

# 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. XLVI

April/May 1984

No. 4/5, Who No. 439/440

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S NOTEBOOK

By Dominick J. Riccio

I want to thank the Board of Directors for the confidence they have shown in electing me President after I had been drafted to fill the vacancy in the Board created by the sudden and reluctantly accepted resignation of Charlie Chesloe. I know that I will have a hard time trying to live up to the standards of my able predecessor, Henry Hahn, who always has labored and continues to labor tirelessly for the betterment of our Society. Recently with the untimely loss through deaths of some of our older members and the attrition of active participation of other members because of fatigue and/or personal changes the Society has been going through a difficult time of leadership transition. I would like to take this opportunity to appeal to all members, especially to our younger, more energetic members to become more actively engaged in the workings of our Society. We need people to write articles, to translate, to organize annual meetings, to take the responsibility for new creative endeavors and join in our Board of Directors by making their interests and abilities known at our next election. So very often we tend to take it for granted that our Philatelic Society will continue to function by itself and forget that it requires a lot of effort, time and commitment to deliver ten journals a year consistently, to plan a complex annual convention, to publish and sell various books and monographs and to run a sales circuit. All of this is carried out by the Board of Directors and a few other members without the slightest financial remuneration, in fact often at considerable cost not only in time and energy, but also in money. Indeed the publication of the SPECIALIST alone demands an enormous amount of coordination and sacrifice by the editor and contributors each month. In this connection we apologize for the lateness of recent issues of the SPECIALIST, but it has been extremely difficult for the editors because of personal problems, employment commitments and other time constraints to get the SPECIALIST published and mailed when we would like to. We hope this situation will soon be corrected, and I want to personally thank Dick Major, Henry Hahn, Jerry Verner and Paul Sturman for the valiant effort they have been making with the SPECIALIST in spite of extreme difficulties. I implore those members who have been recently disappointed by the recent tardiness of the SPECIALIST to be patient and understanding.

At the beginning of my term as President it is a pleasure to be able to report that the Society has balanced its books for the year with a surplus of \$3137.68 as of January 19, 1984. The Board should be congratulated for the job it has done in getting the Society back on sound financial footing and also for achieving the recognition of the Society's tax-exempt status, which of course means that any donations of books, money, etc., may be claimed as a tax deduction by the donor.

I am also pleased to report that in addition to my election as President the following officers were elected or appointed to office:

Vice President — Richard Major

Secretary — Edward Lisy

Treasurer — Paul Sturman, Assistant — Ludvik Svoboda

Editor — Richard Major, Assistants — Henry Hahn, Jaroslav Verner and Paul Sturman

Circuit Manager — Wolfgang Fritzsche

Expertizing Chairman — Edwin Lehecka

Librarian - Jay Carrigan

Representative to APS — Henry Hahn

SEPAD Convention Chairman — Dominick Riccio

The other major issue addressed by the Board was the formal invitation of Ing. Jan Karasek, who is one of the foremost authorities on Czechoslovak stamps in the world. He will be giving a series of lectures in the United States. Indeed, Ing. Karasek will be the Society's highlighted speaker at SEPAD. It is expected that he will lecture on the "POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ 1919" overprints. Individual members of the Society have graciously taken the responsibility for his stay in the United States.

Finally, I would like to invite all of our members to attend and, if possible, to exhibit at our annual convention, which will be held at SEPAD in Philadelphia on September 21 through 23 at the Adam's Mark Hotel. It is the best way that I know to get acquainted with other members of the Society and to derive the most satisfaction from your Society membership.

Best wishes to all of our members for a good summer, and I hope to see many of you in September at SEPAD.

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Published monthly except July and August - \$15.00 per year

Second Class Postage Paid at Ord, Nebraska 68862

and additional mailing offices.

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*Changes of address to the editorial office.*

## CHRISTMAS AIRGRAPH FROM 1943

A little over 40 years ago Colonel K. V. Klapálek received this lovely airgraph from Zigmund Glasel, then Czechoslovakia's Consul in Haifa. Here are a few facts which our readers may find interesting. Col. Klapálek was a Czechoslovakian officer who, following an adventurous escape across the Balkans after Czechoslovakia's occupation, made his way to the Near East, where he became commander of a Czechoslovakian military unit. This unit trained in Palestine, served in Syria and later in North Africa. The unit fought at Tobruk and was decorated for it. The unit, then a battalion, was upgraded to become the 200th Czechoslovak Light Antiaircraft Regiment-East. Its commander was once again Col. Klapálek. Eventually Col. Klapálek was named commander of the First Czechoslovakian Army Group in the U.S.S.R. At present he is the only living Czechoslovakian entitled to wear the Gold Star, having been decorated as a "Hero of the Soviet Union."



