

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY YEAR THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

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THE BIG YEAR

This is the start of the Society's fiftieth anniversary year!

The Society was founded by a young commercial artist named Joseph W. Lowey in March 1939. It was then called the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of North America.

Impetus for the formation of the Society came as a result of the Munich accords under which England and France joined in sanctioning Hitler's dismemberment of Czechoslovakia. It was the first major step toward the eventual outbreak of World War II. Czechs in America, especially those of Jewish extraction, saw the handwriting on the wall and organized the Masaryk Club in New York. Its director, Joseph Stein, was himself a philatelist and Lowey contacted him and others of similar interests in the Club to help him organize the Society. In Jan. and Feb. of 1939, Lowey was actively pursuing his dreams and by March the Society was formally established.

Your present editor, then a college student, met Stein on several occasions and was urged to join the Society. Had it not been for the fact that he himself was deeply involved in a politically active organization, the American Czechoslovak Foundation, he might have been present at some of the Society's initial meetings. But that is another story.

The fifty-year history of our Society will hopefully be the subject of an article to be published in a few months. At this point in time, we might do well to reflect that those first fifty years were at times as turbulent for the Society as the Great War was for the whole world. In the late sixties, things got so bad that the Society had to be reorganized. It was given a new name - Society for Czechoslovak Philately - and a new set of Bylaws. Still there was some friction between the East and the West - between the Chicago Chapter and the New York and Washington Branches - that persisted until fairly recently. At a Board meeting held at this editor's home in Lancaster, Pa. on Nov. 12, 1988, the two sides acknowledged that they should, can and will act in harmony toward more productive philatelic goals. Hopefully this will continue on a permanent basis.

As an initial step in furtherance of that unity, President Chesloe announced the Board's decision to participate in two national shows in this, its anniversary year. (See article that follows). Society members and friends all over the world are urged to exhibit at both shows and attend either or both if they can.

The Board of Directors thanks its members for the support they have shown and will continue to show especially in this fiftieth anniversary year.

-Mirko L. Vondra, Editor.

ANNIVERSARY SHOW AND AUCTION

The focal point of Czechoslovak philately will occur later this year when our Society will actually celebrate its fiftieth anniversary. The festivities will take place at two W.S.P. shows in the Fall.

The first exhibition and regional meeting will be at INDYPEX in Indianapolis on Sept. 15, 16 and 17. The exhibition and theme will consist of the turbulent period of Czechoslovakia during 1938 and 1947. Emphasis will be on the Sudetenland, on Bohemia and Moravia, on Slovakia and on the Carpatho-Ukraine as well as the transitional period of 1945-1947. Dealers having this type of material are encouraged to participate inasmuch as collectors of Czechoslovakia and Third Reich material are bound to be present.

The culmination of the fiftieth anniversary celebration will take place at SEPAD near Philadelphia on Oct. 6, 7 and 8. There we will feature traditional Czechoslovak philately and postal history. Mrs. Hedy Lowey, widow of the Society's founder, Joseph Lowey, will be our guest of honor at the banquet.

There will also be an auction at SEPAD featuring exclusive and valuable material from all periods of Czechoslovakia. Viewing of the lots as well as catalogs will already be available at INDYPEX. Anyone interested in acquiring an auction catalog should place his or her advance order by writing to Charles Chesloe, 8300 South Wolf Road, Willow Springs, Ill. 60480. Non-members interested in joining the Society may also write him for information.

- Charles Chesloe, President

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THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST, 1511 Clearview Ave., Lancaster, PA 17601

Editorial Office

Managing Editor: Mirko L. Vondra, 1511 Clearview Ave., Lancaster, PA 17601

Assistant Editor: Gerald van Zanten, P.O. Box 159, Napier, New Zealand

Literary Editor: Frank Julsen, 8721 Via La Serena, Paradise Valley, AZ 85253

Advertising Manager: Jack Benchik, P.O. Box 555, Notre Dame, IN 46556

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UMĚNÍ A ZNÁMKA - ART AND THE POSTAGE STAMP

by Gerald M. van Zanten

ANTONIN MANES
1784 - 1843

AND

JOSEF MANES
1820 - 1871

Antonin Mánes was a co-founder of modern Czech landscape painting. He began his studies at the Prague Academy in 1803. When a School for landscape painting opened in Prague in 1806, he transferred there in order to tutor under Karel Postl, a famous Czech landscape painter and teacher. Starting in 1836, Antonin worked there as a teacher. When poverty stopped him from carrying on his studies, he found work in the Prague pottery factory as a painter. Slowly his achievements became more artistic, leaning to the romantic and lyrical with strong hints of the picturesque Czech countryside.



