



# THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

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Official Monthly Journal of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately, Inc.

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A. P. S. Unit 18

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## ALL OUT FOR CHICAGOPEX!

It's down the homestretch as our Society prepares for the Big Show at CHICAGOPEX !

Each of the last three issues of the SPECIALIST has provided you with something on the "when, where and how" of our involvement in the show. The May/June issues included the Exhibit Application along with the Rules and Regulations in the centerfold. On page 8 of the July/August issue, we listed the S.C.P.'s program and schedule of events. We also mentioned that a Society Auction was contemplated. However, so far very little material has been submitted. Unless this changes drastically within the next thirty days, there is a possibility the auction may not be held. To prevent that from happening, each member is requested to submit at least one good duplicate item for auctioning. Those willing to participate should contact our President, Charles Chesloe, for terms of auction.

Let us all resolve to make this event one of the Society's most successful ones. See you in the Windy City on November 1, 2 and 3 !

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### MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Here is a list of all benefits to which S.C.P. members in good standing are fully entitled:

1. A sales and exchange circuit is operated by Jack Benchik. The circuit itself has been fully written up in the Aug/ Sept. 1989 SPECIALIST, page 8. For complete details, contact Jack Benchik, P.O. Box 555, Notre Dame, Ind. 46556.
2. A book sales division is run by Edwin Lehecka. Ads listing philatelic books for sale appear regularly in the SPECIALIST. For further information, contact Ed Lehecka, 217 Hazel Ave., Westfield, NJ 07090.
3. A Society library is housed with Richard Palaschak, librarian. A complete write-up including contents of the library last appeared in the June 1989 SPECIALIST, page 10. For inquiries on borrowing books or making book donations, contact Dick Palaschak, 113 Joyes Lane, Dover, NJ 07801.
4. An expertization committee operates under the direction of Edwin Lehecka. Depending on the nature or substance of the item to be expertized, he will direct you to the appropriate source for expertization. Please contact Ed Lehecka at 217 Hazel Ave., Westfield, NJ 07090.
5. Stamp auctions are currently conducted through Tribuna Stamp Co., in Chicago and ads announcing forthcoming auctions appear regularly in the SPECIALIST. For catalogs and bid forms or for information on submission of philatelic material for future auctions, contact Charles Chesloe, 8300 South Wolf Road, Willow Springs, Ill. 60480.
6. THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST is the official bi-monthly publication of the Society. For inquiries on obtaining back issues, contributing original articles of related significance, translating articles from Czech to English, advertising rates and bound copies, contact Mirko Vondra, editor, 1511 Clearview Ave., Lancaster, PA 17601.

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**THE CZECHOSLOVAK MUSIC SCENE**  
**KAREL KOVAŘOVIC - DECEMBER 8, 1862–DECEMBER 6, 1920**  
*by Gerald M. van Zanten*



When Karel Kovařovic was born in Prague on December 8, 1862, Thomas Masaryk was just twelve years old. That was also the year the composer F. Škroup died.

Kovařovic was to gain a reputation as a composer, first with his opera "Ženichové" (The Bridegrooms), and then with his ballet "Hašiš", both performed in 1884.

In 1897, he won first prize in competition for a new Czech opera with his "Psohlavci" (The Dog Heads) which is occasionally performed in Czechoslovakia chiefly for its strong dramatic and patriotic elements. One should remember this was still during the period when the Czechs were oppressed under the Hapsburgs. The opera, with its measure of patriotic pathos, gave a moral boost to the Czech people. Another opera having a similar effect was "Na Starém Bělidle (At the Old Bleaching House). In all, he wrote five operas and can claim to

have contributed to the Czech revival movement.

Kovařovic studied such diverse instruments as the piano, harp and clarinet at the Prague Conservatory between 1873 and 1879. In addition, he had private singing lessons and instruction in composition with Zdenek Fibich (see SPECIALIST of Nov. 1990, page 12). Between 1879 and 1885, he worked as harpist with the Prague National Theater and as piano accompanist to the violinist František Ondříček (1857–1922), as well as being director and répétiteur at Pivoda's Vocal School in Prague from 1880 to 1900.

He was one of the first to conduct the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra—that was between 1896 and 1898. During his tenure, he directed the orchestra in works by Vítěslav Novák (see SPECIALIST of June 1987, page 17), Josef Suk (1874–1935) and others. In 1900, he was appointed opera director of the National Theater in which position he remained until shortly before his death.

In 1901, he formed a new orchestra and chorus. That year he also presented the premiere of Dvořák's "Rusalka" and was elected to extraordinary membership in the Czech Academy of Sciences and Arts and to regular membership in 1906.

His work at the National Theater was his most important contribution to Czech musical life. Launching his career there with Smetana's "Dalibor", he concentrated on the classics of Czech composers like Smetana, Dvořák and Fibich. Also performed under his leadership were works by Ostrčil (1879–1935) and Foerster (see SPECIALIST of May 1988, page 12). The first Prague performance, a crucial one, of Janáček's "Jenufa" was directed by him on May 26, 1916 in the National Theater.

