

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Official Monthly Journal of the  Society for Czechoslovak Philately, Inc. (USPS 808300)

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

A.P.S. Unit 18

Vol. XLIX

May 1987

No. 5, Whole No. 469

ON TO CAPEX 87!

This year Canada marks 100 years of nationally organized philately just one year after AMERIPEX marked a similar anniversary in the United States. The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, formerly the Canadian Philatelic Society, traces its origins back to 1887 when the Canadian Philatelic Association was formed. These two events will be honored by the Third International Stamp Exhibition known as CAPEX 87 in Toronto during the week of June 13 to 21. CAPEX 87 will commemorate the 120th anniversary of the Confederation and the 100th anniversary of its sponsoring organization. The exhibition is under the patronage of the Federation Internationale de Philatelie (F.I.P.).

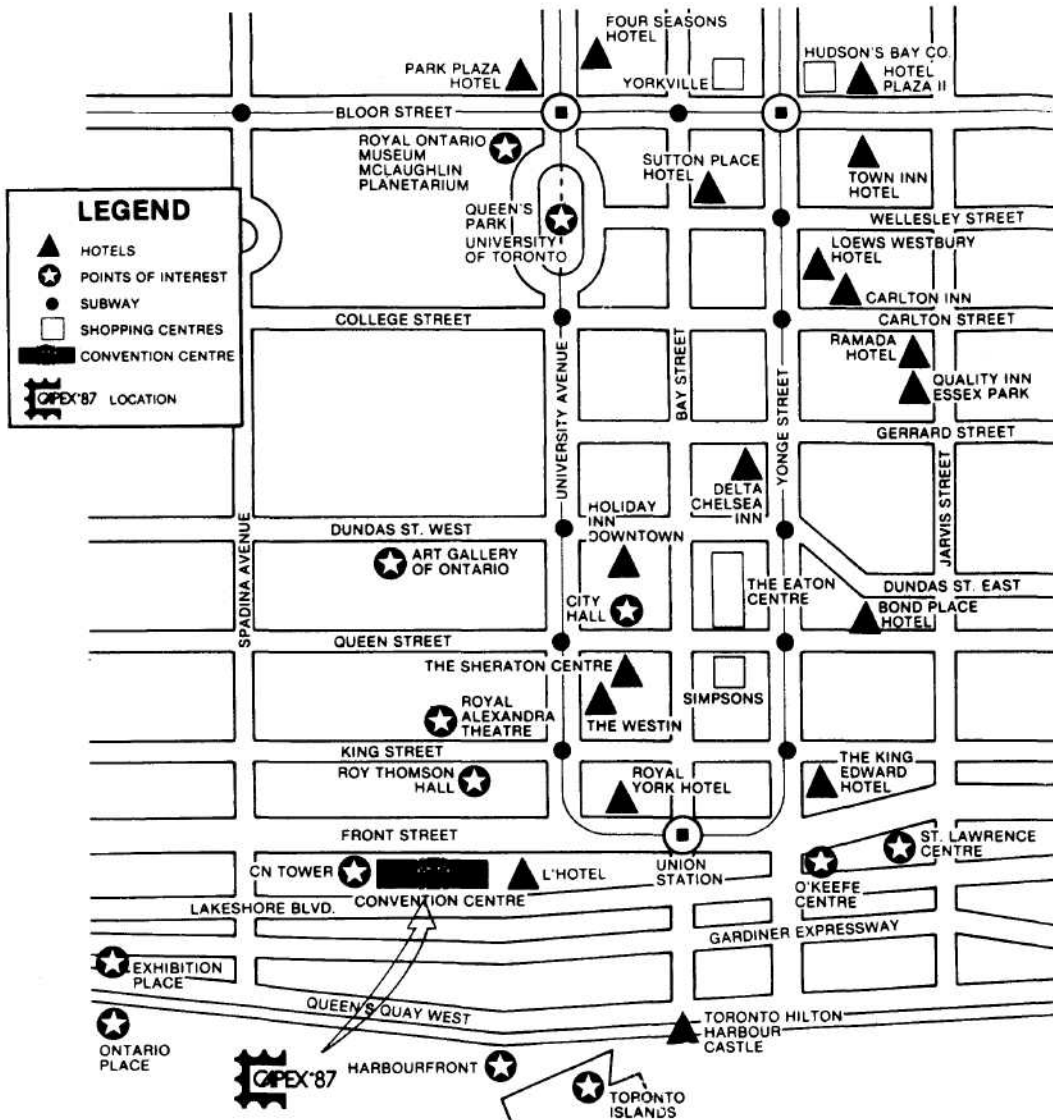
The Society for Czechoslovak Philately will be participating in this show in numerous ways. There will be a lounge table with a dirth of interesting philatelic material on sale. There will be a meeting room in the Metropolitan Convention Center, 255 Front Street West, in which a combined meeting with the Ukrainian Philatelic Society will feature an illuminating talk by Dr. Ludvik Pytlíček, philatelist extraordinaire. That program will take place on Saturday, June 13 at about 1 P.M. No pains have been spared to bring Dr. Pytlíček here from Czechoslovakia for the occasion. Our Society can show its appreciation by attending CAPEX 87 and coming to hear him speak at our meeting.

