

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



(USPS 808300)

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**

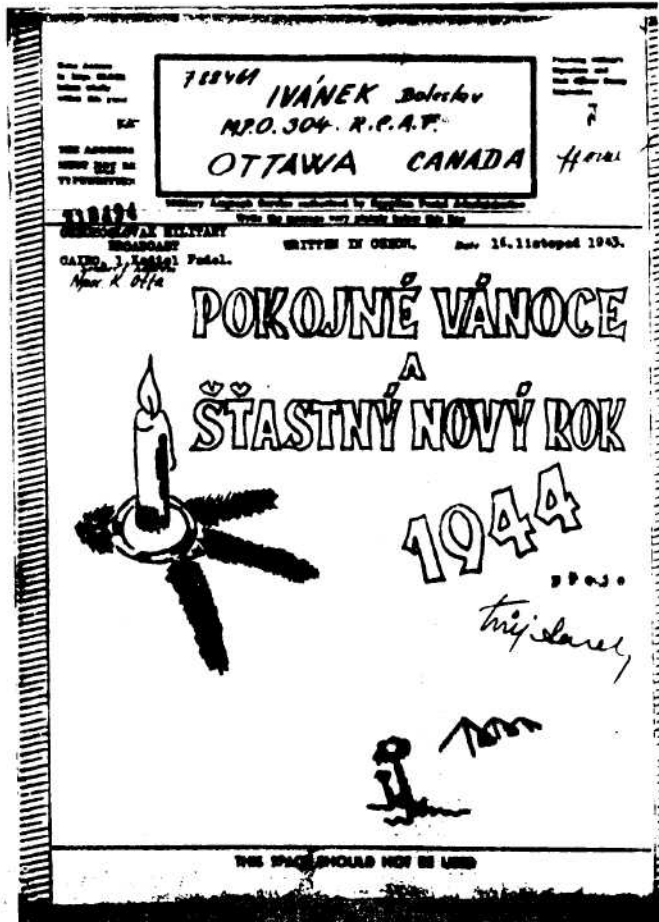
Vol. XXXXI

December 1979

No. 10, Whole No. 395

"A Peaceful Christmas and Happy New Year 1944"

By M. Vostatek, translated by H. Hahn, SCP



So states the message to a Czechoslovak airman serving with the Royal

Canadian Air Force on November 16, 1943. It was a time, thirty-six years ago, when Czechs were being trained in Canada to fly newer aircraft and man newer support equipment. This "airgraph," which was frequently used by soldiers serving in North Africa, was originally written on a special field post form and then placed on microfilm. It was reproduced in the form and size shown, and mailed to the addressee.

The sender of this card was a member of the Czechoslovak Military Broadcast service (First Lt. K. Otta) in Cairo, Egypt.

QUESTIONS and ANSWERS by Ludvik Svoboda

Through this column, I hope to be able to provide a place for you to ask questions about our hobby and, in return, to get honest and accurate answers. To get it going, we need some questions from you.

First, some basic rules:

—DON'T send any philatelic material. We can't take responsibility for it. Send a photo, drawing, or describe it as best you can. If we can't answer you, perhaps we can refer you to someone who can. We also are definitely not the expertizing committee.

—Each question/answer that is published will be numbered. Thus, there will be continuity for additional information which may come in later.

—Don't expect that all questions will be printed and answered. We'll do our best, but may have to be limited by space and judgement. However, we will try to answer all questions.

We hope that this feature will be used by the novice as well as the seasoned collector. And we certainly hope to get additional viewpoints from you as to the validity of the answers we provide.

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32063

After 41 Years

This is the last issue of the Czechoslovak Speckialist to come out of the Miller Print Shop.

To do it right, magazine printing is a grind. I have always felt that a customer should be given good service, and that magazines should be in the mail on a regular, consistent date, regardless of what might happen. I have spent fifty years printing philatelic and non-philatelic magazines, several of my own, and probably forty or more for others. Grind? We've had to plan our vacations (if we took any) around the deadlines for the different publications. And fourteen or sixteen hour days, and often Sundays and holidays.

We've had monthlies besides the Specialist, printed the Stamp Wholesaler for years at twice a month, and our Kaw Chief Stamp Journal was a weekly at one time. (That's when one never gets done—one is working on three at once quite often. And I spent a couple of years "moonlighting" on a weekly newspaper on press night—which included making up the front page, running it—on a single-cylinder flat-bed, with sheets 4 times the page size. Oh yes, 50c for the 5 hour evening.) But I was younger in those days. I no longer want or can put in those hours.

All our other philatelic publications now are quarterlies (and they come around exceptionally fast). Early this year I broached a compromise that we'd like to put the Specialist out every other month. Perhaps 24 pages an issue, or of course, as many pages over that as necessary. I am not sure if that was properly presented to the board as some seemed to think (and still do) that I wanted to cut down to 6-16 page issues. I still think 6 issues of 24 pages, or 32 or more, with several types of articles would be preferable to a 16 page issue with one main article—which might suit only a fraction of the membership—perhaps too trivial or too technical. For the most part no one seemed to care. Supposedly it was brought to the attention of the board members—what happened I don't know, except that some members felt that if ten a year wasn't put out it would hurt the Society. Although with postage increases of over 400% in the last few years, many publications are cutting down on the number of issues a year, but printing the same number of pages. However I certainly have no intentions of harming the Society, I've been with it from the start, through thick and thin, good times and bad.

So, because I do need to "cut down" on my hours, and do some things in the coming years that I and my wife want to do, decided early this Summer that it was best that we quit printing it altogether, and notice was given to the President and Editor. We agreed to finish this year/volume. And this is it.

Naturally I have had strong ties with many of the members and officers—some passed on—over the last 41 years, friendships never to be forgotten.

We wish the very best for the Society, and regret that we are unable to continue.

Harlan W. Miller

NEW ADDRESS FOR DR FISCHMEISTER

Our chairman of the Expertizing committee, Dr. Ladislav Fischmeister, should now be addressed to the State Hospital, MacClenny, Florida 32063.

Prisoner of War Camps On the Territories of Bohemia and Moravia

By Miroslav Vostatek, translated by Henry Hahn, SCP

During World War II there were a large number of prisoner of war camps on the territory of Nazi Germany. Historic documents speak of two million prisoners of war, while others claim that within the same territory, three and one-half million Russian prisoners of war died. The Nazis distinguished among the various classes of prisoners of war in terms of the rights and privileges they were granted. While Soviet prisoners of war received the fewest rights along with the most inhumane treatment, POW's of other nationalities enjoyed certain limited rights. It is interesting that very poor conditions and a denial of rights—commonly enjoyed by prisoners of war—existed among Slovak POW's, Czechoslovak fliers from Great Britain and Italians belonging to the Badoglio units.

One of the rights generally granted POWs is permission to correspond with family or friends and permission to receive packages from family, the International Red Cross or other charitable organizations such as the order of St. John of Jerusalem.

This is an area which is philatelically interesting and hence we shall go into some detail.

Correspondence was limited, but nevertheless existed. Prisoners of war received post cards or letter cards which were not sealed. Some dual cards were printed so that after arrival in the prisoner's home the second part could be torn off and used by the family to write to the POW. All of this postal stationery was lined and the writer was not permitted to exceed the number of printed lines or to write in the margins. Violations of this rule resulted in confiscation by the censors. One occasionally finds the POW correspondence cancelled using regular post marks; however, for the most part the post marks are mute. Even though, the correspondence often contains the address of the POW camp, including the city, the post mark is nevertheless mute. One must realize that each POW camp had numerous commands and groups located within its area.

Each POW camp had its own administration. Contact between the Nazis and the administration was through the oldest officer in the camp, such as the "Senior British Officer." Part of each such POW administrative body was a department or group which was responsible for postal contact or censorship. According to stories told by former prisoners, some censors were more strict, while others were more lenient. One could really write "a thing or two" when the right censor was at his post. Each censor had his own censorship number and marking. These differed in shape and one can find rather varied shapes and types. All said "GEPRÜFT" (Censored) and the number of the censor and name of the camp. How many such censor markings exist is not known. Polish and French specialists have each listed approximately 1000 such markings.