This card was made available by Mr. Adolf Cerny, a former member of the Czechoslovakian Army in Great Britain.

RNDr Miroslav Vostatek

## DOUBLE ISSUE

In an attempt to overcome the tardiness of the SPECIALIST which has unfortunately come about this year, the Editorial Board has decided to combine the April and May issues under one cover, doubling the size of it. The June issue is already in preparation, and we sincerely hope to resume publication on schedule with the September issue. There are regularly no issues for July and August.

## DUES NOW PAST DUE

While we are pleased to report that most of our members are conscientious in paying their dues, some have missed the dues statement and envelope in the December issue and have not as yet sent in their dues.

As you know, almost all of the dues payment goes to pay for *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, the Society publication, and we have managed to keep our expenses quite well in line for 1983, so there will be no need to raise dues for 1984. Dues therefore remain at \$15.00 for Regular Membership, \$25.00 for Patron Membership (which includes a bound volume of the SPECIALIST every two years) and \$3.00 for Junior Membership (under 18 years of age). Members outside the USA are required to add \$4.00 for surface postage or \$8.00 for airmail postage for the SPECIALIST.

Please make your check payable to the SOCIETY FOR CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELY and send it directly to our Treasurer:

Col. Ludvik Z. Svoboda  
1476 S. Wheeling Circle  
Aurora, CO 80012

As you well know, there is no paid help in our Society, and each letter required to remind a delinquent member takes precious time from your volunteer staff. Please send off your dues now and know that your SPECIALIST will continue to come throughout 1984.

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## COMMENTS ON "STAMP SHOWS—QUO VADIS?"

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Dear Editor,

This is another comment on the article "Stamp Shows — Quo Vadis" by Otakar Kutvirt in the January 1984 issue of the SPECIALIST. I, for one, completely agree with him and disagree with Gordon Torrey's rebuttal in the February 1984 issue of the SPECIALIST.

I, like many others, have exhibited for many years and I have found that there are many inconsistencies in stamp shows and judging. In my opinion the monetary value of the collection should have very little relation to the award. Showmanship is the key word — that is, the ability of the collector and/or exhibitor to draw the attention of the viewers, to present material, to be neat and concise, to tell a story, and to whet the desire of others.

The exhibit should show that some time was evident in the presentation of the exhibit. Here I mean personal time and not the work of a professional. Maybe the material, i.e. stamps, do not have the best centers; however, the exhibit contains a world of knowledge and is interesting.

My personal experiences in exhibiting — and this may sound like a case of "sour grapes" — is that I cannot compete with U.S. Postal History on covers. Mr. Torrey states that rarity does not always equal high price. I don't know about the prices of his cover rarities but from my experience that is not true. It seems that I cannot compete with U.S. Postal History covers or postcards that were issued in the 1800s, money order issues of 1901 or 6 frames of 1924 Zeps — inverted — with one wheel missing in the left hand corner, canceled on Christmas Day between the hours of 8 and 10 in the morning while the Zep was flying in the fog over Hoboken, N.J., without lights, and the Captain of the Zep holding the steering wheel with one hand and canceling the stamps with the other!

Mr. Torrey also writes that if one desires to participate in the "big league" he will have to play by its rules and customs. I guess that some of us exhibitors are and have been "minor league" for a long time. I have already been told to come up to the "big league."

There is much more that I could say about the topic of exhibiting and judging but I'm afraid that I would bring the wrath of many judges upon myself.

In all my years of exhibiting, collecting and belonging to Stamp Clubs, we as philatelists have been told to encourage youngsters to participate in our great hobby especially in exhibiting. I hope we tell them that as they get further on in exhibiting (or collecting) that there is a "Big League" and a "Minor League" and that the "Big League" requires a lot of money.

Geranino J. Petracco  
No. 1387

## COLLECTOR WANTS EXCHANGE

I would like to receive US stamps mint and philatelic material for the Olympic Games Los Angeles 1984. I offer mint or used stamps and FDC of Czechoslovakia and other countries of Eastern Europe. I can write English or German. Josef Kočí, Kučerova 4, CS-796 01 Prostějov, Czechoslovakia.

