

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



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A.P.S. Unit 18

S.P.A. Branch 284

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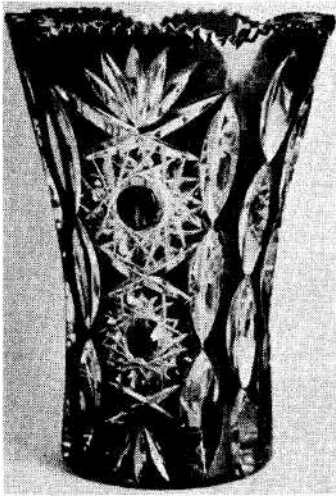
BALPEX '80

by Lou Svoboda

The time has come! Within this issue are the necessary forms to apply for participation and attendance at our annual convention to be held at BALPEX '80, 30 August - 1 September 1980, at the Hunt Valley Inn just north of Baltimore, Maryland.

The previous two issues of the SPECIALIST contained most of the details on this philatelic highlight of our Society's year, however, I will recount some of the more vital items to refresh your memories and to add a few details not mentioned before.

- SEND THE PROSPECTUS AND THE ATTENDANCE FORM TO ME (L. Svoboda, 9102 Rural Plains Place, Springfield, VA 22153) not to the address identified on the prospectus form — we need this information for planning and accounting purposes. The sooner you send these in to me the better. All information will be kept strictly confidential. I will see that the BALPEX committee gets your entry application.
- There are two banquets planned — ours on Saturday night and the BALPEX '80 one on Sunday night. Please indicate which you will be attending on the enclosed form.
- For our seminar on Czech philately we are in the process of contacting Society notables to present a varied program of interest to everyone.
- The pictures show the first place and the third place prizes in the Czech category (blue cut lead crystal vase, Mucha dual mini-prints — to be custom framed). The second place prize (serving tray) is off being engraved.
- In addition to at least two dealers at the bourse with extensive Czech philatelic material there will be a Society auction with some nice items.



First Place Award



Third Place Award

- It is especially important that new exhibitors read the prospectus rules and regulations carefully. Make sure that you fill it out completely, include payment, and mail it to me. I will get it to BALPEX.
- No deposit is required for the advance room reservation **unless** you will be arriving after 6 PM; until 6 PM you have a guaranteed reservation, after 6 PM, only if you sent in a deposit — \$25 per room should do it.
- Additional details as to the schedule of events, etc., will be published later.

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Praga 1978 In Quantitative Terms

Liberal use of superlatives in articles* describing the PRAGA 1978 World Postage Stamp Exhibition was surely justified. Some called PRAGA 1978 the “biggest”, others thought it both the “biggest” and “best”. Hardly anyone disputed the first.

Bulletin #4 of the PRAGA 1978 show has recently been received by exhibitors and other participants. It purports to show that PRAGA 1978 was indisputably “best” — and prove it with numbers.

The show’s recap is contained in a chapter entitled “PRAGA 1978 IS OVER”. This article includes a quantitative comparison of PRAGA 1978 with other recent international exhibits in terms of the numbers and levels of awards. The chapter is too long to reproduce in its entirety. The portions reprinted below, hopefully not taken out of context, are worth preserving for their conciseness. Some of the numbers presented may stand as records for some time to come.

PRAGA 1978 reached a peak in the tradition of world exhibitions begun by PRAGA 1962 and 1968, SOFIA 69, POLSKA 73, ESPANA 75, ITALIA 76 and AMPHILEX 77.

At PRAGA 1978 there were 1,559 exhibits including 154 in the official class of administrations of posts and telecommunications and post museums and 1,405 in the philatelic classes including 154 in the non-competitive class, that is 34 in Court of Honour, 48 in the non-competitive class to which the jury transferred a further 72 exhibits.