On Sunday morning, June 14, a breakfast meeting will be held in the dining room at the L'Hotel, 225 Front Street West, hosted by members of our Society's Board with Dr. Pytlíček in attendance. This will provide an opportunity for our members to chat with the eminent philatelist and partake of an early morning buffet. More details on this breakfast session will be available during the Saturday joint meeting at the Convention Center.

Our Society plans to have good representation at the Exhibition itself. Among the exhibitors of Czechoslovak material are Charles Chesloe, Ladislav Fischmeister, Henry Hahn, J. Klein, Frank Kohn, Karel Fischer, Ludvik Pytlíček and Ernst Theimer.

Those who plan to attend, please refer to the April issue of the SPECIALIST for advice on arranging accommodations in the Toronto area. The accompanying diagram should help you maneuver in that part of the city.

We'll be seeing you at CAPEX 87!



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Changes of address to International Secretary

BALPEX '87 — HERE WE COME!

In case you missed our BALPEX '87 announcement earlier, our Society's 1987 Convention and Show will take place over the LABOR DAY week-end at the Hunt Valley Inn in the outskirts of Baltimore. BALPEX and the Hunt Valley Inn are an ideal setting — where you exhibit or not. Besides stamps, stamps, stamps and stamps, we (and our non-collecting spouses) will enjoy a country-club setting including a pool, tennis and great sight-seeing in Baltimore's beautifully restored harbor area.

Our program is still in the planning stage, but will encompass our usual convention activities such as a booth, a Society suite, Sunday brunch, a series of talks and cocktails in our suite before the awards dinner. We will be joined in our activities by the Society for Hungarian Philately, The Austria Philatelic Society and the Ukrainian Philatelic and Numismatic Society.

Joe Janečka, our National Secretary and Honorary Member has once again generously contributed the Society's three major awards — gold, silver, and bronze — in form of lovely cast plaques bearing the likenesses of Masaryk, Komenský and Žižka respectively. These are illustrated below.



In addition to these, exhibitors will compete for the regular BALPEX show awards and a number of specialty awards. The recipient of the BALPEX Grand Award will be invited to exhibit in the Champion of Champions competition at the forthcoming STAMPSHOW '87 in Boston.

Advance applications may be obtained from our BALPEX Chairman, Henry Hahn (2936 Rosemoore Lane, Fairfax, VA 22031). Balpex is *always* oversubscribed long before the application deadline. Therefore, hurry if you plan to show. If you will attend — whether you exhibit or not — please let us know. We are also looking for one or two speakers on ANY subject related to Czecho collecting.

DO IT NOW! DON'T DELAY!

St. Wenceslas, our peer,
Prince of the Czech land,
Suffer not to perish
Us and our offspring
Czech prayer

NOMINATIONS FOR SOCIETY DIRECTORS

Last month the SPECIALIST published the Society's revised Bylaws. As you read in Bylaw V, "In March and April of the election year, the President and Secretary, acting as an election committee, shall accept nominations of candidates to the Board."

It is now May and we are at least one month late in making this announcement. Nevertheless, nominations for five members of our Society's ten directors are now being accepted and will be accepted until June 30. The practice of electing half of its ten directors every two years has assured the Society of continuity in administration and direction. However, by recent vote of the Board, an outgoing Board member is no longer ineligible for reelection. Par. 2 of Bylaw V has been amended to read:

"A candidate to the Board must be a member in good standing of the Society. He shall be nominated in writing by two members of the Society other than himself whose signatures shall be affixed to the nominating petition. HE MAY BE ELECTED TO THE BOARD WITHOUT LIMITATION. However, he can only serve as President or Vice-President for two terms consecutively or four terms not consecutively."

The form below can be used and should be used by every member to nominate no more than two candidates to the Board. The person making the nomination should sign his name as the first Nominator and give the ballot to another member to sign his or her name as the second Nominator. The ballot should then be sent promptly to either the President or Secretary, whose names and addresses appear below. If you properly complete this form and mail it to one of the two officers listed below to be received by them no later than June 30, your candidate, if qualified in accordance with the Society Bylaws, is assured of appearing on the election ballot which will appear in the September issue of the SPECIALIST.

Present Directors who will continue to serve through 1989 are Jay T. Carrigan, Henry Hahn, Frank Julsen, Ludvik Svoboda and Mirko Vondra. Outgoing Directors who are finishing their four year term on the Board but are nevertheless eligible for reelection if nominated are Edwin Lehecka, Richard Major, Edward Sabol and Henry Samek. But remember, you must obtain your candidate's permission (which need not be in writing) to list his name on the nominating ballot.

