

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



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Czechoslovak First and Second Air Mail Issues

by Zdenek Kvasniča, SCP

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Much credit for the development of European aviation belongs to Louis Bleriot, who, in 1909 succeeded in flying across the English Channel in an airplane he built himself. Early on the morning of July 25 he took off from Soingatte on the French coast and landed at Dover after a flight of 27 minutes and 21 seconds. This flight greatly encouraged many other pioneers who were trying to advance aviation.

Reports have been preserved indicating that the first attempts to fly in Bohemia date back to 1860. However, the first successful pioneer was Engineer Jan Kašpar, who flew in a monoplane of his own construction from Pardubice to Prague in 1911. (Fig. 1). Together with his cousin E. Čihák, he began to build his own airplane in 1909, but it was with the purchase of a "Bleriot" plane in 1910 that they mastered flying techniques. This was a time when air shows were popular throughout Europe, a period that produced



Fig. 1

a whole series of documents, especially in France and Germany, many of which can be found in private collections. Engineer Jan Kašpar and other pioneers made propaganda flights in many Czech and Moravian towns.

Air Mail Service in Czechoslovakia

The first World War accelerated developments in airplane construction with many pilots being trained by the armies. The Austrian Army also had its air force which included pilots of Czech nationality. Air service was initiated in Czechoslovakia in 1920 by the Franco-Romanian Company with the flight route, Prague-Strasbourg-Paris that had a connection to London. In 1921 an additional route opened connecting Prague and Warsaw. Probably the high cost of these flights was the reason for high postal charges; i.e. 14 Kč to Strasbourg, 24 Kč to Paris and 28 Kč to London for each 20 grams sent. These rates were in addition to regular postage fees. There was limited interest in this service, especially among business circles, because the



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

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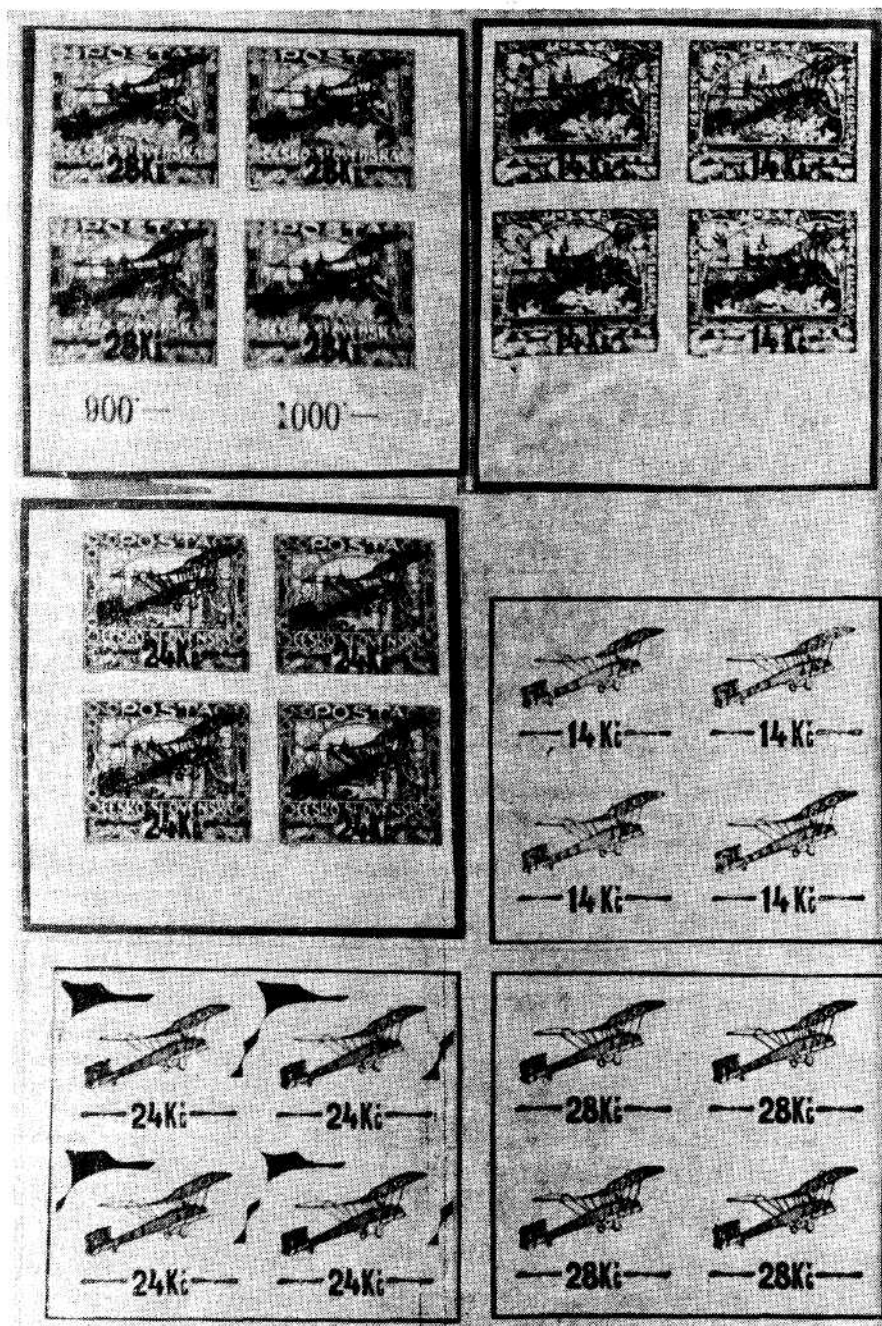


Fig. 4 (three blocks of four of stamps; Fig. 5 (three blocks of overprints)

Postal Service could not guarantee regular and rapid delivery.

There are very few actually flown covers from this period. Engineer Šula estimates, based on the weight of mail sent, that 400-450 letters were sent during the entire period from the beginning of the service in October, 1920 to the end in March, 1921 (this includes disruption of the service during December). All in all 31 flights were made, five of which were not completed because of emergency landings.

The scarcest genuinely flown covers are those that have arrival cancels with dates that coincide with actual flights. One must also take into consideration that postmarks dates sent from post offices other than Prague had to be one to two days before flight time. Covers which do not meet the above criteria, but were sent during the period the first stamps were valid are also very rare. The period between April 1 and 30, 1921 is also very interesting for collectors. It was a period during which the rates had been drastically reduced, but new, needed air mail stamps had not yet been issued. Therefore regular stamps were used, and if the item was heavy enough, stamps of the first air mail issue were also used.

In the Official Bulletin No. 35 dated August 12, 1920 it was announced that each piece of air mail had to be marked with the appropriate air mail route. For this purpose labels with bi-lingual French-Czech texts were issued and sold for 5 hellers apiece.

Air Mail Stamps, First Issue

The issuance of air mail stamps was announced in Official Bulletin No. 37, dated August 24, 1920, as having been available from August 15. In fact, the stamps were already available at post office sales windows on August 11. The stamps were issued as provisionally overprinted ones because the stamp designs that had been submitted did not meet the conceptual standards of the postal authorities. One of the designs that has been preserved and attributed



Fig. 6

to Professor Bendov was produced by letter press and depicts an airplane over St. Vitus Cathedral. It bears the text, LETECKÁ POŠTA ČESKOSLOVANSKÁ (Czechoslovak Air Mail) along with the value 28 Kč at top and bottom (fig. 2). It was produced in black, red, orange, green, blue, and light brown. Also of interest is the overprint essay that was drawn by Secretary of the Ministry of Post, Dr. Novák, and which, after minor changes, was used for the First and Second air mail issues (fig. 3). It is at the same time a different design of the airplane and a simplified rendering of the 18 Kč in an oval; the definitive design had a simplified design of the numerals 18 done in white.

