

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY YEAR THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

(USPS 808300)

Official Monthly Journal of the



Society for Czechoslovak Philately, Inc.

Silver Award Interphil '76 - Silver Award Capex '78 - Silver-Bronze Praga '78 - Praga '88

A. P. S. Unit 18

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AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 1989

No. 7, Whole No. 491

CURTAINS UP AT INDYPEX AND SEPAD

Our INDYPEX chairman, Jack Benchik, has finalized plans for the midwest exhibition and convention of our Society. With the assistance of his co-chairman and our president, Charles Chesloe, he has announced the release of a souvenir card and four different cachets for our Society's golden anniversary. These will be sold at INDYPEX and later through the mails to those who are unable to come to Indianapolis.

The show will take place at the Indianapolis Convention Center, 100 North Capitol Ave., in downtown Indianapolis. The Embassy Suites Hotel, 110 West Washington St., is the official INDYPEX hotel with special rates for our members. These rates are \$89 for one person in a room, \$99 for two persons, \$109 for three persons and \$119 for four persons in one room. This includes free limousine service between hotel and airport, free full breakfast, free drinks in the evening from 5:00 to 7:30 PM and free parking.

For those planning to exhibit, exhibition frames hold 16 standard size pages (11 x 8 1/2) or 12 Scott size sheets. The entry fee is \$6 per frame for adults and \$2 per frame for juniors. A single exhibit must be a minimum of three frames and a maximum of ten frames for adults. The juniors may exhibit as little as one full frame. INDYPEX has reserved 50 frames for our Society. Although the deadline for entries has passed, we are informed that all 50 frames have been subscribed for anyway.

The following is the schedule of events involving the SCP:

Friday, September 15:

8:00 PM - Social Cash Bar

Saturday, September 16:

9:30 AM - Society Board Meeting

11:00 AM - General Open Members Meeting

1:00 PM - Seminar on the Sudetenland

1:30 PM - Seminar on Bohemia and Moravia

2:00 PM - Seminar on Slovakia

2:30 PM - Seminar on Carpatho-Ukraine

3:30 PM - Judging Critique

7:00 PM - Awards Banquet with INDYPEX

Sunday, September 17:

11:30 AM - Closing Brunch

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The meeting room locations and the names of speakers will be announced later, possibly at the Society's lounge table. This Society table will have on sale books, publications, periodicals including our own Specialist, as well as souvenir cards and cachets. It will also have information available for membership enrollment and various philatelic inquiries. Those who plan to attend are requested to donate an hour or two of their time to assist at the table. It is a great way to serve your Society and at the same time meet other members and make new philatelic friends.

Because the Society is celebrating its 50th anniversary, your president recommended and the Board sanctioned participation at a second national show inasmuch as most of the members seem to be concentrated in to geographic areas - the Midwest and the East Coast. Therefore a month after the INDYPEX show which is chiefly for the benefit of our midwest members, the Society will also exhibit and hold a convention at SEPAD in King of Prussia, Pa. (next to historic Valley Forge) on October 6, 7 and 8 for the easterners.

Through the tireless efforts of Ed Lehecka, our exhibition chairman at SEPAD, the SCP will have a meeting room available for the following events, all of them taking place on Saturday, October 7:

- 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM - Seminar with a speaker to be announced
- 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM - Buffet at Chumley's (everyone on his own)
- 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM - General meeting with Mrs. Hedy Lowie, widow of the Society's founder, as guest
- 3:00 PM - Board Meeting

On Sunday, October 8, there will be a SEPAD Judges' Critique at 11 AM and, at 11:30 AM, the Society will have a cash brunch for all members interested in participating. It will be held at Lily Langtry's Restaurant and a section of the mezzanine will be reserved for that purpose.

The conference room where the various meetings will take place will be identified at the SCP lounge table along with whatever information and details are available. This lounge table, incidentally, will serve the same purpose and provide the same philatelic facilities that our lounge table at INDYPEX will feature. The two restaurants - Chumley's and Lily Langtry's - are both located at the street level of the Sheraton Hotel where the show will take place. Therefore all activities will be concentrated in a single building to minimize the effect of any adverse weather elements.

For those who have not yet made their reservations, we are informed that rooms are going fast, especially large rooms and suites. The hotel manager recommends that those wishing to reserve rooms do so promptly to assure adequate accommodations.

The prospectuses for both shows appeared in the May issue of the Specialist including other details like locations, directions, rates, etc. The Sheraton Hotel is at 1200 First Avenue, King of Prussia, Pa. By car, it is just off Exit 21 (Valley Forge Interchange) of the Pennsylvania Turnpike.

