

USPS #908300

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Official Monthly Journal of the



Society for Czechoslovak Philately, Inc.

Silver Award Interphil '76 — Silver Award Capex '78 — Silver-Bronze Praga '78
A.P.S. Unit 18 S.P.A. Branch 284

Vol. XXXX

December 1978

No. 10, Whole No. 385



On behalf of the officers, members of the board, editor and managing editor of The Czechoslovak Specialist, our sincere Holiday Greetings are extended to you and your families.

May the holidays bring you pleasant memories and much happiness.

Jane Sterba

The Postal History of Carpatho-Ukraine

Dominick J. Riccio, Ph.D.

(continued)

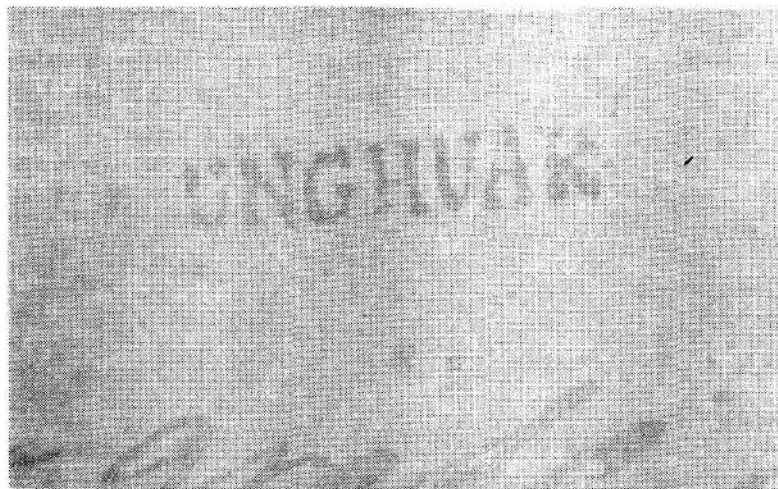


Figure 1. Type A. Straight line cancel :

As promised in the last installment, I am listing the known postmarks of the towns in Carpatho-Ukraine. Basically there were six types of cancellations:

Type A (figure 1)—Straight line town cancel with Roman capital letters.

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Published monthly except July and August — \$7.50 per year

Second Class Postage Paid at Lawrence, Kansas 66044

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

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

Type B (figure 2)—Straight line town cancel with Roman capital letters.

However the first letter of the town is larger.

Type C (figure 3)—Double circle town and date cancel with branch ornamentation. Town name in Roman capital letters.

Type D (no illustration)—Straight line town cancel in lower case Roman letters, e.g. Gats.

Type E (figure 4)—Oval town cancel in Roman capital letters.

Type F (figure 5)—Oval town cancel in Roman capital letters with ornamentation.

The illustrations were provided by the courtesy of Mr. Jassen Stone who kindly let me photograph his outstanding collection of early Carpatho-Ukraine covers. In the listing above I have attempted to describe the type of cancels used, dates first used and relative scarcity. As I have mentioned before, it seems that all covers from the territory and period are quite scarce so I have developed the following classifications: Scarce, Very Scarce and Rare. My experience indicates that none of these covers are commonplace and have amalgamated Mueller's point count system with my own observation of four collections (!) which contain this material to determine relative scarcity.

I have also listed both the Czech name and Hungarian name for each town. Some of them are changed at the present to Russian versions and I will list the differences in future articles.

Nyires Falva

Post Office closed 1838. No data available.

Poljana (Polena)

- 1) Mueller reports that cancels were available from 1833 but no data is available.
- 2) Black double circle in town and date cancel with branch ornamentation; town name in Roman capitals first used in 1850. Type C. Scarce.



Figure 2. Type B. Straight line cancel.

Sevljus (Nagy—Szollos)

- 1) Red straight line town cancel in Roman capitals first used in 1826. (N. SZOLLOS) Type A. Rare.
- 2) Black straight line town cancel in Roman capitals first used in 1834. Type A. Very Scarce.
- 3) Black double circle in town and date cancel with branch ornamentation; town name in Roman capitals first used in 1848. Type C. Scarce.

