chair used by John Hancock, President of the First Continental Congress when executing this historical document in Independence Hall, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on October 26, 1918.

The souvenir card has a facsimile of the following stamps appearing upon it. The 5c United States overrun nation's Czechoslovak flag stamp; the 10c United States Independence Hall Bicentennial series stamp; the United States

4c Masaryk stamp; a 60 haler Czechoslovak stamp honoring patriot General Milan Stefanik; together with Czechoslovakia's presidential motto, "Pravda Vítězí."

These souvenir cards may be purchased for 75c in mint condition or \$2.00 for a cancelled souvenir card with the Compex show cancellation and/or the United Nations Compex cancellation. Order direct from Dr. James J. Matejka, Jr., Suite 2015, Midland Building, 176 West Adams Street, Chicago, Illinois 60603.

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I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete  
 (signed) Harlan W. Miller, Managing Editor

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## SILESIA

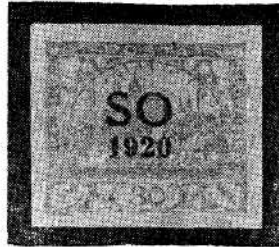
By Mrs. Joseph F. Sterba, Jr.

Chicagoland Czechoslovak Philatelic Society

Eastern Silesia

Plebiscite Issue 1920

imperf 30 heller (bistre), overprinted in red. The letters "S. O." are the initials of "Silesie Orientale."



Silesia is a region located in Central Europe, now a province of South-western Poland. In Polish it is called Slask, in Czech it is Slezsko and in German it is Schlesien.

The name Silesia is derived, according to the German historian Ignaz Imsieg, from the word Silingi, a Vandal tribe. This tribe migrated westward in the 3rd century and by the 10th century the population of this area seems to have been exclusively Slavonic.

### The First Polish Period

The ownership of Silesia appears to have been disputed from early times between the Poles and Czechs. In 1000 A.D. it was attached ecclesiastically to Poland under the Bishop in Breslau, but the Bohemian Dukes continued to claim political sovereignty. In 1054 Emperor Henry III, who had been called upon to act as arbitrator, awarded the area to a Polish Duke as payment to him, by the Bohemians, as an annual contribution for his financial losses. King Boleslaw III of Poland established (in his dominions) a system under which every male member of the House of Piast (illustration 1) would receive a portion of the territory. Upon King Boleslaw III's death in 1138, his eldest son, Wladyslaw, inherited Silesia but was soon evicted from the throne by his younger brother and was sent into exile. The Emperor Frederick I restored Silesia to Wladyslaw's sons. It was then partitioned into two duchies known as Lower, or Northern Silesia, and Upper, or Southeastern Silesia. These, in turn, were subdivided again by following generations until, by the end of the 14th century, there were no less than 18 Silesian principalities. All of these acknowledged a certain unity which was expressed in periodical meetings of the ruling Princes under the leadership of the senior Piast of the Silesian line.

### Piast's Dynasty

Issued in remembrance of Polish Kings of the Piast Dynasty. First Day of Issue: November 29, 1975.

Piast Eagle, from the gravestone of Henryk IV (14th Century).

Seal of Prince Boleslaw of Legnica (14th Century).

Coin of the last Piast, Jerzy Weillhelm (1660-1675).

(Illustration 1)



Tombstone statue Bretislav I—issued May 9, 1968. Bretislav (1037-1055) was one of the “giants” of early Bohemia—Prmysl Dynasty.

(Illustration 2)



In the meantime the ethnic composition of the population had been modified by the arrival of German settlers, the first coming from Flanders, who arrived before the end of the 12th century. Henry the Bearded, Duke of Silesia, colonized Silesia extensively and systematically divided it into areas, each having a central town surrounded by villages with German settlers, mostly farmers. After the devastation of the country by the Tatar invasion of 1241, much of the early work had been undone, but Henry's successors and his cousins resumed the work on the same system. Breslau was refounded as a German town, and many other villages similarly grew and expanded. Breslau became a member of the Hanseatic League while other towns became important trading centers. This area became the hub, or center, of all trade between Eastern and Western Europe.

