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Winner of numerous International and National Awards

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SOCIETY SCHEDULE SET FOR BALPEX

Our Society has planned an ambitious program for its members and friends to be held at BALPEX this Labor Day weekend. Below is the list of scheduled events:

Saturday, Sept. 5

10 AM - 5 PM: S.C.P. lounge table will be open with display of books, periodicals, pamphlets and covers, most of which will be available for sale. Volunteers to take turns staffing the table will be appreciated. Information on Sunday's and Monday's S.C.P. activities (see below) will be available.

Sunday, Sept. 6

10 AM - 1 PM: Board meeting in the Society Suite.

2 PM - 3 PM: General Business Meeting

3 PM - 5 PM: Combined Societies' Lecture Presentation open to the public. Members from the Hungarian, Austrian, Ukrainian and Rossica Societies will be speaking. This includes "Postage Rates in the Austrian Monarchy, Czech Territory" By Henry Hahn and "Military & Naval Mail During World War I" by Richard Major supplemented by colored slides.

5 PM - 6 PM: Cocktail Party at the Society Suite

6 PM - 7 PM: BALPEX Social Gathering (location to be announced).

7 PM - 9 PM: BALPEX Awards dinner.

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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 Charles Chesloe. Depending on the nature or substance of the item to be expertized, he will direct you to the appropriate source for expertization. Please contact Charles Chesloe, 8300 South Wolf Road, Willow Springs, Ill. 60480.
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 MANY FACES OF PRAGUE CASTLE
As Portrayed on Czech Covers and Postage Stamps
 by G. M. van Zanten

Prague Castle has been portrayed by many artists in the past, drawings, etching and paintings. More recently photographers have taken over to a large extent; as the saying goes "The camera never lies", however somehow the old drawings, engravings and paintings have much appeal and a charm of their own. Let us now have a look at the Prague images on postage stamps as well as covers.

The first image goes back to the 14th century on the 1.50Kčs stamps (Fig. 1a) issued for the fine 1950 National Stamp Exhibition. It is a typical portrayal of a building with trees and two persons, no exact date is given, nor is the image representative of the Castle.

1493 Part of a woodcut depicting the Castle in 1493 by Michael Wolgemut (1434-1519) is shown on the 2Kčs stamp, (Fig 1b) also issued for the above mentioned exhibition in 1950. The original of this woodcut is on page 230 of "Weltchronic" (World Chronicle) which was published in 1493 (Fig. 2). It is believed to be the first representative image of Prague and its Castle, Its churches and towers. Below it can be



Fig. 1a, 1b, 1c, & 1d left to right, Top to Bottom

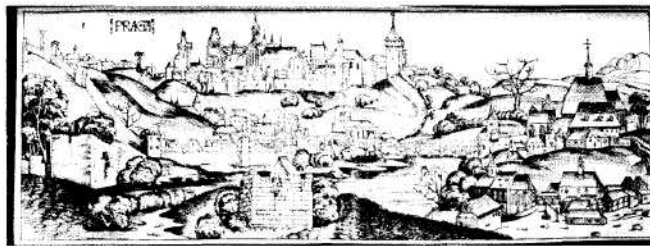


Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

seen the “Small City” with its walls and the Charles Bridge to the right. Future artists, however, were to see an entirely different view as, on June 2nd 1541, the Small City and part of the Hradčany Castle were destroyed by a devastating fire which had started in the Malá Strana and quickly spread to Hradčany. The Castle suffered considerable damage. The Church of All Saints, The Vladislav wing on the Castle, St. Vitus Cathedral, the residence of the Dean of the Chapter, Vicar’s Street, St. George Convent and the old Burgrave’s residence were all enveloped in flames. Not until the fire had consumed the Powder Bridge did it come to a halt. Unfortunately, all State documents were destroyed in this fire as well. The image also appears on the 1978 cachet of the Prague Castle F.D.C. (Fig. 3).

1572 The year 1572 gives us another view of the Castle complex and St. Vitus as depicted in a



Fig. 5

Renaissance color panorama executed by Frans Hoogenberghe (1540-1590) (Fig. 4). By this time it was already a huge complex, the center of fine arts of the Renaissance, as well as the seat of the sovereign, Maximilian, who was King of Bohemia from 1564-1576.

Since a panorama is usually a comprehensive representation of a subject, we may take it for granted that the eye and hand of the artist captured the scene of Prague Castle and its immediate surroundings exactly as they really looked in the second half of the sixteenth century, even if the hill appears somewhat steep! I am referring to the 3Kčs stamp of the 1976 Prague Castle set.

1606 Thirty four years later, another image of the Castle “Prospect of Prague” (Fig. 1c) appears on the 3 Kčs stamp for the “Prague 1950” stamp exhibition. This time it is the work of Filip van den Bossche, after a copper engraving by J. Wechter. Only a very small portion of the pencil drawing is depicted on this stamp. The original work measures 47.6 X 314 cm.

Interestingly enough virtually the same image appears in red as the cachet (Fig. 5) on a



Fig. 6

postal envelope issued for the International Philatelic Exhibition held at Prague in September 1955. In that instance, the date shown is 1620 in an oval with the text "PRAGA CAPUTREGNI 1620". The main features shown are from left to right: the King's Palace, White Tower, St. Vitus' Cathedral, Vladislav Hall, St. George Church and the Black Tower, survivor of the 12th century castle defenses.