In the competitive classes 1,251 exhibits in all were assessed. The 71-member international jury of PRAGA 1978, composed of experts from 30 countries, worked in 13 groups for a period of 6 days and in keeping with the new principles suggested by the SCSF at the 47th FIP conference in Prague for an all-around more demanding assessment of exhibits at world and international exhibitions arranged under the auspices of FIP — awarded the following 1,200 exhibition prizes: 3 Great prizes, 2 exhibition prizes, 16 prizes of honour in the FIP Class of Honour, 40 large gold medals, 128 gold medals, 265 gold-plated medals, 337 silver medals, 249 silver-plated medals, 156 bronze medals, 3 diplomas, 23 exhibits were added to the above-mentioned assessment of exhibits and 28 exhibits obtained just a certificate of participation. Apart from this, the jury awarded 101 other prizes to certain exhibitors and congratulated 77 exhibitors on the outstanding philatelic quality of their exhibits.

The presidium of PRAGA 1978 awarded the 34 exhibitors invited to enter the Class of Honour with prizes of honour; cutglass vases from Czech crystal bearing the exhibition emblem and the exhibitor’s name engraved. The decorative vases were awarded to the exhibitors of the FIP Court of Honour by the PRAGA 1978 jury because in both classes the exhibits reached the highest world standard.

*THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST, vol. XXXX, November 1978

The PRAGA 1978 exhibition saw so far the greatest number of outstandingly valuable exhibits, which is borne out by the number of great gold medals awarded — 40, or in fact 42 if one includes the 2 exhibits which obtained exhibition prizes, and 128 gold medals (the greatest number before had been 38 great golds at PHILYMPIA 70 in London and 102 golds at AMPHILEX 77 in Amsterdam), and 34 exhibits in the Court of Honour — before PRAGA 1978 the greatest number had been at ARPHILA 75 in Paris (32) including 17 particularly valuable exhibits in the FIP Class of Honour.

Thus one is justified in saying — on the basis of the official data from the palmaré of the last ten world and international exhibitions organized under the auspices of FIP in the last five years — that PRAGA 1978 was not only in its extensiveness i.e. the total number of exhibits including in the competitive classes, but also in its quality i.e. its objective philatelic value — the most valuable in the whole history of philatelic exhibitions.

Also in the area of stamp design, the historical development of the postage stamp and postal history the Czechoslovak exhibits and those from abroad were of a high standard. State publicity of the countries taking part made its point through the exhibits and selected exhibits in this area from socialist countries also reached a high standard.

An important factor in the philatelic value of the exhibition is undoubtedly the overall number of gold medals, Great Prizes and exhibition prizes including exhibits in the FIP Class of Honour which had to have already won at least 2 or 3 great gold medals at world and international exhibitions organized under the auspices of FIP, and exhibits in the Court of Honour to which only exhibits of world standard were entered at PRAGA 1978, and the majority of which had already gained Great Prizes. At PRAGA 1978 it makes 223, which is an overall record as the following table will indicate, showing the last 10 general world and international exhibitions organized under the auspices of FIP in the last 5 years (all the exhibitions previous to these had even lower figures). See Table 1

It can be seen from the Table 1 that the order of value of exhibitions is as follows: PRAGA 1978 - 223, ESPANA 75 - 165, CAPEX 78 - 157, AMPHILEX 77 - 156, INTERNABA 74 - 148, ARPHILA 75 - 147, INTERPHIL 76 - 131, ITALIA 76 - 130, HAFNIA 76 - 120 and STOCKHOLMIA 74 - 115.

The optimal criteria of philatelic value of an exhibition must however be the total value of all exhibits assessed by the international jury in all competitive classes and those in the Court of Honour. If we give a diploma one point, a bronze medal 2 points, a silver-plated one 3, silver 4, gold-plated 6, gold 8, great gold 10, Great Prize, exhibition prizes, and exhibits in the FIP Class of Honour and Court of Honour 15 points each, other awards and congratulation of the jury awarded to all exhibits at the above-mentioned exhibitions 2 points each, we get the following table. See Table 2.