He was greatly interested in French Opera and in 1901, he was made an officer of the Académie Française. Like the French music he so dearly loved, his works have a great lyricism and elegance which is one of the reasons he was appointed an officer of the Académie. He died in Prague on December 6, 1920.

One hundred years following his birth, a stamp was issued in his honor. It is Pofis no. 1233 (Scott no. 1097) with a value of 10h. With an orange brown color, it was designed by Max Švabinský and engraved by Jindra Schmidt. The stamp was printed in a quantity of 13,540,000 copies.

## IN MEMORY OF J.J.J.

by Charles Chesloe & Mirko Vondra

Joseph J. Janečka Jr., S.C.P. member number 468, died on February 25, 1991 at his home in Riverside, Illinois at the age of 78. His obituary appeared in the March/April SPECIALIST (See fig. 1).

Born in Slavičín in Moravia on December 21, 1913, he moved to Winnipeg, Canada in 1928 along with his mother and sister to join his father who immigrated there earlier. He was an avid sportsman and a devoted Sokol who joined the Canadian Sokols in Winnipeg.

During World War II, he served with the Royal Canadian Air Force where he received two medals. Shortly afterward, the family moved to Chicago where he continued with his father in the sheet metal trade. There he joined Sokol Havlíček Tyrš to perpetuate his love and loyalty to the Sokol movement which spanned over fifty years of his life.

Janečka founded the First Czechoslovak Philatelic Club of America about thirty years ago and held the post of President until his death. He also served as President of the Illinois Federation of Stamp Clubs and held an honorary membership in the Jack Knight Airmail Society. He joined our own Society in



Fig. 1



Fig. 2b



FEDERÁLNÍ VÝBOR PRO POŠTY A TELEKOMUNIKACE

Praha, dne 21.července 1969

Monsieur  
Joseph J. Janecka Jr., President  
First Czechoslovak philatelic club of America  
7306 Ogden Avenue  
Riverside, Illinois /60546/  
U.S.A.

Vážený pane Janečko,

dnešního dne vydává československá poštovní správa dvě letecké příležitostné poštovní známky k dnešnímu výstupu člověka na Měsíci.

Jsem opravdu rád, že Vy jako přítel Československa jste vlastně prvním občanem U.S.A., kterému mohu tyto známky s obálkou prvního dne poslat. Víím, že je oceníte a jako filatelista posoudíte.

Dovolte, abych Vám při této příležitosti ještě jednou srdečně poděkoval za Váš dar známek s TGM; velmi si této pozornosti vážím.

S upřímným pozdravem

Váš

Rudolf Fischer

*Fischer*

Honorable Mr. Janecka

On this day Czechoslovakia Postal Administration issued two airmail postage stamps to commemorate the landing on the moon by human beings.

I am truthfully glad, because you are a friend of Czechoslovakia, are the first citizen of the U.S.A. that I could send you the first such postage stamps and first day of issue cachets. I know that you will judge for yourself and appreciate them as a philatelist.

Let me thank you on this occasion from my heart for your gift of T.G.M. postage stamps. I am grateful to you for your thoughtfulness. Sincere Regards.

Fig. 2a

the early 1960's and was named an honorary member in 1986.

Meanwhile he assumed the sole operation of his deceased father's sheet metal business. In 1960, he fabricated out of sheet metal a huge replica of the 8-cent T.G. Masaryk "Champion of Liberty" stamp. During the first day of issue ceremonies at the Willard Hotel ballroom in Washington, D.C., it was prominently displayed there (see October 1987 SPECIALIST, page 4). The metal replica is currently housed at the Smithsonian Institute.

Ever since joining the S.C.P., Janečka religiously devoted his time each year to the manufacture of beautiful plaques for our Society which were then presented to members for award-winning exhibits at various shows. He himself won numerous philatelic awards and belonged to many different organizations. At the top of the list, however, was his love for Czechoslovak heritage and philately.

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In 1969, he received an unusual letter from the Czechoslovak Postal Administration making him the first American recipient of an official first-day-of-issue cover honoring the Apollo 11 manned landing on the moon (see fig. 2a and 2b).

In 1972 in Wilber, Nebraska, Janečka was made a Knight of Blanik by the Czechs for his achievements and dedication to Czechoslovak heritage and philately. He was personally responsible for some 30 to 40 U.S. meters dealing with Czechoslovak special events, occasions and other subjects. (see June 1987 SPECIALIST, pgs. 13-16).

In 1975, he received the Saul Newberry award in Chicago which is given to the collector who best served Chicago philately during the past year. This award is not given every year.

As an honorary exhibitor at PRAGA 88, he showed his famous music sheet collection "Kde Domov Muj". This was his favorite subject because of its theme and because the music sheets were issued on his birthday, December 21, 1939. While in Prague that year, he visited another famous Czech collector, Jan Kostelka, whose collection of Bohemoslovenika and Napolean Bonaparte ranks among the best in the field (see fig. 3). Aside from his philatelic achievements, he was past President of American Czechoslovak Engineers' Society and Riverside's Chamber of Commerce Man of the Year in 1985.