## ING. KARÁSEK REPORTS FROM ESPAÑA '84

ESPAÑA '84 took place between April 27th and May 6th in Madrid, Spain. This major international show was held under the patronage of FIP — the International Federation of Philatelists.

The opening of the show took place in the presence of Spain's highest ranking officials as well as other notable guests. The opening was also attended by FIP Chairman Ing. Ladislav Dvořáček of Czechoslovakia who later participated in the international jury and other official functions.

The exhibits were located in two large, modern exhibition halls and were divided according to FIP rules into several non-competitive and competitive categories.

The Show Program was rich in philatelic content. Each day there were numerous philatelic events, meetings of commissions, congresses, press briefings and numerous other cultural and social events (theatrical performances, concerts, visits to the National Art Gallery, sight-seeing, etc.).

In all, seventy (70) exhibits shown were noncompetitive and over eight hundred (800) were competitive, including twenty (20) in the FIP Master's Class. A total of 53 Large Gold Awards were awarded to exhibitors including the 20 in the FIP Master Class. The Gold Award (so-called "Small Gold") was awarded to 125 exhibits, which is a large number in comparison with other recent international exhibits. Other awards included Large Vermeil, Vermeil, Large Silver, Silver, Silver-Bronze, and Bronze. The unusually large number of Golds is an indication of the high caliber of the show.

In addition to the above awards and numerous additional Honorary Awards, three top show awards were presented — all to exhibitors of classic stamps of Spain. The largest number of Golds and Honorary Awards went to exhibits from Spain, followed by Italy, West Germany, Switzerland, Brazil, Argentina, Great Britain, and the United States.

Six exhibits of Czechoslovakia were shown. These included Gösta Hedbom (Sweden) who received a Gold and Honorary Award for his specialized showing. A Large Vermeil was received by Kracík (Switzerland), a Vermeil by V. Samek and a Large Silver by J. Glončák (ČSSR). Two Czechoslovak Air Mail Exhibits were shown, for which J. Kracík received a Vermeil and A. Tekel (ČSSR) a Silver.

The show catalog was graphically very nice as was the Palmares with the listing of awards. A souvenir sheet was issued, a stamp (FIP Congress) and FDC's depicting Spain's Royal Family. There also appeared numerous special cancels relating to special events of the day.

In conclusion, it may be said the ESPAÑA lived up to expectations. It was well organized, and Madrid was beautiful.

## THE THIRD AIR MAIL ISSUE OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA, 1930–1939

By Zdeněk Kvasnička — Translated 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 March issue.

TYPE I — Narrow format, design dimensions 17.2 × 21.7 mm. Printed from the same plate of 100 subjects. The variation in design dimensions was caused by the cutting of the paper roll, which in one case was cut in the longitudinal direction of the roll, and in the second instance transversely. The cut sheets, which were wetted prior to printing, shrank the design to the differing dimensions when they dried. The paper expands in the longitudinal direction and shrinks in the transverse direction, so the stamps are either higher and narrower or shorter and wider.

The differing design dimensions exist in other values of the set as well, i.e. in the 1, 2 and 4 Kč denominations of 1935. In summary, the following dimensions are known:

Denomination	Original Dimensions	New Dimensions
50 h green, plate 1	17.7 × 21 mm	17.2 × 21.7 mm
1 Kč red, plate 1	17.7 × 21 mm	17.2 × 21.7 mm
2 Kč green, plate 1	31.5 × 21.5 mm	30.5 × 21.8 mm
4 Kč dark blue, plate 1	31.5 × 21.5 mm	30.5 × 21.8 mm

The 50 h narrow variety has both gum and paper quality similar to that of the wide variety. A part of the printing was perforated 12¼ in 1936.

TYPE II — Characterized by a closed lower right corner as well as a white line above the title "ČESKOSLOVENSKO." The engraver again used the second original of the initial engraving of the 1 Kč to engrave the 50 h. The first engraving completed was unsatisfactory due to the wide dimension (a print has been preserved), so a second

