

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Official Monthly Journal of the



Society for Czechoslovak Philately, Inc.

Silver Award — INTERPHIL '76

SILVER AWARD — CAPEX '78

A.P.S. Unit 18

S.P.A. Branch 284

Vol. XXXX

September 1978

No. 7, Whole No. 382

EDITOR'S GAZETTE

By Jane Sterba, 6624 Windsor Ave., Berwyn, Ill. 60402

PRAGA '78—September 8-17th, 1978

Society for Czechoslovak Philately Luncheon in Prague, Park Hotel

Official notification from Dr. Frantisek Svarc, Chairman of the Organizational Committee of Praga '78 has been received by your President and Chairman, advising us that arrangements have been made for our Society Luncheon to be held in the Park Hotel. The luncheon is on Saturday, September 9, 1978, at 1:00 p.m., and is in cooperation with the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain. The Park Hotel is within walking distance of Julius Fucik Park of Culture, the largest exhibition building housing Praga '78. The address is—Veletrzni #20.

A cordial invitation is extended to you, your family, and friends to join us at this luncheon. The cost of the luncheon is to be paid by each individual attending the luncheon. The menu and cost of the luncheon has not been finalized at press time, but the savoriness of foods prepared by Czechoslovakian cooks is celebrated and known all over Europe. We will not be disappointed in the menu selected.

It is with great anticipation that I am looking forward to Praga '78, the exhibition and events being planned will make it a success and pleasure to attend. I am looking forward to meeting you all at Prague, during Praga '78.

A detailed program of events taking place in conjunction with Praga '78 will be issued in Prague. For initial planning purposes the following basic themes and activities have already been established.

Wednesday and Thursday, Sept. 6 and 7

47th FIP Congress

FIP Executive Committee session

FIP Executive and Directive Committees joint session

Friday, Sept. 8

PRAGA '78 WORLD POSTAGE STAMPS EXHIBITION DAY—

Official Exhibition opening

Helicopter flight with mail transport

Saturday, Sept. 9

YOUTH PHILATELY DAY

Society For Czechoslovak Philately Luncheon in cooperation with the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain—1:00 p.m.—Park Hotel, Veletrzni 20, Praha 7

Sunday, Sept. 10
 CZECHOSLOVAK POSTAGE STAMP DAY

Monday, Sept. 11
 THEMATIC PHILATELY DAY

Tuesday, Sept. 12
 POSTAL HISTORY DAY—AEROPHILATELY DAY
 Helicopter flight with mail transport

Wednesday, Sept. 13
 INTERNATIONAL PHILATELIC FEDERATION DAY

Thursday, Sept. 14
 WORLD AND INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS DAY

Friday, Sept. 15
 POSTAL UNION DAY

Saturday, Sept. 16
 UNITED NATIONS DAY
 Palmares Praga '78
 Balloon flights with mail transport

Sunday, Sept. 17
 PEACE, FRIENDSHIP and COOPERATION DAY
 Official termination of the Exhibition—Peace message

CAPEX '78

At 5 a.m. on a gloomy, drizzly June 8th morning, in the still sleeping City of Berwyn, your President-Editor sat and reclined in her mode of transportation to Toronto. "Petunia," our 1974 Dodge Dart, was ready for the calm journey. The chauffeur (hubby Joe) had the motor purring, ready to shift the gears into drive, when suddenly there was panic! Where were the traveler's checks? "Do you have them?" "No, you have them." In reality neither one of us had them. Now where did I hide them? Following a frantic half hour of searching, a threatened strike uttered by the chauffeur, the traveler's checks were soon located and in our possession. Ruffled

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feathers were smoothed, temperaments calmed and collected, and again we were off to Capex '78.

Following an uneventful drive, via Detroit, Michigan, we crossed the Ambassador Bridge into Windsor, Ontario, Canada. Here Mr. Sun began to shine down on the lovely Canadian farmland and the modern expressway. Our destination and over-night stop was Stratford, a minute town very similar to its English namesake, situated on the River Avon. It is noted for its beautiful park system which is located along the river's edge and for its deep involvement with the plays of Wm. Shakespeare. The Stratford Shakespearian Festival is held here during the summer season and it is rated among North America's major cultural events.

The following morning we began the final lap of our journey. Driving Northeast down the quiet back-roads, avoiding the modern expressway, "Pe-tunia" took us through the picturesque villages and countryside of South Central Ontario. We arrived at the Carlton Inn, Toronto, late on Friday afternoon.

The exhibition was located in the automotive building on the grounds of the Canadian National Exhibition in Central Toronto, overlooking Lake Ontario and only a few steps away from Ontario Place. On Friday, June 9th, an evening preview reception was held. In a relaxed manner it was possible to view the exhibits, visit the dealers, as well as enjoy the refreshments which were being served. We met collector friends from many parts of the world and also became acquainted with a stamp collecting family from Muscatine, Iowa.

