



THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

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Winner of numerous International and National Awards

A. P. S. Unit 18

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GETTING READY FOR BALPEX 92

Most of our members already know that our Society is getting ready to participate in the BALPEX 92 exhibition this year. The show is being held, as usual, at the Hunt Valley Inn in Cockeysville, Md. on Labor Day weekend, Sept. 5, 6 and 7. Generally acknowledged to be the finest regional stamp exhibition in the country, it will carry a large array of individual competitive exhibits as well as a multitude of dealers' booths.

The S.C.P. general membership meeting will take place on Sunday, Sept. 6. The time and place will be announced in the next issue of THE SPECIALIST. Though final arrangements are not yet completed, we anticipate a full program of activities, both philatelic and social. We are discussing joint activities with the Austrian and Hungarian Societies and may also be joined by the Ukrainian Society for the first time. Hopefully we will be able to arrange a lecture and discussion program on topics that will be of interest to all the members of our organizations.

Our Board of Directors will meet during the morning of September 6 and will report to the general membership meeting that same afternoon. Ample time will be afforded for a productive philatelic session on talks and discussions. That evening we will have an opportunity to mix socially with old and new philatelic friends and their spouses during our traditional cocktail party.

Let it not be said that this will be all fun and no work. The work comes before the event to prepare the exhibits that will be needed to fill the 50 frames BALPEX has promised to reserve for the members of our Society. IT IS URGENT THAT ALL MEMBERS WHO WISH TO EXHIBIT

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THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

SUBMIT THEIR APPLICATIONS TO BALPEX IMMEDIATELY. APPLICATION FORMS ARE TO BE FOUND IN THE CENTERFOLD OF THIS ISSUE. Please send a xerox copy of your application to our member, R.S. Frank, Box 426, Centerville, Va. 22020, so we can track all requests by our members. Mounting of exhibits will take place on Friday, September 4 from about 2 P.M. on. There has been no increase in the frame charge which remains at \$8. BALPEX has also agreed to make available our traditional area for a Society Lounge where old and new friends can meet and where we can publicize the activities of our Society, and sell covers and philatelic literature. Of course volunteers will be needed to help staff the lounge.

Monday morning, Labor Day, we will hold an Awards breakfast for our members and their guests. We will need to hear from you if you plan to attend so adequate tables can be set up by the Inn.

Since this is not the first time the Society has participated in BALPEX, many of you are familiar with this show's organization. Admission is \$2.00 per day or \$4.00 for the entire period of the show. BALPEX anticipates 45 dealers and a major auction will be held Sunday afternoon for those who are still looking for materials to enhance their collections. The U.S. Postal Service will have a sub-station to sell new issues.

The BALPEX award banquet is planned for Sunday Evening.

Conveniently located off exit 20A of Interstate 83 in Maryland, the site is a good jumping-off point for sightseers among our members, their friends and their families. Cockeysville is just south of the PA state line and southeast PA has many interesting historic landmarks. For those who plan to stay a while before or after the BALPEX show, you can write in advance for tourist material and attractions to visit. Address your inquiries to: Travel marketing Bureau, PA Dept. of Commerce, Harrisburg, PA 17120.

- Jaroslav Verner

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THE TAIL END OF PRAGUE'S PNEUMATIC MAIL SYSTEM

By Henry Hahn

(WHAT IS PNEUMATIC MAIL? We have all seen pipes in department stores or drive-in banks which carry canisters with paper work from one place to another. Back in 1853 an Englishman named J. Latimer Clark built the first such system used to carry messages along a 220 yard stretch between the London Stock Exchange and the offices of the Electric and International Telegraph Company. In this system the canister was driven forward by reducing the pressure ahead of it. The first mail to be carried by a pneumatic tube was in Paris in 1866, though this system only became available to the public in 1879. The later systems propelled the canisters by raising the pressure behind the canisters. The invention is attributed to Czech-born Josef Ressel, who also invented the ship screw.

The Pneumatic Post System of Prague opened in 1898 and was patterned after the Vienna system; i.e. the lines were dual, operating in both directions. The first line connected the main post office at Jindřišská with the post office at Malý Rynek in Old Town. By 1908 the system was expanded to 3 1/4 miles and by 1937 the system extended to 37 state post offices and 16 private stations in banks and bourges. Its length was some 37 miles.

Mail could be deposited in special (red) mail boxes, and at one time these were emptied every 15 minutes. Delivery could be as part of regular postal delivery - several times a day, back then - or by Special Delivery, for which there was an extra charge.

Pneumatic Posts largely became victims of the telephone. However, they will never quite be forgotten by collectors for the lovely postal stationery that was created for them, the special and interesting postmarks, and their very own romance.

The above information is mostly taken from an authoritative article entitled "The Pneumatic Posts of Austria" by A. H. Godden, published in AUSTRIA No. 14, July 1969 by the Austrian Stamp Club of Great Britain.)



Fig. 1
3

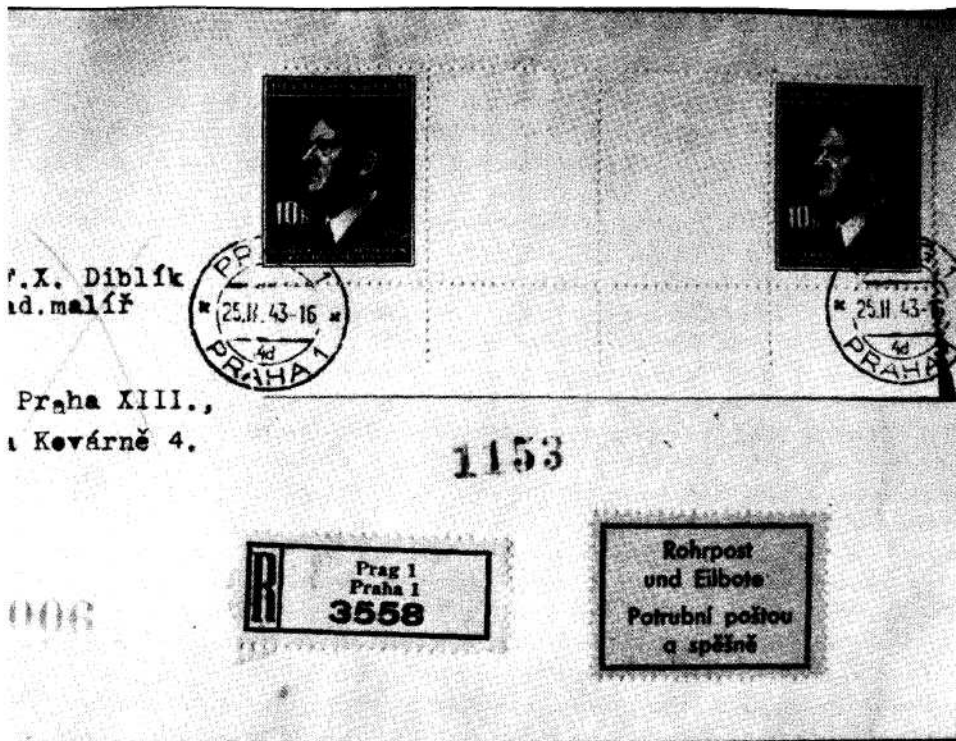


Fig. 2 A

As collectors and postal historians, we are generally obsessed with the "first" rather than "last". And so it is with pneumatic mail services in Vienna and Prague. The number one postal stationery item of Vienna, the folded letter of 1875, preferably postally used with either pen or regular cancel, graces nearly every good collection of this area, as does the first postal stationery used in the pneumatic post in Prague at its opening on March 4, 1899.

