

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY YEAR THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



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THE KOŠICE AND KVĚTEN SHEETS REVISITED

By Charles Chesloe

As a classical issue of the Second Republic, the Košice Issue of 1945 compares with the Hřadčany Issue which holds a similar distinction in the First Republic. A book about just this issue was written by Štefan Kassay and Belo Pšztor and published in Košice in 1972. It is titled "Košické Známký" and comprises interesting reading if you can locate a copy.

The Košice Souvenir Sheet is a fascinating item of philately. Besides having numerous variations due to plate positions, it has one major "flaw" properly classified as a variety. This is



FIGURE I



FIGURE II

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FIGURE III

known as the "broken leg" on the lion of the 5 kčs. value. (See Fig. 1). One should be careful when purchasing this variety because forgers have painted a black line through the leg of a normal sheet to make it appear as the famous variety. The genuine sheet has bits of an irregular line on either side whereas the forged copy shows the line break to be rather smooth. Look carefully before making such a purchase. It is best to have a genuine "broken leg" for comparison if that is possible. Look for expert markings such as those of Karásek, Beneš or Šrámek. Kudla has also expertized stamps of the Second Republic so you may find his signature too. Fig. 2 shows a strong color shift of the red color to the left. This variety is quite scarce.

These sheets are rarely found on cover, especially covers sent to foreign destinations including the Americas. If you happen to have a variety on a postally used cover, you are indeed fortunate.

There were two printings of the Košice Souvenir Sheet. The first printing took place in April 1945 as the sheet indicates. About 6,000 sheets were prepared in Košice when the WIKO printery ran out of paper. WIKO was unsuccessful in acquiring any more of the same type of paper, so the printing was scrapped and the sheets were destroyed. However, four or five sheets survive and Fig. 3 shows one of them. This sheet ranks among one of the top rarities of the Second Republic and, for that matter, in all of Czechoslovak philately. The second printing took place in June 1945 and the sheets were released on June 25. The printing was done by NEOGRAFIA in Martin (Turčianský Svätý Martin). This is the one most of us are familiar with.

In addition to the Košice sheet, the Květen Souvenir Sheet is another very interesting item. Produced by the Czech Graphic Union of Prague (Unie), it was first issued on May 10, 1946. The miniature sheet was made on steel engraved flat bed plates and depicts St. George slaying the dragon. Two types exist. They are distinguished by the spacing between the bottom frame line of the value tablets (4 & 6) and the top of the word "Květen". If the spacing measures 7 1/4 mm., you have the common Type I. If the measurement is 9 1/4mm., you have the scarcer Type II variety which is worth about 20 to 25 times that of the common Type I. (see Fig 4 & 5). Besides, Type I is rather common on cover, but if you have a Type II on cover, you possess a gem. If you lack Type II in your collection and are lucky enough to find it on genuine cover at any of

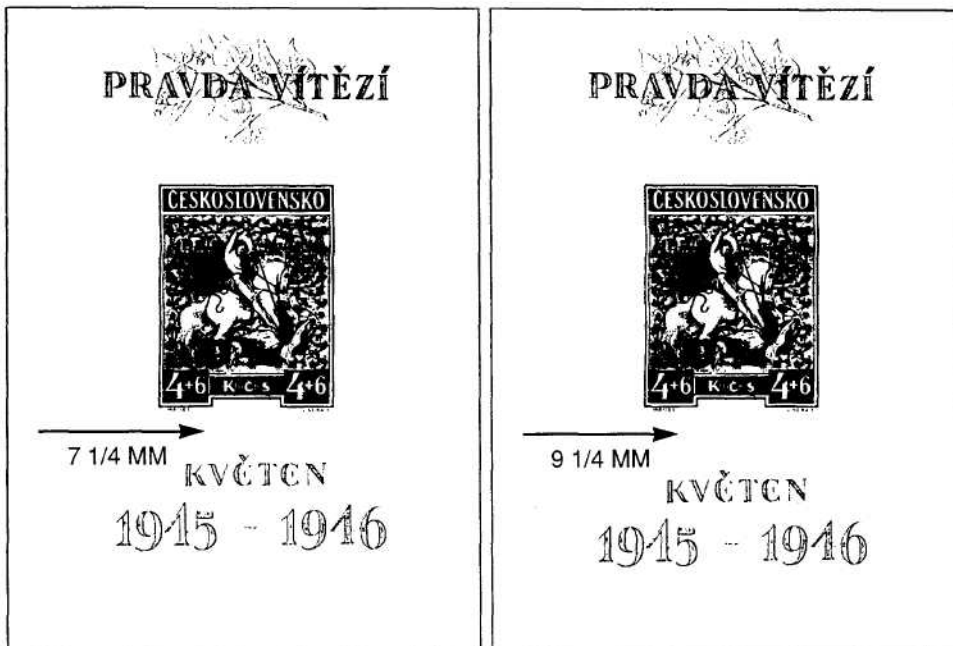


FIGURE IV A

FIGURE IV B

the dealers' booths when visiting INDYPEX or SEPAD later this year, reach into your wallet and make an investment you'll never regret, especially if the price is right.

