

Official Monthly Journal of the

(USPS 808300) 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. XXXXIII

February, 1981

No. 2, Whole No. 407

1981 SCP CONVENTION TO BE HELD AT COMPEX

The first advance information on the Society for Czechoslovak Philately participation at COMPEX in Chicago on May 1, 2 and 3, 1981, has been received from co-chairperson Jane Sterba.

COMPEX is a Combined Philatelic Exhibition with 15 clubs from the Chicago area participating. Our Society will have a total of 80 frames allocated to it at a cost of \$5.00 per frame. The frames are the international size which contains 16 pages 8½" by 11" each. Members who wish to exhibit should write at once for a prospectus to Jane Sterba, 6624 Windsor Avenue, Berwyn, IL 60402. Set up time is 5 PM on April 30, so if you are not setting up your own exhibit it should be in Berwyn no later than April 27.

The Society will of course have a booth at the show and a cover with a souvenir cachet is being planned. Free packets of Czechoslovak stamps will be distributed during the show to children accompanied by parents.

Charley Chesloe will also hold a "Mini Auction" at COMPEX, featuring material of Czechoslovakia. It will be on Saturday afternoon at the Expo Center. See the ad elsewhere in this issue.

On Sunday there will be a Society luncheon at a Czech restaurant, which is reported to serve a good meal for about \$6.00. The Society awards will be presented at this luncheon.

It appears that plans are well under way for our part in COMPEX. Plan to exhibit and plan to attend.

Graphic Cutouts

September 1980

Prague is the place where the artist Cornelia Němečkrová now lives and works. Born in the picturesque town of Vsetín in the shadow of Moravia's Beskid Mountains, she pursues an art form that is unique and extremely interesting -- graphic cutouts. It is very delicate, colorful work, the result of which is a pretty picture on a white or pale-tinted ground. The actual execution requires colored paper, scissors and great manual skill. Her work is rooted in the folk art tradition, the tradition of interesting ornamental cutouts decorating the homes of the simple folk in Poland, Germany, and in Czechoslovakia in Moravia and Slovakia. Now Cornelia Němečková's graphic cutouts appear in stamp form in the "Graphic Cutouts" set.



THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

(USPS 808300)

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Changes of address to the editorial office.

The subjects for the five stamps and two first day covers present a typical selection of a wide range of subjects. The first, a 50h stamp, shows "Chod Girl" dressed in the traditional folk costume of this distinctive ethnographic region in West Bohemia. The 1 Kčs stamp depicts the main character of the well-known Punch and Judy puppet show -- "Punch and his Dog". The third stamp, with face value of 2 Kčs, presents an amusing picture entitled "Dandy with Posy" and depicting a tomcat with the hat of the men's Moravian folk costume perched atop its head -- a hat decorated with a posy of fresh flowers, usually given the wearer by a young girl. The 4 Kčs stamp presents a cutout entitled "Evening Contemplation" depicting a lion with huge mane communing with the moon and stars about the secrets of the king of beasts. The last stamp of the set, with a face value of 5 Kčs, is entitled "Wallachian Dances" and shows a young girl dressed in the folk costume of Wallachia (a region in northern Moravia noted for its folklore) and dancing to the spirited music of a local piper.

The cachets on the first day covers depict the fairy-tale figure of a woodland nymph and the firebird -- likewise from the world of fairy-tales.

On the 24th of September 1980, the Federal Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications of Czechoslovakia issued a set of commemoratives entitled "Graphic Cutouts" and comprising the following five stamps:

50 h - Chod Girl Engraved by Bedřich Housa Colors: brown, red, green

1 Kčs - Punch with his Dog
 Engraved by Jan Mráček
 Colors: violet, brownish-red, orange, green

2 Kčs - Dandy with Posy
 Engraved with Bedřich Housa
 Colors: dark-violet, black, blue, violet

4 Kčs - Evening Contemplation Engraved by Jindra Schmidt Colors: brownish-red, blue, gold, orange

5 Kčs - Wallachian Dance Engraved by Ladislav Jirka Colors: blue, brownish-red, grey-green, pink

The stamps were printed by rotary recess print combined with two and three-color photogravure in sheets of 25 at the Post Printing Office in Prague. The dimensions of the stamp picture are 23 x 40 mm.

