

# THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Official Monthly Journal of the



(USPS 806300)  
Society for Czechoslovak Philately, Inc.

Silver Award Interphil '76 — Silver Award Capex '78 — Silver-Bronze Praha '78

A.P.S. Unit 18

Vol. XLVIII

October 1986

No. 8, Whole No. 462

## “JUDENPOST - PRAGUE”

By J. L. Klein

In the literature a special post delivery in Prague is mentioned: the so-called “Judenpost,” the postal services for the Jewish quarter of Prague.

In “Filatelie” of 1971 Dr. Karel Všeček describes this service; the article has been kindly translated to German by Mr. V. Conštant.

Until the middle of the 18th century Prague only had one post office at the “Kleine Seite.” Inhabitants of the Jewish old town of the city of Prague could not receive letters or money on the Jewish holidays which caused delay and accumulating of parcels and letters.

The population of the Jewish quarters sent a request to Empress Maria Theresia to establish an office for receiving and delivering mail in Judenstadt, the Jewish ghetto of Prague, called Josephstadt since 1790, honoring Emperor Joseph II.

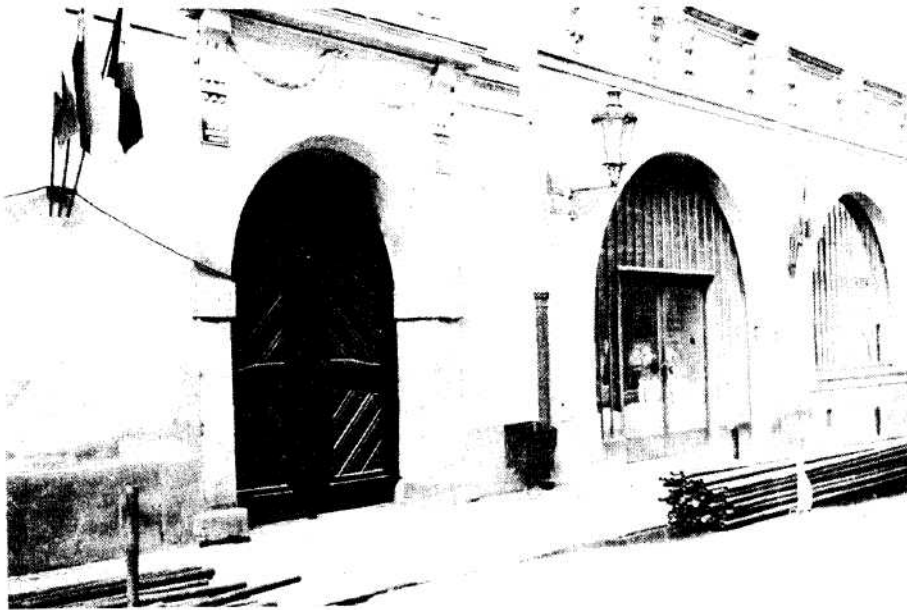
The exact day this postoffice has been established is unknown, anyhow before 1757, but the following facts are known:

— the office was at the address Roten Gasse No. 167 and the hereditary rights to run this office were given to Elias Taussig (photo, courtesy Mr. V. Conštant).



— for every letter sent or received an extra amount of 1 Kreuzer (“eine Kreizer”) had to be paid, from which income Taussig had to hire two Jewish clerks and one gentile clerk for the sabbath. For about a hundred years the ghetto had its own postal connection Prague-Vienna and further.

Elias Taussig died in 1757, and from 12 November 1757 until 1762 his wife Brandl Taussig was in charge. In 1762 his son Joachim Elias Taussig and daughter Perl kept the post office. As the post office became too small the office moved to Josefgasse 90, then to Platnergasse 7, then to Celetná Gasse 559/14.



After the 1848 revolution the Jewish population of Prague got equal civil rights, the specific rights of Josephstadt no longer existed and Josephstadt was incorporated in the town of Prague. This meant the end of a century of autonomous postal history of the Prague ghetto. Officially the office existed until June 1, 1851.

Intriguing is the fact that neither the Postal Museum Prague nor the Jewish Museum in the old town of Prague possess copies of this mail and to my knowledge no covers of this “Judenpost” are in any of the collections of Prague specialists.

I found that over the years tens of thousands of letters were sent via this special mail, so some examples must exist!