Filip van den Bossche arrived in Prague in 1604, probably from Holland, and became the Chief Tapestry designer at the Court of Rudolph II. After the King's death in 1612 he left the Court, probably returning to his native land.

1794 The Castle as portrayed in 1794 is on the 5Kčs value of the "Praha 1950" set of 4 stamps (Fig 1d). This time it is dominated by a barge on the River Vltava in the foreground. This image is presumably after a colored copperplate by Joseph Gregory, and engraved by Lewis/Ludvik Kohl in either 1793 or 1794. It appears this image is the second part of a larger work. The stamp shows the year as 1794, whereas in the book "Prague in Pictures of Five Centuries" by Zdeněk Wirth, the near identical picture (Fig. 6) shows the year as 1793. It appears that the design for the stamp was somewhat modified, placing the barge, minus one man, right below the Castle.

1820 (Approx) The 1981 Prague Castle set gave us yet another view of St. Vitus Cathedral, this time an early 19th Century view by J. Šembera - G. Döbler, (Fig. 7). The view is from the East. Besides the Cathedral, it shows an interesting scene of people in the foreground, among them a group of women collecting water at the



Fig. 7



Fig. 8



Fig. 9

well on St. George's Square. The image is rather busy-looking, a good magnifying glass will bring out interesting details (spot the cat!). Another view from the East side is shown in the photograph in Fig. 8.

1870 (Approx) A representation of the complex appears on the 5 Kčs value in the "Narodni-Divadlo v Praze" (detail) set of 1983 (Fig. 9). This one was painted by Julius

Mařák, born at Litomyšl in 1832, died in Prague 1899. It is portrayed again from the East. As no date is shown, I have presumed that the date of the work approximates the year 1870 because it illustrates a detail of a decoration in the presidential box of the National Theater. An almost identical picture appears on the 1979 Prague Castle F.D.C. envelope. (Fig. 10) This time it was the work of Karel Purkyně (1834-1868) and is a detail of the background of the 3.60 Kčs stamp for Prague Castle. This gives us a clue that the engraving was done around 1858.

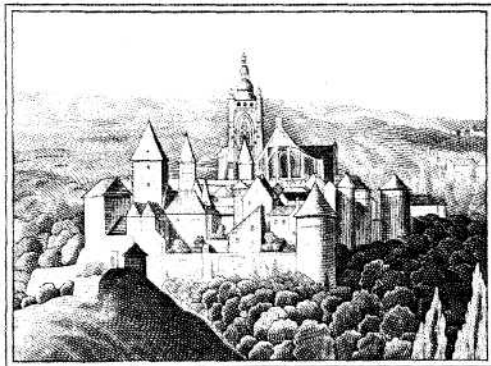


Fig. 10

1980 In 1985 we had another stamp portraying Prague Castle, this time with the Black Tower in the foreground. It is a modern interpretation of the subject by J. Herčík. The stamp was issued in the 1985 Prague Castle series, and has a value of 3 Kčs (Fig. 11).



Fig. 11

It is after an original measuring 13 x 11 cm. is which the Black Tower takes center stage (Fig. 12). Also shown in the design are the two spires of St. George's Basilica in white. The stamp shows about 70 percent of the original engraving, both left and right sides having been omitted.

There are many more stamps showing Prague Castle in their design, but the above show the complex as the main theme and hopefully give the reader some idea of the development of the Castle as well as the way in which it has been represented through philately.



54/
Pražský hrad.
13 x 11 cm

55/
Přaha.
11 x 13 cm



Fig. 13

There is of course the Mucha interpretation on the early stamps of the Republic. I in particular like the one with the rising sun. Thus in concluding this brief article, I hope the sun will keep on rising behind Prague Castle, and keep shining on the New Republic (Fig. 13).

Fig. 12


The Gutter Křivoklat



Tribuna Stamp Company's fall auction (Nov. 1992) will highlight the fabulous gutter of the 3,50 Kcs. *Křivoklat*. Issued in 1931, only 10 pieces were originally found, this being the unique right sheet margin copy. Next to the 4 Kcs., Orlik, of the same series, the *Křivoklat* gutter is regarded as the second rarest gutter in Czechoslovak philately. This 20th century rarity has never been a bidder in our previous sales.

You must send \$2.00 for an auction catalog along with your money and requests to: Tribuna Stamp C., P.O. Box 100, Willow Springs Il. 60480 - USA.

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podpis pošt. úředníka

JUBILEE FUND FOR DEFENSE OF THE COUNTRY

By Miroslav Vostatek / Translated by Henry Hahn

Undoubtedly, the Czechoslovak Republic found itself in difficult circumstances in the early part of 1938. The threat by Hitler's Germany was acute, particularly after October 14, 1938 when Austria was annexed, exposing the southern border of Bohemia and Moravia to German forces. Czechoslovakia was arming itself and continued in the building of fortifications along its frontiers.

The financing of the defenses was approaching the limit of what the Government could afford, and hence a fund was established to raise additional moneys for this purpose. Citizens participated in collections, while others contributed to the Government directly. I still recall that I was then in the second year of public school, and that we collected coins right in our classroom.

Even the Post Office took part in this raising of funds. A pink card was issued illustrated in Fig. 1, which could be used by contributors. On this card the donor entered his name and address and the amount contributed in cash. The card was signed by a postal clerk confirming receipt of the cash, and post-marked. The illustrated card originates in the town of Zdirec, which lies along

the railroad tract between Havlíčkov Brod and Pardubice. Philatelists will be interested to note that the contributor, in this instance, was the retired postmaster of Zdirec.

