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## HAND IN HAND WITH SCIENCE AND PHILATELY

*Editor's note - This issue went to press before BALPEX 92 took place. Therefore our Society's participation at the show will be fully reported in our next issue. Meanwhile Henry Hahn, who attended another important Society's meeting in Prague, gives us his impressions and reflections on that session.*

In September 1986, our Society participated in one of the Society of Arts and Sciences (Svaz pro Vědu a Umění - or SVU) conventions, namely one held at Northeastern University in Boston. Believing philately to be somewhat of an art or science, similar to history and politics, our Society participated by presenting a lecture, mounting an elaborate non-competitive exhibit, and operating a table for the sale of literature. Several members of the SCP were already members of SVU, and others may have joined since. To many of us, SVU represented the focal point of intellectual activity of Czechs and Slovaks in exile. SVU was also one of the key organizations dedicated to the return of freedom and democracy to communist-enslaved Czechoslovakia. SVU's role has changed somewhat since the "Velvet Revolution". One of its newer functions is to provide a channel of communication between the intellectual communities of Czechs and Slovaks living in Czechoslovakia and abroad, and provide support to Czechoslovak institutions both spiritually and materially.

It was therefore natural for this year's SVU convention to take place in Prague and Bratislava, where this memorable event took place between June 26th and July 2nd. The convention was held in cooperation with the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences and other

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Czechoslovak institutions, and thus represented the fulfillment of a dream that those of us young enough to have seen this day savored to the hilt. At the ceremonious opening of the convention, taking place in the Karolinum (ceremonial hall of Charles University) in the presence of President Havel, the deans of Czechoslovakia's major universities, the President of the Czech Academy of Science, US Ambassador Shirley Temple Black, Czechoslovak Ambassador to the US Rita Klimova and other dignitaries, my mind kept drifting to our dear friend, SCP as well as SVU member Paul Sturman who left our midst just days before the return of democracy to Czechoslovakia. He truly deserved to have been there.

The list of subjects on which papers presented in the various buildings of Charles University was extensive. It included law philosophy, politics, economics, psychology, agriculture, chemistry, geology, medicine, and the natural sciences. I was honored to present a paper in the area of orthopedic surgery, sharing both authorship and the presentation with members of Charles University's First Orthopedic Clinic. Our joint research effort may represent the first such cooperative effort between Czechoslovak and US participants. I did not fail to observe that it was there, at Charles University, that my grandfather received his medical degree nearly 100 years ago.

The extracurricular activities occupied most evenings and included a performance of the Bartered Bride at the National Theater, a concert at the Rudolfinum, garden parties, and a reception at the Spanish Hall at Hradcany Castle. Unfortunately I did not participate in the Bratislava portion of the convention, which took place under the bleak prospects of the break-up of Czechoslovakia. Just days earlier, at the ceremonial opening of the Convention at the Karolinum, at least one Slovak University dean expressed the hope that the politicians would follow the example of the scientific and academic communities, in which Czechs and Slovaks work in harmony and cooperation.

-Henry Hahn

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**CORRESPONDENCE CARDS - THE 20H HRADČANY TYPE V.**

*by Tomáš Morovics and Jaroslav Cernohlavek*

*Translated by Zdenek Textl & Ludvík Svoboda*



FIG. 1



FIG. 2



FIG. 3

Introduction

*In writing this article, I was inspired by the research essay of Mr. Hamr in FILATELIE No. 10 (see ref. 1). After a lapse of many years, his article finally devoted a more detailed exploration into one aspect of collectors' interests where, at first glance, everything seems to have already been fully covered. Inasmuch as we were recently involved in this very problem, we would like to offer new information for the general collecting public.*