(Ed. - For additional information on the Košice Issue, see *SPECIALIST* of Oct. 1967, page 122 and May 1976, page 66).

CHARLEY'S CORNER

THE SOCIETY'S MOST ACTIVE YEAR

The first quarter of our Society's Fiftieth Anniversary Year is coming to an end. There are still three quarters left and the best is yet to come.

Our Society originally started as the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of North American and was founded by Joseph Lowey of New York City. Today the Society has a roster of well over 300 members located worldwide. Past members include such philatelic giants as Arthur Kessler, Felix Brunner, Alfons Stach, Frank Kovařík, John Velek, Dr. James Matejka, William Reiner-Deutsch and George Blížil. Some of the leading Czechoslovak collectors who today belong to the Society include F.I.P. President Ladislav Dvořáček, Ing. Jan Karásek, Zdenek Kvasnička, J.L. Klein - all residing in Europe - and such notables as Lolly Horechny, Henry Hahn, Jaroslav Verner, L.V. Fischmeister and others who reside here in the U.S.

As part of its anniversary celebration, the Society will participate in two major shows - both nationally accredited. The first exhibition/meeting will be held at INDYPEX 89 in Indianapolis, Ind. on September 15, 16 and 17. The focus of this show from our Society's standpoint will be on Czechoslovakia's turbulent years - 1938 - 1945. Specialized exhibits of the Sudetenland, of Bohemia-Moravia, Slovakia, Carpatho-Ukraine and the traditional period immediately following the liberation will be featured. There will also be seminars and a Society Bourse table with much of this type of material being offered for sale. Free packets of Czechoslovak stamps will be distributed to youngsters attending the exhibition. Also available for viewing will be the lots and catalogs of excellent Czechoslovak philatelic items which will be sold there at auction on Saturday, October 7. Our exhibition chairman is Jack Benchik, P.O. Box 555, Notre Dame, Ind. 46556. Anyone wishing to inquire about exhibiting or volunteering their services either at the seminars, the bourse table or in any other manner, please contact Mr. Benchik for further details.

The second exhibition/meeting will be held at SEPAD 89 in King of Prussia, Pa. on October 6, 7 and 8. Traditional Czechoslovak exhibits will be shown there including early Postal History

of the Czechoslovak lands, the First Republic (1918-1939) and the Second Republic (1945 to the present). Many specialized collections showing some of the finest and rarest material will be on display. Our exhibition chairman for this show is Edwin Lehecka, 217 Hazel Ave, Westfield, N.J. 07090. Again, those who are interested either in exhibiting or volunteering their services in any way are requested to contact Mr. Lehecka for further details.

At SEPAD 89, there will also be a Society bourse table and a Society auction. But the highlight will be a banquet honoring Hedy Lowey, the widow of the Society's founder. Those signing up for and attending the banquet will have the rare opportunity of meeting and chatting with Mrs. Lowey.

Anyone interested in submitting philatelic material for auction - either at INDYPEX or at SEPAD - please contact your President, Charley Chesloe, 8300 South Wolf Road, Willow Springs, Ill. 60480.

As an adjunct, the Society will have a frame of specialized material displayed in Washington, D.C. at the World Stamp EXPO 89 from Nov. 17 through Dec. 3 in the Washington Convention Center.

To those who enjoy reading the Specialist, I invite you to support your Society by participating in some manner or form at one of these national shows. It will be a rewarding experience and, above all, you will have lots of fun. "But to really make both events a success, we need the active participation of most if not all of our Society members."

MEMBER OF THE MONTH

RONALD M. POLIVKA

A story that spans three generations of one family whose Society affiliation remains intact is a story worth relating.

