

# 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 & Praga '88

A. P. S. Unit 18

Vol. L

October 1988

No. 8, Whole No. 480

## SOCIETY MEMBERS SCORE AT PRAGA 88

By Henry Hahn

*(EDITOR'S NOTE: While passengers slept aboard Czechoslovak Airline's Flight #007 from Prague to New York's JFK Airport, Henry Hahn feverishly penned his notes on the big Show at Praga 88. As soon as they landed, Henry and Marilyn checked in at a New York hotel where Henry put finishing touches on his manuscript. The next morning it was expressed to your editor who had deliberately held up the presses to get the following report out to you in this issue.)*

Our Society came through with flying colors! While the Fourth International Stamp Exhibition to be held at Prague was indeed a success, the Society's share of awards copped by its individual members was anything short of spectacular.

The listing of PRAGA 88 awards presented below pertains only to those members of our Society who submitted their entries through the U.S. Commissioner. Members residing outside the U.S. generally participated through their respective Commissioners and our listing of such Awards must await a cross-check against the Society's membership roster. Therefore as far as total awards to all Society's members is concerned, this list is incomplete. Watch next month's issue for a more complete listing.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Exhibit Title</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Award</u>
Chesloe, C.	Czechoslovakia 1918-1939	Bb	Large Vermeil
Chesloe, C.	Czechoslovakia 1945-1965	Bb	Large Silver
Chesloe, C. & J.	Czechosl. 1918-1939; Proofs & Essays	Aa	Non-Competitive
Fischmeister, L.	Czechosl. Specialized	Bb	Large Vermeil plus Special Prize
Fischmeister, L.	Austria 1850-1867	Bc	Large Vermeil
Hahn, H.	Czechosl. Selected Pages from a Specialized Collection	Ac	Jury Class: Non-Competitive
Janečka, J.J.	Kde Domov Muj-A Specialized Study	Ad	Non-Competitive
Klein, B.	Czechosl. Dove & Liberated Republic Issue	Bb	Large Silver
Klein, B.	Carpatho-Ukraine 1800-1945	Bb	Large Silver
Pearce, C. J.	Legionaires Issue of Czechosl.	Bb	Silver

Riccio, D.	Carpatho-Ukraine	Bd	Large Silver
Sterba, J.	Czechosl. Military Post	Bd	Silver Bronze
Taylor, J.	Allied Intervention in Russia	Bd	Large Silver
<u>Name</u>	<u>Exhibit Title</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Award</u>
Theimer, E.	18th Century Austrian Empire- Postal Stationary	Be	Large Gold
Theimer, E.	Austria: Classical Issues	Ba	Large Gold
Torrey, G.H.	Hejaz, Nejd & Saudi Arabia	Bc	Large Gold
Verner, J.J.	Czechosl: Selected Pages from a Specialized Collection	Bb	Gold
Verner, J.J.	Czechosl: Siberian Field Post 1914-1921	Bd	Gold
Vondrak, J.	Austrian Post Offices in the Levant	Bc	Large Silver

Philatelic Literature

Hahn, H.	Postal History of Telc] & Environs		Jury Class; Non-Competive
Van Zanten, G.	The Czechoslovak Specialist		Silver Bronze

The Grand Prix National for the best exhibit of Czechoslovakia was won by former Society member Fred W. Hefer. Member J.L. Klein of the Netherlands received a Gold and Honorary Member Jan Karásek of Czechoslovakia received a Large Silver for his showing of Czechoslovakian Air Mails. A number of other members including Messrs. Hedbom and Asklund of Sweden, Kracjik of Switzerland, Senta Eugenia-Gran of Spain and Max Mahr of Germany also exhibited.

The above listing is incomplete and is based primarily on my recollection. Judging was carried

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out by a large international panel of judges and apprentices including Messrs. Sellers, Petersen and Hahn of the U.S.

Apart from the statistics, let me share with you a few general reflections. These consist mainly of spontaneous observations for the benefit of those who were unable to attend.