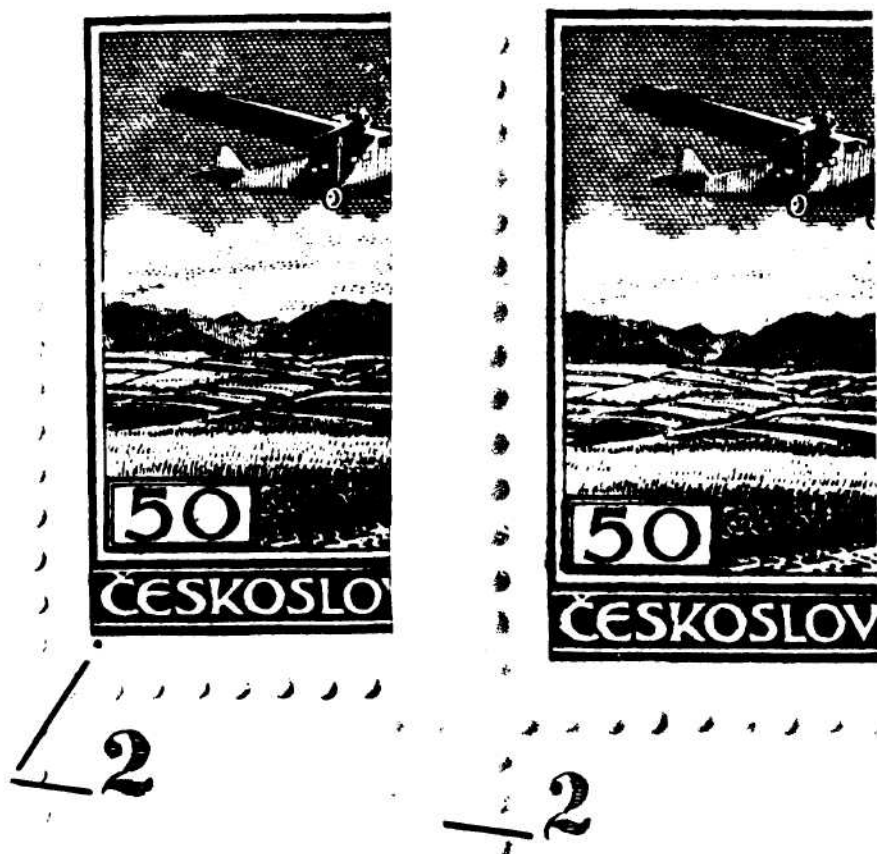


Fig. 3. Plate 2, Plate Number of Sheet of 50 (left) and Sheet of 100 (right).



engraving was completed, which was utilized. A more thorough engraving of the design provided better definition in the printing, which was carried out on the new "NADHERNÝ" press, using a 50 + 100 subject dual plate. Up to this time a 100 subject plate had been used. Both parts of the new dual plate were joined by a clear gutter, through which the printings were cut to provide sheets of 50 and 100 subjects. The dimensions of the design are 17.7 × 21 mm.

The plate number "2" appears below the 46th stamp in the sheet of 50 and below the 91st stamp in the sheet of 100. The numerals "2" differ somewhat as shown in Figure 3.

The distinguishing feature in identifying the plate number from the sheet of 50 in a single or small block is the printer's marking (a dot) below the lower left corner of the design (see Figure 3). A similar marking appears at the lower right corner of the 100th stamp in the sheet of 100. The gum is clear and smooth, the green color is somewhat darker. The original perforation was line 13¾.



Fig. 4. The 1 Kč, Plate 1, showing printer's markings at lower and upper left of 91st stamp.

#### The 1 Kč Value

This value was engraved, including the numeral of value, by K. Seizinger from several of his own drawings. As may be observed in exhibitions of this issue, numerous



color proofs of this engraving have been preserved. Utilizing the same manufacturing steps as in the 50 h value, plate 1 of 100 subjects was prepared similarly, with the plate number "1" appearing beneath the 91st stamp. Printer's markings, which are of interest, are found at the lower left corner of the 91st stamp. There are two such markings there, and one additional may be found at the upper left corner, as shown in Figure 4.

Similarly to the 50 h value, the 1 Kč value is known to have two separate sets of dimensions.

*Wide Format* — 17.7 × 21 mm, carmine-red color, bright printing, clear gum, perforated 13¾ (1930).

*Narrow Format* — 17.2 × 21.7 mm, vermilion-red color, dull printing, frequent blemishes, yellowish gum (1935). Commonly perforated 13¾, also perforated 12½ and compound 12¼ × 13¾. A protective border of 8 colored vertical lines is located along the entire right selvage.

### The 2 Kč Value

Pictured in the design is a view of the Lower Tatra Mountains, above which flies a biplane surrounded by beautifully modeled clouds. The same engraving formed the basis for the 3 Kč value also.