From this introduction we shall go on to the study of POW camps on the territories of Bohemia and Moravia. The information given below comes primarily from the Club le Meilleur of France.

Let me begin by saying that on Czechoslovak territory there was a large number of camps, commands and field offices. These were administered by various military districts (Wehrkreis). One can roughly summarize that those in the Czechoslovak frontier areas (then occupied) were assigned to various military districts: a. Northern Moravia (with the region of Těšín) fell ad-

ministratively to district VIII Breslau, b. Northwestern Bohemia was part of district XIII Norinberg, c. Southern Moravia belonged to district XVIII (which was Vienna), d. Northwestern Bohemia was administered by Stalag/Stamm-lager (camp for enlisted men) IV C Wistritz near Teplitz (Bystrice in Czech), e. Western Bohemia by Stalag XIII B Weiden, f. Southern Bohemia and Moravia by Stalag XVII B Gneixendorf, g. The areas of northern Bohemia and Moravia were adminiseted by Stalags VIII A Gorlitz, VIII B Lamsdorf and VIII D Těšín.

Stalag IV C in Bystrice near Teplice was located in the buildings of the former ceramics factory and its prisoners included British, French and American fliers. It is notable that from Stalag IV C there exists a respectable number of censor markings. Considering that the highest known censorship number is 84, then it is obvious that there must indeed have been many.

The largest number of camps were in Northern Moravia. The most significant was Stalag VIII D in Těšín. Polish historians show that on October 1, 1942, the camp contained 5,642 prisoners, these included Russians, Poles, Brittons, Yugoslavs, Greeks and Belgians. The Germans assigned these prisoners to coal mines in Ostrava. Surviving photographs of emaciated prisoners document that the Germans took most shameful advantage of these prisoners. Today, nothing remains of Stalag VIII D. There is a memorial dedicated to the prisoners in a residential suburb of Těšín called Kontěšice.

In Moravia there were also POW camps used for officers, the so-called Oflags of which the primary Oflag VIII F. Its original location was on Polish territory in Wahlstatt (Liegnitz), now called Legnickie Pole. Later this marking included the camp in Moravská Třebová. One of the first references to this camp appeared on August 1, 1942, at which time the camp contained 1,166 British officers and 178 enlisted men. By March of 1943 the camp also included 93 Yugoslav officers. Not much more is known today except that prisoners were held both in town and in the surrounding areas. It is most likely that the prisoners were housed in about six locations including a local military school and industrial buildings. The known existence of only one censor marking records the lack of documentary evidence. There exists, however, a POW letter sent from Mor. Třebová with a beautiful daily post-mark "Mährisch Trübau—12.11.1943." It is addressed to the International

Kriegsgefangenenpost

Lynette's Gift

An Madame Andre BOU

Paris 5^e

Empfangsort: Paris 5^e

Straße: 17r. du Fort St. Marcel

Kreis: _____

Landesteil: FRANCE

Gebührenfrei!

Oflag VIII G
3
geprüft

Figure 1—POW Camp Oflag VIII G

Red Cross in Geneva, and is stamped with a legible marking "BRIEFSTEMPEL" Oflag VIII F. The letter is owned by Mr. Stoyel of England.

A card from Oflag VIII G Weidenau/Freiwaldau (Vidnava in Czech) is illustrated here. The camp was located in the largest building in Vidnava—a theological school, built in 1899. Those who remember claim that the camp was occupied purely by French officers, numbering between 800 and 900 with some enlisted men. Polish references also speak of British prisoners being located there. On March 31, 1941, there were 640 officers and 109 enlisted men. The only known correspondence from this camp is from the French.

Additional camps included Oflag VIII H Oberlangendorf (Horní Dlouhá Loučka in Czech) and Oflag VIII H/Z Eulenberg (Sovinec, county Bruntal in Czech). Sovinec was a so-called "Zweilager," i.e., H/Z means an associate camp to Oflag VIII H. From this camp we have correspondence bearing a censor marking reading merely "Geprüft" and censor's code number, in addition to a similar line marking "Geprüft 4," which is illustrated here.

Shown in Fig. 3 is the return portion of the two-part POW card addressed to a French officer at Oflag VIII H/Z bearing the above mentioned "Geprüft" censor marking. What is particularly interesting about this card is the censor's initials and the low prisoners number (755). The card was mailed on October 28, 1940. A similar "Geprüft 5" was used by the censor in Horní Dlouhá Loučka, and even a triangular marking is known. According to literature, the camp in Horní Dlouhá Loučka is listed as VIII H/H (Hauptlager?). On February 28, 1941, this camp was reportedly occupied by 638 British officers and 85 enlisted men; later also a single Belgian. At the same time in the camp in Sovinec there were reportedly 231 British officers with 36 enlisted men as well as a Dutchman. This camp was emptied September 1, 1941. In 1965 there appeared a remembrance by a French prisoner named Andre Barra recalling his stay in Sovinec. The camp in Sovinec was located in a medieval castle, while the camp in Horní Dlouhá Loučka was located in the former bishopric. The Frenchman recalls receiving packages from home.

The last camp was numbered VIII E in Johannisbrunn near Troppau (Jánské Koupele near Apava in Czech). On or about February 28, 1941, the

Kriegsgefangenenpost
Correspondance des prisonniers de guerre

Postkarte Carte postale

Geprüft 4

An Besetztes Gebiet

20.12.40-15
a

Monsieur Yves SERVEL

Gebührenfrei! Franc de port!

Absender: Envoi de Vor- und Zuname: Nom et prénom <i>Camille Wozurek</i> Gefangenennummer: No. du prisonnier <i>58.767</i> Lager-Bezeichnung: Nom du camp <i>Oflag VIII HZ</i> Deutschland (Allemagne)	Empfangsort: Lieu de destination <i>TOURS -alles</i> Straße: Rue <i>P.T.T.</i> Land: Landesteil (Provinz usw.) <i>France occupée</i> Département (Industriezone) <i>Industriezone</i>
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Figure 2—POW Camp Oflag VIII H/Z

KRIEGSGEFANGENENPOST
Courrier des Prisonniers de Guerre
Gepflichtet

Gebührenfrei
St. FEREO
En franchise postale
28
10

POSTKARTE
(Adresse à écrire en caractères d'imprimerie)

ADRESSE DE L'EXPÉDITEUR:
(Très lisiblement)

Madame Germaine LYON
époux: Madame Reyegeat
(Conjuge) à: Sainte-Jeannette

Vor & Zuname / Nom et Prénoms: CAPITAINE ANDRE LYON

Gefangenen-Nr / N° du Prisonnier: 755

Lagerbezeichnung / Désignation du Camp: Oflog: VIII H/Z
Stalag:

1^{ère} COMPAGNIE DEUTSCHLAND
— ALLEMAGNE —

Figure 3—Return Portion of POW Card, Addressed to Oflog VIII H/Z

camp held 26 British officers and 40 enlisted men, 32 Polish officers with 30 enlisted men and 7 Dutch officers with one enlisted man. The camp was said to include also one Norwegian officer. No letter or post mark is known to exist from this camp.

To cover in only a few paragraphs the complicated story of prisoners of war camps on Czechoslovak territories is not easy. Even this short article required considerable effort and the cooperation of friends in Czechoslovakia, Great Britain, Poland, and the Museum of Prisoners of War in Lambinowic, Poland. This museum is located on the territory of the former Stalag Lamsdorf VIII B. I would be most happy if this modest contribution were to open up a new philatelic vista. Finally, I must mention our indebtedness to those who suffered behind barbed wire and may have died there so that we might live.

ADDENDA

Identification Of the Combined Types I and II of the Fifth Drawing of the Hradčany Issue

The article in the November Specialist which was reprinted from the Complex booklet wasn't complete—the article ended where the copy ended—so here is the balance.

The following should have appeared after the final illustrations and before the editor's note:

500h—plate II—position 32. Figure "5" in 500 almost touches the shield with its left corner, the top line of the horizontal stroke being uneven. Above letter "A" in MUCHA a tiny indentation in frame, but the name is clear, undamaged.