Stamp Dies

Accessible literature contends that plate dies for postal cards were obtained from remnants of 100-piece printing plates. Further information varies over the number of these plates in existence and whether they were originally used for printing stamps or not. The crux of understanding the problem is knowing the way the printing plates were arranged for postal cards. (More on that subject later). If we look at these cards carefully, we find they can be grouped into two categories according to the design of the stamp picture. The first category contains postal cards having the same stamp picture as the stamp itself (see fig. 1). Ref. 1 cites a block of black-print that is now in the Postal Museum's depository. Unfortunately we did not study this exhibit, so we cannot say if there is any relation between this block and the plates. It is certain, however, that a glass negative was derived from a supporting block for the 20h value of the Type V design. This was used for making three 100-subject plates. The first two plates were used for printing stamps. Then corrections or changes were made (with two exceptions) on the spiral and this created stamps which are described in literature as Type II. The third plate was then cut up and dies obtained this way were used for

printing of postal cards CDV 18 and 19 and later CDV 22. We presume this because faults on the negative which are common to all the plates are found on the stamps as well as on the postal cards. The difference is that the corrected spiral is present on stamps of Type II whereas on the postal cards the spiral is Type I. It is the author's verified opinion that there had to

be a third plate made from this negative on which spirals were not corrected or changed in any way.

We chose, for illustration purposes, three faults found on stamps and postal cards. They are as follows:

- Portion of "O" in the numeral has been cut off. (fig. 5)

- Slanted white line can be seen in the roof. (fig. 6).

- White dash below letter "A". (fig. 7).

These faults are found on postal cards bearing monograms as well as on postal cards with emblems or seals (CDV 22). There is a question

if the configuration of the plate for printing of postal cards with the emblem grew out of the arrangement of the plate for printing of cards with monograms or if this plate was newly reassembled. The fact that we found on these two groups of postal cards the same faults would suggest that after the cards with monograms were printed, those monograms were then replaced by emblems. The dies remained unchanged. Consequently we find the same faults on both kinds of cards. This of course means that the other parameters of their plate positions



FIG. 4

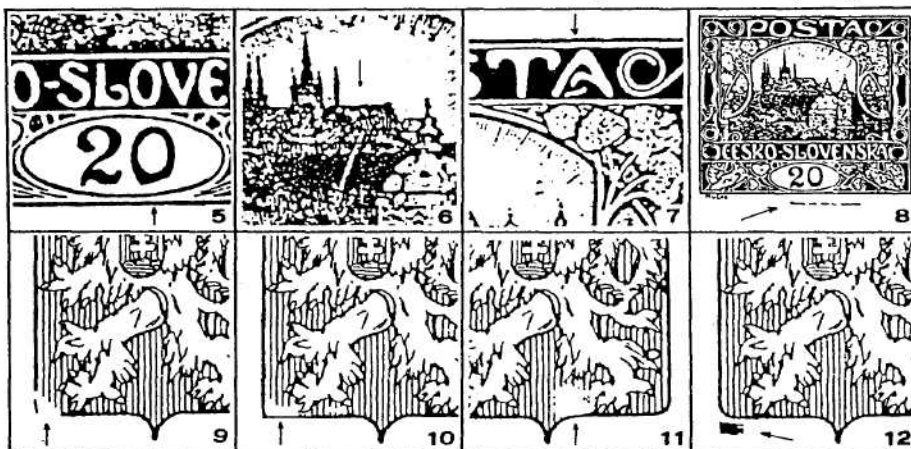


Fig. 5 through 12

must also remain unchanged with regard to distances between address lines, distance of the dies from the lines, etc. For example, if we compare postal cards bearing monograms with faults and identical cards with emblems, we find the same distances between the address lines and the position of the embossed stamp plate with respect to those lines.

The printing plate for postal cards with emblems or seals (CDV 22) was therefore arranged as follows: From the original plate for postal cards with monograms (CDV 18), only the right half of the type-set plate positions remained (stamp die and address lines); the other half (dividing lines and monograms) was changed.

Up to this point, we have not mentioned the second group of postal cards on which we find stamp dies with the closed spiral (see fig. 2). Those stamp dies are not from the 100-subject printing plate and do not have anything in common with it as far as their origin is concerned. In contrast with dies from the cut-up plate having dimensions of approximately 26.5 by 22.4 mm., the dies with the Type II spiral were galvanically derived from an etched or acid-





Fig. 13

engraved plate the drawing of which is the third revision of Mucha's second design (ie. the third revision of Type V). Dies thus derived are larger and are approximately 26.75 by 22.9 mm. in size. It is logical that these dies must show perceptible differences in comparison with those from the cut-up plate. Note the most striking differences on the Type II plate with the spiral. As a whole, this evokes a coarser impression contributed to by different shading in the rays. The spiral is closed, the letter "I" has a weak right side, the letter "A" has its right leg ending in a tip. On the inscription "Česko-Slovensko", we find more differences in the shapes of individual letters. These appear mainly in the letters, E, K, S, O, N and K. Differences can also be detected in the shading of lines on the doves which appear irregularly dotted. The numeral showing the value is quite different here. The numbers are larger and closer together and are usually in the same place (due to pasting over of numbers on the blackprint block).