Dr. Jaroslav J. Polivka was an internationally known architect-engineer who designed and constructed numerous buildings and bridges in Prague and other parts of Europe. His two sons, Milos, and Jenda, both graduated in civil engineering from Charles University in Prague and came to the U.S. in 1938 to help him design and construct the Czech pavilion at the New York World's Fair. In 1940, Dr. Polivka moved to Berkeley, Calif. where he lectured in structural engineering at both the University of California at Berkeley and at Stanford University.



His son, Milos, followed in his father's footsteps. After his father retired, he became active in teaching and research and was a faculty member at the same University for over forty years. His direction of the Engineering Materials Laboratory at U.C. of Berkeley earned him the Charles S. Whitney Medal of the American Concrete Institute in 1971. Thereafter other awards and honors were bestowed upon him for his teaching and research, his writings of technical publications and his distinguished service in academia. Finally in 1984, Roy W. Carlson of Berkeley established the Roy Carlson-Milos Polivka Fellowship "to acknowledge the contributions to concrete technology of Professor Polivka and to perpetuate research and teaching in this important field."

Milos Polivka was a Fellow of both the American Society of Civil Engineers and the American Concrete Institute, a member of the American Society for Testing and Materials and the U.S. Committee on Large Dams. His Honor Society memberships included Sigma Xi (Science), Chi Epsilon (Civil Engineering) and Tau Beta Pi (Engineering). But his most delightful pastime was stamp collecting and he joined our Society in its infancy in the early 1940's as member number 379. Soon thereafter, his wife gave birth to Ronald who spent many curious days in his childhood watching his father mounting philatelic material into several albums.

As a young man, Ronald entered the civil engineering program at U.C. in Berkeley. He received his B.S. degree in 1969, his M. S. degree the following year and his Ph.D. degree six years later.

One of Ronald's professional specialties is earthquake engineering. While visiting numerous earthquake damage sites including Mexico City following the 1985 disaster, he was able to analyze the causes of structural failures and thus help design safer buildings for the future. Presently he is working as project manager on a comprehensive earthquake safety investigation for Seattle's



water supply system.

Ronald's father was an active collector of Czechoslovak philately until a stroke paralyzed him in 1985. Unable to pursue his hobby as he would have liked, Milos turned over the entire collection to his son. With the loving care of his wife, Joyce, he survived another two years. During Christmas 1983, Ronald took a picture of his parents together. (see Fig. 1). Milos Polivka passed away in August 1987. Ronald then requested and was granted his father's membership number in our Society.

Ronald and Victoria have been married for fourteen years and have three sons, ages 9, 7 and 2. (see Fig. 2). Ronald's philatelic ambition is to make three complete collections out of his father's single collection of Czechoslovakia so that each of his three sons - Ryan, Steven and Danny - can have one to himself as they embark on their philatelic exploits.

The Society awaits applications from these three prospective Junior members and deems it a distinct honor to have within its fold a family of such distinguished citizens. Which one will be the Society's future President?

A HANDFUL OF REMEMBRANCES

By Jaroslav Ježek

Translated from FILATELIE, vol. 16, By Paul Sturman



Jaroslav Ježek, a noted postal historian living in Prague, was a frequent SPECIALIST contributor during my tenure as editor. His deep knowledge and superb writing style have made him a favorite contributor to FILATELIE as well as numerous other publications. His fine command of English, together with his generosity toward me, resulted in the translation of my booklet, "Postal History of Telč", into Czech and its eventual exhibition at PRAGA 88. Those who have read my reports of PRAGA 88 know that I had very few disappointments there. In fact, the only one I can think of was my inability to see my dear friend, Jaroslav Ježek. He had suffered a stroke shortly before PRAGA 88 which left him severely indisposed and even unable to speak with me over the telephone. I could only convey my regards and concern through his wife. Happily I have just received word from Mr. Ježek that he is slowly recovering; the joyous news was confirmed by our mutual friend, postal historian Václav Konštant of Pisek, Bohemia, who recently visited Mr. Ježek at his home in Nusle. All of us at the Society wish Jaroslav Ježek a full and speedy recovery.

- Henry Hahn

Editor Houška asked me to contribute to the exhibition edition of his FILATELIE with my remembrance of the past PRAGA International and World Exhibitions.

The one in 1938 I was unable to attend and observed it only from a distance, that is, through experiences of my father, a modest but determined collector. At that time, I was about thirty years of age and had other responsibilities. I had to improve my German and English which were needed in my vocation. To these languages I devoted practically all my spare time. Since my tenth year, however, I had never lost touch with them, thanks to my father who was taciturn and self-sufficient. Were it not for philately, we would have been strangers to each other in all respects except family matters.