Position 35. Figure "55 touches the shield line more prominently; the vertical line of 5 is uneven (curving inward); both "00" uneven at top; at left of the third (main) steeple are 2 sun rays; the second steeple is almost "severed" above the roof.

Postal Stationery Column

Wolfgang Fritzsche, Member SCP

Additions to the Czechoslovak Section of the Higgins & Gage catalogue. Continuation of the listing in the October 1978 issue of the Czechoslovak Specialist, page 127.

POSTAL CARDS

- 1978 Stamp Design: City of Prague, large black overprint C 30 h, 3 thin and one thick sender lines, 5 Zip code blocks, 35h in lower left, denoting the sales price.
- #182 Violet a Fig. 44
- 1978 Stamp design: Large water tower and Bratislava in background, black overprint: C 30h, otherwise like Nr. 182 but language in Slovak.
- #182 Olive a Fig. 45

ENVELOPES —B—

- 1978 Stamp design: Husak like Nr. 39, at lower left in blue:
PRAGA 1978 emblem etc., issued for the day of the Young Philatelists.
- #40 60h red brown, size e Fig. 33
- 1978 Same as Nr. 39 but lines and blocks in black.
- #41 60 h red brown size e

AIRMAIL —F— (Postal Cards)

- 1978 Stamp design: oval globe with Czech flag, surrounded by: Ceskoslovensko—PRAGA 1978—4.40 Kcs. Cachet at left: Prague churches in brown, PRAGA 1978 emblem in gold, issued for the international postage stamp exhibition.
- #11 4.40 Kcs. gold, red and blue a Fig. 11
- 1978 Stamp design: round ball and PRAGA emblem, etc. in a square, cachet at left 1978 1918 surrounded by envelopes in blue and red. Issued for the day of the Czech stamp.
- #12 4.40 Kcs. multicolored a Fig. 12
- 1978 Stamp design: post rider, balloon, aeroplane. Cachet in brown the PRAGA emblem, above it an aeroplane, below it an old mail coach, issued for the day of postal history and aerophilately.
- #13 4.40 Kcs. multicolored a Fig. 13
- 1978 Stamp design; pigeons on blue background. Cachet at left: 3 different international stamp show exhibition emblems and a pigeon carrying a letter and legend, issued for the day of the international stamp exhibition.

- #14 4.40 Kcs. blue and black a Fig. 14
- 1978 Stamp design: winged head. Cachet in brown and gold, Pegasus surrounded by 5 golden stars, issued for the day of UPU.
- #15 4.40 Kcs. gray-blue and orange a Fig. 15
- 1978 Stamp design: Prague buildings, 2 doves, PRAGA emblem in frame. Cachet at left: dove of peace in half circle, red and black, issued for the day of peace and cooperation.
- #16 4.40 Kcs. multicolored a Fig. 16

AIRMAIL —F— (Postal Cards)

- 1978 Stamp design: OSN and globe and PRAGA emblem. Cachet at lower left in blue; UN emblem and flags, issued for the day of the United Nations.
- #17 4.40 Kcs. blue and red a Fig. 17

AIRMAIL —FB— (Envelopes)

- 1978 Stamp design: round ball with 2 arms sticking out, one with a letter. At left cachet: girl's head and arms with bow and arrow and a balloon DK 2001 in brown. PRAGA emblem in red, issued for the PRAGA balloon flight in May.
- #9 6 Kcs. steel blue and red, size n. Fig. FB9
- 1978 Stamp design: Upper half of a balloon, cachet at left, Girl riding a fish and 4 balloons in steel blue. Issued for the PRAGA balloon flights in September.
- #10 6 Kcs. red, size n, Fig. FB10
- 1978 Stamp design: Whirling propellor. Cachet at lower left: Girl on horse with helicopter overhead, PRAGA emblem. Issue for the PRAGA helicopter flight from Pardubice to Prague.
- #11 6 Kcs. steel blue, size n, Fig. FB11
- 1978 Stamp design: horse with wings in blue, Artia 25 in gold. Cachet at left; coins, a book, a film strip in green and gold. Issue to commemorate 25th anniversary of ARTIA trade Company.
- #12 6 Kcs. steel blue, red and gold. Size n, Fig. FB12
- 1978 Stamp design: a globe. Marx, Engels, Lenin in frame. Cachet at left. Large 20 and globe, 1958—Praha 1978, in red and blue. Issued for Peace and Socialism.
- #13 6 Kcs. red, blue and gold. Size n, Fig. FB13

When answering advertisers please let them know you saw their ad in the
Czechoslovak Specialist

Religion and Philosophy On Stamps of Czechoslovakia

By C. Hedley Osbourn

(Reprinted with permission from The Coros Chronicle)

(Reprinting of this series of articles was started in the Czechoslovak Specialist some years ago and was never finished. This has "irked" me all this time, to see the few remaining cuts and article lie here unused. As this is my last issue, here is my chance to finish the series. If one is interested in the previous chapters, perhaps an old Index or a future one might lead you to them, however, almost any part of Mr. Osbourn's chapters will stand alone.—The Managing Editor.)

Týn Church, Praha



This church, situated in the "Ring" or Market Place (14th-15th century), and memorable as the religious center of the Hussite movement, and for its tomb of Tycho Brahe, the Danish astronomer.

The Týn Church was built by George of Podebrad, and has an especially fine facade (a night view is shown here). A golden statue of the king, which represented him as pointing upward with his sword to a golden chalice, was destroyed by the Jesuits in 1623. The official name of the church is the Týn Church of the Virgin Mary. It is a veritable museum, and full of the most treasured relics of Czechoslovakia.

Type A28, A36, A158, AP11(C44)

Cathedral, Bratislava

Below the fire-scarred shell of the old royal palace situated on the Schlossberg, stands the Cathedral, a Gothic edifice of the 13th century (restored in the middle of the 19th), in which the Kings of Hungary used to be crowned.

Type A72, A77, AP11

St. Vitus Cathedral, Praha

The great national shrine of Czechoslovakia. Built in 930, replacing an earlier Norman Basilica, by the prince-saint Wenceslas. Rebuilt and enlarged by Charles IV in 1348. His builder was Matthew of Arras. The greater part of the chapels in the choir is his work, as well as the eight pillars in the nave. The building was continued by Peter Parler, a German architect brought in by Charles IV, but even he did not finish the edifice, and it was not until the year 1959, that a renewed effort was made to complete the building, this time under the supervision of the architect, Kamil Hilbert.

Forming a part of the great mass of the Hradčany, its silhouette fills the skyline of the City of Praha, a symbol to all Czechoslovaks of the great spirit of its founder, and his hopes for a united people.

Shown on all Hradčany stamps, but directly on A75, AP11, A292, A89, SP9, Bohemia A5, A26.

On Type A292 (1.60Ks) the scene is dominated by two churches, the Gothic Cathedral of St. Vitus, and the Romanesque Basilica of St. George. Also depicted are the spires and domes of several fine Baroque churches, the most outstanding being St. Nicholas.

Plzeň—Church

In the painting Vladimir Silovsky, reproduced on the stamp under study, and filling the skyline of the city of Plzeň, is the 13th century Gothic church with a tower, 325 feet high. During the Hussite Wars, Plzeň was the center of Catholic resistance.

Type A85, A365 (916).

Chapel Of The Holy Cross, Praha

One of Praha's oldest architectural monuments is the Chapel of the Holy Cross, founded about the middle of the 12th century and built in Romanesque style. Rotundas with a central ground plan and a semicircular apse were the first church buildings of stone in what is now Czechoslovakia. The chapel is surmounted by a lantern with four small Romanesque windows. The masonry of the rotunda is simple, of square tuff stones; only the apse is ornamented with a bow-shaped frieze.

Type A292.

Knights of the Cross Church, Praha

Baroque style church of the middle ages, thought to have been built after a plan by Peter Parler, builder of St. Vitus Cathedral.

Type A292.

Basilica of St. George, Praha

Romanesque church, thought to have been built during the Jesuit Counter Reformation period.

Type A315.