Let's make these two occasions a gala celebration truly representative of our Society's enthusiasm! Let's make them the biggest turnout of the Society's fifty years of existence!

NEW MEMBERS

<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>
1516	James Negus	Kitwalls, Kitwalls Lane, Lymington, Hants, S041 0RJ, England
1517	William D.K. Wilson	29308 52 Ave. East, Graham, WA. 98338
1518	Jiří Richter	Pod Hajom 108643 Dubnica n./V., Czechoslovakia
1519	Jiří Gyra	Vyšehradská 116, Vodochody, Czechoslovakia
1520	Tomaš Morovics	U Stadionu 957, Kurim, Czechoslovakia 66434
1521	Vojtech Olejník	50925 Linda Lane #14, Utica, MI 48078

1522	Pavel Baran	Lučni 307/12, Czechoslovakia
1523	Budd Hagen	P.O. Box 68, Henderson, MN 56044
1524	Dennis J. Rich	131 Dunnlea Road, Fairfield, CT 06430-2814
1525	Walter I. Shrake	P.O. Box 203, Savanna, IL 61074
1526	Elizabeth R. Sheridan	11 Emarita Way, Stuart, FL 34996
1527	Alan J. Knight	25 Weymouth Crescent, So. Humberside, England DN17 1TU
1528	Charles Hance	RFD #1, Box 139, Deer Isle, ME 04627
1529	Miloslav Vlček	Poštovní Příhrádka 13, 768 24 Hulín, Czechoslovakia
1530	Zdenek Textl	Na Zavadilce 783, 551 01 Jaroměř, Czechoslovakia
1531	Jaroslav Berónek	Smetanovo Náměstí 1049, Litomysl 57 001, Czechoslovakia
1532	Anna Koloničná	Klapy 170, 411 16 Czechoslovakia
1533	George J. Nožička	4974 Sential Drive, Bethesda, MD 20816
1534	Danny Demetriade	P.O. Box 10182, Detroit, MI 48210
1535	Dr. R. Sheldon Dunham	P.O. Box 4, University of Richmond, Richmond, VA 23173
1536	Hugues Shoener	4114 Hampton, Montreal, Canada H4A 2K9
1537	M. A. Syvestre	1455 LePage Ave., Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K12 8C8
1539	Charles J. Rehman	3900 Hubbard Ave., North Robbinsdale, MN 55422
1540	Rudolph J. Fritz	529 North Lombard Ave., Lombard, IL 60148
1541	Thomas W. Dubensky	455 Gilman Ave., Weed, CA 96094
1542	Charles F. Malkovsky	6758 Larchmont Drive, Mayfield Heights, Ohio 44124
1543	H. Alan Hoover	411 Deep Wood Cove, Fort Wayne, IN 46845
1544	Robert Bosich	1038 No. Trustin Ave. -#600, Orange, CA 92667
1545	Peter Doležal	Bruenner Str. 6-8 1/12, Vienna, Austria A-1210