Our foremost impression is a joyous one. In contrast with CAPEX 87, where attendance was poor and publicity practically non-existent, PRAGA 88 was jammed with people of all ages - some standing in long lines patiently, as is the custom in Prague. They leave no doubt that philately is alive and well in Czechoslovakia and there is no lack of young enthusiasts.

Due to F.I.P. restrictions on the size of the show, PRAGA 88 was just about one half the size of PRAGA 78, but still large enough to keep most viewers from seeing the entire show.

The physical/mechanical arrangements were outstanding. Frames could be filled with the mounting surface in horizontal position. Security was superb - motion sensors on the Court of Honor and other valuable exhibits, television monitoring throughout, frames very hard to penetrate, security guards everywhere. Lighting was very good, though in a few areas there was an excess of sunlight - which was quickly adjusted. Arrangements for viewers could have been improved a bit by not directing the public into yet another long line to view rarities and non-competitive exhibits. The exhibit halls included no seating or refreshment areas available to the general public. Because of the unusually warm Prague weather, these halls - particularly the Brussels Palace - were too warm for comfort. But all that faded into the background on viewing the magnificent displays.

Judging took place in accordance with new F.I.P. rules and standards, utilizing scoring sheets for the first time on a "required" basis. While some resistance to these scoring sheets remains among jury members, a change in judging is indeed taking place and future exhibitors will need to understand them to avoid disappointment. Having participated on teams judging the Czecho National class and the Postal History class, I found it evident that good progress is being made in arriving at a sounder basis for judging the widely different types of exhibits now classed under F.I.P. This new criteria will lead to better philately through increased emphasis on knowledge, research and description of exhibits. (A presentation of the new criteria and rules will appear in a further issue of the Specialist). Though no jury is "perfect", the PRAGA 88 jury worked long and hard, fearlessly and, on occasion, brilliantly to insure objectivity.

The Palmares, which took place in Prague's Palace of Culture, was an elegant affair which differed drastically from similar festivities carried out in the West. The presentation of awards took place in a beautiful auditorium with accompanying musical fanfares. The podium was filled with PRAGA 88 organizers, judges and national commissioners presiding over the presentation of all awards above the large vermeil. The dinner portion was a standup affair and the fare was superb and plentiful. There was dancing and ample opportunity to chat with everyone. Some found this advantageous over the sit-down banquet in which there is little chance to circulate. However, a few found this rough on the feet since there was relatively little seating capacity.

An important and well-attended meeting was the Symposium of the Commission on the Czechoslovak stamp. Having been asked to address this meeting and not being able to attend because judging was taking place at the time, my wife, Marilyn, read the text of my address with due and proper emphasis, I was told. My remarks were amplified and expanded upon by Messrs. Hefer and Verner. Our remarks, which were immediately translated into several languages, were well received.

*(Pictures accompanying this article were delayed in processing and did not reach the editor in time for publication. They will appear in a subsequent issue.)*

## NEW MEMBERS

On page 13 of the June issue appeared a list of "Membership Roster Changes". This list is being corrected to the extent that member no. 1510 is John R. Gilgis, not T. Davidek. It is also being augmented as follows:

Membership Number	Name & Address	Membership Number	Name & Address
1502	John E. Evan P.O. Box 2533 Clearwater, Fl 34617	1508	Frank Danek 25-30 14th Place Astoria, NY 11102
1503	Ludvik Krejci 2422 4th Avenue North Riverside, Ill 60546	1509	Arthur Segal 7561 Battersby St. Philadelphia, PA 19152
1504	Joseph Coveney 5230 S. Freeman Rd. Orchard Park, NY 14127-3512	1510	John R. Gilgis P.O. Box G Fayetteville, MA 01745-0907
1505	W. D. Asher 1110 West Maryland Space 41 Phoenix, AZ 85013	1511	Peter H. Karas 41 High Park Ave. Toronto Ont. Canada M6P 2R5
1506	Eugene W. Friedrich Mid-Cliff Ruggles Ave. Newport, RI 02840	1512	Jr. Membership Robert Karas 41 High Park Ave. Toronto Ont. Canada M6P 2R5
1507	Dr. A. A. Sterns 1009 N. Ocean Blvd. Apt. 504 Pompano Beach, Fl 33062	1513	Michael W. Bowling 1334 Normandy Road Duncan, Okla. 73533