Figure 1a

For many years he worked on the famous cycle of Czech Castles. Unfortunately only a few landscape studies from this cycle remain in Czechoslovakia. The others have been dispersed among art collectors throughout the world. There was a beautiful calendar in 1985 which showed three of these paintings: A View of Prague Castle from the East (1821 detail), Kokořín (1839 detail) and Křivoklat (1849 detail). In addition, the calendar showed a view of Karlštejn done by his teacher, Karel Postl. Though available, these calendar sheets are too large to reproduce here.

Antonin had three children a daughter, Amalia, and two sons, Josef and Quido, all of whom continued in his footsteps. But only Josef attained his father's prominence.



Figure 1b

Josef was born in May 1820. His works can be considered the first truly national paintings. Like his father, he started out with landscape paintings. Next he tried his hand at portraits. In 1850, there followed an outpouring of his classical oils of which only about fifty have survived. Josef travelled widely across Moravia, Slovakia, Silesia and even Poland and many of his drawings are based on the lives of the people he met along the way. He always depicted villagers and townspeople, particularly mountain folk. These drawings are quite vivid and remarkable.

Between 1852 and 1854, he and his brother Quido contemplated creating a "Gallery of Slavonic Costumes and Ethnographic Groups". Josef made detailed studies of clothing for the project. Through these studies evolved his illustrations for folk songs.

A large number of Czechoslovak stamps have been issued over the years either honoring or having some connection with Josef Mánes. The first of these appeared in the National Anthem Music Sheets of 1934 - a direct result of studies of folk songs and folk costumes. (see Fig. 1a). After that came the Child Welfare Issue showing a country folk family. (see Fig. 1b).

From 1850 on, Josef did more and more portrait work,



Figure 2



Figure 3

including the well-known "Josefina" shown on the 2kčs of the PRAGA '68 set. This portrait has sometimes been likened to Leonardo da Vinci's "Mona Lisa" (see Fig. 2).

Then he again returned to his landscapes. He liked exotic places - cliffs, castles, forests, - creating romantic stories in his paintings. He was by then considered a master of Czechoslovak artwork, but no large assignments came his way, so his talent was never fully realized.

His last big task was the twelve-medallion calendar for the Orloj on the Old Town Hall in Prague portraying common citizens and ordinary people. Its unveiling took place in 1866, just five years before his death on December 9, 1971. At present, only a copy of that work is on view at the

Orloj.

Let us now have a look at stamps relating in some way to the Josef Mánes theme. The first of these was issued in 1929, commemorating 1,000 years of the martyrdom of St. Václav. (See Pofis no. 246 & 247, Scott no. 162 & 163. See also Fig 3). The engraving was done by K. Seizinger with his "KS" mark shown at the bottom of the gate. For details, refer to "Hidden Engraver's Marks on Czechoslovak Stamps" by Joseph Stein, May 1973 issue, page 75.

The next set was the now much-desired National Anthem sheets, a pair of stamps from the 2kčs sheet being shown in Fig. 1a. The picture is much in keeping with the music and shows the engraver was K. Seizinger and his mark is shown as "M" for Mánes in the left corner and an upside down "S" in the upper bush in center of stamp. Only 12,900 of the 1kčs value of the sheets were printed and 9,600 of the 2kčs value.



Figure 4

In 1936, the Child Welfare set was issued on April 4. The 50h and 2kčs designs show "January", a detail of the picture cycle "Twelve Months." The 1kčs pictures one of the details from the Old Town Orloj, also called "January". The stamps were engraved by B. Heinz and his mark is shown as "HB" on both stamps. See if you can find it. They were printed in quantities of 921,098 and 567,070 respectively. In this set, too, Mánes' talent as a portrait and costumes artist shines brilliantly. (See Pofis nos. 295, 296 & 297; Scott nos. B144, B145 & B146. See also Fig. 1b).