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

Editorial Staff

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

Technical Editor: Adolf Hujer, Polska3, Czechoslovakia

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

Elected Officers

President: Charles Chesloe, 8300 South Wolf Rd., Willow Springs, IL 60480

Vice President: Jack Benchik, P.O. Box 555, Notre Dame, IN 46556

Secretary: Jane Sterba, 6624 Windsor Ave., Berwyn, IL 60402

Treasurer: Ludvik Z. Svoboda, 4766 South Helena Way, Aurora, CO 80015

Appointed Officers

Circuit Manager: Wolfgang Fritzsche, Box 8, Canandaigua, NY 14424

Expertizing Chairman: Edwin W. Lehecka, 217 Hazel Ave., Westfield, NJ 07090

Librarian: Richard Palaschak, 4050 Carbury Court, Chantilly, VA 22021

APS Representative: Henry Hahn, 2936 Rosemoor Lane, Fairfax, VA 22031

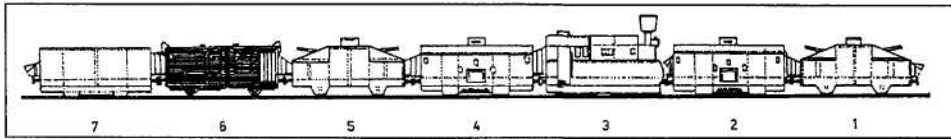


ILLUSTRATION I

ARMORED TRAIN NUMBER FIVE

by Tomáš Morovics

Translated by Mrs. Frances Svoboda

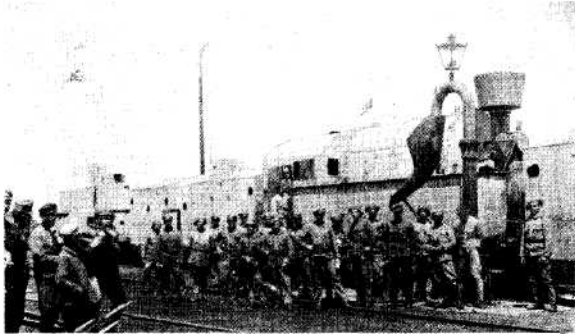


ILLUSTRATION II

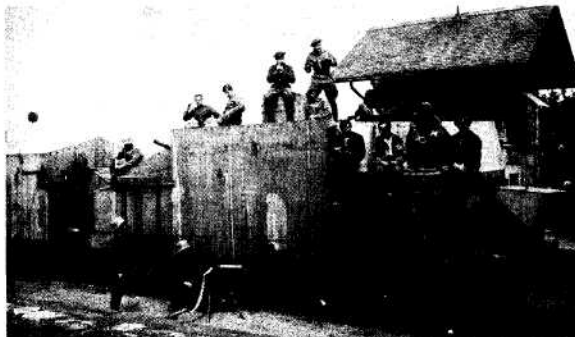


ILLUSTRATION III

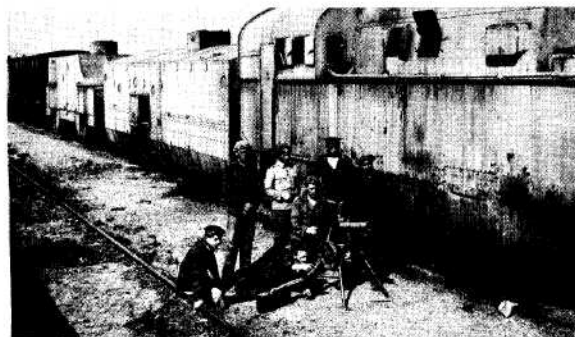


ILLUSTRATION IV

A study of the overall operations of fieldposts in the two wars has produced an interesting chapter in mail history. Stamp collectors and field post enthusiasts are probing more and more into the background and details of this segment of philately.

Recently I was fortunate in acquiring a whole collection of fieldpost mail with interesting cancellations from 1919-1920. Included were some other related items from this period as, for example, letters sent by a Jan Červinka who was at the time a locomotive engineer on Armored Train Number Five. I will now tap the source and quote from some of his letters:

"When the Czechoslovak Republic was born, I was stationed in Slovakia on an armored train. After the battles in May of 1919, the train moved straight from Plzeň to Slovakia. It had been in Plzeň for a week. In Slovakia, the train's home base became Komárno which was then Hungarian. (You could count the number of Slovaks there on the fingers of one hand). As soldiers, we had no contact with the local population - nor did we even speak Hungarian. In fact, there

was no contact at the border because there was a barrier in the middle of the bridge over the Danube."

"We toured the country around Komárno on the train. Once we went to Bratislava, the next time to Nové Zámky (New Castle) and then wherever our orders sent us. The train had two cars with cannon, two cars with machine guns and one ammunition car - for a total of four 7.5 mm. cannon, thirty machine guns, four mine layers and even some naval guns. The train's crew was made up of former Austrian sailors who were later replaced by Czechs. The commanding officer of the train was Lieutenant Jan Černoch."

"I concluded my tour on September 30, 1920. I was



ILLUSTRATION V



ILLUSTRATION VI

Vypovězení.

*Potvrzuji tímto, že Levínka Jan, přidělen dne 13. února 1919, do plukovního vlaku v Pardubicích. Tímto plukovnímu vlaku č. 5, vykonával až do dne 30. září 1920 službu se pomocnými strojevodci francouzských lokomotiv k úplné spokojenosti svých představených. Jest poctivým a pracovitým, svého řemesla jak v teorii tak v praxi dobře znalým odborníkem a choval se po dobu svého přidělení i mimo službu chvalitebně. Jako vy-
pomocným strojevodcům při civilní dopravě dostal se jmenovanému dobrého uznání i ze strany úřadu č. plát-
ních dráh, proto jej mohu v nejvyšší doporučit.*



VELITEL VLAKU
NADP. ČERNOCH JAN.

Jan Černoch

2 Komárno, dne 10. listopadu 1920.

ILLUSTRATION VII



ILLUSTRATION VIII

replaced and demobilized. When the situation in Slovakia quieted down, the train was transferred to a station in Milotice (near Lyse-on-the-Elbe)."

Each letter was usually accompanied by one photograph, presumably taken by Červinka himself. However the drawing of the train itself (see Ill. I) was reconstructed from a composite of pictures indicating that the train was a complete entity capable of sustaining its crew on an extended trip.

