

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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Editorial Hinges

THE END OF A DECADE

This season's holidays are upon us! If you are preparing for the usual festivities, keep in mind that celebrations this year are likely to take place with a certain amount of moderation and reserve. Our members, along with many Americans, are reflecting on the decade just ending.

The eighties was an era full of surprises and paradoxes. From a philatelic standpoint, values of older stamps far outdistanced the inflationary rate in the U.S. Fortunes were made at sales and auctions that will probably not be duplicated in the last decade of the century. From a political standpoint, Communism met its judgment day in Warsaw, Prague, Budapest and Berlin. But Capitalism suffered too and is suffering badly right now. In Czechoslovakia, the conversion from a planned economy to a market economy is taking its toll in the form of social hardships and political repercussions. From an economic standpoint, trouble brews in the U.S., in the Soviet Union and now even in Japan. Naturally, these problems are "rubbing off" on the smaller nations of Eastern Europe. Czechoslovakia is no exception.

While all this may seem far removed from our Society's affairs, the fact remains that the backlash of these upheavals is already being felt in the philatelic world. Attendance at major stamp shows is down appreciably and collectors are pulling back from making wholesale purchases of stamps and other material that was the rage only a few years ago. For example, sales of expensive stamp albums (especially their supplements) have dropped and collectors are discovering that mounting their collections on blank pages in three-ring binders is not only economical, but is actually more fun. Bidding at sales and auctions, while still brisk, is now confined to a few philatelic elitists who vie for the best material at prices far in excess of catalog and experts' evaluations. And memberships in Societies are dropping because prospective collectors are not being solicited. Those who are become discouraged by the tremendous output of new stamps being issued worldwide. In the U.S. alone, some 112 new stamps are scheduled for issuance in 1991. Wisely, Czechoslovakia is one of the few countries that has officially announced it will again limit the quantity of its new issues in 1991.

So, as we prepare to dine and feast during this season's holidays, we reflect on a curious past and ponder what the future will bring. With mixed feelings and strange apprehensions, your editorial staff wishes its members, their families and friends the best for this year's end as well as the New Year, ever mindful that next year's holiday season may not be as jovial as this one.

YOUR DUES ARE DUE

Last month we apprised you of some drastic changes in our Bylaws, including the expansion of the Society's Board of Directors from 10 to 15 members and changing the issuance of our journal, the CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST, from a monthly to a bi-monthly publication. This was necessitated by increases in printing and mailing costs.

Strange as it may seem, even a non-profit organization like the S.C.P. requires money to operate. You can help by sending in your dues check on time. Do not wait till February or later. Our Society cannot function on credit. This issue therefore contains an addressed envelope in the centerfold. Please remove it, enclose your renewal of membership dues and mail it to our treasurer **THIS MONTH!** And if you wish to give our Society an extra financial boost to help meet those miscellaneous expenses that inevitably come up, please fill in the additional amount on the renewal application form and add that amount to your membership dues on the check. These additional amounts comprise donations and are therefore tax deductible.

The membership renewal application appears on page 15.

NOMINATIONS TO THE BOARD

Your attention was directed in last month's issue to the fact that nominations to our Board of Directors would be solicited during January and February 1991. This is one of the privileges that every paid-up member of the S.C.P. has and we urge you to exercise that privilege. You can nominate anyone you wish who is a member in good standing provided you notify that person beforehand and obtain his consent to run for office.

It takes two members to nominate a candidate. So be sure you contact another member because both members must sign the nominating form. The candidate you are nominating need not sign. However, do not place anyone's name in nomination unless you consulted that person first and he agreed to it. (See nominating form on page 15).

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In sending your nominating form to the secretary, make certain that you have complied with the instructions. To be valid, the envelope in which your form is mailed must be postmarked no later than February 28, 1991.

Any member in good standing may be nominated for the Board (see last published membership list starting on page 25 of the May 1989 SPECIALIST). However do NOT nominate the following five members who are currently serving on the Board and whose terms of office will not expire until the next election in two years:

Charles Chesloe, Jack Benchik, Edwin Lehecka, Robert Kolchak and Jane Sterba.

A NEW CIRCUIT MANAGER

After more than 40 years as manager of the Society's Sales and Exchange Department, Wolfgang Fritzsche has decided to retire the end of this year (See Aug./Sept. 1989 SPECIALIST, page 8/9). Jack Benchik of Notre Dame, Indiana, has agreed to take over as the new circuit manager (see Feb. 1988 SPECIALIST, page 8).

