

# 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

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February 1986

No. 2, Whole No. 456

## ELECTION RESULTS: FIVE NEW DIRECTORS

The voting deadline was extended to January 31, in order to compensate for the lateness of the SPECIALIST. Thirty-four ballots were received and counted by Director Henry Samek, and the results are as follows:

Henry Hahn — 32 votes  
Mirko Vondra — 30 votes  
Lou Svoboda — 23 votes  
Jay Carrigan — 23 votes  
Frank Julsen — 21 votes  
Ed Lehecka — 20 votes  
Hans Klein — 19 votes

Therefore, the following members were elected to the Board of Directors for a term of four years: Henry Hahn, Mirko Vondra, Lou Svoboda, Jay Carrigan and Frank Julsen. Congratulations to all! The five outgoing Directors who have finished serving their four year terms include: Jaroslav Verner, Ed Lisy, Paul Sturman, Fred Hefer, and Dominick Riccio, who was elected to serve the remainder of Charlie Chesloe's term after his resignation. Many thanks and special kudos to all of these fine people who have dedicated themselves to the functions of our Society.

The board is now comprised of ten members, five who are serving the second two years of their four year term and the five newly elected members. The board members remaining on the Board include Wolfgang Fritzsche, Dick Major, Joe Janecka, Ed Sabol and Henry Samek. Elections for the new officers of the Society will take place at the next board meeting which will be held in February, 1986.

## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Dominick J. Riccio

This will be my last published communication to the membership as President of the Society. I would like to thank all of those members who have been helpful to me during this difficult tenure as president, especially Frank Julsen and Lou Svoboda who have actively helped to solve the crisis of the publication of the SPECIALIST. I feel confident that the problem has been permanently resolved now that Frank Julsen is firmly in charge of our journal and indeed the February issue may even be delivered on time, i.e. during the month of February. The transition of the responsibility of editorship from the previous editors who were literally worn out to the energetic and capable hands of Frank Julsen was not easy especially since our printer was ill for a few weeks and we continued to have some logistical problems in Washington in terms of

getting the SPECIALIST picked up, mailed and delivered. However, I am confident that these problems are now ironed out and the new President and Board will not have to be concerned with these issues.

Quite frankly, we have suffered a small but significant membership loss as a result of the tardiness of the SPECIALIST and I will strongly recommend to the new board that a membership drive be launched at Ameripex '86. Fred Hefer's new and expanded version of Padelky, the book of Czech forgeries with original photographs, is being published and will be available before Ameripex. I think this will make an excellent selling point to entice new collectors of Czech stamps and to enroll new members. Frank Julsen has also recommended the appointment of an advertising manager who is genuinely active and solicitous of new advertisers.

All in all, however, things have been progressing rather smoothly and our plans for Ameripex are just about final. By the way, the Society still has a block of 10 rooms available for the dates of our activities at Ameripex, May 29, to June 1. More good news about Ameripex: Jan Karásek, the renowned Czech Philatelic Expert, has been invited jointly by our Society, and the First Czechoslovak Philatelic Club of America, as well as the Chicagoland Czechoslovak Philatelic Society to give a lecture tour in the U.S. Individual members of the latter two societies will guarantee all of Mr. Karásek's expenses. Ing. Karásek is scheduled to give a joint lecture on the "Stamps of Czechoslovakia: 1938-1955" with Charlie Chesloe at our Society's Ameripex lecture program on Friday, May 30, at 10:30 A.M. A final piece of good news is the magnanimous invitation by Host and Hostess, Mr. and Mrs. Chesloe, to all members and their friends to attend a *Gala Picnic and Barbecue* at the Willow Swim Club at 2:00 P.M. on Sunday, June 1.

Final details on our Society's participation in Ameripex '86 will be published in the March issue of the SPECIALIST. If you haven't made plans yet to attend this once-in-ten-year international philatelic event, I strongly urge you to consider it as this will be an unusual opportunity to meet many of our international members and to view some of the greatest collections of Czech stamps in the world! Indeed, it may give you an opportunity to see some of the candidate collections for the Grand Prix of Praga '86. Meanwhile, please direct all questions and room reservations to our Chairman of Ameripex:

Bogdan Pauk  
644 West Briar Place  
Chicago, Illinois 60657  
Telephone: 312-472-1498

Finally, my best wishes and special thanks to all members of the Society and to the Board of directors for all the help and support that they have given the Society over the last two years, and especially to our international members who have been especially active these last few years.

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## PYTLÍČEK ON FORGERIES

(Translated by Paul Sturman)

### Czechoslovak FORGERIES TO THE DETRIMENT OF THE POST OFFICE

Forgeries of postal issues are classified into two categories; forgeries to defraud the collectors, and forgeries to the detriment of the post. Most forgeries to the detriment of the post are sought after and are included in specialized collections. In this article I want to discuss forgeries to the detriment of the post, and list some of the more recent knowledge about such forgeries.