Illustration I - Schematic of Armored Train No. Five shows (1) the cannon car; (2) car with mounted machine guns; (3) the locomotive; (4) a second car with mounted machine guns; (5) a second cannon car; (6) unarmed freight car; (7) ammunition car.

Illustration II - The train at Nové Zámky station showing Czech railroad workers from the station.

Illustration III - The first cannon car.

Illustration IV - Servicing one of the train's machine guns.

Illustration V - Part of garrison at Komárno Station.

Illustration VI - French Generals Pele and Mitellhauser reviewing the train in Komárno Station.

Illustration VII - Certificate of Service (Vysvědčení) issued by Lt. Jan Černocho to Jan Červinka on Nov. 19, 1920.

Illustration VIII - Cancellations used on mail transported by this train include (1)

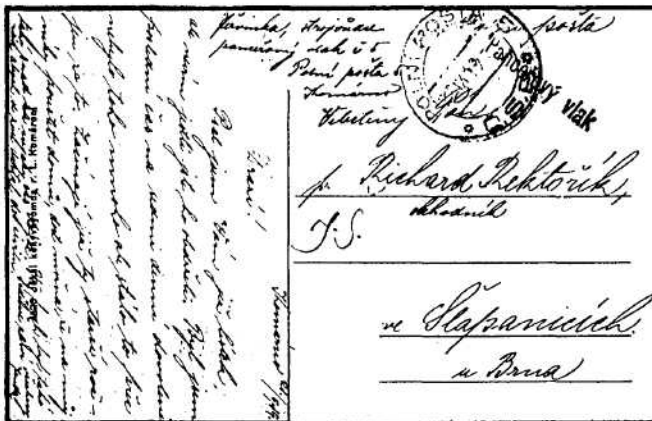


ILLUSTRATION IX

"Armored Train" censorship stamp in purple ink; (2) & (3) cancels used on military correspondence and forms; (4) the train commander's personal cancel; (5) Field Post No. 5 cancel matching the train's designation.

Illustration IX - Postcard sent by Jan Červinka from the armored train to a merchant in Slapanice near Brno.

Not illustrated here is Military Order no. 582 for the locomotive engineer dated Sept. 11, 1920. Stamped "BAJC" and dated Sept. 11, 1920, the Order reads; "From _____ No. 19 all the way to Nové Zámky, proceed carefully and slowly."



SORTING STATION NUMBER FOUR

by Miroslav Vostatek

During the general mobilization of 1938, the Czechoslovak Army had its fieldpost headquarters at Přerov. Five sorting stations were subordinated to it. These were assigned to the Army - and there were not many - actually, only four. Thus sorting station no. 1 was in Nemecký Brod, now Havlíčkův Brod (First Army). No. 2 was in Brno (Fourth Army). No. 3 was in Vrútky (Third Army) and no. 5 at Olomouc (Second Army). Let's take a look at Sorting Station No. 4.

It was situated at Poprad-Velká. Its code name was Duběnka. It was supplied out of the fourth telegraph battalion at Přesov where the famed Lieutenant Otakar Jaroš served. The head of the sorting station was the captain of the telegraph troops in reserve, Bohumil Soubrada. He was a native of Olomouc and during World War I was an officer of the Czech Legions in Russia. He served as director of the Mukačevo postoffice in the Carpatho-Ukraine and later at Spišské Nový Ves. When Czech postal officers stationed in Slovakia were expelled in 1939, he assumed his post at Praha 6, Sorting Station no. 4, which also served the Third Army (code name Štefanik) at Kremnica. In the picture shown here, Staff Captain Bohumil Soubrada is seen wearing dark-rimmed glasses and seated in center of second row from front. The only other person identified in the picture is his assistant, Captain Vincent, seated in the same row second from right along with Corporal Štefan. Noteworthy is the presence of an unidentified captain in his fifties who was apparently inducted while ill or disabled as evidenced by the cane he is carrying. They are all wearing armbands on their left sleeves signifying the emblem of a mailed letter which distinguishes them from other soldiers wearing brown to identify them as members of the fieldpost. This Fieldpost no. 4 was attached to the Přerov Fieldpost Headquarters through military train fieldpost no. 1 and 3, then back to Přerov and then by military train fieldpost no. 2 and 4, so that it was at the same time attached to Sorting Station no. 3 of Vrútky. In all likelihood, fieldposts nos. 11, 12, 24, 28, 29, 33, 40 and 57 were all attached to this sorting station. Fieldpost no. 12 and 24 were in the Carpatho-Ukraine at Uzhorod (after the occupation at Perečín) and at Mukačevo (then Svalava). Their activities commenced at the start of October and terminated on December 6, 1938.