Last year, Mr. Fritzsche had been named as honorary member and further recognition of his many years of devoted service to our Society will be made shortly. To our new manager, Mr. Benchik, we wish all the luck in the world. And to our entire membership, especially those who use the sales and exchange circuit, we ask your patience and cooperation. As in all such cases, Mr. Benchik is familiarizing himself with the methods and procedures of philatelic circuitry. If any problems should arise, your indulgence will be appreciated. We should all give Mr. Benchik our fullest cooperation in helping him fill Mr. Fritzsche's shoes.

ON NEW ZEALAND 90

Our assistant editor, being a resident of Napier, New Zealand, is our on-the-spot reporter for happenings at NEW ZEALAND 90, held in Auckland from August 24 to September 2. Gerald van Zanten reports that the show was a success and that the exhibition was attended by 45,000 paid customers. Among the exhibits of Czechoslovakia were the following winners, none of whom are members of our Society:

<u>Title</u>	<u>Exhibitor</u>	<u>Award</u>
"Czechoslovakia 1918-1938"	Svatopluk Sablatura	Vermeil
"Troubled Times in Bohemia 1620-1918"	Lumir Brendl	Vermeil
"Czechoslovakia 1945-1953"	František Hutýra	Large Silver
"Czechoslovak Forerunner Stamps 1918-1919"	František Dvořák	Silver

In the Literature Class, the following Czechoslovak material, all submitted by the Federation of Czechoslovak Philatelists, received awards:

<u>Title</u>	<u>Award</u>
Handbook of Czechoslovak Stamps and Entries	Gold
Postmarks of 1918-1939 by E. Votoček	

AND MORE ON BALPEX 90

We cannot resist the urge, so here are more pictures received recently by your editor of the S.C.P.'s goings-on at BALPEX 90. Inasmuch as your editor was not present at the individual picture-taking, he can only report what he heard others allege was being said.

In fig. 1, Henry Hahn, the Society's exhibition chairman and a judge at the show, is purportedly telling a group of complaining exhibitors: "Don't blame me that you didn't win; blame the other judge!"



Fig. 1

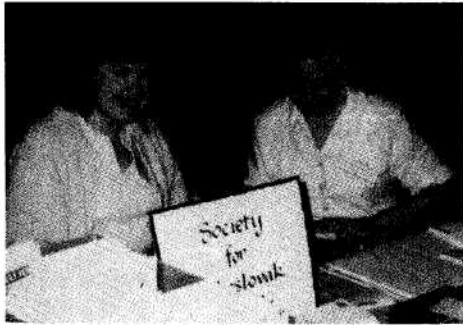


Fig. 2



Fig. 3

In fig. 2 (above), Anne Vondra is telling an absorbed Evelyn Lehecka: "Look at that young collector over there ! Did you see his biceps ?"

In fig. 3 (above), Mirko Vondra remarks to a concerned Pavel Pitterman: "The last time I tried something like that in a place like this I lost my tooth."

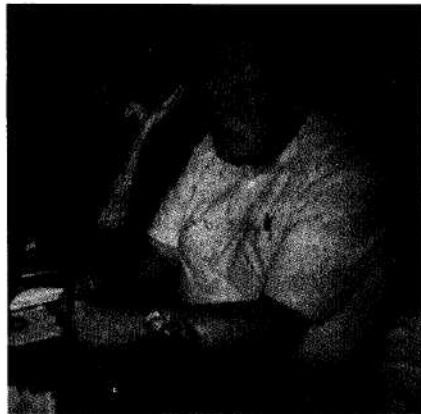


Fig. 4



Fig. 5

In fig. 4 (above), "Phil Freer strains to hear Dick Major burp his consent to a delicious meal."

And in fig. 5 (above), František Hutýra tells his audience: "Let us all bow our heads in prayer" while Henry Hahn demonstrates how it's done.