We could probably find many more differences if we research the matter in greater detail. We believe that the use of the die whose origin belongs to the period of seeking the most optimal style of the fifth design and the existence of many consequential varieties entitles us to designate those plates as Type V b. In this connection, it is necessary to mention that using an etched stamp die for subsequent galvanic reproduction was not obviously the best solution as evidenced by numerous imperfections, especially in the spiral designs. It would certainly be more suitable to use a basic woodcut die for typography. Some attempts were made in this area. Engraver Edward Karel on his own initiative engraved the 20h stamp (see fig. 3) which is described in more detail in Ref. 2. Engraving was evidently made for typography (printed from unpressed portions) and Karel submitted it in March 1919. Postal cards with dies of the Type V b design were released three months later. As an example of the use of a typographic die for subsequent galvanic reproduction of Hradčany is a woodcut by the wood engraver

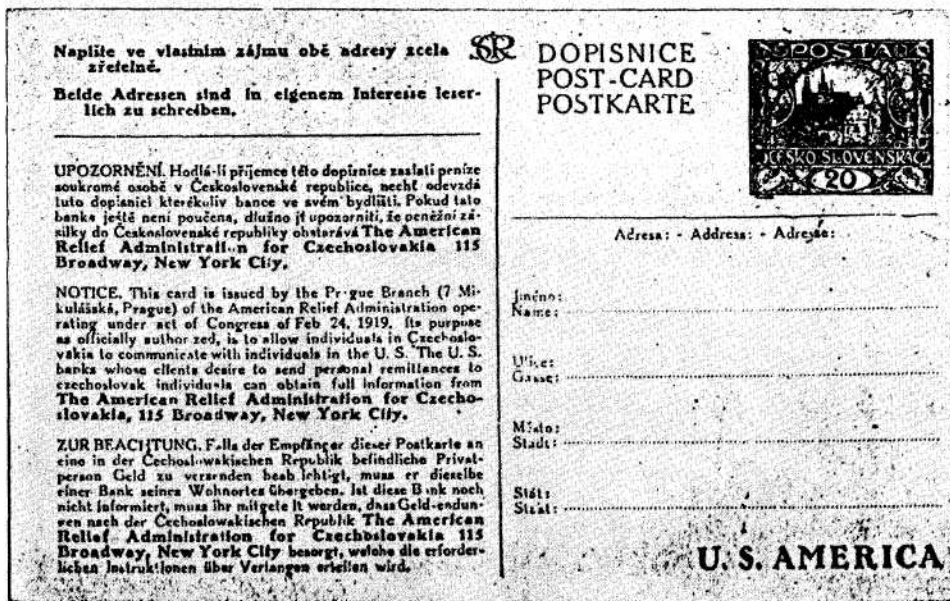


Fig. 14

Cáha (see Ref. 3) for the 30h Type V stamp. (see fig. 4). After many years we have to conclude that in place of the etched die, an engraved die was used and confirm what the author in Ref. 2 said on page 27: "... that Karel's initiative was in its substance very valuable and, if carried to its ultimate end, could have brought good results."

Issuance of the Cards

The first postal cards issued were for the U.S.A. (CDV 16) in June 1919 (see fig. 14). At first impression, it is possible to observe their intricate assembling. In all likelihood this was the reason why the printery, when producing postal card dies, accepted the use of galvanically produced dies. It was certainly more simple to put together three language versions, complete the matrix and from it the appropriate number of galvanically etched dies instead of setting the plate by hand. It should be noted that it was not possible to use dies from a cut-up 100-subject plate used for the 20h Type stamp because it did not yet exist at that time (having been issued on Dec. 12, 1919). For those cards, dies were used which were obtained by electrolytic means from a chemically etched die having for its model the third revision of Mucha's second design (the third revision of Type V).