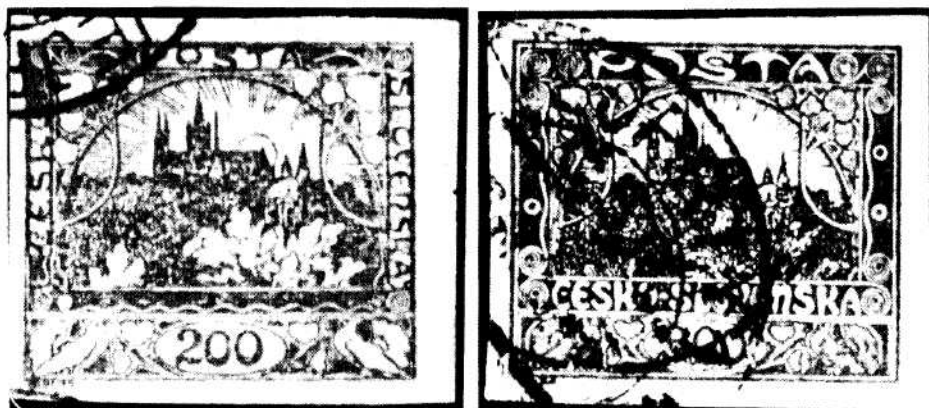
First of all it is important to state that collectors everywhere are seeking these forgeries, collect them and value them very highly. Good examples are the so-called "Milan and Verona" forgeries to the detriment of the post of Austria-Hungary, which are achieving record high prices in catalog listings. Great Britain also experienced a forgery to the detriment of the post, the one-shilling value of 1867. It is not listed in catalogs despite the fact that its existence is common knowledge.

However, let us return to Czechoslovak forgeries to the detriment of the post which, because of their rare appearance, are eagerly sought after by Czechoslovak philatelists. They are highly prized and are the ornaments in any specialized collection. During the First Republic some of the Hradčany types and values were forged and became known by their point of origin as the "VEJPRTY" forgeries. The "Liberated Republic" or "Chainbreaker" issue was forged at Teplice, Vejprty, Cheb and Košice.

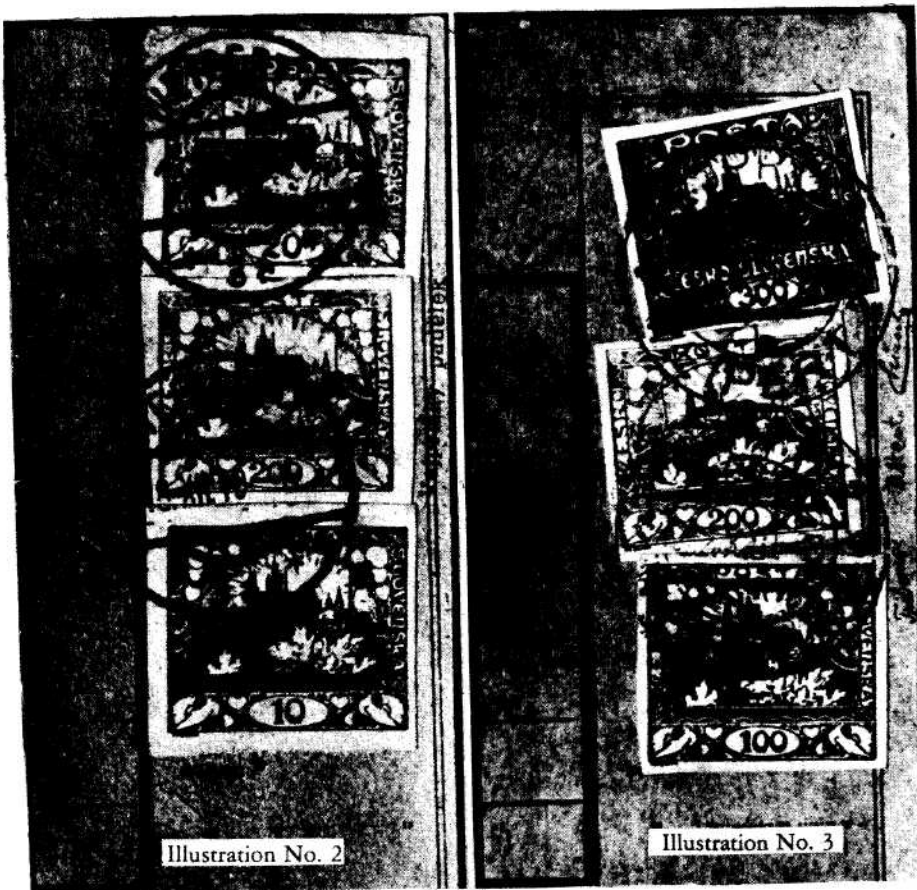
The Hradčany forgeries of Vejprty were produced toward the end of 1919 in the values of 100h, 200h, and 300h, and were used in all three post offices of Vejprty, i.e., VEJPRTY 1, 2, 3. (Illustration No. 1)



Illustration No 1.



The forgeries were first discovered by philatelist Lužar of Brno at the beginning of the year 1924 and described in the Tribune of Philatelists edited by E. Hirsch. Postally used forgeries originated from November 18, 1919, to February 2, 1921. They were possibly used to the end of the validity of the Hradčany issues. The forgeries were probably printed in Germany and smuggled across the border to Vejprty where they were used by a clerk at the post office. At first they were inserted between two genuine stamps of the Hradčany series. Illustration No. 2 is an example of such use of the 200h value inserted between genuine 10h and 20h stamps. The cancellation WEIPERT, 18.XII.19 (Vejprty, Dec. 18, 1919) may be the initial date of use of the forgeries. Later postal money orders were fearlessly franked with the entire group of these forgeries. Illustration No. 3 is an example of a money order dated Vejprty October 22, 1920, in which all three forged values, 100h, 200h, 300h were utilized. The forgeries were produced by lithographic means\* in faint colors on yellowish or sometimes grayish paper.



\*The genuine are typographed.