Serednoje (Szerednye)

- 1) Black fancy oval town cancel in Roman capital letters first used in 1830. Type F. Rare.
- 2) Black double circle in town and date cancel with branch ornamentation; town name in Roman capitals first used in 1846. Type C. Scarce.

Tachovo (Tetso)

- 1) Black straight line town cancel in Roman capitals first used in 1836. Type A. Very Scarce.

Uzhorod (Ungvar)

- 1) Black straight line town cancel in Roman capitals first used in 1815. (UNGHVAR) Type A. Scarce.
- 2) Same as above except in red ink. Rare.
- 3) Black oval town cancel in Roman capital letters first used in 1820. Type E. Scarce.
- 4) Same as above except in red ink and first used in 1815. Very Scarce.
- 5) Same as above except in green ink. Rare.
- 6) Red straight line town cancel with Roman capital letters first used in 1843. Type A. Very Scarce.
- 7) Black double circle town and date cancel with branch ornamentation; town name in roman capitals first used in 1847. Type C. Scarce.
- 8) Same as above except in red ink. Very Scarce.

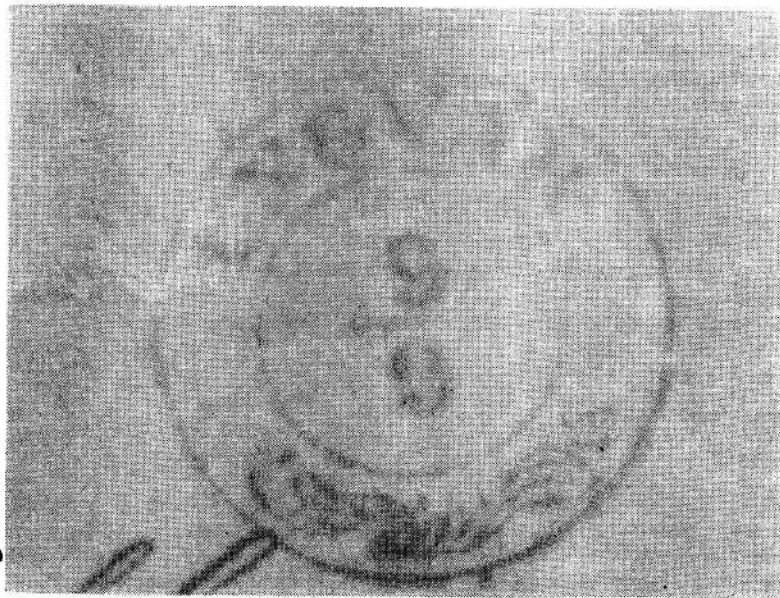


Figure 3. Type C. Double circle cancel.

Berehovo (Beregszasz)

- 1) Black straight line town cancel with Roman capital letters with the first letter larger than the others as in cliché type B. Scarce. (v. Beregszasz) First used in 1838.
- 2) Black straight line cancel in capitalized roman numerals first used in 1839. Type A. Very Scarce. (v. BEREKSZASZ)
- 3) Same as above except in red ink. Rare.
- 4) Black straight line town cancel with Roman capital letters with the first letter larger than the others as in cliché type B. Scarce. (v. Beregszasz) First used in 1840.
- 5) Black double circle town and date cancel with branch ornamentation; town name in roman capitals first used in 1847. Type C. Scarce.

Chust (Huszt)

- 1) Black straight line cancel in capitalized Roman letters first used in 1836. Type A. Scarce.
- 2) Black double circle town and date cancel with branch ornamentation; town name in Roman capitals first used in 1847. Type C. Scarce.
- 3) Same as above in green ink. Rare.

Hat (Gats)

- 1) Black straight line cancel in capitalized Roman letters first used in 1818. Type A. Very Scarce. There are three minor varieties of this cancel. (GATS)
- 2) Black straight line town cancel in lower case Roman letters first used in 1829. (gats) Type D. Very Scarce. No illustration.
- 3) Black oval town cancel in Roman capital letters first used in 1832. Type E. Scarce.