Table 1

	CH	Cl. H	GP	EP	GG	G	Total
INTERNABA 74	22	15	3	1	32	75	148
STOCKHOLMIA 74	8	10	4	1	21	71	115
ESPANA 75	16	18	3	2	34	92	165
ARPHILA 75	32	19	3	2	19	72	147
INTERPHIL 76	6	7	3	1	37	77	131
HAFNIA 76	11	11	3	4	30	61	120
ITALIA 76	17	8	3	2	26	74	130
AMPHILEX 77	11	15	3	—	25	102	156
CAPEX 78	10	13	3	1	34	96	157
PRAGA 1978	34	16	3	2	40	128	223

CH — Court of Honor
 Cl. H — FIP Class of Honor
 GP — Great Prize
 EP — Exhibit Prize
 GG — Large Gold
 G — Gold

From the Table 2 it can be seen that the order in which the exhibitions should be placed from the point of view of their philatelic value is as follows: PRAGA 1978 - 6,422, ESPANA 75 - 5,156, AMPHILEX 77 - 4,353, STOCKHOLMIA 74 - 4,498, ARPHILA 75 - 4,013, HAFNIA 76 - 3,872, INTERNABA 74 - 3,642, ITALIA 76 - 3,636, CAPEX 78 - 3,579, INTERPHIL 76 - 3,316.

From the point of view of exhibited and assessed exhibits in the competitive classes and exhibits in the Court of Honour, the following order results: PRAGA 1978 - 1,234, ESPANA 75 - 1,190, STOCKHOLMIA 74 - 1,019, AMPHILEX 77 - 889, HAFNIA 76 - 786, ARPHILA 75 - 764, ITALIA 76 - 701, CAPEX 78 - 669, INTERNABA 74 - 645 and INTERPHIL 76 - 625.

The order of the individual value of the exhibitions is again approximately in keeping with the assessment of the overall philatelic value of all exhibits judged by the international jury in the competitive classes and of the exhibits in the Court of Honour.

I would further more be possible to take into account the overall number of exhibits in all exhibition classes, the overall area of the exhibition halls, even to bear in mind the jury-members' exhibits and other exhibits shown non-competitively, and the order would remain practically the same.

Continued on page 9

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S STOCK BOOK

Postal history buffs within our ranks will be pleased to hear that Mr. Václav Konštant of Písek, Bohemia, head of the historically minded local philatelic club and library, has given us permission to translate and reprint portions of the II. SBORNÍK POŠTOVNÍ HISTORIE JIŽNÍCH ČECH (IInd VOLUME OF POSTAL HISTORY OF SOUTHERN BOHEMIA)* which was published on occasion of the recently observed 200th anniversary of the Písek mails. Mr. Konštant is an old friend of our Society and we are indeed grateful to him.

During the latter part of April those members of our Society who are exhibiting at LONDON 1980 will have dispatched their exhibits via the U.S. Commissioner (as I have) or better yet, have brought their exhibits to this fine international show in person. Those attending LONDON 1980 will have occasion to meet the members of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain and other European Czecho collectors at the May 11th luncheon organized by Mrs. Kay Goodman and her active associates. We take this opportunity to ask those members of the SCP attending to convey our heartiest greetings and our hope for continued cooperation of our two societies in bringing the pleasures of Czecho-collecting to English reading collectors throughout the world.

We wish our SCP ambassadors a pleasant stay and safe trip. To our fellow exhibitors we wish an open minded jury, safe return of their exhibits and a hefty share in reversing the gold flow out of our poor old USA!

The centerfold of this and a number of future issues will contain the results of my collecting and learning efforts on the postal history of my home town of Telč. I hope that those of our readers more interested in "real" stamps (which I also collect) will forgive this intrusion into our very limited space.