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Larger military units which were served by this sorting station include: boundary zone XVI (Ferdinand), bordering territories 41 (Alfons) and 42 (Karol) and the 12th Infantry Division (Fajnor). All these organizations were stationed at the Hungarian border. On the Rumanian border to the east or the Polish border to the north were only small units or possibly even no units at all.

So much for the story of Sorting Station no. 4.

SPECIALISTS WANTED

The Society has run out of its supply of the March/April 1985 issue of the Specialist. It is your editor's belief that that issue combined two months in one single printing. We need twenty copies in order to fulfill our binding obligations on the 1985-86 Specialists. If anyone has extra copies of this particular issue which they can spare, please send them to: Mirko Vondra, 1511 Clearview Avenue, Lancaster, PA 17601.



THE SOCIETY'S SALES AND EXCHANGE DEPARTMENT

At a meeting held in the back room of a coffee shop on First Avenue in New York City on an autumn day in 1940, the new Society's membership decided to initiate a Sales and Exchange Department and appointed Wolfgang Fritzsche to get it organized. The first announcement of this service appeared in the September 1940 issue of the Specialist. The second announcement came with the November 1940 issue and contained the Rules and Regulations as formulated by Circuit Manager Fritzsche. After notices were sent out and sales books solicited, the first circuit went on its way on January 7, 1941. It contained nine books with materials submit-

ted by members Secký, Horechny and Fritzsche. After that, each month more members sent in their sales books for circulation. That included Lowey, Pearce, Michelson, Velek, Bryant, Kempe, Křivohlavý, Stach, C.E. Brown, Klemm and Slocum in chronological order. With that kind of beginning response, twelve circuits were circulated in 1941 comprising 119 books at a total gross value of \$901.61. At today's philatelic rate of inflation, that would amount to well over \$2,000. The sales from those books came to \$392.76 or 43.3%. Three books sold out completely though three others realized no sales at all. Since then, the Department has placed into circulation over 600 circuits. Even during the war years there

was no interruption of service.

In the first few years, books containing stamps of Czechoslovakia were sent out along with books containing stamps of other countries because there was not enough Czech material to make it worth while. Since most members also collected other countries like Austria, Hungary and Germany, they were included in the circuits. Presently only philatelic material of Czechoslovakia, Slovakia and Bohemia-Moravia is accepted. This is one of the newer rules, so it is not uncommon to find Austrian and Hungarian material still in books as recently as the last year or two. It came mostly from members who were not familiar with the newer rules. Their books were circulated as an accommodation and fortunately sales from them were very good.

Over the forty years of the Department's existence, only 14 circuits were lost in the mail. The first loss did not happen until 1948 when one circuit was lost. The following year, another was lost. Not a single loss occurred during the fifties and sixties. Suddenly nine losses took place in the seventies and three more in the eighties. In the beginning, there was adequate postal insurance. As time went on and U.S. postal authorities did not see fit to raise the insurable limits even though stamp values rose sharply, the Society found it necessary to add compensation from its own insurance fund. Realizing that this placed the Society at a certain risk, the Board of Directors voted three years ago to obtain additional insurance through the American Philatelic Society.

Thanks to the conscientious and cooperative efforts of our members, circuits were well handled and only twice did members fail to pay for what they obtained.

There is nothing mysterious or complicated about the Society's Sales and Exchange Department. It accepts stamps, miniature sheets, covers and postal stationary, whether mint or used, of Czechoslovakia, Slovakia, Bohemia-Moravia, Eastern Silesia and Carpatho-Ukraine. Any of these may contain special cancellations, plate numbers, errors and varieties as listed in specialized catalogs. With the exception of covers and postal stationary, all material submitted has to be mounted in the Society's approval books each of which has ten pages of 5 x 8 inches in size and holds 120 stamps. They are available from the circuit manager at 50 cents apiece plus postage. Covers and postal stationary may be submitted unmounted, but each cover or card must have the sale price written in pencil in the lower right-hand corner. The manager then batches them and inserts them in the books along with other philatelic material for sale.

When a seller applies for and receives his approval books, he fills them with his stamps, prices each item in the spaces provided, totals the value of each book's contents at the end and returns the books to the manager. The manager then sorts the newly received books into groups of not less than six and not more than ten and begins circulating them among those members who have applied for the service. They are the buyers. Thus a so-called "Circuit" may be defined as a grouping of six to ten approval books submitted by sellers which travel by mail from buyer to buyer according to a route sheet accompanying each grouping. Only Society members in good standing may participate in our sales and exchange circuit and only if they apply as seller or buyer or both. Those who apply as buyers and wish to receive groups of approval books are placed on a mailing list by the manager and have a different spot on each routing. This is done to prevent the same members from having the worst selection by being on the bottom. Buyers are required to pay one dollar into the Society's insurance fund for each circuit they receive, whether they bought anything or not. This supplements the insurance furnished by APS and assures full coverage.