Thus far I have seen very few similar cards. The collector Dr. J. Ebart of Rakovnik found a similar card originating in Holešovice (near Rakovnik), where a woman having a German family name contributed 500 Kčs. The pink card is bi-lingual, i.e. in Czech/German. A call is currently out to collectors to determine whether these cards also existed in the Slovak, Hungarian or other languages. None have emerged thus far.

It is significant that the director of the Main Post Office in Prague, Antonin Novotny - also known as the originator of the Czechoslovak Field Post in Siberia - is credited with the availability and popularization of these cards.

The success of this solicitation was significant. I understand that inside a short time span, Czechoslovaks contributed over 250 millions of crowns. Unfortunately, the occupation of Czechoslovakia followed in a relatively short time, and the funds thus collected never realized their intended purpose.

ADVERTISING RATES FOR THE SPECIALIST

Amount of Space	One Issue	Three Issues	Six Issues	Ten Issues
Full Page	\$35.00	\$90.00	\$160.00	\$250.00
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Quarter Page	12.00	30.00	50.00	80.00
Eighth Page	8.00	20.00	35.00	55.00
Sixteenth Page				
(4 lines across page)	5.00	13.00	25.00	38.00
Thirty-second page				
2 lines across page)	3.00	8.00	15.00	23.00

1. All amounts are total cost.
2. Discount 20% to members only, if they so desire.
3. Submit your ad double spaced and typed or legibly printed.
4. It is the advertiser's responsibility that his or her copy is correct (proper spelling, abbreviations, punctuation, etc.) since the ad will be printed exactly as it is received - in other words "as is".
5. Make your check payable to: "Society for Czechoslovak Philately."
6. Send your copy and payment to: R. T. Cossaboom Jr., Box 332, Scott Air Force Base, Illinois 62225.



Fig. 1

TWO TYPES OF POSTAL CARDS FROM 1948

By Tomáš Morovics. Translated by Zdeněk Texl

For the occasion of the 1948 All-Sokol Meet (Vše-Sokolský slet), numerous stamps, postal correspondence cards and postmark cancels were issued by the Czechoslovak Ministry of Posts. Among them is a set of eight cards issued for the occasion of the Inter Games held in the High Tatras in Slovakia.

Postal cards were printed in two colors: picture and text in blue and stamp with a portrait of President Beneš in red. Because they were printed from different plate positions, differences can be found in the details of the picture. There is some reference to this in accessible philatelic literature. However, I could find no mention that these cards exist in two types. The types can be distinguished by the inscriptions on their heading.

Type I is identified by its distance between the words "Tchecoslovaquie" and "Dopisnica-

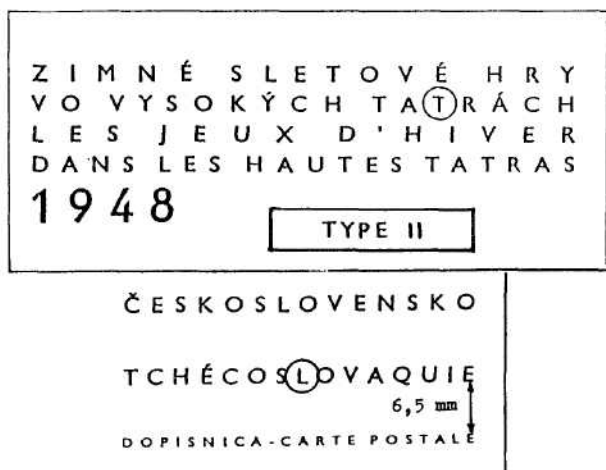


Fig. 2



Fig. 3

Carte Postale", which is 7 millimeters. Other identifying marks are the cut-off lower part of "L" in "LES", a thickened left stem of "H" in "HIVER", a lengthened "T" in "DOPISNICA" and a separation of the middle branch of "E" in "LES". (see Fig. 1)

Type II has the distance between inscriptions only 6.5 millimeters. Other identifying marks include a shortened right roof in the "T" in "TATRÁCH" and a partly cut top of "L" in "Tchecoslovaquie" (see Fig. 2).

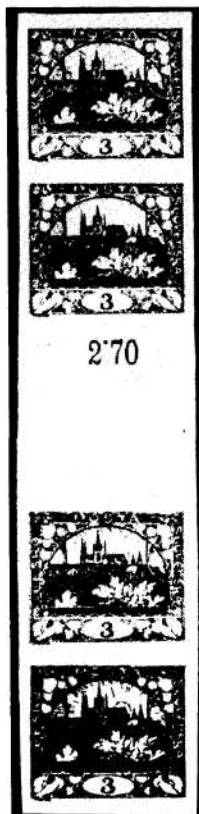
The various correspondence cards mentioned above differ each from the other by picture themes and by serial numbers 1 through 8. Type I cards are numbered 1, 2, 3, 7 and 8. Type II cards include numbers 3, 4, 5 and 6. It is evident that only the card with the serial number 3 exists in both types. Samples of Type I show an obviously damaged letter "K" in "ČESKOSLOVENSKO" (see Fig. 3). Up to now I have not succeeded in finding if there are

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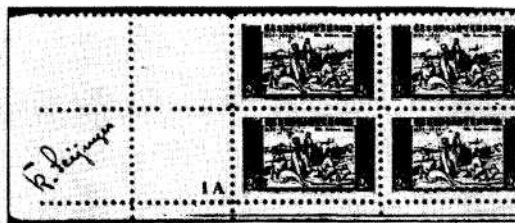
more cards of the Type I variety or of Type II. The explanation could be that the printing office noticed the damaged letter "K" and made a new printing plate. This of course is purely conjectural because the defect could easily be corrected by additional engraving. Probably this did not happen. A further and more detailed study of this issue of postal cards revealed a variety of color shades, especially in blue. As far as postal usage is concerned, there are not many of these cards to be found postally cancelled. Those that have never been used are common. On them, special and favor cancellations abound.