#### LITERATURE

Monografie I (Monography 1) of Dr. František Kubát. Forgeries (Padělky) of Czechoslovak stamps by Ing. Jan Karšek.

Value 100h  
Hradčany  
Illustr. 4

#### Differentiation of the Forgeries From the Genuine

1. The cupola of the cathedral of St. Nicholas has a steeple.
2. Ray to the left of the sun is missing.
3. The steeple of St. Vitus is solidly inked in.
4. The linden leaves are without a white border.
5. The linden branch on the left is divided into two stems only.
6. The ornament makes an irregular spiral.

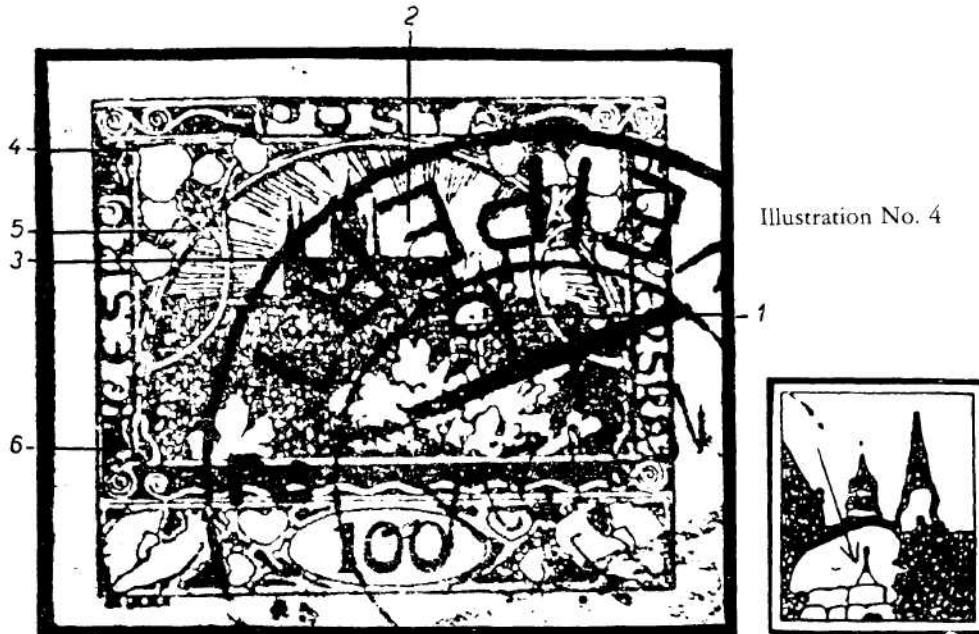


Illustration No. 4

Value 200h  
Hradčany  
Illustr. 5

1. The cupola of the cathedral of St. Nicholas has a steeple.
2. The ray above the sun is missing.
3. The steeple of St. Vitus is solidly inked in.
4. The linden leaves are without a white border.
5. The linden branch on the left is divided into two stems only.
6. The ornament makes an irregular spiral.
7. The numeral 2 touches the value oval and does not align with the other numerals.
8. Numerals 2 and 0 touch each other.

Value 300h  
Hradčany  
Illustr. 6

1. The tip of the steeple of the cathedral of St. Vitus is extended and touches the bordering semi-circle.
2. The diacritical mark above "A" in the word SLOVENSKÁ is missing.
3. The circles in both right and left frame are drawn with a heavy line.
4. The white bordering line around the stamp and the undulating lines on both right and left are heavy.

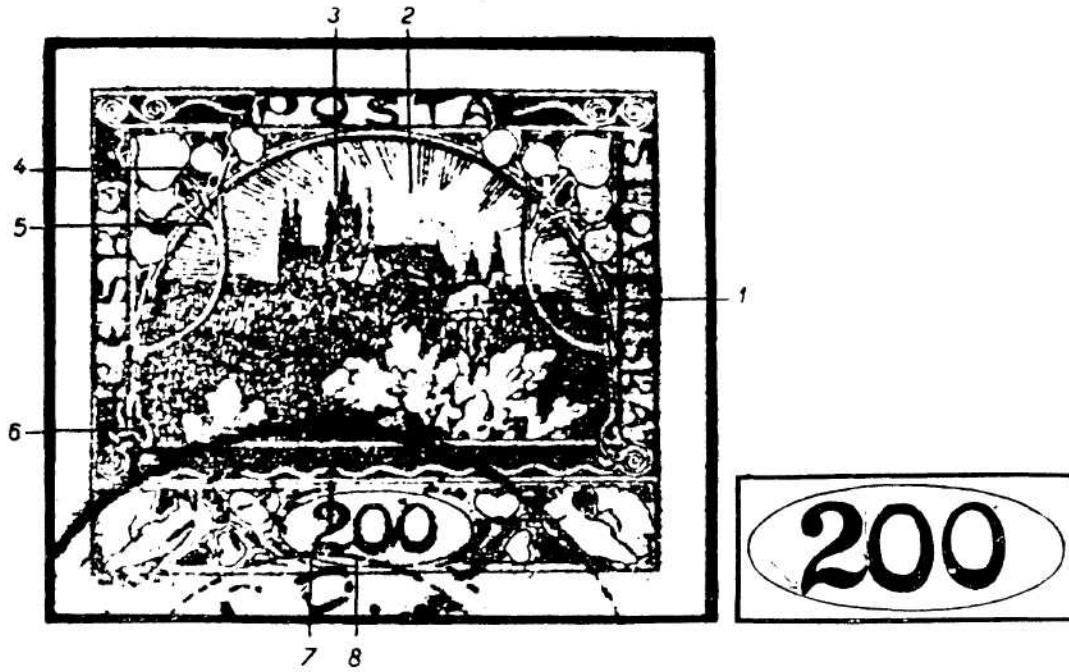


Illustration No. 5



Illustration No. 6

## A PHILATELIC VACATION

By Charley Chesloe

I departed from O'Hare (Chicago) and flew to Munich on October 23, 1985. I was met and greeted at the airport by Ing. Jan Karásek. We were then driven to the home of Fred Hefer where we spent a few days.