St. Barbara's Church, Kutná Hora

The Church of St. Barbara is of purely Gothic structure, being the design of the famous architect, Peter Parler. It is an attractive building with many tall spires surrounding it, and the roof unusually divided into three parts like domes. The church is situated on the top of a small hill, surrounded by a huge wall. It is a well known example of Bohemian Gothic architecture. It stands well above the town, and is approached by a road with baroque statues rising from its buttressed walls. The church consists of a grand choir, with eight radiating chapels, and part of a nave of five aisles.

In the nave of the church there is a statue, carved in wood and colored, representing a miner with his lamp. It was placed there about 1700. On the west wall of one of the chapels is a large fresco painting of the coat of arms of this "royal mining town," showing a miner and a minter as the "supporters," one on either side. The date of this is 1493.

Kutná Hora was the stronghold of Roman Catholicism at the beginning of the Hussite Wars. Zizka captured the town in 1422, and it became strongly Protestant for over two centuries. After the Battle of Bílá Hora in 1620, Ferdinand drove the miners away, destroyed the mining industry, and by 1626 not a single Protestant remained.

On stamp 394 (Type A151) is shown the "Church of the Mother of God," situated on the Square; and the little "Church of St. James" (Jakub).

Type A79, A151, Bohemia A4.

Church of St. Jilji, Praha

A classic medieval church in the Old Town of Praha.

Type AP11 (C44).

Hibernia House, Praha

Among Praha's noteworthy architectural monuments is Hibernia House, a one-time monastery in which, in 1630, monks expelled by Elizabeth I of England found refuge. The name of the building is derived from the Latin word for Ireland, and probably alludes to the fact that the majority of the monks were Irish. In 1808 the monastery was closed. For many years it served as a Customs House, however today it is used as an Exhibition Hall.

Type A292.

Krizovnick Church, Praha

Medieval church structure in Praha's Old Town.

Type AP11 (C44).

Cathedral of St. Elizabeth, Košice

The Gothic Cathedral of St. Elizabeth (1270-1468), one of the finest pieces of architecture in pre-war Hungary (Southern Slovakia). The interior was transformed to the Renaissance style in the 18th century. While the Cathedral is only partly Gothic in style, there is also a strong Byzantine influence.

Designed by a Picard architect, Villars d'Honnecourt, over the south door is beautifully sculptored Elizabeth of Hungary feeding the poor. Its late Gothic altar is noted for the 48 paintings (attributed to Wohlgemuth) on a

gold ground, secured on folded screens so arranged that only twelve are normally seen at a time.

The stamp was reproduced from a painting by K. Vík.
Type A86.

Church at Javorina, (Javorice)

This little village church amid the High Tatras is nameless. Possibly the artist in his travels through the highlands of Moravia was struck by the beauty of the setting and sketched it. It gives us a very delightful picture, reflecting the serenity of life.

Slovakia A14.

St. Stephan's Cathedral, Vienna

It comes as a surprise to find an Austrian cathedral shown on a Slovak stamp, yet such is the case. This Cathedral is one of the truly historic religious buildings of Europe.

Consecrated in 1147, of Gothic construction and styling, it was bombed in World War II, but fortunately escaped being entirely demolished. The steeple is 366 feet high. Built in a cruciform, and containing 35 marble altars. Catacombs honeycomb the ground for many blocks.

Slovakia A24.

Church at Prešov, Slovakia

The details about this church are not known, but it is probably of the Greek Catholic persuasion (Uniat), as Prešov (Hungarian: Ejerjes) is the center of a diocese of that faith.

Slovakia A27.

Kolin Cathedral

The 14th century Gothic Church of St. Bartholomew dominates the skyline of the Bohemian town of Kolin. It ranks as one of the most noteworthy examples of Gothic architecture in Europe. It was designed by the Swabian Peter Parler. (1333-1399).

Type A315.

Cathedral of Kromeriz, Moravia

Very little is known of the Cathedral. It is of Gothic construction, the summer seat of the Bishop of Olomouc, and as garish as the churches built by the Jesuits ordinarily are. The town is chiefly noted for the fact that in 1848-49, after the troubles of the Austrian Parliament, they met in the Palace, now occupied as the Bishop's Palace.

Bohemia A17.

The remainder of this study is devoted to those places shown on the stamps of Czechoslovakia, which while not reproducing definitely a building of distinctly religious prominence, yet has a religious characteristic about it, which will not allow us to exclude it from our study.

The first place in mind is —

Karlstein Castle (or Karluv Tyn)

This stamp shows a picture of the Castle as taken from the painting by F. Simon. This castle, probably the most remarkable feudal castle in Bohemia, was built in 1348 by Charles IV, and was designed by Matthieu d'Arras, the designer and builder of the Hradčany Palace and St. Vitus Cathedral in Praha. In fact it was built as a safe keeping-place for the State archives, imperial regalia and great collections of reliquaries.

However our interest in it is a religious one. The great tower is 121 ft. high, and has walls 15 feet thick. Within it is the Chapel of the Holy Cross. The richness of the interior of the five chapels, as Charles left them, was unequalled by anything that then existed. Some of the original frescoes are still to be seen on the walls. The Chapel of the Holy Cross, where the priceless treasures were kept, was closed by means of four strong iron doors, with nine locks, and ten bolts. The walls are all inlaid with precious stones, amethysts, yellow amber, white or yellow quartz, including originally even diamonds. None but the Archbishops, the bishops and the governor of the castle were allowed to pass beyond a gilded iron grille which shut off the high altar in which the treasures were hid. Around the walls there were originally 132 pictures of saints, 126 are still in place. The shields and other emblems of the saints were all carried out in pure gold and silver. Sigismund, Charles' son, had to remove much of this treasure to pay the mercenary troops in the Hussite Wars.

Incidentally, this is one place that Žizka and his "orphans" never captured. In 1442 the Hussites tried for 24 weeks to capture the castle, but in vain.

It is said that when the worries of state bore hard on Charles, that he repaired here, enjoying the quiet, and the opportunities for worship and meditation.

Type A11, A12, A315 (788); Bohemia A3.

Orava Castle, Slovakia

This castle was one of the great border strongholds in the Middle Ages, because of its proximity to Poland. It dates from the 13th century, and throughout its history it has had a very chequered career.

The chapel, with its flamboyant and over-decorated interior, was built in 1611 by Count George Thurzo, a zealous Protestant who then owned the castle. He spent much of his time fighting the Turks. However, his son joined with the Turks against the Emperor Leopold, and the castle was lost. The last siege was in 1709. In 1800 it was partly burned and has not been rebuilt; but roofs have been provided to prevent it from falling into worse repair. In the inner court of the middle castle there is a well cut in the rock, 312 feet deep, 32 feet of which is below the level of the river.

Type A14.

Charles Bridge, Praha

This may seem a very peculiar object to place in this study, but there is a very real reason for its inclusion. First of all, it was originally built at the time of the building of St. Vitus Cathedral, and was designed by the German architect, Peter Parler, who also worked on the Cathedral. Then it is one



Stamp issued for the 600th anniversary of the building of the Charles Bridge. From the left, the first statuary group is St. Bernard, founder of the Cistercians, kneeling before Mary and the Infant Jesus. The second group is St. Dominic and St. Thomas Aquinas, kneeling before the Blessed Mother and Child. The next group is a Crucifixion scene with the Madonna and St. John at the foot of the cross. The fourth group from left is St. Anne, the Infant Jesus and the Blessed Virgin, but the latter does not show in the stamp design. Several churches are seen in the background.

of the most sculptured bridges in the world, in that from 1706 to 1714, there were added to the bridge almost 50 stone effigies. Here stands the statues of Saints Jan of Nepomuk, Francis, Ignatius, Bernard, Vaclav, Zigmund, Anthony of Padua, Jude Thadeous, Norbert, John the Baptist, Anna, Ludmilla, Adalbert, Augustin, Barbara, Our Lady of Sorrows, and many others. They make the Bridge a veritable museum.