To assist the members in voting and to make them aware of the qualifications of new or lesser known members, the SPECIALIST will publish a short biographical sketch of each candidate as provided by the nominator or by the candidate himself.

All members are urged to avail themselves of the privilege of nominating either one or two candidates to the Board. This privilege is included in the cost of your membership fee. Make use of it NOW! Fill out the form below and nominate the candidate you believe will work hard for the betterment of this Society — YOUR Society! Please send all nominations to:

Joseph Janečka, Jr., Secretary
7306 Ogden Ave.
Riverside, IL 60546

Mirko L. Vondra, President
1511 Clearview Ave.
Lancaster, PA 17601

"Boy, dear boy, you're back now,
Tell your father how did you plough?"
"I ploughed some furrows but then I ended,
I broke the wheel, it will have to be mended."
"Take the wheel to the smith to mend,
learn my dear boy, to till the land."
President Masaryk's favorite song -

Date _____

The undersigned hereby nominate:

Name: _____, Member No. _____

To serve as a member of the Board of Directors of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately, Inc., for a term of four (4) years.

Nominator: _____, Member No. _____

Nominator: _____, Member No. _____

Qualifications (for use by *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, subject to revision by the nominee and editing, approximately 25 words).

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Gerald van Zanten's article in the February issue entitled "Why Do I Collect Czechoslovakian Stamps" has generated some interesting responses. For those of you who are either novice collectors or collect other countries and are contemplating expanding your horizons to Czechoslovakia, the following letter I received should be of particular interest:

"As a very young child — under five years of age — my maternal grandfather corresponded with relatives in Czechoslovakia. He would always read the letters to me, but I was fascinated with the envelopes and the stamps on them. At that time I didn't understand why those stamps were different from our U.S. stamps, especially in artful design and subject matter. This was back in the early 1940's. So I saved the envelopes. This went on until 1952 when grandfather passed away. I was then eleven years old.

"Then in 1960, I met my husband, Frank, and eventually his brother, Jack. Jack had collected stamps for years as a result of my husband having started him with either a Christmas or birthday present relating to stamp collecting. Jack is also very active in a number of stamp clubs. He has done some in-depth study on postal history in Albany, N.Y., which is where he resides. I soon realized that being interested in stamps is not a childish whim.

"When we got married in 1961, my husband and I purchased my grandparents' home from my aunt and uncle who were moving to New York City. When they moved, they left most of the family belongings in the house and garage. One day I decided to rummage through the second story of that garage. It took me several weekends, but I found letters, stamps, covers and all kinds of goodies from Czechoslovakia as well as the U.S.

"My husband bought a U.S. stamp album and some hinges. Soon thereafter we bought a worldwide stamp album; within a few weeks, an album on Czechoslovakia; then, because of Frank's German-Swiss ancestry, a German album; next, an Austrian album because of its historic relationship with Czechoslovakia; now, very recently, a Disney topical album because of our enjoyment of Disney subjects.

"I have kept a record of funds that we spent on our hobby and it is at times unbelievable. But with both of us being introverts of sorts, our enjoyment far outweighs the expenditures. It is like a trip abroad.

"How many other members have given thought to their reasons for collecting Czechoslovakia and the countless pleasures and benefits they have derived from it?"

Submitted by Mary Ann Haefeli
Member number 1155

CZECHOSLOVAK FIELDPOST IN GREAT BRITAIN

Part II

From an interview of Oldřich Večerek by Dr. M. Vostatek
Translated by Mirko Vondra

In Part I we learned how Oldřich Večerek became the director of our Fieldpost during World War II. But these were mere preliminaries to its wartime existence. As the interview continues, we are informed of its origin and development.

Question: How did the situation further unfold?

Answer: I drew a seal for our Fieldpost (ČSPP for Československá Polní Pošta). Because British Postal Services required delivery of money in special money pouches, it had to be registered with a seal affixed. Our Registered Mail bore larger English postal labels for packages which we cancelled with a small red imprint: "Československá Polní Pošta — Czechoslovak Fieldpost." The labels were free for our use and we simply filled them in by hand-stamping the red imprint. The British systematically delivered all printed material for our domestic use so that nothing had to be printed for us. Our local daily cancellations clearly identified deliveries by "ČSPP." It worked the same way with airgraph and telegram. The Postmaster General turned down our original request made via service route and returned the request by service route to our Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Q: What happened then?

A: The Ministry turned the reply over to "MNO" in London. As the author of this whole undertaking, I was called "on the carpet" by the Brigadier General. In the presence of Col. Pollock, commander of the British segment of our Brigade, I was given a sharp "dressing down." Col. Pollock saved the day by noting that I could be transferred to a higher British unit preparing for overseas action. There I could learn their system of Fieldpost including changes which occur when a Fieldpost starts operating in the field and at the front. Confidentially he told me, "Don't be discouraged just because your good proposal failed."

Q: Where did you get transferred?