The last postal stationery items were issued in Vienna by the Austrian First Republic in 1922 and in Prague by the Czechoslovak Republic in 1932. Postally used pieces are fairly common, though collecting these with all the contemporary postmarks is another matter - for there are lots of those, some rather scarce.

But that is not the end of the story. The Prague system ceased operations as a public mail carrier only in 1945, while the Vienna system operated till 1956.

Those collectors exhibiting the Prague Pneumatic Mail usually are shrewd enough to title their exhibits "Postal Stationery of the Pneumatic Mails . . ." rather than just "Pneumatic Mails . . ." for good reason. As the requirement for use of special postal stationery for pneumatic mailing ceased - in the late thirties - the situation became far more complicated. Ordinary local Prague mail with enough postage (or added fake postage) could be "enhanced" by pasting on one of the several "Pneumatic Post" labels. In some cases the same postmarks were used on ordinary and pneumatic mail. Finally, the problem is made even more acute in that during the last period of pneumatic mail service, i.e. during the Protectorate period (1939-1945), pneumatic mail is indeed scarce.

Long before then, the telephone had largely replaced pneumatic tube mail, and Special Delivery service was rather good and reliable for the mailing of "hard copies". Hence Protectorate Pneumatic Tube Mail is hard to find in Prague even today, despite the fact that Protectorate philatelic items, kept under cover up to recently, have appeared on Prague's

UNUSUAL STAMPS AND COVERS FROM THE FIRST REPUBLIC

By Charles Chesloe

CZECHOSLOVAKIA - SLOVAKIA

HRADČANY ISSUE OF 1918-20

15h - hr. 13 $\frac{3}{4}$:13 $\frac{1}{2}$, JOINED TYPES

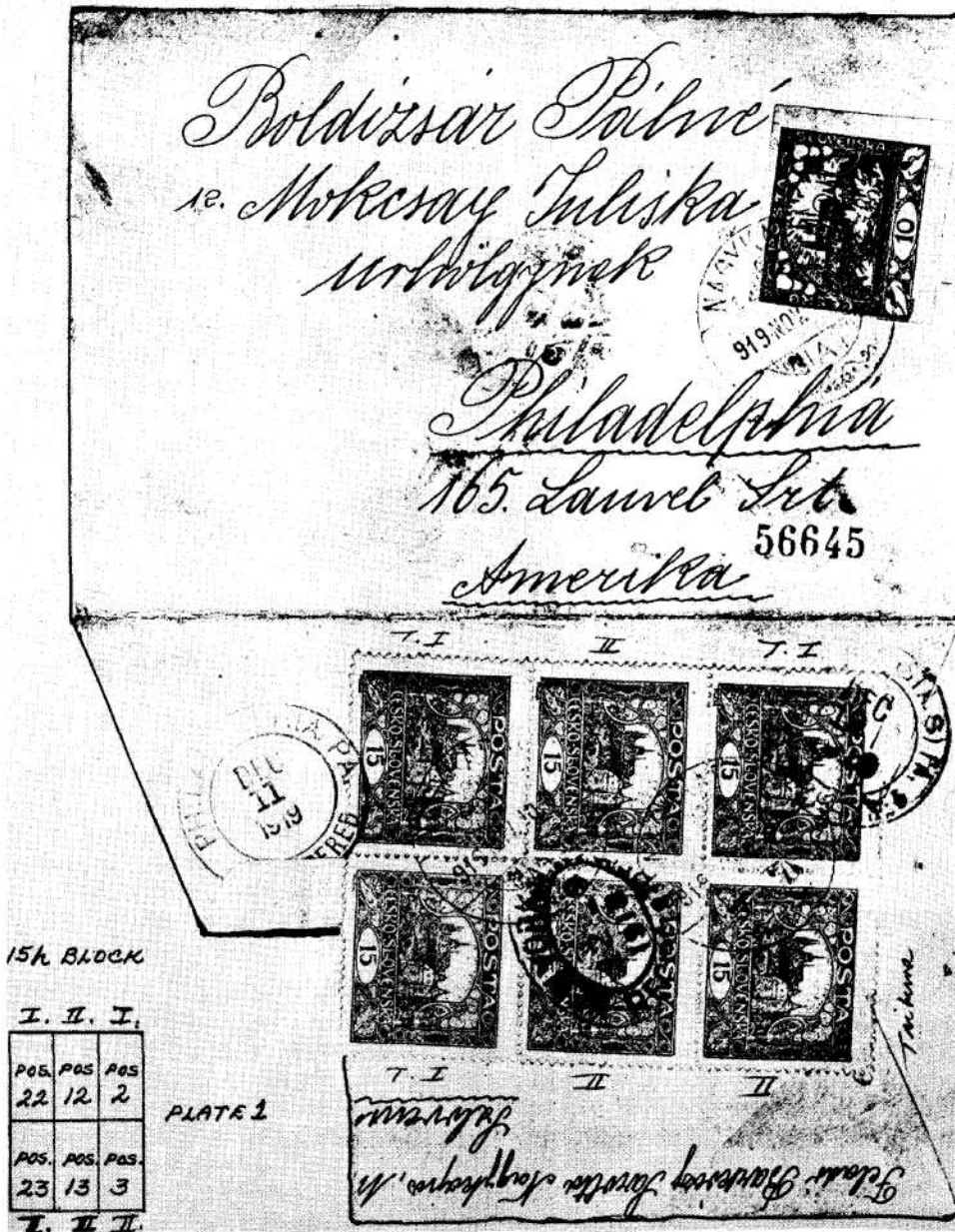


Fig. 1
6



Fig. 2

It has always been my contention that one of the true joys of philately is to find an unusual or rare philatelic item while browsing through dealer stock or in a box full of covers at nominal prices. Here are some of my "shoebox finds" from years past and up to the present:

Fig. 1 shows a registered cover sent from Velké Kapusany in Slovakia to Philadelphia. It