Maybe one of our readers and fellow-collectors can supply further interesting information about this Ghettopost, or even with examples of it!

The above information was given to me by Filatelie, Mr. Václav Conštant and Mr. Himmel-Agisburg.

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#### NEW MEMBERS

1476 GAUTHIER, Pierre H., 11 Rue Brady Hull, Quebec, J8Y 5L1 Canada  
1477 JEVCAK, Joseph J., 5209 Holden St., Fairfax, VA 22032

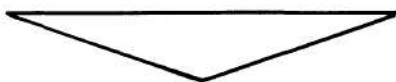
#### CHANGES OF ADDRESS

951 KREJCI, Peter T. and Veronika R., 428 Belle Grove Rd., Gaithersburg, MD  
20877  
1043 STUPELL, Keith, 29 E. 22nd Street, New York, NY 10010-5305

## FROM THE EDITOR

Only one short comment this time: my plea for manuscripts, whether they be short or long, apparently went unnoticed in previous issues, with the one exception — for which I am deeply grateful — from Tom Austin, of Costa Rica, who reports that at least as of May 28 the Czech post office continues to honor the use of "old" postage due stamps on letters. And just a few days ago a letter arrived from the Kvasničkas, bearing a pair of the 30 h green postage dues of the 1954–55 series along with a regular 5,40 Kčs to reach the required 6 Kčs air mail rate — this letter being dated August 25. So we are well beyond the original December 1985 cut-off date. Because there appears to be much interest in these usages, we'll continue to record "latest date of use."

But back to my plea: this journal is for *all* members of the Society. To be truly representative of our membership, we need more participation. I can only repeat that the help of our members is urgently needed. We have been depending upon a handful of members who do more than their share by supplying articles; we are very, very grateful to them; but we also need some new blood. So give your hidden literary talents a chance; warm up your typewriter or pen or pencil or P.C.



A preview: it is intended to print a list of the membership in the November issue of the SPECIALIST. Any members who have not as yet up-dated their membership are earnestly requested to do so in order that their names can be included in this annual listing.



Congratulations to member Karel Fischer, who received a Silver medal at the American Philatelic Society's "STAMPSHOW 86" held in Washington, D.C., August 21–24, for six frames of "Czechoslovakia." Our Literary Editor, Henry Hahn, served as a Philatelic Literature judge at this show.

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(USPS 808300)

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Vol. XLVIII

October 1986

No. 8, Whole No. 462

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

Second Class Postage Paid at Ord, Nebraska 68862  
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# THE VZOREC OVERPRINT ON HRADČANY STAMPS

By Ing. Jan Karásek

(From Filatelie 34, 1984 -24, page 749)

We know from the philatelic literature that in the first years of existence of Czechoslovakian postage stamps certain series — Hradčany, newspaper, postage due and special delivery — were overprinted on behalf of the World Post Union in Bern, Switzerland with the inscription "VZOREC."

At a later date additional numbers of these stamps, especially the Hradčany issue, were overprinted for stamp collectors. We know this overprint on all values of the Hradčany issue with the exception of the 30h red violet. Apart from the normal horizontal overprint, inverted overprints also exist. More details can be found in the specialized catalogues and in Monografie 1.

As these overprints are comparatively inexpensive, existing in large quantities, no special attention had been given over the years as to the possibility that some VZOREC overprints were not genuine. On that basis only the scarce values like the 10h green and 20h carmine red, both imperforated, were expertised. Collectors knew, or suspected, that false overprints were to be found now and then on some values. However, during the many years of my activity as expert, I never encountered such a forgery. It was only recently that I was asked to examine some of these stamps. Strong photographic enlargement showed that indeed something was wrong with these stamps.



Illustration 1

Illustration 2

Illustration 1 shows an enlarged 30h yellow-olive stamp with a genuine overprint whereas illustration 2 shows a block of four of the 5h clear green with a forged overprint. Actually, the difference between these two overprints is only slight. The latter type is identical; however, details of some of the letters show differences. Your eyes will show a thicker "Z" and "C" in the forgeries; similarly, the shape of the "R" is a good reference point.

With the exception of the 10h and 20h imperforated stamps mentioned above, we experts did not pay attention to the matter of these overprints being genuine or not in view of the fact that the catalogue value as well as the market value of most of these

stamps lies between 40¢ and \$1, with the exception of the 500h and 1000h values, worth about \$1.50–\$3.00.