Next in order of issuance were the single and double postal cards with monograms (CDV 18 and 19). The printing plates for these cards were made up from ordinary type-set of typographical lines (see fig. 15). For this reason we find in each field differing locations of emblems or seals with respect to the vertical dividing line. We think, therefore, that it is not necessary to mention these differences as separate plate faults. By this means of assembling the postal card printing plates, a need arose for a greater quantity of dies and these were realized from the third plate which was obtained especially for this purpose. On these cards we can see an accumulation of many faults. As an illustration, we offer the example of an incompletely finished die (see fig. 8).

The printing plates for postal cards CDV 20 and 21 were also made galvanically. The text

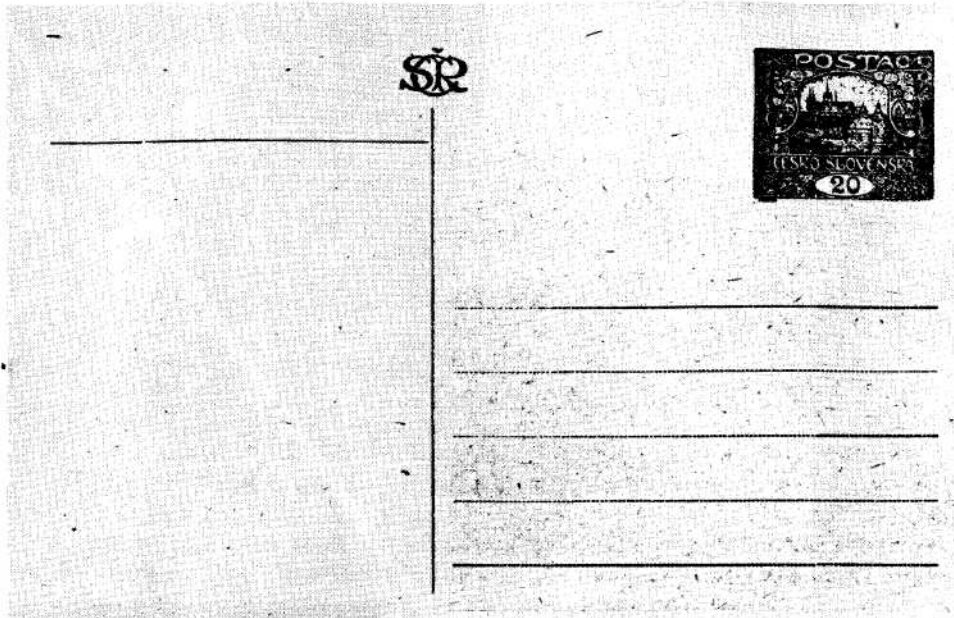


Fig. 15

portion was derived from four hand-made outgrown type-sets (see fig. 13) which differ from the displacement of the texts and their contents, types of monograms and plate faults. Here too we find used stamp dies of the Type V b design. These cards mention March 15, 1920 as the date of issue. Considering that we saw cancelled cards with additional franking only (postcard mailing fees were increased to 40h effective Sept. 1, 1920), I surmise their issuance date was actually somewhat later.

As for the remaining postal cards - the ones with seals or emblems (CDV 22) - printing plates for them were assembled from lines and dies. Therefore stamp dies were again used from a cut-up 100 subject plate. Ref. 4 mentions the plate faults on these cards: damaged left upper corner of the emblem. The emblem damage appears in different places depending on the arrangement of the printing plate. The dies of these emblems or seals were often incorrectly placed in the assembling of the plate, accounting for their frequent damage. In fig. 9, we note damage to the left lower corner of the emblem. Fig. 10 suggests an attempted correction of a similar fault. Fig. 11 shows damage to the lower part of the lion's left leg. There exist, of course, other faults as well. In fig. 12, we note a sizable spot in the lower left area below the emblem. It will be necessary in the future to do more research on these faults. But, in our opinion, it would be at least presumptuous to try now to evaluate them by points.

The last in the order of these correspondence cards is the postal order CDV 3. Even here we find dies of the Type V b design used. The reason is apparently the complexity of the type-set as well as the method used in assembling the printing plate.

### Conclusion

We hope our research and observation helped to contribute in clearing up this interesting problem. We believe that a full review of all our postal stationery may be necessary, especially what has been or is being printed by typography. This is a long, arduous but creditable task and we believe that we will find many enthusiastic co-workers who will help provide answers

to some of these pending questions.