The buttresses of the bridge are adorned with statues and groups of saints. The bronze statue of St. John Nepomuk, patron saint of Bohemia, in the middle of the bridge, was cast in 1683 at Nurnberg. A slab of marble between the 6th and 7th pillars marks the place where the saint is said to have been flung from the bridge in 1383 by order of Wenzel IV, for refusing to betray what the empress had confided to him in the confessional. According to the legend, the body floated for a considerable time in the Moldau, with five brilliant stars hovering over the head. Since 1729, when the holy man was canonized, the bridge has been visited annually by thousands of pilgrims.

The Charles Bridge itself, the relic of a much happier period of Bohemian fortunes, as adorned with these baroque statues of saints, may seem out of place and slightly incongruous in the city of Jan Hus. Yet it remains a gem of utility and beauty.

Type A252, A315 (789), AP9.

Bánšská Bystrica, Slovakia

This has been called the most beautiful town in Slovakia. However, the stamps depicting Bánšská Bystrica, show the Square, most picturesque, with two 15th century Gothic churches, with their campaniles soaring into the sky, and the Bishop's Palace, all grouped together. The larger church contains an ancient twelve sided font of the Hussite period (1475) in the shape of a chalice.

Type A65, A102, A11 (C42).



Two more religious edifices are found on the bi-colored airmails C45 and C46, issued in 1957. The 75h value, advertising flights from Prague to Paris and Moscow, shows the towers of former church buildings of the Kremlin. The 2.35k value publicizes the Prague-Cairo-Beirut-Damascus route and shows the great mosque of Damascus in the design.

Bibliography

Encyclopaedia Britannica; Chambers Encyclopaedia; A History of Christianity by Kenneth Latourette; Czechoslovakia, by Edgar Young; Czechoslovakia, by Mothersole; Czechoslovakia, by Harriet Wanklyn; Czechoslovakia, by Robert Korner; Slovakia; The Slovaks; The Czechoslovak Specialist.

BOOK REVIEW: by Dick Major

GANZSACHEN OESTERREICH SPEZIALKATALOG UND HANDBUCH by Ing. Franz Schneiderbauer, published Krems/Donau, 1977 (available through the SPECIALIST for \$22.50 plus 90c postage).

This Austrian Postal Stationery Specialized Catalogue and Handbook is, as would be expected, a considerably more detailed treatment of the field of

Austrian Postal Stationery than that in Higgins and Gage. In 220 pages Engineer Schneiderbauer presents all aspects of the material divided into stationery for normal mail including envelopes, postal cards, change of address cards and letter cards; stationery for the pneumatic post of Vienna and Prague; airmail postal stationery including aerograms; stationery for transmittal of printed matter and newspapers; stationery for the transmittal of funds; stationery for telephone and telegraph; even field post stationery and International Reply Coupons. Lombardy-Venetia, the Austrian post offices abroad and Bosnia-Herzegovina are also covered. Not only official postal stationery, but also those items prepared to private order are listed, and the listings for each category of stationery are divided into "Monarchy," "First Republic" and "Second Republic." Each item has been assigned a price in Austrian Schillings (which stood at about 7.75c in October 1979), which according to the introduction, reflects the net price at the end of 1976.

The book is naturally written in German, and a knowledge of that language is required to get full value out of it. The listings are in tabulated form however, and the illustrations are very well done, so that the catalogue will be useful to collectors who have only a smattering of German and a list of philatelic terms such as those published by Zumstein and Michel. An English language supplement is provided, which translates only the Introduction, the Table of Contents and the listing of "Frequent Abbreviations." Unfortunately the translator was apparently not familiar with the standard English terminology (such as used in Higgins and Gage, for example), so some of the alleged translations may leave readers confused.

The listings seem to be very complete—the one item missing which I would have wished to see included is a list of the pictures on the various editions of the picture postal cards (Bildpostkarten), such as that for the German picture cards in the appendix of the Michel GANZSACHEN-KATALOG DEUTSCHLAND. Such a list would be quite lengthy, however, so cost may well have been the reason for not including it.

The catalogue is a fine reference work, and is heartily recommended to all who collect such material.

NEW MEMBERS

- 1240 Frank, Arthur
6388 W. 77 Street
Los Angeles, CA 90045
- 1241 Dissen, Eckart H.
Burg. Van Eden Str. 42
1561 WS Krommenie, Holland
- 1242 Howe, Pete
Box 586
Salado, Texas 76571
- 1243 Fromer, Mark
1519 East 8th St.
Brooklyn, NY 11230
- 1244 Bennett, Richard L.
Rt. 7 Box 427
Madison Hts., VA 24572
- 1245 Hammer, Juergen P.
Balanstr. 77
Munich, West Germany 8000

ADDRESS CHANGES

- Hlava, Charles
2429 Cork Circle
Pearland, Texas 77581
- Lawrence, Frederick P. (Capt.)
1905 Spreckles Lane
Redondo Beach, CA 90278
- Sixta, Dr. A. F.
1239 Laramie
Alliance, NE 69301

Do not send change of address notices any longer to 821 Vermont, Lawrence, Kansas as the Specialist will no longer be mailed from that address.

Souvenir Friml Covers and Music Sheet

Rudolf Friml celebrated December 7, 1879 as the official date of his birth. To honor and celebrate this famous Czech-born composer of operettas, the First Czechoslovak Philatelic Club of America has prepared a souvenir music sheet and a set of 2 covers to commemorate this world-renowned composer on the centennial of his birth. The souvenir sheet depicts a score of an unpublished musical composition written by Friml. The cost of the sheet is \$2.00 which includes postage and special mail handling. The set of two covers, one a hand-stamp cancellation and the other a meter cancellation, cost \$1.00. It will be necessary that you enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope, if you only order the set of 2 covers. Anyone wishing to order may send either



From original handwritten score
 FIRST CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC CLUB OF AMERICA
 FOUNDED IN 1924

FIRST CZECHOSLOVAK
PHILATELIC CLUB OF AMERICA
FOUNDED IN 1924



RUDOLF FRIML
BORN DEC. 7, 1879
PRAHA (PRAG - PRAGUE)
CZECHOSLOVAKIA
CZECHOPEX 1979

Composer
Rudolf Friml
1879 - 1979



checks or money orders payable to the First Czechoslovak Philatelic Club of America, c/o J. Sterba, 6624 Windsor Avenue, Berwyn, Illinois 60402.

Rudolf Friml

Rudolf Friml was born in Prague the son of a poor baker. He demonstrated musical ability beyond his years when he composed a barcarolle at the age of 10. Relatives and friends joined forces to financially help Friml's father send him to study at the Prague Conservatory. At that time the Conservatory was under the direction of composer Antonin Dvorak. Friml was so unusually gifted, that he completed the six year course of studies in just three years. He toured Europe as Piano accompanist for the world-known violinist, Jan Kubelik. In 1901 they both toured the United States. Following their second U. S. tour, in 1906, the pianist Friml decided to stay in order to pursue his own career. During the next few years he appeared as a concert pianist and continued to write music. He was the soloist with the New York Symphony Orchestra in a performance of his own Piano Concerto in B-flat major.

Rudolf Friml was one above all others who may be said to have inherited Victor Herbert's mantle as Broadway's leading operettic composers — with many well known compositions.

I can reflect upon nostalgic memories of Rudolf Friml. I attended his Farewell Performance to Czechoslovakia on October 15th, 1964. During the intermission period I managed to gain admittance back stage. There I personally met him and his lovely wife, Kay Ling Friml. I treasure the autographed programs, postal card, and picture that I took of them both that evening. Most treasured is a tape-recorded copy of the evening's program with Friml playing his own beautiful music from *Rose-Marie* and *The Vagabond King*.

Rudolf Friml passed away in Los Angeles on November 12, 1972. His vibrant and effervescent personality together with his musical talent were stilled, but his music and melodies will linger on forever.