THE CZECHOSLOVAK MUSIC SCENE BOHUSLAV MARTINU (December 8, 1890–August 28, 1959)

by Gerald M. van Zanten

There are four giants in Czechoslovak musical composition. Three of them are well-known: Bedrich Smetana (see Scott #386, 387), Antonin Dvořák (see Scott #460 to 463) and Leoš Janáček (see Scott #599 & 658 to 660). The fourth is yet to be "discovered" outside his homeland. Bohuslav Martinu did not write in the heroic style of Smetana or in the lyric style of Dvořák and certainly not in the dramatic drive of Janáček. Like the man he was, Martinu's music is low-key. In this era when high decibel sound is the trademark of fame and success, Martinu must bide his time.

Born just one hundred years ago on December 3, 1890 in the same region as Smetana, in the village of Polička in Eastern Bohemia (see fig. 1), Martinu spent a large part of his childhood in the tower of St. James Church where his father was employed as fire watchman, tower keeper and bell



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

ringer (see fig. 2). As a matter of fact, his actual birthplace was the room above the belfry, some 193 steps up from street level. Today that room houses a small museum dedicated to the composer. (see fig. 3) His family lived there till 1900 before moving to a cottage in another part of Polička (see fig. 4). The town's population was then about 5,000 inhabitants.



Fig. 3

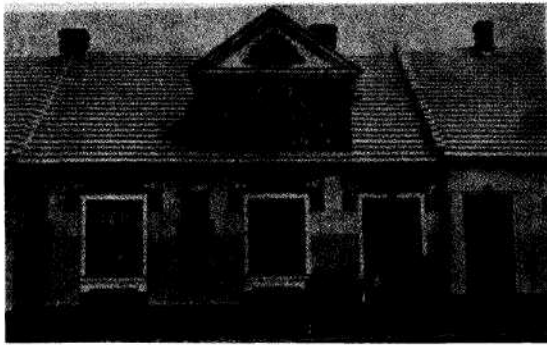


Fig. 4

Columns with its group of statues in the Great Square is perhaps the best example of Baroque sculpture in the Bohemian and Moravian provinces.

Ferdinand Martinu, the tower keeper, saw to his son's musical education by having him take violin lessons from the local tailor, Josef Černovsky, whom Bohuslav cherished dearly throughout his life. The young boy made rapid progress despite a natural reticence and soon he mastered the studies of Beriot (1802–1870) and Wieniawski (1835–1880). When he gave his first recital in 1905 at the age of 15, the people of Polička believed he was destined to become a virtuoso like Jan Kubelik (1880–1940), famed Czech violinist and composer and father of Raphael Kubelik, the conductor.

In 1906, Bohuslav entered the Prague Conservatory which he never completed. He found it difficult to work under discipline. From 1910 until the end of World War I, he took up studies in earnest, concentrating on the violin. He made a living as a music teacher and played violin in the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, at that time under the baton of the famous Václav Talich (1883–1961). Up to that point, he wrote a total of 109 compositions. These were known as his early works.

When the war ended and Czechoslovakia became an independent nation, Martinu wrote his first major work, the "Czech Rhapsody" for large orchestra, chorus, soloists and organ. The work was performed by the Czech Philharmonic in Prague under the direction of L.V. Čelanský. Following this triumph, he made orchestral tours of Italy, France and Switzerland. For about a year, he studied under Josef Suk (1874–1935). However, lack of concentration once more got the better of him and his work under Suk was broken off.

Shortly thereafter he won a scholarship in Paris where he was attracted by all the excitement taking place in the field of music. It was here that he met his great teacher and life-long friend, Albert Roussel (1869–1937), who had been a marine officer in Indo-China prior to becoming a noted French composer. This led to his next two major symphonic works, "Half Time" and "La Bagarre" (Turmoil) in 1926.

Polička was founded in the 13th century by royal decree of King Přemysl Otakar II. In 1307, it became a royal dowager town when Rudolf I "gave" it to his consort, Queen Eliza, in lieu of unpaid dowry. In 1421 during the Hussite Wars, Jan Žižka (see Scott #552 & 555) took possession of the town which was on the side of the Utraquists, or reformists. In the beginning of the 18th century, the town enjoyed its greatest prosperity of which many Baroque buildings and art monuments survive to this day. Among them, the Marian



1926 was also the year in which he met Charlotte Quennehen, a young French girl from Picardy. A simple dressmaker, she became his wife in 1931 and remained his devoted companion for the rest of his life. For about 17 years after his scholarship ran out, he had very little means of support and her hard work supplemented their meager income.