If what I have written can indeed be called "postal history", then its purpose is both practical and to entertain. The article should help in the identification of postal markings and routings, and the exchanges between postal authorities and the earliest Telč postmaster (which will appear later) should give some amusing insight into the meager changes that have taken place in the ancient practice of bureaucracy. Lastly, it is hoped that other "home town" collectors from towns not yet researched will be inspired to tap their sources and put it all together — better than I have.

We have just received the sad news of the passing of Alec McMillan's beloved wife, in Auckland, New Zealand. Our heartfelt sympathy to you, Alec and your family.

H. Hahn

*See Czechoslovak Specialist review, Feb. 1980, p. 10



**A HISTORIC PERSPECTIVE OF
POSTAL SERVICES IN TELTSCH AND VICINITY**

Henry Hahn

A "CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST" PUBLICATION
SOCIETY FOR CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELY, INC.

1980

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The author is indebted to Professor Josef Remeš, scholar and archivist of Teltsch for copies of documents used in this study as well as for much of the historic data presented. Philatelic information, some illustrations and much encouragement are owed to Mr. Matěj Šindler of Teltsch who is responsible for my early interest (at the age of about 6) in stamps. Lastly, I owe a debt of gratitude to Mr. Jaroslav Ježek of Prague for reviewing the manuscript and for correcting some glaring errors.

Henry Hahn, March 1980

PREFACE

Teltsch, or Telč as it is spelled in Czech, is sometime referred to as the "pearl of Moravia".

Teltsch was founded in the early middle ages as a "royal town", and in 1339 became the property of the Vitkovec family, i.e., The Lords of the Rose. The Lords of Hradec (a branch of this noble family) remained masters of Teltsch to 1604, whereupon the town passed to the Slavatas and eventually the Lichtensteins, who remained owners of the estate and castle up to 1945.

The present architectural beauty of Teltsch originated in the era of Zachariáš of Hradec in the first half of the sixteenth century. It is primarily to Zachariáš that Teltsch owes its magnificent square and its renaissance castle — all fully preserved and maintained to this day.

NOTE ON NAMES OF LOCALITIES

The names of most localities appearing in the text are in German. This has been done to facilitate recognition of the earlier postal markings as well as to accommodate the English speaking reader who might find the pronunciation of some of the Czech names difficult. A listing of German/Czech equivalents is given below:

Beneschau	Benešov	Königseck	Kunžák
Breuditz	Přímětice	Linz	Linec
Brunn	Brno	Budweis	Budějovice
Caslau	Čáslav	Neuhaus	Jindřichův Hradec
Czaslau		Polna	Polná
Datschitz	Dačice	Schelletau	Želetava
Deutschbrod	Nemecký Brod	Sobieslau	Soběslav
	Havlíčkův Brod	Studein	Studená
Frainersdorf	Vranovská Ves	Tabor	Tábor
Habern	Habry	Teltsch	Telč
Hosterschlag	Člunek	Triesch	Třešť
Iglau	Jihlava	Trebitsch	Třebíč
Jamnitz	Jemnice	Tremles	Stonařov
Jesenitz	Jesenice	Wotitz	Votice
Kamnitz	Kamenice	Zlabings	Slavonice
Kolin	Kolín	Znaim	Znojmo

A HISTORIC PERSPECTIVE OF POSTAL SERVICES IN TELTSCH AND VICINITY

I. INTRODUCTION

The 15th of October 1526 marks the start of organized postal service in Bohemian lands. The earliest postal route led from Prague to Linz, and did not touch present Moravian territory. However, by 1532 (and possibly earlier) a postal route connecting Prague with Vienna via Tabor and Zlabings (Figure 1) was established, which passed only 26 kilometers south of Teltsch.¹

Though there is no record of use of this mail service by the noble masters of the Teltsch Castle, (the Lords of Hradec) or any other Teltsch inhabitant, one may merely speculate. Sixteenth century Teltsch was enjoying an unprecedented building boom, resulting in what today stands as one of the finest examples of baroque town squares, surrounded by arched passages containing shops, the so-called "Loubi", which may well have been the world's first covered shopping mall. Since much of the building was carried out by Italian architects, masters and artisans, their possible use of the Zlabings postal station for contact with Italy via Vienna cannot be entirely excluded.