Jane Sterba

The Last Printing

Mr. Harlan W. Miller has been the printer of our journal, *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, for approximately 40 years. Mr. Miller requested the board to consider publishing our *Specialist* on a bi-monthly basis. At our annual meeting which was held in Atlantic City this spring, a lengthy discussion about this request was held by the board members in attendance. Members present also were given the opportunity to voice their views regarding Mr. Miller's request. It appeared that a slight majority of those present felt they would prefer receiving 10 issues of the *Specialist* rather than 6 issues a year. At present the new editorial board is in the process of obtaining the services of another printer and managing editor. The January *Specialist* apparently will be printed by someone new. (Quiz Industries of Ord, Nebr.—Managing Ed.)

This is Mr. Miller's last printing of our *Czechoslovak Specialist*. I have sincerely tried to write a final tribute about Mr. and Mrs. Harlan W. Miller's forty years of association with our Society, but how can forty years of devotion to a philatelic society be summed up in a paragraph or two? I am sure some people would have the ability to write a beautifully worded article but I am not that talented. I feel very saddened about this coming change. The *Specialist* will not be the same for me without Mr. Miller at our helm.

As some of you read this statement you may feel that I am being too sentimental about a printer and managing editor. Maybe this is true, but we are all entitled to our own opinion. Some of us are more sentimental than others, we are not all of the same mold. I feel that the Society for Czechoslovak Philately has lost a long-time true and devoted friend. The awards and honors bestowed upon our Society's journal at the numerous international philatelic events in which our *Specialist* has participated in over the many years, has not only been an honor for the Society's journal, the authors of the articles, the editor, but is also a tribute to the printer and managing editor as well. Mr. Miller has been so very generous to our Society, not only with his monthly services, but also with his fees. The kindness and patience that Mr. Miller extended to our Society is certainly appreciated by those of you who have met Mr. and Mrs. Miller at our various philatelic gatherings. You know what a pleasant and cordial couple they are. Therefore on behalf of the officers and members of The Society for Czechoslovak Philately I wish to extend our best wishes for many continued years of happiness together. May you both enjoy these years of happiness in good health. The words THANK YOU Harlan and Frances Miller for your many years of service and assistance seem so inadequate.

Jane Sterba

President's Gazette

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

London—1980

Mrs. Kay Goodman, Chairman of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain has extended a most cordial invitation to the officers, members, families, and friends of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately to attend a luncheon on May 11th, 1980. This luncheon is being planned in conjunction with the International Stamp Exhibition, London 1980, which is being held at

Earl's Court, May 6th through May 14th.

This early Sunday afternoon luncheon will be held in the immediate vicinity of Earl's Court. Final details such as the exact location of the restaurant or hotel and cost involved, will be announced at a later date. Remember to mark your calendar for this special event. Our fellow philatelic member collectors of the Great Britain Society are a very cordial group, and I am sure that you will enjoy meeting with them personally, as well as with members of our SCP that will be in attendance at the International Philatelic Exhibition, London 1980.

Closed Albums.

I am very sorry to report that SCP member George W. Schabow passed away on May 10th. George served as our Society's National Secretary in 1969, 1970, and 1971. On behalf of the officers and members of our Society, we extend our sincere condolences to George's widow and family.

On October 23, Joseph J. Jiranek passed away after suffering a heart attack while at work. Several months previously, Joe celebrated his 55th birthday. Joe, whose membership number was 357, was an ardent worker during the earlier years of our Society's endeavors. He served as our National Secretary for a good many years, and is well known to members of our Society of long standing. In 1968, following the death of his 7 year old daughter, Pamela, Joe retired from participating in Czechoslovak philatelic activities. He limited his hobby time to model trains and to his topical collection of Trains on Stamps.

Our sincere and heartfelt sympathy is extended to Marilyn, Joe's beloved wife, who survives him.

Congratulations Kay Goodman.

The 1980 meeting of The British Royal Congress will be held in Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, England. This Congress will be residing at Trinity College, which in itself will be a special experience. All the Congress meetings will be held at the college, as will the Banquet. SCP member Mrs. Kay Goodman will be the Chairwoman. This is the first time that a lady has held this position since the first Congress was instituted in 1909.

I am sure that all of us that are acquainted with Kay personally, are so very happy that she is being so honored.

A Philatelic Visit.

This last spring Charlie Chesloe, Joe and I drove to Cleveland, to visit our long time SCP member Charles A. Matiaska, whose membership number is 132.

Mr. Matiaska had in his possession several books which contained philatelic, as well as historical documentation, about the wartime history of Czechoslovakia during World War II. I was so very fortunate in purchasing several books that Mr. Matiaska was willing to part with. I am looking forward, in the near future, to read and study these precious books. Some of the books have the following titles: *Osmnact Mesicu (18 Months)* by the 200th Czechoslovak Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, East, based in Syria and later in Tobruk, where they battled the German Afrika Armored Corps; *Czechoslovakia Fights for Freedom—The Czech Army Through France* written by members of the Czechoslovak Infantry Battalion; *Czechoslovakia in Maps and Statistics*,

Those of you that utilize K-Line pages for your collection will probably view some of these maps at some future date.

I also obtained 6 bound volumes of the official daily paper of the Czechoslovak Armed Forces in Great Britain printed during World War II, *Nase Noviny* (Our Newspaper). The volumes cover June 18, 1941 through July 28, 1944. The newspaper reported the news of the world and the activities on all war fronts. Especially interesting reading are the communiqués reporting the advancement of Russian troops westward across Poland, while the Allied army was advancing Eastward to meet in a defeated Germany.

A President's Farewell

The Society's board of directors is planning to meet the early part of January. This will be the last meeting whereat I will officiate as your Society's President. A new corps of officers will be elected at this meeting. There are some matters that are to be acted upon and these matters will probably bring several changes in Society policy.

I would like to review the past several years, during which I have had such an active part in our Society's activities. In September of 1973, I was elected to serve a 2 year term as a member of our Society's board of directors. The first board meeting was held in January of 1974, and it was a productive board meeting, inasmuch as a better understanding and a stronger unified philatelic society emerged from this gathering. During Interphil '76, the Society President Henry Hahn appointed me the Editor of our journal, and my first Specialist as editor was September, 1976. It was a time consuming task but I did enjoy the knowledge and views I gained while working on this project. To honor Praga '78, I began writing the article "A Philatelic Tour of Prague." I realize that it was not a so-called specialized philatelic article, but I felt that many members were not familiar with the history and legends of Prague. I also felt the information would be of some interest to them. What I have appreciated the most from you, our membership especially those that I have never met, are your kind words of appreciation conveyed to me via the mails.

The nicest "Thank You" came from a gentleman member that attended Praga with his wife who is not really an ardent viewer of stamps. He conveyed to me that they had purchased a map of the city of Prague and together with their copies of the Philatelic Tour of Prague, had taken a philatelic walking tour of the city. This took them several days. In some instances they tried to locate the area or view which appeared on the illustrated stamp. When stopping at the various historical points of interest, they reread the legends and historical facts. I am very happy that I contributed something to make the Prague visit a pleasant one.

I do not want to convey to you that I only received laurels. I also received criticism, not too many, but I did receive them. I am sorry I could not please all 100% of our membership, that would be impossible. I did sincerely try to do the best I could with the material that I had. Thank you again for your confidence in me, and by allowing me this opportunity to serve as Editor of our Society's journal.

I would like to thank the officers and members of the board for contributing their services to our Society. I feel that I cannot thank and name each and every one of you, who have contributed to the Society and the Society's journal in some manner or form while I served as Editor and President of our Society. All your kindness and efforts have been appreciated. I also

appreciate the opportunities afforded me in meeting with members of our Society, here in the United States and abroad.

I was very much honored to serve as our Society's President during Capex '78 and Praga '78. The memories I have from these special philatelic events can never be forgotten.

If I may be of any assistance to any of you at some future date, please call upon me and I will sincerely try to help if at all possible.

The Christmas holidays are fast approaching. It wouldn't seem like Christmas if I did not extend Season's Greetings to all our members from the officers and board of directors of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately.

From our house to your house we both wish you and your families a blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with happiness and good health.

Happy Holidays and Nashledanou (until we meet again)

Jane Sterba

AUCTION WATCH by Ludvik Svoboda

What has been happening to Czech philatelic materials? Don't you sometimes wonder?

Well, through this column I hope to be able to keep us all a little more aware of what's going on. To do this, we need to share some information.