Continued on page 11

THE DOVE

Fourteenth Installment

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

(Page 251)

The last mentioned printing faults and retouches (primary and secondary) are found extensively on cancelled stamps. Some faults, particularly on mint stamps, occur only sporadically. For example, VI/6R (5h blue), VII/1R (5h violet), VI/2R (10h olive), VII/1R (25h) and VII/1RB (30h). Also known to exist are some imperforates of the 5h blue - retouch 45, stamps VI/5R. Imperforates with retouch 56, stamps I/5R have not yet been verified. Below left - Retouch 45, VI/5R (5h blue imperforate - see fig. 437). Below right - Retouch 45, (5h violet - Horizontal comb - see Fig. 437a).



Fig. 437



Fig. 437a

Despite the lapse of more than sixty years since the Dove stamps were issued, the study of the printing plate faults and their retouches continues and is made more difficult through the scarcity of documented material. Among the printing plate faults, a number of cases have come to light indicating a further study might show that they are retouches. Expert opinions are not uniform.

A number of very interesting plate faults and their retouches exist in the Dove Issue. Descriptions and illustrations, especially of known printing plates, deserves their own greatly expanded research publication.

(Page 252)

Offsets

We are familiar with a whole line of machine offsets on stamps of almost all values; some as total machine offsets (in the majority of cases), some as partial machine offsets (in isolated cases).

Printing sheet offsets, either total or partial, are found with almost all stamp values. With the 30h stamp, offsets appear only occasionally. Machine and printing sheet offsets appear somewhat less frequently with the 5h violet and the 25h stamps than with the other values.



Fig. 438
Total machine offset



Fig. 439
Partial machine offset

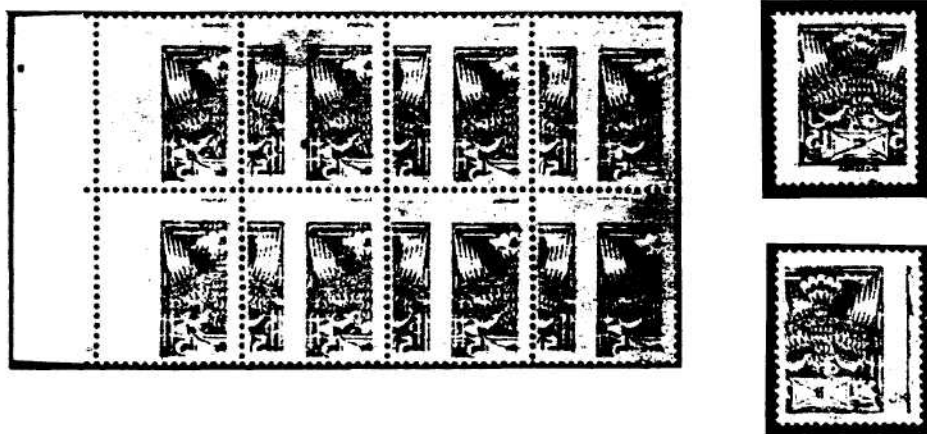


Fig. 440
Printing sheet offset

(Page 253)

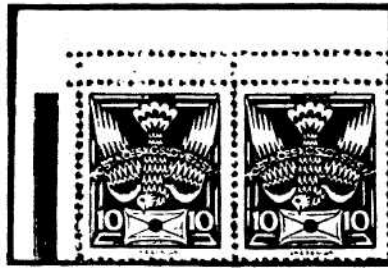
Other Faults Perforation Faults

As with the preceding issues, a number of perforation imperfections appear with the Dove issue in addition to those referred to on page 214. These are mainly stamps with one or two perforations missing due to the rupture of the machine perforating needle. Missing horizontal or vertical perforations occur comparatively seldom.

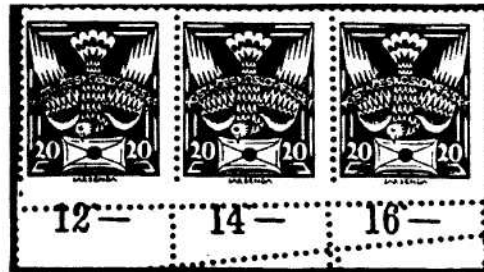
Far more stamps have been discovered with double or triple perforations or with double oblique perforations and also stamps with normal perforations but with a significant shift against the printed picture, mostly with comb perforation 14. They appear more commonly on stamp values 10h (green and olive) and 20h.



Obr. 441.



Obr. 442.



Obr. 443.



Obr. 445.