Another postal route passing through the vicinity of Teltsch is given in Richard Rowland's book, "The Posts of the World (London, 1576).² This route, in existence prior to 1568, passed through Kolin, Czaslau, Habern, Deutschbrod, Polna, Kamnitz, Trebitsch, Znaim and on to Vienna. Trebitsch, as shown in the compilation of early postal routes shown in Figure 1, is only slightly further from Teltsch than Zlabings, but nevertheless only about eight hours on foot or just under a couple of hours on horseback. Whether any citizen of Teltsch made use of the Trebitsch postal station is also not known, though written communication with both Prague and Vienna must have taken place.

Which of the above mentioned routes represents the first postal route through south-western Moravia is somewhat controversial. However, service on the last mentioned route ceased sometime between 1558 and 1568, though the road was partially used for postal service between Prague and Brunn up to 1605.

The service between Prague and Vienna via Zlabings and/or Trebitsch was sporadic prior to 1558 whereupon it became regular, presumably daily. The route changed somewhat, but once again passed through Zlabings. The altered route, passing through Wotitz, Tabor, Sobieslau, Hosterschlag bei Neuhaus, Zlabings and south to present day Austria remained in service with only minor changes up to June 1, 1750, at which time it was abandoned for a new route passing through Iglau, Stannern, Schelletau, Budweis, Frainersdorf, Znaim and south into Austria. Once again, the postal route passes close to Teltsch with both the Stannern and Schelletau stations considerably closer than either Trebitsch or Zlabings, i.e., some four to six hours on foot.