Joseph Janečka was married to Erma Prostředník on December 1, 1962 in Philadelphia. His loving



Fig. 4



Fig. 3

wife survives him along with a son, Jan. In fig. 4, Joe and Erma are pictured with his aunt a year prior to her demise in 1984.

For both of us as well as many Chicagoans and other members of our Society throughout the world, it has been a profound pleasure to know and associate with this giant in the field of Czechoslovak philately. As a personal friend, he was a man of the people whose personality and humor was always the life of the party. Uninhibited and hard-working, he was the one most sought-after on any team.

Stamp collectors the world over have lost a true champion ! May he rest in eternal peace !

## THE LIBERATED REPUBLIC COUNTERFEITS

by Tomáš Morovics and Zdenek Fáber

translated by Mirko L. Vondra

In *FILATELIE*, 13/395 (1990), Jan Karásek described a forgery of the 40h. of the Liberated Republic (Scott no. 71) which was found in significant numbers on the open market. These stamps were being offered to collectors not as genuine copies, but as true counterfeits. Perhaps for that reason they were being bought up and filed by collectors among their philatelic research items.

The forgerer was naturally pleased with the quick disposal of his product. This enabled him to follow it up with another offering printed on the same die as the ones he had just sold. However, this time he did not try to sell it as counterfeit material, but rather as trial prints. Illustrated here are several examples of them. We are concerned primarily with blocks of four, pairs and even single stamps printed on paper of varying quality and thickness. We know of samples of gummed white paper and yellow ungummed paper, which even includes printer's waste of the Hradčany 1h and 20h stamps. The "trial prints" were introduced in these colors: black, brown, dark green and blue. As a real curiosity, we call attention to the printing of a counterfeit in blue on the selvedge of a genuine 50h Hradčany.



We expect similar material to appear at meetings of philatelic groups here in Czechoslovakia. Attempts to purchase or exchange such "junk" is like throwing good money after bad—on either side of the ocean. We strongly advise against it. It merely encourages forgerers to put more such worthless products on the philatelic market.

## NEW ISSUES

Henry Hahn has provided us with information about the following new issues:

1. On May 6, the Federal Ministry of Communications issued a stamp commemorating Europe's Space Program (CEPT). In that way, Czechoslovakia has moved jointly with other member nations of CEPT (Conférence Européenne des Administrations des postes et des télécommunications) in issuing stamps with the same theme of honoring Europe's exploration of space (see fig. 1).

The 6 kčs. stamp measuring 23 x 40 mm. shows a drawing of the second Czechoslovak satellite, Magion II, launched in 1989, circling the globe, with the CEPT logo and the text "Europe, Magion II, 1989".

Designed by academic graphicist Jaroslav Fišer and engraved by Vaclav Fajt, the stamp was rotary steel engraved by the Communications Printery in Prague in black color combined with blue and red recess printing. It was issued in sheets of 50 stamps.

The first day of issue cover with a special cancellation bears a fluoroscopic view of the sun as photographed by the space probe, Phoebus I, in 1988 with the CEPT logo and the text "Phoebus I, 1988." The cover was recess printed from flat plates in red, blue and yellow colors.

The stamp is valid both domestically and internationally from date of issue until withdrawn from circulation.

2. On May 10, the Federal Ministry released a stamp commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Universal Jubilee Exhibition of the States in Prague. (see fig. 2).

Shown on the 1k. stamp is the gateway to the main part of the Industrial Palace of 1891 with the

words "100 Výročí Všeobecné Zemské Výstavy v Praze - 1891-1991".

Academic graphicist Oldřich Kulháněk was the designer; engraving by Miloš Ondráček.

The first day cover comes with a special cancellation and a detailed drawing showing a view of the iron works at Petřín in 1891 again with the text "100 Výročí Všeobecné Zemské Výstavy v Praze," The cover was recess printed from flat plates in blue and rose colors.



Fig. 1

The stamp is valid both domestically and internationally from May 10 until it is withdrawn.

3. On May 20, the Federal Ministry announced issuance of a stamp honoring the 30th anniversary of the Antarctic Treaty which was signed in Washington, D.C. in 1959 and which Czechoslovakia joined in 1962. (see fig. 3).

Shown on the 8 kčs. stamp is a map of Antarctica with the Czechoslovak flag flanked by penguins of varying sizes. Inscribed across it are the words "30. Výročí Zmluvy o Antarktíde".

The designer was academic graphicist Ivan Schurmann; the engraver was Miloš Ondráček.



Fig. 2

Dimensions of the stamp are 40 x 23 mm. Rotary steel engraved in blue grey and recess printed in glue, light blue, red and black, the stamps were printed in Prague in sheets of 50.

The first-day cover has a special cancellation and a drawing of fish and plants abounding in Antarctic waters.

The stamp is valid for franking from date of issue both domestically and internationally until withdrawn from circulation.