(To be continued)

### CORRECTION

The correct address for Edward A. Krejci (under Patron members in the membership list), should be 3705 South 49th St., Omaha, Nebr. 68106. We regret the error and confusion that the incorrect address might cause.



(Advertisement)



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- 7) You'll love their motion—like illustrations of the colorful world of sport
- 8) You'll see why Czechoslovakia has gained international recognition for its advanced techniques of stamp reproduction, harmony of color and outstanding artistry
- 9) They represent the work of their finest artists and engravers
- 10) Czechoslovakia's stamps are neither too large or small—just stamps as stamps should be!

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## From the President's Stock Book

Keeping in touch with one another by mail or through the *SPECIALIST* as a means of sharing our hobby is what the majority of our members must settle for. Those of us living within a reasonable distance of a Society Branch meeting, with an opportunity to exercise personal contact with fellow collectors, are indeed the lucky few. I'm therefore very pleased to announce formation of the Cleveland Branch with the granting of Branch designation by a majority vote of the Directors of the Society. Signatories to the Branch application include Laddie Pata, J. E. Mach, Jack Benchik, Mark S. Hross and N. T. Strnad. We urge those living in the Cleveland area to contact any of the above (check for address in the October *SPECIALIST*) for time and place of the next meeting. We wish this Branch much success and growth in future years.

Judging by the mint appearance of one of our not-too-recent library acquisitions, I gather that not many of our collectors have read "Die Postwertzeichen der Sudetenlandes" by Drs. J. H. Hoer and E. Dub. The fact that the book is in German may have deterred some, while others may be getting all they need from Prof. Richet's work and *SPECIALIST* translation. Yet, having just plowed through its 479 pages, and knowing that Sudetenland is a popular subject, I'd like to briefly comment on it.

Let me note that my friends insist that I am easy to please when it comes to food, mediocre musical performances, and books read for pleasure. Some simply say that I have bad taste—though I prefer to think that I have a unique talent for finding and dwelling on the "good" part of the whole. Getting back to "Die Postwertzeichen"—I'm afraid the pickings were indeed slim, though I can't really say the book put me to sleep. The reason for that is that the pages upon pages of violently anti-Czech tirades wouldn't let me. To prove to myself that politics really don't matter when it comes to stamps, I put a huge Hitler stamp with one of my Theresienstadt banknotes bearing Moses in the same glassine envelope overnight to see if they would bite one another. They didn't which clearly proves that philately can very well get along without politics, chauvinism and the like.

The book's main and too frequently repeated theme is that **ONLY** six Sudetenland issues are legitimate (Asch, Niklasdorf, Rumburg, Karlsbad, Koustantienbad and Reichenberg-Maffersdorf). The defense of these issues, to which a whole chapter and then some is devoted, is based on such far fetched rationale as would indeed make one suspicious.

The true challenge facing the reader is seeking out philatelic information. One plows through comparisons of the area of the Sudetenland as compared to those of Fiume, Monaco, San Marino, etc., as well as 44 instances of Mexican, Venezuelan, Portuguese, Danish, Finnish and Surinamese issues cited to demonstrate or prove the necessity and hence philatelic legitimacy of the Sudetenland issues.

In an outburst of modesty, the authors include nearly two dozen complimentary letters received "spontaneously" following publication of the first printing of their book in 1941. (Our edition is from the second printing in 1963.)

Still not giving up on finding and enjoying the "good" part of the whole, the book is well illustrated, cloth bound and well printed (though not typeset.)

Do I collect this stuff? Of course I do;—it's Czecho-related and part of the sad story. Would I recommend the book? Yes—once somebody boiled the text down to about fifty pages.

## The Issues, Surcharges, Cancellations and Vignettes of the Sudetenland (1880-1970)

By Roger Richet, SCP — Translated by Anne Vondra

**Note:** The original French edition of the book contains some 300 illustrations which greatly enhance the enjoyment and understanding of this unillustrated, serialized translation. Serious students of this topic are urged to purchase the original, paper bound French edition from the SOCIETY. Please see advertisement appearing frequently in the SPECIALIST.