A: In three days I departed for manoeuvres with the 16th English Division. In three weeks, a so-called "Security Order No. 100" was read to all the Companies which, among other things, called upon all Army personnel to disclose what possibilities they thought enemy agents might have to learn of their Army's habits and movements which could be detrimental and should be kept secret. What particularly concerned me was a request for maintaining confidentiality about the dates of departure and arrival of convoys from and to British shores and the location of specific military units.

Q: You must surely have reacted to that!

A: I wrote my announcement of the formation of a Czechoslovak Fieldpost convinced and justified that it conformed with all edicts; yet it was rejected. I broadened it to include all our smaller Allied Nations because the names of the senders as well as the addressees revealed their nationalities and the cancellation was bound to show the place of the civilian postoffice. A foreign agent could draw a map showing the precise location of Allied units and determine the time of their expected arrival at designated ports for ship boarding. From this, one could estimate the departure of convoys. The Army Commander recognized the gravity of my announcement. Three days following my tender of these plans, I had a business luncheon in a hotel in Chester with several high ministry officials to discuss further details. I dispelled their fears over the use of native language on field cancellations for the smaller Allied nations. After lunch, they were in communication with Western Command in London and by five o'clock I had in my hands a decision from the highest authority. A Czechoslovak Fieldpost was authorized, the cancel was to be bi-lingual (in Czech and English) and cancellation of our mail by British Postal Services would be discontinued. However, individual members of our Armed Forces would have to use their own unit's postal facilities for security reasons. The promptness of this change was critical. Instructions from the Postmaster General were to be issued by bulletin within a few days.

Q: The matter apparently took its normal course. Did it proceed from there on without problems?

A: The Divisional Postmaster had me send by express mail two bags of printed matter, several postal pouches, sealing wax, airgraph blanks, wrapping paper, sack cloth — all the necessary supplies for operating a field postoffice. Developing events called for the departure of the Sixteenth Division for Singapore. An hour after bidding many of them farewell, I too departed, though for Leamington Spa. At the headquarters of our newspaper where preparations were under way to publish a special issue commemorating the President's birthday, a column on the first page was reserved for my announcement setting up an independent Fieldpost for our Czechoslovak Brigade. In it, I expressed the best wishes from all postal employees to the President. The column was handstamped with a special cancellation which I had ordered more than a year earlier. There was rejoicing in the Brigade and many troops stood in line before our field postoffice with letters and other philatelic material for mailing.

Q: What happened then?

A: Suddenly a dispatch car from Gen. Miroslav arrived and I was ordered to report to him at once. The chauffeur whispered to me that I was in trouble. Col. Pollock was raging, as was the General. No sooner did I stand at attention and try to speak than I was given another "dressing down" for disobeying orders. The establishment of our Fieldpost was being denied.

"How do you excuse yourself for this?"

"There is nothing more to be said!"

This is the end, I thought. Col. Pollock had received my announcement and the General had the final say in the matter. It came just before office hours. I could see an envelope marked "Registered Mail" lying unopened on his desk. For the Colonel, I had an appropriate response. Col. Pollock quickly read the letter from the Ministry, blushed and promptly burst out laughing. He then congratulated me on my successful results, held out his hand and apologized for his outburst.

Q: So how did it ultimately turn out?

A: The General quickly called an interpreter who dutifully translated the important message. It ended with these words: "... we transmit this for conscientious execution to the Czechoslovak Ministry of National Defense in London."

He held out his hand and said "Forgive us! I know you are handling the Postal Service well!"

I returned to my station on foot. This did not trouble me. I was mindful of the directive to save gasoline.

Probably few of those who used the Fieldpost facilities were aware of the many problems and difficulties. Based on this interview, we can better visualize the circumstances under which the Czechoslovak Fieldpost originated. In the next issue, our interview will consider some of the philatelic effects of that Fieldpost.

PHILATELIC MATERIAL WANTED

The following three foreign residents are seeking the philatelic material for the countries and years indicated under each name. If anyone can supply the requested material, please contact the appropriate correspondent and make your own arrangements:

1. Miro Hlusek, Hradební 201, Uherské Hradiště 686 01, Czechoslovakia (Czechoslovakia 1945–85; Poland, Austria, U.S.A. 1960–85; Canada 1960–86; Mexico 1960–80)
2. Bohu Hanaček, Podolí 65 okres. Uherské Hradiště 686 01, Czechoslovakia (Czechoslovakia 1918–39; Roumania, Italy, U.S.A. 1970–85; Brazil, all years)
3. Jara Ševčík, Jarošov- Na Trávníku 321 okres. Uherské Hradiště, Czechoslovakia (Czechoslovakia 1918–85; Andorra, U.S.A. 1945–85; Argentina, all years)

PRAGA '88 INTERNATIONAL STAMP EXPOSITION ANNOUNCED

Judging by the grand scale of PRAGA '78, the next of the superb PRAGAS will take place from August 26th through September 4, 1988. The show will again be located at the Convention Palace of Prague's Julius Fučík Park of Culture and Rest, at the Exhibition Center "U Hybernu" and at the Riding Academy of the Prague Castle. The official motto of the exposition will be "THE POSTAGE STAMP AND PHILATELY — A WORLD OF DISCOVERY AND PEACE."