Mukacevo (Munkacs)

- 1) Black straight line town cancel with Roman capital letters first used in 1818. Type A. Very Scarce. (V. MUNKATS)
- 2) Same as above in red ink first used in 1825. Rare (Munkats)
- 3) Black straight line town cancel in Roman capital letters with the first letter larger than the others. First used in 1840. Type B. Scarce. (v. Munkats)
- 4) Same as above in red ink first used in 1832 with two minor varieties. Very Scarce.
- 5) Black double circle town and date cancel with branch ornamentation;

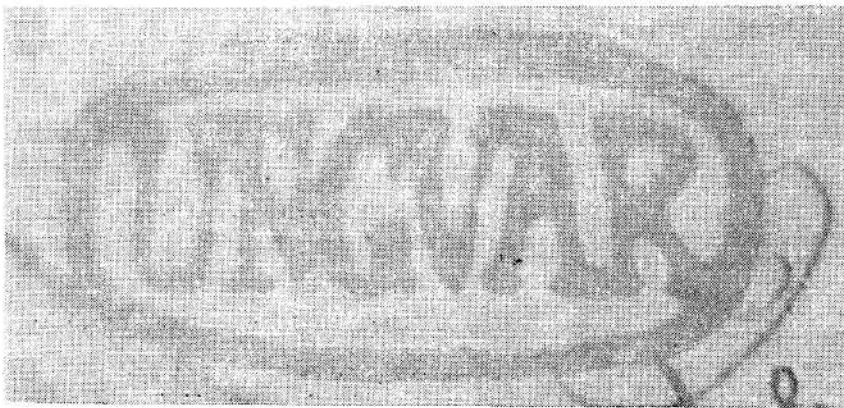


Figure 4. Type E. Oval cancel

town name in Roman capitals first used in 1849. Type C. Scarce.

Velikoje (Also—Vereczke)

- 1) Black straight line cancel capitalized Roman numerals first used in 1843. Type A cliche, scarce.
- 2) Black double circle cancel with branch ornamentation, town name in Roman capitals and date in numerals first used in 1850.

Vulok (Tisza—Ujlak)

- 1) Black straight line town cancel in roman capital letters with the first letter larger than the others. First used in 1836. (: TISZA UJLAK) Type B. Rare.
- 2) Black double circle town and date cancel with branch ornamentation; town name in Roman capitals first used in 1848. Type C. Very Scarce.

(Erratum: Letters written during this period were in the Hungarian and German language and not the Austrian language as previously reported. Thanks to Jce Stein and Henry Hahn.)



Figure 5. Type F. Fancy oval cancel.

NEW MEMBER

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NEW ADDRESS

538 Rudy Repasky, 25-60, 35th St., Astoria, NY 11103

SELL - SWAP - WANT

Every member is entitled to one free 15 word ad each year. Word count does not include name and address. Send ad to Wm. Schoenig, 20 Charles Ct., East Patchogue, NY 11772.

SELL—1939-1940 N. Y. Worlds Fair Overprints on Scott #239, 251, P26. Many Types available. Gerald J. Petras, 73 Redmond Ave., Bayshore, NY 11706.

SELL—Boh-Moravia handbook, hard cover, in English, \$5.00 (Society publication). Checks payable to the Society. Wm. Schoenig, 20 Charles Court, E. Patchogue, NY 11772.

Editor's Review:

By now, all of you are just about finished digesting Thanksgiving leftovers and are getting ready for Christmas and Chanukah goodies. If you haven't begun or finished your holiday shopping yet, why not consider giving stamps or stamp accessories to your loved ones. Why stamps, you ask? Can you think of a better present in terms of longevity of pleasure, educational value and investment potential? If you are a person who has "everything," why not suggest to your family that they get that stamp that's been missing from your collection for many years. Or that special watermark detector you are tempted to buy at all the stamp shows but don't because you feel it is a luxury. Personally speaking, the finest gifts I have received in the last four years have been stamps and stamp accessories. It sure beats getting a tie or 6 pairs of socks each year.

All of which brings me to the topic I really have on my mind—stamps as an investment—and Czechoslovakian stamps in particular. If you subscribe to the standard stamp publications, you are no doubt inundated by the surplus of articles on this topic. However, I feel that this one more article is warranted for two reasons: the first is for those of you who have not yet read an article on stamp investment and the second is to rebut one of the standard rules . . . "don't invest in iron curtain countries."