A main feature of the engraving is the horizontally shaded sky. The plate of 100 subjects contains the plate number "1" beneath the 91st stamp. At the lower left of the design there is a grouping of two colored dots — a larger and a smaller one. At the upper left corner one regularly finds a single such dot, equally distant from the design.

For the subsequent printings on the new printing press two new plates of 50 subjects each bearing plate numbers "2" and "3", were prepared. These differ from plate 1 in having been re-engraved and by having somewhat smaller dimensions.

Type I has the dimensions 31.5 × 21.5 mm (1930). The inner vertical line framing the design is thinner and is broken above the denomination numeral, as shown in Figure 5. Type I was printed from plate 1 of 100 subjects. The perforation is 13¾, also



Fig. 5. The 2 Kč, Type I, Plate 1, showing printer's markings at lower and upper left.

12¼ as well as 13¾ × 12¼ compound.

Type II has the dimensions 30.5 × 21.8 mm (1935). The inside vertical frame line is straightened and uninterrupted, the engraving of the clouds and title are more pronounced. Color shades deserve attention in this instance. While the Type I is predominantly of a moss-green shade, Type II appears in a darker green. Below the plate numbers "2" and "3" there always appears a colored dot, as shown in Figure 6. The gum is clear or yellowish. Perforation is only 13¾.



Fig. 6. The 2 Kč. Type II, Plate 3, showing printer's marking below the plate number.

#### The 3 Kč Value

The 3 Kč value was the first of this issue to be printed. That is probably why certain difficulties were encountered in producing the printing plate. The 3 Kč value is of great interest to collectors and provides specialists with numerous objects for study.

The first plate was made using the second engraving of the 2 Kč value. The 3 Kč value was engraved with a tilt to the "3" to the right, as illustrated in Figure 7. The sky was left hatched horizontally. This plate of 100 subjects was marked in the usual location, i.e. under the 91st stamp of the sheet, with the plate number "1."

Plate 1 did not produce the desired result, and the design was subjected to corrective changes. Proofs of the progressive changes have been preserved (printer's waste), on which the main identifying feature is the horizontally-lined sky.

The first plate utilized in the printing of stamps was made using the same engraving, which had the tilted "3," but with additional hatching or shading of the sky in an angular (slanted) direction. Plate number 1 was again located under the 91st stamp. Near the lower left corner of the stamp there are two colored dots, which are repeated in the selvage, as shown in Figure 8. The stamps are spaced 4 mm apart horizontally and 3.7 mm vertically.

The printing from this plate is designated as Type I. The stamps printed from this plate lack crispness and often contain extraneous colored lines and stains. For this reason the decision was made to produce an additional plate.



Fig. 7. The 3 Kč value, original design showing the tilt of the "3" and horizontally hatched sky (not issued).

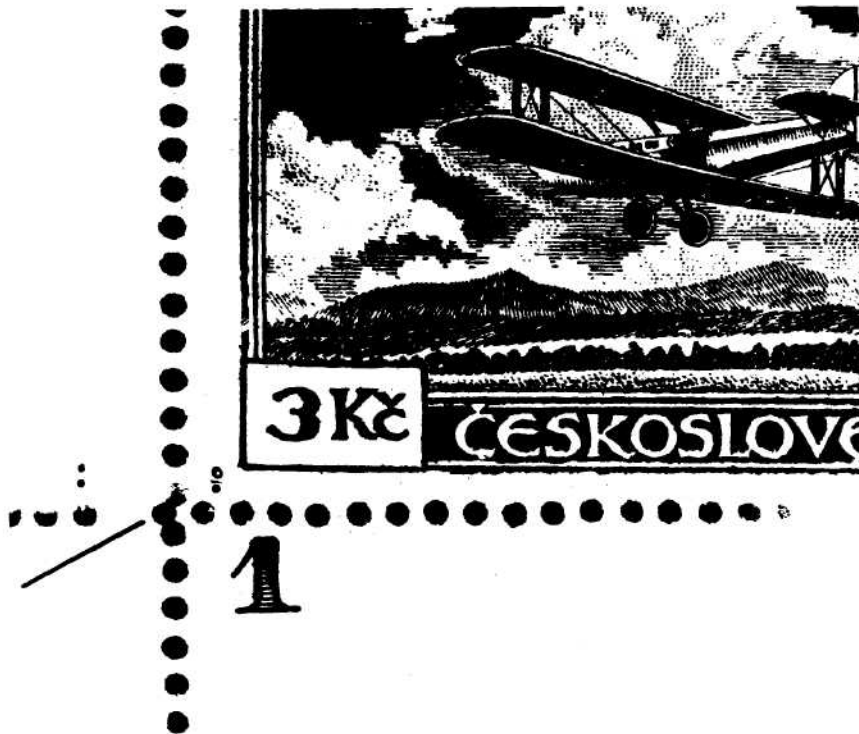


Fig. 8. First design printed. Note tilted "3," sky is cross-hatched.