TRIBUNA SALE NO.3 A BIG SUCCESS

By Charles Chesloe



Lot 45



Lot 108

Tribuna Stamp Company held its third auction sale on Sunday, April 5 at Sokol-Tabor Hall in Berwyn, Illinois. It turned out as a huge success.

There were 16 floor bidders competing against 77 mail bidders and some of the prices paid must have set records for certain Czechoslovak items. Here are a few:

The Scout overprint set of "Přijezd Presidenta Masaryka" (lot 28) sold for \$4,565, including ten percent buyer's premium.

The die proofs (various lots) of Seizinger and Heinz went very well, selling from \$135 to \$310 each. The rare 1938 Prague sheet paste-up (Seizinger's first idea - lot 125) estimated at \$350 to \$500 sold for \$632.50 with the buyer's premium.

A block for four of the 20h Hradčany red imperf (Scott no. 45a) brought \$687.50. Most of the Hradčany material brought excellent prices, including the cover lots.

There were several lots of plate blocks with signatures of K. Seizinger and these sold for "top dollar." For example, plate 1 and 1a with the full tabs of the National Anthem issue (Scott no. 200-201) fetched \$203.50 against an estimate of \$125. (Lot 108)



Lot 154

A Roosevelt cover sent from "Milensko" in 1934 with Eleanor Roosevelt's signature sold for \$242 and another cover "Airmail" sent to Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1939 sold for \$68.

The se-tenant gutter of the 3h Hradčany (lot 45) sold for \$632.50 and a rare block with compound perforations of Scott no. B125 (lot 154) sold for \$742.50.

A Dwight Eisenhower signature alongside two Praha cancels honoring his visit went for \$280.

The result of the sale fortifies our belief that prices for good Czechoslovak material will surely keep climbing. For a catalog with prices realized, send \$2.50 to Tribuna Stamp Co., P.O. Box 100, Willow Springs, IL 60480.

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AN EXHIBITION SEVENTY YEARS AGO

by Dr. M. Vostatek - Translated by M. Vondra



Surprisingly a number of local philatelic clubs sprung up across the new Republic of Czechoslovakia soon after World War I. In the town of Hradec Králové a stamp exhibition actually took place from October 28 to November 2, 1922 at the Adalbertina Hotel. A special label was designed by O. Řípa, (see illustration) a participant in the design of at least one early Czech stamp and creator of numerous essays. The exhibition even had its own philatelic window which used red ink for its cancels.

According to then-current information, exhibits consisted of Czechoslovak stamps issued up to that point in time, trial prints, Austrian stamps including the unissued 12-kreutzer blue and the 60 cent. Lombardy Venice blue of 1850. Also on exhibit were various covers, military correspondence and fieldpost. Of particular interest were collections of Polish and Russian mails.

As our Society prepares for another annual exhibition, we are reminded that our predecessors and forerunners in Czechoslovakia wasted no time in proliferating their early philatelic interests through their own exhibitions.

Member of the Month

J. E. (TED) MEREDITH

If it had not been for a Czechoslovak track team participating in the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, "Ted" Meredith might not be a member of our Society today.

It all happened when Ted's father, a 1912 Olympics hero at Stockholm, was asked to coach



Fig. 1 - Ted Meredith's father with Jesse Owens at the Olympic Stadium in Berlin in 1936

the Czechoslovak team in preparation for the track competition at the 1936 Olympics. He therefore travelled to Prague a year earlier and brought with him his two sons, Rodney and Ted. Ted was then 15 years old.

While in Prague, Ted began to collect Czechoslovak stamps, having already amassed a collection of worldwide stamps since age 8. His father's friends in Prague helped him in his collecting. During the eighteen months he spent in that historic Central European city, he acquired most of the early stamps from the day the country was declared a free nation.

During the Berlin Olympics, he and his family sat with the famous American sprinter, Jesse Owens, in the grandstands (see Fig. 1) and later took him on a tour of Central Europe, including Dresden, Prague, Vienna and Budapest. Ted has pictures that he took of Jesse Owens in Prague.