## HELP!

Can any of our members give me a clue as to the origin or cause of this unusual "plate flaw" on a Makulatura print of the 100h green Arts and Science stamp? The curved colorless "scratch" is caused by an absence of ink - it is not a paper scratch. This is interesting because of the similarity to an illustration technique sometimes used in magazine or newspaper articles. In this example, however, the ink and the inkish-colored paper are definitely "from" the Czech printing plant, not from the same periodical or book.



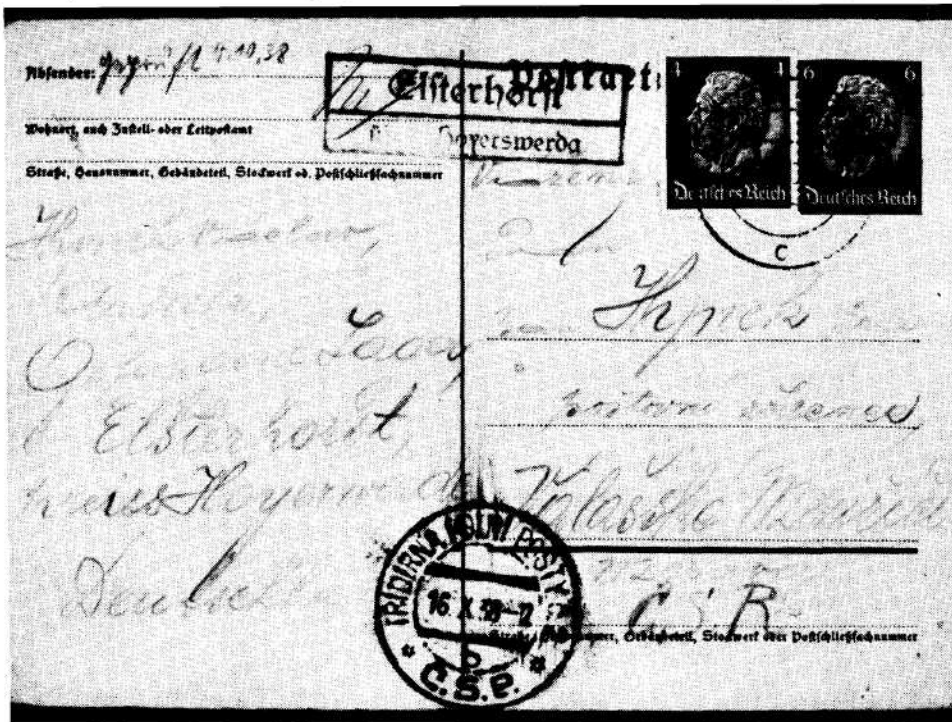
J. L. Klein

# PRISONERS OF AN UNDECLARED WAR

BY Dr. Vratislav Palkoska  
as translated and edited by Mirko L. Vondra

In pre-Munich Czechoslovakia, the Customs Guard was charged with security of its national borders. Its function consisted mainly of combatting smugglers and their activities. With the rise of Hitlerism in Germany, Nazi elements began infiltrating and fomenting border unrest. They circulated printed matter agitating against the Czech government and even distributed arms to Germans within the Czech border. To increase border security, the State promulgated a law creating a so-called Sentry for the Defense of the State (S.O.S. or Stráž Obrany Státu). Its members consisted of segments of the police, Customs guards, sentries, Army reservists and later, personnel and non-commissioned officers on active duty under 31 unit banners.