Issued with the set are two first day covers with cachets depicting:
a/woodland nymph
b/ the firebird

Census In Czechoslovakia

November 1980

On 1 November 1980 the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic made an official count of the population, houses and apartments in the country. Pertinent information on all the citizens of Czechoslovakia, numbering more than 15 million, was recorded.

On 24 September 1980, the Federal Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications publicized this national event by issuing a 1 Kčs commemorative postage stamp designed by the painter and graphic artist Jan Jiskra and engraved by Bedřich Housa. The stamp picture contains the inscription "Sčítání lidu ČSSR"/ Census in Czechoslovakia/, a map of Czechoslovakia in the form of dots and the official emblem of the occassion consisting of the figures of people and a five pointed star.

The stamp is printed by rotary recess print combined with three-color photogravure in sheets of 50. The colors are dark blue, gold, blue and red. The dimensions of the stamp picture are 42 x 23

mm. Issued with the stamp is a first day cover with an inscription pertaining to the event and a cachet depicting the figures in the official emblem. The set was printed by the Post Printing Office in Prague.



A HISTORIC PERSPECTIVE OF POSTAL SERVICES IN TELTSCH AND VICINITY

By Henry Hahn

The next four pages, (centerfold) contain a continuation of the above titled work, which is being published serially. Publication began in the May 1980 issue.

The latter arrived in the morning and was presided over by "Postillion Andres". It returned to Datschitz in the afternoon. The man Andres was something of a character, who had performed this duty faithfully for nearly fifty years. He was a familiar and welcome sight and his status among the adult population was in no small measure due to the existance of a lottery headquartered in Datschitz. Andres acted in the capacity of lottery agent in addition to transacting a variety of other businesses between the two bustling towns. While he would thoroughly garble messages and cause great confusion in many of the business transactions, nothing ever interfered with his tranquil and sedate nature. He loved Teltsch, in fact he was often heard to say: "I'm more of a Teltscher than a Datschitzer. After all I'm in Teltsch all day and I only go to Datschitz to sleep."

When Andres celebrated his fiftieth anniversary of postal service, he received as a token for his faithful service a "distinguished service cross", a monetary prize and a magnificent red uniform in the rococo style. The town stopped in its tracks when Andres first appeared in his loud parade uniform with orange lining, his tall shiny boots, a two-cornered red hat sporting a long plume, his gold service cross and a brand new post horn tied to his hip by a green lanyard. Andres marched proudly that day, as all eyes turned in his direction. Following him was a sizable crowd of urchins. Andres stopped to chat with friends and explained that the magnificent uniform and the medal came all the way from Vienna, in fact from the Emperor himself. As he showed himself off to all the town bigshots -- receiving a gold coin or more from each -- his thoughts drifted in the direction of Count Leopold Podztatsky-Lichtenstein, whose castle entrance graces the main square in Teltsch. At the entrance stood young Count Karel, who grinned as he saw the brightly uniformed Andres. "Some get-up", he said.

"Isn't it something? My parade uniform -- came from the Emperor himself, for faithful service because I drove for 50 years from Datschitz to Teltsch, and nothing ever happened to me."

"I congratulate you, my dear Andres."

"I thank you for your congratulations, young sir count. It looks good, doesn't it? And how is your father? Is he home? I'd like to pay him a visit."

"Well, come along then, the Count will get a kick out of you." The young count led Andres into the castle, left him in charge of the butler, and hurried on to announce the honored guest.