It may appear that I am singling out Greg Manning Company, Inc., for special recognition, but his exhibit, "World Rarities at Capex '78," was a collection of philatelic material that the average collector does not have in his collection. The Black Honduras, The Four Cent Columbian (color error), Bermuda's Perot issue, The Basel Dove and Double Geneva stamps (issued by the Swiss canton of Basel in 1845 and 1843 respectively) could be viewed. Canada's 1851 Twelve Pence stamp and our U. S. one cent stamp of 1851 and the 1869 inverted centers were also displayed among the rarities. A complimentary souvenir booklet was presented to you at the completion of your tour through the exhibit. The booklet contains an illustration and paragraph of the history of the stamps exhibited. A worthwhile item to have in your philatelic library, as well as a remembrance from Capex.

An interesting highlight of Capex was a flashback to the days before the world took to wheels and wings. Stanley J. Sarzin, an Algonquin Indian from the Golden Lake Reserve, Canada, who makes birchbark canoes as a hobby and in the same manner that his forefathers did, arrived at Capex with a canoe about three-quarters completed. He completed the canoe during the exhibition, demonstrating to interested visitors the intricacies of this fast vanishing craft.

Rounding the corner of the canoe, Capex-78 visitors could view some of the most modern mail processing equipment in the world. Post office personnel were available to explain the operations of the various pieces of equipment, and an actual working demonstration was presented.

On Saturday, June 10th, the public opening and first day ceremonies took place. Among dignitaries participating with members of the Capex committee were Governor General and Mrs. Jules Legner, J. Gilles Lamontagne, P.C., M.P.—Postmaster General of Canada, as well as Mr. W. F. Bolger, Postmaster General of the United States.

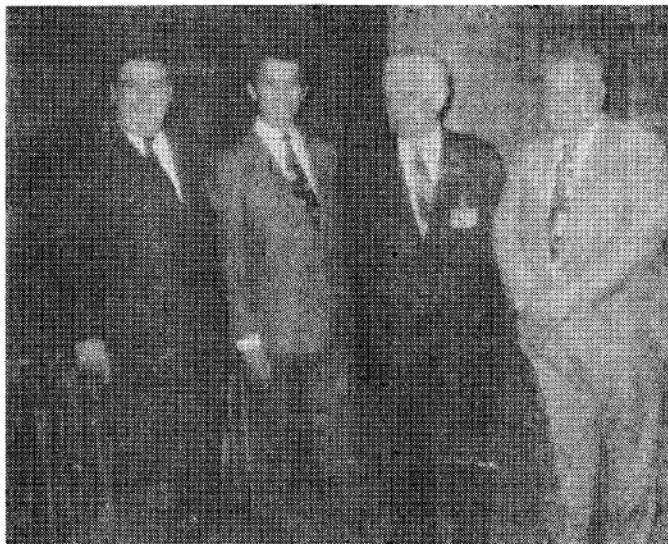
To honor Capex '78, which was the second Canadian International Stamp

Exhibition ever to be held, the Canadian Postal System issued a series of 3 stamps. The values of the stamps are 14c, 30c, and \$1.25. Each stamp features the stamp-on-stamp design, incorporating reproductions of classic stamps from Canada's past. The first souvenir sheet ever to be issued by Canada Post's was also placed on sale on June 10th. The same series of three stamps were printed on the souvenir sheet, outlined with perforations. The Capex '78 symbol, dates of the exhibition, the UPU symbol and the dates marking the centennial of Canada's entry into the Universal Postal Union also are on the souvenir sheet. I was told that about three and a half million of these souvenir sheets were printed, but I have not officially noted nor can remember if that figure is correct. Will they go up in value? You paid 1.69 (in Canadian funds) for the souvenir sheet. Here locally, at our neighborhood bourse, they are selling for \$2.50 and \$3.00. In the advertisements appearing in the philatelic press, they are being offered for 3.00 and \$3.50. It will be interesting to follow the prices realized for this souvenir sheet.

Opening day, June 10th, was a very warm, humid and sunny Saturday morning, with a beautiful blue sky. Our good friends, Frances and Harlan Miller (managing editor and printer of our Specialist), stood beneath the blazing sun's rays in a queue for approximately 3½ hours, waiting to purchase admission tickets. Mr. Miller still showed the effects of the sun's rays at the SCP luncheon (which took place one week later) while Frances was endowed with a beautiful sun tan.

The Sterba's stood 5½ hours in one of the many queues to purchase the Canadian philatelic material. It will be an unforgettable experience, as an occasional stamp collector fainted. Our queue had about 6 such cases. The emergency medical teams were very busy. It was rumored that about a total of 18 collectors fainted on opening day from heat exhaustion. I have often heard the comment "stamp collectors are very unique people." I can agree whole heartedly with this comment. Those collectors overcome by the heat and revived, continued to stand in their queue, insisting that they wanted to purchase the newly issue stamps. It was necessary to coax them to the front, in order that they could purchase their stamps and leave. When we left our little group, after purchasing our stamps, we felt we were parting with old friends. Everyone knew what the next collector collected, for how long, what they had purchased and sold during their years of philatelic dealings. Hind sight generally prevailed over fore-sight. Another aspect of philately.