The basic rules for investing in stamps, i.e. buying stamps for the purpose of making a profit are as follows:

1) Don't buy stamps solely for investment purposes. Buy them primarily for philatelic enjoyment and only secondarily for monetary gain. Of course if you like a stamp or set of stamps and think they will appreciate in value, buy a few extra sets especially if the price is right. In the case of Czech stamps, I would say the right price for investment is 20 to 60% of Scott catalogue value depending upon the particular stamps. For example, the early airmails can generally be bought at auction for 1/3 of Scott catalogue value, but the better semi-postals will cost 45-70% of catalogue value even at poorly attended auctions. Whole collections of Czechoslovakia (without rarities) can often be bought for 20-33% of Scott catalogue value.

2) Never buy in extremely large quantities, i.e. 50 to 100 sets or sheets. This is pure speculation, not investment. Unless you have a crystal ball and appreciate the undue risks inherent in speculation, you are very likely to lose money that you could have used for the purchase of a scarce or rare stamp that would represent a better investment in the long run. Also diversification of investment is generally the wiser course.

3) Plan to hold your stamps for a minimum of two to five years and preferably longer. Remember there is often a big difference between the buy and sell price of stamps and it takes a larger percentage gain before the collector can realize a profit. For example, if you had bought the Hradcany set (Scott #23-40) in 1975 from a dealer and paid \$5.00 for it (50% of the 1975 Scott catalogue value of \$10.00), you could probably sell it for \$5.00 today (1/3 of 1979 Scott value of \$15.00). In short, your gain would be nothing, even though the stamps appreciated by 50% in catalogue value. The latter example is also a good illustration of why you should try to buy stamps for investment either at auctions or through a dealer who will give you an extremely good price.

4) Store your stamps safely, preferably in glassine or showgards because any deterioration in the stamps can wipe out any potential gains. A safe deposit box is also recommended for more valuable material.

5) The next question is what does one invest in. Here are some of the criteria for choosing stamps that offer good potential for appreciation:

- a) Number of stamps issued.
- b) Number of stamps used on postage. This is very important since although some countries issue small quantities, because of low literacy rates, few stamps ever get used (e.g. Arab shiekdoms and some of the iron curtain countries).
- c) The country which issues the stamps should be highly literate and have an active collecting population.
- d) The stamps should have wide international appeal such as topicals, various occupations, etc. Anything that will attract other nations to collect the stamps of the country in question.
- e) Stamps should be in the best condition; at least fine or better with no defects whatsoever and preferably non-hinged, especially for stamps issued after 1945. As far as I am concerned, hinged stamps are fine and the whole non-hinged business is commercial nonsense. However for investment purposes one must conform to the demands of the market.
- f) Have all better stamps expertized. Forgeries exist in all countries.
- g) Finally one should consider new developments that may attract new collectors to collect the stamps of a particular area, e.g. revolutions, independence, a change in postal policy.

If one follows these general suggestions and adds a lot of common sense and a little bit of luck, one should fare quite well as a philatelic investor. As for investing in Czechoslovakian stamps, I would like to point out that Czechoslovakia is not just another "iron curtain" country. Its literacy rate is extremely high. Its highly industrialized society makes active use of the postal system. It has a long and illustrious postal history which goes all the way back to the Austrian Empire and has gone through many occupations which makes its stamps attractive to other national collectors. Its stamps and stamp designers are held in high esteem all over the world. The topics of many of the stamps have world wide popularity and are artfully done. Furthermore, the relative value of the crown makes the price of new issues rather reasonable when compared to the new issues of Germany or other countries.

There also exists in Czechoslovakia a very large and active collecting population. The outflow of better stamps that took place before and after the war seems to have abated and perhaps been reversed as noted by Charlie Chesloe in his column. Therefore, the availability of good Czech material will begin to diminish here in the United States especially as more collectors become interested in this fascinating area. All of which leads to the final question. What specific stamps of Czechoslovakia seem to have good investment potential?