He tried his hand at opera and in 1928, "The Soldier and the Dancer" was performed in Brno. In 1932, his string quintet won him the Collidge Award in the U.S.A. Serge Koussevitsky (1874–1951) of the Boston Symphony liked the work and encouraged him to continue writing.

The early 1930's found Czech lyrical melodies prevailing in his works. His compositions became broader in scope and encompassed operas, ballets and chamber music. Much of this was motivated by his memories of home where he spent his holidays each year. These feelings were expressed in such works as his ballet "Špalíček" (after fairy tales and nursery rhymes), his operas "The Theater Beyond the Gate" and "The Miracle of Our Lady" and a radio broadcast opera called "Comedy on the Bridge". However, his greatest operatic achievement came in 1937 with his "Juliette or The Key to Dreams". It is a story resplendent with poetry and fantasy.

As the Armies of the Third Reich swarmed over Europe in the late 1930's, Martinu no longer felt safe. His music had been black-listed by the Nazis. On June 10, 1940, he and his wife escaped from occupied Paris with a few belongings. After wandering about France for nine months, often sleeping in railway stations, they made their way to Lisbon from where they left for the U.S. on the SS Exeter, arriving in New York on March 31, 1941.

While in the U.S., he wrote his six symphonies. Of these, the Sixth, known as the Fantasies Symphoniques, is generally acknowledged to be his greatest orchestral work. It was written in 1953 while he was residing in Jamaica on Long Island. Prior to that, he had lived in Middleburg, Vermont; Lennox, Massachusetts; and Darien, Connecticut. Between the time he wrote his Second and Third Symphonies, he composed a moving piece entitled "Memorial to Lidice".

Misfortune struck again ! After accepting a summer teaching post at Tanglewood near Boston, Massachusetts, he had to resign because of a serious fall which affected his hearing and nervous system for several years. He spent a holiday in Switzerland and France during 1948 before returning to New York in the autumn to take up a composition chair at Princeton University. He remained there for three years, during which time he composed some 15 chamber works and two television operas called "What Men Live By" and "The Marriage". From 1953 to 1955, he lived in Nice, Italy, where he commenced work on a comic opera, "Mirandolina", as well as a series of chamber cantatas. Then he again returned to the U.S. to teach at the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia. After a year, he accepted a professorship at the American Academy in Rome. Here he began work on "The Rock", a symphonic prelude which he completed later in Switzerland. This was followed by a cycle of chamber cantatas.

In 1958, he was admitted to the Hospital in Basle, Switzerland for treatment of cancer. While convalescing in Liestal, he completed his last two operas "The Greek Passion" and "Adriadne". He was about to finish a cantata for voices and instruments entitled "The Prophecy of Isaiah" when he succumbed to his illness. He died on Friday, August 28, 1959, after writing a total of 276 major works since the conclusion of World War I.

Though his works are occasionally played in this country, his fame as an outstanding modern composer flourishes in Europe, especially in England. There his Sixth Symphony is considered a modern masterpiece and his "Field Mass", composed in France in 1939 during the dark days of World War II in honor of the Czechoslovak Army in exile, an outstanding work of beauty and solemnity.

Along what lines did Martinu's tastes run ? Musically, he found Germany's Richard Wagner (1813–1883) "dull and boring". But he was extremely intrigued by Richard Strauss' (1864–1949) clever orchestrations not only in his symphonic tone poems, but also in his operas "Der Rosenkavalier" and "Elektra". But the composers whose music seemed to influence him most were Claude Debussy (1862–1918) of France and Igor Stravinsky (1882–1971) of Russia. Much of his music contains hints of both.

Philatelically, Czechoslovakia has issued only two stamps honoring Martinu so far (see fig. 5). The first of these, a caricature of sorts, was part of a set of three art stamps issued on August 20, 1965 just

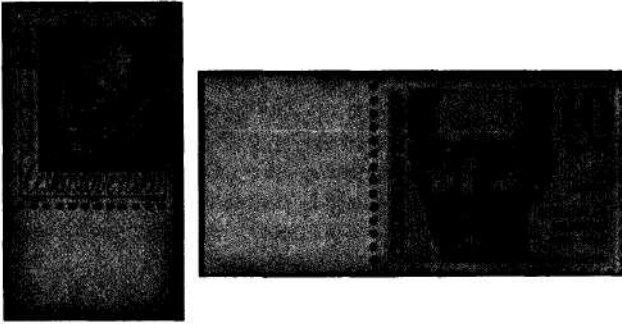


Fig. 5

Lenin (1870–1924); the 2k. has Emile Zola (1840–1902); the 3k. has Jaroslav Heyrovsky (1890–1967); and the 10k. bears a likeness of Bohuslav Martinu. They were all designed by A. Brunovsky, but only the Martinu stamp was engraved by Josef Herčík.