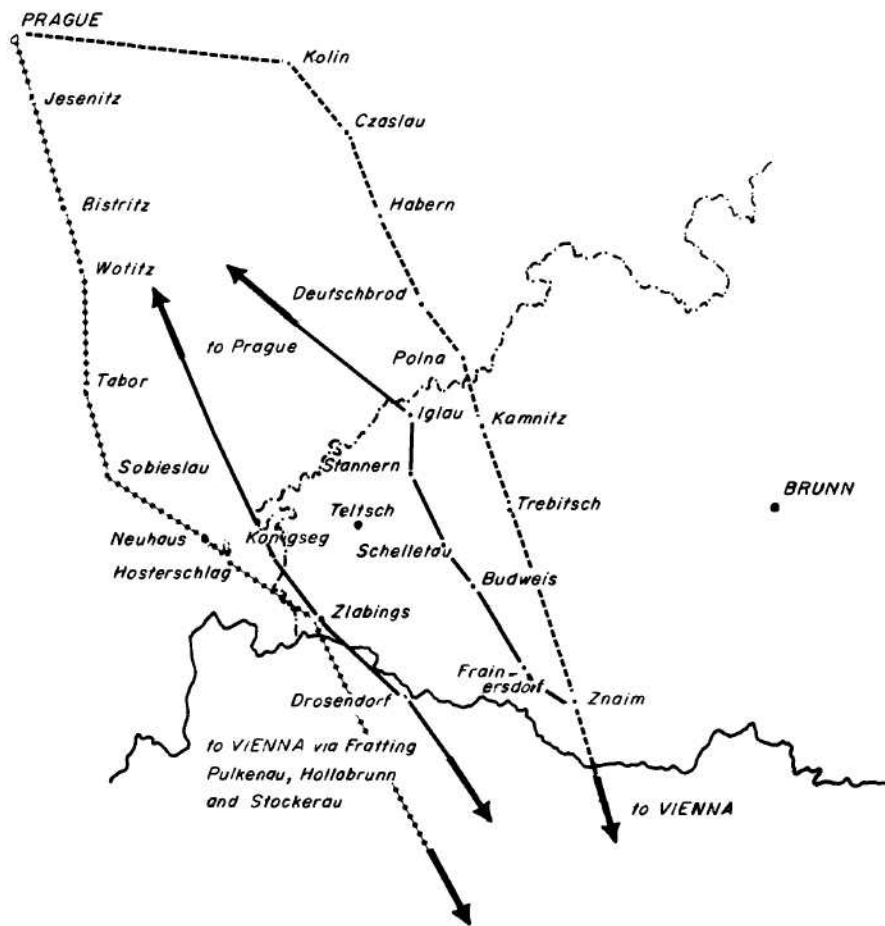


Figure 1. Early Postal Routes Passing Near TELTSCH

Earliest Prague-Vienna Route via Zlabings, established prior to 1532
 Earliest Prague-Vienna Route via Trebitsch, according to Rowland
 Route placed in service after 1558
 Route placed in service June 1, 1750 - later connected to Teltsch

Both the Trebitsch and Zlabings postal stations were discontinued as postal routes through these towns were abandoned. Along the newer route, on June 29, 1823, passed the region's first express post coach going from Vienna to Prague, a distance of 322 kilometers. The trip took 39 hours. However, passenger service along this route had been initiated in 1750 when the route opened.

The Artist-Creators Of Czechoslovakia's Stamps

KAREL SVOLINSKÝ — Born in Svatý Kopeček near Olomouc in 1896.

Delving deep into the soul of nature, Karel Svolinský endeavored to immortalize in his designs and paintings the creatures of nature, the beasts, flowers and humans, and endow them with a character consistent with his native land.

A painter, draftsman and illustrator he succeeded early in illustrating with his monumental designs Mácha's "Máj" earning the acclaim as top illustrator of Czech literary gems. His personalized style is alive with the freshness and color of folk art displayed in a fluid and pleasing design. He was also extremely successful with his designs in mosaics, ceramics, and in addition as an illustrator of books gained high praise and fame as designer of postal stamps.

In Olomouc, Moravia, he is honored as the creator of the new astronomical clock (Orloj) with motifs directly from his beloved Haná region. The handsome and heroic men of Haná in their colorful costumes, and the maidens in their holiday finery glowing in color and fanciful design of ribbons, kerchiefs and aprons. The down to earth craftsmen announcing the time of the day with ringing blows of hammer on anvil, and the hauntingly beautiful melody of the Moravian anthem: "Moravo, Moravo, Moravienko . . ." All enblazoned in colorful mosaic and occupying a place of honor in the wall of the Olomouc municipal building.



FDC — Autographed by Svolinský and Engravers J. Schmidt and L. Jirka

There is another creation of Svolinský and his wife, herself an artist of note, contained in the Czechoslovak Room in the Cathedral of Learning, University of Pittsburgh. The walls and beams of the classroom, a daily workshop for students, offer a harmonious scheme of flow-

ers depicted in a fantasy of colors and appearing to be plucked directly from the fields and meadows of the Czechoslovak countryside, planted with loving care on the walls and beams of the room by the gifted hands of this artistic couple.

From a philatelic viewpoint Svolinský is perhaps the most prolific, and most successful, of Czechoslovakia's designers of postal issues. His designs appear on over forty different series of stamps. He made his debut with a design for the Lidice commemorative issues in 1947 (Sc 329-331). He then made numerous designs for a series of stamps depicting Thomas G. Masaryk, the First President of the Republic, and from then on most of Czechoslovakia's famous personages of letters, science, politics etc. with characteristic realism as to likeness. One of the earliest issues of note is a series of stamps commemorating the 600th anniversary of founding of Charles University in Praha. The selvege was utilized by Svolinský to give free reign to his fanciful designs.

In all his designs for stamps perhaps the most beautiful and most admired are his designs of the various regional costumes of the good folk of Czechoslovakia, and along with these the series of medicinal, alpine and field flowers on stamps. In this field of design Svolinský is unique. The flowers, simple in design, bear all the recognizable characteristics of the individual in any given species. The stamps, put together, make up a veritable botanical garden, rich in color and detail.