The 200 heller Hradčany stamp was selected for overprinting with the 14 Kč, the 500h for the 24 Kč, and the 1000 for 28 Kč (fig. 4). The 200 h stamp was printed again using the original plates, but with the control numbers removed. The 500 h stamps came both from existing stocks printed by plate I (open spiral) and supplemental printings from plate II (closed spiral) after the control numbers had also been removed from this plate.

The open spiral appears twice in plate II, that is, in positions 32 and 35. Joined types I+II are rare. Both the reprinted values are on whiter paper with brighter color than in the original printing. Part of this print run was not overprinted and was put on sale at Post Offices. Collectors are especially interested in the bottom rows of these sheets because they are incontrovertible proof that the stamps are from the second printing. Only the 1000 h stamps all have control numbers because this value was not reprinted. Paper for all three stamps was either slightly yellowish, brownish, white or for the 1000 h also violet pinkish. Rare are the stamps that were printed on horizontally striped paper. Plate and printing errors have been described in volume I, *Monografie Československých Známek* (Monograph of Czechoslovak Stamps).

The overprints were typographed from plates in the printing plant of the Czech Graphic Union in Prague. Actual printing was preceded by a whole series of trials on various values of the Hradčany stamps as well as on blank paper (figure 5). Printers' wastes, which were not supposed to leave the

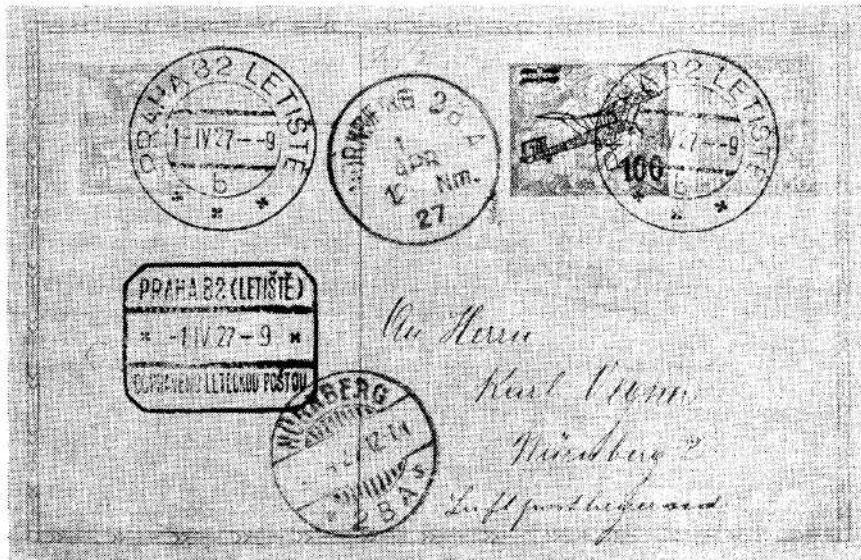


Fig. 7

printing plant, have been preserved in considerable quantities for collectors. A relatively small amount of inverted, shifted and offset overprints exist from the final print run. At first, post offices only received imperforated stamps, but from September 14, 1920 perforated stamps were also on sale. Line perforations 13¼ and perforations 13¼:13½ exist in all three values. The perforation measurements were not determined administratively, but rather by serendipity; namely, whatever perforating machine was available. Therefore it is not known how many stamps were perforated with each perforation. It should be noted, however, that the 13¼ perforation of the 28 Kč value is eagerly sought by collectors. Larger blocks of both the perforated and imperforated stamps of all values of this series are seldom seen in collections.

The stamps of the air mail first issue were valid until April 30, 1921. Part of the remainders were sold at the philatelic window and the rest was destroyed. Documents dealing with the official destruction of these unsold stamps is missing and believed to be destroyed, but it is also believed that the number of stamps destroyed was large. Today the first air mail issue of Czechoslovakia is among the most sought after issues.

Second Issue, 1922

Because of the sharply reduced air mail rate, the Postal authorities again were required to issue a provisional overprint issue. The airplane of the first issue was again used for the new overprint design, but to it was added a double propeller at the upper left corner and the value numerals were shifted to the bottom right. The following three values of the Agriculture and Science issue were overprinted:

- 50 h on 100 h green, black overprint;
- 100 h on 200 h red violet, black overprint;
- 250 h on 400 h brown, blue overprint.

Since the stamps to be overprinted were taken from existing stock, they



Fig. 8

have the same color shade differences, white or slightly yellowish paper and various minor printing and perforation variations, such as those found in the Agriculture and Science series. Small paper folds and double perforations are known and were obviously missed by the inspectors. The sheets of 100 stamps each did not have fiscal control numbers and were perforated line 13 $\frac{3}{4}$. The most interesting value is the 250 h overprint which has two types—the wide and narrow “0.” Pairs of type 1+2 joined are rare.

As in the first issue, the overprint was typographed. The overprint has some typical, though minor, plate flaws. For instance, the airplane in the 100th position of the 50 h value has a hook instead of a wheel, the zeros are smaller in position 62 of the 100 h value and so on. Careful examination also revealed various breaks in the numerals and design of the different positions.

There are fewer trial overprints of this issue. Trials of the overprints on blank paper in the final color are known, as is the 250 h in black. Rarely are the 50/100 and the 100/200 stamps found imperforated. All three values with the overprint inverted are also rare. Double overprints also fall into this category. And rarest of all is the 250/400 value with a black rather than a blue overprint.

Via this issue one can follow the development of air mail service not only in Czechoslovakia but throughout the entire world. Many new routes came into being with their inaugural flights using commemorative cancels. In addition to collecting the stamps, aerophilatelists usually collect and study these covers even though information needed for such study is hard to come by. The attitude is also changing toward “philatelic covers” that were sent by collectors as differentiated from commercial covers. Without the former, the documentation necessary for the study of the evolution of air mail would not have been preserved. During the period of the second air mail issue the rates were revised several times.



Fig. 9

First and Inaugural Flights

The listing of first and inaugural flights is essential for proper incorporation of such covers into a collection. A first flight is when the actual first flight connecting two air fields took place (figure 7). The first flight in a given year is the first flight that reopens the air connection between two or more towns. An inaugural flight, which officially opens a new route between two or more cities need not necessarily be a first flight. For instance it might be a special flight for dignitaries, journalists and so on to commemorate rather than to actually initiate the service. Trial flights are intended to familiarize crews with routes, airports and so on. Such flights can also carry mail. Let us cite events that took place on just such a flight and were recorded in the Journal of Czechoslovak Post, Telegraph and Telephone, No. 3, 1920. On March 5, 1920 a trial flight was flown on the Praha-Bratislava-Praha route by Lt. McMullin who was flying for the English firm "Aircraft Transport and Travel." The Minister of Posts Staněk and General Director Dr. Fatka were present for the take off. The aircraft took four bags of mail, including a letter from Minister Staněk to the Minister for Slovakia, Dr. Šrobár. The plane landed on the air field at Vajnor and, after taking on mail for Praha, returned to Kbely air field in Praha.

Marking covers on first flights was not required. But it is thought that the familiar three line marking PRVNÍ LET/1925/PREMIER VOL., which was modified the next year with a new date (Fig. 8) had been ordered by the



Figs. 10 to 16

Post Office Praha-Letiště (Praha-Airport). It is found not only on first flights, but also on annual first flights and on inaugural flights. Later the date was removed and it was used as a two line cancel in 1930 (figure 9) and appears on first flight covers from Praha to Rome as late as 1938.