The new plate was made by the identical methods, but after extensive corrections to the engraving, and again it was marked as Plate 1. The main features of this plate include removal of the tilt to the "3," sharper outlining of the hills and landscape and texturing the sky by finer dotting. This plate gave rise to what is currently designated as Type II. It is illustrated in Figure 10.

Due to the high demand for this value, both plates were utilized in printing and therefore both types were sold at the post offices. A later discovery of interest to collectors was a retouch in the earlier, i.e. Type I, plate, in which the outlines of the right lower corner of the stamp was uneven from stamp to stamp within the plate. The retouching, upon close examination, was not carried out very well. Most stamps in the plate contain the retouching, while some, primarily in the fourth row, are unretouched, or the retouching was insignificant. The 31st and 39th stamps of the sheet contain an interesting plate variety. The right side of the bottom frameline of the design is shorter, as shown in Figure 9.



Fig. 9. Plate 1, Type I, position 31 or 39. The line at the bottom right is cut short.

In summary, specialists distinguish:

- First Plate 1 — Not satisfactory for printing, only printer's waste known. Sky is hatched horizontally.
- Second Plate 1 — (Type I) Used for printing. The "3" is tilted, the printing lacks crispness, the sky is coarsely cross-hatched. The gum is clear and smooth. Dimensions 31.5 × 21.5 mm.
- Third Plate 1 — (Type II) Used for printing. Improved engraving, the sky more finely textured (dotted), the hills more prominent. Gum is clear or yellowish.
- Plate 2 — (Type III) Used for printing sheets of 50 subjects on new press. Plate number under the 46th stamp. A single small dot is under the "3," and two are near the frame to the left. The violet color is dark, frequently flows together as a result of the dense hatching of the sky. The outlines of the biplane are reinforced. The little cloud at the left is hatched horizontally. Dimensions are 30.7 × 21.8 mm. The gum is colorless, smooth, although in part of the printing it is yellowish and cracked. The perforation, as in Types I and II, is 13¼.



Fig. 10. Second design. Note vertical "3" and dotted sky.



Fig. 11. Plate 2, Type III. Note vertical "3," dense sky, dots below and to the left of "3."

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## SCHEDULE OF NEW ISSUES FOR 1984

The Ministry of Post and Telecommunications of the Czechoslovak Republic has announced the following schedule of new issues of postage stamps for 1984:

Date	Occasion	Denominations	Printing
1 January	15 Anniversary of the	0.50	Rotary recess
23 January	Czechoslovak Federation 35th Anniversary of the	1.00	Rotary recess
7 February	Founding of CMEA XIV Winter Olympic Games	2.00	Rotary recess
	Sarajevo	3.00 5.00	
7 February	Souvenir sheet 90th Anniversary of the	4 × 3.00 7.00	Rotary recess
1 March	Founding of the International Olympic Committee Coats of Arms of	0.50	Rotary recess
	Czechoslovak Cities	0.50 1.00 1.00	
12 April	INTERCOSMOS	0.50	Rotary recess
		1.00 2.00 4.00 5.00	
9 May	Heroes of the Resistance	0.50	Rotary recess
	Movement against Fascism	1.00 2.00 4.00	
11 May	Year of Czech Music	0.50	Rotary recess
1 June	Central Telecommunications	1.00 2.00	Rotary recess
1 June	Building Bratislava Historical Motifs of Bratislava	3.00 4.00	Flat recess in sheets of 4
2 July	XXIII Summer Olympics	1.00	Rotary recess
	Los Angeles	2.00 3.00 5.00	
9 August	Souvenir sheet Prague Castle	11.00 3.00 4.00	Flat recess in sheets of 6