"St. Jiří (St. George) Slaying the Dragon" (Victory) is his next subject for a stamp. There were two stamps and a miniature sheet of the same design issued on May 5, 1946. Engraving was by Jindra Schmidt; the stamps were issued with labels showing a linden branch with a ribbon bearing the text: "Pravda Vítězí" (Truth Prevails). This also appears on the miniature sheet in a slightly different form. (See Pofis nos. 433, 434 & 435; Scott nos. B156, B157 & B158. See also



Figure 5a

fig. 4). Of the miniature sheet (not illustrated), there exist two different types. The original of the work is housed in the National Gallery in Prague and measures 166.5 x 194 cms.

In 1953, Josef Mánes appears for the first time in a set of two identical stamps - a 60h brown and a 1.20kčs blue. They were issued on November 28. Design was by K. Svolinsky and engraving by J. Schmidt. Quantities of 3,915,000 and 300,000 respectively were printed. (See Scott nos. 627 & 628. See also Fig. 5a).



Figure 5b

On February 17, 1970, we meet Josef again - this time in the company of prominent personalities. It is a 40h brown stamp designed by K. Svolinsky and engraved by L. Jirka. A total of 4,515,000 stamps were printed. There were five other stamps in the set - all 40h; all famous personalities. (See Scott no. 1672. See also Fig. 5b).

The following year we are treated to yet another of his works. It is part of the Art Series

issued on November 29, 1971. This time we see a girl in folk costume from what I believe to be the Ostrava region. Her name is Veruna Čedová. The original of this painting hangs in the National Gallery in Prague, was painted in 1845 and measures 39 x 25.5 cms. The 1.80kčs stamp was issued in sheets of four, of which a total of 92,600 were printed. The engraver was J. Herčík. (See Scott no. 1782. See also Fig. 6).



Figure 6

In the PRAGA '78 series of "Prague Bridges" appears the "Mánesův Most" (Mánes Bridge) which was constructed between 1911 and 1916. Just across from the bridge is the "Dům Umělců" (House of Artists) which is now the home of the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra. Outside this building stands a handsome statue of Josef Mánes, paint brush in right hand and pallet in left. The bridge stamp has a face value of 2kčs. The House of Artists is shown on the right and one of the embellishments of the bridge on the left.



Figure 7

The stamp was issued on May 30, 1978 and a total of 4,800,000 were printed. J. Švengsbir was responsible for the art work. (See Scott no. 2182; also Fig. 7).

In the PRAGA '78 series is a souvenir sheet showing the famous Orloj on the Old Town Hall mentioned earlier. It consists of twelve inner medallions with the signs of the zodiac and twelve outside ones depicting traditional scenes from rural life. This sheet is available in two versions, both of 10kčs value. The perforated sheet was printed in quantities of 290,900; the imperf had a printing of 155,000. Design was by A. Podzemná; engraving by M. Ondráček. Though issued on June 20, 1978, only the perforated sheet was postally valid. The non-valid imperf sheet has blue marginal inscriptions and a red PRAGA '78 emblem. It was sold only with the PRAGA admission ticket.



Figure 8

A word on the background of the Orloj. It was placed on the tower of the Old Town Hall in 1410. Around 1490, it was repaired by



figure 9



Figure 10



Figure 11



Figure 12

On the PRAGA '68 Airmail stamps issued on October 30, 1967, there is a panoramic view of the City on the 5kčs. Prominent is the Novoměstská Vodárna (New Town Waterworks) in orange color. To the right of that tower on the site of a former mill can be seen the Mánes Building of 1930, now the seat of the Union of Czechoslovak Artists. (See Scott no. C65. See also Fig. 11).

Another subject for a Josef Mánes theme is the pseudo-Romanesque cast iron grille designed by him around the Holy Rood Chapel (Rotunda) on the corner of Konviktská and Karolíny Světlé. (See Fig. 13).*

As you will have gathered by now, Josef Mánes played an important part in Czechoslovakia's world of the arts and, thanks to these stamps, we are able to share part of that heritage.