six years after his death on what would have been close to his 75th birthday. It was designed by O. Janeček and engraved by Josef Herčík (see SPECIALIST, June/July 1990, page 3/4). The second stamp was part of a set of six famous leaders and writers honoring UNESCO and issued early this year. The 50h shows Karel Čapek (1890–1938); another 50h shows Thomas Masaryk (1850–1937); the 1k. shows V.I.

CZECHOSLOVAK FIELD POST IN THE SOVIET UNION

by Dr. Walter J. Rauch

Part III

(This is the third and final installment of this article as continued from the November issue).

Fig. 19 shows a replica of a packet card sent by Marja Širc, a Czechoslovak nursing sister in Kiev, to herself at the village of Dorostai Cheshskie.

The Šáteček in Fig. 20 was sent by Josef Veselý through Field Post No. 01387 G on 18 January 1945 to his namesake at the Town Council at Hrušvica Česká (now Hrushvitsa Druhá) Rivne District, Western Ukraine.

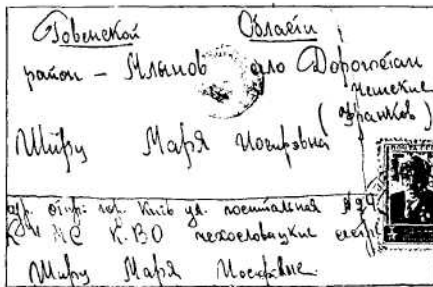


Fig. 19

Fig. 21 shows a military patriotic card sent by Josef A. Hofman on 17 January 1945 from Field Post No. 38032 Ud (originally First Czechoslovak Infantry Brigade. But on 1 August 1944 it was assigned to the First Czechoslovak Artillery Regiment). Addressed to a relative in the village of Moskovshchina, Mlyniv District, Rivne Province, Western Ukraine, it passed through Mlyniv on 11 February 1945.

There were Ukrainians serving in the Polish Legion formed in the USSR, including some from the Czech-speaking areas of Rivne and Volyn



Fig. 20



Fig. 21

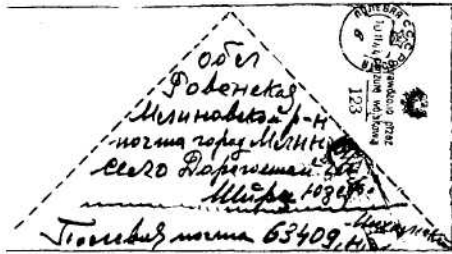


Fig. 22a

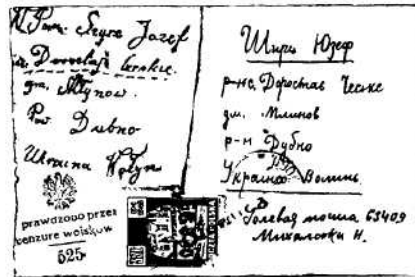


Fig. 22b

Provinces. The packet detailed in Fig. 22A was addressed and sent by N. Mikhalyuk through Soviet Field Post No. 63409 (serving a Polish unit) to Josef Širc at the village of Dorostaj Cheshskie, Mlyniv District, Rivne Province, Western Ukraine. Note the Polish Military Censorship No. 123 marking.

Another packet addressed by the same sender to the same addressee and bearing the same Soviet Field Post number (but different handwriting!), together with Polish postage of 3 zloty and examined by the Polish Military Censorship No. 525 is shown in Fig. 22B.



Fig. 23a



Fig. 23b

Fig. 23A shows a 20-kop. Soviet card, sent by a civilian in the village of Mirohoshcha, via Dubno P.O. 2 February 1945 to Field Post No. 38032 K (First Czechoslovak Infantry Brigade).

Fig. 23B shows yet another 20-kop. card sent by a civilian to the front, this time from Rovno/Rivne in Western Ukraine on 25 March 1945 to Field Post No. 53230 (First Czechoslovak Army Corps).