Among the philatelic souvenirs available at Capex '78, was a series of specially printed, limited edition, souvenir sheets prepared by the three security printing firms who print Canada's postage stamps. Only 10,000 sets were printed and each sheet was numbered. Each set has the same, matched set of numbers. The actual cost for the set of three sheets was \$2.50 for the admission ticket and \$10.00 (Canadian) per set. They were sold on a limited basis, one for every admission ticket. There was a line to purchase the admission ticket, then there was another line to purchase the set of souvenir sheets. If you were a member of the Royal Beaver Club you received a matched set of sheets as part of your membership privileges. Membership in the Beaver Club was \$25.00. I noted today that these sheets are being offered for sale for the mere price of \$95.00, mint. Another point of interest is that the three firms associated in printing the sheets are also involved in printing Canadian currency, therefore the sheets are also of interest to numismatic collectors. This is a statement I heard at the exhibit, and cannot verify it, as I am not well versed in Canadian Government printing practice.



Taken at Reception held on June 14th, Czech-Canada Cooperation Day

From the left:

Harry Sutherland, Vice Chairman of the Capex-78 Committee.

Antonin Simecek, First Secretary, Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.

Ing. Ladislav Dvoracek, President of Svaz Ceskoslovenskych Filatelistu and a member of the international jury at Capex-78.

Dr. James J. Matejka, U. S. Commissioner to Praga-78.

Wednesday, June 14th, was Czechoslovak-Canada Cooperation Day. The 11:00 a.m. press conference was under the able direction of Ing. Ladislav Dvoracek, who greeted the press and guests present. Ing. Dvoracek also announced a resume on the preparations being made for Praga-78.

Following the press conference, an exceptionally lovely official reception was held. The ambassador of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic was represented by Antonin Simecek, First Secretary of the Embassy, which is located in Ottawa.

A special folder was distributed, announcing the events for Praga together with a philatelic post card, cancelled in Prague 14.6.1978. The postal cancellation was a special tribute to both Capex-78 and Praga-78 and Czechoslovak-Canada Cooperation Day. Following the announcements, refreshments served at the reception which were very appetizing and very much in abundance. Among the variety of liquid refreshments served were Prozdroj, Slivovice and Becheravka, all of which were imported from Czechoslovakia for this reception. Imported Russian Vodka and British Gin were also being enjoyed by many of the guests. A fitting memento given each guest was an enamelled pin (either red or blue) with the insignia of Praga-78.

Our SCP Society covers were offered for sale at Capex-78 at Mitch's Stamp Booth. From Wednesday through Sunday 114 covers were sold. The mail order response has been very good. There are only a very few covers left. They would be a lovely gift to present to a stamp collector friend, especially if you correspond or are planning on attending Praga-78. Send your orders in early before leaving for Prague. Order them from Jane

Sterba, 6624 Windsor Ave., Berwyn, Ill. 60402. Covers are \$1.00 in U. S. funds, \$1.25 in Canadian Funds and please enclose a self addressed stamped envelope. Thank you.

If you have any special philatelic needs remember Mitch's Stamps and Coins, 6333 West Cermak Road, Berwyn, Illinois 60402.

On behalf of our Society a "Thank You" is also extended to Ron Richards and Germain Dubeau of the Philatelic and Retail Products Branch of the Canada Post's, for accepting our Society covers and having them cancelled, so that they were ready for sale at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday.

Plans and arrangements for our Society Luncheon held on Saturday, June 17th, went along on schedule and with great success. Dr. J. J. Matejka recommended Benes Tavern as a meeting place for our SCP gathering. The food and service was excellent. Everyone was well satisfied and very complimentary.

Arrangements had been made and equipment was available to present colored sound films about Czechoslovakia, but it was decided they would not be shown, to provide our members with more time to view the exhibits displayed at Capex, as many came up for the last few days of the show.

A total of 24 collectors of Czechoslovak philately attended our Luncheon. The important part was that YOU came. Verna Clum of Port Richey, Fla., bestowed a very appropriate benediction. Members also in attendance were: Joe Adam, Oshawa, Ont.; Melvin Klozar, Elmhurst, Ill.; Mr. and Mrs. George Morello, Midland, Mich.; Paul Gulyas, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Harlan and Frances Miller, Lawrence, Kans.; Mr. and Mrs. Paul Brownell, Lewiston, N. Y.; Dr. and Mrs. J. J. Matejka, Oak Park, Ill.; Henry Hahn, Fairfax, Va.; Dr. L. V. Fischmeister, Augusta, Ga.; Mr. and Mrs. Otakar Kutvirt, Rochester, N. Y.; Dick Major, Arlington, Va.; and Joe and Jane Sterba.

A newly associated member of our Society, Mr. E. F. Barker of Montreal, Que., Canada, was unable to attend our SCP luncheon because of previously arranged business meetings in Switzerland and England. However, we did make arrangements for a short get-to-gether after the commencement of



Taken after the Luncheon

Capex. Our encounter was all too brief.

It is always a pleasure to meet with old acquaintances of our Society, but it was especially nice to become acquainted with other members of our Society. Again, THANK YOU.