Fig. 3a



Fig. 3b

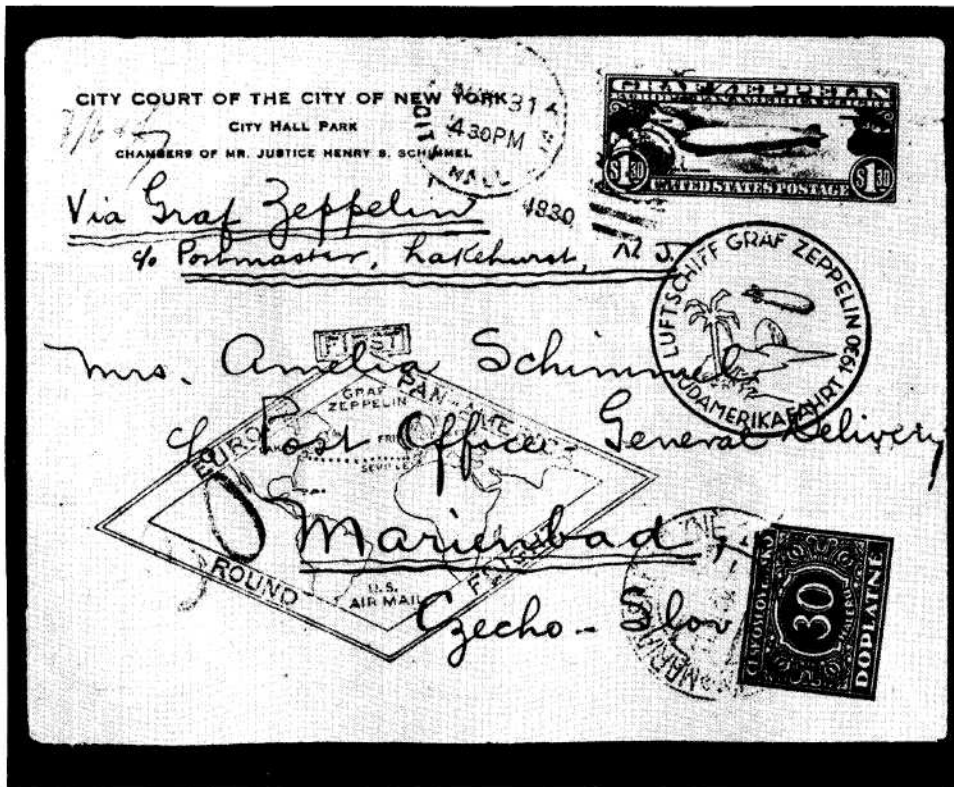


Fig. 4a

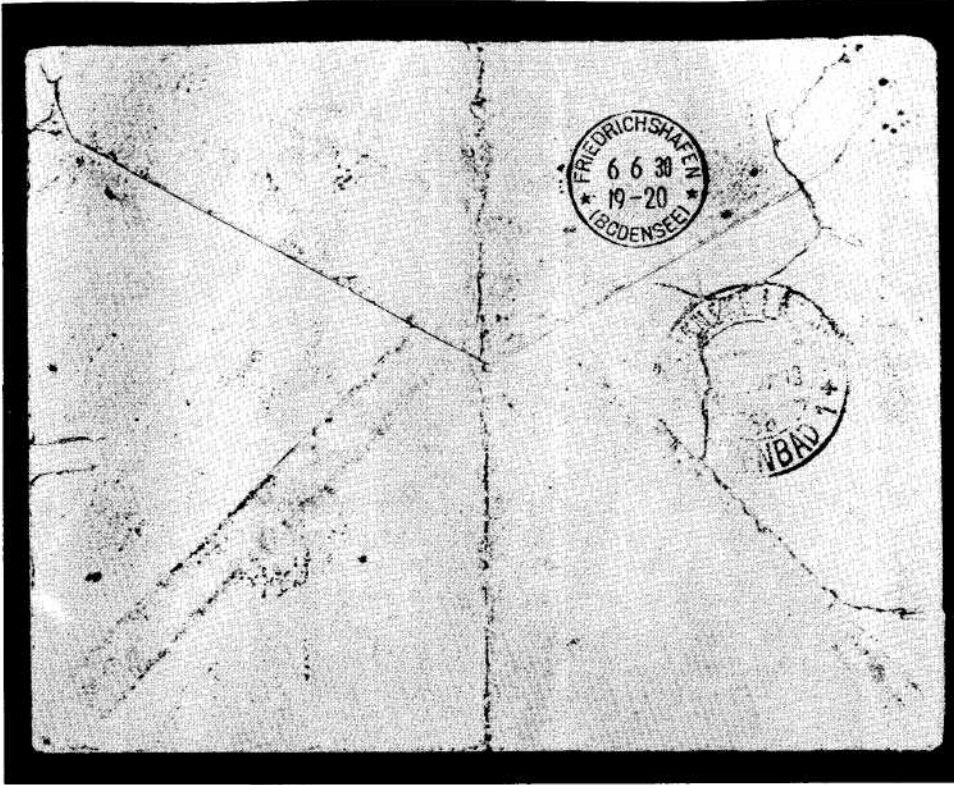


Fig. 4b

paid the 1k foreign register rate with a single 10h red Hradčany on the front of the cover and a block of six 15h comb perf $13\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ Hradčany applied to the reverse side. The cost of this cover was six dollars and was bought quite recently. Upon close inspection, one can ascertain that this cover is quite rare and unusual. The cancel is blue in color which in itself makes it scarce and is in Hungarian text: "Nagykapos 919 Nov. 10". The 15h block of six on the reverse side also shows joined types repeated three times. The 2 by 3 block shows Type I (open spiral) in positions 2, 22 and 23 while Type II (closed spiral) is shown in positions 3, 12 and 13. These various positions belong to plate I.

This combination on cover, especially being registered in the U.S., makes it an outstanding item. The block of six also shows a black New York registry cancel dated "12-9-1919" and is neatly tied by two violet Philadelphia registry cancels dated Dec. 11, 1919 and Dec. 12, 1919.

Fig. 2 shows an airmail cover sent from Bratislava to Luzerne, Switzerland to the famous stamp collector, Eugen Sekula. It is franked with 15.50 kčs. and mailed on June 3, 1930 with an arrival date of June 4, 1930 cancelled at Zurich. The vertical strip of six of the 250/400 value shows alternating types of the narrow zeros in "400" (Type I) and the wide zeros (Type II). This cover would bring in excess of 15,000 kčs today, especially in a Czechoslovak auction. I purchased this cover in a large cover box about fifteen years ago for twelve dollars.

Fig. 3a shows a catapult cover franked with a vertical strip of four of the Second Airmail issue 100/200 value cancelled "Praha Letiště" (Prague Airport) "13 VIII 30". It has four Austrian airmails cancelled the same day in Wien 1 (Vienna) and dispatched by airmail from Vienna Airport on "15 VIII 30". It arrived in Bremen on 16-8-30 as shown by the backstamp

on reverse (see Fig. 3b). Also shown is the original backstamp of Vienna Airport "1/1 Wien I Flugpost". The reverse shows additional franking of 6 kčs with three 2 kčs 1930 Masaryk stamps with tabs. Upon arrival in New York harbor, the cover was franked with two U.S. airmail stamps totalling 15 cents to pay air postage to Los Angeles, California. The stamps are cancelled "U.S. Ger. Sea Post, S.S. Europa, Aug. 22, 1930." Another large circular postal marking "Deutsche-Amerikanische-Seepost, Bremen-New York 22-8-30" shows the catapult marking. Although this cover was moderately expensive, it is the only catapult cover I have ever seen using the Second Airmail issue of Czechoslovakia.

Fig. 4 shows the U.S. \$1.30 Graf Zeppelin issue of 1930 on a cover to Mariánské Lázně (Marienbad). The cover shows a round trip flight cachet as well as the South American flight cancel. It was sent from New York's City Hall Courthouse by Justice Henry Schimmel to either his wife or mother who was in the famous spa center. It was posted in New York City on May 31, 1930. At its destination, it received a 30h Czechoslovak postage due and cancelled "Mariánské Lázně, 11 VI 30." The reason for the postage due is that it was sent to General Delivery. The reverse side of the cover (not shown) identifies the Zeppelin arrival datestamp "Friedrichshafen (Bodensee), 6-6-30." Although this cover was somewhat costly, it is very scarce and unusual and is possibly the only such cover known to exist.

Let us now turn our attention to a few varieties of the 50/100 overprint of the Second Airmail issue. It has been almost 25 years since I purchased a rather large and diversified airmail collection from an auction house in Germany. It contained numerous varieties, some of which were quite odd. Fig. 5 shows an imperforated pair with inverted overprints. Fig 5a shows an imperf between a horizontal pair with a partial "Bohumin 25 II 29" cancel. Fig 5b shows an imperforated copy and Fig 5c shows the offset of the overprint.