For practical reasons it will not be possible to expertise these overprints nor do we intend to do so and apply our expertising mark.

On balance not much harm can result from forging these overprints, as even the genuine examples are so inexpensive. And no forger will find it profitable to overprint the imperforate 10h and 20h stamps, which are considerably more valuable in their original state, which is especially true for the 20h.

*Photo courtesy of Ferdinand Petržela*

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## MONOGRAFIE IV - THOUGHTS AND OBSERVATIONS

By Jaroslav J. Verner

The title under consideration reached me just before I left Moscow for points west. I did not have time to even look at the book when it came because I found myself in the middle of the worldwide interest in the events surrounding the Chernobyl disaster. *Monografie IV* had to wait until I was on the road and after my return. By the time I had reached our first stop, a visit with our old friend and Society member Jaroslav Kracík and his wife in Basel, I was already troubled by the new volume. Kracík shared many of my qualms and had thoughts of his own. When I reached Washington Henry Hahn gave me a copy of his review of the volume and shared some of his observations. It was not, however, until after my return and after I had sent off my exhibits to Stockholm that I was able to organize my thoughts on the volume in a useful way.

Readers of the *SPECIALIST* have already seen Henry Hahn's review of *Monografie IV*. While I agree with the basic thrust of this review, I would like to add a few more observations and thoughts to the record. First, let me say that I fully support Henry's contention that every collector of Czechoslovakia needs a copy of this volume of *Monografie*, as well as all the preceding ones. Even if one does not read Czech, the extensive illustrations and tables contained in it are worth the purchase price. With the judicious use of an English-Czech dictionary the volume becomes even more valuable.

Still, having said this, I found volume IV rather disappointing. This series set out to be an encyclopedic compilation of all the information available on every aspect of Czechoslovak philately. Unfortunately, this volume is not the last word on the material covered. As Henry points out, coverage even within sections is uneven and not all published research has been taken into account. This last fact is more than a little disappointing. One wonders why the collective that worked on the volume did not inquire of others about the available literature if they were not aware of it themselves. It is especially surprising that the Union of Czechoslovak Philatelists, the publisher of this series, apparently was not able to avoid such a fundamental flaw in the research.

Specifics are in order. Most disappointing, in my view, is the section of the air mail issue. The subject is large and of great interest to collectors. It is said that there will be another treatment of this subject, more detailed and complete, in a following volume. Let us hope so. But if this is the plan, then why does this one include such incomplete and inadequate treatment? In the discussion of the first overprint air mail series, for instance, a number of basic omissions are noted. On page 12 there is no mention of the number of stamps that were printed from each plate. This would have told the reader how many stamps of each type might exist. On page 13 no mention is made of the color shades of the basic stamps overprinted with the 24 Kčs value — and shades there are. No explanation is given for the difference of the "incomplete" dies in illustration 13 on page 19 (in the first, only the design is gauged out and in the second, the grinding has been partially completed). Errors of the overprint plates are mentioned in passing; these should have been developed in detail.

A more serious and extensive treatment of the period between the validity of the first and second air mail series (4/1/21 to 6/15/22) would have been most helpful. More care should have been taken when listing the plate errors of the second overprinted air

mail issue. One of the best known overprint plate errors is not even mentioned. I have in mind the "hook" error that appears in plate position 100 in the 50h overprint. This is hardly a new discovery. Novotný lists it in his *Speciální příručka pro sběratele československých známek*.

The final observation in the air mail section is the weakness in the treatment of the Zeppelin flights. This treatment, about one and a half pages of text, could not have been much more superficial. The listing of the flights is useful. But it would have been even more useful if the cancels used on each flight had been illustrated and if the reader had been given some idea of how much mail from Czechoslovakia had been flown. We all know that the prices for Zeppelin covers bearing Czechoslovak stamps are very high. Quantities of mail carried would give the reader a better idea whether such prices are justified by scarcity or other factors.