PRAGA '88 will enjoy the patronage of FIP and will host FIP's 57th Congress, numerous international symposia, meetings of the various FIP Commissions and other FIP organs. It will also host the International Organization of Transportation and Postal Museums (IATM).

It is anticipated that all of the 62 member nations of FIP will be represented, together with over 100 national postal administrations and museums.

Ing. J. Jíra, Czechoslovakia's Minister of Communications has been named Honorary President and FIP President, Ing. Ladislav Dvořáček has been named Honorary Chairman of the Exhibition Presidium. Chairman of the PRAGA '88 Organizational Committee is Mr. Jiří Brejha who served in the same capacity for PRAGA '78.

Exhibits will be placed in newly manufactured frames employing the latest technology. About 4,000 frames will be available for competitive exhibits alone. The total number of frames has not as yet been disclosed.

Those interested in exhibiting and/or being placed on the PRAGA '88 mailing list should write to the US Commissioner for PRAGA '88, Henry Hahn, ARTECH CORP., 2901 Telestar Court, Falls Church, VA 22042.

SOCIETY 1987 CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION SCHEDULE ESTABLISHED

The Society's 1987 Convention and Exhibition will once again take place in conjunction with BALPEX '87 at the lovely Hunt Valley Inn just outside Baltimore, MD. BALPEX will open on Saturday morning, September 5th and close on Labor Day, Monday, September 7th. Those who have not responded to our previous SPECIALIST announcement may do so now and receive a prospectus, exhibit application and room reservation form. REMEMBER THAT BALPEX HAS ALWAYS BEEN AN EARLY SELLOUT!!

We will be joined in many of our activities by the Austria Philatelic Society, the Society for Hungarian Philately and the Ukrainian Philatelic and Numismatic Society. We have reserved the spacious Presidential Suite and will operate a table or booth on the exhibition floor. Society attendees (and wives) are requested to contact us if they will volunteer to help operate the booth.

Our tentative schedule is as follows:

Saturday, September 5th

- 10:00 a.m. Show Opens
- 2:00 p.m. Hospitality Suite Open (Presidential Suite)
- 5:00 p.m. Cocktails in Presidential Suite — open to members of the four participating societies and their guests
- 7:00 p.m. Austrian-Czecho-Hungarian and Ukrainian Societies Banquet — Hunt Valley Inn

Sunday, September 6th

- 2:00 p.m. Lecture Series: open to all (Room to be announced)
- 4:00 p.m. Meeting: Society for Czech. Philately — SCP members only
- 6:30 p.m. BALPEX Awards Banquet

According to a prominent member of the BALPEX organizing committee, the Awards Banquet will this year be smorgasbord style in honor of the Scandinavian Philatelic Society which is also meeting at BALPEX.

We hope you will make your plans for Labor Day week-end at BALPEX early. Please contact us for application forms for frames and reservations:

Henry Hahn
SCP-BALPEX Chairman
2936 Rosemoor Lane

NEW ISSUES

By G. M. van Zanten — Courtesy ARTIA of Prague

WORKS OF ART ON STAMPS

21st Series

Five stamps were issued on the 3rd November 1986 commemorating "Works of Art." All are multicoloured and printed by the flat recess process in sheets of 4. The stamps measure 40×50mm and were printed by the Post Office Printing works in Prague.

- 1 Kčs — Shows the Czechoslovak Lion — May 1918 by Vratislav Brunner, who lived from 1886–1928. The stamp also celebrates the artist's 100th birthday. The original work is in the National Gallery in Prague. Engraving is by Bedřich Housa.
- 2 Kčs — Boy with mandolin (1945) by Jozef Šturbík, born in 1920. The original is in the Ostrava Gallery in Dolný Kubín on the Orava River in Slovakia. Engraving by Václav Fajt.
- 3 Kčs — Depicts the construction of the Metro in 1984. By František Gross, 1909–1985. Original in the Army Art Studio in Prague. Engraving by Miloš Ondráček.
- 4 Kčs — Portrait of Marie Maximilliany of Sternberk 1665. By Karel Škréta, 1610–1674. Original work is in the Prague National Gallery. Engraving by Miloš Ondráček.
- 5 Kčs — Adam and Eve—around 1538. By Lucas Cranach, 1472–1553. The original is housed in the Prague National Gallery. Engraving is by Josef Herčík.

CZECHOSLOVAK STATE DECORATIONS

On the 4th February 1987 a set of five stamps was issued to commemorate Czechoslovak State Decorations. Designs were by Vladimír Kovářík.