On Sept. 23, 1938, the day general mobilization was proclaimed, the Guard had over 29,600 members. They all had to confront a possible attack by the Germans organized into various military units within their own border. These units consisted of the Freikorps, the Schutzdienst, the Militärorganisation and others. They were being supplied arms from across the border through members of the S.S. and cooperating police. Following Hitler's provocative tirade of Sept 12 at Nurembourg against Czechoslovakia, a local war spread through-



out the area. Custom houses and military objectives were attacked on a regular daily basis.

In battles with these Germans, 70 members of the Guard were slain, about 180 were injured and 364 were captured and shipped to Germany. They were imprisoned at various locations like Eiberg, Elsterhorst, in barracks at Freiburg, Magdeburg and some even at the Sachsenhausen concentration camp.

Illustrated on the previous page is a postcard documenting the whereabouts of a member of the Customs Guard at Elsterhorst, Kreis Hoyerswerda. He sends a greeting dated Oct. 1, 1938 to Václav Hýnek, a supervisor of the Customs Guard at Valašské . In the upper Left-hand corner is a notation "Geprüft 4/10/38" and a ciphered censor. After an inordinate delay, the card reached Czechoslovakia on Oct. 16 together with so-called unusual mailings by the Czechoslovak fieldpost.

Not illustrated is a card from Magdeburg dated Oct. 10, 1938 addressed to Marie Procházková at Cifer u Trnavy. It reads: "Dear: I'm well and expect to return soon. Capt. Zábuzš Trnavy is here with me..... Thinking of you with love from Daddy." The return address is given as "František Procházka, Magdeburg, Kristallpalast, Leipziger Strasse 11/12 Germany."

This postcard was submitted by the son of the writer, Zdeněk Procházka at Vesekí nad Moravou. The text of the accompanying letter reads: "My father was a member of the police in 1938 when he was assigned to defend the border at the Šluknovsky Spur - Königswald. At that time he belonged to the Trnava district. There half the men at every station were summoned to the border. Some were designated as leaders of their S.O.S. company. On Sept. 9 a bus-load of an S.O.S. contingent and Customs Guards was attacked by a band of civilians with sub-machine guns, disarmed and whisked off to Germany. All of them were imprisoned at Magdeburg from whence my father was to write home a month later. After six months, he was allowed to return home. At Kristallpalast they were interrogated by young members of the S.S. and S.A. who administered some rough treatment. Toilet facilities were available only under heavy guard."