28 August	Historical Card Games	0.50	Rotary recess
		1.00	
		2.00	
		3.00	
		5.00	
29 August	40th Anniversary of the	0.50	Rotary recess
8 September	Slovak National Uprising 40th Anniversary of the	2.00	Rotary recess
9 October	Carpathian-Dukla Operation, 110th Anniversary of the	5.00	Flat recess in sheets of 4
28 October	Universal Postal Union Successes of Construction	1.00	Rotary recess
	in Czechoslovakia	2.00	
		3.00	
28 October	Trans-European Gas Line Souvenir sheet	4 × 3.00	Rotary recess
16 November	Works of Art on Stamps	1.00	Flat recess in sheets of 4
		2.00	
		3.00	
		4.00	
		5.00	
17 November	45th Anniversary of the	1.00	Rotary recess
18 December	International Students Day 100th Anniversary of the	0.50	Rotary recess
18 December	Birth of Antonin Zápotocký Day of the Czechoslovak	1.00	Rotary recess
	Postage Stamp		

The complete program for the year encompasses 49 stamps and 3 souvenir sheets with a total face value of 147.50 Kčs. As always, the emission program is subject to alterations.

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### SPECIALIST Advertising Rates

Please send your ads to the Editorial Office (see masthead)

Amount of Space	Consecutive in —			
	One Issue	Three Issues	Five Issues	Ten Issues
Full page .....	\$ 35.00	\$ 99.75	\$157.50	\$297.50
Half page .....	25.00	71.25	112.50	212.50
Quarter page .....	15.00	42.75	67.50	127.50
Eighth page .....	10.00	28.50	45.00	85.00

# GERMAN POW COVERS FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA

By Gustav A. Pohlík

Continued

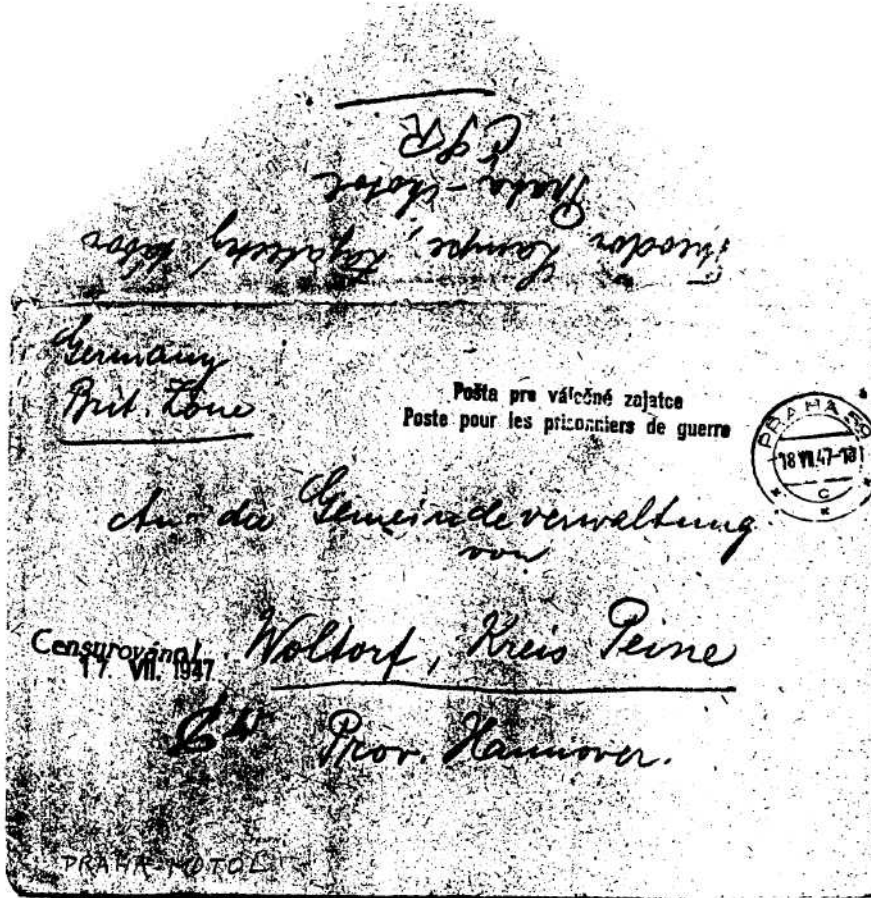


Figure 3 shows a cover from the discharge camp at Praha-Motol and is postmarked 18.VII.47. The two-line stamp is puzzling. While the second line is the French version (POW Mail), the top line, meaning the same, is not Czech. "válečné zajatce" should be "válečný zajatec" in Czech. What language is it then? Can you help?