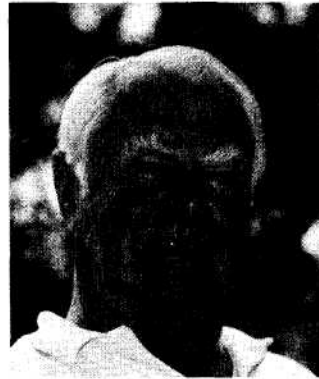


Fig. 2

Upon his return to the U.S., Ted attended Mercersburg Academy in PA, then Harvard College where he won a Harvard Club of Philadelphia scholarship. He majored in international government, history and economics. His senior honors thesis was titled "The Small States of Central Europe: 1942". He graduated in time to see Hitler invade Czechoslovakia. Soon thereafter he joined the Navy as a P.T. Boat officer stationed in New Guinea first and later in the Mediterranean. Following the war, he attended Harvard Business School under the G.I. Bill of Rights, graduating with honors in 1947. He joined the firm of Cooper and Lybrand (at that time called Lybrand, Ross Brothers and Montgomery) and spent 31 years with them in Philadelphia, New York and Washington, D.C. This included a key role in developing the firm's management consulting practices and recruiting for government consulting. He was also active in the Institute of Management Accounting.

During all this time, he kept up and improved his stamp collection. In 1965, he joined the S.C.P. as member number 804. His interest in Czechoslovakia grew as he visited the Czech Pavilion at the Montreal World's Fair in 1967. In Paris later that year, he spoke at the International Accounting Congress and visited Prague just prior to the fateful 1968 Prague Spring. While attending a performance at the *Laterna Magica*, he could feel the mood of rebellion around him. The following year he took on a consulting assignment in Munich for Radio Free Europe and interviewed some of the scholars emigrating from Czechoslovakia.

Twice married, he helped raise three children and two step-children. He lived in Washington, D.C. until his retirement in 1978. Then he and his wife moved to Newport Beach, Calif. where they presently reside.

Ted is an avid reader and is particularly fond of Czech history and much of its literature, including Kafka, Čapek, Kundera, Havel, Hrabal and Klima. As a retiree, (see Fig. 2) he is refining his collection of Czechoslovakia with an eye on possibly exhibiting some time in the near future. He also nurtures hopes of cultivating the philatelic interests of at least one of his four grandsons.

Good luck in your future endeavors, Ted!

WANTED: Czech postal cards: Used, mint, varieties, errors - 1918-1948. If you have cards for sale, I will send want list by Higgens & Gage numbers. Contact P. B. Freer, Apartado 646, Oaxaca, Oax 68000, Mexico

THE HUSSITE PRIEST



In 1920, two stamps were issued depicting a Hussite Priest. They commemorated the Hussite movement which was in conflict with dogma of the Catholic Church in the 15th century. The movement gets its name from the founder, Jan Hus, who was born in the late 14th century in Husinec in Southern Bohemia. He received a Master of Arts degree in 1396 and was ordained a priest in 1400.

The conflict between Hus and the Church was brought about by Hus' belief that the laity should have the right to partake of both bread and wine at communion. Hence the chalice became the chief emblem of the Hussite movement. The Hussite Priest with Chalice, seen on the two stamps, is actually from the portrait of Hus himself as a young priest painted by Alfons Mucha.

Hus was excommunicated by Pope John XXIII and in 1414 he appeared before the Council of Constance where he was condemned and was burned at the stake on July 6, 1415.

The story behind the issuance of these two stamps is somewhat unusual. Alfons Mucha originally designed it as a single stamp with a 100h denomination. The numerals appeared in the lower left and lower right corners with the following text between them: "Droite á la coupe." (The Rights of the Chalice).

Some government officials argued that only the Czech language should appear on stamps of Czechoslovakia. Still others believed that the text offended those who embraced the Catholic faith. The words were therefore omitted from the final design. Furthermore, members of the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications felt there were ample stamps already in circulation with the 100h denomination. Since the Hussite Priest raised a few eyebrows among religious non-reformists, the denominations of 80h and 90h were agreed upon inasmuch as the need for those values was generally small. Finally, when the two stamps were issued, one major political party objected to their issuance. This objection was circumvented by a compromise under which only a limited number of post offices throughout the country were to be supplied with the stamps, which would remain valid for postal use for only ten months. This despite the fact that more than four million copies of each stamp were printed. However, a large supply of the Hussite Priest in both values was retained in Prague's main post office where they could be purchased at face value through 1935. It is for that reason that although the stamps themselves are readily available even today, covers bearing those stamps are not at all common.

Statistically, the stamps were printed by neotype process in sheets of 100. The 80h is purple; the 90h, brownish black. These colors, along with the design, makes them appear somewhat drab and unattractive. They were line perforated 13 3/4 as well as imperforated. Issued in June 1920 and withdrawn from official use in April 1921, they are probably the least popular of the First Republic sets.

The stories behind many stamps can be as fascinating as the stamps themselves. In this case, the story accompanying the issuance of the Hussite Priest stamps is even more fascinating.

What a treasure lies in store for the new collector of Czechoslovak philately!

New Issues

The May/June issue of SPECIALIST, on page 20, listed all the new stamps scheduled for release during 1992. The first of these - the Albertville Olympic stamp - has already been fully reviewed in our Jan/Feb issue. We are now pleased to review for your information the next four stamps on that schedule. They are as follows:

1. On March 5, a commemorative souvenir sheet honoring the 400th anniversary of the birth of Jan Amos Komensky (Comenius) was issued by the Federal Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications. The sheet, which is 64 x 76 mm. in size, consists of two parts: a 10 kčs. stamp of 40 x 26 mm. showing a portrait of the famous philosopher with the inscription "J.A. Komenský - Unesco - 1592 - 1992." Below the stamp is an emblem marking his authorship with the Latin text "Omnia sponte fluant-Absint violentia Rebus."