We spent a few nights and one afternoon looking at Fred's collections of Czechoslovakia, which are neatly mounted in many albums. Fred's knowledge and love for the stamps of Czechoslovakia is quite evident and his exhibit for Praga '88 will certainly be outstanding. Fred has many items in the 4R to 5R range, and to view such material was indeed a great pleasure for me. Of course, to have Jan Karásek there to indicate and point out the high points of these collections was certainly most helpful.

After staying at the Hefer's those few days, where we were treated royally, Jan and I took a night train to Rome for the Italia '85 international exhibition. After we checked into a pensione, we went directly to the exhibition early Sunday afternoon. Just as we entered the doorway, we ran into Ludvik Pytlíček. After a brief introduction and some coffee, we went down to see his exhibit. It was six (6) frames of absolute fantastic material. The exhibit showed many items in the 4R and 5R range. The exhibit received a large gold, a tremendous achievement in itself, but now one must realize that it was shown for *the first time*.

I was also very happy for Society member, Gosta Hedbom, who received a large vermeille medal for his exhibit of Czechoslovak airmails. Bravo Ludvik and Gosta!

Another superb exhibit was that of Vaclav Konstant on postal history of the Czech lands. It was interesting to note that his exhibit included the extremely rare Pacov mute cancellation on the 1850 6 Kr. of Austria, a cancellation that was missing in all of the other powerful Austrian exhibits. Mr. Konstant received a large vermeille. The show was dominated by old Italian states; the monetary value of these exhibits must be staggering.

After a week at the show and some beautiful sightseeing tours in Italy, Jan and I left Rome for Venice, where we stayed one day before leaving for Vienna.

We spent the next several days shopping and while on Graben Street we visited the auction firm, Austrophil-H. D. Rauch. Graben Street is an exclusive shopping area adjacent to the famous and beautiful St. Staphens Church. The area is known as Stephenplatz.

While in Vienna, we visited Dr. Buchberger, who now lives in Horn. We were there only a few hours but I looked through a few albums of his extraordinary Czechoslovak collection. He has 1 album alone devoted to the 10h, 20h, and 30h Hradčany imperf issues. His collection rivals that of Z. Kvasnička of Prague in volume — he has 180 albums!

On Wednesday, November 8th, we left by bus from Vienna to Brno, where I stayed the next several days as a guest of the Karásek family. I spent 2 nights and 1 afternoon looking at Jan's collections. His write-up and presentation of his collections is unique. It shows his vast knowledge and love for the stamps of Czechoslovakia. Besides owning some outstanding Czechoslovak material, he has several items which are unique.

I was fortunate while in Brno to attend a national philatelic bourse. There is still a lot of good Czechoslovak material available in Czechoslovakia. I saw among many outstanding items a 30 heller Hradčany tete beche gutter as well as a gutter block of the 3h value. There was some strong "Posta 1919" material, including the wide format in both the 3Kč red and 3Kč claret.

The prices are quite high, but collectors are paying, especially if they are intending to show in 1988.

On Sunday I visited my uncle in Znojmo and while looking through his collection, I discovered he had nine copies of the 1958 Zatopecky 30h 1st printing. He had purchased these stamps, while in Slovakia, at a post card shop for *30 bellers each*!

Returning to the Karáseks Monday night, we went through my exhibit, which I had Xeroxed, and Jan gave me some pointers on how I should remount some pages.

Tuesday night we had a philatelic gathering with Ju Dr. Jan Kostelka and Ing. František Zampach and some other friends.

Jan and I then left for Prague early Wednesday morning, where I was to stay until my departure for home. That afternoon we went to Pofis to look at the auction lots for their 3rd auction, which was being held the weekend of November 22-23, 1985. In many instances the prices (starting bids) were quite high. For example a vertical pair of 25h Hradčany joined type, r.13 $\frac{1}{4}$ :10 $\frac{1}{4}$  — 18,000Kčs. The same perforated hr. 13 $\frac{1}{4}$ :13 $\frac{1}{2}$  — 7,800Kčs. A carmine 50h Allegory (Chainbreaker) without head — 25,000Kčs. A pair of 40h Chainbreaker Types I and II se tenant "horizontal comb perforation (known only used) at 25,000Kčs. An ultramarine shade of the 10h "Přájezd Presidenta Masaryka" Scout issue — 55,000Kčs. I should mention that Pofis allows a special exchange rate to foreign bidders, 25Kčs to 1 U.S. dollar, but even at that exchange rate these starting prices are rather steep. Nonetheless, in many cases involving the scarce material it was expected that these reserve prices would be surpassed.

I visited the Kvasničky for a few afternoons and really enjoyed looking through part of the Kvasnička collection. It is a renewal of one's education to see all the truly interesting pieces and of course all the rarities that are housed in the Kvasnička collection. The Kvasničky extend their well wishes to all their American friends, by the way.