Many of us receive and participate in mail catalogue or auction sales. However, the amount of Czech material involved is generally small—unless of course it is a special auction. Nevertheless, not everyone receives the same sales catalogues (and many probably receive none), and so the need for sharing of information.

When you participate in mail catalogue or auction sales, please record the:

- auction
- date
- catalogue value
- sales price.

Then, on a periodic basis (once a month or every two months), forward this information to me. No need for any formal letter or explanation, just the basic information. I will then edit the info and report significant events or changes in this column.

This information can then serve several purposes:

- where can you get certain materials?
- who has the best prices for what you want?
- who can sell your material at the best price?
- what issues are "hot items"?
- what trends are developing in Czech materials?

We can all benefit from this if you will help me collect the information.

REMEMBER

Do not send any thing regarding the SPECIALIST to the old "Office of Publication" at Lawrence, Kansas. For the time being at least send all correspondence regarding the magazine to the Editorial Office listed in the mast head on second page of this issue.

From the Editor's Stock Book

If you have glanced at the mast head of this issue, you will have noted that it is "hello" for a new editorial board. But on a sadder note, it's "farewell" to an era of our Society's history—for with this issue our printer and Managing Editor (also Honorary Member) Mr. Harlan W. Miller has chosen to end forty years of service to our Society.

There is no person among us who has known the Society better nor has served it more extensively. How many issues ago did Mr. Miller first begin to cope with those tough Czech names, diacritical marks and obstinate (or worse) editors? How many decisions—always to the benefit of our Society—has Mr. Miller made because those of us responsible as officers couldn't get our act together? For forty faithful years, the "show has gone on" and the SPECIALIST appeared in our mail boxes.

The Millers (Mrs. Miller, we learned during INTERPHIL '76 is Mr. Miller's partner in life as well as in his work) could not have remained our printers for the money alone. Based on the Treasurer's summary found in the February 1941 issue, the Society's printing costs for the entire year 1940, a year in which nine monthly issues were printed, were \$72.35 plus \$5.42 for photo-engraving. Since the membership then stood at about 60, it is presumed that the printing was about 100 copies—or just under 8c per copy.

While the costs of printing the SPECIALIST over the years have of course risen, one may safely say that Mr. Miller has NOT contributed much to our present double-digit inflation.

Why then has he stuck with us all these years? Most certainly not for the awards either—though the SPECIALIST has won many. We all know that recognition by readers and philatelic judges is nearly always reserved for editors and writers. An exception has been recognition of Mr. Miller by some of his many editors, who honored him with an APS Writer's Unit Gold Medal, with a citation reading ". . . Though always in the background, with readers seldom even aware of his efforts, his contribution to philatelic journalism has been inestimable."

The contribution of the Millers to our Society has indeed been inestimable. Let us simply say that the Millers have served us all these years not for the profits OR the honors—but just because our Society has been darn lucky.

We wish the Millers well in all their future endeavors—at least one of which will be working on a long neglected accumulation of stamps and covers. It therefore gives us great pleasure to note that the Millers are not leaving us, but rather are "joining the crowd."

With the approach of the Holiday Season it is time for us to wish every one of you good health, peace and joy among your loved ones, and enough prosperity and time to enjoy our stamps, covers and one another. H.H.

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.

WANT "Printers Waste," in quantity, inverted and double overprints, etc., Czechoslovakia and any country. Describe and price. H. W. Miller, 821 Vermont, Lawrence, Kansas 66044.

Commemorative New Issues

HISTORICAL BICYCLES

If we proceed from past to present in our description of Czechoslovakia's new "Historical Bicycles" set, then the first will be the highest denomination, the 3.60 Kčs stamp bearing the date 1820. Depicted in the stamp picture are two daring young men traveling through the countryside on bicycles made by Draise, in Paris, in 1816 and named after him. This was the first modern bicycle steered by the front wheel through the use of a handle-bar and pushed by the feet; it had no brake. Around 1820 it began to be more widely used—even though riding it was not very comfortable, this definitely marked a step forward.

The second stamp, 2 Kčs, bears the date 1870. That is when the oldest preserved vehicle called the "bone-shaker," housed in the National Technical Museum in Prague, made its appearance on the scene. The "bone-shaker," made by the Paris locksmith Michaux in 1855, was the precursor of the "ordinary." The shaft on the front wheel was prolonged and bent at right angles at the end to form two cranks, or pedals. This was a massive bicycle. It had a heavy steel frame and wooden wheels with steel tires. Not until 1869, which marked the discovery of rubber, could the "bone-shaker" be fitted with tires of this material. Shown at the left in the stamp is a bicycle with steel tires from about 1869 and at the right one that is ten years younger and more like the ordinary.

The ordinary, shown on the 60 h stamp bearing the date 1886, was made in Prague sometime around 1880 in the Smichov factory of the Kohout Brothers where mill machinery was produced. The date on the stamp marks the high point of the ordinary. However, it also marks the introduction of the so-called "rover" which rapidly gained favor over the ordinary in the ensuing years. Tricycles, one of which is depicted in the stamp picture beside the ordinary, were also produced at this time, but their popularity was only temporary. Note that the bicycles of this period were already fitted with very loud bells and deluxe models, had handlebars fitted with a special holder for a dog whip, for cyclists were often pursued by and even attacked by dogs.



The fourth, 40 h stamp, takes us back to the year 1910. Shown in the stamp are three bicycles—one ridden by a man, another by a woman, and a third without a rider. These bicycles—rovers—became popular in 1895 and remain so to this day. The date 1910 marks the appearance of the ladies' bicycle which was without a crossbar and had a colored net covering part of the rear wheel so skirts would not become entangled in the spokes of the wheel.

The stamp with the lowest value, 20 h, bears the date 1978. Shown in the picture are modern-day cyclists, a young man and woman on a pleasant outing.

Issued with the five-stamp "Historical Bicycles" set are two First Day Covers. The cachet on the first depicts a man and woman in period dress on bicycles, the second a bicycle without a rider.

On 14 September 1979, the Federal Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications of Czechoslovakia issued a set of commemoratives entitled "Historical Bicycles" and comprising the following five stamps:

20 h — 1978. Engraved by Josef Herčík. Colors: black, yellow, red, blue.

40 h — 1910. Engraved by Josef Herčík. Colors: black, yellow, red, blue.

60 h — 1886. Engraved by Josef Herčík. Colors: black, yellow, blue, red.

2 Kčs — 1820. Engraved by Jan Mráček. Colors: black, red, blue, yellow.

The stamps were all designed by the painter and graphic artist Kamil Lhoták, Meritorious Artist.

The set was printed by rotary process print combined with three-color photogravure at the Post Printing Office in Prague in sheets of 50. The dimensions of the stamp pictures are 41x23 mm.

Issued with the set are two First Day Covers, their cachets depicting:

- a. a man and woman in period dress riding bicycles
- b. a bicycle.

ANIMALS IN HERALDRY (Town Charters)

Heraldry, a subject that is very popular with philatelists, has already appeared on Czechoslovak stamps in various forms. In addition to single topics these include also a number of sets with coats-of-arms of Bohemian, Moravian and Slovakian towns, all designed and engraved by the leading graphic artist and engraver Josef Herčík. He is also the designer and, in part, engraver of the present set depicting animals in heraldry. This subject is presented in the form of emblems—five stamps and two First Day Covers—from historic town charters dating from the period between the 15th and 19th century.

The first, 30 h stamp, shows the coat-of-arms of the town of Vlachovo Březí dating from the year 1538. Vlachovo Březí is located in South Bohemia in the district of Prachatice. Depicted on the emblem is a darkish billy goat with silver horns and hooves.

The second, 60 h stamp, shows the coat-of-arms of the town of Jeseník dating from the year 1509. Jeseník is located in North Moravia in the district of Šumperk. The emblem includes a brown bear with uncrowned black eagle on its back. The eagle has a red beak and tongue and on its breast a half-moon with a cross in the center and a three-leaf clover at each end.