Listing of first flights, air routes, and data on use of cancels were developed with the assistance of B. Kravan who has been gathering data on the history of air mail service in Czechoslovakia for many years. The list of first flights at the end of this article also designates which air lines serviced the routes. These were:

- C F. R. N. A.—Companie Franco-Romaine de la Navigation Aéírenne (The initials were changed to C. I. D. N. A. in 1925)
- Č. S. A.—Československá státní aerolinie (Czecho. State Airline)
- Č. L. A.—Československá letecká sjolečnost (Czecho. Airline Company)
- D. L. H.—Deutsche Lufthansa A. G. Berlin
- P. L. L. Lot—Polskie Linje Lotnicze LOT Warsawa (Polish Airline LOT)
- OELAG—Österreichische Luftverkehrs A. G. Wien (Austrian Air Transport)
- AD ASTRA—Swiss Airline Company

Direction Labels

During 1922 and 1923 the bilingual French-Czech directional labels originally issued in 1920 for the Strasbourg, Paris, London and Warsaw route were still in use. Philatelists marked air mail to other destinations with privately printed labels or hand written directions. Regulations that required the marking of routes continued in effect and, therefore, to make processing easier, Post Office Praha 1, from where the great bulk of air mail material was sent, used a two line bilingual hand stamp bearing the text "Létadlem z Praha ---- / Par Avion de Prague a ----". The destination was written in by hand.

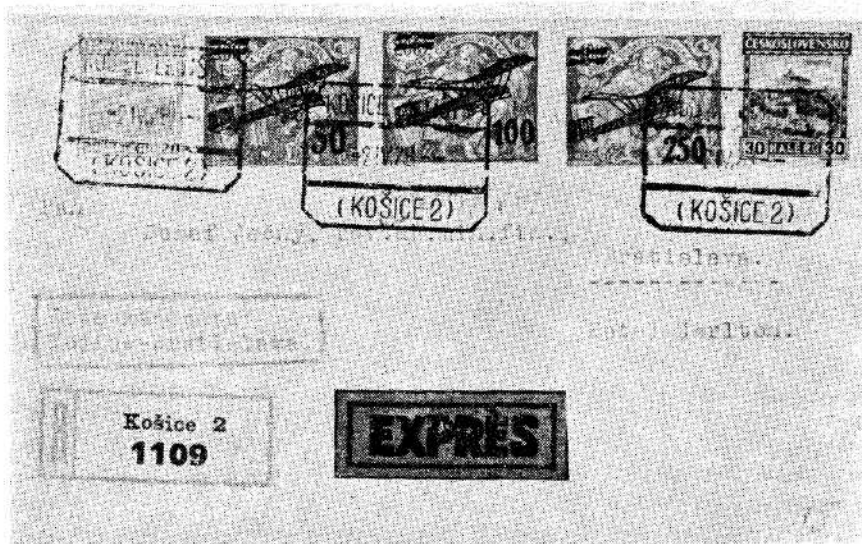


Fig. 17

Air Mail Cancels and Stickers

The use of air mail stickers was becoming commonplace throughout the world. In Czechoslovakia a small blue sticker was issued with text in Czech and French (figure 10) "LÉTADLEM/PAR AVION" which the sender received free at post offices. In 1924, before issuance of these stickers, post offices used hand cancelers on air mail. Praha 82-Airport had a bilingual rectangular device (fig. 11), Bratislava 2 had two Czech language devices while in Mariánské Lázně marked air mail with a simple Czech-German hand stamp "Letiště-Flughafen" (figure 13). In Košice a small framed "LETECKÁ POŠTA" (air mail) cancel was used (figure 12).

Daily Mail Cancels

Post Office Praha 1, which processed air mail from the beginning of that service, used a regular Czechoslovak cancel with the distinguishing numbers 4a, 4b, 4c and so on. The Post Office Praha-Letiště, later Praha 82-Letiště, began functioning on April 1, 1921 and used the daily canceler "Č.S.P." with the distinguishing mark a. From March 3, 1926 a new cancel with Praha 82-Letiště text and the distinguishing letter b was used. Additional cancelers c and d of the same type were eventually introduced. From March 16, 1927 an oblong cancel was used, but mainly as a receiving or "pass through" marking.

Only Praha 7-Letecká pošta" appears as a canceler of stamps. During the winter months all air mail from all of Czechoslovakia was gathered at a post office, where at the beginning they had only the cancel "Praha 7 Cizina Etranger" (Praha 7/Foreign). In 1935 the office received a rectangular canceler with rounded corners and at the beginning of 1939 it was replaced with three square cornered cancelers with distinguishing letters a, b and c. Regular service was available on domestic air routes from mid-March to the end of October when the winter break began. Foreign routes remained opera-

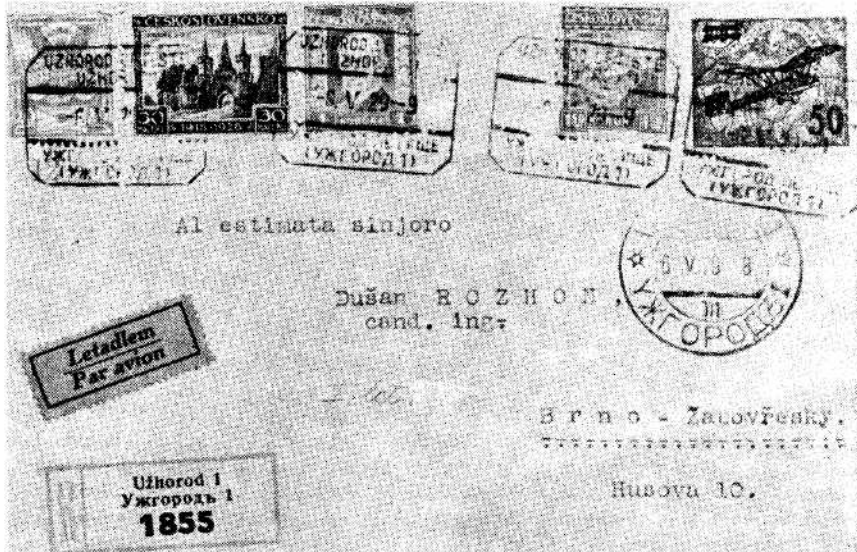


Fig. 18

tional but in case of inclement weather planes did not fly. On Sunday, when the post office at the air port was closed, mail for sorting and cancelling came to this office. When larger amounts of mail arrived, roller cancelers with six lines were also used. If mail had air postage prepaid, but was not so marked it received the two lined cancel PAR AVION/CIDNA (figures 15-16).

Post office Brno 2 despatched air mail at the main Railroad station. It used regular cancels with various differentiating letters. The first flight from Praha to Brno was on May 24, 1926. On September 1, 1927 the Brno post office received a rectangular canceler with cut off corners. The post office Bratislava 1 used the Czechoslovak canceler type "s" with the distinguishing mark 4g. The first flight from Praha to Bratislava took place on October 29, 1923. A rectangular cancel with clipped corners was used as a canceler and backstamp from September 1, 1927.

Post office Košice 2 was also located at the train station. For cancelling air mail it used normal Č.S.P. cancels. Later cancelers with three stars, which had various distinguishing letters were used. The first flight from Praha and Bratislava took place on May 12, 1924. A rectangular cancel similar to the Bratislava one was also used here (figure 17).