As far as the subject of this article is concerned, let me summarize the data gained from our research of the six types of correspondence cards and the one postal order. In doing so, we offer the following Informational Table:

| Catalog Number of Card | Method of Preparing Printing Plate | Design for die |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|
| CDV 16                 | Galvanic                           | Type V b       |
| CDV 18                 | Type-set                           | Type V         |
| CDV 19                 | Type-set                           | Type V         |
| CDV 20                 | Galvanic                           | Type V b       |
| CDV 21                 | Type-set                           | Type V         |
| CDV 22                 | Type-set                           | Type V         |
| CPV 3                  | Galvanic                           | Type V b       |

**References**

- (1) F. Hamr: Praga 88, Salón Hradčan. FILATELIE 89/10/296-7.
- (2) M. Lamač: Alfons Mucha a Československé známky. SBORNÍK článků o ČS známkách 2/11-33.
- (3) Dr. F. Kubát: Hradčany. MONOGRAFIE ČS známek, I díl.
- (4) Dr. V. Palkoska: Celiny. SPECIALIZOVANÁ PŘÍRUČKA. This includes all CDV codes, which can be found on pages 401 and 402.

## CHARLES IV AND THE GOLDEN AGE OF PRAGUE

by Gerald M. van Zanten



Fig. 1

*"Finally we came back to Bohemia after eleven years of absence. Our mother, Elizabeth, we no longer found alive; she had died some years before. And so we found on our arrival in Bohemia neither father nor mother, nor brother nor sister, nor any other acquaintance.*

*"We too had forgotten the Bohemian language. Later, however, we recovered our command of it.*

*"This kingdom had fallen on evil days. No single castle was free; they all had been put in pawn, along with the possessions of the crown, so that we had no place to stay, save in a house in the town like any other burgher. The castle in Prague had been so devastated, dilapidated and destroyed since the time of Otakar that it, had been wholly levelled to the ground. There we ordered the building, at heavy cost, of the spacious and stately palace.*

*"All honest Bohemians loved us, for they knew that we were a scion of the old Royal House of Bohemia, and lent us their help in the recovery of the castles and the Royal domains."*

*—from "VITA CAROLI" by Charles IV (Original in Latin).*

Born in Prague on May 14, 1316, Charles was baptized Václav. His father, John, was a Luxembourger and related to the French Royal family. His mother, Eliška (Elizabeth), was the last of the

Přemysls. In 1323, young Václav was sent to France for his education and Royal upbringing at the age of just seven years. In 1328, his name was changed to Charles in honor of his Royal uncle.

At age 12, he married Blanche of Valois. She was the seven-year-old sister of the first Valois King, Philip VI.

Charles was exceptionally well educated and exerted considerable influence on life in



Fig. 2

Bohemia. He ruled from 1346 to 1372 and spoke French, Latin, Italian, German as well as Czech. He was a writer; the author of "Legend of St. Wenceslas", "Fürstenspiegel" (Mirror of Princes) and "Vita Caroli" (Life of Charles).

In 1334 Blanche joined Charles in Bohemia. Fig 2 shows a sandstone bust in the triforium of St. Vitus Cathedral in Prague. Charles had returned to Bohemia from his travels in France, Luxembourg and Italy the previous year.

In 1341 the Bohemian Estates proclaimed Charles future King of Bohemia. Thus on the death of his father in the battle of Crécy on August 26, 1346, he automatically became Charles IV, King of Bohemia. The following year, on Sept. 2, Charles and Blanche were crowned King and Queen of Bohemia. Charles was crowned with the golden St. Wenceslas crown of Bohemia made out of the original Přemysl coronation jewels. The crown had 91 gem stones and 20 pearls (see fig. 3). From 1358 on, it adorned the golden reliquary bust of St. Wenceslas.

By this time the rebuilding of Prague Castle had already commenced, the castle having not been inhabited since a fire in 1303. It now became a comfortable home for the Royal family as well as their official residence. As a symbol of the state of Bohemia, it was much larger and showier than the Palace of the Přemysls. It became a meeting place for philosophers, theologians, poets, musicians, physicians, preachers, astronomers along with honored guests from other countries.