The detailed treatment of the newspaper and postage due stamps (František Žampach), the special delivery (Karel Bláha), and personal delivery stamps (Svatopluk Žampach) is what one expects in a monograph of this nature. These sections represent careful, solid philatelic labor. It is deserving of high praise — with one important exception. The postage due issue of 1927 is really given only short shrift, it seems to me. To cover this issue in three pages does not do it justice nor does the work come up to the quality of the earlier issues in this section. What is particularly amazing is to see the 50/50 overprint error, perhaps the greatest rarity among Czechoslovak stamps, treated in only nine lines. These nine lines are accompanied by an illustration, to be sure, but a miserable one, perhaps the worst in the entire volume.

The section on newspaper stamps raises one very obvious question. Where are the newspaper provisionals? While it is true that provisionals were treated in the first volume of *Monografie*, including the newspaper provisionals, I would have liked to have been them here also. These were, after all, legitimate newspaper provisionals, officially authorized, used, and which served an important postal need. I would argue that they should have been included in this volume not only for completeness of the subject, but also because the first volume is out of print and therefore many collectors will not have access to it. After all, eighteen years have passed since it was published.

Finally, an observation. During my recent visit with Jaroslav Kracík in Basel, we came upon an interesting inconsistency in the listed width of the 2 h newspaper gutter pairs. The widths listed in vol 4 of *Monografie* are not fully consistent with those listed in *Specializovaný katalog československých poštovních známek*. To check the dimensions, we measured the three copies Kracík had using both Swiss and Japanese scales. Each of the scales was within one tenth of a millimeter. Our readings were 26.5mm, 27.3mm and 28.5mm for the 2 heller and 29.5 for the 10 heller. Some days later I visited Henry Hahn and, using the same Japanese scale, measured his gutter pairs at 28.4mm, 28.4mm, and 26.6mm for the 2 heller gutter. The gutters in my collection read 26.8mm, 28.6mm, and 31.5mm for the 2 heller; 19.5mm for the 10 heller. All measurements were taken on the right side of the stamp to avoid the design characteristics that would make measuring more difficult at other points in the design. If we accept + or - .2mm as our margin of error, we find that the measurements agree with the dimensions in both *Specializovaný katalog* and *Monografie* if the listings in both are combined. I would be very interested in any additional information from our members regarding their observations on the width of these gutters.

In all the reviews that I have written on earlier volumes of *Monografie* I have bemoaned the fact that it is taking so long for the planned volumes to make their appearance. This continues to be a problem. Above, I pointed out that it has been 18 years since the first volume appeared. The passage of so much time is not only frustrating to those of us who would like to buy and use these books, but also means that the expertise of the older generation of philatelists is slowly being lost. We all regret this very much. We would hope that the publishers will make an effort to speed up the work on the volumes that are still missing. I, for one, find the work very useful — and that includes volume 4 as well.

# THE CZECHOSLOVAK LEGION IN SIBERIA

By Otto Hornung

The following article has been reprinted in abridged form from "Stamp News" (London).

Actually, there were three Czechoslovak Legions during World War I — in France, Russia and Italy. They were formed mainly of Czech and Slovak prisoners of war, who wanted to fight against Austria-Hungary and its allies to liberate Czechoslovakia. The three countries mentioned above gave their consent and so, under the leadership of Professor T. G. Masaryk, later the first President of Czechoslovakia, army units of those POW's were formed, first in France in 1915, then in 1917 in Russia, and in April 1918 also in Italy.

When the Soviet Government concluded its peace with Germany at Brest-Litovsk, the war in Europe was still raging. As a result, the Czechoslovak Legion in Russia, after seeing action against German troops, was unable to return to its native country even though for them the war had come to an end. It was decided to extricate these troops numbering well over 100,000 eastwards to Vladivostok, and then transport them home by sea. The vital link was the Trans-Siberian Railway, and the Czechoslovak troops held it. This led to clashes with the Soviets for whom this lifeline was also vital, and finally to bitter war. In the end, the Czechoslovak Legion managed to get to the Pacific, and was transported home by boat, but this lasted till 1920 or longer.

The Czechoslovak Legions had an excellent postal service, which was also used by other allied troops in Siberia. This service played a very important role, especially after the Armistice in 1918, when the soldiers were able to write home. The Czechoslovak Legions issued their own stamps, well known to collectors of that area and period. After producing an overprint on a Russian 10 kopek stamp in November 1918 at Chelyabinsk, proper stamps of the Legion were issued in December 1919–January 1920, the so-called Silhouettes. I am showing you the three designs printed locally in Irkutsk.

The design of the 1 rouble stamp showing a soldier on guard is the work of Egon Cila.