The moral of the story is: Do not give up on searching dealers' shoeboxes in their stores or at shows and exhibitions. Perhaps not as many scarce oddities can be found today as might have been found a few years ago. But they are still there. Patience and fortitude can bring a happy reward, provided you are willing to take the time and try.

DOLFA BARTOŠÍK (1907-1989) DESIGNER OF SPECIAL CANCELLERS

By W.A. Page, FRPS, L.

(This article is reprinted by special permission of the author from the December 1991 issue of CZECHOUT, whole no. 65, vol.9, no. 4, the official journal of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain. W. "Alec" Page, who has served that Society for many years, is currently in charge of technical production for its publication).



The author, W. A. Page

Dolfa Bartošík was born on 1 May 1907 at Boršice přes Buchlovic, Moravia; he died in Prague on 3 February 1989. Bartošík was a teacher by profession, serving for a while in Yugoslavia and, following a short return to Czechoslovakia, he taught at the Czechoslovak School in Eindhoven (Netherlands). It was from this place that, with his family, he escaped to England, eventually to join the exiled Czechoslovak Army. There, as a planning officer, Bartošík planned and plotted the movements of the Czechoslovak

forces overseas, thereby using his graphical talents.

His involvement with the designing of special cancellers arose from competitions for which

a prize of two English Pounds was awarded for each accepted design. Bartošík's 'first' was for the 91st anniversary of the birth of T.G. Masaryk (7-3-1941), the first President of Czechoslovakia.

Not all his designs were used and one in particular became the subject of some controversy. Of the three submitted designs, one had been accepted. However, it was in fact withdrawn before the planned usage date. This was the canceller made for commemorating the Sub-Carpathian writer and nationalist by the name of Alexander Duchnovič. The idea for this canceller was initiated by a group of Ukrainians then serving with the Czechoslovak Brigade. It was also intended to hold a celebration on 24 April 1941 in honor of Duchnovič. However, a few days prior to that date orders were issued by Brigade Headquarters prohibiting both the celebration and the use of the relevant canceller. Although no official reason for this prohibition and cancellation has ever since come to light, one can only speculate that they were, for some reason(s) political.

Despite the withdrawal of the canceller (to later be placed in archives) a number of souvenirs, field postcards and other memorabilia, were cancelled by favor, sometimes in colors



Dolfa Bartošik in 1941



other than the intended blue. The cancel was not used for any postal items and, therefore, must only be considered as proposed design specimens.

In all, Dolfa Bartošik designed some eight cancellers that were actually used, plus a number of supporting souvenirs. All the cancellations are illustrated in the Society Monograph No. 1 and Supplement as figs. 23, 27, 29, 31, 20, 35, 36 and 25 listed in chronological order.

Several other designs were submitted that were neither accepted nor used:

The first, in an attempt to break with tradition, occurred in October 1941 when Bartošik prepared a design for the commemoration of 'National Day' on 28-10-1941. This design was for a hexagon shaped canceller (fig. 4) but for some 'technical' reasons it was not accepted in that format. The accepted design reverted to the more conventional circular format.

Another design to mark the 1943 'National Day of Mourning' - the anniversary of the Nazi occupation - was also not accepted (fig. 5). A canceller was, however, prepared from a design by another soldier-artist, Jindrich Křeček (fig. 6).



Fig. 4.



Fig. 5.



Fig. 6.

(The author acknowledges the use of the following material as information sources for his article: Various issues of *FILATELIE*, *THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST*, MuDr. Miroslav Vostatek and Vladimír Králiček).

President's Corner

A REWARD FOR OUR EXPANSION

As the cover article of our previous issue announced, one of our most respected members, Hans Klein of Holland, suffered a stunning loss. But really it was a loss to all of us. Hans has never hesitated to share his treasures with us and the rest of the world. Now he has been denied that privilege. I urge each and every one of you to become familiar with the description and appearance of his two rarities. Spread the word and let's do all within our power to return them to their rightful owners - Hans and the rest of the philatelic world.

Included in this issue (see page 19) is a list providing the names and addresses of individuals in Czechoslovakia that are looking for philatelic exchange partners here in the U.S. I urge you to select a name from the list and start up a correspondence. The end result may be a new member for the Society. At the very least it will provide you with a window into a rapidly changing part of the world that is experiencing events that we will not see again.

As part of our membership attraction efforts, we are starting up a new program. Each current member in good standing has the opportunity to reduce their next year's dues by \$5.00. Here is how it works: You sponsor a new member by signing the bottom of their application for membership and indicating that you are applying for your \$5 credit. You send the application (including the new member's dues payment)-NOT to our secretary, Jane Sterba - but to our treasurer, Ed Lehecka. He will credit your future year's dues with \$5, acknowledge the credit back to you, and then forward the application to Jane. The next year when you send in your dues, just subtract \$5 from the regular payment amount (it would help Ed if at the same time you reminded him of your credit). This offer is only good for ONE \$5 credit per annual dues. Also, if you elect not to renew the following year, you do not get a \$5 rebate.

You may have noticed a feature the past several issues that is titled "For the Beginner" by Phil Freer. This is part of our effort to be responsive to the needs of the beginning or newer Czech collector. If you have suggestions as to topics that would be of benefit to be covered here, please drop a line to our Editor, Mirko Vondra, or to the author of this feature, Phillips Freer. Their addresses appear near the bottom of page 2 under "Editorial Staff".

Speaking of Phil, he has come out with a very attractive brochure that provides details about our Society, benefits of membership, and how to become a member. If you would be willing to speak for the Society at your local stamp club meeting or exhibition, drop Phil a line, and he will send you a few of the brochures. The pay is great! - \$5 a year (see member-

ship attraction paragraph above). The one thing we ask is that you not only put the brochures out on a table, but if you encounter someone who is genuinely interested, you should use the material for their benefit to advertise our Society. In addition, our Editor has extra copies of the SPECIALIST available that you could show or pass out as complimentary copies to serious potential members.

As for the SPECIALIST, I know I speak for all our members when I thank our current editor for doing so much to elevate the quality of our publication to the level it presently enjoys. But that level can only be maintained if our philatelic members and friends continue to write the kind of articles they have contributed for publication in the past year or so. It is my fervent hope that this trend will not diminish.

-Ludvik Svoboda

CLARENCE J. "BUD" PEARCE



Clarence "Bud" Pearce passed away on February 8, 1992. The news and the subsequent obituary information were received too late for the March/April issue. As a result, we are belatedly honoring member no. 17 (one of the original members of our Society), a giant among Czechoslovak philatelists and exhibitors.

Born in Alton, Illinois in 1902, he moved to St. Louis in his twenties and worked for the Kresge chain of stores. There he met his wife, Helen Manley, and in 1928 they were married in Bud's home town of Alton.

Bud began collecting Czechoslovakia because with a modest income and with

Scott's catalog prices reasonably low for stamps of that country, he felt he stood an excellent chance to accumulate a respectable collection. As it turned out, he did far better than he had hoped for. He started an extensive correspondence with various dealers and collectors in Czechoslovakia and his collection grew rapidly. He soon expanded his correspondence to include some of the top Czechoslovak collectors in the world. To name a few: W.L. Russell of Australia, George Pearson of England, Frank Kovarik and John Velek of Chicago and Frank Kosik of Delavan, Wisconsin.