On Sunday, I visited the bourse in Prague "U Novaku" and the place was jam-packed as usual. While there I ran into Ing. Dvořáček and Ludvík Pytlíček. After we had some coffee together and a pleasant and interesting conversation, I left to begin a search for the Košice sheet (broken leg variety) for my uncle in Znojmo who was lacking it in his collection of the second republic.

I came upon a dealer who had three of these sheets, two expertised by Karásek at 500Kčs and one without an expert mark at 450Kčs. I later told Jan Karásek that he is certainly a good friend but I would rather take the sheet without his mark for 50Kčs less. I examined the three sheets carefully, paying particular attention to the broken pass through the leg. The two expertised sheets showed identical characteristics, but the unsigned sheet appeared somewhat different. Never being confronted with this before, I called over Ludvík Pytlíček and he concluded that the unsigned sheet was indeed colored in, therefore a forged variety. I purchased Jan's mark after all for 500Kčs. When I told the story to Jan on Monday he was quite amused. He said he charges no more than 15Kčs to expertise that sheet and the dealers tack on 50Kčs!

That Sunday night I was picked up at the Hotel Flora by Ludvík Pytlíček and stayed at his beautiful home in Semily. It was truly a memorable evening where I had the pleasure to view his large collection of Czechoslovakia. It's too bad I couldn't have stayed there at least one more day but time prevented that.

I came back to Prague Monday morning and after some early morning shopping, I had the pleasure of having lunch with Ing. Ladislav Dvořáček and Dr. František Švarc.

Plans (although not official as yet) are being laid for Praga '88 and after talking with those two gentlemen, I can assure you that Praga '88 will be not only a tremendous philatelic event but an outstanding social and cultural event also.

For a philatelic, social and cultural event that one will remember for a lifetime — plan on attending Praga '88! It will be held during the last week of August and first week of September. The weather in Prague that time of year is truly delightful.

Programs and events are being planned for everyone, so whether you are a collector or not, Praga '88 will have lots to offer for everyone.

Monday night I had my last dinner in Prague with Ing. Pavel Pitterman, his wife and Jan Karásek. Ing. Pitterman is a very knowledgeable collector and a high-ranking member of the Svaz. It was a very memorable evening.

Tuesday morning, I departed for home; my cousin Robert, his wife Anna, and Jan Karásek took me to the airport.

I want to thank all those wonderful people, the Karáseks, the Hefers, the Kvasničky, the Pytlíčeks, the Pittermans, Ing. Ladislav Dvořáček and Dr. František Švarc, all of whom made my trip to Europe so enjoyable. I hope in some way, some day, I have the opportunity to repay all those wonderful people.



# POŠTA 1919 SHIFTED OVERPRINTS

By J. L. Klein

Although POŠTA 1919 overprint shifts into sheet selvage are not particularly rare, they do provide one with interesting problems in logic — especially when the raw plate positions of the overprints do not seem to match those of the overprinted stamps.

An interesting series of examples recently “moved into” my collection:

## 2f Green/Red Postage Due — Overprint Class G

These three stamps from the right side vertical row in the sheet, apparently from a broken strip, are unusual in that they are overprinted with *inner-sheet* positions despite being right margin copies from stamp positions 20, 40 and 50.



1	1	4	2	3	3	2	3	2	2	
4	2	2	1	3	1	2	2	3	1	4
1	1	1	1	2	4	4	1	1	3	
4	3	4	4	4	1	1	4	3	1	2
3	3	3	2	1	4	3	1	4	2	
1	3	1	4	3	3	2	1	3	2	
3	3	2	1	3	2	2	2	4	1	
3	3	3	4	2	2	4	2	4	1	
3	2	3	4	4	1	4	2	2	2	
1	4	2	4	4	1	1	1	2	1	

The stamps bear, respectively, overprint types:

3 2  
4 1  
1 4

Because there was only one plate for Overprint Class G, it was fairly simple to locate these overprint position combinations, identifying them as normally being in overprint plate positions

15 16  
35 36  
45 46

— or in vertical rows 5 and 6! To demonstrate this more clearly, I borrow the overprint type positions chart from *Monografie 2*, page 120.

How they were so badly shifted in the press is anyone's guess, but the important and interesting point is that such printing aberrations exist either accidentally or perhaps "by favor." We know that strange events in the printing plant took place in those days!

I have other similar freaks, but one in particular is my favorite because it involves a stamp that, in its own right, is a rarity even in "normal" condition:

12f Green/Black Postage Due — Overprint Class G



This 12f "Black Porto," expertised several years ago by Ing. Mikulski, is the Wmk "Y" variety, perf. 15. The overprint on the stamp is Type 2 and the overprint on the bottom sheet selvage is Type 4.

Normally, at this position in the overprint plate the stamp should have overprint Type 4, so one may deduce that the plate shift was downward by one horizontal row (as Ing. Mikulski records in his certificate). If we accept that strong possibility, then the overprint sheet positions are 82 and 92 respectively, per the previously illustrated type chart from Monografie 2, and further supported by the sheet margin counting number 2.40 under the stamp.