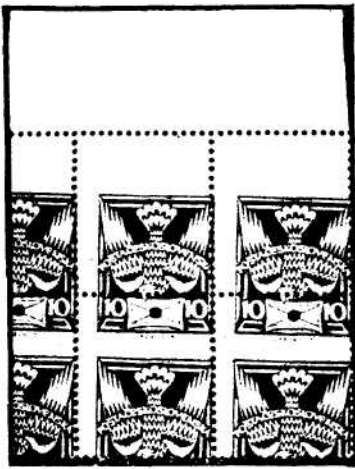
Remainder of Printing and Paper Faults

This category includes all imperfect, smudged, double and slightly shifted print which occurs with all values except the 30h. Smudged and double print also occurs on the 10h olive and the 15h imperforated stamps.

Occasionally prints occur on the gummed side. This is known to exist on both the 5h violet and blue, 10h green and the 20h stamp, as well as the 5h blue and the 15h imperforate.

In this category also belong miscellaneous incomplete and missed prints caused by paper folds, both small and large, and small paper shifts.

Of particular interest are incomplete prints caused by paper which became torn during production and then was pasted together before printing. Sometimes it happened that the paper was torn and pasted together during the printing run. This resulted in some interesting imperfections, especially with stamp values 5h (blue) and 10h (olive). However, the above mentioned faults occur only occasionally.



Obr. 444.



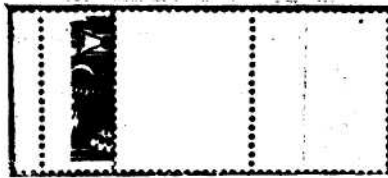
Obr. 446.



Obr. 449.



Obr. 447.



Obr. 450.



Obr. 448.

My remembrances of PRAGA 62 are rather hazy. At that time I was already involved somewhat in collecting classical stamps of Austria, of old German and Italian states and bits of France, England and Spain. I was beginning to make some progress in the area of cancellations of Hradčany issues. Up until then, I did not comprehend them even though later on they charmed me no end. The exposition itself left me depressed. I realized only too well my insignificance in the sea of numerous super-exhibits. I felt alone with the exception of a few chance meetings with acquaintances at Novak's.

PRAGA 68 offered me much more. By that time I was the author of several articles in *FILATELIE*, some of which were my own translations while others were done with the aid of the Viennese Czech, Richard Bayer, a passionate collector of one-ring Hradčany cancellations. His specialty gave me an opportunity to reciprocate. The articles were published in several West German periodicals, mainly in *DBZ* and in the Austrian *BRIEFMARKE*. Through them I made contact with collectors abroad. I saw for the first and last time the president of F.I.P., L. Berthelot, a rotund and profusely perspiring gentleman in shirtsleeves. It was hellishly hot that day. He rushed out of one of the exhibition halls to an open area where I was resting after viewing the overwhelming exhibits of various material. Mr. Berthelot was apparently prostrated by the heat. My friend with whom I was passing the time of day on a bench suggested that, since I knew several languages, I should offer him help.



But I did not understand French and was reluctant to intrude. Fortunately, some functionary happened to be nearby and I escaped a situation embarrassing to me. However, it reminded me of the opening of the Exposition by Engineer Ladislav Dvořáček, whose welcoming remarks in several languages were quite brilliant. I sighed with relief but with a certain degree of envy. Of course it never occurred to me that later on, Mr. Dvořáček would actually become president of F.I.P. I had always been under the impression that the president must be from a western nation.

Had I known that twenty years down the road I would be honored with the publication of my impressions of the Exposition, I would have made some notes about

the event. I called one of my friends who had also been there to help me muster up some recollections. But shortly afterwards, we agreed that it would be an exercise in futility as he too could only vaguely recall the event.

My son, a mathematician, was a 23-year-old candidate for a degree in science back in 1968 - perhaps the youngest candidate in Czechoslovakia and, like his father, a fan of collecting stampless covers and letters. He was seeking literature world wide on matters algebraic. I utilized every opportunity to help him and PRAGA 68 became a key to his quest. I prepared several letters over my name and address, listed the titles of several books and assumed that I would find friends abroad who would be willing to help him in a non-philatelic matter. In a sense, the search was successful. I received some of the books two or three months after the exhibition, though it had not been an easy matter to locate them and postal service was not at its best. Under these circumstances, considerable correspondence developed in a few years and philately became the major subject. During that time, I maintained postal contact with such prominent collectors as Henry Hahn, George Blizil and Herman Herst Jr., just to mention a few in the U.S., each worthy of a separate article.