Illustration No. 1



As I have said, collectors know these stamps, but not many know that essays for this stamp set are also in existence. In actual fact, there were five different designs, and they were printed on a large sheet of 450 × 290 millimetres together in five colours — red, blue, bluish-green, chocolate-brown and violet.

### My find

Recently I was looking at various lots in a London auction, and amongst other items I viewed a collection of Czechoslovakia mounted on old French album leaves. It was quite a nice collection, not touched by anyone. Nothing spectacular, and some of the mint stamps partly stuck down. I was not very interested until I came to the end of it. On the penultimate sheet were the two issued stamps of the Czechoslovak Legion in Siberia, imperforate, but on the very last of the sheets were all the five essays in all the five colours — all 25 of them (Illus. 2). Not in one sheet any more, but nicely cut out, almost all of them with wide margins, mounted, and as fresh as if they had been printed yesterday. Need I say any more? Naturally, I bought the collection.



Illustration No. 2

The genuineness of these essays is undoubted. They are not gummed, but it is the same paper, the same lithography as the issued stamps. The drawings show an armoured train in a Siberian snow landscape, soldiers around a fire, a soldier on the lookout, a soldier in heavy felt boots and winter clothing on guard, and finally the silhouette of a soldier with rifle and fixed bayonet.

I left the soldier with rifle and bayonet right to the end, because if you compare the design with the properly-issued stamp you can see that it is almost identical. Well, the picture is, the value tablets on the essay have been changed to a figure "1" on the stamp, the text at the bottom reading "Czechoslovak Army in Russia" has been redrawn, and at the top they added "Vojenská posta," meaning "Military Mail."

So, that is my find. Not all that spectacular, because, although you don't see these essays so often, they are not particularly rare nor too expensive.

There was something else in that French collection of pre-war Czechoslovakia, and I admit when I viewed the lot I did not notice it. When I unpacked my treasure at home, I discovered amongst the album sheets a letter, handwritten on small sheets of good notepaper, dated Paris 3/1/22 (Illus. 3). Let me translate this letter from its French:



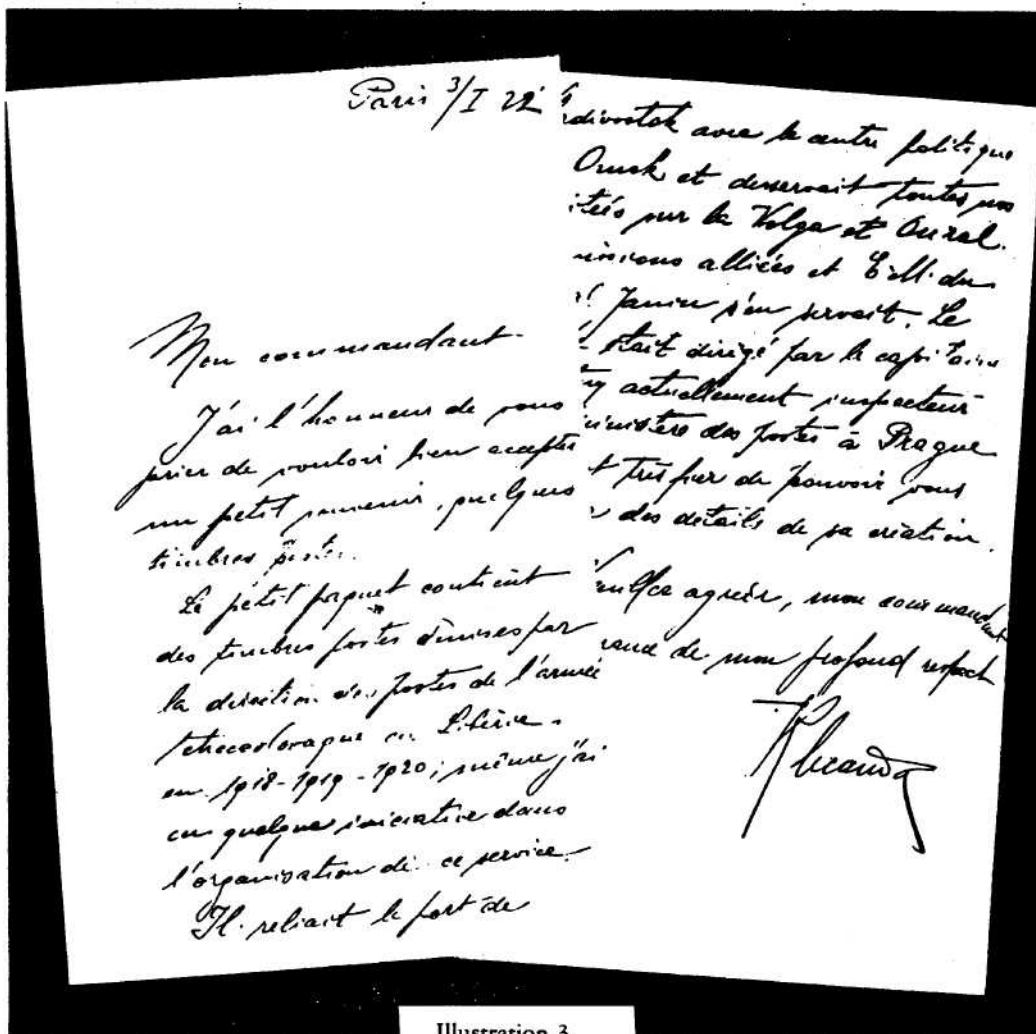


Illustration 3

"Dear Major,

I have the honour to ask you to kindly accept a little souvenir, a few postage stamps.

"The little package contains postage stamps issued by the Postal Administration of the Czechoslovak Army in Siberia in 1918-1919-1920, and I played personally a certain part in the organisation of this service. It was a link between the port of Vladivostok and the political centre at Omsk, and served all our units on the Volga and in the Ural (mountains). The Allied Missions and the Headquarters of General Janin used it. The service was directed by Captain Novotný, at present inspector at the Ministry of Posts in Prague. He would be very pleased to let you have more details about his creation.

Dear Major, please accept my very best regards,

Klecanda"

I was fascinated by this letter, and by the questions it raised. What a pity that there was no envelope, and we don't know whom this letter was addressed to. In all probability it was the French major who formed this collection of Czechoslovakia. Who was he? Mr. Klecanda writes . . . *the little package contains postage stamps* . . . I assume

that amongst the items he sent him were the essays. As he mentions a little package, they must have been already cut from the original sheet. Only the two issued Siberian stamps I am showing you here were in the collection, and there were no other hinge traces on the sheet for Siberia. I don't think these stamps came from Mr. Klecanda; he would not have sent as a present a 1 rouble stamp with a corner torn off. Maybe the major obtained them later, somewhere else.

The other important name mentioned in the letter is General Janin. He is no mystery. He was a French officer, the Commander-in-Chief of the Czechoslovak Army and all Allied Forces in Russia.

#### Five Klecandas

That leaves us with Mr. Klecanda. Fortunately, I have a good friend in the Library of the University of London, and she kindly found for me the relevant pages in a Czechoslovak directory of 1934. They listed five Klecandas. The first was Jan Klecanda, Sr. He was a journalist and died in 1920, two years before the letter was written. Then there was his son, Jan Klecanda, Jr., a writer who used a pen name. He was not our man. Jiri Klecanda, another son of the journalist died in 1918, four years before it all happened. Ph. Dr. Vladimír Klecanda was the third son of the journalist. He was a historian, a prolific writer, but he was not in Russia during the war.

That left me with the last of the five Klecandas, Vojtech Vladimír Klecanda, born on 15 November 1888. He fitted the picture. Before World War I he was working for Laurin & Klement, the producers of early motorcars in Kharkov in Russia. He volunteered for service in the Czechoslovak Legion, and was one of their first officers. He had a distinguished war record, spoke several languages, and in 1918 he was made Quartermaster General of the Legion. After his return to Czechoslovakia he was Vice-Chief of the General Staff.

And here it comes; watch it: From 1920 to 1922 he studied at the War Academy in Paris. That was the time when he wrote his letter to the French major, and, having been Quartermaster General in Siberia he was indeed involved in the organisation of the postal service. When V. V. Klecanda returned from Paris he was promoted to the rank of General. He organised a new inter-ministerial department for the defence of the country, but soon he was sent as military attaché to Paris, and whilst there he took part in the preparations for the Disarmament Conference in Geneva. Back in Czechoslovakia he commanded a division in Pilsen, and later in Prague. He was very active in the Scout movement, sports organisations, etc. That is as far as the directory goes. I cannot tell you what happened to General V. V. Klecanda then. I am sure he is no longer alive; after all he was born 97 years ago. One day, maybe, if I find the time, I shall try to find out more about him.