The intriguing part of all this is that of these very scarce values, the 12f black numeral was supposedly issued in a quantity between 200 and 220 (all types and watermarks) copies, according to Ing. Jan Karásek (*Czechoslovak Specialist*, February 1984). Furthermore, if one takes into consideration the fact that the 12f "Black" is recorded in at least four (!) watermarks in the Praga '78 Specialized Catalog, page 364, one then encounters a dilemma: how could have 200 to 220 copies been printed in full sheets to accommodate all the watermark varieties? One possible explanation: we know that for some of the very scarce (i.e., low quantity) stamps, it was the practice to join together singles, pairs and even large blocks or strips of similar size stamps with no regard to watermark or denomination to make a unit large enough to run through the press to receive a POŠTA 1919 overprint. (Sometimes, in fact, these assemblies were made rather carelessly and one or more stamps were inverted in position. That's another story . . . some day). For this particular stamp the presence of the selvage rather clearly precludes that the unit had been incorporated internally within one of these assemblies, so I feel fairly secure in positioning it in positions 82 and 92. And of course there is always the possibility that a partial sheet or very large block of the 12f had been inserted in the press — full sheets were not necessary — and this is a remnant from the original larger piece.

There is also an interesting "side-bar" regarding the above unit: the stamp bears a very faint and mostly indecipherable offset and the selvage carries a heavily inked Type 4 offset on the reverse. Hence, this particular run through the press accompanied some other sheets similarly overprinted with the Class G plate.

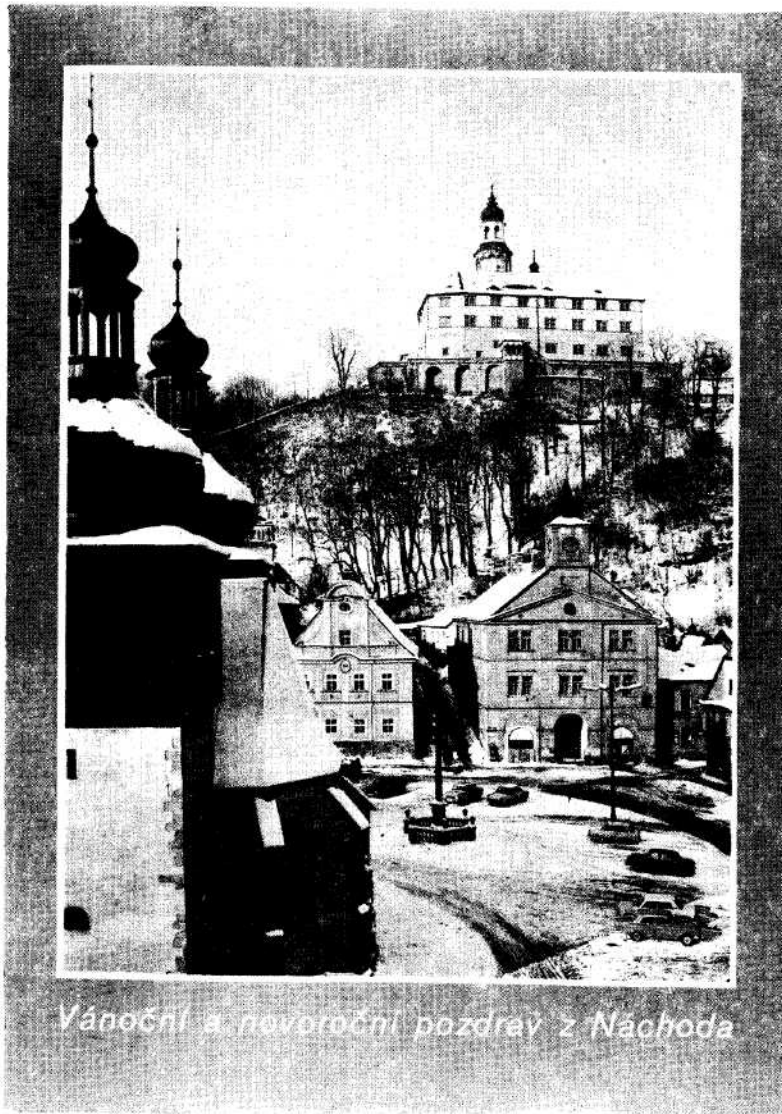
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## MONOGRAFIE 2

Is there any interest on the part of our members to have a translation of the Allegory chapters featured in future issues of the SPECIALIST? To those members not proficient in Czech there is a wealth of information in these chapters that undoubtedly could be of considerable use to them. Please drop the Editor a note if you are in favor of the project. Member J. L. Klein has offered to furnish the translation to English, and we thank him for his offer.

## NÁCHOD AND NOVÉ MĚSTO NAD METUJI

Just before the E12 highway leaves Czechoslovakian soil and enters Poland we pass through the busy industrial town of NÁCHOD, situated in the long valley of the Metuje river.



The writer's first contact with Náchod goes back to 1967, when he received a request from a medical student for postcards from my country. A wonderful friendship developed; we first met during PRAGA '78, and again last year. On both occasions I was his guest in Prague. Náchod and Nové Město were visited on each occasion.

Textile, rubber and electrotechnics are Náchod's main industries. The town is dominated by the castle, situated on the forested Zámecký hill. In the first half of the 13th century a fortress was founded on the same site. This was reconstructed during 1566–1614 into an aristocratic Renaissance seat and from 1650–1659 it was again

altered, this time in the Baroque style and then renovated in 1729–30. The castle is surrounded by a French garden and park and may be reached by road or by 293 steps from the square. A linden tree lane below the castle still has the remains of the Swedish entrenchments dating from 1639.

Among treasures housed at the castle are tapestries designed by the Flemish painter Jakob Jordaens; some of these are quite unique. Also collections of rare paints from the 17th and 18th centuries can be seen. Of great interest to scholars is the Náchod library, which is of considerable size as well as importance.