The Mariánské Lázně 1 post office was located in the center of town on the Colonaden. A branch office was located at the air port in Úšovice, actually a collection point, which received a rectangular, clipped corner canceler in Czech and German on September 1, 1927. Mail sent from the post office in Mariánské Lázně had a Czechoslovak bilingual cancel with the 3c designation. Between August 3 and August 31, 1927 cancels were in violet ink rather than black. The first flight to Mariánské Lázně took place on June 1, 1925.

The post office Užhorod 1 used the Czechoslovak bilingual cancel for air mail. Later it, like all post offices designated as expeditors of air mail, received the rectangular canceler with clipped corners (figure 18).

(to be continued)

SALES DEPARTMENT

How important our sales circuits are to our members and especially to the old age group was brought home to me in a letter from our oldest member, who has reached the good age of 98 (ninety-eight). Mr. Skopecek in Colfax, California has received all our circuits from Nr. 1 to Nr. 474. His daughter just wrote to me that her father's eye sight is very poor and that he no longer wishes to receive our circuits. She goes on to say: "Thank you for all the years of enjoyment he has had from receiving circuits." I have had many letters of appreciation and thanks from circuit recipients, many even mentioned that by even looking at varieties they were able to learn and understand what they had read about in specialized catalogues. Of course all of them were happy to add specimens to their collections.

We can still use more sales books for circulation. Blank books are available if you need them.

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

(Advertisement)

THE DR. PHILLIP T. MARSHALL MEMORIAL SALE

Dr. Phillip T. Marshall was a fine dentist, father of three sons and lifelong philatelist. One of his special collecting interests was Czechoslovakia and this net sale offering is in partial settlement of his estate. Dr. Marshall shared his hobby with his three sons, Max, Toby and Teddy before he died in 1975. He is also survived by his devoted wife, a physician herself, Ann Marshall M.D. This sale is dedicated to his memory.

All stamps are listed according to Scott 1979 Catalogue numbers and are net priced at 60% discount to catalogue value so that all members, both young and old, might buy at a fair price and fill the areas of their albums that need work.

Terms: Most stamps are one of a kind so please list alternatives. Payment must be sent with the order. Personal checks are acceptable. Please make them out to the Editor, Dominick Riccio. All stamps are guaranteed genuine and may be returned within 10 days for a full refund. Please support this sale as 10% of the net will be donated to our Society.

| Scott # | Description | Catalogue Value | Net Price | Scott # | Description | Catalogue Value | Net Price |
|-------------|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|--|-----------------|-----------|
| 1-10, | | | | 200-201 | singles Mint LH F-VF | | |
| 13-16, 20 | Mint, LH F-VF | 5.43 | 2.17 | 200a | Music Sheet with original folder | | |
| 23-40 | Mint LH (some plate variet.) | 15.20 | 6.08 | | Mint Hinged, 2 thins in margin on back | Special | |
| 41-53 | Mint LH F-VF | 8.24 | 3.30 | | few light creases | 140. | 50.00 |
| 61-63 | Mint LH F-VF | 17.75 | 7.10 | 202-212 | 1935 epl. Mint LH | 10.95 | 4.38 |
| 65-81 | Mint LH F-VF | 31.60 | 12.64 | 213-26 | 1936 epl yr Mnt LH | 6.40 | 2.56 |
| 82-91 | Mint LH F-VF | 16.00 | 6.40 | 218a-23a | Gutter prs, Mnt LH | 12. | 4.80 |
| 82a | Mint LH tete beche F-VF | 1.50 | .60 | 227-254 | 1937-38 complete years (except #252) | 11.90 | 4.76 |
| 92-94 | Mint LH F-VF | 13.00 | 5.20 | 230a-31a | Gutter prs. Mnt LH | 5.50 | 2.20 |
| 95-97 | Mint LH F-VF | 6.50 | 2.60 | B137-9 | Olympic set F-VF | | |
| 98-101 | Mint LH F-VF | 13.50 | 5.40 | | Mint | 109.50 | 43.80 |
| 102-4 | Mint LH F-VF | 90.50 | 36.20 | B140-43 | Sokol set F-VF | | |
| 105-106,108 | Mint LH F-VF | 12. | 4.80 | | Mint | 94.00 | 37.60 |
| 109-11 | Mint LH FV-F | 6.75 | 2.70 | C1-3 | 1st Air Mail F-VF Mint | 67.00 | 26.80 |
| 114-22 | Mint LH F-VF | 36.20 | 14.48 | C4-5 | 2nd Air Mail Mint F-VF | 110.00 | 44.00 |
| 123-36 | Mint LH FV-F | 24.00 | 9.60 | C7-9 | Mint F-VF | 14.00 | 5.60 |
| 137-40 | Mint LH VF set | 22.50 | 9.00 | C10-18 | Mint F-VF | 13.00 | 5.20 |
| 141-51 | Mint LH F-VF | 9.75 | 3.90 | E1-3 plus | | | |
| 152-63 | Mint LH F-VF | 9.96 | 3.99 | E1a-3a | Mint F-VF | 83.70 | 33.48 |
| 164-67 | Mint LH F-VF | 17.85 | 7.14 | J1-14 | Mint LH F-VF | 40.50 | 16.20 |
| 168a-171 | Mint LH F-VF | 4.15 | 1.66 | J15-19 | Mint LH F-VF | 2.85 | 1.14 |
| 175-78 | Mint LH F-VF | 16.25 | 6.50 | J20-31 | Mint LH F-VF | 45.00 | 18.00 |
| 183-86 | Mint LH F-VF | 17.75 | 7.10 | J32-34 | Mint LH F-VF | 6.00 | 2.40 |
| 187-91 | Mint LH F-VF | 21.30 | 8.52 | J35-41 | Mint LH F-VF | 6.00 | 2.40 |
| 192-94 | Mint LH F-VF | 5.00 | 2.00 | | | | |
| 195-99 | Mint LH F-VF | 6.60 | 2.64 | | | | |