Designed by the academic painter, Karel Beneš and engraved by Josef Herčík, it was printed by the Post Printing Office in Prague by recess print from flat plates. The stamp is in ochre, blue, red and black; the emblem appears in brown and red. (see Fig. 1))



Fig. 1

A First Day cover with a commemorative postmark was issued showing a facsimile of the philosopher's signature with the text "m p s (manu propria sua)." The cover was printed by recess print from flat plates in a dark green color.

The stamp is valid for postage from date of issue until recalled.

2. On March 31, a stamp commemorating the World Championship in Ice Hockey 1992 was issued by the Federal Ministry of Posts. Having a 3 kčs. denomination, it shows the drawing of a player with stick and puck and contains the text "Mistrovství světa v Ledním Hokeji Praha-Bratislava 1992" (World Championship in Ice Hockey Prague-Bratislava January 1992). Designed by the academic painter and graphic artist Pavel Kovářik, the stamp is 23 x 30 mm. in size. It was printed at the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in black combined with four-color recess print in grey, red, blue and light blue in sheets of 50 stamps. (see Fig. 2).



Fig. 2

A First Day cover with a commemorative cancellation was printed by recess print from flat plate in black, red and blue. The picture portion shows two competing hockey players.

The stamp is valid for both domestic and foreign use from date of issue until withdrawn.

3. On April 2, the Ministry of Posts also issued a stamp commemorating the Security of Road Traffic - BESIP. The 2 kčs. stamp of 40 x 23 mm. dimensions shows a graphic composition of a shining traffic light, a modern town's skyline in the background and the text "Bezpečnost silničního provozu znamená život" (Security of Road Traffic Means Life). Designed by academic painter and graphic artist Jaroslav Fišer and



Fig. 3

engraved by Martin Srb, the stamp was printed at the Post Printery in Prague in orange, grey and red and was issued in sheets of 50 stamps. (see Fig. 3).

A First Day cover with a commemorative cancellation was designed by academic painter and graphic artist Karel Mišek and engraved by Martin Srb. The theme creates an English contemporary engraving of a man running with a flag in front of a moving vehicle. The cover was printed from flat plates in a brown color.

The stamp is valid for domestic and foreign mailing from date of issue until withdrawn.

4. On April 2, the Ministry of Posts also issued a stamp commemorating World Exposition 92 in Seville, Spain. Bearing a value of 4 kčs, the stamp shows a graphic composition with the official emblem of Czechoslovakia's participation in the Exhibition (a spiral) and the main portion of the official Spanish emblem (a globe) together with a drawing of the spire La Giralda of Seville's Cathedral. It was designed by graphic artist Vaclav Kučera and engraved by Miloš Ondráček. Having dimensions of 30 x 23 mm., the stamp was printed by the Post Printery in Prague by rotary recess print in black combined with recess print in light blue, yellow, red and blue in sheets of 50. (see Fig. 4).



Fig. 4

A First Day cover with a commemorative cancellation was issued showing a motif of both emblems complete with a symbolic drawing of a boat. It was printed by recess print from flat plates in blue color.

The stamp is valid for domestic and foreign mailing from

date of issue until withdrawn.

5. The Federal Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications issued a commemorative postage stamp on May 21 in honor of the 25th Summer Olympic Games in Barcelona, Spain.

This is a 2 kčs. stamp showing a stylized drawing of a tennis player. The text is in Slovak and reads: "Hry XXV Olympiady v Barcelone" with the Olympic emblem and the year "1992". (see fig. 5).



Fig. 5

Design is by the academic painter and graphic artist, Robert Jančovič; engraving by Vaclav Fajt.

The stamps were printed at the Post Printery in Prague with picture dimensions of 23 x 30 mm. Rotary recess printing was employed in black color combined with a four-color recess print in green, red, blue and yellow in sheets of 50 stamps. The First Day cover was issued for this stamp printed by flat-plate recess in black, yellow and blue. The illustration on it is a drawing of two tennis players during a volley at the net. The stamp is valid for domestic and foreign mailing from date of issue until withdrawn.

6. On the same day, May 21, the Federal Ministry of Posts also issued a set of four stamps commemorating the "Czechoslovak Resistance Movement in the West during World War II."

The 1k stamp shows a drawing of J. Kubiš and J. Gabčík, plotters on the life of R. Heydrich on May 25, 1942 with the text: "Čs. Západný Odboj Atentát na R. Heydricha 27-5-42 (Czechoslovak Resistance Movement in the West - the attempt on Heydrich's life).

Engraving is by Bohumil Šneider. The colors used are black, green, rose, green brown and ochre. (see fig. 6).



Fig. 6



Fig. 7



Fig. 8



Fig. 9

The 3 Kčs stamp shows a symbolic drawing of "Tobruk 1941". Engraved by Miloš Ondráček, the stamp appears in black, brown, red, green and grey. (see fig. 7).

The 2 kčs stamp shows a drawing of military planes in action with a text that reads: "Letci ve Francuzsku a Velkej Británii 1939-45". (Piloting in France and Greet Britain.) Engraved by Bohumil Šneider, the stamp appears in black, yellow, red, blue and green. (see fig. 8).

The 6 kčs stamp shows a symbolic drawing of "Dunkerque 1944-45". Engraved by Milos Ondrášek, it appears in black, yellow, grey, light blue and dark blue. (see fig. 9). The four picture sizes are 40 x 23 mm. and the stamps were printed at the Post Printery in Prague by rotary recess print in black color combined with four-color recess print in sheets of 50.