(Continued)

- a) The "w" has an almost straight third stroke, with scarcely a wave in it.
- b) The final "d" of the first line turns its curved stroke almost straight up.
- c) The "f" at the beginning of the second line has a tiny rounded head at the top without any curve, and the foot of the letter is strong and squared off at the bottom.
- d) The dot over the "i" of "frei" almost touches the "i".
- e) The dot of the exclamation point at the end of the words is clearly below the line of the other letters of the text.

There were forty stamps (postage, air, newspaper) in this issue of Moravska-Ostrava, one of the most extensive issues of its kind. This is the complete list:

Coat of Arms series (Yvert Nos. 252 to 256):

- |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1—5 h. blue   | 4—25 h. green |
| 2—10 h. brown | 5—50 h. lilac |
| 3—20 h. red   |               |

Portrait series (Yvert Nos. 298, 302, 308 and 310):

- |                   |                      |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| 6—40 h. dark blue | 8—60 h. violet       |
| 7—50 h. green     | 9—1 Kc carmine-lilac |

Views (Yvert Nos. 311 to 319):

- |                         |                    |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 10—1.20 Kc lilac        | 15—3 Kc dark brown |
| 11—1.50 Kc carmine      | 16—3.50 Kc violet  |
| 12—1.60 Kc olive        | 17—4 Kc violet     |
| 13—2 Kc dark blue-green | 18—5 Kc dark green |
| 14—2.50 Kc dark blue    | 19—10 Kc dark blue |

Air Post (Yvert Nos. 10 to 17)

- |                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 20—50 h. green     | 24—4 Kc dark blue    |
| 21—1 Kc red        | 25—5 Kc dark brown   |
| 22—2 Kc dark green | 26—10 Kc ultramarine |
| 23—3 Kc dark lilac | 27—20 Kc slate blue  |

Children in Art (Yvert Nos. 325, 326)

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 28—50+50 h. dark green | 29—1 Kc+50 h. carmine |
|------------------------|-----------------------|

20th Anniversary of the Republic (Yvert Nos. 347, 348):

- |                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 30—2 Kc grey-blue | 31—3 Kc light brown |
|-------------------|---------------------|

Newspaper stamps (Yvert Nos. J17 to 25):

- |                        |                           |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 32—2 h. ochre          | 37—12 h. dark blue-violet |
| 33—5 h. light blue     | 38—20 h. green-black      |
| 34—7 h. red            | 39—50 h. dark brown       |
| 35—9 h. emerald green  | 40—1 Kc grey-olive        |
| 36—10 h. reddish brown |                           |

At this point let me mention a very interesting and quite rare variety of No. 27 (Airmail 20 Kc, slate blue) which had incomplete perforations. The missing perforations were at the top of the stamp, next to each of the corner "teeth." This of course is also true of the original Czech stamp of this period. All the above values exist in the two types described above.

It is possible to find covers with mixed franking on them: stamps of either Type I or Type II coupled with stamps with no overprint at all; or one can find stamps of Type I and Type II with or without stamps which were not overprinted, all on the same envelope.

On these covers, beginning on March 14, 1939, there were often cancellations full of the Führer's praise, and of propaganda extolling the city of Moravska-Ostrava as the "City of Black Diamond."

Before the issue of the two types of overprints which we have just discussed, there was a temporary hand-stamped overprint applied to the low-value Coat of Arms series in dark blue-black ink.

The swastika of this overprint is even larger and measures 8.5 mm. across and 1.5 mm. thick. The gothic miniscules of the words "Wir sind frei" are 2.5 mm. high.

This first series is very little known to specialists.

For this little history we must mention the altogether special and unusual cancellation of January 10, 1943, produced at Mährisch-Ostrau (Moravska-Ostrava) for use on the stamp commemorating Stamp Day. It is also to be found on the rest of the stamps in use in the Protectorate at that time.

Unlike the other postal cancellations of the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, which were bilingual, in German and in Czech, this one used only German, which goes to show how very German the population of Mährisch-Ostrau was then, and the reason for the overprints issued by this town, as described at the beginning of this chapter.