The Rotary recess printing process was employed, together with multicolour photogravure; the stamps were printed in sheets of 50 stamps, of which the pictures are 40×23mm. Printed by the Post Office Printing Office in Prague.

- 50 h — Shows the Gold Star of the Hero of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic. Gold Star of the Hero of Socialist Labour. Engraving by Jan Mráček.
- 2 Kčs — Depicts the Order of Klement Gottwald. Engraving by Bedřich Housa.
- 3 Kčs — Order of the Republic. Engraving by Bedřich Housa.
- 4 Kčs — Order of the Victorious February. Engraving by Miloš Ondráček.
- 5 Kčs — Order of Labour. Engravers Ladislav Jirka and Jiří Bouda (only Jirka's name is shown on the stamp).

The Orders and Decorations shown are the highest ones, conferred either on the eve of the Mayday Labour Day and the 9th of May State holiday, or on other important occasions, such as personal anniversaries.



On the 20th January 1987 one stamp was issued to commemorate the 1987 "WORLD CYCLOCROSS CHAMPIONSHIP."

The value of the stamp is 6 Kčs, engraving is by Josef Herčík. The design is by Radana Hamsíková-Podzemná; she is the daughter of Anna Podzemná-Sucharďová, who has been the designer of a number of Czech postage stamps, many of them with sports themes.

The rotary recess printing process was used, combined with multicolour photo-engraving in sheets of 50 stamps. The pictorial part measures 40×23mm. Printing by Tiskárna spořů in Prague.

The Championship is held near the town of Mladá Boleslav in Central Bohemia. The stamp shows a cyclocross racer and symbolically the route of the race in the colour scheme employed by the international cycling association U.C.I.



HENRY HAHN TO BE APPOINTED PRAGA 88 COMMISSIONER

The American Philatelic Society has nominated Henry Hahn to serve as U.S. Commissioner to PRAGA '88. According to article 20.1 of the General Regulations of the FIP for Exhibitions, nominations of national commissioners are made by participating countries, subject to acceptance by the host country's organizing committee.

PRAGA 88 will take place in Prague, Czechoslovakia under the patronage of the International Federation of Philatelists from August 28 to September 5, 1988. The year will mark the 70th anniversary of the foundation of Czechoslovakia and the issuance of the first Czechoslovak postage stamp. PRAGA 88's motto is "POSTAGE STAMPS AND PHILATELY — A WORLD OF KNOWLEDGE AND PEACE." The World Postage Stamps Exhibition PRAGA 88 will be located primarily in the Congress Hall in the Julius Fučík Park of Culture and Rest, in the exhibition hall "U hybernů" and in the Riding School of the Prague Castle. On view will be outstanding exhibits of collectors from all over the world, in competition and non-competition classes, as well as a review of separate displays of stamp-creation by foreign postal administrations. The Czechoslovak Department of Communications will present, in the expositions of the Federal Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications and the Postal Museum, the 70-year history of Czechoslovak postage stamp creation, an outline of the history of the postal system, and, in cooperation with the National Galleries of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, a separate exhibition "Art and the Postage Stamp."

Within the framework of the exhibition there will be a large number of international philatelic, social and other meetings. A broad range of special postage stamps will be issued on occasion of PRAGA 88 beginning in June 1986 and up to the time of the exhibition. The first of these is a special exhibition block issued on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the International Federation of Philatelists, having as the subject the history of posts and the promotion of PRAGA 1988. The author of the block, the first day cover, and the special cancellation is the academic painter and graphicist Vladimír Kovařík, who is also the author of the PRAGA 1988 exhibition emblem.

AN UNIQUE "POSTA 1919" INVERT?

By J. L. Klein

One of the fascinations about the "POSTA CESHOSLOVENSKA 1919" overprint series is the possibility of finding hitherto unrecorded varieties, even after almost seventy years. And, recently in a POFIS auction sale, I was fortunate enough to acquire one of those "sleepers," which was simply described as a block of 4 of the 40f Queen Zita with inverted overprint.

The delightful part of this episode is the fact that this block carried a combination of overprint types that occurs only in Plate II, positions 13 and 14/23 and 24. As indicated in Monografie 2, this Plate 2 had been prepared for use on the 2f orange Newspaper stamp only.



Positioning of Types

1 1
4 3

Thus, I found myself not only with an unrecorded (in Monografie 2) usage of Plate 2, but in inverted position as well! It pays for one to keep one's eyes "peeled" for happenstances like this.

I should point out that Monografie 2, having now been in print for some sixteen years, naturally will not record later discoveries. As a matter of fact, the usage of Plate II has been known to experts such as Jan Karásek on at least two non-designated stamps: the above 40f Queen Zita and also the 20f King Charles IV stamp. For those interested in these things, an "X" can be inserted in the appropriate spaces in the chart on page 116 of Monografie 2, as an updating.

FROM THE EDITOR

You will all have noticed the change of editor, and perhaps many of you will also have noticed a shorter issue of the SPECIALIST than usual. No doubt somewhat disappointing to you, but more so to me for my first issue.