Henry Hahn is of Czech origin, a native of Telč who emigrated to the U.S. because of the spread of Nazism in Europe. He impressed me with his willingness to accept the position of editor for a few years, along with other duties, of the monthly *CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST*. What he experienced because of this devotion is rather difficult to imagine. The periodical's lack of articles was chronic. A few years ago the journal was being issued two or three months late for lack of material. Hahn was forced to plead with its readers for contributions and offer hints on how to produce suitable material. When the



THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

situation worsened, he himself wrote some articles. Of course, he is a great collector and expert of Czechoslovak issues, especially of the pre-stamp era, so writing came naturally.

George Bližil claimed Czech ancestry but did not speak Czech himself. He died a few years ago. As chairman of a committee for international contacts with the American Philatelic Society, he participated in all American, International and World Expositions. He specialized in entires. Over a period of years I sent him whatever was available in our country. He thanked me each time and responded with American entires. He commented on every mailing and advised me on what condition it reached him. Usually it arrived undamaged, but occasionally I felt obliged to send him a duplicate to replace one that came heavily of improperly cancelled. Once we exchanged thoughts about a specific problem, the solution of which required a worldwide catalog. I mentioned in my letter to him that I only had Zumstein. Two months later I received from him the Minkus catalog in two volumes, each about two thousand pages long. Bližil wrote that he had just received a more recent edition, so he gladly offered the preceding one to me. The postage alone seemed equal to the price of the book.

Herman Herst Jr. is a name familiar to readers of FILATELIE. He is the author of a number of books on philately - usually popular and entertaining - of which he always sent me a complimentary copy. The most interesting is "Nassau Street" - a quarter century of dealing in postage stamps. The book was published in 1960. I have its third printing (1963). Since then it was reissued several times. I quoted from it often in FILATELIE. The author's humor is best expressed in his Dedication: "To my competitors - God bless them all!" His next book - "Fun and Profit in Stamp Collecting" - also delighted me. It was printed in 1962 followed by a second printing in December of the same year. In the Forward, Herst writes: "Fun and Profit in Stamp Collecting" has no similarity with books whose themes are how to make money in stamps. It is based on incidents in the author's experiences as collector, auctioneer and dealer. If you want to consider whether you are spending your money wisely, the book is for you."

This successful author of philatelic "belles lettres" (literary gems) liked me very much (and I liked him) because he knew me from the numerous articles I had published abroad. We felt mutually attracted to each other and corresponded regularly. On his letters, Herst affixed his "dogsled delivery" stamp and I wrote about this extensively in FILATELIE. On letters to Czechoslovakia the "dogsled delivery" was neither effective nor valid. He affixed the stamp solely as a gesture of humor, knowing that each such letter would delight me.

Lately I have been liquidating my philatelic wealth. When one reaches age eighty, one must clean up after himself. I put together hundreds of envelopes and cards with stamps of philatelic significance from the U.S., Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Lichtenstein, Sweden, Norway and other countries. The stamps and cancellations were usually very attractive, so I received nearly one thousand crowns for them. The majority of covers were acquired by my friends, Kynel, who admired them because they were addressed to me and because the senders were known philatelists, some of them having been mentioned in this article. I had about ten covers left with the "dogsled delivery" which I wanted to keep for myself. My friend wanted them desperately, so he offered me fifteen crowns for each. It was not a question of money but when I realized his intense desire to have them, I acceded to his wishes.

Such are the closing episodes of old collectors' lives. But even these have their silver linings because the stamps and covers helped me in bettering my living conditions as a "retiree" whereas some friends were not so fortunate.

What interested me most in the PRAGA 68 Exposition? I stood for hours in front of a Mauritius exhibit by some Japanese. In viewing the exhibit, I felt like I was having an audience before some exalted personage. In addition, I was very much impressed by a strip of six stamps on a letter originating in an Italian principality whose name I can no longer recall. There were other exhibits of luxuriant and valuable issues nearby. Visitors did not pay much attention to these exhibits, so I could stand and admire them for long periods of time. Often I discussed the issues and the beauty of the stamps with others until a guard noticed me and asked me over the public address system to move on.

At PRAGA 78, I came prepared for meetings with Ing. J. Souva. Someone authorized me to devote my time to visitors from abroad. But most of my time I spent with those whom I had gotten acquainted through correspondence and with whom I worked in compiling specialized catalogs, etc. That did not leave me time for viewing specific exhibits, since I had numerous opportunities to discuss matters with visitors from abroad and with many of my friends and readers. At times I was feeling exhausted and swore never to attend another Exposition. Despite that, I still had enough energy to visit some of my friends who maintained booths and tables at the Exhibit Hall, such as the Novaks and others from distant cities. One of them had a supply of stampless covers much to my liking. I was sorry I did not drop by him sooner, but he still had some good material left on sale when I arrived.