A First Day cover with a commemorative cancellation was issued for each of the four stamps. The illustrations were engraved by Bohumil Šneider and printed by flat-plate recess. The FDC for the 1k stamp shows a drawing of three parachutists descending toward a broken tree in flames. The sketch is in black and red. The FDC for the 3 kčs stamp is composed of an illustrated palm tree in the wasteland with stones inscribed "To Tobruk" and an arrow pointing in the direction of some barbed wire. The sketch appears in black. The FDC for the 2 kc stamp shows the insignia of five Czechoslovak wings (310, 311, 312, 313 and 68) with the Czechoslovak State Standard for a background. The sketch appears in black, red and blue. The stamps are valid for domestic and foreign use from date of issue until withdrawn from circulation.

Wanted

The following Hradčany First and Second Issue material:

1. 40h (Type I) perforated on cover and 400h (Type II) perforated on cover.
2. 20h (type V) imperf on cover and 30h violet imperf (Type V) on cover.
3. Color proofs of the 15h (Type V).
4. Printers waste of the 25h violet brown, 30h violet, 75h slate & 80h olive.
5. Blackprints of the 30h, 75h and 300h (Type IV & V).

Write or call Mirko Vondra, 1511 Clearview Ave., Lancaster, PA 17601

Telephone: 717/299-9509

A CALL FOR HELP

Our Society has now been in existence for over 50 years. We have fostered the study and enjoyment of Czechoslovak philately in a manner of which we can take great pride. However, to continue this achievement, we must now take steps to reverse a trend indicative of a constant turnover in our membership. To combat this trend, we must first recruit more new members and second prevent resignations or dropouts wherever possible.

I believe that one of the causes for our reduced membership is simply the fact that the Society is not well known in the philatelic community. We need more publicity regarding the benefits to be derived from Society membership and the enjoyment to be found in Czechoslovak philately.

The Society now has an attractive brochure to be used for membership recruitment purposes. It is proposed that this brochure be made available at stamp exhibits, local club meetings, etc. In order to accomplish this, we need volunteers from the present membership who plan to attend exhibits or local club meetings in their area with a supply of the brochures and possibly surplus issues of the SPECIALIST, and in every way possible, "spread the word" about Czech philately and the Society.

Any member who is willing and able to devote some time to membership recruitment in one way or another, and who can use copies of the brochure, Please drop me a line at: Apartado Postal 646, Oaxaca, Cav 68000, Mexico. I will send you whatever reasonable supply you request.

- Phillips B. Freer, Special Projects Editor

Editorial Hinges

PERPETUATING THE SOCIETY

Last year our former secretary and currently honorary member no. 419, Ed Lisy, donated portions of his philatelic collection to the S.C.P. Our president, Ludvik Svoboda, informs us that over 200 dollars has been realized from the proceeds of the sale of his material.

The Board members are very grateful to Ed Lisy for his thoughtfulness on behalf of the Society. There are of course other members who have on occasion made donations of stamps, philatelic books and past issues of the SPECIALIST to help our Society's treasury. Recently a number of members, when paying their renewal of membership dues, have been especially kind in making significant cash contributions for the good of our organization.

All of this is naturally tax deductible. But more important is the fact that these are acts of kindness and philatelic devotion. They help perpetuate the Society and make it a successful venture for others.

We appreciate these philanthropic gestures and hope they will continue. Even a minimal contribution adds up and will be gratefully acknowledged.

DEATH

Death is never a pleasant subject for philatelic discussion. But in the past few months, several of our prominent members passed away and, in each instance, the editorial staff received no details until much later. Adolf Hujer died in January; Bud Pearce in February. Their obituaries appeared in the May/June issue because we received no background information in time for the March/April publication. Belatedly we have learned of the death in February of George Kobylka's wife. Our condolences go forth to our long-time member, now a widower.

Similarly we have learned of the death of William Holton of Dorien, IL (member no. 1084)

who expired on March 1, 1990 and John Lehocky of Vineland, NJ, who passed away on Sept. 14, 1991.

This is not the first time we have encountered such delays. Therefore your editor believes that a reminder to our entire membership is not inappropriate at this time.

No one is immortal. No matter what your age, sex or religious beliefs, I feel certain you have all made provisions of one form or another, either through wills, trusts or other legal means. When death beckons, you will certainly want a member of your immediate family to promptly notify our publication of the sorrowful event along with detailed background information and a recent photograph of the deceased. This will enable the SPECIALIST to print a timely and respectable obituary putting the entire membership on notice as quickly as possible. This too is an act of thoughtfulness and consideration and involves no legal fees whatsoever.

YOUTHFULLY HOT

It must be mentioned that one of our newest members is currently one of the hottest.

Phillips B. Freer joined our Society in 1989 and immediately undertook to suggest constructive changes for the benefit of our organization. In a frequent exchange of correspondence, your editor proposed that he run for our Board of Directors and he consented to the candidacy. He was featured as our "Member of the Month" in the Aug/Sept 1989 issue of the SPECIALIST, page 11. He was subsequently nominated and elected to our Board. He began writing a column "For the Beginner" for the SPECIALIST and was named to serve on its editorial staff.