Before long, Bud became an international exhibitor of renown with specialized collections of the 1920 Agriculture and Science, the Allegory and Dove and the Legionnaire issues. He captured three silver awards at PRAGA 78 and repeated the feat at AMERIPEX 86.

Bud Pearce died at the age of 90 at his home in Coalgate, Oklahoma where he was buried. He is survived by his daughter, JoAnn Coffee, and by several grandchildren. For more details on his background and achievements, please refer to the March 1988 SPECIALIST, page 6.

The Board and membership of the Society mourns the passing of one of its oldest and most respected members.

Charley's Chapter

REMINISCING ABOUT RARITIES

Recently considerable publicity has been given to the terrible misfortune that has befallen J.L. "Hans" Klein regarding the theft at PHILANIPPON of his two greatest rarities - the 4-kronen "Pošta Československá 1919" on granite paper formerly listed as Scott no. B24 and the 50/50 Doplátit (postage due) Chainbreaker error, Scott no. B52a.

This short "Chapter" is concerned with the existing number of these rarities that were described in the original article regarding the theft at PHILANIPPON. To this we also have to add the third rarity - the 10-kronen "Pošta" overprint on granite paper formerly listed as Scott no. B25.

Regarding the 4-kronen and 10-kronen granites, it is evident that there are more 10-kronen copies in existence than there are of the 4-kronen values.

In my 42 years of collecting Czechoslovakia, I have seen 6 or 7 copies of the 10-kronen granite for sale at auctions. There was a sale many years ago in Basle, Switzerland by Robson-Lowe which offered two copies of the 10-kronen, one being slightly defective. To date, I have not seen a genuine 4 kronen granite for sale anywhere.

In POFIS, the number count for both values is 15 and 15, but this has to be a grave error. When I first joined the S.C.P. back in the early 1950's it was generally believed that there were 8 copies of the 4-kronen and 12 copies of the 10-kronen in existence. That estimate for the 4-kronen value could be nearly correct. With two copies presently on exhibit in the Prague Postal Museum, 6 to 7 copies are probably the correct number of copies in collectors' hands. The 12 to 15 number for the 10-kronen value seems somewhat conservative. I would estimate the number to be between 15 and 18 copies, since this stamp can occasionally be seen.

The figure of 20 to 30 copies of the 50/50 postage due error in existence appears to be ridiculous. I remember discussing this very stamp with Arthur Kessler in 1973 when I visited him and he told me that as far as he knows, only 14 copies were recorded by Ervin Hirsch. Mr. Hirsch, who co-authored the Hirsch-Franek Handbook published in Prague in 1935, was supposed to have recorded and examined all the 50/50 postage-due errors that were found. Giving leeway of 2 to 3 copies, there could have been only 16 to 17 copies originally found and I doubt if all have survived. One thing seems certain - there are fewer copies of the 50/50 error than there are of the 10-kronen granite overprint.

In 1985, when I attended the Rome International show with Jan Karasek, we discussed these three rarities and the conclusions arrived at are those stated in this article.

- Charles Chesloe

For the Beginner

THE FIRST MASARYKS

When referring to Czechoslovakia, we think of Thomas Garrigue Masaryk as "the father of the country". He above all others led the pre-Armistice campaign to bring the Czechs and Slovaks under one banner and establish Czechoslovakia as a free nation. He was the driving force behind Woodrow Wilson's plan for a post-war Europe in 1918. His reward, as we all know, was to be the Republic's first President. It is therefore logical that his picture appear on some of the country's earliest stamps. Three of those issues bear mention here.

The first issue to be released after the declaration of indepen-



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

dence was a set of three stamps with a bust of Masaryk inside a rather ornate frame. The stamps came in denominations of 125h, 500h and 1,000h and were somewhat oversized for their day (23mm. by 32mm.) (see fig. 1). The first day of issue was March 7, 1920 for the last two stamps; Aug. 23, 1920 for the 125h stamp.

The set was withdrawn from circulation on Jan. 31, 1923. The 500h had a slate color and was printed in a quantity of 525,000. The 1,000h was dark brown with 500,000 copies printed. The 125h had a blue color and an ample quantity of 17,590,000. The quantity in this instance should alert the newcomer to Czechoslovak philately of their relative value. It should also be borne in mind that a limited quantity of each stamp was overprinted "SO 1920". (This overprint will be discussed in a later issue).

Another noteworthy Masaryk set was the one issued on Oct. 27, 1923 in a quantity of only 140,000 commemorating the fifth anniversary of the Republic's independence. It appeared in denominations of 50h, 100h, 200h and 300h (see fig. 2). On May 11, 1925, the first three stamps were overprinted "Congres Olymp. Internat.-Praha 1925" and on June 1, 1926, the entire set was overprinted "VIII Slet Vsesokolský-Praha 1926".

This set led to the release of another related Masaryk issue comprising three stamps with denominations of 40h, 50h and 60h (see fig.3). Apart from the denominations, see if you can distinguish the differences in design between this set and the

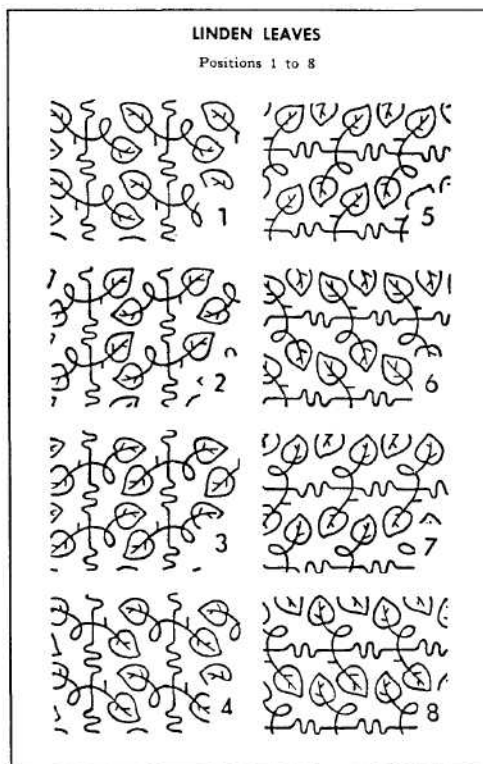


Fig. 4

one in fig. 2.

Just to complicate matters, the set shown in fig. 2 was reissued together with the set shown in fig. 3 but with different values (1k, 2k, 3k and 5k) and in no less than seven different Types. These Types vary in size and, in some instances, in color and perforation.

But what is most important about these last two sets is that they are the first stamps of Czechoslovakia to be produced on watermarked paper. The watermark is of linden leaves, the linden tree being the country's national tree. There are eight different positions of watermarks on these stamps and they are shown in fig. 4.

If you are using a Scott catalog, these definitives are numbered 95 through 108 and B133 through B143, a total of 28 stamps. The first three of these stamps were produced by photogravure and the rest were engraved, there being four different engravings. In order to properly identify individual stamps in this series, very close attention must be given, under magnification, to the size of the stamp, perforations, watermark positions and the distinctive marks of the different engravings.

As noted above, these definitives were first placed on sale in March 7, 1925, the 75th birthday of President Masaryk, and special postmarks in red were used on covers bearing these stamps in the cities of Praha 1, Košice 1, Opava 1 and Pardubice 1, and were used for one day only. These are not to be confused with favor cancellations.