The above activities are only a small part of an International Exhibition. Now what about the philatelic collections. Here is a review of collections and their awards, which I feel sure will be of some interest to you.

As a Society, we only had two members who participated in the competitive class, exhibiting at Capex-78. Dr. Ladislav Fischmeister, a member of the SCP board of directors and chairman of our expertizing committee, was the recipient of a vermeil medal for his specialized Czechoslovak collection. The collection covers territories, regular issues and essays. It also stresses early issues, especially the period 1918-1925 with a highly specialized overprint P. C. 1919, including rarities.

SCP member Paul H. Jensen, Oslo, Norway, had his postal history collection of 1547-1850, pre-adhesive forerunners of present Czechoslovakia; letters, covers and postal documents. He received a large silver medal. His exhibit of postal history 1918-1920, covering cash franking was awarded a bronze medal.

All the following Czechoslovak collections were entered by our fellow Czechoslovak collectors residing in Czechoslovakia. They had outstanding collections and were awarded recognition for them.

Karel Dvoracek, a specialized Austrian collection 1850, a vermeil medal; Vladimir Kovar, a specialized collection of Czechoslovakia, a gold medal; Ing. Frantisek Veselky, Czechoslovakia 1920-1922, a silver medal; Josef Gabler, a specialized collection 1934, a large silver medal; Dr. Vladimir Bernasek, specialized Czechoslovakia, a silver medal; Teodor Burian exhibited Hungary—the beginning and evolution of post in Hungary with a special view of Slovak territory, a silver medal; Dr. Pavol Dica, Roumania—a specialized study and collection, large silver and felicitations of the jury; an airmail collection by Jan Frolík received a silver medal.

In the Thematic or Topical class Jaroslav Justyn exhibited the Olympic Movement in Czechoslovakia and received a small silver medal. The Presses are Turning, Dr. Severin Zrubec—Bratislava, was awarded a vermeil medal.

On behalf of the officers and members of the SCP may I extend our congratulations and best wishes. May you all be just as successful in Prague at Praga-78!

In the category of Literature (Books and Studies) The Federation of Philatelists of Czechoslovakia was awarded a Gold Medal for the book, "Monographie—Czechoslovakia—Part III."

I am so very happy and honored to announce that The Czechoslovak Specialist was entered in Capex-78 under "Philatelic Periodicals." It was the recipient of a Silver Medal. I sincerely feel that the honor and award belongs to all members who have contributed so very much. Congratulations!

The awards were announced and it was the end of the show. Chairman V. G. Greene, assisted by Harry Sutherland, Vice Chairman, Executive Secretary Kenneth Rowe, and Alan G. McKanna, Treasurer, are only a few that can be mentioned here in this article. It was the co-operation of ALL of the members of ALL of the committees, that made CAPEX-78 a SUCCESS!

OUR NEXT ISSUE OF THE SCP SPECIALIST

This past week Dominick Riccio and I conversed, by phone, about the next issue of the Specialist. Our Society is in the process of retiring one Editor,

with a newly appointed Editor. This change is taking place during the period when Praga-78 is being held. Therefore, it is possible that there may be some minor inconveniences. This is due to the fact that both of the Editors are planning to be in attendance in Prague, during Praga-78.

It was discussed that maybe both of us will work together at Prague to prepare a Praga issue. I have given this matter much consideration. I think that the philatelic material to be viewed, as well as the social gatherings being planned, will allow very little time for this project. There will be an issue (October) before Praga-78 (mailed in September), with the Praga-78 news in the November issue—out in October.

Sincerely, J. Sterba

NEW MEMBERS

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 1210 Gerald J. Petras, 73 Redmond Ave., Bay Shore, N. Y. 11706
 1211 Arthur W. Goede, 808 North 13th St., Estherville, Iowa 51334

ADDRESS CHANGES

- 1081 Francine W. Dyson, 64-3 Seneca Lake Dr., Mystic Islands, N. J. 08087
 1163 Kelly J. Krizan, M.D., 601 S. Smiley, O'Fallon, Ill. 62269
 1106 Ing. Eugen Simacek, Largitzenstr. 35, 4056 Basel, Switzerland
 1104 Owen V. Johnson, 2349 Bishop St., Apt. 1, Ann Arbor, Mich. 48105
 1203 Ludvik Z. Svoboda, 9012 Rural Plains Place, Springfield, Va. 22153
 686 Samuel Ray, 3635 Seventh Ave., San Diego, Cal. 92103

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A Philatelic Tour of Prague

By Mrs. Jos. F. Sterba, Jr.

(Concluded)

Prague has many well known ornamental names and is referred to as the City of a Hundred Spires, Golden Prague, Baroque Prague, Gothic Prague, and The Heart of Europe. It is an undeniable fact that Prague is one of the most beautiful cities in the world.

The history of Prague's Hradcany Castle has been in the process of being built for over a thousand years. The Castle rises above the City of Prague and is the city's dominating feature. It is a complex structure which, with the passage of time, has assumed different architectural styles of the different periods. Inside are palaces and churches. Below the present ground level one can find traces, as well as extensive remnants, of the works of the castle's early builders. It has been the Castle of Kings but the ecclesiastical administration of the territory has ruled from the Castle from the beginning of the Castle's history.