Another fact which makes this cancellation unique is that there was no mention in it of the day it was commemorating.

Let us point out the fact that various other types of cancellations appeared in the Protectorate in German.

#### B.—The Iglau Cancellation

Iglau (Jihlava) is a beautiful Moravian town of 30,000 located on the river of the same name. Rich in history, Jihlava derives its prosperity from commerce and industry. Like Moravska-Ostrava, it had a large German majority population, but, because of its geographical location, its history was different.

While Moravska-Ostrava was just a short distance from the occupied territory of the Sudetenland, Jihlava was almost in the heart of western Moravia. The pro-German elements in Jihlava had no hope whatsoever of being incorporated into the Sudetenland, for the whole of Moravia would have had to be annexed in that case, and there could have been no Protectorate of Bohemia-Moravia.

Nevertheless, the large German majority of the population of Jihlava wanted to proclaim their joy at the establishment of the Protectorate by applying a special cancellation, much like the different kinds which the Sudetens produced, to the mail deposited at the Jihlava central postoffice.

This special cancellation was stamped in black usually next to the postmark on the stamp by means of the same stick. It consisted of three lines in



gothic lettering: "Iglau 1 / 15 März 1939 / Die Heimat ist frei" and it measured 35 mm. in length and 20 mm. in height. The translation of the text is: "Iglau 1 / 15 March / 1939 / The fatherland is free."

(Picture)

This cancellation appeared in two different types, which are easily differentiated by the height of the letters of the third line of the text "Die Heimat ist frei." In one of the types the small letters measure 2 mm. high and in the other they are 3½ mm.

The special cancellation of Iglau (Jihlava) is unique in the history of the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia and of the German occupation for it was the only town in the former Czechoslovak Republic to express joy at its submission to the Reich on March 15, 1939, when the whole country was taken under the German wing to "protect" it.

In addition to the special cancellation described above, Iglau also used the other pro-Nazi propaganda postmark, which was much like all the other such stamps used by the Sudetens and was imprinted on the postage stamps along with the date mark.

This round cancellation was applied in violet or in carmine-rose and measured 31 mm. in diameter over all; the swastika was 10 mm. across and was 1½ mm. thick and the circular lettering of the words of the text were 4 mm. high.

Doubtless it was to show his fellow-feeling for the German population of Iglau that the Fuehrer spent the night of March 16th there on his way to Brünn (Brno), where he passed the night of the 17th on his way to Pressburg (Bratislava).

A few other towns of the Protectorate produced cancellations expressing effulgent tributes to the Fuehrer, but none equaled that of Iglau.

## CHAPTER VI

### Local Issues in the Sudetenland

Two series of local issues, far separated in time, made their appearances in the Sudetenland: the local issues of Leitmeritz (Litomerice) and the issue of the Theresienstadt (Teresin) Concentration Camp of evil memory. We shall examine each of these two series.

#### The Issues of Leitmeritz

Leitmeritz (Litomerice) is a large industrial city of northern Bohemia with 30,000 inhabitants, north of Prague on the Labe (Elbe) River and having a large German population.

In 1872 Dr. Elb of Dresden took the initiative in providing the city of Leitmeritz with stamps for the local post, but the service never got started and the local stamps of Leitmeritz are classified as never issued.

What happened was that the authorization to issue stamps at Leitmeritz was denied by the Austro-Hungarian imperial postal service (such a denial as was seen in the case of an attempt to issue the first local stamp of Vienna), for the Austro-Hungarian postal service was not as lenient towards private locale initiative as the Germans were.

These never-issued, imperforate, excellently executed stamps display a heraldic lion something like the lion of Bulgaria, which is nothing less than the traditional lion of Bohemia with the double-tufted tail and they carry the legend in German "Leitmeritz E. d. A. Hofer Express für Localbriefe."

(picture)

There were eleven values in this series, 21x25 mm., and some of these are quite rare today:

1— 1 Kr. light blue	7—12 Kr. blue
2— 2 Kr. carmine	8—15 Kr. lilac
3— 3 Kr. yellow	9—20 Kr. brown
4— 4 Kr. brown-yellow	10—25 Kr. blue
5— 5 Kr. dark green	11—50 Kr. yellow-green olive
6—10 Kr. crimson	

The value is printed in black on each stamp.