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## UKRAINIAN PHILATELIC AND NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

The Ukrainian Philatelic and Numismatic Society marks the 125th anniversary of the death of Taras Shevchenko, the greatest Ukrainian poet, artist, and writer at its meeting scheduled for November 1-2, 1986, at the Soyuzivka Resort Center in Kerhonkson, New York. Program includes an open exhibit — Ukrainpex '86, for all collectors world-wide and a special one-page exhibit by members with the theme "Ukraine — Its Many Collecting Areas." A cachet envelope, souvenir sheet, souvenir card, and a special United States post office cancel commemorating Taras Shevchenko will be available. The cachet will show a portrait of Taras Shevchenko. Special agenda items will include panel discussions of important matters relating to philately and numismatics and the society, including revision of by-laws, as well as a silent auction. Discussions regarding the 1987 convention in Vienna, Austria will also be held.

A banquet on Saturday night will feature Dr. John Flis, President of Ukrainian National Association, who will speak on the theme of the show "Taras Shevchenko." Special awards will include the "Julian G. Marksymczuk Award" in recognition of contribution to Ukrainian philately and numismatics and the "Golden Trident Award" to exhibitors of Ukrainian material world-wide.

## CHARLEY'S CORNER

(Continued from September issue)

To continue our quest into the activities of the Czechoslovak government in exile during World War II we will begin this corner covering its politico-philatelic activities in the Western Hemisphere after the German take-over.

Fig. 18 shows a folder cover for the souvenir sheets in the Toronto exhibition. Fig. 19 shows the same folder with the New York World's Fair overprint as was applied also to the PRAGA 1938 sheet.

# TRUTH PREVAILS CZECHO-SLOVAKIA WILL RISE AGAIN



Figure 18

CZECHOSLOVAK PARTICIPATION  
CANADIAN NATIONAL EXHIBITION  
TORONTO, 1939

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CZECHOSLOVAK PARTICIPATION  
~~CANADIAN NATIONAL EXHIBITION~~  
~~TORONTO, 1939~~  
NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR

Figure 19

Fig. 20 shows a proof print of the Crest at the top; this crest proof also exists on the 1938–20th Anniversary sheet as well as on the Bratislava souvenir sheet of 1937. Fig. 21 shows the completed proof for the World's Fair, but we should note, however, that neither the Masaryk nor Independence sheets of 1938 were regularly so issued.



Figure 21

*T. g. Masaryk*

Figure 20

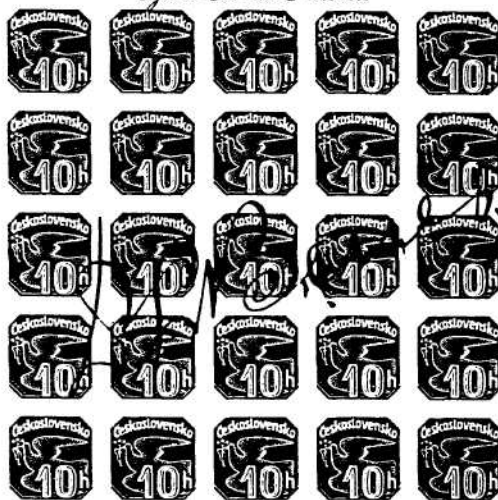
*T. g. Masaryk*

*Czecho-Slovak Participation  
New York World's Fair 1939  
Czecho-Slovak Pavilion*

*Czecho-Slovak Participation New York World's Fair 1939*

*Czecho-Slovak Pavilion*

reduced



TIŠTĚNO NA CELOSTRAVNOSTI ČESKOSLOVENSKÝCH ZNÁMEK.