Charles IV managed to have the Prague bishopric raised to an archbishopric in 1344. On that occasion he solemnly laid the foundation stone of the Gothic Cathedral of St. Vitus, replacing the Romanesque Basilica of Svythnev's of St. Vitus on October 21, 1344.

On April 7, 1348, he granted a charter to the University of Prague (This being one of his favorite plans), the first in Central Europe (see fig. 4). In June of the previous year he had obtained from the Pope a Bull (formal document) permitting the erection of a High School (or Studium Generale) at Prague. The University became so famous and outstanding that nothing equal to it existed. Students came from all parts of England, France, Lombardy, Poland and other countries. It was divided into four faculties: Theology, Law, Medicine and the Arts. The number of students during the lifetime of Charles amounted to between 5,000 and 7,000. This was quite phenomenal, considering that the population of the entire city of Prague was only 40,000.

On June 10, 1348, the foundation stone was laid for Karlštejn Castle (Karlův Týn). It was completed on March 27, 1357 (see fig.5). This large fortification was very strong if not impregnable for its day. Situated on the summit of a steep rock overlooking the Berounka Valley



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5



some 20 kilometers southwest of Prague, it was intended as a safe depository for the crown jewels and treasures of the Bohemian Kings as well as the state archives of the country. It was also to serve as a stronghold to which members of the Royal family could retire in time of danger.

On August 1, 1348, Charles' wife died at the age of 27. In 1350 Charles established the Church at Karlov for the Augustinian Monastery. This Church has an octagonal ground plan like the Church at Aachen where Charlemagne (who was the patron of Charles IV) is buried. (see fig. 6). On March 4, 1349 Charles married again. This time it was Anne of Palatine. She was crowned on November 1 of that year. Unfortunately she died less than four years later on February 2, 1353. Within four months, Charles married Anne of Svidnia.

In 1355 Charles IV made a journey to Rome where he was crowned as Holy Roman Emperor on April 5. He did not return to Prague until August 15.

In 1356 at the diet of Metz, the celebrated Golden Bull (see fig. 7) was published. In it, Charles attempted to lay down in minute detail the procedure for future German elections. He effectively excluded all Papal claims to control them at any stage. It contained a special paragraph which decreed that the sons of the electors and their German princes were to learn the Bohemian language.

It is interesting to note here that on the 3 kčs. stamp (see fig. 8) the year of the Golden Bull (Zlatá Bula Karla IV) is shown as 1351 (refer to Prague Castle set of 1973, Scott no. 1885).

The year 1357 saw the commencement of the building of a new stone bridge, built in place of the Judith Bridge which had been destroyed during a disastrous flood in 1342. The new bridge is of course the Charles Bridge. It was financed from the excise on the old bridge and to a greater extent by Church collections made throughout the Kingdom.

In 1358 Charles brought the red grapevine to Mělník from where Ludmila wine still comes (see my article in the December 1988 SPECIALIST on page 4). The most widely cultivated variety today is the St. Lawrence red which is sold in distinctively shaped bottles called Mělník inkwells. A statue of Emperor Charles IV was sculptured in 1878 by J. Max expressing the nation's gratitude to him who brought Burgundy wines to Mělník. Jan Neruda glorified Mělník wine in his cycle of poems "Romance O Karlu IV" (The Romance of Charles IV).

With all these activities, the reign of Charles IV brought great changes to Prague and the city became "Golden." The most conspicuous memorial to the "Father of the country", as he used to be called, is naturally St. Vitus Cathedral (see fig. 9). Placký calls him the most learned sovereign of his age.

All this was made possible because Charles himself became German Emperor and the impediment to progress in Bohemia ceased. Now the German princes who previously had not allowed Bohemia fair play did not stand in his way. As a reigning monarch, he was responsible for enlarging the town of Prague by building Vové Město (New Town) between Vyšehrad Hill and the banks of the River Vltava. During that time, Prague became one of the largest cities in Europe after Paris and Venice.

There is no doubt that Charles IV was one of the great kings and true patriots of Bohemia. As an intellectual and an art collector of exquisite taste, he ensured from the very beginning that a high artistic standard prevailed in all architectural construction.