4. On June 3, the Federal Ministry released a set of three stamps depicting castles in Czechoslovakia. (see fig. 4).

a - 50h. Blatná Castle in black, ochre, olive green, brown and dark brown.

b - 1k. Bouzov Castle in black, ochre, orange, brown and bark brown.

c - 3 kčs. Kežmarok Castle in black, rose, pale violet, pale green and olive green.



Fig. 3

Academic graphicist Alfred Fuchs designed the stamps while Václav Fajt engraved them. Rotary steel engraved and recess printed in multicolor in Prague, the stamps are of 23 x 30 mm. dimensions and appear in sheets of 50.

There are two first-day covers, each with a special cancellation. The first one is intended to have the 50 h. and 1 k. stamps gummed to it and has a brownish violet drawing of the fountain in the courtyard of Bouzov Castle. The second



Fig. 4

is for the 3 kčs. stamp and shows a large brown engraving of the renaissance portal to the tower at Kežmarok.

The stamps are valid both domestically and internationally from date of issue until withdrawn.

5. On August 9, the Federal Ministry issued a commemorative stamp with coupon for the occasion of an endowment in honor of the student martyr, Jan Palach. The 4 kčs. stamp shows a portrait of Palach 1948-1969; the coupon portrays a stylized drawing of flames and the text "Society for the Endowment of Jan Palach." (see fig. 5).



Fig. 5

The design is by the academic painter and graphicist, Docent Ivan Strnad; the engravings are by Pavel Kavařík.

The stamp and coupon each have dimensions of 19 x 23 mm. and were printed by the Communications Printery in Prague. Both were printed by rotary steel engraving in black combined with two-color recess printing in black and blue, in sheets of 50 subjects and 50 coupons.

Issued simultaneously was a first-day cover with commemorative cancel. The illustrated portion of the envelope contains a symbolic drawing supplementing the subject of the stamp. It is flat plate printed from a steel engraving in red.

The stamp is valid for franking domestically and for foreign mail from date of issue until withdrawn from circulation.

### *Member of the Month*

## STIG ASKLUND

Born, raised and presently domiciled in Sweden, Stig Asklund discovered stamps at an early age. But more important, he discovered he could not live without them. At age 12, he exchanged his whole stamp collection for a collection of comics. At age 14, he formed a new stamp collection and then sold it so he could buy a camera. Soon thereafter he realized something was missing - there was an emptiness in his life. When in 1958, he visited France, he became acquainted with French stamps and the void in his life disappeared. Ever since then, he has been an ardent philatelist.



Upon returning to his native country of Sweden, he attended the University where he wrote a comprehensive essay on the political philosophy of Thomas G. Masaryk. The subject aroused his curiosity, so he learned some Czech and set sail for Prague. In August 1965, in a small tavern off "Na Přikopě", he happened to be seated at a table with several elderly men who were discussing stamps. They were passing stamps to each other and critiquing them. With the intake of some beer, Stig's understanding of the Czech language broadened. When suddenly one of the men addressed him, he understood it was for his opinion on some stamps. He answered something, not remembering what it was. But whatever he said, it made his day! An old, bald-headed gentleman ordered beer for everyone and Stig believes it must have been Ladislav Novotný. An animated discussion followed, Stig's contribution being minimal in words but hearty in soul. The men put together some stamps (differently perforated Legionaire stamps of 1919) and gave them to him. That was the start of a long journey into Czechoslovak philately.

By the end of 1966, Stig married a girl from Prague at Staroměstská Radnice and his emptiness vanished forever. His interest in Czechoslovak philately grew with his developing married life and eventually encompassed every facet of the 1918-1925 period, e.g. Hradčany, Legionaires, provisional newspaper stamps, mixed franking, etc. He even expanded it to include a fairly comprehensive collection of Czech meters from the pre-World War II period.

Apart from philately, Stig spent some fifteen years in Africa working with employment policies