I would suggest that any collector who has a special interest in the Masaryk stamps obtain a copy of Henry Hahn's publication, "Stamps With a Portrait of T.G. Masaryk". This booklet can be purchased from our own Society through Ed Lehecka, the book sales manager.

-Phillips Freer

Editorial Hinges

WHAT'S RIGHT FOR A PHILATELIC JOURNAL?

Our President, Ludvik Svoboda, recently called attention to an illuminating article appearing in the February 3 issue of Linn's Stamp News on page 30. Titled "Journal Must Stimulate New Collectors", Ed Denson writes in it about a problem that has concerned the governing Board of the S.C.P. for the past few years. So timely and appropriate is the article that your editor is taking the time and space to reprint the first part of it:

The journals of our philatelic societies are learned and refined publications, where scholars print their lifetime researches between fillers of new issue information. Many of these journals come out quarterly, and surely most of them get filed rather than read.

Novice collectors and even many of those who have collected for years can't write for these publications: What they have to say is not important enough.

Beginners can't afford to advertise in them, either, because what they want to buy and sell is not expensive enough to justify the cost.

They are on the outside, looking in.

While anyone can collect stamps, the barriers to taking a more active role are so discouraging that most people do not overcome them. Instead, they drop out and get into something that is fun.

I think we need to redirect the attention of the philatelic societies and their publications from the rich specialist to the average collector.

We need to turn the focus of the editors of these journals away from printing for the ages, and towards the task of printing publications that are accessible to and engage the interests of the average collector.

We need to help others experience the fun of collecting. Specialist societies are one place where this revitalization can occur.

Ed Denson is a stamp dealer and collector from Alderpoint, California. In his article, he offers a few interesting suggestions, some of which your editor does not entirely agree with while others do not appear to be practical for a small Society like ours. But generally his ideas are worth considering. For example, he "wants something (published) that directly relates to (his) collecting - auctions, for instance, and current price lists." He also suggests that "articles.....examine often-missed varieties in inexpensive stamps and the meanings and usages of individual issues."

It occurs to your editor that possibly Mr. Denson has not seen or read a single issue of the CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST in the last two-or-so years. Some of the things he is looking for he would find in our publication. From the standpoint of contents, our relatively recent column "For the Beginner" is a step in the right direction. Other articles like those written by Henry Hahn, Paul Jensen and Walter Rauch on "Judging" are also greatly welcomed by our "new and average" collectors. Auctions are announced on a regular basis as are news of important philatelic shows, exhibitions and events. What is more, we have gone even further than that. For the past few years we have offered a column titled "Member of the Month" which is specifically designed to familiarize members with other members of our group having the same or similar interests. We keep the membership apprised of developments in our library, our circuit and the Society itself. We offer timely books and periodicals for sale and keep the members updated on New Issues. Last but not least, we regularly publish "Letters to the Editor" from our members and other collectors. And all this is balanced by the appearance of at least one or two research articles in every issue we publish. After all, collectors come in all shapes and sizes!

On the other hand, your editor does not agree with Ed Denson's view that a 24-page monthly or bi-monthly publication from a specialist society should be printed on newsprint, should be inexpensive to produce and distribute (with some reservations) and should not require much time from the editor. Our publication is a SPECIALIST in more ways than its name. It is designed to attract and appeal to the "new and average" collector without alienating the experts and specialized collectors. It seeks to strike a happy balance and do so through a quality periodical that can and does merit awards at philatelic literature exhibits. That, after all, is part of any Society's objective.

- Mirko Vondra

Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir:

I am sending you a photocopy of a special postal card issued 15-4-88 for the opening of the Finlandia 88 World Philatelic Exposition which includes a 5 Kcs stamp of the Helsinki Conference. The card was purchased 17-5-88 in the POFIS sales office at the Main Post Office, Praha 1. Note that in the bottom left corner of the postal card the red symbol of the Praga 88 exhibit is missing.

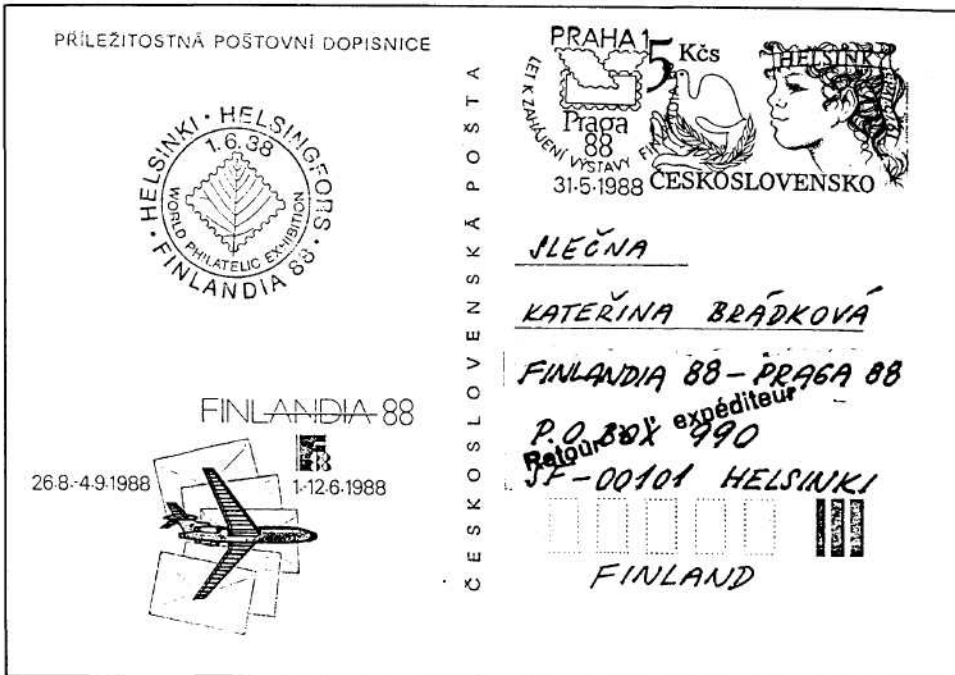
The card passed through the postal authorities and is provided with the special "Praha 1" post office cancellation of the 31-5-88 flight for the opening of the Finlandia 88 Exposition, as well as the exhibit cancellation "World Exposition Finlandia 88 Helsinki - Helsingfors 1-6-88."

This evidently accidental production flaw, however, opens the possibility of further discoveries of flaws among the issues of the special post cards with the theme of World Exposition Praga 88.

At the same time I am providing a photocopy example of a "normal" card which does have the symbol of Exposition Praga 88.