Fig. 6



Fig. 7



Fig. 8



Fig. 9

On February 26, 1361, a son was born to Charles and Anne. This son later became Václav or Wenceslas IV. He ruled from 1378 to 1419. In 1362 Queen Anne died and a year later Charles married once more. This time it was Elizabeth of Pomerania. She bore him two daughters and two sons: John, Duke of Görlitz, and Sigismund.

Charles IV, King of Bohemia and Holy Roman Emperor, died on November 28, 1378, thus bringing to a close the Golden Age of Bohemia (see fig., 10). His last words to his eldest son

were, "Love friends, not money! Money will never make you the Supreme Lord of Christendom."

In the Royal vaults below the Chapel of the Holy Rood in St. Vitus are the stone coffins containing the remains of Charles and his four consorts.

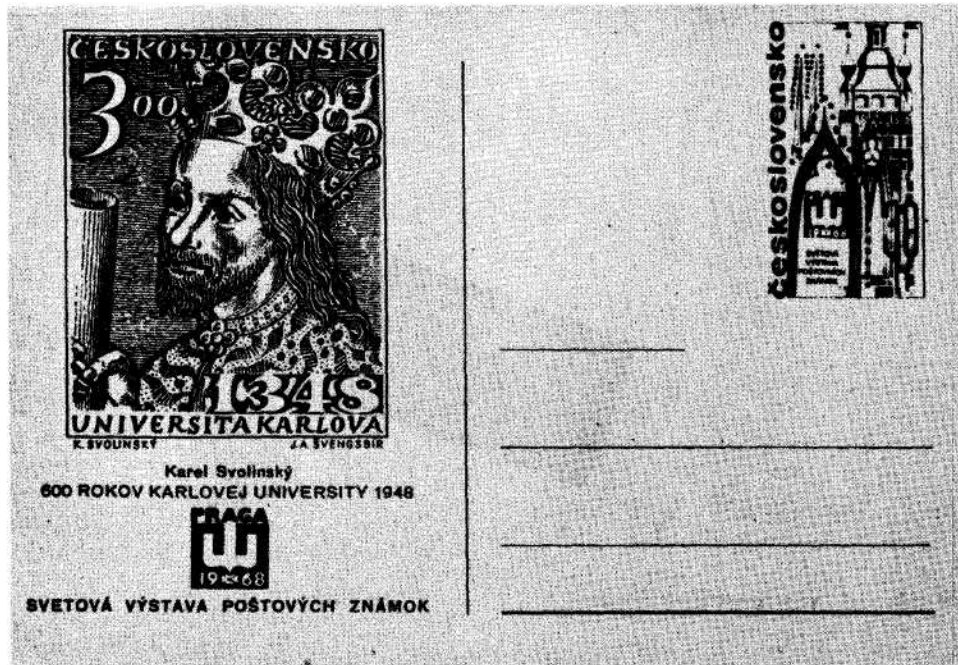
Eight years before Charles IV died, Jan Hus was born and this brought about an entirely different chapter in Bohemian history.

References

1. "BOHEMIA". An historical sketch by Count Franz von Lutzow
2. "A History of the Czechs and Slovaks" by R.W. Seton-Watson.
3. "Czechoslovak Heritage". Various articles.
4. "Czechoslovak Life" magazines. Various.
5. "Charles IV Center for State Care of Historical Monuments and Nature Conservation of the Central Bohemian District."