Of the visitors from Germany, I was especially attracted to one Hoffman who spoke Czech and with whom I was in touch for years, because he read my articles and often made valuable comments about them. He urged me to keep on writing. In that respect, he matched the efforts of our FILATELIE editor, Dr. Houška. He brought his wife along. She was carrying a large basket loaded with beautiful peaches thinking that such fruit was not available in Czechoslovakia. How mistaken she was when she saw the stands were full of attractive peaches! I realized her disappointment and was so sorry for her that I racked my brains to find a way to express my gratitude for her thoughtfulness. Mr. Hoffman assured me that he had decided to visit the Exposition primarily to meet me so we could get acquainted. And acquainted we became! When I needed a specialized catalog published by Michel and mentioned it to him, I received it by return mail.

Another valuable and esteemed friend was Dr. Ulrich Ferschenbauer, author of the famous catalog on Old Austria. All four issues of this catalog I reviewed in FILATELIE and in BRIEFMARKE. In Austria, my reviews always appeared somewhat delayed for they were long and carefully written. The author was so impressed with them, he sent me several complimentary copies of his catalog. The books are often like an unfulfilled dream for collectors of Old Austria. I was amazed at the youthful appearance of Ferschenbauer since his name had appeared in philatelic publications for a number of decades. Then I learned that his father had also been mentioned in these publications as an expert on Austrian stamps.

It was a pleasure to have the Tranmers visit me. I got acquainted with Keith Tranmer long before PRAGA 78. I found him particularly fascinating because of his work on a pamphlet about cancellations of the Austrian Navy. For several years I had been collecting such cancellations. But for Tranmer, I would have learned little about them. My knowledge of them was limited to what friend Nekvasil had told me. I wrote on this subject in FILATELIE and Nekvasil later wrote a much more thorough and profound article. It aroused my interest in this specialized area. Tranmer was also an athlete and often led skiing excursions into the Alps. From these excursions he would send me various philatelic souvenirs. One of his larger works was the POSTAL HISTORY OF AUSTRIA during the years 1938-1946 with a subtitle: Study of Cancellations and Stamps Used in Austria During the German Occupation and the Succeeding Allied Occupation and Estimates of Value of the Described Material. This book was not especially helpful to me as I did not collect the material described therein. I found his work on the Austrian Post Office Abroad of much greater benefit for my purposes. It is actually the new, modified and enlarged edition of the work of S. Tschilinghirian. I am quoting from the introductory remarks of his eighth volume:

"The untimely death of Simon Tschilinghirian in 1967 ended the series of books covering the Austrian post offices abroad. During the nine years which elapsed since the publication of the seventh volume, we were witnesses to the resurgence of collectors' interest in this field, but no one undertook to complete the remaining two volumes. A former co-author, W.S.E. Stephen, was not in good health and did not finish the work."

The task was finally assumed by Tranmer who published the eighth volume with the subtitle "Austrian Lloyd, Lichtenstein, Cyprus, Egypt, Palestine, Syria-Lebanon, Asia Minor." Out of this list, the first two names were of special interest to me. The remaining states rarely contain Austrian postal cancellations. After the eighth volume, Tranmer published the first enlarged volume. After that, I have no idea how his publications progressed because during the last few years when I quit collecting, I lost contact with him.

I also collected Austrian Field Postoffices and often I used another Tranmer publication of Austrian Field Postoffices 1914-1918. Without the publication, I and numerous other collectors would have been unable to orient ourselves with the issues. Tranmer brought me a bundle of these issues from England together with other catalogs mentioned earlier. Of course he did not give them to me gratis. The Tranmers came for the week, of which only a small portion was devoted to the Exposition, though he was to report on it in English publications. My time was then limited so I wished them on my wife who immediately established a good relationship with the Austrian-born Mrs. Tranmer. They both spoke fluent German.