In 1880 there were other local imperforate stamps for Leitmeritz, having the same provenance, and suffering the same fate as the others before them. They bore the legend "EXPRESS E. D. HOFER COMPAGNIE LEITMERITZ" a little like the one on the stamps described above.

This second series had no better luck than the first, not being permitted by the Austro-Hungarian Postal Service, in spite of the efforts of its originator.

Five different types make up this new series of "never issued" stamps:

(picture)

5 Kr., large number in a vertical rectangle, 27 mm. x 21 mm.

10 Kr., number in a square, 23 mm. each side.

15 Kr., number in a square, 22.5 mm. each side, with chanfered corners.

(picture)

25 Kr., number in a triangle with a 44 mm. base and 33 mm. sides.

50 Kr. (for parcels: a dove carrying a piece of mail in its beak, in an octagon measuring 13 mm. each side.

In each type the following eleven colors were used: mauve, golden yellow, sea green, light brick red, yellow-green, grey-lilac, chrome yellow, light blue, dark blue and buff.

The appearance of these "stamps" corresponds strangely enough with the first series of local issues of Hamburg, both in their lithography and in the pastel colors used.

Some people regard this issue merely as fancy seals; they really are authentic "never issued" stamps.

There were two printings: one with thin letters, the other with thick ones.

#### Theresienstadt Concentration Camp Issue

Of a totally different nature is the issue of Theresienstadt, associated as it is with human misery, and being a recognized stamp.

Theresienstadt (Teresin or Terezin) is a town of 8,000 population in northern Bohemia in which mining and tanning industries flourish. At one time it was a fortified position established by Emperor Joseph II to defend Bohemia against Prussia.

By an irony of fate, Hitler's Germany in 1941 chose it as the location of a concentration camp, the only one to be open to the inspection and control of the International Red Cross. This camp, however, served only as a way-station en route to the Polish camps and the gas chambers, where the French writer Robert Desnos, died on June 8, 1945.

(To be continued)

## Editor's Gazette

by Jane Sterba, 6624 Windsor Avenue, Berwyn, Ill. 60402

### HAFNIA-76:

1976 marks the 125th anniversary of the Danish Postal Service's introduction of the stamp as a postal voucher for mail items. It was the wish of the Danish philatelists to celebrate this event by arranging a comprehensive international stamp exhibition in Copenhagen, Denmark. The exhibition was called Hafnia after the Latin name for Copenhagen. The Bella Center, which is less than a year old, is Northern Europe's largest and most modern exhibition center. The facilities and ultramodern exhibition halls provided at the Bella Center were ideal and the exhibits were efficiently arranged. Since large exhibitions generally result in physical fatigue, lounge facilities were provided everywhere within the exhibition area to allow for relaxation.

The opening ceremony which took place August 20th, 1976, in the Congress Hall of the Bella Center, was attended by philatelists from all over the world. The Danish Royal Guard Regimental Band rendered musical selections prior to the entrance of Her Majesty Queen Ingrid who was escorted by Mr. Tage Buntzen, President of Hafnia-76. Brief addresses were given by Henrik Eis, Secretary General of Hafnia; Tage Buntzen, President of Hafnia; Poul Hansen, Director General of the Royal Danish Post; Leon Putz, President of the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie; Egon Weidekamp, Chief Burgomaster of Copenhagen and Niels Mathiasen, Minister of Public Works. With the Regimental Band playing Frank Loesser's "Wonderful Copenhagen," all present were invited to attend a lovely reception—a Danish smorgasbord. Hafnia-76 was officially opened.