However, if the material is not there, what can your editor do? I am sure you read in the February issue the appeal letter from our President. In view of that and my subsequent comments, I feel that we must revitalize the SPECIALIST. That can only be done by you, the members themselves.

Some figures on membership: since I joined in 1970, some 586 new members have joined, yet our total membership stood at only 339 as of last November.

Of members with numbers

from 800-900	only 15% remain
from 900-1000	only 29% remain
from 1000-1100	only 31% remain
from 1100-1200	only 34% remain
from 1200-1300	only 40% remain
from 1300-1400	only 54% remain
from 1400-1479	we have already lost 7 members.

Have we not come up to expectation? If we haven't, please write to me with suggestions for improvement and/or change you wish to see implemented. I apologize for the more than fair share of my own articles in the March issue, but lack of material was the reason for that. Hoping to hear from you and give it your best.

I'll try!!!

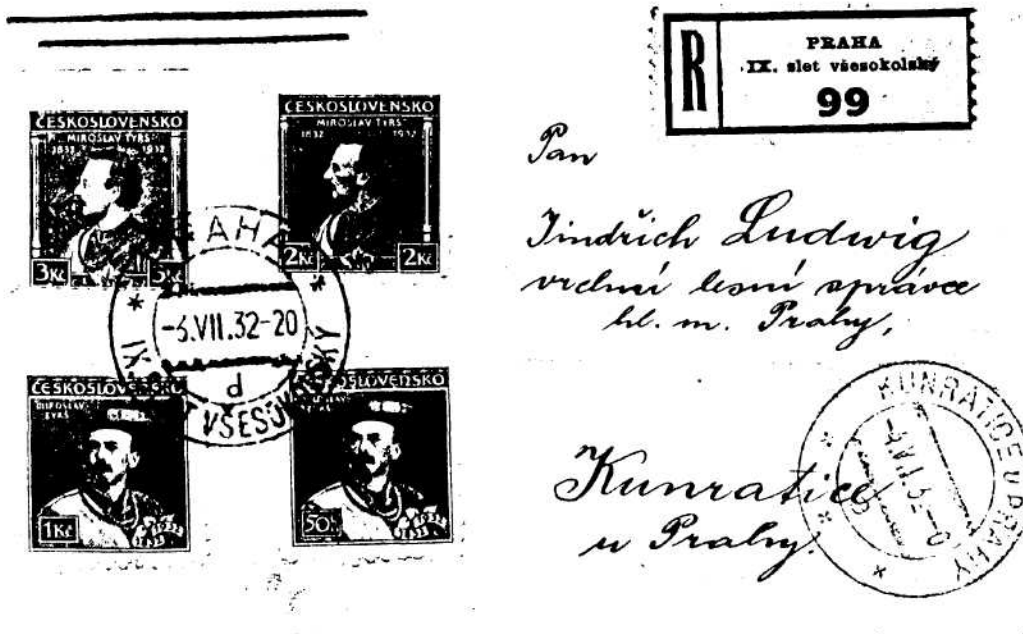
G.M. v.Z.

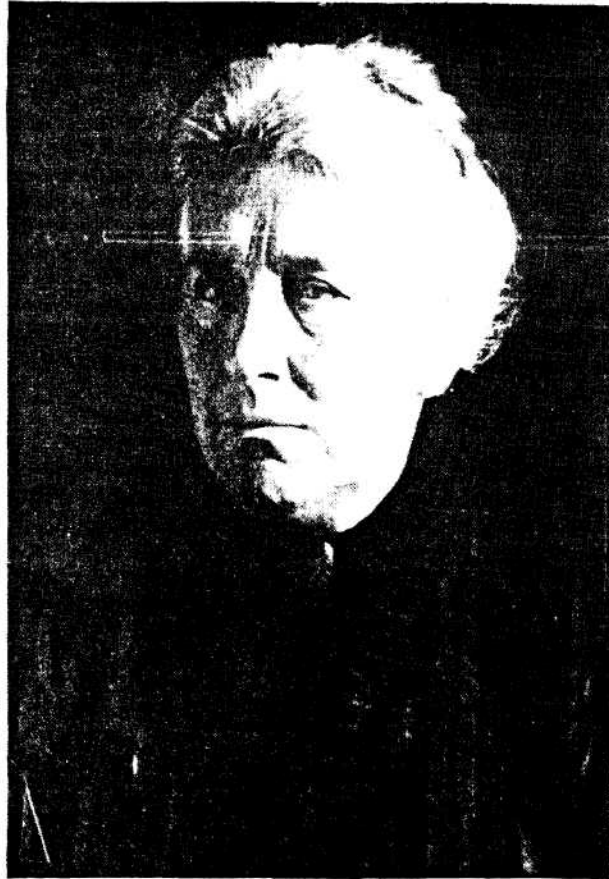
SOKOL IX SLET PRAHA 1932

This interesting card came my way recently. Not only does it bear a clear cancellation as well as a datestamp showing its arrival time the next day, but also the Sokol Registration label.