Entire books have been written about the history and beauty of Prague's Castle. It is almost impossible to briefly write about the Castle's history, or to incorporate it into this abridged "Philatelic Tour of Prague," which has been appearing in our Specialist these past months. Plan on spending several days in the Castle area. Obtain a guide book in order that you can appreciate and better understand the splendor, as well as the historical background, as you tour this lovely area that will turn the clock back to olden times.

Hradcastle Castle was built in the second half of the 9th century. It was built on a steep, oblong hill, on the left bank of the Vltava River. An extended stone Castle emerged in about the 12th century. It has been the historical seat of Czech rulers. Since 1918 it has been the residence of Czechoslovakia's Presidents.

The well known silhouette of Hradcany Castle is formed by the Cathedral of St. Vitus, the largest and most beautiful church building in Prague. It is this author's opinion that St. Vitus Cathedral is the most beautiful church in Prague, but that it also ranks among the most beautiful churches on the European continent as well.

The main entrance to the Castle is from Hradcanske Namesti (Hradcany Square). Flanking the wrought-iron gateway is a copy of the sculpture, "Giants in Combat," fig. 31. Above the present entrance the monogram MTI (Maria Theresia Imperatrix) can be seen in the



Fig. 32



Fig. 31

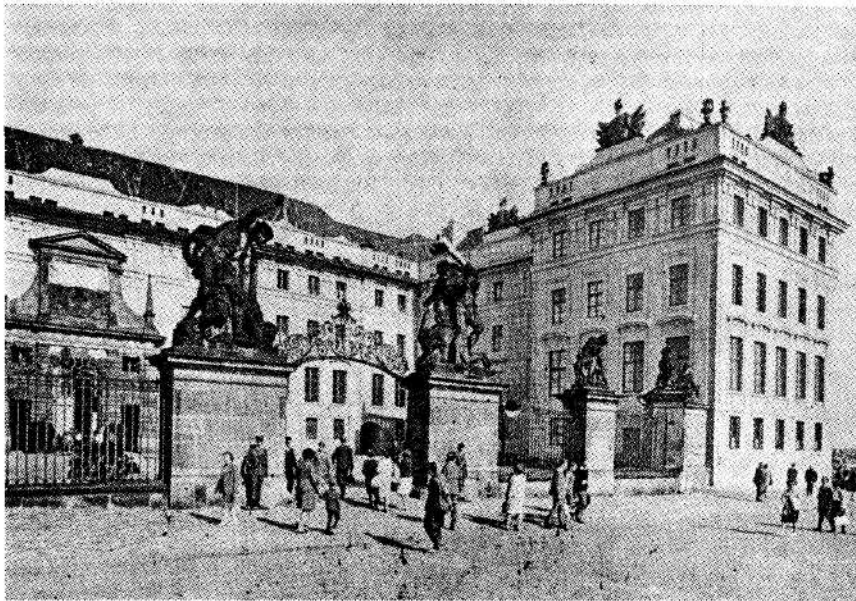


Fig. 31

iron-work, proof that this gate was erected in the 18th century. Opposite the entrance gate, in the middle of the new wing, is the Mathias Gate, fig. 32, dating back to 1614. On either side of the Mathias Gate stand two symbolic flag-masts, 80 foot high. They are from the forests of the Czech-Moravian Heights. Above the right-hand corner of the courtyard flutters the Presidential banner, when the President is in residence, Fig. 28.

To the right of the Matthias Gate is a flight of stairs leading to the reception rooms of the President of the Republic; on the left-hand side is the Pillar Hall from which leads the ceremonial staircase to the Spanish Hall.

The Second Courtyard was laid out after 1534 on the site of the outer ring of the Castle's mediaeval defences, along the bottom of which, extended the second Castle moat. The Courtyard is rectangular in shape. In the center is a large Baroque limestone fountain and well which have a circular wrought-iron cover dating from the year 1705. In the south-east corner of the Courtyard stands the former Court Chapel of the Holy Rood erected in 1753. The outward appearance was restyled during the years of 1852-58. The facade is decorated with sculptures of Peter and Paul. The Courtyard is enclosed on all sides by buildings. The south side contains the wings in which are situated the reception rooms of the President of the Republic. It is the original Rudolphian Palace built in 1576. On the west side is a wing accommodating the staircase to the reception rooms, Plecnik's Pillar Hall and the ceremonial staircase to the Spanish Hall.

It is here that life at Prague Castle began over a thousand years ago. Originally on this site was a Romanesque Rotunda (926), and late in the 12th century a Romanesque basilica. The remains have been preserved beneath the Cathedral and are open to the public. It is in this area of the second Courtyard that has been studied and speculated that the broad terrace that formerly was located here was where the astronomical observatory of Rudolph II stood. Did his famous Court Astronomers J. Kepler and T. Brahe carry

out their scientific investigations here? Through an archway in this tract we reach the third Courtyard. Facing the archway is the edifice of the Cathedral of St. Vitus.