Illustrated in Fig. 24A is a military patriotic card sent towards the end of March 1945 by Vjačeslav Danda through Field Post No. 52081 (Artillery Workshops attached to the Fifth Czechoslovak Artillery Regiment) to a relative in the village of Hul'ča Češská, Zdolbuniv District, Rivne Province, Western Ukraine.

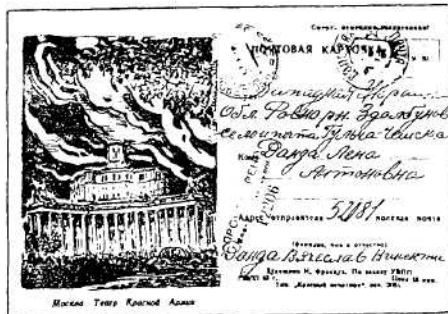


Fig. 24a



Fig. 24b



Fig. 26a



Fig. 26b

Neustadt, the liberation of Kremnica (all in the left column and in Czech), while the column at right is in Slovak and deals with initiative and military acumen.

Another card seen in Fig. 25B was sent by a civilian through Dubno-2 P.O. on 26 April 1945, via the Soviet Military Postal Sorting Point No. 38 (?) on 29 April 1945 to Field Post No. 38032 K (First Czechoslovak Infantry Brigade, Armored Defense Regiment).

With the collapse and surrender of the Third Reich, we now enter the post-war period. A card sent from Prague on 23

КОМАНДА ЧЕХОСЛОВАК АРМЕЙСКОГО КОРПУСА № 1000 1945 г. 364	
ИЗВЕЩЕНИЕ.	
Кому гр. <u>Грбеч Антония</u>	
от <u>авиации</u> в <u>Казимировичи р-н. Ровно</u> обл. <u>Ровно</u>	
том что он/его/ <u>Сем. Грбеч Владимир</u>	
от <u>1946</u> года <u>Войн</u> Чехословацкого Армейского Корпуса в СССР	
за <u>Родину</u> , верный <u>воинской</u> присяге, проявив <u>героизм</u> и <u>любаво</u>	
<u>указом</u> № <u>22</u> <u>Ордера</u> 1944 года, <u>Похоронен</u> с <u>одеянием</u> во	
и почестей <u>от</u> <u>Генерала</u>	
Нам, Командатуры Чехословацкого Армейского Корпуса СССР, <u>информ./СЕРЖАНТ/</u>	

Fig. 27



Fig. 28a

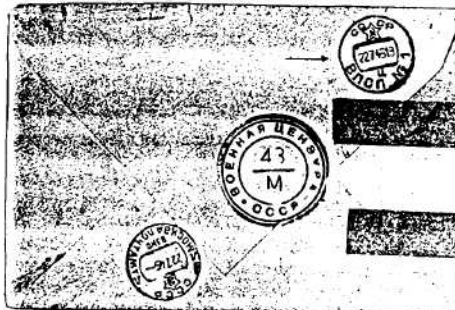


Fig. 28b

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

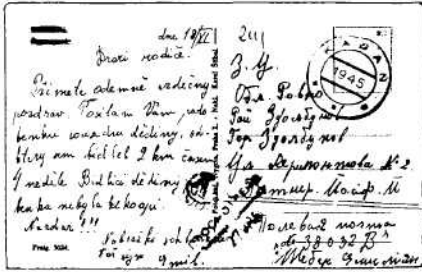


Fig. 29a



Fig. 29b

May 1945 through Field Post No. 38032 Uc (First Czechoslovak Army Brigade) to a relative in Mirohošča-Česká, Dubno District, Rivne Province, Western Ukraine is shown in Fig. 26A. The message is in Czech.

Another card, this time sent on 24 May 1945 from Turčianský Svätý Martin by Josef Novak through Field Post No. 38032 Ub to his parents in the village of Moskovshchina, Mlyniv District, Rivne Province, Western Ukraine is the subject of Fig. 26B.

Fig. 27 is a reproduction of an official announcement from the Command of the Czechoslovak Army Corps in the USSR under No. 364 and dated June 1945, advising Antonín Krbec in the village of Kvasilov Český, Rivne Province, Western Ukraine that his son, Vladimír, a soldier in the Czechoslovak Army Corps in the USSR had fallen on 23 November 1944 and was buried at Dukla Pass. The document was signed in Czech by Lt. Stránský and a cachet inscribed in Russian "Czechoslovak Military Unit in the USSR" was applied. This letter cachet could also have been applied to military mail to denote free franking.