At that time we owned a Traband automobile and a cottage in Borotin near Tábor. Mr. Tranmer had lots of fun with the car. My wife drove them around southern Bohemia which they enjoyed very much, especially the wooded areas. Where they live in England there are only scattered woods and those are not so romantically situated. Like myself, Tranmer was a collector of stampless covers. When they were driving through Bystrica near Benešovo, my wife had to stop at the local postoffice so that Mr. Tranmer could look around and reminisce about the days when letters were cancelled "Bistritz" (see Votoček, item 146/1-3). My wife to this moment recalls the times when the Tranmers spent the nights in our cottage, how they taught her to prepare tea the English way and offered other culinary hints which amused her no end. And both

women came to the conclusion that philately is sometimes worthwhile, although they exchanged some of their less favorable views on their husbands' hobby.

For several years I so avidly wrote for *FILATELIE* and other journals and periodicals abroad that I never had time to aspire to some other office in philatelic circles. The more I admired the efforts and talents of philatelists, especially those connected with exhibitions, the more thankful I was to them. I know some of the undertakings were heartbreaking. I am anticipating with pleasure the coming of PRAGA 88 along with its likely success which will reflect favorably on our homeland. From my vantage point, I will be viewing it enviously from a distance.

(Ed. - This article was written and published in *FILATELIE* one week prior to the opening of PRAGA 88).

EDITORIAL HINGES

REMEMBRANCES OF THINGS PAST

Marcel Proust may not be the name of your current editor, but the title of his most famous work is certainly appropriate for the subject matter of this editorial.

Starting on page 6, we are treated to a fine translation of an article that Jaroslav Ježek wrote in *FILATELIE*, number 16, dated August 20, 1988. In it, he bemoans the handicaps under which Henry Hahn labored as editor of our publication from late 1979 to about the middle of 1985, to wit, the lack of publishable material that sometimes delayed printing by several months. But this misfortune has plagued the Specialist for years. Why did Ježek select Hahn as the victim of a situation that has been a trademark of the Society almost from its beginning?

Different editors coped with the problem in different ways. Jane Sterba resigned as editor when she was elected the Society's President. Dominick Riccio, who preceded Henry Hahn, resigned as editor rather than live with the aggravation and uncertainty of where the next issue's material would come from. Henry Hahn took a more practical approach and wrote his own articles when other prospective writers failed to come through. Frank Julsen, who succeeded him, also wrote articles but finally resigned too. Gerald Van Zanten wrote articles profusely as this issue and previous ones bear witness. He still does! His problem was his lack of proximity to "where the action is." But Gerald Van Zanten did not resign. He willingly and unselfishly assumed the role of Assistant Editor and has since been the most active and valuable Assistant Editor the Society ever had.

Your present editor recognizes that a publication cannot be run by one person alone. It can only succeed through the team effort of the entire editorial staff. This staff, consisting of Gerald Van Zanten, Ed Benchik, Frank Julsen and your current editor is proud to reflect on its achievements of the past year. The Specialist is being published on time - it is in most of the members' hands by the tenth day of each month - issues are not being "doubled-up" - the format has taken on a professional look - printing and publication is totally computerized - and material includes a diversity of subjects appealing to the entire cross-section of our growing membership.

Our new printer, Lee Weit of Ephrata, Pa., is to be commended for giving the Specialist its new look. Our Assistant Editor, Van Zanten, deserves a vote of thanks for his efforts in bringing new blood into our organization both through membership and through recent articles contributed by Czechoslovakia's new breed of collectors. The big picture, therefore, calls for continuing change in an environment where change is the key to survival. The big picture does not include agonizing over the misgivings and mistakes of the past.

Your present editorial staff remembers the past, but looks to the future and sees a new kind of Society taking shape. One of our most senior members, Paul Sturman, recognizes that young blood is where the Society's future lies. He has just completed a monumental translation of František Langer's "Tales of Philately". Written primarily for the youthful stamp collector, the translation will appear as part of the Society's celebration of its 50th anniversary.

A QUESTION FOR THE MEMBERS

How many members faithfully read the Specialist from cover to cover and how often? If that question is too embarrassing for some of you to answer, pretend I never asked it. Instead, please respond with your answer to the following question:

Considering that more and more of our new members are signing up from the motherland, do you favor that at least one philatelicly technical article appear in the SPECIALIST each month in both the Czech and the English language?

If you favor this approach, please drop a card to Mirko Vondra, 1511 Clearview Ave., Lancaster, Pa. 17601, and say so.

The Society's Board of Directors recently voted against publishing the SPECIALIST bilingually. And rightly so. This would have required at least a 20-page issue each month, making the cost of printing and mailing prohibitive. But if enough members signify their desire to have one choice or lead article per issue appear in both languages, the expense factor will not be critical and the Board will take heed of their wishes.

- M. L. V.

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