The third, 1.20 Kčs stamp, shows the coat-of-arms of Vysoké Mýto, a town in East Bohemia in the district of Ústí nad Orlicí. This emblem dates from the year 1471, and is thus the oldest of the five depicted in this set.

The Vysoké Mýto coat-of-arms depicts the legendary figure of St. George astride a white horse and garbed in splendid silver armor in the act of slaying the dragon with his lance.

The fourth, 1.80 Kčs stamp, is dedicated to Martin, district town in Central Slovakia. The town coat-of-arms on the stamp dates from the year 1854 but the depiction of St. Martin from as far back as the 14th century. Here again we have an emblem with a well-known legendary figure astride a white horse. It is St. Martin, who, according to legend, took pity upon a poor beggar, cut his cloak in two with his sword and gave one-half to the beggar.

The fifth stamp, with face value of 2 Kčs, takes us back again to Bohemia. It presents the coat-of-arms of the town of Žebrák in the district of Beroun in Central Bohemia. This town emblem is from the charter dating from 1674 and depicts a heraldic beast—half brown bear (the front half) and half white lion with a forked tail. Above this heraldic beast is a helmet topped with a crown; the heraldic beast—half bear and half lion—appears again above the crown.

Issued with the set "Animals in Heraldry" (Town Charters) are two First Day Covers with cachets likewise showing town coat-of-arms. The first presents the town emblem of Unhošt in the district of Kladno in Central Bohemia, which includes the figure of a red deer. The second the emblem of Horní Planá, which includes the figure of a bear. Horní Planá is located in South Bohemia in the district of Český Krumlov.

On 25 May 1979, the Federal Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications of Czechoslovakia is issuing a set of commemoratives entitled "Animals in Heraldry" (Town Charters) and comprising the following five stamps:

- 30 h — Vlachovo Březí 1538. Engraved by Jindra Schmidt. Colors: Black, blue, yellow, silver.
- 60 h — Jeseník 1509. Engraved by Jindra Schmidt. Colors: Black, blue, yellow, red.
- 1.20 Kčs — Vysoké Mýto 1471. Engraved by Josef Herčík. Colors: black, yellow, blue, red.
- 1.80 Kčs — Martin 1954. Engraved by Josef Herčík. Colors: black, yellow, blue, red.
- 2 Kčs — Žebrák 1674. Engraved by Jan Mráček. Colors: black, yellow, blue, red.

All five stamps and the two First Day Covers were designed by the graphic artist and engraver Josef Herčík.

The set was printed by rotary recess print combined with three-color photogravure at the Post Printing Office in Prague in sheets of 25. The dimensions of the stamp pictures are 23x40 mm.

Issued with the set are two First Day Covers with cachets depicting motifs the charters of the following two towns:

1. Unhošt
2. Horní Planá

LIBRARIAN HAS NEW ADDRESS

Our Librarian, J. T. Carrigan, has a new address, 12000 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station, VA 22039.

Letter

(From the Managing Editor: As I will take personal responsibility for anything going in this issue of the SPECIALIST, the following letter (normally under the title of Charley's Corner) caused a lot of thought on my part as to whether to publish it or not. It is being run, not to disrupt the Society, but perhaps to show that there could have been more communication between the officers, the board AND the members on important decisions. Perhaps something should have been run in the SPECIALIST months ago when the "10 or 6" was first broached, and letters and opinions from the members solicited. Perhaps some of the authors and contributors of the past might have been asked their opinion. I assure you though, that I am not being "pushed out"—it is entirely my own decision; monthly issues are just too confining! H. W. Miller)

May I take my hat off and express a sincere thank you to Harlan Miller of Lawrence, Kansas for all his work and dedication to our Society by publishing the Czechoslovak Specialist for over 40 years.

Mr. Miller's work on the Specialist was truly a labor of love, for I am sure all the extra time he spent making calls, extending deadlines, and juggling articles to complete monthly issues was never compensated for.

Now after 40 years, the majority of the board has decided to drop Mr. Miller. Their reasoning, which I do not agree with, was to keep the Specialist a monthly journal. Mr. Miller would have been willing to continue printing the Specialist every two months. In that way we would have received a larger Specialist, possibly more than 2 separate journals combined, 6 times a year.

When one takes into account 10 mailings a year compared to 6 and the cost involved printing the Specialist by another printer as compared to the modest fee charged by Mr. Miller all these years, I feel the extra financial burden being placed upon our Society treasury was not the wisest of moves. From the information I was able to obtain the price for printing the Specialist will almost double.

A salute to you Mr. Miller, from Charley's Corner. You have a sincere Thank You and my everlasting gratitude for all the service you have given the Society these past 40 years. We have all benefited immensely by your labors.

A Happy Holiday Season to all and good hunting in 1980.

C. C.

Third Volume Of Monografie Issued

After a series of postponements, caused largely by production problems and delays, the Third Volume of *Monografie Československých známek* has finally been published. This volume covers the stamps of the 1923-1929 period, as well as the postal paper used in the same time frame. The authors of the first part of the volume are Jan Karásek and František Žampach. Jaroslav Papoušek wrote the section of postal paper which covers the last 108 pages of this 430 page book. As with the other volumes of *Monografie*, this volume is printed on chalk paper and profusely illustrated, though some of the

illustrations are not quite as clear as I would have expected. The usefulness of this volume will be somewhat reduced for foreign collectors of Czechoslovak stamps by the fact that there are no foreign language summaries.

The stamps are presented in sequence of issue, with each issue clearly treated as a separate unit. Within each unit the treatment is uniform in format, though not always in the amount of detail presented on any given stamp. This difference is obviously due to the varying amounts of material available on the various issues. As any collector knows, much more collateral material has been preserved for some issues than for others. The units are broken down into the following sections: Origins of the stamp (including artists renditions); Printing of the stamp (including printing methods used, paper, perforations); Production errors/flaws; Other errors/flaws; Unissued stamps and trial printings (includes proofs and essays); and finally postal use and special or commemorative cancellations.

A postal rate table begins the postal paper section. The author's systematic treatment of postal paper issued in the period 1925-1939 gives the reader rather complete production information. Professor Papoušek frequently resorts to tables to list the larger issues of commemorative postal cards. These tables supply considerable information, but must be used with the legend appearing at the beginning of the section. The system used in the tables might have been a bit simpler, but it does have the advantage of being consistent throughout the entire section.

And for those who like that sort of thing, the volume also contains a numbered "black print" of the 40 heller stamps from the 10th Anniversary issue. Personally I object to the production of these "black prints," even though they are apparently very popular with collectors in Czechoslovakia. When I recently asked an official of the Union of Czechoslovak Philatelists about the practice of placing such numbered "black prints" into publications and catalogs as an incentive for collectors to purchase, he replied that it boosted the sales of the publications. Those of us who were at Praga 78 remember well the extremely long lines for the publications that were available and how difficult it was to get them. If the official is to be believed, all these people were buying the publications not because they were interested in their content, but because they might make a profit on the enclosed "black print." Perhaps, but I doubt it. My objection to this practice is basically that it is first and foremost aimed at extracting still more money from collectors—and this in a country that already issues more stamps each year than it can reasonably justify by need.

Unfortunately I have not yet had the opportunity to go through this volume in detail to check for completeness and accuracy of the information contained in the text. But first impressions are very positive. This volume of the *Monografie* is an important addition to the literature on Czechoslovak philately. The authors are to be complimented on their fine work. It is hoped that the larger project that this series represents will move forward with a bit more energy with the successful completion of this volume. The first volume of this projected 15 volume series was published just 11 years ago to coincide with Praga 68. Since then only 4 other volumes have been completed (1, 2, 3, 13 and 14). Let us hope the work on the remaining volumes speeds up so that we can all still savor the results of this ambitious project.

J. J. Verner

FOR SALE THROUGH THE SPECIALIST

The following publications are for sale through the Specialist. Please send your remittance payable to the CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST to Richard Major, P. O. Box 4074, Arlington, VA 22204. Because of the recent increase in postage rates it is now necessary to require 90c for the first book and 50c for each additional book for postage only. If you desire insurance please add 50c up to \$15, 85c to \$50.

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