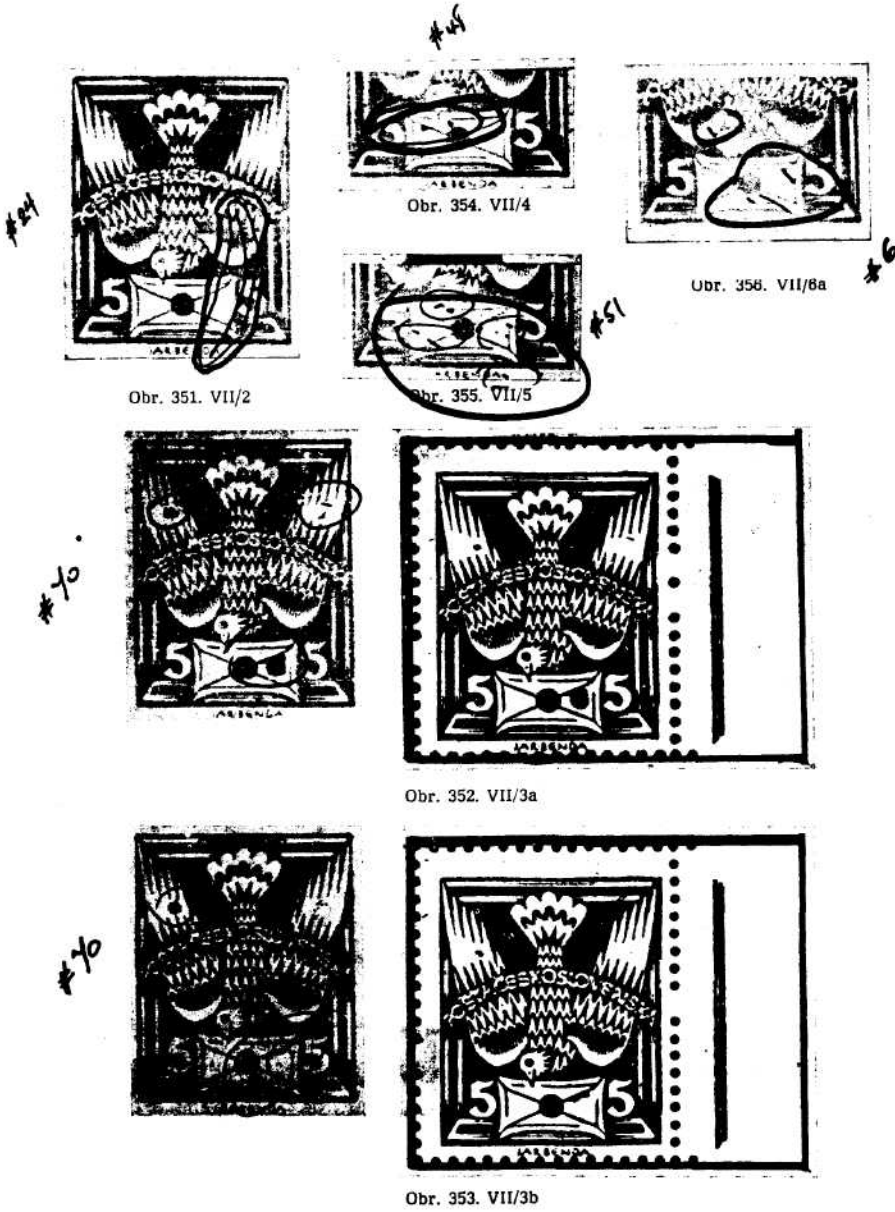
These were the first prisoners to be taken in an undeclared war by Germany against Czechoslovakia in Sept. 1938. In October, based on the dictates of the Munich accord to which the Czechs were not a party, the S.O.S. together with elements of the Czechoslovak Army, were compelled to clear out the border area, abandon their defense fortifications and surrender to a "peace for our time." This led to the bloodiest, costliest war the world was ever plunged into and resulted in the total defeat of Nazism and Fascism and a restoration of original boundaries with Germany. A wealth of philatelic material attests to the hardships and suffering of that period."



**THE DOVE**  
*Ninth Installment*

This is a continuation of the Allegory Chapter of Mongrafie II  
as translated by Vladimír Králíček

(page 224)



Position Marks	Description	Position of stamp	Plate	Blue - B Violet - V
	Primary retouches			
I/5 R(a)	Retouch between horizontal white sketchings in upper left corner	56	No markings without sheet margin frame	B
I/5 R(b)	Retouches between horizontal white sketchings; difference (A & B) is in form & in margins	56		V
II/2 R	Retouch of letters "KA"; right wing & nearby sketching; original fault IV/1 under letters "SLOV" remains intact	(73 ?)		V
IV/2 R	Upper part of letter "P" tapered; white line in front of lower part of letter "P"; letters "OŠT" thickened with irregular shading *	1	With narrow sheet margin frame	V
IV/3 R	Letters "POŠ" are irregular; white line in front of letter "T"	11	with narrow sheet margin frame	V
IV/4 R	Letter "P" tapered; letters "OŠT" repaired in lower part; vertical white line center of letter "A"	21	With narrow sheet margin frame	V
IV/5 R	All letters in "POSTA" repaired; shading of letters is joined with margin *	31	With narrow sheet margin frame	V
IV/6 R	Letters "PO" repaired; left arm of letter "A" is doubled & joined with letter "T" *	41	With narrow sheet margin frame	V
IV/7 R	Left part of letter "O" is thicker; letters "TA" wholly repaired *	51	With narrow sheet margin frame	V
IV/8 R	Letter "P" inclines toward "O"; letter "O" is smaller *	61	With narrow sheet margin frame	V
(Page 226)				
IV/9 R	Entire inscription "POŠTA" is "POSTA" is stronger; letter "O" irregular*	71	With narrow sheet margin frame	V
IV/10 R	Letter "P" thicker in lower part; letters "TA" elongated downward; letter "A" thicker on right	8	With narrow sheet margin frame	V
IV/11 R	Letter "O" thicker on	91	With narrow	V