Fig. 28A and B shows the front and back of an unusual military cover from the immediate post-war period, posted by a Czech serviceman at Slovice, Western Bohemia on 12 June 1945 and addressed to Private Jindřich Sedláček. The letter's field post number was filled in as 93442 (Armored Brigade) and it went to Military Postal Sorting Point No. 1 in Moscow (!). It is marked at front center "Unknown at the 5th. Company" in Czech.

With the end of WWII, many of the Volhynian Czechs and members of the Svoboda Army were settled in the Žatec district of Northwest Bohemia (in the former Sudetenland). Fig. 29 shows a card sent by Emiljan Šebek on 18 June 1945 through F-P No. 38032 B (1st Czechoslovak Infantry Brigade) and the P.O. at Kadaň to his parents in Zdolbuniv, Rivne Province, Western Ukraine.

Fig. 29B shows another card sent from Knyahynyno, Volyn Province on 3 August 1945 to F-P No. 53230 (Czechoslovak Army Corps Staff) and with decoding in Czech "Hlavní Štab/Škpt. Mesner" (General Staff, Staff Captain Mesner).



Fig. 30a

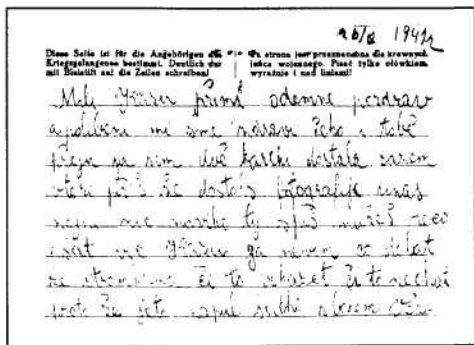


Fig. 30b

POSTSCRIPT

As noted in the preface to Part I published in the October SPECIALIST, this article first appeared in the June 1988 issue of YAMSHCHIK, no. 22. It is a compilation of the highlights of Dr. Rauch's prize-winning collection.

Andrew Cronin was editor of YAMSHCHIK at the time and, at the end of the article, he wrote a commentary in which he stated that "more work needs to be done on the postal history of the Czech minority in the Rivne and Volyn Provinces of Western Ukraine." In Fig. 30A and 30B, he offered examples of "the front and back of a reply card sent almost on the eve of the Nazi attack on the USSR from Dubno, Rivne Province on 25 April 1941 to Kazimír Oremba, POW from the former Polish Army at Stalag IX-C in Germany. When we turn the card over, we find that the message from his relatives Věra and Milenka is in Czech."

In line with Mr. Cronin's commentaries, Dr. Rauch has in fact expanded his collection and we hope eventually to bring you examples of additional material he acquired.

A COVER'S WITNESS TO HISTORY

by Vladimír Bubák

The Munich Accord of 1938, such as it was, provided Nazi Germany with the annexation of the Sudeten districts of Czechoslovakia. Annexation began on October 1 of that year and took almost six months to complete. Many books and articles were written about those events which go down in history as the "policy of appeasement". Actually, it was nothing more than a desertion and betrayal of Czechoslovakia by its then allies, France and England. Philatelically, the rape of a democratic country such as Czechoslovakia is graphically illustrated by Czech stamps of the period overprinted with swastikas and various inscriptions such as "Wir Sind Frei", etc. Much of this propaganda material can be found on the market even today. But of significantly greater interest from the period of Nazi occupation are the non-philatelic and non-political items such as the one shown here.