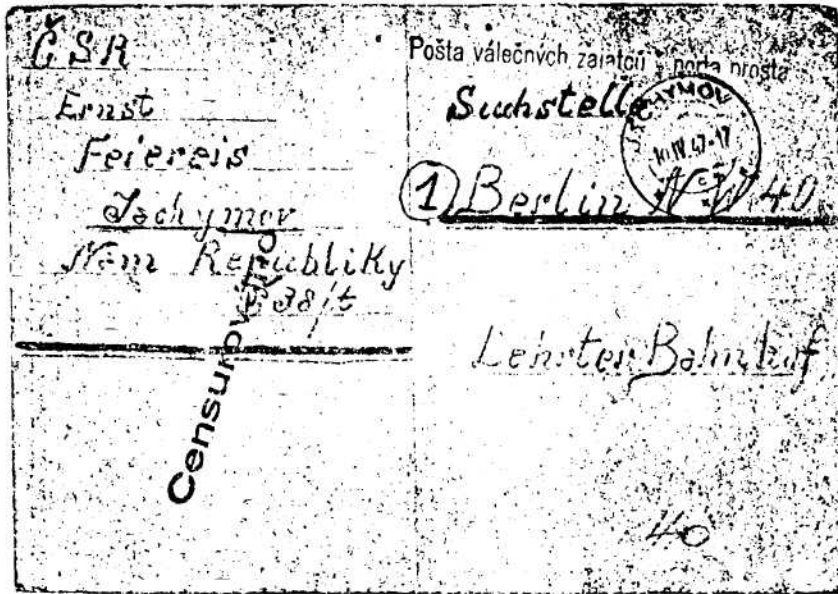


Figure 4 shows a card from Jachymov (uranium mines) postmarked 10.IV.47. The one-line stamp marks the cover as "POW Mail."

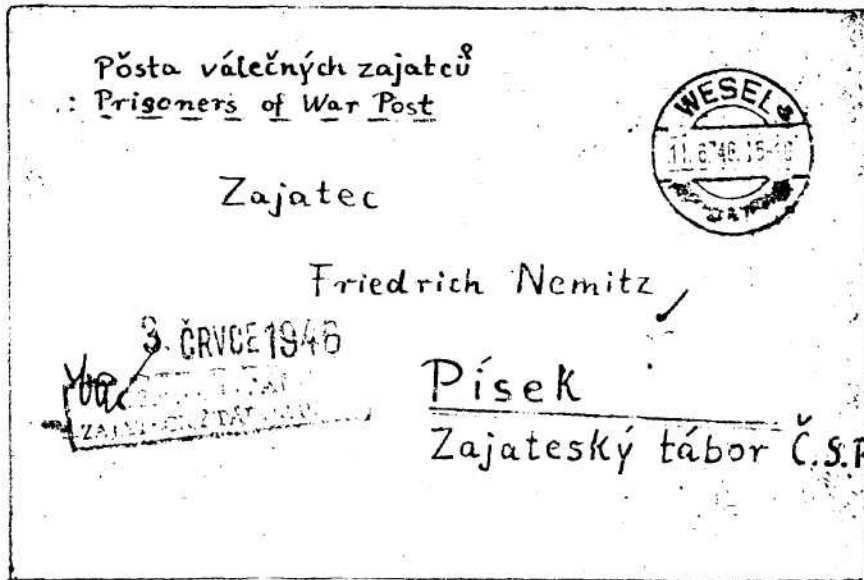


Figure 5 shows a rather rare cover sent to a POW. It is postmarked 11.6.46. and bears the censor stamp "Censurováno — Zajatecký Tábor Písek" with initials and a date stamp.

#### Literature

Zur Geschichte der deutschen Kriegsgefangenen des 2. Weltkrieges, volume IX, edited by Prof. Dr. Erich Maschke, Munich 1974. Covers 2 and 3 were in the collection of Wolfgang Fritzsche and are now in the collection of G. A. Pohlig. Covers 4 and 5 are in the collection of S.C.P. member Jay T. Carrigan.

## FOR SALE THROUGH THE SPECIALIST

The following books are offered for sale through the SPECIALIST. Please send your remittance payable to *The Czechoslovak Specialist* to Richard Major, P.O. Box 4074, Arlington, VA 22204. Add 90¢ postage for the first book and 50¢ for each additional book. If you desire insurance (only in the USA) please add 50¢ up to \$15, 85¢ up to \$50.

### Publications in the Czech language:

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MONOGRAFIE, Volume 13.....	14.50
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