After a circuit is retired, the manager totals the sales and returns the books to the owners. They receive a check for their sales less 15% commission and 1% of the gross value of the book for insurance and cost of return postage. Checks payable to the Society for purchases made are sent to the manager by the buyers as soon as each buyer mails the books he just received to the next buyer on the route sheet. Those who are both buyers and sellers

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(and they are in the majority) receive a statement periodically from the manager listings sales realized versus purchases made. The balance is then paid either by the manager to the member or by the member to the manager as the case may be.

The Department handles on the average of twelve circuits a year or approximately one per month. These circuits help form the life-line of our Society. Ever since its inception, in 1941, the Department has been a constant supplier of funds and has aided immeasurably in maintaining the solvency of our Society's treasury. By making purchases from these circuit books, members not only serve their own philatelic needs, but also give financial support to their Society.

The following are the Rules and Regulations governing the use of circuits:

1. Stamps must be mounted in the Society's sales books which can be obtained from the Sales Manager. Only good peelable hinges or mounts are to be used.

2. Scott's current catalog is the recognized service. If you use any other specialized catalog, you must identify it and it must be the current year. Enter in the proper spaces the catalog number, catalog value and the NET price at which you want to sell. Total catalog value of a book may not exceed \$300.

3. All books must remain in the Sales Department for at least one circuit.

4. After the books are retired from the circuit, they will be checked and the proceeds less charges will be paid to the owners. Charges include 15 percent for the service, return postage on the books, money order fee for payment of proceeds and one percent of the total original value of each book for the insurance fund.

5. A buyer must sign every space from which he removes a stamp and place his membership number there. He must mark the report sheets by showing the total amount removed from each book.

6. Upon obtaining a mailing of circuit books, a buyer must first check the number of books received. If he finds any empty unmarked spaces, he must notify the sender of the circuit as well as the Sales Manager. In each such empty space, he should write "Found Empty" and give his name and membership number. The prices of those stamps will then be charged to the member who had the books before him.

7. DO NOT HOLD BOOKS FOR MORE THAN TEN DAYS. After removing what stamps you want, send the books by third class mail INSURED to the next member whose name appears on the list accompanying each circuit. Fill out the report sheet and send it to the Sales Manager together with the amount due.

8. Switching of stamps, substituting poor copies for better ones is stealing and will be dealt with as the offense warrants.

9. Each member is responsible for the full amount of the circuit as long as it is in his possession and until he receives the insurance receipt from his post office or, if delivered personally, until he secures a receipt from the next member. Members should save all their postal receipts for at least six months.

10. Checks or money orders must be made payable to: Wolfgang Fritzsche, P.O. Box 8, Canandaigua, N.Y. 14424.

NEWLY DISCOVERED U.S. ARMY APO LETTER

by Henry Hahn

The March 1983 Specialist, page 9, carries a story and listing of U.S. Army Post Offices in Czechoslovakia by Richard Major. Thirteen APO's are enumerated, one of which is APO 94 which, according to the listing, operated near Strakonice, Sušice and Prachatice between June 11 and July 28, 1945.

Dr. Miroslav Vostatek has recently come across a letter from this APO addressed to the

Chairman of the National Committee in Kunžak (near Jindřichuv Hradec). The author of the letter was William E. McBride, Major, Headquarters 2, 301st Infantry, APO 94. While such letters addressed to Czechoslovakia are far less common than those addressed to the U.S., this letter is particularly interesting due to its content. In it, Major McBride thanks the Committee and citizens of Kunžak for acts of friendship toward him and members of his unit. He promises to inform the families of American flyers of the honors accorded their sons.

Dr. Vostatek relates the background for this promise as follows :

"On August 24, 1944 American aircraft bombed a mineral oil refinery in Pardubice, the town in which I live. In returning to their bases in Italy, the aircraft became engaged in an air battle about 100 miles south of Jindřichuv Hradec in which over ten American aircraft (Liberators and Flying Fortresses) crashed or crash-landed. However, 36 German fighter aircraft which intercepted the Americans from a base near Vienna were shot down. Many American flyers died near Kunžak or were captured. The local population aided the wounded or cared for the graves of the dead during the rest of the war. Hence this letter which points to the service of APO 94 on behalf of the 301 U.S. Army Infantry Regiment." Our readers are urged to refer to the March 1983 Specialist article and provide any additional information documented by their collections or other material which might shed some light on expanding or correcting these listings.