First of all, the overprinted semipostals will always be the "blue chips" of Czech stamps. However, many are out of the range of most collectors and I am not sure if they offer the best appreciation potential percentage-wise. An exception might be some of the lower priced stamps such as Scott #B8a which catalogues for \$35.00 and only has 3000 issued; B41, 42, 43 and 44 all have less than 18,000 stamps issued and sell for less than \$15.00 retail. By the way, if you don't believe these low issue numbers, try to buy them on the open market. Most dealer stocks are depleted and the best place to find them is at auctions. I especially recommend to you the auctions of Alfons Stach and Dr. Fischmeister which appear in our journal from time to time

and are guaranteed to be genuine by these two fine experts. A final point to be noted about the semi-postal is that they are collected by type (which reduces the issue quantities for any given type significantly) and therefore are always in great demand by collectors.

The airmails seem to present another problem. #C1-6 seems to be somewhat overpriced now and in my opinion does not represent a good investment unless purchased very cheaply. However C36-39 which retail for about \$5.00 may be a better investment especially in miniature sheets. Check your collection to see if you have this set. It is also somewhat scarce on flown cover. Other suggestions include any of the stamps from 1950 to 1958 in mint non-hinged condition. Many of these were cancelled to order in large quantities and the dealer stocks have long since dried up. I believe that these stamps are still undervalued even though most have seemed to appreciate steadily over the last five years. The Souvenir and miniature sheets also represent a possible area for investment as well as research and study. Finally my key recommendation is Scott #255, the General Stefanik 60 heller dark blue which was used exclusively in Slovakia and only had a printing of 250,000, half of which were overprinted with "Slovensky Stat 1939." It catalogues for \$8.00 but try to find it in any quantity. By the way, I have never seen it used on cover, have you?

Good Luck and here's hoping that your hobby keeps you ahead of inflation—your savings account hasn't!

Special apologies and hearty congratulations go to members George Kobyłka and Richard Green who both won awards at Praga and were inadvertently omitted from last month's listing of Praga '78 award winners. Mr. Kobyłka won a plaque for his excellent album pages of Czechoslovakia which are artfully designed, beautifully printed and give a great deal of information about Czech stamps. By the way, Mr. Kobyłka (K-Line Publishing) supplies new issues and his pages are offered free with new issues. Richard Green, one of our New Jersey members, won a small gold medal for his outstanding exhibit of: "Austria: Pre-philately and Classical Stamps."

Mr. William Schoenig asked me to remind all of you that back issues are available from him at the address below. Also don't forget that each paid member is entitled to one 15 word ad per year in the sell-Swap-Want column. Simply submit it to Mr. Schoenig, at 20 Charles Court, East Patchogue, N. Y. 11772.

Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah and a healthy New Year to all of you from all of us here at the Specialist.

Sales Department

Now that winter is upon us and we may have more spare time and now that the PRAGA '78 is over and everyone is back from Europe, I have to ask and beg you to please fill sales books for circulation.

At present we have only 5 circuits on the road. As a rule there are 10-12 circulating at any time.

We need most of all books with Czech material, also postal stationery. I have some books on hand with stamps from countries other than Czechoslovakia, these are being used as fill-ins to make it a good circuit and not wait until enough Czech-only books are on hand.

When filling books, please do not have the total value of each book too high. Even though we now can have \$400.00 insurance on our packages, I like to offer between 6-10 books in each circuit. If you have high priced

stamps, also add some low priced ones to the book to keep down its total value.

Sales books are available from me, they are 13c each plus postage, and postage is high right now, of course it would pay to order more than 1 or 2 booklets at a time.

Again, PLEASE MAKE UP SALES BOOKS.

Thank you for your cooperation, I am sure you all will come forward and help the Society.

Wolfgang Fritzsche, Sales Manager
P. O. Box 8, Canandaigua, NY 14424

The President's Gazette

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

CONGRATULATIONS—Exhibition Committee Praga '78

The preparations, plans and expectations of the world-wide philatelic event of special interest to collectors of Czechoslovak philately was Praga '78. This outstanding philatelic event, held in the golden city of Prague, is now but a golden memory! The goal for committees planning future international events will be to surpass the magnitude and quality of philatelic material amassed and exhibited at Praga. On behalf of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately, our sincere congratulations for the outstanding work and effort that made Praga '78 the successful philatelic event of the year. The sun has set on Praga '78, but appearing in the horizon is another committee formulating new plans and preparations for Praga '88.