Bibliography:

"Walks Through Prague"
by Karel Plička & Emanuel Poche

"Czechoslovak Life" magazines.

"PRAHA" by Josef Ehm.

Pofis & Scott catalogs.

*Fig. 13 - Courtesy of Die Osterreichisch - Ungarische Monarchie im Wort und Bilb (Bohmen).

the clockmaker, Master Hanuš, who is thought to have constructed the original clock. Repairs were carried out again in 1864-1865, when it was provided with painted decorations of a calendarium, the work of Josef Mánes. The Astronomical clock was badly damaged by fire when retreating Germans attempted to destroy the Old Town Hall in 1945. It was reconstructed in 1948 and is now one of the main attractions in Prague.

The stamps themselves, of which there are five, show the individual details of the 10kčs souvenir sheet. Starting with the 1kčs, we see the clock itself. The 2kčs shows the center of the dial bearing the coat of arms of Prague. Grape harvesting is shown on one of the outer medallions on the 3kčs stamp. The 3.60kčs portrays one of the signs of the zodiac which forms part of the inner medallions. (See Pofis nos. 2323, 2324, 2325 & 2326; Scott nos. 2186, 2187, 2188 & 2189. See also Fig. 8, 9, 10 & 11).

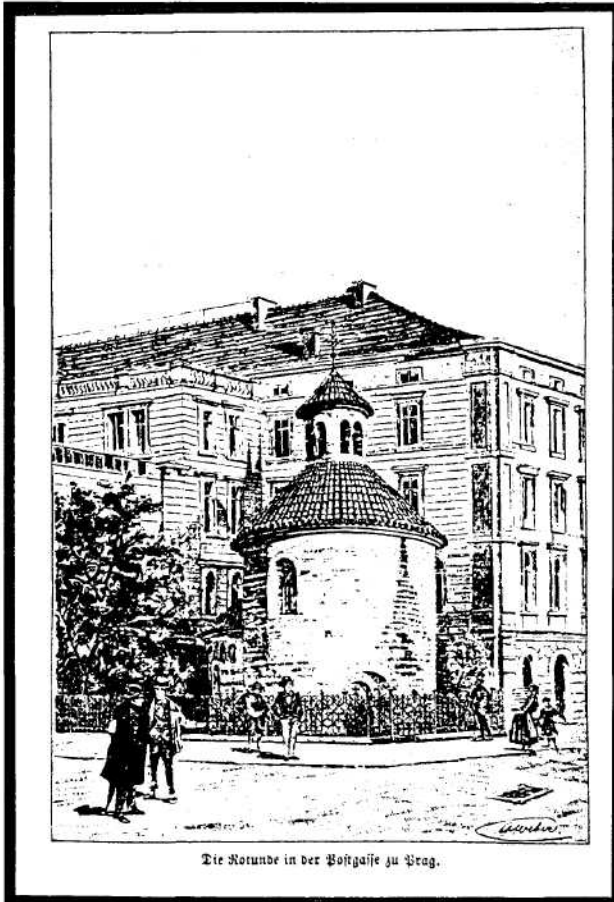


Figure 13

THE DOVE
TWELFTH INSTALLMENT

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

(Page 241)

Position Marks	Description	Stamp Position
Production faults (Incidental)		
VI/1	Numeral "2" damaged in lower right-hand corner and loop of "2" partly filled in.	
VI/2	Numeral "2" damaged in lower left-hand corner	
VI/3	Numeral "2" damaged in lower left-hand corner; lower part extends deep into stamp's left corner.	
VI/2	Suffused wing	
VI/4	Spot above right-hand numeral.	



Obr. 407a. II/2



Obr. 407b. VI/4



Obr. 408. VI/1



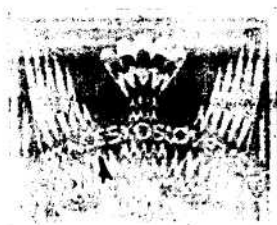
Obr. 409. VI/2



Obr. 410. VI/3



In comparison with the other values, 20h stamps have a characteristic difference in the design sketch of the dove's left wing. The sheets of that denomination, both type I and II, have small notches in the lower part of the wing in all 100 positions. It is a relatively small fault which originated on the printing block from which the auxiliary arrangement was constructed with the 100 positions necessary to produce the printing plate. The above-mentioned fault (difference) also appears on the tête-bêche stamps (see Fig. 410a).