The first master builder of the splendid Gothic Cathedral was a French architect, Matthew of Arras. Peter Parler of Gmund was his successor. The latter's work includes the south portal of the Cathedral, the Golden Gate and the beautiful Gothic porch. The facade is decorated with rare Venetian Mosaic, and is a scene of "The Last Judgement."

The Hussite Wars interrupted the continued building of the Cathedral. Further adaptations were carried out between 1509-11 and in 1673. It was not until 1873 that the foundation stone was laid for the nave and aisles. It was completed in 1929, the year of St. Vitus' Millenium.

The interior of St. Vitus Cathedral is a shrine to Czech art from the Gothic age. It is the mausoleum of the Kings of Bohemia, and the shrine of the symbols of state sovereignty—the Crown and Coronation Jewels (refer to June 1978 Specialist). The interior of the Cathedral is an imposing Gothic area approximately 135 feet long, 70 feet wide at the crossing and 33 feet high. The vaulting of the nave is supported by 28 pillars forming an arcade at ground level.

I would like to draw your attention to the right side of the side aisle in the Chapel of St. Ludmila. The stained glass window and mosaic is by M. Svabinsky (1936), while the second chapel is the holy Sepulchre Chapel. Here the window is by K. Svolinsky (1933). Both of these artists are the same gentlemen associated with Czechoslovakia's philately.

Plan to spend several hours at St. Vitus Cathedral. It is advisable to climb the stairs to the top of the spire. It is a long climb, but what a lovely view!

I am sure many of you will visit the Riding School, which were stables during Rudolph and Ferdinand's time. They are now exhibition halls and will house part of the exhibits of Praga-78.

When you leave the royal palace you will be in St. George's Square (Namesti Svateho Jiriho). St. George's Church (1372) is the earliest Romanesque building in Bohemia to be still in use.



Fig. 33
the Lane is the famous "Daliborka." This tower was built in 1496 and was also to serve as a prison. It was decreed that whoever crossed the threshold

Above the gateway is the Black Tower (1135), a survival of the 12th century Romanesque fortifications. Retrace your steps and visit Zlata Ulicka (Golden Lane). Prague authorities have made it into a lovely museum, devoted to the history of alchemy. Fig. 33 is a 30 hal. stamp issued on May 9, 1967, whereon you have the Golden Lane (16-18th century). The name "Golden" became associated with this lane because legend relates that a long time ago goldsmiths lived on this street. They endeavored to turn lead into gold. Rudolph II gave his imperial archers permission to rebuild the cottages in the arches of the Castle Wall, thus providing their families the protection of the Castle fortifications.

At the head of the Golden Lane stands the White Tower. It is from the time of Prmysl Otokar II, and served as a state prison. King Vaclav IV was interned here. At the other end of

first, would give his name to the prison. Dalibor of Kozojedy was the first prisoner. He was a young squire who sided with the oppressed peasants against the feudal landowners. The peasants were ruthlessly suppressed and Dalibor was led away, in chains, to the tower. He became bored and lonely, therefore he taught himself to play the violin. Soon he was playing serenades to an enchanted audience. Admirers sent him money, food and clothes. Dalibor stood trial and was convicted but since he had become so popular the judges were afraid to announce the date of his execution. One day no music floated down from the tower. The violin had been silenced forever.

The story does not end there. Inspired by the tale, Bedrich Smetana wrote the opera "Dalibor." The music and legend still lingers on.

Another of Prague's most charming and historical Squares (reconstructed in the first quarter of the 18th century) is the Loretto Square. Two outstanding and strongly contrasting Baroque buildings here face each other. On the west side of the Square in a truly imposing length of the monumental architecture is the Cernin Palace, today the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. During the International Philatelic Exhibition Praga-68, a reception was held in the Cernin Palace. It was a lovely background for the elegant social gathering. You could stroll in the relatively minute garden which adjoins the back area of the palace. The building was built for Humprecht Cernin and is from the designs of a notable Italian architect, F. Caratti. The interior reconstruction was carried out between 1718-20 by F. M. Kanka. In 1928-32 the palace was adapted for the purpose of the ministry.

Opposite this massive and ostentatious building stands the Loretta Church of Prague. It was founded on June 5, 1626, by Benigna Catherine of Lobkovic, a member of a wealthy and powerful family of Czech nobles, which was completed in 1631. The victory of the armies of the Catholic Habsburgs over the Czech Protestants at the Battle of White Mountain in 1620, decided the fate of Bohemia. Efforts to re-Catholicize the country's population resulted in the building of many shrines through the area. The Loretto Church is only one example.

The nucleus is the Santa Casa, an exact copy of the chapel in the Italian town of Loretto. According to the legend, it is the dwelling of the Virgin Mary, brought by angels from Nazareth to Loretto. In the course of the following 120 years a number of buildings grew up all around the Santa Casa. At the turn of the 17th century chapels were added and in 1734 the Church of the Nativity was given its present appearance. Some of the greatest architects and artists associated with the baroque reconstruction of Prague are known to have assisted in planning, building and decorating Loretto. The Chapel of St. Francis has an altar painting by P. Brandl, while the ceiling fresco in the Nativity is by V. V. Reiner. The main facade, which gives unity to the entire complex of buildings was finished by the great Prague architect of the baroque period, K. I. Diebenhofer. In 1695 the carillon located in the main belfry tower was heard for the first time.