Karel Svolinský was the second artist who displayed his creations in stamps of Czechoslovakia in the prestigious Hall of Hollár in Praha. Only Max Švabinský, famous for his artistry, preceded him.

Svolinský's greatness, in this writer's opinion, is in depicting simple things in all their attractiveness and charm, reflecting the great spiritual and esthetic values of his native land.

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Table 2

Exhibitions:	CH	CI.	H	GP	EP	GG	G	GPI.	S	SA	B	D	OP	CJ	Total number of points for exhibits
INTERNABA 74	22	15	3	3	1	32	75	114	191	102	75	15	89	5	3642
STOCKHOLMIA 74	8	10	3	3	2	21	71	147	275	212	208	63	114	25	4498
ESPANA 75	16	18	3	3	2	34	92	159	222	284	277	83	68	14	5156
ARPHILA 75	32	19	3	3	2	19	72	130	184	166	116	21	59	11	4013
INTERPHIL 76	6	7	3	3	1	37	77	138	159	104	72	21	23	44	3316
HAFNIA 76	11	11	3	3	4	30	61	150	200	169	129	18	69	14	3872
ITALIA 76	17	8	3	3	2	26	74	121	175	162	101	12	80	24	3636
AMPHILEX 77	11	15	3	3	—	25	102	180	217	196	126	14	84	32	4535
CAPEX 78	10	13	3	3	1	34	96	126	136	150	100	—	11	47	3579
PRAGA 1978	34	16	3	3	2	40	128	265	337	249	156	4	93	68	6422

o The number of exhibits in the FIP Class of Honour is one less because the most valuable of them appears in the column Great Prize (GP) (FIP Great Prize of Honour).

P.Č. 1919 — A New Find

By J. Karásek, SCP — Translated from FILATELIE by J. Stein

After six years there has been another find of the 12h P.Č. 1919 green-blue stamp (CS 37, Scott B6) which was identified as subtype Ia. The find is a pair with the left stamp being type II (raised diacritical mark over S in POŠTA), while the right stamp is of subtype Ia — (diacritical mark close to S in POŠTA, the second 9 in 1919 fully rounded).

By studying the repaired plates of this issue it was found that the item probably originated from plate Ib. (See Monografie II, page 59). Stamp type II in the find has a damaged diacritical mark over the letter C in ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ. This damage — incomplete diacritical mark, divided or split — is identical to the damaged diacritical mark which was found in position 59 of the repaired plate Ib.

This rare combination of subtype with normal type is the second such find in the past six years. Clearly it is still possible to find in common philatelic material, on occasion, exceptional items which normally escape the attention of collectors. Thus far the following subtypes on the 12h value have been found:

- pair, type II, subtype IIa (Mon. II, page 63)
- block of 4, type II with subtype Ia (with two type I) FILATELIE 1973, pp 104-105
- pair, type II with subtype Ia (present find)

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Society for Czechoslovak Philately Annual Convention and Show

BALPEX '80, 30 Aug.-1 Sep. 1980

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- 1) They'll give you a glimpse into the heart of Europe
- 2) You'll make friends with a people who, in peace, are building a new life for their country
- 3) You'll marvel at the beauty of Czechoslovakia's countryside, extolled by its artists and poets
- 4) You'll become acquainted (or reacquainted) with the old cultural tradition of the Czech and Slovak peoples
- 5) You'll learn of the characteristic fauna and flora of Central Europe
- 6) You'll keep up with the latest in Czechoslovakia's industrial and scientific development, including advanced research
- 7) You'll love their motion — like illustrations of the colorful world of sport
- 8) You'll see why Czechoslovakia has gained international recognition for its advanced techniques of stamp reproduction, harmony of color and outstanding artistry
- 9) They represent the work of their finest artists and engravers
- 10) Czechoslovakia's stamps are neither too large or small — just stamps as stamps should be!

ASK YOUR FAVORITE DEALER!