A President's Viewpoint

It is my viewpoint that in the many books and articles written about stamp collecting, an important chapter seems to be forgotten. That is the chapter that could be headed, "Philately and Friends." One of the most enjoyable aspects of our hobby is to be able to attend philatelic exhibitions and events. In this field of philately I have been extremely fortunate as Praga '78 was the 10th International Exhibition that I have attended, as well as national and local philatelic events too numerous to mention. The philatelic exhibitions held in Prague, both in 1968 and 1978, are still the most memorable and those that I have enjoyed the most. Meeting many members of our Society for the first time, as well as fellow philatelic collectors who have contributed so much to our SCP in so many numerous ways, was a very happy and memorable experience. The time we spent together has become a golden award in my golden book of memories. Therefore, at this time I would like to express my appreciation to you all for your support and cooperation that I have received while serving as editor and President of our Society for Czechoslovak Philately.

As President of our Society I would like to extend my personal congratulations to those members of our Society that exhibited at Praga '78, as your exhibits were as outstanding as any other collectors throughout the world. I was very proud of our Society's members exhibits, and that I could say you are members of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately. To serve as our Society's President during Praga '78 was a special honor to me, as well.

During this holiday season it seems most appropriate to express to you these thoughts, and to extend my personal Season's Greetings. May the coming year bring Good Health, Happiness, and Prosperity to you and your loved ones.

Sincerely, Jane Sterba

Charley's Corner

P. O. Box 237
Willow Springs, Ill. 60480

Praga '78 is now history but it is an experience that I will never forget. First of all, I have never attended a world international philatelic exhibition before, so just the fact that I was there was a thrill in itself. The exhibits, the material on display, were truly fantastic. One could look for weeks and still not cover everything, so you had to pick your preferences. Naturally my first interest was Czechoslovakia and I studied these exhibits repeatedly. Besides the competitive exhibits, there was much Czechoslovak material exhibited in the Court of Honor. Here you saw the magnificent material of Dr. Matejka (Seizinger die proofs and original drawings); Max Mahr (Seizinger proofs and essays); Zdenek Kvasnicka (Field Post in Siberia) and a collective collection of Czechoslovak Philatelists showing Czechoslovakia from the stampless period to present day modern material. The latter was truly an outstanding showing that began with the stampless covers of the royal mail, i.e. letters written by King Ferdinand, Maria Theresa, etc.

Looking through the competitive Czech exhibits, one was in awe at the wealth of rare material—many things were on exhibit for the first time.

Of course the collections of Max Mahr were most impressive—probably the greatest collection of Czechoslovak stamps ever assembled. Where else could anyone even expect to find the 4 Kčs and 10 Kčs granite paper "Posta 1919" in both types I and II. His two air mail collections were unique. The first emphasized pioneer flights and featured two covers from the balloon flights during the siege of Paris. This exhibit contained over 20 flown covers from the first air issue of 1920!

Mr. Mahr's second air exhibit concentrated primarily on the 1930 air issue. Among the many rarities he showed, were over 50 Zeppelin and Hindenberg flown covers. Especially interesting were some covers which were meter cancelled and flown. For these exhibits, Mahr received 2 large gold and a small gold. He also received the Grand Prix-National.

The collections of Dr. Matejka and Vladimir Kovar were outstanding and they received the other two large golds that were awarded for Czechoslovakian exhibits.

All of the other exhibits were truly of a classical nature and it was a pleasure to view such overwhelming exhibits.

The competition for the 1988 Grand Prix-National awards should prove very interesting and exciting. There were many impressive and powerful exhibits as evidenced by the 10 small gold medals awarded. Now that Max Mahr and Zdenek Kvasnicka are retired from competition in the National Class, the door is wide open, in a manner of speaking, for younger philatelists to reign supreme.