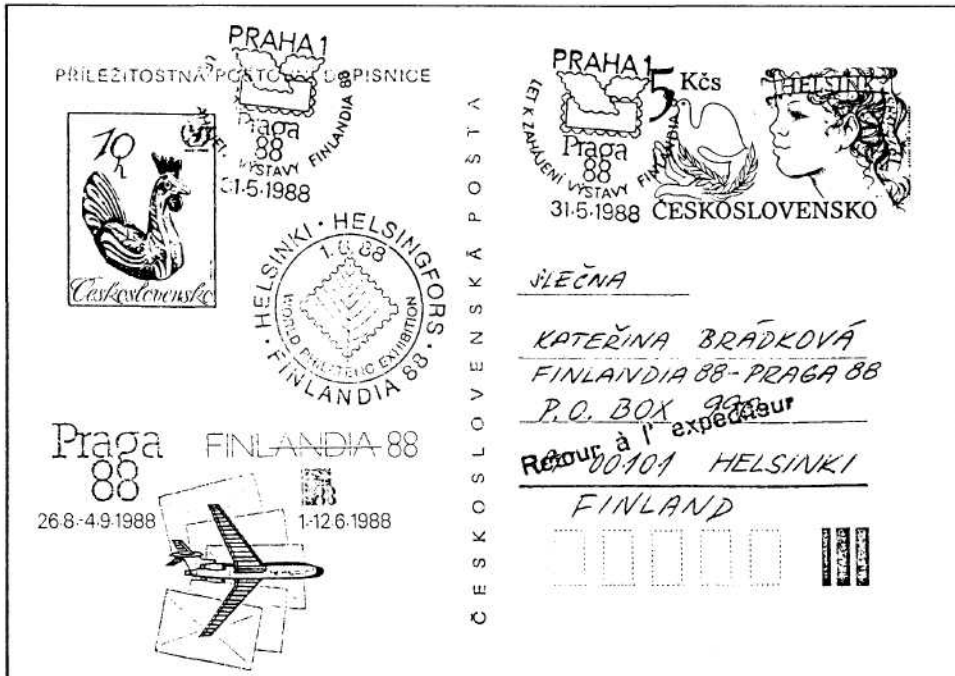
I submitted the original postal card to JUDR Jiří Biškov for his inspection. He is an expert on

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airmail stamps and the chairman of the SCSF expertizing commission. The findings were that this is an isolated production flaw.

(This is a translation by Ludvik Svoboda of a Czech letter submitted by Zdeněk Brádka, Trojská 61/138, 182 00 Praha 8 - Troja).



Dear Editor:

It is certainly no news that exhibits of stamps have in recent years taken second place to exhibits of postal history, covers and pre-20th century philately. So it was at PHILANIPPON '91, when one considers the major awards.

The three Grand Prix winners of the Federation International de Philatelie (FIP) were:

Angelo Lima with his "BRAZIL IMPERIUM 1843 TO 1866", Grand Prix d'Honneur, Championship Class;

Luis Alemany Indarte with "SPAIN IN THE REIGN OF ISABEL II, 1850-1854", Grand Prix International;

Tsuneo Murakawa, "JAPAN, 1871 TO 1876", Grand Prix National.

Not having seen the above exhibits, one can't tell what role the great classic rarities played as compared to pre-stamp material (in the Brazilian exhibit), postal history and superb covers.

So . . . don't throw your CSR 1918-1939 in the trash just yet . . . but DO take a closer look at Austria and Hungary used on future Czechoslovak Territories, both 19th century stamped covers and the pre-stamp period. It's easy to get hooked. I have.

Henry Hahn

CZECHS/SLOVAKS SEEKING STAMP EXCHANGE PARTNERS

The following collectors from Czechoslovakia are desiring exchange partners here in the United States. Most are interested in exchanging mint for mint, US for Czechoslovakia. Other interests include used, UN, Canadian, some other countries, FDCs, and post cards. Since there are so many various specialties, it is impossible for us to list them all.

Following their addresses may be some additional information. If the individual is able to correspond in a language other than Czech, then a code will indicate so: E=English, G=German, R=Russian. Y means that this is a young collector. Most of these individuals have the means of getting English letters translated for them by relatives or friends, so initial contacts should be successful in any case.

Those names having asterisks in front of them denote current members. All others are potential members and whoever writes them and is able to persuade them to join our Society may have the benefit of the credit mentioned by our President in his column on page 12.

Petr Fohl; Dlouha 22; 46600 Jablonec nad Nissou; CSFR (Y)

Jan Benes; Posnanska 4; 61600 Brno 16; CSFR (E,G,R)

Andrej Krehel; Krupska 36/111; 04001 Kosice; CSFR

*Miloslav Vlcek; Visnovec 1091, POB 13; 76824 Hulín; CSFR (E,G)

Stefan Halla; T. Vansovej 20; 94059 Nove Zamky; CSFR

Miroslav Kachel; Jiraskova 14; 79201 Bruntal; CSFR

Jan Zajic; Suvorovova 631/IV; 33901 Klatovy; CSFR (R,G)

Josef Macoszek; Dubova 495/II; 03104 Liptovsky-Mikulas; CSFR

*Jiri Cisler; E. Krasnohorske 44/16; 11001 Prague 1; CSFR (E)

M. Nemecekova; Pri Posluzanke 7; 93401 Levice; CSFR (E)

Jiri Neumann; Tesinska 8; 31203 Plzen; CSFR

Jan Sladky; RA 503; 34401 Domazlice; CSFR

J. Korolus; Doubravinova 329/23; 16300 Prague 6 Repy; CSFR (E,G)

Marie Majerova; Cerncin 113; 68501 Bucovice; CSFR

Milan Pic; Hradebni 100; 54371 Hostinne; CSFR (E,R,G)

Chytka Ivo; Alesova 984; 43601 Litvinov 1; CSFR

Jaroslav Vicenik; 68771 Bojkovice 229; CSFR

Dr. Otto Gata; Kralova 43/I; 03601 Martin; CSFR

Bohac Tibor; Bozeny Nemcovej 8/II; 04001 Kosice; CSFR

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Jan Lakota; T. Sevcenku 5; 08501 Bardejov; CSFR
 David Zovfaly; Skolni 854; 66434 Kurim; CSFR (Y) (R)
 *Anna Kolonicna; 41116 Klapy 170; CSFR
 Jiri Krnak, Sidliste 168; 37810 Ceske Velenice; CSFR
 Michal Hitha; Volfova 33; 31809 Plzen; CSFR
 Frantisek Valasek; Mrstikova 929; 50009 Hradec Kralove 9; CSFR
 Michal Teubner; Dr. Novaka 531; 29471 Benatky nad Jizerou 1; CSFR (E)

New Issues

PLANNED SCHEDULE OF NEW ISSUES FOR 1992

The March/April SPECIALIST contained the last of our "New Issues" for 1991. It also contained the first of our "New Issues" for 1992 - the Winter Olympics stamp.

We have now been fortunate in receiving the official Schedule from POSTFILA of all issues planned for release during 1992 by the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications. However, we caution our members that if past experience is any criteria for the future, other new issues may be announced on short notice. But apart from any such surprises, the following schedule of anticipated issues applies currently:

Date of Issue	Purpose of Issue	Denomination	Method
Printing			
Jan. 6	XVI Winter Olympic Games At Albertville	1k.	Rotary recess
March 5	400th Anniversary of Comenius' birth	10k.	recess-flat plate
March 31	World Championship Ice Hockey (Prague, Bratislava)	3k.	Rotary recess
April 2	World EXPO 92 in Seville	4k.	Rotary recess
April 2	Security of Road traffic (BESIP)	2k.	Rotary recess
May 5	500th anniversary of America's discovery (CEPT)	22k.	recess-flat plate
May 21	XXV Summer Olympic Games (Barcelona)	2k.	Rotary recess
May 21	Czechoslovak resistance during World War II	1,2,3 & 6k.	Rotary recess
June 10	Red Cross	2k.	Rotary recess
June 30	European Junior table tennis championships	1k.	Rotary recess
July 15	Wild Life preservation - protected beetles	1,2,3, & 4k.	Rotary recess
July 22	Country scenes - the Troja castle (Donner, Lednice)	*6,7 & 8k.	recess-flat plate
Aug. 28	Postal Bank	20k.	Rotary recess
Oct. 6	200th anniversary of Slovak Cultural Society	5k.	Rotary recess
Nov. 2	Art on stamps (K. Sokol, G. Braque, Toyen)	*6,7 & 8k.	recess-flat plate
Nov. 9	Christmas	1k.	Rotary recess
Dec. 18	Day of the Czechoslovak Postage Stamp	2k.	Rotary recess

*Denotes 3 miniature sheets.