In a few moments the butler led Andres through the halls and chambers to the Count's private apartment. Andres' heavy shoes left distinct marks in the form of nails in the shiny parquet flooring. The butler groaned and pleaded for Andres to keep to the rugs, but Andres would have none of it. "I wouldn't think of dirtying his Excellency's carpets".

On seeing Andres the Count could not suppress a laugh. "Andres, you are beautiful -- like a parrot!" Andres was seated at the table, food and drink were served, and the Count joined Andres in a drink to the health of the whole family. The Count greatly admired Andres' appetite. He easily finished a full plate of meat. Another was brought but Andres'

appetite showed no let up. Finally he slowed, and turning to the Count apologized: "I'm afraid I can't eat any more, but if you don't mind, I'll have a piece of newspaper and take it home with me. It would be a shame to waste it. You wouldn't eat it anyway, and I'll finish it when I get home".

A package of the food was prepared, Andres lit his pipe, told story after story, drank as he went along, and spat on the floor as was his custom. The butler placed a spitoon in a strategic position, but Andres just spat to the other side. The butler quickly moved the spitoon to accomodate the honored guest. Thereupon Andres gave the butler a cold stare followed by a threat: "I warn you, if you don't get that thing out of the way, I'm likely to spit right into it." The Count and his sons, Alois and Karel, grinned, the butler was waved off, and Andres merrily continued to miss the spitoon and tell homey jokes. Finally he ceremoniously withdrew an ancient watch from his pocket, took a long look and got up.

"Well, time has gone, hasn't it? And did I pack my gut! You know, it's a pity I have to go, but I have to hitch up the horses, you know. Well, God bless you all. And give my regards to your Mrs. Too bad she couldn't see me too." Andres shook everybody's hand, including the butler's, and left with great majesty, his package under his arm, in the direction of the Macku Inn. He hitched up the horses, threw the Datschitz bag of mail into the coach, and greatly elated, left Teltsch again. A string of boys followed the coach to the edge of town.

The story has it that for one whole week, in spite of continuous airing, the smell of Andres' pipe remained in clear evidence throughout the castle. Nevertheless the Count insisted that he had never enjoyed himself so much as on the occasion of the fiftieth jubilee of the postillion.

POSTAL TRANSPORT

It is likely, though by no means documented, that all regular mail arriving and departing from Teltsch prior to 1849 was by foot courier. The earliest known regular horse rider service departed from Teltsch to Schelletau and Iglau in 1849. Horse drawn postal service to Datschitz was introduced in 1860.

Early postal vehicles resembled "covered wagons" of the American frontier days. Introduction of "regulation" postal carriages occurred considerably later. A carriage believed to have been placed in service prior to World War I is shown in Fig. 22. This vehicle, or one like it, remained in service into 1940.

In spite of the introduction of especially designed postal vehicles, the cloth covered wagon remained in service well into the post World War I period. A typical one is shown in Fig. 23, parked near a postal bus which was placed in service in 1919. At that time the covered wagon was used on the Teltsch-Studein mail route.

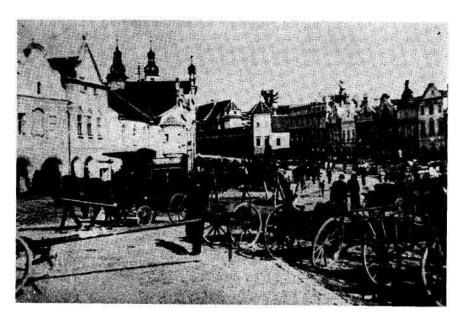


Fig. 22 Regulation Postal Wagon of the Type used up to 1940



Fig. 23 The Old and the New - 1919 Version

Railroad mail service began in 1898 when a new railroad was built from Wolframs (Kostelec) where it met the already existing railroad line connecting Brunn to the east and Tabor to the west. The new line headed from Wolframs south to Triesch, Teltsch and Datschitz, and eventually to Zlabings and across the present day Austrian frontier to Weidhofen, terminating in Schwarzenau. At Schwarzenau it met another existing eastwest rail line, connecting Vienna to Budweis and Prague.