On the reverse we have a photo of Mrs. Tyršova, her autograph and date 30th June 1932.

G.M. v.Z.





30. 6. 1932 R. Tyšovi

MIXED PERFORATIONS ON THE AUSTRIAN SPECIAL DELIVERY STAMPS OF 1917

By Zenek Kvasnička — Translated and Edited by J. J. Verner

Austria issued special delivery stamps twice. The first issue appeared in October 1916, triangular in form, with values of 2 and 5 hellers. The second issue was horizontal oblong in form, has the same values, and appeared in 1917. Both issues were valid at the end of World War I and continued to be used in the successor states.

In Czechoslovakia the validity of all Austrian stamps, including the special delivery stamps, came to an end on February 28, 1919. The remaining stocks of Austrian stamps were returned by post offices to the Postal Management Center (Postovní hospodarska ustredna) in Praha where, after sorting and accounting, they were made available for

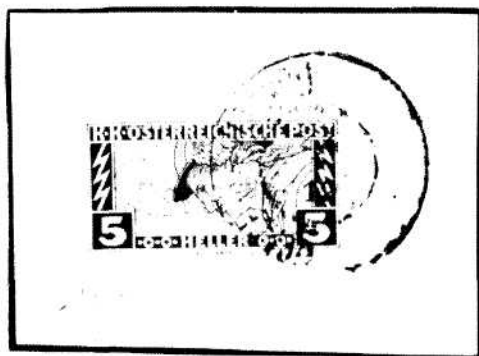
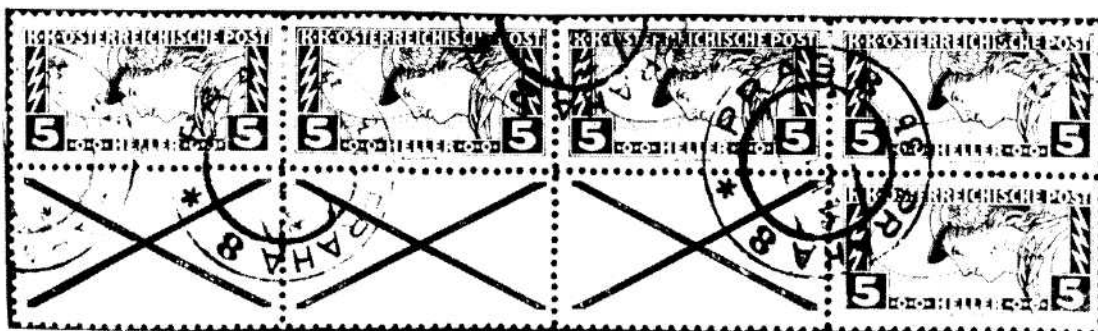
overprinting with the text POSTA CESKOSLOVENSKA 1919. Only a small quantity of special delivery stamps of the first issue were returned. This was particularly true of the 5 heller triangle which was no longer postally valid. On the other hand large quantities of the second issue remained. These stamps with the POSTA overprinted remained on sale, with the usual 50% surcharge, for a long time at the philatelic window at the Main Post Office in Praha. These facts are well known to philatelists.

This article wishes to note the mixed perforations $11\frac{1}{2}:12\frac{1}{2}$ and $12\frac{1}{2}:11\frac{1}{2}$ which have not been heretofore included in the listing of Czechoslovak forerunner stamps. The probability of these stamps having been used on the territory of Czechoslovakia both before and after October 28, 1918 certainly exists. This probability is underscored by the existence of stamps with these perforations with the POSTA overprint. The Czechoslovak POFIS Catalog lists them as follows:

57C 2h $11\frac{1}{2}:12\frac{1}{2}$ Kcs 1200 57D 2h $12\frac{1}{2}:11\frac{1}{2}$ Kcs 1200
 58C 5h $11\frac{1}{2}:12\frac{1}{2}$ Kcs 1000 58D 5h $12\frac{1}{2}:11\frac{1}{2}$ Kcs 1000

The attached illustration shows the bottom part of a sheet of five 5 heller stamps perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$ along with three coupons all bearing the PRAHA 8 cancel dated May 31, 1917. The bottom perforations of this piece measure $11\frac{1}{2}$. The other piece of evidence in the illustration is the 5 heller special delivery stamps that were used as a provisional postage due (note overprint) in Vrana nad Vltavou at the beginning of 1919. The stamp is perforated $12\frac{1}{2}:11\frac{1}{2}$. Even though both of these pieces of evidence have the smell of philatelists about them, they do illustrate the possible postal use of such stamps with mixed perforations in Czechoslovakia.

We would urge our readers to check their philatelic holdings for such mixed perforations. We would be interested in hearing of additional examples of their use on the territory of what is now Czechoslovakia both before and after October 28, 1918.



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