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|-------|-------|----------------------------------|------------------|-------|------|
| J42-49 | Mint LH F-VF | 4.65 | 1.86 | 844-67 | Mint LH F-VF | 6.98 | 2.80 |
| J50-56 and | | | | 870-86 | Mint LH F-VF | 10.03 | 4.00 |
| J57 | Mint LH F-VF | 5.50 | 2.20 | 890-96 | Mint LH F-VF | 3.20 | 1.28 |
| J58-69 | Mint LH F-VF | 6.00 | 2.40 | 912-920 | Mint LH F-VF | 3.82 | 1.52 |
| P1-26 Complete Mint | | | | 938-9, | | | |
| | LH F-VF | 5.72 | 2.28 | 949-54 | Mint LH F-VF | 3.10 | 1.24 |
| | 1945—Present | | | 965-69 | Mint LH F-VF | 5.85 | 2.34 |
| 272-87 | Mint LH F-VF | 2.00 | .80 | 1003-6, 1013-18, | | | |
| 288-92 and 292 | | | | 1019-22 | Mint LH F-VF | 3.76 | 1.50 |
| (S/SNH) Mint LH F-VF | | 26.75 | 10.70 | 1023-43 | Mint LH F-VF | 10.08 | 4.03 |
| 293-314 including | | | | 1048-69 | Mint LH F-VF | 7.42 | 2.97 |
| S/S | Mint LH F-VF | 17.91 | 7.16 | 1081, 1091-96 | | | |
| 1946 and 1947 complete | | | | 1257 | Mint LH FVF- | 4.75 | 1.90 |
| 315-339 | Mint LH F-VF | 10.95 | 4.38 | C19-27 | Mint LH F-VF | 11.50 | 4.60 |
| 343-369 1948 cpl. except | | | | C28-35 | Mint LH F-VF | 7.00 | 2.80 |
| 340-42 | Mint LH F-VF | 7.46 | 2.98 | C40-46 | Mint LH F-VF | 11.95 | 4.78 |
| 1949 complete | | | | | First Day Covers | | |
| 372-400 | Mint LH F-VF | 23.63 | 9.45 | Group of 33 FDC's | | | |
| 401-3 | Mint LH F-VF | 4.95 | 1.98 | All Music themes | ----- | 7.50 | |
| 410-25 | Mint LH F-VF | 8.28 | 3.31 | Group of 16 FDC's | | | |
| 426-29a and block | | | | All Space themes | ----- | 3.50 | |
| of 4 | Mint NH F-VF | 20.00 | 8.00 | Group of 32 FDC's, All different | | | |
| 430-37 | Mint NH F-VF | 7.38 | 2.95 | Castles, Coats of Arms | ---- | 6.50 | |
| 438-41 | Mint LH F-VF | 5.20 | 2.08 | Group of 33 FDC's, All different | | | |
| 445-7, 452-4 | Mint LH F-VF | 2.05 | .82 | Sports and Olympics | ----- | 7.50 | |
| 460-3, 470-2, | | | | Group of 26 FDC's, All different | | | |
| 487-9, 504-6 | Mint NH F-VF | 4.65 | 1.86 | Wild Life themes | ----- | 5.00 | |
| 511-15, 521-25, | | | | Group of 11 FDC's | | | |
| 529-41 | Mint LH F-VF | 4.22 | 1.69 | All different flowers | ----- | 2.50 | |
| 681-706 | Mint LH FV-F | 11.74 | 4.70 | Group of 17 FDC's, All different | | | |
| 707-10 | | | | Stamp exhibits, etc. Praga | | | |
| costumes | Mint LH F-VF | 21.00 | 8.40 | '62, '68, etc. | ----- | 4.00 | |
| 711-718 | Mint LH F-VF | 4.75 | 1.90 | Group of 23 FDC's, All different | | | |
| 719 S/S | Mint LH F-VF | 15.00 | 6.00 | Famous People themes | ---- | 4.00 | |
| 721-739 | Mint LH F-VF | 8.38 | 3.35 | Group of 12 FDC's | | | |
| 740-46 | Mint LH F-VF | 9.70 | 3.88 | Famous Poets and Writers | .. | 2.50 | |
| 757-55 | Mint LH F-VF | 12.10 | 4.84 | Group of 15 FDC's | | | |
| 756-69 | Mint LH F-VF | 7.67 | 3.08 | Music themes | ----- | 4.50 | |
| 776-79 | | | | Group of 12 FDC's | | | |
| costumes | Mint LH F-VF | 5.30 | 2.12 | Army themes | ----- | 2.50 | |
| 780-95 | Mint LH F-VF | 5.22 | 2.08 | Group of 50 FDC's. All different | | 10.00 | |
| 796-812 | Mint LH F-VF | 6.60 | 2.64 | Group of 68 FDC's. All different | | | |
| 813-831 | Mint LH F-VF | 6.69 | 2.68 | some better items noted | | | |
| 832-835 | | | | Special | | 12.00 | |
| costumes | Mint LH F-VF | 7.45 | 2.98 | Group of about 55 FDC's | ---- | 10.00 | |
| 836-43 | Mint LH F-VF | 7.15 | 2.86 | Group of about 75 FDC's | | | |
| | | | | 1957-1960, almost complete | | 15.00 | |

Any member who purchases over \$25 worth of material will receive as a bonus a group of three scarce early cacheted covers dating before 1948.

Please send all orders with check or money order to the Editor before April 30, 1979. Please include an additional \$.50 for postage and handling.

Dominick Riccio

Apt. 4D, 235 West 76th Street, New York, New York 10023

BOOK REVIEW: "Overprints of the Liberation Territory of the Republic of Czechoslovakia 1939-1945" by Juan Santauegenia, Barcelona 1978, published privately by the author in Spanish.

Visitors to PRAGA '78 were most pleasantly surprised by the appearance of Juan Santauegenia's large book among the philatelic literature exhibits. It won a well deserved silver.

The book, currently in its corrected and revised form (a further revised edition is in progress) is not a catalogue, but rather a compendium of all of the controversial, so called "1945 Revoluční" overprints on the various issues in use on liberated Czechoslovak territories.

The "no frills" (Second) edition of August, 1978 is reproduced by photocopying, paper bound (stapled) and contains 220 pages of well illustrated text. Though primarily in Spanish and French (with large portions also in German and English), American readers should find little difficulty understanding the catalogue portions. The author used the Yvert and Tellier Catalogue for identification of the stamps bearing the overprint—but this causes little difficulty since the stamps are also described and in many instances illustrated. Some of the overprints illustrated are photo-reproductions of the original, while some are merely drawings. Unfortunately, the illustrations do not indicate whether they are one or the other.

Varieties are not described; the book is limited to the basic overprints. Each overprint is assigned a number—some localities had one, others several overprint designs. Each such number bears a sub-number (separated by a slash), identifying different sets of stamps overprinted or overprint colors. As an aid in identification, a section of the book is devoted to an alphabetical listing of the first letter of the text appearing on the overprint, or number. A design identifier section is also included.

"Phantasy" overprints and those not as yet identified are also included, as are overprinted postal stationery.

It is much to the author's credit that he does not concern himself with such things as price, point count, or rarity. He wastes not one word on the subject of "legitimacy," or "justification," as done ad nauseum by some philatelic writers dealing with other controversial items. He wastes not a word on politics.

To those of us who collect these overprints, the book will be indispensable. To those who don't collect the "1945 Revoluční" overprints, but collect the 1918 ones, remember that old frauds are no better than newer ones, though they do seem to age gracefully. Remember that the Chust overprint (Santauegenia 184/1-8) is now listed in the "Specialized Catalogue of Czechoslovak Postage Stamps"* and hence has a "degree of pedigree"—not to speak of the price tag. Others might well follow, as new discoveries are made.

The author is to be congratulated and thanked for bringing us a lasting work in this less than popular area of our hobby. His painstaking and successful effort will inspire us to seek new challenges that add to the vitality of stamp collecting.

Those interested in purchasing a copy of this book should drop a card to Richard Major, P. O. Box 4074, Arlington, VA 22204. The price will be about \$30—SEND NO MONEY—we merely wish to determine interest before placing an order.

Henry Hahn

* Praga 1978

The Editor's Review

Well, except for those of you in California and Florida, these past months of frigid temperatures have given most of us here in the East and Mid-West an excellent excuse to stay home and work on our stamp collections. This past winter has given us all good opportunities to buy stamps and covers that have not appeared on the market in many a year. With the buying of stamps in mind, I would like to commend you all to the Dr. Phillip Marshall collection which is being sold by the Society so that all members may get an opportunity to add to their collections at reasonable prices. Please remember that 10% of the proceeds go to our Society.

While on the topic of "reasonable prices" I wanted to mention an area of collecting to our members, both novice and advanced, which I think bears some attention. As you all probably know, First Day Cover collecting has literally skyrocketed in popularity in the U. S. in the last five years. Indeed, prices for the most common FDC's are often over a dollar, not to mention the pre-1950 covers with special cachets, etc. These now command prices over \$100 each.