The exhibition had a total of 4,500 frames and a total of 54 countries participated in the Competition Class. I shall give you a brief resume of the Czechoslovak philatelic exhibits and their awards. Mr. Max Mahr of Germany—Prix D'Honneur; SCP member Gosta Hedbom of Sweden—Gold Medal; SCP member V. B. Flindt of Denmark—Vermeil Medal; Dr. B. Svoboda of Czechoslovakia—Vermeil Medal; Mr. V. Krutina of Czechoslovakia—Silver Medal; Mr. J. Gabler of Czechoslovakia—Silver Medal; SCP member Kay Goodman of Great Britain—Silver medal with Felicitations of the jury; Mr. W. Eulenhof of Germany—Silver Medal.

Czechoslovakia—Postal History collections were as follows: SCP member P. H. Jensen of Norway—Silver Medal with a Special Award of the jury; SCP member Preben Larsen of Denmark—Silver Medal; and Dr. W. Rauck of Germany—Bronze Medal.

Mr. V. Krajic of Czechoslovakia had a collection of Zeppelinpost entered under Aerophilately-Zeppelin mail and was a recipient of a Vermeil Medal.

The awards were not the customary type medals. This time they took the form of a finger ring which can be worn, making a lovely remembrance of Hafnia-76.

A very efficient and accomodating press room and staff, under the direction of Hans Ehlerl Jensen, was available and it was my pleasure to use their facilities.

In conjunction with Hafnia-76, a total of three miniature sheets were issued to raise money to cover some of the costs of the exhibition. August 20th was the first day of the third and final miniature sheet issued honoring Hafnia-76. It is a very lovely miniature sheet of the 100-year-old Danish painting by Otto Bache titled "A String of Horses Outside an Inn." There is no connotation in the painting's main subject but in the foreground, to the right, is a red-coated postillion blowing his horn. Behind him near the inn

you see the village postman handing a letter to a young maiden standing with the innkeeper. The inn's importance was only as a resting place but the postillion was Lars Christian Andersen and he was a stagecoach driver on the mail route between Skiby and Roskilde, Denmark. The original painting was on display at Hafnia-76. The miniature sheet was the work of artist Holger Philipsen and engraver Czeslaw Slania. Mr. Slania is also the engraver to the Swedish Court. Both were in attendance at Hafnia-76 and it was possible to have them sign miniature sheets and related material, another remembrance of Hafnia-76.

I cannot report on the palmeres, inasmuch as my husband, Joe, and I did not attend it. The tickets were approximately \$85.00 (for 2 people) and since Joe enjoys only a good Czech-kitchen type of food, we decided that we would omit that luxury of the show.

My most memorable moments of Hafnia-76 were meeting old friends and becoming acquainted with members of our Society who live in the Scandinavian countries. On opening day it was so nice to again see Mr. Rudolf Fischer, Minister of Posts of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic; Mr. and Mrs. Max Mahr of Germany; SCP member Kay Goodman of Great Britain; Dr. Severin Zrubec of Czechoslovakia; SCP member Dr. and Mrs. Wm. Reiner-Deutsch. Both Mr. Zrubec and Dr. Reiner-Deutsch served as members of the jury of Hafnia-76. Dr. Reiner-Deutsch also had his collection of Czechoslovak Fieldposts—World War I period on exhibit under "Collections of the Jury," which is a non-competitive class. SCP member George Koplowitz and his wife, Edith, were also in attendance at Hafnia as was Otto Hornung of Great Britain. I was very happy to meet our Scandinavian fellow collector-members Mr. P. H. Jensen of Norway, Mr. P. Larsen of Denmark and Mr. V. B. Flindt of Denmark. I took some colored slides of the aforementioned members but they are a little too dark to be printed in the Specialist. I will forward copies to you all in the near future. I enjoyed visiting with all our members and friends and I appreciate the views and suggestions offered to me by our members relative to the Specialist. I will try to fulfill your wishes in forthcoming issues.

Joe and I were so happy to meet our collector friends from Czechoslovakia: honorary SCP member Ing. Jan Karásek of Brno, the Žampach brothers from Brno and Jíří Nováček of Prague, author of "Filatelistický Maratón," issued in connection with Praga-68. There were other collectors from Czechoslovakia in attendance at the show however Joe and I are very sorry we did not get to meet them. We will have to leave this pleasure for the future—PRAGA-78!