One cannot underestimate the potential of the exhibits being formed by many native Czechs, as their 1978 exhibits strongly suggest to me that they are very capable of recapturing the top prize once again. They are also putting their energies into collecting 10 frames. That seems to be their main and primary concern. Most of the collectors elsewhere collect good material regardless of whether it will be exhibited in the 10 frames or not, but the Czechs themselves seem to be primarily interested in building 10 powerful frames for exhibition purposes.

Prices for good Czech stamps are very high, even if one gets 9+ crowns to a dollar. As soon as the price catalog came out, good material was selling for 2 and 3 times catalogue value. Many collectors there trade and bargain to build up those 10 frames. The material is there, now it is only a question

of who gathers what. The race is on!

In conclusion, it was indeed a pleasure for me to be in Prague and I'm looking forward to 1988 (God willing) to attend Praga '88. I would like to congratulate all the society members who exhibited—our society can well be proud of all the fine collector members and the membership will read of their great accomplishments.

Henry Hahn's Stockbook

BOOK REVIEW: "Specializovaný Katalog čechoslovenských Poštovních Známeč"—(Specialized Catalogue of Czechoslovak Postage Stamps), by a committee of authors directed by Vladimír Bernášek, POFIS, Prague 1978.

The authors and collectors comprising the committee and other contributors to this long overdue work read like a Czechoslovak philatelic "Who's Who." The catalogue itself contains some 450 pages, and is printed on paper of superior quality. It is well illustrated, and its general quality in terms of production reflects its intended purpose—a work of intermediate permanence; more permanent than the usual POFIS catalogue and less permanent than, say, the *Monografie*. As such it is possibly meant to replace the *Specialized Handbook* by Novotný, which purpose it unfortunately falls somewhat short of accomplishing.

The *Specialized Catalog* contains an introductory section, a catalogue and a concluding section containing valuable information on such subjects as plates and printing forms, early post marks, perfins, postal rates, and catalogue number equivalents covering the *Specialized Catalogue* itself (which provides yet another numbering) and POFIS, LIPSIA, (East German) Zumstein, Michel, Yvert and Tellier, Scott and Gibbons.

The first section translates 415 Czech philatelic terms into German, English, French, Spanish and Russian, in addition to listing 57 colors as used in the text, also translated to the above 5 languages.

The second, largest, section of the *Specialized Catalogue* presents information on such subjects as plate varieties, retouches, perforation varieties, printing varieties, unissued printings, triacs, proofs, waste prints and issuance data, much of it not available in either POFIS or Novotný. Reference is frequently made to Novotný, particularly in the area of plate numbers. There are many "firsts" to be found toward the end of this section: FDC varieties, booklets, commemorative and "black prints," special printings, etc. For the first time we find the individual stamps of the "Revolutionary Issues" of 1918-1919 priced separately.

Some startling new revelations are included, such as one pertaining to the three overprints on the Siberian "Silhouette Issues," which translates "Upon examination of available sources it was determined that all three overprints are of subsequent and private origin"(!?)

Another "first" is the listing of the 1944 Chust local issue, which is also priced separately. It is unfortunate that the illustrated stamp bears the well-known forged overprint, which originated in Budapest. The set, incidentally, is priced at 5,700 Kčs.

In the third section of the work one finds previously unpublished information on sheet and printing form layout. The information is well illustrated and clears up much in this previously confusing area. On the other hand, one must question the wisdom of including some 13 pages on post marks, which represent merely a smattering of what is found in *Monografie XIII* and *XIV*, the latter having been published almost simultaneously with the

Specialized Catalogue. The inclusion of a chapter on perfins and a listing of Czechoslovak experts by area of specialization are welcome additions, though these do not quite compensate for the lacking plate number and postal stationery chapters.