MEMBER OF THE MONTH

MEET PHILLIPS B. FREER

It should come as no surprise that some of our more serious and consistent members are not Czechs or even of Czech or Slovak origin. Yet they are devoted to the Society and their love of Czechoslovak philately is like that of collectors born and raised in the old country.

Take as an example the case of Phillips B. Freer. A descendent of French Huguenot stock, He attended the University of Washington to become a psychotherapist. Working with teen-agers and young people, he became regional director of specialized children's services for Los Angeles county until his retirement 16 years ago. He made several trips to Oaxaca in Mexico doing philatelic research on Oaxaca provisionals and finally settled there permanently. For many years he collected Mexico, especially Oaxaca and El Salvador. He served as President, Vice-President and treasurer of the Mexico-Elmhurst Philatelic Society International (MEPSI) and as President of the Associated Collectors of El Salvador (ACES). Presently he is Vice-President of the MesoAmerican Study Group (MASU) of the American Topical Association. He has exhibited both nationally and internationally and has been an accredited APS national judge. His exhibit of Oaxaca Provisionals has won many top awards as has his exhibit of El Salvador's postal cards. Last year he wrote and published a book entitled "Mexican Journeys" about historical events and personalities and illustrated with photos of appropriate postal issues.



As will sometimes happen to prolific collectors, he found it increasingly difficult to add to his collections so he finally sold them. He thought his days of philately were at an end.

But Phillips has three children and two of them came to his rescue. All are successfully established in their careers. His oldest child, a son named Dr. Stephan Tabor Freer, does research in molecular biology for a private company. Some years ago, Stephan went to Prague to present a paper at a scientific meeting. The city and its people made a favorable

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impression on him and he brought back to his father many beautiful stamps of Czechoslovakia. Later when Phillips' daughter, Regina, graduated from high school, he gave her a trip to Europe which included a visit to Prague. She too returned with many stamps. And so Phillips was launched on a new philatelic venture - the stamps of Czechoslovakia.

Obviously his present collection has not reached the state of depth and refinement that he was able to give to his collections of Mexico, Oaxaca and El Salvador. However, he has the experience and discerning eye to realize that collecting stamps involves more than just filling blank spaces in an album. It is the errors and varieties, the essays and proofs, the covers and cancellations that help make for a well-rounded and interesting accumulation which eventually forms the basis for a winning exhibit. Phillips is striving in that direction and looking for whatever aid our Society and its members can give him to help him achieve new philatelic goals.

Three years ago, he founded the Monte Alban Society which solicits private funds for exploratory and archeological excavation work in the land of the Zapotecs and Mixtecs. As a fund raiser, he is the kind of member our own Society needs and cherishes. And as he celebrates his 79th birthday this November, our Society welcomes him into its fold and wishes him many years of successful and enjoyable collecting.

EDITORIAL HINGES

I. COMMENTARIES ON OUR MAY ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

"Received the Fiftieth Anniversary Issue yesterday and want to compliment you on a fine job".
- H. H.

"I have received the May Anniversary Issue; quite smart, I thought, and I am happy with it."
- G. M. van Z.

"The May 1989 issue of the Specialist was certainly an enjoyable issue".
- P. B. F.

"I did like the May issue of Specialist. It pays to reminisce. . . many of the younger members should know how we started the Society". - W. F.

"As a historian, I was very pleased to see the article on the history of the Society".
- R. T. C.

"I would like to congratulate you for the excellent May issue of the Czechoslovak Specialist. The reprint of the Number One issue as well as the History of the Society was extremely interesting."
- V. B.

"The May number was neat and clean and it was also an interesting one, especially because my interest in history has been growing in recent years". - E. S. J.

"The May anniversary number of the Specialist arrived today. My congratulations to you on your fine work!".
- A. H.

"Both the May and June issues are super ! Very well done !"
- R. P.

II. COMMENTARIES ON MONOGRAFIE

The fourth International Exhibition of Philatelic Literature since 1930 and only the second under FIP patronage took place in Frankfurt, West Germany, on April 19 through April 24.

IPHLA 89 was reported as a big success not only for its quality of exhibits but for the interest it generated as evidenced by the large turnout.

Of significance to our Society is the fact that of the three large gold medals awarded, one went to the six volumes of Monografie published by the Federation of Czechoslovak Philatelists. A separate F.I.P. medal was awarded posthumously to Emil Votoček for his volumes on postal markings that are part of the monumental Monografie series.