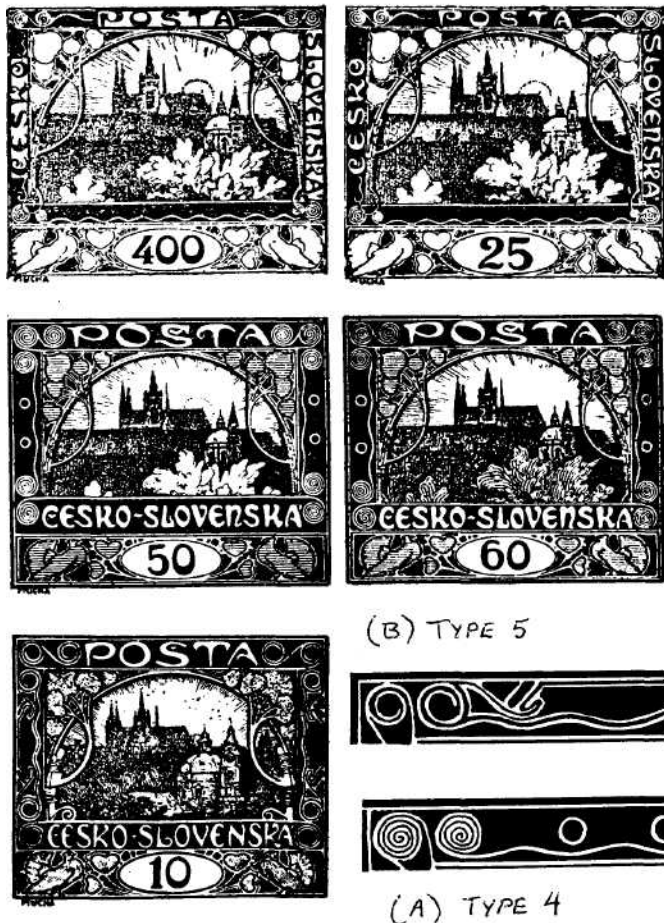
for the UN/ILO chiefly, as well as for the Swedish Aid Agency. The climactic conditions were not conducive to a good collection of mint stamps. He therefore devoted part of his spare time to studying, in a very detailed manner, the plate faults and retouches of the Holubice issue. The 20h. stamp was exhibited at BALPEX 90. Otherwise, he exhibited 1918-1925 material at national exhibitions in Sweden and at PRAGA 78 and PRAGA 88. As a fairly recent secondary interest, he also started collecting British airmail in Eastern Africa during WWII - this as a result of having resided there for so many years.

Blessed with three children, Stig remains a citizen and permanent resident of Sweden, hoping that someday one of his children will acquire the same keen interest in the stamps of Czechoslovakia that he presently has. The Society is wholly behind him, always looking to recruit new members.

*For the Beginner*

**MORE ON THE FIRST ISSUES**

In the July/August SPECIALIST, I have undertaken to start a column for the benefit of those



who are new to Czechoslovak philately and who want some basic information about the stamps of that country. Just how basic is "basic" depends on what the reader already knows. My interest in Czechoslovakia has spanned the last six or seven years. An expert on that nation's stamps I am not. But if I chance to delve into the subject a bit more deeply than the average beginner would like me to do, perhaps he or she will forgive my enthusiasm and try to share with me some of the knowledge acquired in those past seven years.

I have started out describing the first issue of Czechoslovakia, ie. the two Hradčany sets. The 53 stamps of that issue have basically the same design, but with some striking variations. These variations can be classified under five different Types. The first set appears in types I and II, whereas the second set is made up of Types III, IV and

fig. 1 a to e and  
fig. 2 bottom right



#### V. Can those two sets be easily distinguished?

Fortunately, yes ! The first set has the word "Pošta Česko Slovenská" along the top and the two vertical borders, while the second has the same text on a horizontal line just below the picture. And this is also one of the differences between the first two Types and the last three. Illustrated here are the five different Types. Look closely and see if you can find the other less obvious differences (see fig 1a to 1e).

A word about their designing. At the time Czechoslovakia first gained its independence in 1918, there lived in Prague a graphic artist of world renown. His name was Alphonse Maria Mucha. He was a leading exponent of French Art Nouveau and the Hradčany issue is a shining example of that style. The printing press in those days consisted of four panes, each containing room for 100 stamps. Obviously there were some slight variations from one stamp to the next. An instance of a redrawn design in the Hradčany issues which is easily detectable under magnification is found in the second set (see fig. 2). Look closely at the lefthand and righthand framework design. The differences are seen in the accompanying illustration labelled "A" and "B".

Apart from these design variations, there were also plate faults or flaws in the plate itself. Since plates wore out after constant use, they had to be replaced by new plates. Thus we have another category of nomenclature, ie. Plate I, Plate II, Plate III, etc. Since faults existing on one plate did not carry over to another plate, a specialist who seeks to identify a fault on a Hradčany stamp must list its position on the sheet as well as the plate on which the fault was found.

Do the issues of all the subsequent stamps printed in Czechoslovakia have as many varieties, errors, faults and differences as the first 53 stamps ? Of course not ! With each succeeding issue, the Ministry of Posts in Prague through its designers, engravers and print mills learned more about producing fine postage stamps and gradually eliminated most of the problems encountered with the First Issue.

Addressing myself to the beginner, I think that in collecting every Hradčany stamp he can find even if it appears to be a duplicate of what he already has, he will begin to notice those minute differences. Not only will it provide him with a sense of pleasure at being able to corroborate the work of experts, but it will eventually serve to expand his collection from a basic to a specialized one. Critics often label this as "fly-speck" philately which, in an exaggerated sense, is true. But these "fly-specks" were not manufactured intentionally. They were the result of trial and error in the development of fine stamps and therefore deserve their place in the schematics of specialized collecting. Therefore if the beginner's aim is to ultimately gather enough material to put together an exhibit, the first and second sets of the Hradčany issue is the ideal place to start.

But do not take this to mean that the Hradčany stamps were the beginning and end to any philatelic challenge one might expect from collecting Czechoslovakia. In my next article, I will discuss some facets of stamp collecting that are common to the Hradčany issue as well as the issues that immediately followed it. Those issues will also be discussed.