Advertisement

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*Library Notes***MORE BOOKS AND LATEST RULES**

The following are additions to the Society's Library and continues the numbering sequence of the Library Catalog published in the June 1989 Specialist plus the additions noted in the July/August 1991, November/December 1991, and March/April 1992 Specialists:

202. Pofis; Katalog Poštovních Známek Československo 1945-1979 (1980, 448 pp, Czech).
203. Billig; Specialized Postage Stamp Catalogue of Czechoslovakia, Eastern-Silesia, Siberia, Carpatho-Ukraine, Bohemia, Moravia, and Slovakia (1942, 40 pp, English).
204. Earee, R.B.; Album Weeds, How to Detect Forged Stamps; Part VIII, Tasmania through Zululand; 3rd Edition (undated, 216 pp, English).
205. Rimalova, Ing. Jitka (Editor), et al; Filatelistický Atlas Znamkových Zemí (1971, 254 pp, Czech).
206. Herst, Herman (Editor); Forensic Philately (1986, 133 pp, English).
207. McDaniel, Gayle; State Flags on Stamps (1979, 50 pp, English).
208. Nebesky, Vaclav; Filatelistovo Podzimni Rozjimani; (1975, 268 pp, Czech).

Since the Society has added nearly fifty items to the Library over the past two and a half years, it is my intention to publish a revised Library Catalog during this year. The Catalog will be alphabetized to make it easier to locate specific books. I would welcome any suggestions from the membership regarding any aspects of the Catalog which should be improved. Also, because of the increased number of inquiries from members requesting the Library's rules for the loan of books, they are published here for general information:

Library Rules and Regulations

The following rules and regulations constitute the conditions under which material may be borrowed from the Library. Any modifications to these rules and regulations will be published in future editions of The SPECIALIST.

1. Any member in good standing of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately (SCP) may have the privilege of borrowing material from the Library provided that this privilege has not been suspended. A consistently poor record in returning material late or in poor condition can lead to suspension of library privileges.
2. Requests for material must be in writing, signed, and accompanied by the requester's membership number. Requests from minors must be cosigned by a parent or guardian.
3. Requests for material should identify items by the accession number and title from the Library Catalog. Requests must be accompanied by a deposit, as follows:
 - a. \$3.00 per item (always).
 - b. An additional \$1.00 per item if air mail first class shipment is desired.
 - c. An additional \$1.00 per item if the borrower resides outside the United States (APO, FPO excepted).
 - d. For certain valuable items, an additional deposit of \$3.00 is required. Such items are identified by an asterisk (*) in the Library Catalog and must be insured for \$50.00.
4. Material may be retained by a borrower for any period up to 10 weeks at a rental fee of 10 cents per week per item. However, if another request is received for the same item, the Librarian may request the borrower to return the item after 5 weeks, or immediately, whichever is later.
5. Upon receipt of returned material in good condition, the Librarian will refund the unused portion of the deposit, after deductions for rental and mailing costs. Unless instructed otherwise, material will be shipped at the Library Materials Rate in a mailing bag. If the mailing

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bag is opened by removing the staples, rather than the tear strip, it may be reused for returning material.

6. Material may be returned via the Library Materials Rate. The package should be clearly endorsed "Library Materials" and be addressed to "SCP Library", c/o the Librarian. Doubting postal employees should be referred to the Postal Service Manual.

7. The deposit may be forfeited in whole or in part when material is returned in damaged condition, or whenever material is not returned for any reason. If the deposit is not sufficient to cover the loss to the Library, the borrower will be expected to replace or make suitable restitution for material lost or damaged when in his possession.

8. Submission of a request for material constitutes acceptance of these rules and regulations.

- Richard G. Palaschak, SCP Librarian

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SOCIETY FOR CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELY

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Westfield, NJ 07090

ADOLF HUJER - 1931-1992

Our Fellow collector, writer, and friend, Adolf Hujer, died during the morning hours of Wednesday, January 29. His death was sudden and unexpected, though it may have been the result of a auto accident two days earlier. Ado's family home was in the mountains of northern Čechy in the small town of Zásada near Jablonec nad Nisou. This region is the home of Czechoslovakia's famous costume jewelry industry, and the Hujer family has participated in it for several generations. Already as a young man, prior to World War II, Ado worked for his father selling jewelry to some of the best known department stores in various countries throughout Europe. During the War, one such business trip brought him to Hamburg shortly before the air raid sirens sent him along with everyone else into the air raid shelters. For three days and nights the raid went on creating a fire storm that leveled Hamburg in one of the largest air raids of the war.

Following the war, in 1948, Ado traveled to the Western Hemisphere to open new markets for their business and to re-establish commercial ties with customers that the war had interrupted. Following the Soviet coupe in Czechoslovakia, the family business was nationalized. Ado was the target of constant harrassment by local Communists, eventually arrested and sent to the mines. After his release, he moved to Praha in the hope of being able to provide for his family. Over the years the local Communist authorities, not satisfied at having confiscated the family firm, kept trying to confiscate the family home as well.

Eventually his son returned to Zásada, in part to protect the family home by living in it. Young Ado went to work in the jewelry industry rising to be technical director, the highest position he could reach without being a member of the Communist Party, in one of the larger jewelry factories. After the Velvet Revolution, Young Ado was elected director of his factory and began to prepare the factory for privatization. These preparations required trying to establish direct commercial contact with potential customers abroad. This is when the father, Ado, came in. His knowledge of international trade in the West was invaluable to the struggling factory. With his usual energy, Ado threw himself into the challenge of establishing commercial ties throughout Europe and in the United States.

Ado Hujer never did anything by halves. This new activity kept him on the move between Praha and Zásada weekly and almost as often he went on trips abroad. It was while he was hurrying to Zásada from a meeting in Jablonec that, rounding one of the many curves on the mountain road he way traveling, he met a truck in his lane. Ado's car was totally demolished but he walked away from the wreck. He was in the hospital for observation when two days later, after having spent a good part of the day planning his next business trip, he died suddenly.

Ado Hujer was a most inveterate traveler. He managed one way or another to arrange travel to many exotic places, visiting his many philatelic friends around the world. His interest in history added an important dimension to travels. His knowledge of Czech history and lore made wandering about Prague with him an unforgetably rich cultural experience.

Yes, Ado was also a philatelist. His knowledge of our hobby was broad and he always could add just that tidbit of information one needed about a Czechoslovak stamp or cover. His knowledge of Czech, Moravian, Silesian, and Slovak town names and locations was encyclopedic and he unfliningly related them to historical events. He wrote extensively about Czechoslovak philately and published in stamp journals of several countries, including our own *SPECIALIST* (see June/July issue of 1990, vol. 52, no. 6). But Ado's first philatelic love was Bosnia-Herzegovina, though I doubt he ever exhibited his fine collection.

Philately has lost an important partisan and stamp enthusiast. I, among many others, have lost a true friend. His wife has lost a devoted husband; his son, a wonderful father.

- Jaroslav Verner

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