In the centre of the town square stands the Gothic St. Lawrence Church, which dates from 1310 on a ground plan resembling a cross. Another noteworthy building is the 15th century town hall.

The new town hall is an outstanding new building decorated with frescoes by L. Novák after designs by Mikoláš Aleš — for works by Aleš refer Pofis numbers; 243, 244, 679, 680, 681, 682, as well as the recent one Pofis 2616. To commemorate seven hundred years of the town Pofis Number 1546 was issued on 25 July 1966, the 60h green stamp shows a montage of buildings overshadowed by the castle.

(The catalogue shows incorrectly six hundred years of the town.)



A landmark near Náchod was chosen for the 5Kčs design in the folk architecture set of 1972; refer Pofis 1964.

A number of cards with Náchod as subject were also issued. (Refer to the L. Novotný catalogue of 1970.)

The first card is in series 66 of the year 1937 and is inscribed POSNEJTE SVOJI VLAST! — number 15, which appears in olive green and a variant dark olive green.

The next card appeared in series 70 of 1938; this time it is number 90 on the occasion of the Náchod 38 exhibition; card is in green. In 1953 another card shows Náchod; it is card number 17 in grey green in series 127.

Finally in series 165 on castles, number 25 has Náchod as subject. This series was issued in 1967 and the colour was grey-black.

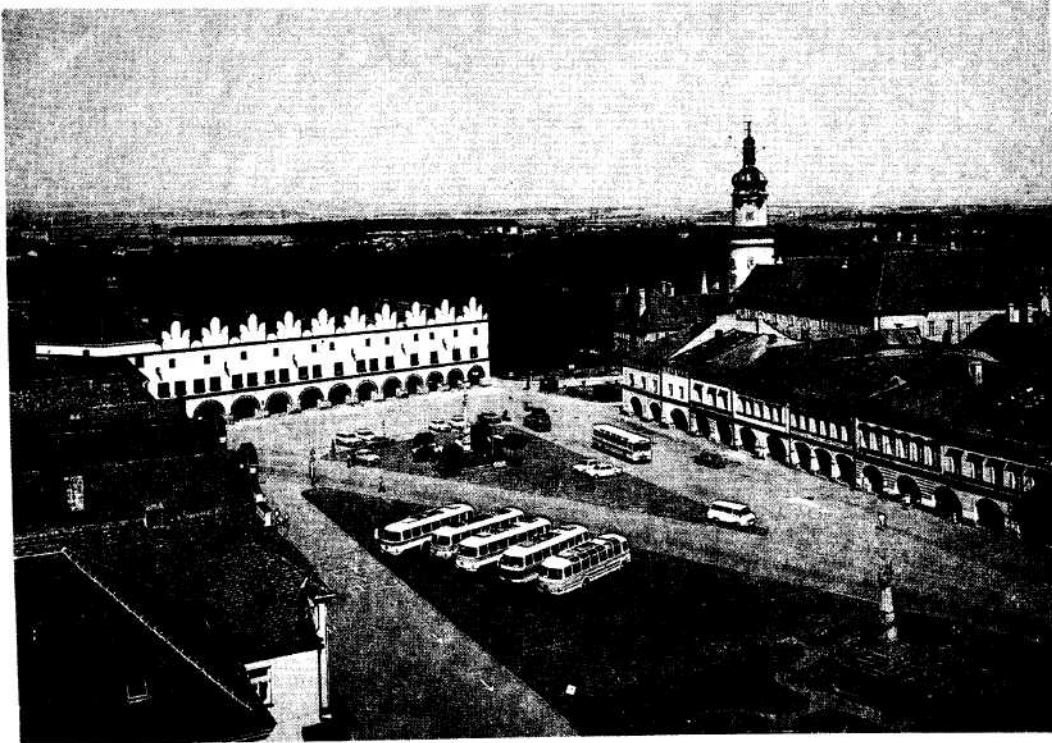
With that we leave the town of Náchod and we shall visit nearby Nové Město nad Metují, which is approximately 9 km south.

Nové Město was founded in 1501 by Jan Čerčický. The town is situated on a rocky promontory and is surrounded on three sides by the river Metují. A square was built atop the rock and was enclosed by fortifications and bastions. To this day the original ground plan of the square has been retained.

The illustration below shows the architectural unity of the square. The white renaissance houses Nos. 3–9A on the North side are clearly seen; these were reconstructed after a fire in 1526.

On the West side are houses Nos. 35–45A. These underwent most extensive reconstruction after a fire in 1888. Behind these is the castle which was founded at the commencement of the 14th century and after a chequered life it was given its present appearance at the beginning of this century. It is a remarkable castle, with a combination of old architecture and modern furnishings. Its interior is enriched by contemporary Czech artists, among them Švabinský, Mánes, Myslbek, Štursa and Španiel, all of whom have featured in Czech philately. The castle and estates changed

hands many times and in 1634 passed into the hands of a Scottish nobleman Walter of Leslie, who rebuilt the castle in the Baroque style. All together there have been 11 families associated with the castle, a plaque in the courtyard showing the coat of arms of each family and the dates: the Leslies from 1634–1802.



In 1813 Tsar Alexander I stopped at the castle on his way to Opočno for talks with the King of Prussia and Metternich of Austria. After the abolition of serfdom in 1781 economic activity took off in the town; at present the main industry is a watch factory.