	right side; "T" elongated downward; two colored vertical lines inside; "A" joined with "T"*		sheet margin frame	
VI/5 R	Retouch of left & right "5"; bolder print under both "5's"; corrected sketch of envelope; line at left of dove's beak & author's name; repaired pos. 56; retouch of 1/5 a & b	45	Blue-colored stamp without markings or sheet margin frame	B,V
VI/6 R	Left & right number "5" retouched; ( seen as a disfiguration)	45	Without marking or sheet margin frame; white spaces brighter	B
VII/1 R	Retouch of line under envelope; author's name, right wing, letters "NSK" & whole right portion of stamp; interrupted line in envelope remained intact-fault VII/1 at 100th stamp	100		V

ill. 360

\* With 5 h ( violet), plate with narrow sheet margin frame implemented with repairs of letters "POSTA" in left vertical border row ( stamps 1, 11, 21, 31, 41, 51, 61, 71, 81, 91.)



Obr. 358. 1/5 RB



Obr. 357. 1/5 RA



Obr. 359. IV/1 R



Obr. 359a. II/2 R

#1

#4/8R-4/11R  
#11-91



Obr. 360

(Page 228)

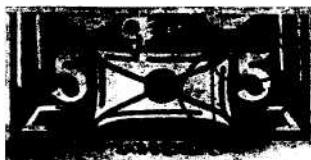


Obr. 360. IV/2 R  
IV/3 R  
IV/4 R

IV/8 R  
IV/9 R  
IV/10 R

IV/5 R  
IV/6 R  
IV/7 R  
IV/11 R

(Page 229)



Obr. 361. VI/5 R

#45



#45



Obr. 362. VI/8 R



#100



Obr. 363. VII/1 R

## PRAGUE'S SMALL MAIL

By Václav Konštant

Translated and edited for the Specialist by Mirko L. Vondra

In the course of developing strife, Emperor Josef II decreed on July 15, 1782 a reorganization of postal facilities in the Czech lands. He empowered František Garsie to form a small private mail delivery service in Prague. Garsie set up his facility in the Old City on Celetná Street in a building which today bears street number 559/14. At that time the only postal services were those administered by the State. They headquartered at Vlašském Náměstí in two houses numbered 71 and 72. The deliveries of small private mail was inaugurated on August 1, 1782 and continued uninterrupted until 1784. It was then placed under the supervision of the postoffice at Malá Strana.

A unique letter has survived from that early era. It had been posted as small private mail at Celetná 14 on August 11, 1783(See III. 1). The sender was the Prague municipal council for the New City. The reverse side bears a seal with the following text:

SIGILLUM MAIUS NOVAE URBIS PRAGENSIS METROPOLITANAE

Penned on the address side is the script "Am einem Löbliche Stadt Rath in Ungarisch Skalitz"; place of delivery "Von Prag"; plus the abbreviation "N. B." (Please note).

When the currency letter was delivered, 50 gold pieces had to be remitted at the postoffice in the presence of a postal clerk. The clerk then affixed four red wax seals to it with a legible text "K:K:PR:KLEINE:POST:OBER:AMT". (Main Postoffice of the Emperor's Small Mail in Prague)(See III. 2).

There is a fifth red wax seal on the reverse side showing someone's fingerprint. The currency letter had to be delivered as Registered Mail. Therefore the address side bears a notation "gegen Receptise N.B.". The Small Mail even collected a fee for delivery of the letter and designated its weight with a red ochre "L6" (six lotes). An entry on the side of the seals shows an additional tax

of 23 krejcaru (equivalent to our pennies) which the sender had to pay.