- P. FREER

#### *Editorial Hinges*

##### **I. THREE MORE AWARDS**

Over its 51 years of continuous publication, the SPECIALIST has garnered numerous awards—some at regional level, others in the national and international classes. Our journal's masthead, for example, lists two national and two international awards won in literature competition over the years. Two years ago, the SPECIALIST received a Silver Medal at STAMP SHOW 89 in Anaheim, California. And now, within the past three months, three awards have further expanded the long list of literary recognitions heaped upon our publication. At the National Philatelic Literature Exhibition sponsored by the New Zealand Philatelic Federation, the SPECIALIST gained a Large Silver and at ORAPEX 91 in Ottawa, Canada, it won the Reserve Grand Silver Medal and just before this issue went to press, we were notified that the Cardinal Spellman Philatelic Museum had awarded a Large Silver to the SPECIALIST in its Annual Philatelic Literature Competition.

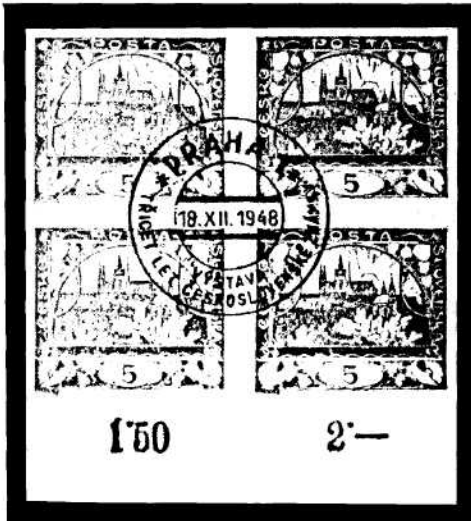


Fig. 1



Fig. 2

While your editorial staff dotes on praise, it acknowledges its indebtedness to the many members (and even some non-members) who contributed fine illuminating articles for publication. We hope such quality articles will continue to pour in and we fervently encourage those who have not yet submitted any to try their

hand at writing. Every author had to write his first published article sometime. Why don't you be the next one to have his or her article appear in this journal? Try it and you will see what fun and satisfaction it can bring.

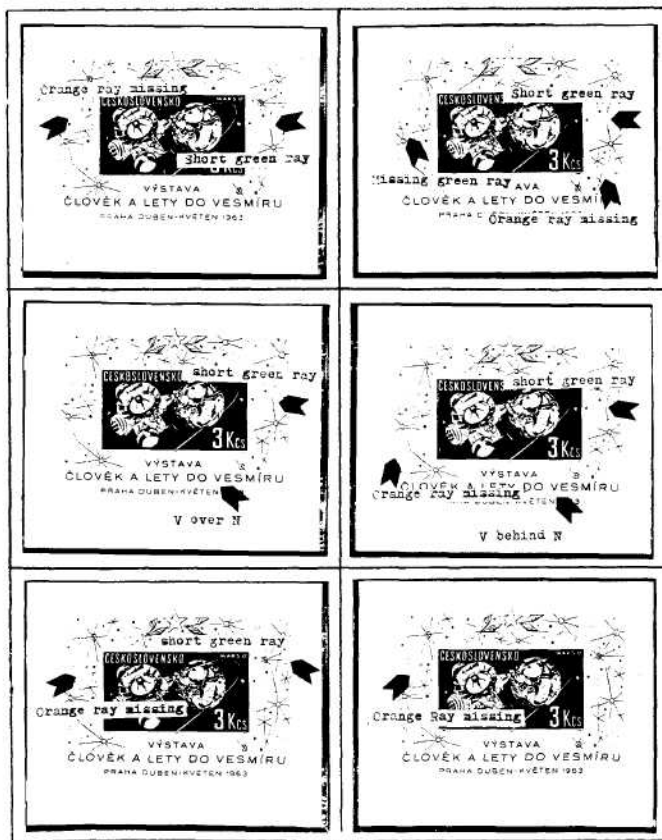


Fig. 3



Fig. 4

**II. THE OVERLOOKED ISSUES**

Bretislav Chlup has written to us from Yucca Valley, California, noting some unusual philatelic items that came out of Czechoslovakia since World War II which received little or no attention in the American philatelic press. Here are some of them with accompanying illustrations:

Fig. 1 - In addition to the "30th Anniversary of the First Czechoslovak Stamp" souvenir sheet (Scott #368), a reprint of the Hradčany 5h. yellow green was issued in sheets of 100 without gum and no franking value. It was sold by POFIS with an exposition cancel "Výstava Třicet Let Československé Známký—19 XII 48".