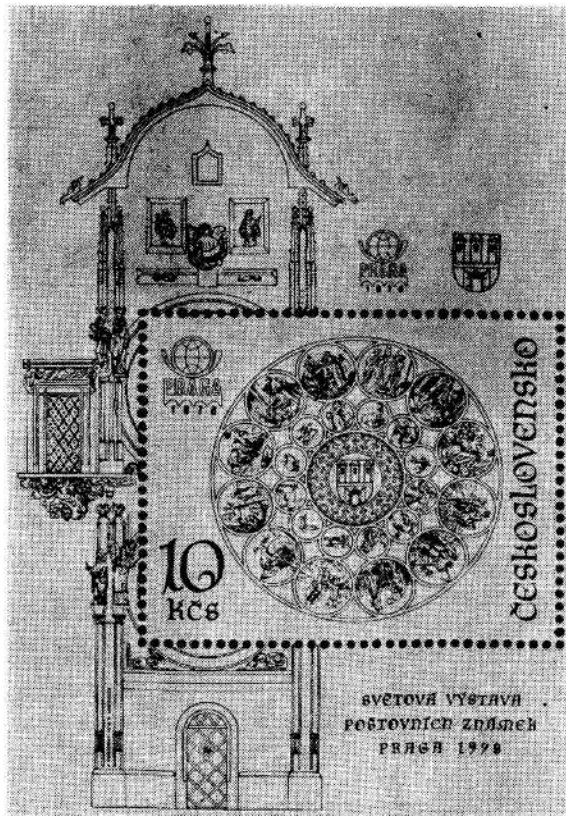
The prices, quoted in Kčs, are rather high, but appear realistic in terms of the European market and the current weakness of the dollar.

The printing was a mere 40,000 copies. Judging by the long lines at PRAGA '78 and the many years which have elapsed since publication of the last edition of the Novotný Handbook in 1971, the new Specialized Catalogue is sure to be a sell-out.

In spite of some shortcomings and omissions, the authors of the new Specialized Catalogue are to be congratulated for bringing us a most useful tool which will further enhance interest in Czechoslovak stamps.

H. Hahn

New Issues from Artia



Commemorative stamps "Tiziano Vecelli—Castle Gallery at Kroměříž—PRAGA 1978 World Postage Stamp Exhibition.

During the course of the PRAGA 1978 World Postage Stamp Exhibition, which was held from the 8th to 17th September 1978 in four exhibition halls



of Czechoslovakia's capital, Prague, under the slogan "Postage stamps and philately—sphere of learning and peace," there were a number of important events to which several days of the exhibition were dedicated. These include "Czechoslovak Stamp Day," "Universal Postal Union Day," "UNO Day" and "FIP (International Federation of Philately) Day."

To celebrate "FIP Day," which was on the 12th September, the Federal Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic prepared the final set of stamps to be issued on the occasion of the PRAGA 1978 exhibition, thereby ending the issue of stamps promoting the events launched in 1976.

For the final set promoting PRAGA 1978 and celebrating FIP Day, a picture by the great painter Tiziano Vecelli was selected from Czechoslovakia's collections.

Ancient myths have often served as the subject of paintings and sculptural works. The picture painted by Tiziano Vecelli near the end of his life is one of these. Its depiction on a graphic sheet in its entirety as well as certain of its details is an outstanding example of the engraver's art by the leading Czech graphic artist and engraver Josef Herčík. He also engraved the ornament on the First Day Cover issued with the two stamps, in this case Tiziano's "Toilet of a Young Woman."

The flat recess print used to print the graphic sheet with its two stamps as well as the First Day Cover is the crowning point of all the sets issued on the occasion of PRAGA 1978.

On the 12th September also was issued the commemorative stamps: "Tiziano Vecelli—Castle Gallery in Kroměříž":

10 Kčs—"The Slaying of Marsyas by Apollo." Engraved by Josef Herčík.
Apollo's companion.

Colors: brownish-black, brown, red, blue, ochre.

10 Kčs—King Midas. Engraved by Josef Herčík.

Colors: brownish-black, brown, red, blue, ochre

Graphic design of the entire graphic sheet by the engraver Josef Herčík. It was printed by Five-color flat recess print at the Post Printing Office in Prague and includes the above two stamps; their dimensions are 40x50 mm.

Issued with the set is a First Day Cover bearing a depiction of Tiziano Vecelli's "Toilet of a Young Woman."

The graphic sheet was issued also in another version without the inscription "Den FIP" (FIP Day).

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