Long, long ago, the bells—so they say—only chimed the hours. Close by the Loretto lived a very poor widow who had as many children as there were bells in the tower. They used to call them "The Loretto Bells." During the Great Plague, Death knocked at the widow's door and carried off her oldest child. The poor woman's whole wealth was a string of silver coins, christening gifts, one for each child. The widow took off the largest coin and soon the largest bell tolled for the eldest child. When the mother returned from the burial, the second child fell ill and died in a short while. Another coin came off and the second bell tolled for the dead child.

So it went on, day following day, child after child. The widow unstrung one coin after another and the bells of Loretto tolled for each in turn.

When she had buried her last child, the mother herself fell ill. It was her only comfort that she would soon join her children in Paradise. But who would pay the fee to have the bell toll? Then all at once, following her death, all the bells rang out of their own accord, and for the first time played the lovely and moving hymn, which still makes sweet music in the streets and palaces above Hradcany.

The Church of St. Nicholas (Kostel Sv. Mikulase) shadows the Lesser Town Square (Malostranske Namesti). The edifice dominates not only the square but the entire Mala Strana area. The facade was completed in 1713 and is one of the most splendid ecclesiastical buildings built in Prague in the Baroque style. The church was built by Dieinzenhofer in 1704-11, while the facade was completed in 1713.

Adjoining the church on the North is the former Jesuit College dating back to the second half of the 17th century. The Church of St. Nichols, with the adjacent buildings, divides the whole area of Malostranske Namesti into two parts, an upper and lower. In front of the church is a Column known as Morovy Sloup, 1715. The sculptural decoration is the work of J. O. Mayer and F. Geiger. Observe the north side of the Square, House No. 203-4/14-5 known as The Black Eagle (U Cerneho Orla). Erected at the end of the 19th century the facade of the building is graffito work done by Mikolas Ales. Further down the street is a Baroque building of the former Jesuit Boys School, No. 1/16. On the West side of Malostranske Namesti is the former Lichtenstein Palace, built in 1791, house No. 258/13. Watch for Hartig Palace located in the upper corner of the Square No. 259/12. This house has a public passage which connects to Trziste Street, just about in front of the United States Embassy.

In the lower corner of the square is the former Mala Strana Town Hall No. 35/21. Built in the late Renaissance period, it was rebuilt in its present form in 1617. In the arcade is a portal with a remarkable fine sculptural decor from 1660.

On the North side of the lower part of Mala Strana Square two houses will attract your attention. No. 7/19 is the former Sternberk Palace and its neighbor No. 6/18 is the house "U Montagu." This is the former Smiricky Palace and is a late Renaissance building from the beginning of the 17th century. In this house the fateful decision was taken by the Czech Estates

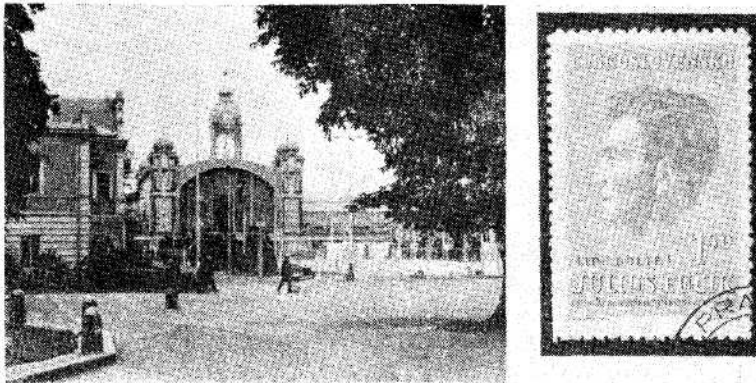


Fig. 34

which led to the Czech revolt against Ferdinand II—and the Thirty Year War.

Our visit to Prague is to attend Praga '78. Fig. 34 is a view of the entranceway to Julius Fucik Park of Culture and Rest, and a picture of Julius Fucik. The Park was named in memory of this young man who fought against the Fascists and their ideals. He sacrificed his life for his ideals, suffering an untimely death—by execution. A 1.50 hal. stamp was issued on Jan. 20, 1951, to commemorate the first Czechoslovak Congress of Fighters for Peace, held in Prague, which also paid tribute to honor the memory of Julius Fucik.

With the church bells of Prague tolling the end of another day, they are also tolling the end of our Philatelic Tour of Prague. This condensed philatelic tour has been written for the purpose of providing you with some historical background about the City of a Hundred Spires—The Golden City of Prague. I trust that you have enjoyed reading this background and some of the legends connected with it. Even after my numerous visits to Prague, I always return home greatly enriched by my visit to the land of my ancestral origin and heritage.

The past is known, we cannot foresee the future. Many times, when I sit and ponder about life to come, I think of the words and lovely strains of the melody of the Czech national anthem, "Kde Domov Muj?" ("Where is My Home?"). I also wonder—where is my home?