In writing up the Marshall sale, I noticed that Pofis, the Czech catalog pays little attention to the pricing and rarity of FDC's and usually assigns a price about equal to the value of the used stamps. I wonder if this reflects the true scarcity of these covers and furthermore, I wonder if there is any information available about the different cachets, which by the way, in my opinion, are among the most artfully designed cachets available in the stamp market. Indeed, if one has limited funds, FDC collecting may be the best way to collect since they often sell for less than the price of the used stamps and probably will be worth a significant premium in years to come. In addition, one has the added beauty of the cachet which often depicts a significant aspect of the stamp's theme and puts it into historical perspective. Finally, an added upward pressure on prices may come from thematic collectors who are now willing to pay increasingly higher prices for FDC's with their particular thematic topic and dealers are beginning to find it hard to replenish their stock. In case you didn't notice, the Marshall sale has quite a few FDC's that were commercially used.

By the way, I have recently received a number of inquiries about the status of the Board's decision to translate the Specialized Catalogue by Novotny into English. How about starting a study group? Anyone interested? How about you retired Czech-speaking older members? If everybody does a little bit, it will be done in a flash.

In the May issue of the Specialist I will report on the major shows in which our Society participated. Meanwhile, good luck to our exhibitors and I hope to see you all at Sojex '79.

SOJEX SCHEDULE

SCP SOJEX Chairman, Edward Lehecka informs us that our Society will have a full schedule of events at our annual meeting at SOJEX '79 which will take place in Atlantic City from April 6th to 8th at the World International Hotel. Our Society will have a hospitality table at the show itself and will feature a 40th Anniversary Society Cachet and a special drive to increase membership. In addition we will have a number of speakers on various topics of Czech Philately, as well as an important annual board meeting. Finally, there will be a Luncheon on Sunday after a general membership meeting. Exact details and times will be available in the Sojex Program.

Charley's Corner

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

Just read the Editor's article and comments on hinging and not hinging stamps.

In my opinion, hinging has proven itself over the years to be the best method to display stamps in a collection. When one looks at the total life of a stamp, which can sometimes be over 100 years, the question of the soundness of using mounts is raised. I'm not taking issue with philatelists who prefer not to hinge their stamps but I would like you to consider some points which I feel make a valid case for the superiority of hinges. At present, I mount my entire collection with hinges—they are the pre-folded type which are made in Europe. This type of hinge has faintly embossed paper which prevents complete adhesion to the stamp or album.

One must be careful to lightly moisten the hinge and not to completely lick it as you would have a stamp for mailing. Given this type of care, one has to scrutinize the gum quite carefully to even notice the trace this type of hinge leaves. With fine peelable hinges—nothing happens to the stamp and being previously hinged one can be almost positive that the gum is original and not from a bottle. Next point is that a stamp must breathe. Hinges allow a stamp to get good air circulation whereas after a number of years in a mount, the gum will tend to get shiny, harden up, and eventually crack. Granted, this process may take 10, perhaps 20, years but it usually does occur.

Finally, on many early stamps (of the first issuing countries) such as the United States, Great Britain and other European countries, philatelists removed the gum to protect the stamps themselves from falling apart. In Czechoslovakia, the Siberian issues which was gummed in Irkutsk is a good example. In my own collection, I remove the gum on the gutter pairs of the 50 Kop. and 25 Kop. because the gum invariably breaks down the fibers of the stamp paper. The gum probably contained some acid that was causing the paper to break apart. Consequently, as the aging process works on the stamps, certain types of gum have to be removed.

In conclusion, paying big money for unhinged stamps seems to me like going to the horse races. Unless one is an expert, many of the earlier issues are regummed and a collector can really be "taken to the cleaners."

As the Editor points out, buy hinged stamps if possible; try and avoid paying a premium for unhinged. One final word, stamps with heavy hinges or much disturbed gums should be sold for less than nice lightly-hinged copies. As usual, common sense is the best guide.

NOTICE

SOJEX CACHETS COMMEMORATE 40th ANNIVERSARY OF SCP

The Society for Czechoslovak Philately will again have a cachet for the 1979 Convention at SOJEX. The cachet will commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the Czechoslovak Specialist, which was founded in 1939. Envelopes with the cachet and the SOJEX '79 postmark will be on sale at SOJEX, and may be ordered by members by mail at the price of \$1.00 for one or \$2.00 for three. Please enclose a stamped, self addressed envelope for the return of these cacheted envelopes and send your orders to Richard Major, P. O. Box 4074, Arlington, VA 22204.

NEW MEMBERS

1229 Charles Cmarada, 21 Glen Lane, Kings Park, NY 11754

CHANGES OF ADDRESS AND CORRECTIONS

1188 J. Rudolph Adamik, P. O. Box 263, Warren, RI 02885

670 Anthony Budin, Farview Ave., Paramus, NJ 07652

759 Edwin J. Hanish, P. O. Box 847, Wayne, NJ 07470

1050 Aghata Vyvial Hartman, Texas

Contest Announcement!

Your Secretary is also the Chairman of the Membership Committee and although we have secured almost thirty members since he took office officially in May 1978, he feels we should do better. To spur an intense membership drive, the Secretary (Ed Sabol) has organized a contest for all members. The member responsible for the MOST NEW MEMBERS FROM THE DATE OF THIS INSERTION until 31 December 1979, will receive a beautiful Czechoslovakia philatelic prize worth between thirty to fifty dollars. This prize is donated by Ed Sabol. Ed plans to obtain more prizes from other sources and will tell us what the prizes are in a forthcoming issue of the SPECIALIST. So, start right now by writing to Ed Sabol, 427 King St., Woodbury, N. J. 08096 and ask for a supply of Membership Applications on which you will place your name as Sponsor. Ed hopes to obtain enough prizes so that we may award first, second and third prize (maybe more). If you have a donation for this cause, please do not forward it to Ed. Hold on to it but please write the Secretary what your donated prize is and then you can forward the prize directly to the winner when the winners are announced. Your name will be listed as a donor of the prize and what it is. You may or may not include an estimated retail value but please elaborate on your donated prize or prizes. Everyone is eligible (except Ed Sabol, the Secretary, of course). Let us all cooperate since you will all reap the benefits of an expanded SPECIALIST. Naturally, the larger the membership, the more money we will have to invest in the SPECIALIST. PLEASE SEND a S.A.S.E. to Ed with your request for application blanks.

ALSO

PLEASE, mail YOUR DUES to the Treasurer, Mr. Charles (Chuck) Collins, address on second page, TODAY, without further delay, if you have not paid.

Personality and Philately

An "old-timer" recalls past pleasant memories of the Society and shows us that even the old experts are still learning about philately:

Dear Fellow Members of SCP:

For years, I have refrained from writing to the Editor of our magazine, although in past years, when Frank Kovarik filled the job I often talked to him about Czecho stamps.

What brought me to this writing was the article on page 4 of the January, 1979 issue by E. Skovbo Jensen. I do not recall any mention in previous issues of this "tagging" of Czechoslovak stamps. This aspect of Czech philately came to my notice some nine months ago when I received a letter franked with the Husak stamp, Scott #2036, issued in October, 1975. The stamp had a large selvedge on which was imprinted a diamond-shaped "Logo" in the color of the stamp. This had me buffaloes so I inquired of my correspondent as to its significance. In due time, I was informed that this was the

logo of the "Technicka Ustava Susice," TUS, and it designated sheets of stamps that were being experimentally tagged. To date I have not received any confirming information as to whether this was only an initial effort. Since then I have received a block of 8 of the 30H Sealed envelope definitive of October 31, 1974 Scott #1969, with the logo imprint, but I have not tested my stamps for luminescence as I do not have a lamp.