The Small Mail on Celetná Street could only make deliveries within a three-mile radius. To go beyond that, a letter had to be transferred to what was then the only State Postoffice. It was on Malá Strana. This Postoffice stamped the letter with a red date-of-delivery cancel bearing the words "Von Prag". Hand written in pen-and-ink was its original destination "per Wein" (to Vienna), which was subsequently crossed out and replaced with "per Brünne" (to Brno). Below that appeared the words "Mit 50 Ft.B.Z. beschwerte". Across all these notations was a large "X" mark in pen-and-ink attributed to the Small Mail office on Celetná Street. Presumably this signified that delivery of the parcel was fully paid for. We can



III. #1



III. #2

safely speculate that the mailing fee was collected by the Small Mail office, though a portion of it had to be transmitted to the State Postoffice at Malá Strana.

After 1784, the Small Mail office on Celetná Street functioned as a collection agency for the Postoffice at Malá Strana. Several letters have been preserved from that



III. #3

era, all of which are stamped with the familiar scrolled "P" in a thin circle (See III. 3).

At the beginning of 1821, the Small Mail office in Prague was closed and its service discontinued. Thus ended its short but remarkable interesting history.

We would like to hear from our members and friends if anyone has any authenticated covers from that Small Mail era. If so, write us what you know about it, enclose a clear black-and-white photograph of it and we will be glad to publish it in one of our forthcoming issues.



Type I



Type II

### THE CZECHOSLOVAK MUSIC SCENE - THE "BLACK LADY OF STRAŽ" FEBRUARY 26, 1878 - JANUARY 28, 1930

By G. M. van Zanten

She was born in Prague on February 26, 1878 as Emmy Kittl. A very gifted lady in later life, she was a singer, actress, dramatist, poet, and novelist. She studied under Marie Loewe-Destinn, and it is her name she later adopted, and so she is best known as Emma Destinn (in Czech, Ema Destinová).

She made her debut at the Kroll Opera in Berlin on July 19, 1898. It proved a highly acclaimed performance. Two months later she appeared at the Royal Opera. She performed until 1908 in Berlin, where she was much in demand as Carmen, Mignon, Salome, Gounod's Marguerite, and others.

Her international career commenced in 1901 with her role as Senta in the first Bayreuth "Flying Dutchman" by Wagner. On May 2, 1904 she performed at Covent Garden in London. Her first New York performance was in 1910 as Minnie in Puccini's "La Fanciulla del West" (The Girl of the Golden West). Until 1914, she sang regularly in London where she was very popular, especially in "Aida" by Verdi.



Type III

She also sang regularly at the Metropolitan. During World War I she returned to Bohemia, but no sooner had she arrived than she was interned by the Austrian government as they believed her to be a sympathizer of the growing Czech National movement. "In prisoned in her own castle which she had purchased in 1914, she lived in it, some 14 kilometers northeast of the town of Trebon at Straz nad Nezarka in a wooded area along Route 34."

After the war she had difficulties establishing herself. Her talent was slowly declining. In 1919 she appeared in "Aida" and "Un ballo in Maschera" at Covent Garden in the post-war era.

From 1919 to 1921 she made further appearances at the Metropolitan.

However her most emotional appearances were in Prague. Just prior to and after World War I, she sang in the role of Libuše, the heroine of Bedrich Smetana's opera of the same name. She also appeared as Mařenka in Smetana's "Bartered Bride" and as Milada in "Dalibor."

At one of her final appearances in London she sang arias from various Czech operas at Queen's Hall.

In 1923, she married a young officer of the Czechoslovak Air Force, Joseph Halsbach.

She made over 200 recordings. Some, even by today's standards, are quite impressive.

Emmy spent much of her life at her castle at Stráž nad Nežárka where she died on January 28, 1930. She then became known as the "BLACK LADY OF STRÁŽ" She was buried in Vyšehrad cemetery in Prague, along with many other outstanding Czech personalities.