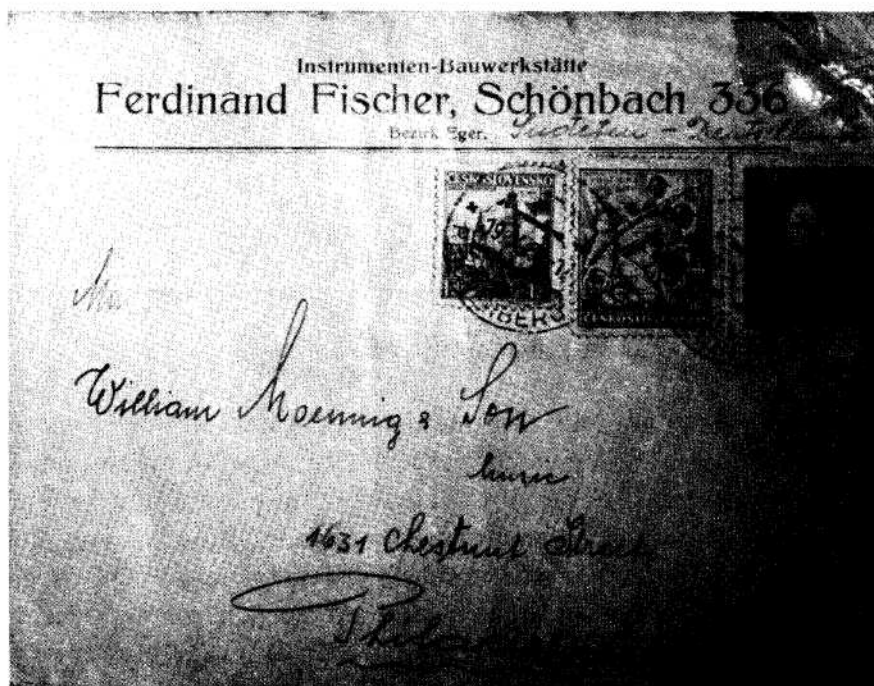


Fig. 1

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Validity of Czechoslovak postage stamps in a ten to one ration (ten pfennigs to one Czech crown) in the Sudeten territory ended by October 19, 1939. The cover in fig. 1 was posted in the city of Reichenberg (Liberec) on the last day of its validity at 5 PM. Because postoffices closed at 6 PM, this is probably one of the last possible examples of Czech stamps used in this territory during the occupation. It is interesting to note the removal of the Czech name of "Liberec" from the hand cancel. The name of "Liberec" was not restored to mail usage until seven years later when Hitler's Third Reich was finally defeated. Collecting Sudetenland material is fascinating as postal history for a philatelist. It includes not only Czechoslovakia and Germany, but Poland and Hungary as well. But for the people of all three nations—Czechoslovakia, Poland and Hungary—philatelic material such as this rekindles many tragic memories that will never be obliterated.

(Ed. Note—Of interest to collectors is also the fact that by the time the German Army surrendered, there were officially no Czech stamps left for use in postoffices throughout Czechoslovakia. By that time, German stamps were the only valid means of franking mail. Though this was quickly remedied, many private overprints appeared on German stamps. Two examples are shown in fig. 2 The First one reads "Č.S.R. - 9/5/45 - Ústí Nad Labem". The Second reads: "Č.S.R. - U.S.A. emancipated Pilsen - 6/5/1945". And so, almost seven years later, the tables had completely turned.)



Fig. 2

NEW RATE OF EXCHANGE

Our members are alerted to a new Presidential Order issued in Prague recently. Effective January 1, 1991, the Czech crown is demonetized from 15.5 kčs. to 24 kčs. per American dollar for purposes of business and commercial transactions. Those of you who may be selling, buying or exchanging philatelic material with collectors in Czechoslovakia are urged to take into account this new rate of exchange. The tourist rate of 29 1/4 kčs. to a dollar remains unchanged.

AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FOR OUR MEMBERS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

1 září 1990 rada schválila změnu v rozvrhu této publikace. Od příštího roku, bude časopis tištěn šestkrát ročně (každý druhý měsíc) místo měsíčně, deset krát ročně. Ztráta čtyř čísel časopisu bude nahrazena zvýšením počtu stran v každém čísle na 24 místo dosavadních 16 stran. Vyjma neočekávané krize, bude každé číslo obsahovat alespon 20 stran.

Důvod této změny je očekávané největší zvýšení poštovních sazeb v dějinách Spojených Států. Kromě toho, inflace způsobila zvýšení ceny papírů, tisku a jiných služeb. Bohužel, musíme si zvyknout na tuto situaci.

Rada ředitelů souhlasí že by zvýšení členských poplatků způsobilo velkou škodu naší Společnosti. Doufáme tedy, že členové pochopí, že jediná alternativa je rozhodnutí publikovat náš časopis každý druhý měsíc.

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To: The President of S.C.P. – Charles Chesloe 8300 South Wolf Road Willow Springs, IL 60480	
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