Now that Monografie has gained the recognition it deserves as a definitive piece of literary research on Czechoslovak philately, our Society is proud to have undertaken what your editor believes to be the first attempt to translate a portion thereof into the English Language. Thanks to the tireless efforts of Vladimír Králíček, "The Dove" portion of the Allegory chapter of Monografie II has already been published serially, the last installment having appeared in this year's April issue. With the October issue, we will resume with "The Liberated Republic" - the second portion of the Allegory chapter.

Reaction to the fifteen installments of "The Dove" have been mixed. Those who liked it expressed gratitude for having a highly technical subject readily understandable because of what has heretofore been a language barrier. Others criticized it for being too technical in any language. Both arguments are correct. To those who are experts or aspiring to become experts especially in the early issues of Czechoslovakia, the translation was like a blessing. To those who are general collectors, the contents of most of Monografie II are a waste of time in any language.

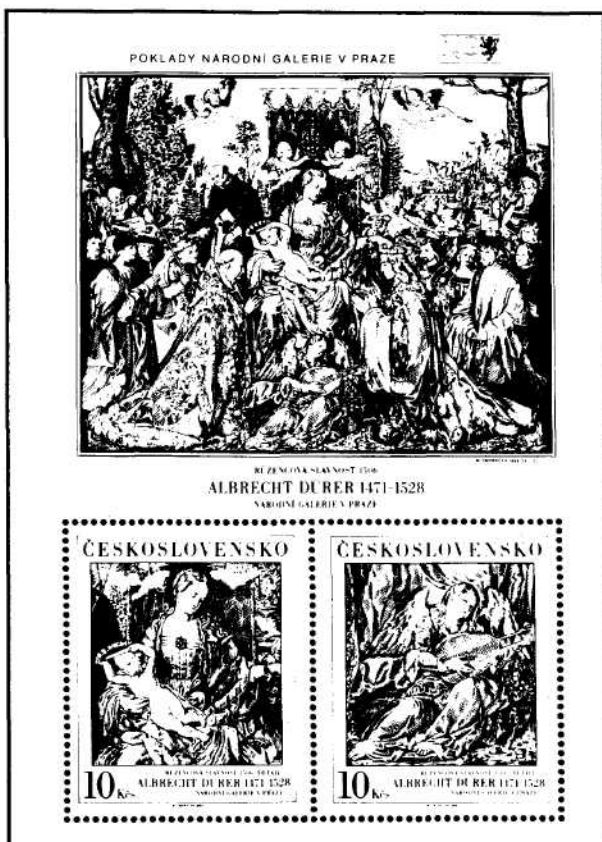
This brings us to a crucial point of what the Specialist was meant to be and what it is designed to do for our member readers. There is no disputing the fact that our members run the gamut of stamp collectors, - from the novice to the expert; from the general collector to the specialist; from the young to the very old. Whom is this publication intended to satisfy and at whose expense? Theoretically it should appeal to every member interested in reading about Czechoslovak philately. But with the membership being made up of such a diverse group of collectors, this journal can at best satisfy everyone partially, - which means it cannot satisfy everyone completely.

By striking a happy medium, your editor believes that if each reader can find at least one article or item of information per issue that will give him some philatelic knowledge and satisfaction, a purpose has been served and a mission accomplished. But this also requires a degree of tolerance on the part of the reader that enables him to acknowledge that those articles he finds less interesting and purposeful are in fact someone else's fount of knowledge and source of valuable information and enjoyment.

NEW ISSUES

On April 20, 1989, one 50h stamp was issued to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Pioneer Organization. The stamp was designed by Jaroslav Chadima; engraving was by Bedřich Housa. The Postal Printing Office in Prague employed rotary recess printing combined with multicolor photogravure. The picture measures 30 X 23 mm. and the stamp was printed in sheets of fifty. It shows a drawing of a Pioneer in uniform, the symbol of which is a red scarf featuring a dove and flowers.

The Pioneer is a youth organization comprising young naturalists, technicians, sportsmen and whatever other specialty interests young people pursued. As a voluntary movement,



its membership totals some 900.000 young men and women.

On April 21, 1989, two 10 kčs. stamps were issued as part of a special souvenir sheet. Titled "Treasures of the National Art Gallery in Prague", they show different details of the Feast of Rose Garlands as conceived by the fifteenth century artist, Albrecht Durer.

Multicolor flat recess print was employed in the production of these sheets which are printed as usual by the Postal Printing Office in Prague. The individual stamp measures 40 X 50 mm.

Only basic information is given here as the writer intends to cover the subject of Albrecht Durer in Czechoslovak philately in one of the forthcoming issues of the Specialist.

G. M. van Zanten
(Courtesy of ARTIA)

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