I have not elaborated on the specialized collections as above mentioned. This would be impossible as they all merit the highest recognition. Congratulations on behalf of myself, the officers and members of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately.

In closing, special mention and recognition should be given Mr. Rudolf Fischer, Minister of Posts, for the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic. Under Mr. Fischer's direction a very outstanding 10-frame government display was exhibited at Hafnia-76 in the Postal Administrations and Museums Official Class. The Czechoslovak government exhibit seemed to attract the attention of many visiting collectors at the show, who paused to study this outstanding display.

I hope you have enjoyed reading about Hafnia-76 as much as I enjoyed being in attendance, as well as trying to convey some of the highlights and events of Hafnia-76 to you.

**AMPHILEX 77:**

It is said that it is a woman's prerogative to change her mind, but in this matter it was the Committee from Amphilex which sent me a notice, only this week, that there have been some changes in Commissioners for the Amphilex-77 Philatelic World Exhibition. Mr. Theo van Dam, P. O. Box 26, Brewster, N. Y. 10509 is the United States' Eastern Commissioner, Mr. Fred Blau, P. O. Box 59153, Chicago, Ill. 60659, is the Midwest Commissioner and Mr. Frank W. Julsen, 8721 Via La Serena, Paradise Valley, Ariz. 85253, the Western Commissioner. Mr. Fred Blau also is organizing a group trip, via KLM, to Amsterdam for the philatelic show. For provisional entry forms and further information about joining the group going to Amsterdam please contact the aforementioned.

**Charley's Corner**

Box 237, Willow Springs, Ill. 60480

In 1926 all of the values of the 1920 Agriculture and Science issue were overprinted and became postage due stamps. Many varieties existed on the original issue and varieties occurred when overprinting this issue. A great deal of study could be devoted to these varieties and a small, specialized collection could be assembled on these two issues of stamps.

Figure 1 shows a block of the 60/400 a joined type with a missing vertical perforation on the sheet margin.

A very unusual and not a common error appears in figure 2, the overprinted 50/400. This is type II, the wide 00's in 400. I have no personal knowledge of exactly how many cop-

ies were overprinted but certainly no more than 2 or 3 sheets could have occurred. One of our society's dealers, Alfons Stach, once informed me that to his knowledge there was only 1 sheet found, which would make it as rare as the famous 24c inverted U. S. Airmail stamp of 1918. The last time I saw this error offered for sale was over 2 years ago and the asking price was \$200.00.



Fig. 2  
(Above)



Fig. 1  
(Left)



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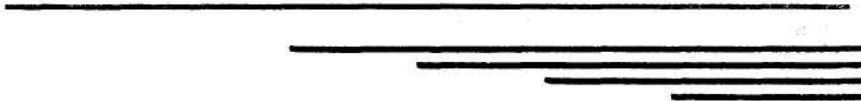
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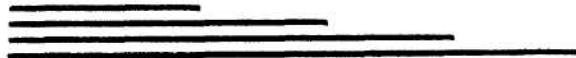
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## A Philatelic Appeal

Mr. Leon Berger of New York recently sent a request to the "Svaz Ceskoslovenskych Filatelistu" (Federation of Czechoslovak Philatelists) in Prague seeking help in establishing a stamp club for elderly, physically and visually handicapped persons interested in Czechoslovak philately. The "Svaz" forwarded some stamps and material to Mr. Berger for the clubs use and also forwarded a copy of his request to our Society in the hope that we could be of some assistance in this endeavor. The "Svaz" thought that perhaps some of our members could be of some help to Mr. Berger, seeing that he lives in the United States.

Would it be possible for some members to contact Mr. Berger at BCA Clubs, 201 Sullivan Street, New York, N.Y. 10012, and make arrangements to exchange stamps with him and his friends?

Mr. Berger has lost 90% of his eyesight due to glaucoma, but wears special glasses for reading and working on his hobby. The Editor realizes that Mr. Berger is not a member of our Society but in the words of Stephen Grellet "I shall pass through this world but once. Any good I can do, or any kindness that I can show any human being, let me do it now and not defer it. For I shall not pass this way again."

J.S.

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