Jane Sterba

Austro-Hungarian Naval Forces During the 1914-1918 World War

By Jiri Nekvasil

Translated by Henry Hahn

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(Continued)

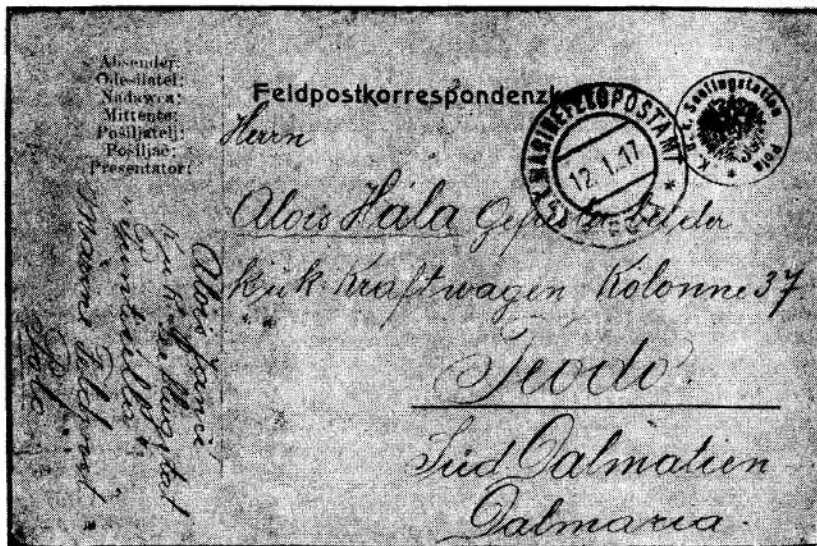


Fig. 31. Postmark of the Air Station at Pola.

The French attempted to carry out scouting functions by means of captive balloons, similar to those used by the Italians in 1911 in the course of their war with Turkey during which the Italians converted two old cruisers, *Elba* and *Liguria*, to carriers of captive balloons which directed the fire to battle ships along the beaches of Libya and Tripolitania. On the other hand, the British and Americans converted some of their old battleships to aircraft carriers, and airplanes were either catapulted from decks, or took off conventionally. The Germans, at the start of the war, persisted in using their lighter than air ships of the Zeppelin, Barseval, or Schutte-Lanz types. These, however, did not perform successfully, so a naval air force had to be developed in a hurry. This air force was under the immediate command of the German Navy. Organizationally, this also was true of the Austro-Hungarian Navy.

Austro-Hungarian naval air forces had their own field post which performed postal services for their own members, and maintained continued air schedules along the Adriatic coast for official use in communicating with Austrian units in Albania. The military air line served Pola, Sebenico, Rogoznica, Kumbor, and Drazzo in both directions. The service was performed by K.u.K. Kriegsmarine units stationed in Trieste, Pola, Sebenico and Kumbor. Additional, so-called air support points, were located in Grad, Parenza, Fiume, Lussin, Castelli, Zadar, Curzole, Lofosta and in Gravoza. The air force had its own training unit in Cosada (K.u.K. Schulflugzeugstation Cosada). Postmarks of nearly all the air units have been found on letter mail.

In one instance the unit chose a lined postmark which was similar to postmarks mentioned previously for use on ships. In other instances they were circular postmarks, which may be further divided:

A. The older single circle postmark had a diameter of between 20 and 25mm, which in addition to the legend along the inner circumference had at its center the Austrian State Seal (the two-headed eagle).

Illustrated in Fig. 31 is the postmark of the air station in Pola. In Fig. 32 we see another similar postmark of the K.u.K. Kustenflugstation (coastal flight station) in Sebenico.

B. The latter type had a double circle, which had at its center the seal of Austria-Hungary, and between the circles the name of the unit and organization. Familiar postmarks of this type, with a 35mm diameter, are from the base at Kumbor and the K.u.K. Flugstutzpunkt (flight support base) Burz.

C. Censor markings are scarce on air force mail. Only two types are known, both from the K.u.K. Seeflugstation Pola. These are framed (see Fig. 25) and differ from one another in text, size and type of lettering. In many instances, mail from members of air units includes also the postmark of the Marinefeldpostamt in Pola.

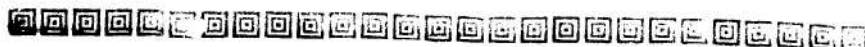
Field post items originating from naval air units are extremely rare and few are known to exist today.

Field posts of naval air units of the Austro-Hungary Navy are mentioned by Georg Sobetzky of Vienna in his "Oesterreich Flugpostkatalog."

(to be continued)

PHILATELIC EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS IN GREAT BRITAIN.

Yvonne King reported that at the recent National Philatelic Exhibition held in London, England, Reg. Hounsell received a Silver Medal. His display was as follows: "Czechoslovakia—Airmails 1920-1930. A study of airmail practices during the first ten years, considering the provisional overprints applied to flown covers. The display described the development of the services, a brief history of early flights between 1920-1921 and the aircraft used."



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