Between the castle and houses 3–9A is a statue to the memory of Bedřich Smetana. It was formerly the site of the local brewery, owned by František Smetana, who is buried in the town cemetery.

In 1950 the town was declared a historical town reservation and in recent years the town underwent considerable renovation.

Other buildings of note are the former town hall, dating from the year 1535, and now house No. 9A with the little tower. The Gothic Renaissance church at the cemetery dates from 1582 as well as the former monastery church.

Nearby the town is a charming wooden church with belfry and cemetery dating from the 16th century. The belfry is very similar to the one shown on Pofis No. 1964; see also under Náchod.

When visiting the town and castle do not forget the delightful walk through the castle garden, reached via a picturesque wooden bridge across the town moat, dating from 1909–1912.

The coat of arms of Nové Město is shown on Pofis 2527 of the year 1982 in the coat of arms series.

The cachet on the F.D.C. shows an interesting engraving of Nové Město dating from the year 1800.

Postal cards were issued as follows, series 66 in 1937, card number 43 in olive green as well as a variant of dark olive green. Series 127 in 1953 devoted also one card to Nové Město in grey green.

Hope you all had a pleasant outing to these two different but delightful towns. However, before leaving the district altogether don't forget to also visit the nearby castle at Opočno, as it is well worth a visit.

The writer acknowledges use of the publication "NOVÉ MĚSTO NAD METUJÍ" by Jan Juránek and Karel Braný, Odeon 1976, as well as Czechoslovakia HIGHWAY E12 published by the Government committee for Tourism by Merkur Prague 1975.

G. M. van ZANTEN

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## SEIZINGER "SECRET MARKS"

In the May 1973 issue of the SPECIALIST, member Joseph Stein did an outstanding job of locating the "K S" or "S" secret marks that engraver Karel Seizinger incorporated into the design of many of the Czechoslovakian stamps he produced. To say that Seizinger was ingenious in the placement of his initials is to put it mildly. He did not, for example, fall into the habit of a "favorite" location, i.e., lower left corner, or in the facial hair of a subject, and so on. Almost without exception he managed to hide his mark in very unlikely places. One of his favorite exceptions, however, was in trees. For example, on the 1Kč "Nitra" stamp, he hung his "S" like a Christmas Tree ornament in the tree seen through the right side of the courtyard arch. Then, probably still in the Christmas spirit, he used his "S" as the top ornament on the left-most tree in the 1Kč 1935 Czech Heroes Monument issue, even though both of these stamps were issued during the summer months.

This reminiscing leads to the joint discovery by members Stein and Julsen of another of his secret marks, this being in the design of the 50h 1934 Czechoslovakian Legion issue (Scott #195; Pofis 276). In this instance his small "s" is inserted lying down in the juncture of the sword and the right-hand prong of the handle. Frankly, it shows very clearly on proofs of the stamp, but because of its small size, it is sometimes difficult to see on the stamps themselves.



*Secret mark*

We illustrate an enlargement of the pertinent portion of the proof to show the secret mark placement.

In closing, we suggest that our members can have a lot of fun with these secret marks. For those who do not have the May 1973 issue of the SPECIALIST, the Editor will be happy to send a Xerox of the original article by Joseph Stein to any member who will provide a stamped, self-addressed #10 envelope.

## SOCIETY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE THIRTEENTH WORLD CONGRESS OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIETY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

The directors of the Society have accepted an invitation by the organizing committee of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences to participate at their forthcoming Congress in Boston. The Congress will take place at Northeastern University from September 18th through the 21st. The invitation, in part, reads as follows:

"In order to better recognize philately as a valuable component of our culture we would like the presentation of an exhibit with emphasis on the postal history of Czechoslovakia, and possibly a brief lecture on Czechoslovak Philately."

Arrangements have been made for the use of 70 standard exhibition frames, each holding 16 pages. The exhibit will be housed in two adjoining rooms at Northeastern University. The SVU organizing committee has arranged for adequate security protection and for safe receipt and return of exhibits.

The exhibit is non-competitive. However, it affords a welcome opportunity for recognition by a highly educated and sophisticated group. Reaching beyond those already familiar with philately will undoubtedly be rewarding to us as collectors as well as those with only a general interest in philately.

Members of the Society are cordially invited to attend the Congress. Information pertaining to attendance, reservations and costs will be provided in a forthcoming issue of the *SPECIALIST*. The program promises to be excellent, concentrating in fields of Czech culture, history, and scientific achievement.

This is a call to those willing to exhibit. We seek primarily exhibits reflecting the many political transitions taking place on Czechoslovak territory, exhibits of historic or postal historic inclination as well as general or specialized exhibits that are well described.

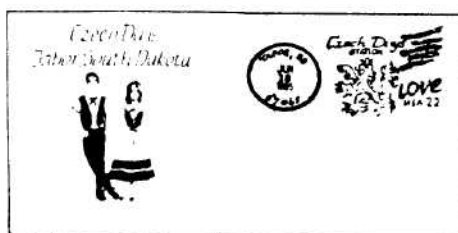
Those willing to help in this exciting project by exhibiting and/or attending or would like more information are urged to contact Henry Hahn at 2936 Rosemoor La., Fairfax, VA 22031.

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### WANTED

Provisional newspaper stamps (Nouzové novinové nálepky) 1918-1919. Everything of interest: mint, used, blocks, used on entire wrappers, varieties, etc. Single items or collection. Kindly reply by AIR MAIL to Stig Asklund, P.O. Box 14604, Nairobi, Kenya.

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