Fig. 5

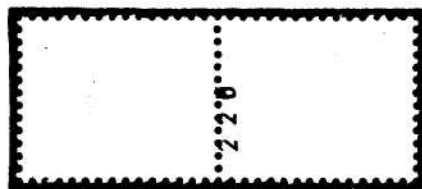


Fig. 6

- Fig. 2 - In the "Famous Cultural Personalities" set issued in March 1961, the name of Pavol Orszach Hviezdoslav was misspelled on Scott #1038. The misspelled stamp read "Orszagh". This was corrected to "Orszach", but stamps with the correct spelling are scarce. Mr. Chlup searched far and wide before locating one signed by Gilbert (Scott #1038a).
- Fig. 3 - The Space Research Exhibition souvenir sheet issued in April 1963 (Scott #1175) was printed from two plates of six subjects each. This resulted in 12 distinct varieties in the stars, rays and dots of the decorative border.
- Fig. 4 - The towns set of 1965-66 (Scott #1345-1353) and the architecture set of 1971-72 (Scott #1733-1741a) were reissued in 1982 on luminescent paper which is noted on the selvedge. Scott's catalog makes no mention of this.
- Fig. 5 - In addition to the PRAGA 78 souvenir sheet issued on September 10, 1978 (Scott #2196), three other stamps (Scott #2136-38) were reissued imperforated in sheetlets of two as an enclosure to the Exhibition Catalog. 40,000 sheetlets were issued.
- Fig. 6 - A set of four coil stamps, fully perforated, were issued in December 1979 (Scott

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Fig. 7

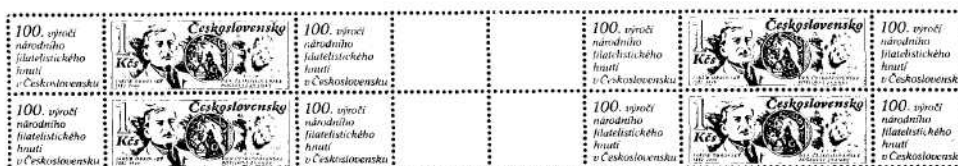


Fig. 8

#2273-76). Every fifth stamp in the coil has a serial number printed on the gummed side.

Fig. 7 - Eight assorted "experimental" booklets were issued to promote PRAGA 88. They contained stamps issued in 1983-85.

Fig. 8 - In December 1987, a stamp commemorating the 100th anniversary of the National Philatelic Movement in Czechoslovakia was issued (Scott #2683). In conjunction with that, a pane of four of the same stamp with eight labels and four blank coupons was also released (Scott #2683a).

The staff is grateful to Bretislav Chlup for his observations and the interesting statistics he has imparted to us through his research.

**III. WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS**

It is always a pleasure to welcome into our midst those who have recently decided to join the S.C.P. The following have joined since we published our last welcoming list in the March/April issue:

- |        |   |       |  |
|--------|---|-------|--|
| # 1597 | Mrs. Karen Barber<br>1017 Galgarbood Drive<br>Oakville, Ont. L6H 1N7      | #1601 | W. D. Stopkey<br>1405 Moss Lane<br>River Ridge, LA 70123           |
| #1598  | Anthony Flick<br>2216 Bruce Road - Apt # 10<br>Delaware, Ohio 43015       | #1602 | R. S. Frank<br>Box 426<br>Centreville, VA 22020                    |
| #1599  | Terence M. Rooney<br>14929 Trinidad Drive<br>Rancho Murieta, CA 95683     | #1603 | Michael Rogers<br>199 East Welbourne Ave.<br>Winter Park, FL 32789 |
| #1600  | Susanne M. Bors<br>40 River Road - Apt. 3-A<br>Roosevelt Island, NY 10044 | #1604 | Gregory Jandura<br>S-3700 Marlowe Ave.<br>Blasdell, NY 14219       |

## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

I hereby apply for membership in the Society for Czechoslovak Philately, Inc. and, if approved, agree to abide by the Society's By-Laws. (Check one of the Following:)

- \$18.00 for annual dues/Regular Membership. This includes a one-year subscription to the Czechoslovak Specialist.
- \$30.00 for annual dues/ Patron Membership. This includes a one-year subscription to the Czechoslovak Specialist and a bound volume of all issues for the subscription year.
- \$3.00 for annual dues/ Youth Membership. Limited to persons under 18 years of age. (Please list Date of Birth)
- Additional contribution (Tax deductible).

Foreign members residing outside the U.S., please add

- \$5.00 for surface mailing.
- \$10.00 for airmail delivery.

Total enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE PRINT:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Collecting Interests: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Membership in other societies: \_\_\_\_\_

*Recommended by:* \_\_\_\_\_ *no.* \_\_\_\_\_

*Applicants: Signature:* \_\_\_\_\_

European applicants may submit payments by DM check, cash or money order to:  
 Fred W. Hefer, Dr. -Hans-Staub-Strasse 10, D-8022 Grunwald b. Munchen, Germany

#### IV. A WORD ABOUT THE MEMBERSHIP

If you care to take the time to count the number of members currently on our Roster, you can verify that there are exactly 309. That is 192 short of the 500 member goal that we had set for ourselves over a year ago. That means that again we cannot undertake any additional special projects or provide any added services beyond those already listed on page 2.

There are those who believe that a 500-member goal is like whistling in the dark - it is just wishful thinking, plain and simple. Your editorial staff does not think so. It believes that if every active member could bring two new members into our Society before the end of 1992 (that's fifteen months from now), there is an excellent chance that goal could be attained.