Obr. 410a

(Page 243)

Position Marks	Description	Stamp Position
Primary Retouches		
I/1 R	Upper margin repaired; whole margin weakened	2
I/2 R	Upper margin repaired; margin gradually weakened from left to right.	23
I/3 R	Upper margin repaired; whole upper margin strengthened; strengthening proceeds for a short distance downward in the upper right corner.	
II/1 RA	Repairs to stamp's left side; horizontal white sketching repaired; ends weakened; whole of left wing repaired as well as letter "TA" in "POŠTA"; end of numeral "2" touches numeral "O"	21
II/1 RB	As in retouch II/1 RA; however, vertical decorative sketching touches left numeral "2".	21



Obr. 411. I/1 R



Obr. 412. I/2 R

Obr. 413. I/3 R

#23



Obr. 414. II/1 RA

Obr. 415. II/1 RB

Position Marks	Description	Stamp Position
Secondary Retouches		
VII/1 RA	Retouch of spot in envelope (fault VII/1); traces remain in envelope's lower margin and on horizontal line in envelope.	33.
VII/1 RB	Retouch of spot in envelope; traces remain in envelope; horizontal line only.	33.
VII/1 RC	Retouch of spot in envelope; lower margin of envelope shows substantial arching to left of original fault and on horizontal line in envelope are remains of original fault.	33.
VII/1 RD	Retouch of spot in envelope; traces of repair in lower margin of envelope partly to left of original fault.	33.
VII/1 RE	Retouch of spot in envelope; envelope's margin arching left from original fault and traces of spot on horizontal line in envelope.	33.

POSTAGE DUE PROVISIONALS

*By Tomáš Morovics
Translated by Mirko Vondra*

We are all familiar with the attempts made by postal authorities in Czechoslovakia during the years 1918-1919 to create postage due stamps out of regular issue stamps of Austria, Hungary and Czechoslovakia. This of course was due to the shortage of Czechoslovak stamps following the establishment of its independence. These provisionals originated in various local postoffices in many different ways. Generally, regular stamps were overprinted with a "T", "P", "PORTO" or even with a handwritten word "Doplatné." They made for an interesting chapter in the history of Czechoslovak mail. From a literary standpoint, this area of interest has been documented in the journal "Český Filatelista" through the research of Ing. Šuly and in "Filatelie" through Ing. Šrámek.

Provisionals of this type are also found at a later date. Illustrated here are three pieces from the years 1930-1931. It is evident that the franking did not come about because of any "maché", but rather because of a limited supply of postage due stamps.



Figure 1

Fig. 1 shows franking of a 5 kčs postage due along with the stamps of T. G. Masaryk. The three 1 kč are the red Masaryks; the single 50 h is the comon green. These four regular stamps were used as postage dues along with the 5 kčs. Thus their purpose was totally altered. This