Figure 22

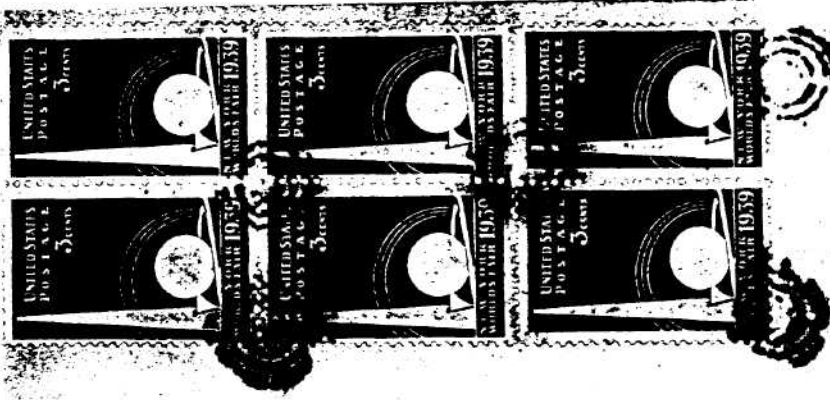
**First Day Cover  
Opening of the Czecho-Slovak Pavilion**



CELOŠTÁTNĀ VÝSTAVA POŠTOVÝCH ZNÁMOK



Figure 23  
reduced



**REGISTERED**  
No. 115

TRIBUNE STAMP COMPANY  
154 NASSAU STREET, N. Y.

Fig. 22 shows the 1937 Bratislava Newspaper souvenir sheet with the 1939 overprints, signed by President Beneš.

Fig. 23 shows a large cover with the Bratislava sheet, registered, with the opening day cancel at the Pavilion, using six of the 3¢ U.S. World's Fair stamps to pay the postage.

To be continued

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## SALES DEPARTMENT'S 45th ANNIVERSARY

This January we completed 45 years of operations. During that time we mailed out an average of slightly more than 12 circuits a year. Even the war years did not hold us back from preparing circuits at regular intervals.

During these 45 years we lost only 13 circuits in the mails plus one damaged in the mail. Everything was settled with the book owners, even though 2 members had neglected to insure a circuit. During the 40's we lost 2 (two) circuits, *had no losses at all during the 50's and 60's*; however, 8 total losses and one partial loss by damage during the 70's; during the 5 years in the 80's already 3 circuits were lost in the mails. It never happened that a member lost a circuit while it was in his/her possession.

We never had complaints about any possible switching of stamps or other pilferage by members. During the 45 years two members moved to another country and "forgot" to pay what they had taken from a circuit; however, in each case only a small amount of money was involved. It shows the sales circuit participants are a group of very fine, honest members. Lots of them I got to know in person and with others I have some sort of personal correspondence.

This year, however, we encountered troublesome situations. On the West coast one member held 6 circuits for several months and the same happened on the East coast at the same period, where another member had 5 circuits on hand. Naturally the flow of circuits came to a halt for a few months. I understand that at times it may be necessary to take time to go over a circuit to check and measure overprints and other varieties. I also understand that one goes on vacation, but in all cases I should be notified when someone will be absent for more than 2 weeks or needs extra time to check-out a circuit. Such notices tell me the circuit has arrived and helps me to re-route a circuit if necessary. Section 8 of our rules asks that a circuit should not be kept more than 3 days. We never did enforce that rule. Our circuits contain specialized material and one does not always have time to check all within 3 days. Experience has shown the average recipient keeps a circuit about 8 days, taking in a weekend.

I appeal to all of you, to please let me know when you have to keep a circuit for more than a week. Remember, we do not want to rush you but we have to please our members; many others are waiting for the circuit you hold.

A month ago I received a note from one of our newer circuit recipients. He wrote: "My first circuit arrived this week and I got lots of stamps. Unfortunately had just bought quite a few stamps from a dealer a few weeks ago — the same stamps that were in one of the sales books at 1/4 of what I paid."

During the past 3 months I mailed about 50 new sales books to several members. Please fill them out, as I can use them now. Just a few books will do now. I know it is hot and humid in some areas and one hates to work on stamps during the summer, but please give it a try!

Some members urge that STAMPS and not meters are used on circuit packages. Is it not always practical to use stamps to cover the high postage. At times I have plastered the backs of such packages with stamps, but this gives a "philatelic" appearance and may tempt workers to steal such a package. They know from the blue V label that insurance will be paid to the sender, if lost.

Remember, by buying from our sales circuits you help the Society, which gets part of the commission. At the same time we help you sell your duplicates.

Your sales manager:

Wolfgang Fritzsche  
P.O. Box 8  
Canandaigua, NY 14424  
new phone: 716-394-9263

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- 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!

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