Last year your editor wrote an article published in Linn's Stamp News that generated ten new members. This year your editor challenges any member to write a similar article for publication in a national philatelic journal that will duplicate those results.

#### V. INCREASED VALUES

Catalog values of the better stamps of Czechoslovakia continue to rise, evidencing an apparent growth in customer demands. Many of you may have noticed the item in Linn's Stamp News of June 24 indicating that Scott's has increased the price of the 1934 2k. blue National Anthem souvenir sheet (201a) to \$750 mint and \$640 used from its former price of \$500. Also the Bratislava Exhibition souvenir sheet of 1952 has had its price increased from \$37.50 and \$15 to \$75 and \$20. Finally the Art Set of 1966 (1435-39) has increased in value from \$17.75 and \$16.25 to \$39 and \$32.

Judging by the activity in the philatelic marketplace, the price increases in the Czechoslovakia section of Scott's 1992 catalog may well be a forerunner of further jumps in values soon.

#### *Letter to the Editor:*

#### "READ AT YOUR RISK"

Dear Editor:

The "PRESIDENT'S CORNER" of the March/April 1991 issue \* presents an article under the ominous heading "BID AT YOUR RISK". The article pertains to a copy of former Scott B-25\*\*, the spuriously overprinted post-WW I (new) Austrian 10 K on granite paper, sold at the May 23-25 Harmer Auction in New York City for \$17,600 to a member of our Society.

Based on his examination of a color illustration in the auction catalogue, the author reaches the "... belief that the overprint may be a forgery". According to the Editor's Note, the author subsequently examined the "stamp" itself and informed the Editor that "the opinions he expressed in this article remain unchanged".

In his article the author presents four illustrations, all too small to verify the points the author makes. Fig. 2b is clearly superfluous, since it illustrates a Type I overprint, which has nothing to do with the matter at hand. I submit a photograph taken by me during the expertization merely for identification purposes; i.e. to insure that we are referring to the same item.

It is apparent from the description and rationale presented in the article that the author is unfamiliar with the state of art methodology and criteria generally used in expertizing the "Pošta Československá 1919" overprints. Overprint inclination, die distortion of the paper, juxtaposition of critical die features, ink characteristics, use of girds, etc. are nowhere mentioned. The methodology and observations presented all relate primarily to inking and minor letterset variations that are familiar to most collectors of this issue. Variable inking due to variations in ink viscosity (flow), die pressure, and other manufacturing variables constitute a good portion of the expertizer's challenge.





Upon the rendering of the author's adverse opinion, the "stamp" was submitted to me for expertization. Upon thorough examination I have found the stamp and overprint genuine in all respects, and so informed the owner. In view of a possible controversy, I recommended that the owner seek the opinion of the most notable expert, Ing. Jan Karasek of Brno, Czechoslovakia. I was not surprised when he too found the item genuine in all respects and issued the appropriate opinion and photo documentation.

Contrary to the final paragraph of the original article, scrutinizing a colored photograph in a catalog is not a way to insure the purchase of a genuine item. The Society's expertization committee as well as recognized experts in Czechoslovakia, Germany and possibly else-

where are. Though on rare occasions an expert may sometimes err, such instances are so few and far between that one who purports to dispute an expert's verification of genuineness should avail himself of modern, state-of-the-art techniques. Failing in that, his article invites the reader to "read at his own risk."

Yours truly,

Henry Hahn  
Member A.P.S. Expertization Committee  
Member International Commission for the Czechoslovak Stamp

\* Charles Chesloe: THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST, vol.53, No. 2, p. 18

\*\* The B-25 has been de-listed in the Scott Catalogue beginning with the 1991 edition because it is not an officially issued stamp.

## THE 1991 MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

Periodically the SPECIALIST publishes a complete list of all its members. Our last list was published in May 1989 (the 50th anniversary issue) and was arranged numerically by member number. Since one of its purposes is to enable members to ascertain the addresses of certain other members, a numerical arrangement was not found too satisfactory. For this publication, the list has therefore been arranged alphabetically by last name.

**WARNING:** Unfortunately despite repeated appeals that members pay their dues on time to avoid a reinstatement charge, there is a sizeable portion of our membership that still has not paid its dues for 1991. In this year's published list, those whose names are preceded by the initials "NP" (Not Paid) are delinquent in their dues. If they do not pay their dues plus a 3 dollar reinstatement fee and mail it to our treasurer, Lubvik Svoboda, by the end of September, they will be dropped from the roster and will receive no further issues of the SPECIALIST.

Please support the S.C.P. ! If you have not yet paid your 1991 dues, kindly do so now. You may also wish to prepay your next year's dues at this time to help defray the Society's loss of carrying members free for nine months. In that case, please indicate that your check includes early payment of next year's dues.

Those members having one asterisk (\*) in front of their names are patron members. Those having two asterisks (\*\*) in front of their name are honorary members. All others are regular members.

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