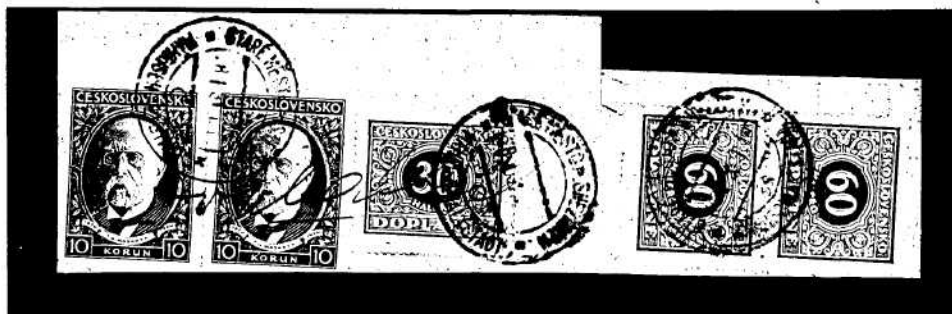


Figure 2

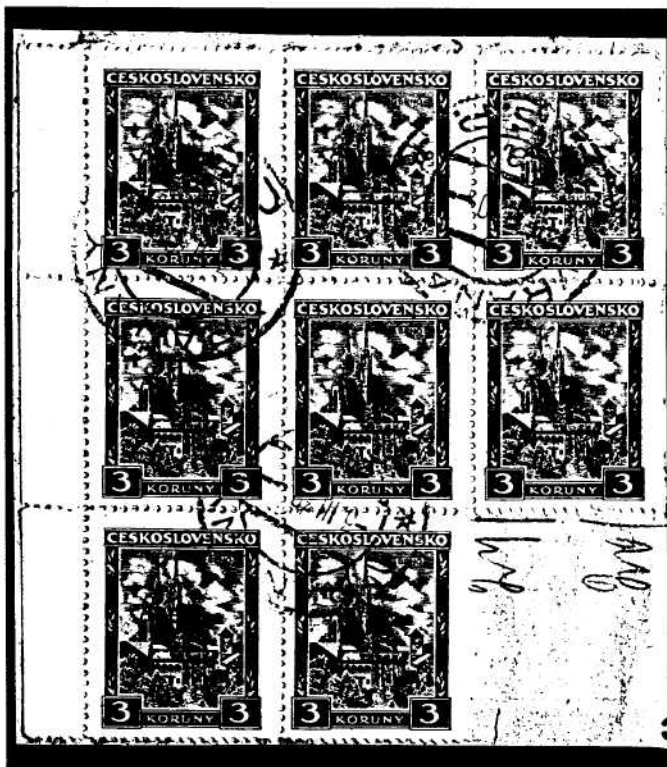


Figure 3

case of the use of regular stamps as postage due provisionals.

All of these provisionals when shown to be used during those time periods deserve a place in the sun and a conspicuous spot in any serious collector's exhibit.

franking occurred on June 23, 1930 at the Dolní Bojanovice postoffice.

Fig. 2 illustrates unique mixed franking which was dated January 28, 1931 at the postoffice of Staré Město pod Sněžníkem. Two 60 h and one 30 h postage dues were correctly used. A high denomination postage due was missing. To compensate for this, a pair of 10 kčs gray black Masaryks was added. Note the word "Doplatné" written across them in ink. A piece like that one serves to enhance any specialized collection!

Finally there is an example in Fig. 3 of postage due use by the postoffice at Vraňany on March 3, 1930. Here an 8-block of the regular 3 kčs Brno in brown was used to collect 24 kčs in postage due without the use of a single postage due stamp. This is an extreme

APOLOGIES TO YOUNG TOM

In last month's issue (Dec. 1988, page 13), we honored Thomas Austin as Member of the Month.

Being no mathematical giant, your editor noted that he was born in 1909 and innocently announced that this year he will be ninety years old. My apologies to you, Young Tom, for overstating your age by ten years.

- M. L. V.

NEW ISSUES

(After an unfortunate lapse of several months, our source in Czechoslovakia has finally come through with some data on new issues. Your assistant editor has been busy restoring this column to our publication through numerous contacts in Prague. Hopefully a more steady and continuous flow of information will now enable us to provide you with facts about new issues on a more regular basis).

On January 1, a 50h stamp was issued to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Czechoslovak Federation. Graphic layout of the stamp based on an original work of academic sculptor Jarmila Truhliková-Spěváková is by academic painter and graphic artist Rostislav N. Vaněk. Engraving was by Miloš Ondráček. Rotary recess print was combined with multi-color photogravure in sheets of 100 stamps measuring 19



Figure 1

x 23 mm. A very interesting work of art was chosen for the theme of this stamp - an artistic rendering of a 500 Kčs commemorative silver coin by Czech artist and sculptor Jarmila Truhliková-Spěváková who was born in 1940. The coin was issued on October 28, 1988 on the



Figure 2

occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Constitutional Law of the Czechoslovak Federation. The renowned stamp designer, Rostislav Vaněk, who was born in 1945, used the obverse of the coin for the theme of the stamp picture - a branching linden tree in full bloom (symbol of Czechoslovakia) with the outlines of the Czechoslovak State shown in tricolor (another national symbol). The space within the state boundaries bears the inscription "1969-1989 Federative Arrangement" in Czech. (See Fig. 1).