The new railroad carried ambulatory post offices between the southern terminal, Schwarzenau and Zlabings (Fahrendes Postamt Nr. 613) and between Schwarzenau and Wolframs, (Fahrendes Postamt Nr. 612). The latter served Teltsch, as illustrated by the post card shown in Fig. 24, which was mailed at the Teltsch railroad station on March 10, 1917, addressed to Iglau. The card was routed through Wolframs (northern terminal) and transferred to the Brunn train (east) for Iglau.



Fig. 24 Ambulatory Railroad Number 612, Posted in Teltsch

The age of passenger bus service - including mail service - began on September 21, 1919 with the introduction of service to Maehr. Budweis. Credit for establishing this novel method of mail transport in Teltsch is attributed to Postal Secretary (Minister) František Staňek, after whom a street in Teltsch used to be named. By coincidence, it is the street on which a new post office was built in 1940 - though at present the street bears the name "Stalin Street".

The one way distance between Maehr. Budweis and Teltsch is 34.1 km. The bus schedule was as follows

Mini Auction #3

At Compex May 2, 1981 - 2:30 p.m.

20, 36-4K, Slate Green, Bohemia-Moravia, V.F.,

Est. Net \$150.00

All Lots Guaranteed Genuine, Sold At Bid Level Over 2nd High Bid. Est. Net Is Cash Valuation And Not A Starting Price. Postage Is Extra.

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POSTAL SERVICE DURING WORLD WAR II

Correspondence between the United States of America and Czechoslovakia was at all times lively and constant. Communications were exchanged between relatives and friends. The Second World War at the beginning somewhat complicated the situation, and later made communications through postal services totally impossible. It would not hurt to consider some of the details.

On June 12, 1941 a postal card was mailed from Chrudim to relatives in Omaha, Nebr. The usual 1.50-krown correspondence card was used. Soon the card was returned to the sender. It was done by the German censor, whose office was established at the railroad post office Berlin 4. The censor used a red censor's seal and also attached a mimeographed strip of instructions to the card. The strip partly overlapped the card and was damaged in transit, but it was still possible to reconstruct the entire text, which in the original reads as follows:

"Leitung jetzt nur über Lissa(bon) New York (britische Zensur). W(enn) Versendung auf diesem Wege t(rotz-) dem gewünscht, erneute Aufli(efe-) rung am Postschalter.

Bahnpostamt 4 Berlin."

Translated freely it reads: "Transmittal of mail at present is possible only through Lisbon to New York (British censorship). If despite this sending mail through this channel is desired, resubmit your mail at the post office window. Railroad station post office 4, Berlin"

The card never reached the USA. The "tactful" instructions by the Nazi censor were clear, and it was of no use to irritate him further. Of course it was an interesting procedure. The question arises: Why did not the post office in Berlin forward the card along the route suggested, and why did the censor ask whether such procedure would be agreeable? Would the British censor find anything objectionable in a short message to relatives?

It is quite possible that numerous examples of postal communications during that part of the war while America was neutral could be found in the United States. It is known that the Cook Agency maintained a Post Office Box in Lisbon through which correspondence could be transmitted from occupied Europe to Great Britain. A similar facility existed in Canada. Philatelic journals publicized these facts. An instance is also known (supported by philatelic evidence) that the resistance group in Brno informed the government in exile through agreed upon advertisements in illustrated publications. The journals were sent to a countryman in Lisbon, Portugal who transmitted them to an agreed upon address in England. Such contact was workable and was used consistently.

An interesting operation which we review after a lapse of nearly forty years.

Translated by Paul Sturman

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 90¢ for the first book and 50¢ for each additional book for postage only. If you desire insurance please add 50¢ up to \$15, 85¢ to \$50.

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