I also found the article on Joe Lowey interesting. He was an acquaintance of mine and I have visited their home in the Bronx on many occasions when I was in town since my employer was the Bell Laboratories on West Street. During WW II, I was engaged in the production of Radar Equipment for the Armed Forces and stationed at the Western Electric Co. plant in Chicago and made frequent business trips to West Street, at which time I would visit Joe and his wife, Heddy. Joe came to Chicago once and spent an evening and night with my family. The last time I saw Heddy was at a Banquet in New Jersey given by the Society. I have a speaking acquaintance with Dr. Reiner-Deutsch as well as Joe Stein.

The Chicago old-timers are all known to me as I was a fixture at our meetings which were held in our homes. I still carry on an occasional note to Mrs. Velek who recently married.

Don't know whether my comments are "old Hat" to you but I send them on for whatever they may be worth.

Kindest personal regards,

A. J. Hrivnak, Member No. 8

227 Los Rincones, Green Valley, Arizona 85614

Editor's Note: Both Mr. Hrivnak and myself would like to hear from other members about the status of fluorescent stamps in Czech philately as well as past anecdotes and experiences of the Society.

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THE PRESIDENT'S GAZETTE

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

Winter is almost over. At present the Chicagoland area has had over 102 continuous days of snow covering the landscape. All previous records of snowfall have been broken. We have accumulated over 90 inches of snow, much of which fell within a period of several days. Everyone has been a shut-in, in some manner or form. This should have been an ideal period to enjoy our mutual hobby, philately. Instead, time was devoted to the removal of nature's unforgettable and generous gift—SNOW!

Following our first snow fall everything looked so lovely, but after promenading along 36 inch wide pathways (which we normally refer to as sodewalks) the novelty became a chore. If it had not been for "Louie," our diligent postal carrier daily delivering our mail addressed Berwyn, Illinois, I would have thought that I resided in Alaska. We were experiencing temperatures of 19 degrees below zero, together with intense winds which resulted in a wind-chill factor of 42 degrees below zero. On the TV the weatherman, smilingly, reported 28 degrees above zero in Alaska.

One morning we arose to find a bright sun shining down on our community, as well as on our neighbor's collapsed garage. The car is still reclining beneath the debris, awaiting Spring. This catastrophe encouraged Mr. Sterba to once again join the community workers ranks, again armed with the snow shovel. This time he shoveled the 4½ foot deep snow, off of our garage roof.

As Winter fades away, one fact will emerge. Here we are living in this modern age of technical advancement in the fields of industry and science. The daily headlines are reporting that the world's leaders are flying helter-skelter to all parts of the world, thinking (or trying to make us think) that with their knowledge and power—all the ills of the world will be solved. In reality "Mother Nature," together with her elements, still are in command!

This Winter also provided a time to reflect. I would like to share some of my reflections with you.

Reflections—Praga '78

Praga '78 was a time in which I was again afforded the opportunity of renewing friendships with old philatelic friends, many of whom I have known since Praga '68. It was also very pleasant and interesting to make new acquaintances. Somewhat humbly, I must admit that I should have allotted more time to studying the magnitude of the exhibits displayed at Praga, but when I endeavored to study some of the exhibits, we inevitably met someone special and again chatted, comparing their view about the philatelic collections or other topics of interest.

The Official Class of Honor of the Postal Administrations of the world, which were displayed in Prague, are too numerous to list herein. Among the outstanding exhibits was the one arranged by the Czechoslovak Federal Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications. Priceless and unique philatelic material, beginning with the First Republic was exhibited, as well as interesting documents connected with the joint Soviet-Czechoslovak space flight. The exhibit included the space suit worn by the first Czech astronaut, and two letters carried in the space ship, one addressed to Praga '78.

During the opening ceremonies, held in the conference hall of the Congress Palace in Julius Fucik Park of Culture and Recreation, Czech astronaut

Vladimir Remek and the Soviet Astronaut Alexej Guburev were introduced. They participated in the joint Sojuz-28 space flight which was in March of 1978.

The conference hall is equipped with a speaker-microphone system which enables you to use a small earphone (concealed in the arm of the chair) so that you can listen to the speaker in the language of your choice—just by dialing the proper selection.

One of the loveliest exhibits was housed in the Riding School at Prague Castle. Organized in co-operation with the National Art Galleries of Prague and Bratislava, a goodly number of original art treasures were displayed, offering the unique opportunity of comparing the stamps, together with the "objet d'art." This resulted in an elegant and magnificent display. When combined with the book, "Umeni a Znamka" (Art and a Stamp) which was published in conjunction with the exhibition, this became a very impressive and lasting remembrance of Praga '78.

A memorable event took place in front of the Congress Hall in Julius Fucik Park. Actually it was not a philatelic event, but it was thrilling. A red ribbon cross (the ribbon about 12 inches wide by about 50 feet long) was rolled out on the grassy plot adjoining the Congress Hall. In the blue sky above, a Czechoslovakian helicopter circled Julius Fucik Park. A parachutist would leap from the helicopter and attempted to converge upon the center of the crossed ribbon. Three such jumps were made and all parachutists landed within inches of the exact center of the intersected crossed ribbon. It was a very impressive sight, and demonstration of the skill of the members of the Czechoslovak Army.

It is not an easy task to organize a joint luncheon reception, when both the planners do not reside in the immediate area of the reception. Our sincere appreciation and gratitude to Dr. Frantisek Svarc, Chairman of the Organization Committee of Praha '78. Dr. Svarc made the arrangements for our luncheon held on Sept. 9th, 1978, in the Park Hotel. A total of 42 members and guests were present representing Great Britain, The Netherlands, Sweden, Czechoslovakia, Germany, New Zealand and the United States.

I was honored to introduce Mrs. Hedy Lowey, wife of the late Josef Lowey. Mr. Lowey instituted our Society in 1939. During his many active years of promoting our Society, our Specialist and Czechoslovak philately, Mrs. Lowey was his faithful supporter and still is a loyal Society member.

It was very unfortunate that the majority of the members of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain could not attend our luncheon as they were enroute to Prague on that day. Kay Goodman, Yvonne King and myself arranged an impromptu evening get-together in Prague, after their late arrival. A light rain was falling from the darkened skies over Prague, but this did not dampen our spirits. We had arranged to meet in front of the National Opera House. While we were taking a "head-count," along came our tram. After hurriedly boarding the tram, we again took a head-count which revealed a lost party member.

Exiting at Malo Stransky Namesti (Lesser Town Square), we discovered our lost party member, who had entered into the second car of the tram, while the rest of us had boarded the first car. Our cheerful group had reservations at the well known restaurant, "U Maliru" (At the Artists Restaurant). On the walls of the restaurant you can view paintings by the Prague artists, Adamek and Jindrich, who paid homage to their beloved refuge. Their paintings were their form of a calling card. A wonderful meal was enjoyed.

Members of our group were from Great Britain, Czechoslovakia, Poland and the United States.

The rain shower was over when we emerged from the Restaurant. Some of the group returned to their hotel by tram. Several of us decided to walk back together from the Malostranske Namesti to the National Opera House, crossing the Vltava River via the Charles Bridge. The stars and ancient lanterns on the Charles Bridge lighted our way. The legend about the Kampa Island (see June 1978 Specialist—A Philatelic Tour of Prague) is true. The vigil light was shining brightly, before a picture of a madonna, hanging on a balcony overlooking Charles Bridge.

Edith and George Koplowitz, of New York, Josephine and Leo Wijnkamp, of Amsterdam, and Jane and Joe Sterba enjoyed the hospitality "U Dvou Kocek" (At the Two Cats). Arriving just at the afternoon's closing time, Jane hurriedly explained the situation—that we were all stamp collectors that wanted to visit their Restaurant. Even tho we were late, they were very cordial and allowed us to come in to be served. The meal was tasty but modest, and rather than any of us trying to become a computer to figure out who would pay what, we speedily divided the bill into 6 equal shares. Leo Wijnkamp's comment, "That is my shore—for both Josephine and myself? That is the least expensive meal I have had here in Prague. In Amsterdam that price would just about cover the appetizer." We all went happily on our way, strolling thru the small, narrow streets located around The Old Town Hall in Stare Mesto (Old Town).