In the set of stamps issued to commemorate 70 years of the National Theater on November 18, 1953 appears a blue black stamp with a value of 30h showing her likeness. The quantity printed was only 638,000. To make things more interesting, there are three different types of this particular stamp; (see Pofis catalog no. 757). The three types are illustrated in the Novotný catalog as well as in the Specialized Catalog (Specializovaná Příručka) and are illustrated here. The differences to be noted are the points in the lyre at the bottom left. The same instrument also appears on the 60h value for the 150th anniversary of the Prague Conservatory (see Pofis no. 1181).



I



II



III

As a point of information, Emmy wrote a book popular in her country about the history of the Stráž Chateau and her life during the years she occupied it. It is titled "In the Shadow of a Blue Rose."

Recently a movie called "Divine Ema" was filmed under the direction of Jiří Krejčík with Gabriele Benáčková playing the role of the heroine.

## **A LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

"Pork bellies may be a bit safer" is a quote attributed to Richard L. Sine, editorial director of Scott's Stamp Catalogue, in discussing the relative merits of collecting and investing in stamps, in an article in USA Today.

Greg Manning Auctions, Inc. of Montville, NJ joins the growing chorus of howling stamp traders by running a 4-column ad in Linn's (7/25/88) berating Richard L. Sine for suggesting that stamps are a poorer investment than a speculative future and telling us that Greg Manning will use the 1988 Scott vol I-IV and US Specialized instead of the 1989 edition which shows significantly lower prices for some stamps (British Commonwealth) than the 1988 edition.

Upon reflection, I see fairly good support for Dick Sine's statement, though Dick may not have been entirely serious. When my broker quotes pork bellies, I need not worry about percent of catalog, whether another broker might not be selling at a lower fraction, whether the pork bellies are fine or MNH, and I know I can sell tomorrow at a price no lower than the "limit" at the very worst. True, you can't put pork bellies in your exhibit; but as a pure investment, most stamps are long-term risks or sleepers.

Scott makes no claims to being a "net price" catalog and every savvy collector knows that he need not pay catalog price--in many cases not even 1/3 of catalog--for a stamp in very nice condition. Many collectors know they can buy a lot of British Commonwealth for 1/4, much Czecho for 1/3, etc. But what about the novice? The novice buying pork bellies pays the same as the old timer--the buyer need not generally "trust" the seller the way he does the stamp dealer, as he self-righteously cites Scott's Catalog price.

I'm reasonably sure that many collectors who overpay for a stamp do so because of the Scott catalog price since the catalog is used as a sales tool.

As a collector and very infrequent investor in stamps, I applaud Richard L. Sine and Scott's for initiating a much needed adjustment in the relationship between Scott's Catalog price and a realistic retail fraction of catalog price, as it currently varies from country to country. Cheap and only moderately rare stamps are well known to be an extremely poor investment in most instances. The price of most such stamps is heading downward. In my opinion, only expensive stamps, in general, offer some degree of safety though probably not as much as precious metals (futures) which are quoted daily.

Greg Manning and the stamp trade have not been raped by Scott's, though they may be forced to re-evaluate the value of their oversupply of some stamps. It will indeed be a pity if a similar downward catalog pricing of the more common Czecho does not follow. If it does, it may indeed have a beneficial effect on our



hobby by making Czech collecting by young and border-line collectors more affordable and thus relieve dealers and advanced collectors of the glut.

And rarities? The anticipation of PRAGA '88 and a shrinking handful of big spenders, mostly in Europe, has driven the price high enough to blind our good investing sense. But PRAGA '88 is now behind us, and interest will almost certainly diminish. Only THEN, hopefully aided by Scott's, we MAY encounter some reasonable purchasing opportunities "for the love of collecting" and possibly for investing. However, DO be careful and don't turn in your pork bellies for stamps when it comes to investing.

HENRY HAHN

*(Your editor invites commentaries on this letter).*

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