In order to provide an impetus for attracting new members to the S.C.P., he devised a promotional brochure and a questionnaire for handout at major exhibitions throughout the country. A relative newcomer to Czechoslovak philately, he exhibits at various shows at least once a year, often capturing some nice awards. On April 25, he participated at the 1992 Plymouth Stamp Show in Michigan where he appeared on the Club's Program under the heading "Czech Philately - by Phillips Freer." His lecture consisted of how Czechoslovakia was born out of the remnants of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, how Thomas Masaryk became first president of the new Republic, the development of postage stamps under the new Republic, the seizure of the Sudetenland by Germany in 1938 and the occupation of Prague and the rest of Czechoslovakia by Hitler the following year as well as its effect on the overprinting of old stamps and issuance of new ones. He then delved into the short revival of democracy following the Germans' defeat in World War II and the Communist coup in 1948 followed by a long series of mostly propaganda stamps. He ended his talk with the velvet revolution, the election of Vaclav Havel to the presidency and the present outlook of philately in a federated Czechoslovakia.

In addition to his speech, Phil had a five-frame exhibit on "Stamps of the Czechoslovak Republic - 1918-1938." He distributed his promotional brochures, talked up our Society and in all respects did what any youthful member could possibly do to further the cause of Czechoslovak philately (see his "Call for Help" on page 20 of this issue).

And speaking of youth, Phil Freer will be celebrating his 82nd birthday this November. In acknowledging and in appreciation of his enthusiastic work on behalf of the S.C.P., we make no qualms about it - he is no doubt the hottest member on our roster. He must be - - he makes his home in Oaxaca, Mexico!

- - M. L. Vondra

Letters to the Editor

ABOUT THAT CATAPULT FLIGHT COVER

Dear Editor:

In the May/June issue of the SPECIALIST (see "Unusual Stamps and Covers" on page 6 & 7), I illustrated a cover (see Fig. 3a) which I assumed was a catapult flight cover using the Second Airmail issue of 1922. I mentioned that this was the only catapult cover I ever saw with that particular Airmail issue (Scott no. C8 x 4). Subsequently I received a letter from honorary member Wolfgang Fritzsche stating that the cover is not a catapult flight cover as I described.

First of all, the S. S. Europa did not catapult mail until Sept. 15, 1930. Fritzsche points out that in only three instances Czechoslovak mail was taken for catapult flights - August 26, 1932 by S. S. Bremen; May 25, 1933 by S. S. Europa; and July 1, 1933 again by S. S. Europa. He further states that the cover was prepared in its entirety by "an old German" who lives in Olomouc and that information was given well in advance by the German postoffice regarding the postal rates, etc.

With this in mind, the cover could very well have been prepared with all stamps attached beforehand. Mr. Fritzsche informs me that the S. S. Europa left Bremen on August 22 at which time the stamps were cancelled. The clerk then affixed the one-line stamp "Kein Katapultflug D. Europa Bremen - New York" and the German-American Seapost cancel. The "Kein" in the one-line rubber stamp was not erased but cut out as was the last name of the recipient of the letter.

My remaining questions are: were all catapult covers stamped with large cachets? And if the S. S. Europa left on August 22 from Bremen, Germany, did it have enough time to get back to Bremen from New York and make another trip to New York by Sept. 15, 1930? And when did the S. S. Europa leave Germany for the Sept. 15, 1930 First Catapult Flight? If Mr. Fritzsche can enlighten us on the answers to these questions, then I can graciously accept his expertise since he is a knowledgeable collector in his field.

Yours. Truly,
Charley Chesloe

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The Society, its Board of Directors and your editorial staff is happy and proud to welcome the following who have recently decided to join as members:

Member Number	Name	Address
1612	Witt W. Hadley, Jr.	87 Lancaster Ave., Elk Grove Village, IL 60007
1613	Joseph M. Lacko	1031 West Chestnut St., Union, NJ 07083
1614	Charles E. Kern II	3812 Garrison St., N.W., Washington, DC 20016
1615	Charles Konrad	3902A Iowa Ave., St., Louis, MO 63118
1616	Jorn Larsen	Molleparvej 5-20, DK-6715 Esbjerg N, Denmark
1617	Ing. Ziti Cisler	E. Krasnohorske 44/16, 110 01 Praha 1, Czechoslovakia
1618	Joseph E. Bush	8252 Barkingham Road, Richmond, VA 23235
1619	Raymond J. Schaper	2 Tiffin Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15209
1620	Charles W. Bush, M.D.	1000 Davis Road, Havre De Grace, MD 21078
1621	Christopher Brainard	20 Palmetto Ave., Malton, NJ 08053

SCHEDULE FOR BALPEX

(Continued from page 1)

Monday, Sept. 7

9 AM - 11 AM: S.C.P. Breakfast and Awards in the Garden Room. Tickets may be obtained at our lounge table anytime before 3 PM on Sunday.

Our Vice-President and exhibition chairman, Jaroslav Verner, was unexpectedly summoned on business to Tashkent in the new Republic of Uzbekistan. Randy S. Frank has graciously stepped into his shoes to arrange for and firm up this schedule. The S.C.P. is grateful to everyone who assisted him in this complex undertaking.

Up to the time of this writing, eight members have submitted exhibits and many more have made reservations to be present at the show. Please do your part to help make this another highly successful occasion for our Society - yours and mine!

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Date: _____

To: Edwin Lehecka
217 Hazel Ave.
Westfield, NJ 07090

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: _____

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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

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