We enjoyed the many official parties and receptions held in connection with Praga '78. Among those was a reception held at the old Town Hall, which was hosted by Dr. Zdenek Zuska, Lord-Mayor of Prague. A special tour of the Old Town Hall concluded this reception.

Saturday, Sept. 16th—United Nations Day—The Day of the Palmare. I was invited to attend a special session of the Federace Ceskoslovenskych Filatelistu (Federation of Czechoslovak Philatelists), which was held in the Intercontinental Hotel. On this special occasion, several international philatelists were awarded Honorary Membership in the Federation. Dr. James J. Matejka, Jr., U. S. Commissioner to Praga '78 and I were the first two Americans to be awarded Honorary Membership.

It is very difficult to express my innermost feelings in being so honored. I had, and still have, many mixed emotions. I could list many adjectives to describe my sentiments about the ceremony. I was and am, so honored to be given membership in the Federation, especially during Praga '78. I sincerely feel and acknowledge that this award is my Grand-Prix in the field of philately. I feel that these words are so inadequate. I can only humbly say—"Thank You."

A gala cocktail party and reception was the conclusion of the Palmare for Praga '78. This was held in the Cerninsky Palace (Ministry of Foreign Affairs). Upon entering the main entrance, you ascended the wide, white marble staircase, which supported the intricately designed ornamental banisters. At the top is the grand ballroom. The gigantic crystal chandeliers were ablaze and twinkling. It gave an illusion that it was a stairway to the stars. The many spacious chambers were filled with philatelists gathered together from all parts of the world. Various languages were being spoken, but it was not necessary to speak any special language in order to partake in the prepared buffets laden with many delectable foods and liquid refreshments which were in abundance. One more day and Praga '78 would be over.

I feel that SCP member Mrs. Doreen James, residing in South Sutton, England, presented her feelings, as well as our feelings, when she wrote about the last day of the exhibition. This paragraph originally appeared in "Czechout," the journal of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain, Volume No. 13—Edition 4. 78.

"The last day of the exhibition seemed to arrive all too quickly and was curiously quieter than the earlier days, although there were still many people about. The whole atmosphere had changed. In front of the Congress Palace a brass band formed of Post Office employees played. In the afternoon 3,000 pigeons were to be released to mark the end of Praga '78. Crowds had gathered to watch them fly away. As I waited for that moment, I felt nostalgic for all the things that had been seen and the people I had met during my visit. Suddenly the pigeons were released and the sky was filled with the circling birds, wheeling in all directions. Only one bird seemed reluctant (as I) to leave—as it stood there and then strutted up and down the van roof from which they had all been released, before finally flying off. I also left the Julius Fucik Park filled with memories and hope that in 1988 another exhibition and I would return to Prague."

After reading my reflections on Praga '78, many of you may be of the thought that the exhibition was all parties and gay times. It is true that there are many social activities held during an International Exhibit. It was also possible to gain an enormous amount of knowledge if you attended the symposiums which had been arranged for Praga '78. The organizing committee must be commended, as well as members of the Federation of Czechoslovak Philatelists, for a job well done.

I would like to relate to you about two other meetings that I attended, both after Praga '78 had closed.

Joe and I were very fortunate to be invited to attend a late afternoon special meeting of the Apollofila Club of Praha. This club generally meets after office hours in one of the members offices. They only had 9 members present, but all of the members were recipients of medals for their exhibits at Praga, with the vast majority of them receiving gold awards. The informal meeting covered all personal thoughts, ideas and views about Praga '78. They informed us about the smaller philatelic displays they have arranged in Prague, and conveyed their personal views about many aspects of philately, and at times a very humorous atmosphere prevailed.

We drove down to Susice na Sumave, located in Southern Bohemia. Susice nestles in a picturesque valley, amid forested hills. The Otava River flows thru the Sumave region (Bohemian Forest), which is the largest natural park area in Bohemia. Sunday morning found us walking about the town square. I noticed the bulletin board, mounted on the town hall. It had an announcement about the morning meeting of the local philatelic club. Unannounced and uninvited, we knocked on the door to the meeting room in the town hall. Explaining that we were visiting Czechoslovakia to attend Praga '78—we immediately were welcomed to join them. The normal philatelic conversations progressed, view points were exchanged and acquaintances have resulted.

The theme of Praga '78, "The Postage Stamp and Philately—A Sphere of Learning and Peace," was very appropriate and fitting. Here in Susice this theme also prevailed.

All good things must come to an end, and only memories of Praga '78 remain. May we once again meet in Prague—this time to Salute Praga '88.

Compex '79

The officers and members of SCP branch in Chicago, The Chicagoland Czechoslovak Philatelic Society have extended a cordial invitation to all members of our SCP to participate in Compex '79. The dates of this outstanding midwest philatelic event are May 25, 26 and 27, at the Chicago Expo Center, 350 North Orleans St., Chicago. Exhibition chairman is J. Sterba. Please send your requests for the minimum and maximum number of frames you require for your collection to the undersigned. The frames are approximately 36 inches wide by 48 inches high and will hold 16 8½x11 or 12 9x12 sheets. Fee \$2.00 per frame. We would enjoy having you join in competition, or if in the area come and see the exhibition. Special room rates are being offered. For this information write Compex, Box 123, Chicago 60690. For prospectus write to J. Sterba, 6624 Windsor Ave., Berwyn, Ill. 60402.

London 1980

An international stamp exhibition is to be held in London in 1980, May 6th-14th, Earls Court Exhibition Center. This exhibition will feature approximately 40,000 frames of stamps, 200 trade stands, as well as several special attractions. I am sure you would enjoy the exhibition, as I know by personal experience, that our British philatelists organize fantastic shows.

It has been proposed to hold a meeting of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain during the exhibition and to invite the Czechoslovak affiliated Societies of America and Germany to participate. We are looking forward to this meeting.

A brochure giving initial details of London 1980 for those intending to visit the exhibition or wishing to apply to exhibit is now available from LONDON 1980, Secretary, Box 300, London WC2R1AF, England. London in the spring time is especially lovely, but the opportunity of visiting the exhibition as well is an event not to be overlooked.

Norwex 1980

While you are in Europe attending London 1980, it would be very nice if you could arrange to visit Norwex 1980, which takes place in Oslo, Norway, from the 13th-22nd of June. I will inform you of detailed plans covering Norwex in a forthcoming Specialist.

Wanted

A request from a 26 year old philatelist, residing in Czechoslovakia was received. He is interested in an exchange of stamps, post cards, books, topicals and stamps of the world. If interested write to: Karel Kysilka, Jeremenkova 13, 743 01 Bilovec, Czechoslovakia.

Praga '78 Cancellation

You all are familiar with the special cachet envelopes printed by our SCP which saluted Czech-Canada cooperation day, during Capex '78 in Toronto, Canada. These covers were taken to Praga and cancelled on September 14, 1978, which was World and International Exhibitions Day. These covers are being sold for the benefit of our Society's treasury for \$2.00. With your order you must include a self-addressed stamped envelope. Do not send any cash—checks or money orders made payable to Society for Czechoslovak Philately. Order from Jane Sterba, 6624 Windsor Ave., Berwyn, Ill. 60402.



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