On January 2, a set of four stamps was issued to commemorate the Paris - to-Dakar Rallye. All of the stamps were designed by Petr Mišek, born in 1946.

Rotary recess print combined with multi-color photogravure was employed. The stamps are in sheets of 50 and the dimension of the picture image measures 40 x 23 mm. Both sets of stamps were printed at the Postal Printing Office in Prague. The individual stamps of this set as shown in Fig. 2 consist of:

1. 50h shows a LIAZ lorry and motifs in connection with the Rallye (Race). It was engraved by Václav Fajt.
2. 1Kčs again shows a lorry and motifs. It was engraved by Miloš Ondráček.
3. 2Kčs depicts a TATRA lorry and motifs. Engraving was by Miloš Ondráček.
4. 4Kčs also features a TATRA lorry and, in addition, a veiled head of a bedouin. Engraving was by Václav Fajt.

- Gerald M. Van Zanten
(Courtesy of ARTIA).

NEW SPECIALIZED HANDBOOK

The long awaited SPECIALIZOVANÁ PŘÍRUČKA made its debut at the time of the PRAGA exhibit and has lived up to its expectations.

It is a lavish, oversize publication of 550 pages with full color illustrations of all Czechoslovak issues and many enlarged examples of plate differences and various overprints.

The book has several sections with the first part covering 1918 - 39 issues followed by a section on issues from 1945 to 1985. Other issues covered are Siberian Post, Eastern Silesia, and various 1918 provisional overprints. In keeping with usual practice, Bohemia - Moravia and Slovakia are not included. An immensely interesting and very extensive section is devoted to postal stationery and covers of all periods. Of particular interest are tables of postal rate usages and detailed descriptions of watermarks, perforations and envelope folds. Issued by the Union of Czechoslovak Philatelists, it is more than just a specialized catalog. As a philatelic synopsis and a ready reference, it will serve as a valuable aid to the serious collector and as a definitive handbook for years to come.

NEW SELECTED ARTICLES

Issued in conjunction with PRAGA '88, Selected Articles is a supplement to the Specialized Handbook, it is beautifully illustrated on fine glossy paper and contains what are considered to be the choice articles by Czechoslovak authors on Czechoslovak philately.

AVAILABLE PUBLICATIONS

Specialized Handbook (Specializovaná Příručka)	
Newly published. See review above	
In Czech language	\$38.00 (postpaid)
Selected Articles (Sborník Článků)	
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Vol. 16 - Part 1 1918-20 Cancellations	\$22.50 (postpaid)
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1985-86 The Czechoslovak Specialist	\$15.00 (postpaid)

PRAGA '88 Publications

Three very attractive books that were published in conjunction with PRAGA '88. Hard cover, lavishly illustrated in color, a fine addition to any philatelic library. In Czech language.

Umění na Známkách (Art on Stamps)	\$16.00 (postpaid)
Československá Filatelie (Czechosl. Philately)	\$15.00 (postpaid)
Katalog PRAGA '88 (Official PRAGA Catalog)	\$15.00 (postpaid)
(All three can be ordered for a combined price of \$42.00 postpaid)	

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Paleniček-Schmidt, Grafik a Rytce Maxe Švabinského (Jindra Schmidt, Max Švabinský Engraver)	\$6.00 (postpaid)
Schmidt - Vzpomínky na Maxe Švabinského (Memories of Max Švabinského)	\$8.00 (postpaid)
Švabinský - Rájská Sonáta (Paradise Sonata)	\$9.00 (postpaid)
Vlček - Motýli Jindra Schmidta (Butterflies by Jindra Schmidt)	\$5.00 (postpaid)
Vlček - Pošta na Zámku Kroměříž 1848 (Mail at Kroměříž Castle 1848)	\$5.00 (postpaid)

All of the above are in Czech and fully illustrated. Total value \$33.00.

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