Fig. 10



## THE THIRTIES - GOLDEN AGE OF AEROPHILATELY

by Vladimír Bubák

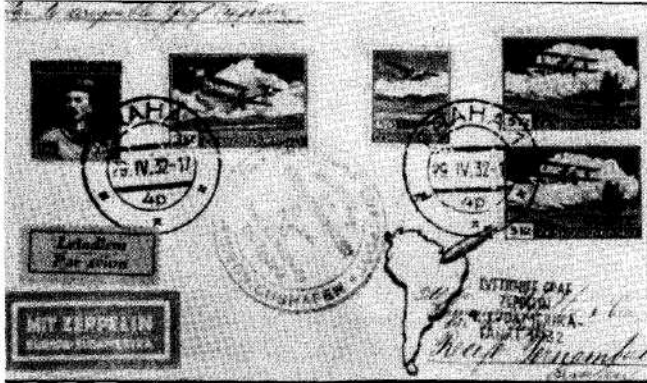


Fig. 1

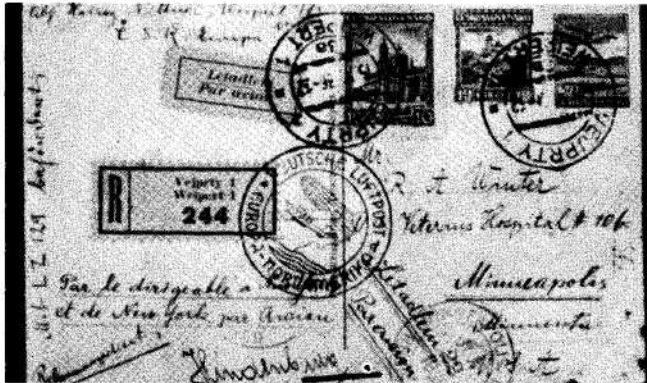


Fig. 2

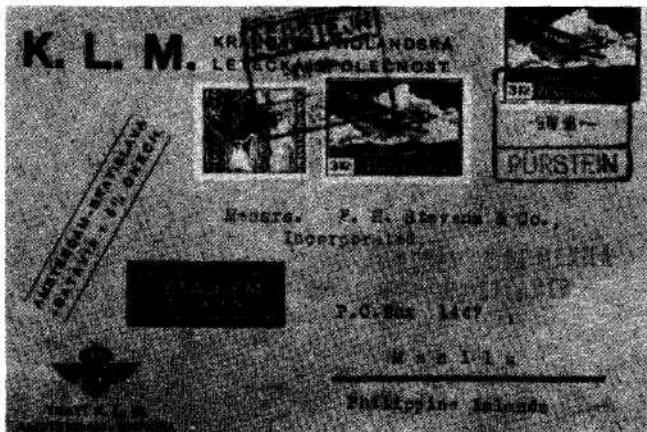


Fig. 3

After two provisional issues of airmail stamps (see SPECIALIST for Nov. 1990, Nov./Dec. 1991 and March/April 1992) a third definitive issue was published on December 16, 1930. Stamps which were postally valid until December 15, 1939 arrived from the workshop of the famous Karel Seizinger, who used photopictures as a model to produce this beautiful issue. All details about these stamps are very well known or can be easily found in special literature. Here I would like to point out some facts about their postal usage and airmail transportation during this nine year period.

The following post offices in Czechoslovakia expedited air mail at that time: Praha 1, Praha 7 - letecká pošta, Praha 82-letišť, Brno 2, Bratislava 1, Bratislava 2, Košice 2, Užhorod 1, Mariánske lázně 1, Karlovy Vary 1, Piešťany, Hradec Králove 1, Opava 1, Moravska Ostrava 1, Zlín 2, Liberec 1, Děčín 2 and Cheb 2.

In the period of validity of the Third Airmail Issue, airmail transport was provided nationally strictly by the Czechoslovak State Airlines (ČSA), and internationally by Czechoslovak Air Company (Československa letecká společnost) or by

some of the foreign companies listed, along with their call letters below:

Ala - Ala Littoria  
Roma (1935-1941)

D.L.H. - Deutsche  
Lufthansa A.G. Berlin  
(1926-1945)

Aeroflot - Aeroflot  
Moscow (from 1932)

I.A.L. - Imperial  
Airways Ltd. London  
(1923-1940)

K.L.M. - Koninklijke  
Luchtvaart Maatschappij  
voor Nederland en  
Kolonien N.V. La - Haye  
(from 1919)

OELAG(Austrian) -  
Oesterreichische  
Luftverkehrs A.G. Wien

SABENA - Societe  
anonyme belge d'ex-  
ploitation de la naviga-  
tion aérénne, Bruxelles  
(from 1923)(See Fig. 7)

CIDNA - Compagnie  
Internationale De  
Navigation Aérienne,  
Paris (from 1925)

Air France - Air  
France (from 1933)

LARES - Lares  
Bucuresti

SARTA - Sarta  
Bucuresti

MALERTA - Malert  
Budapest

AEROPUT - Aeroput  
Beograd

P.L.L.LOT - Polskie  
Linje Lotnicze LOT  
Warsaw

AD ASTRA - Ad  
Astra, Aero, Zürich  
(1919-1931)

SWISSAIR - Swissair,  
Zürich (from 1931)

Airmail surcharge on

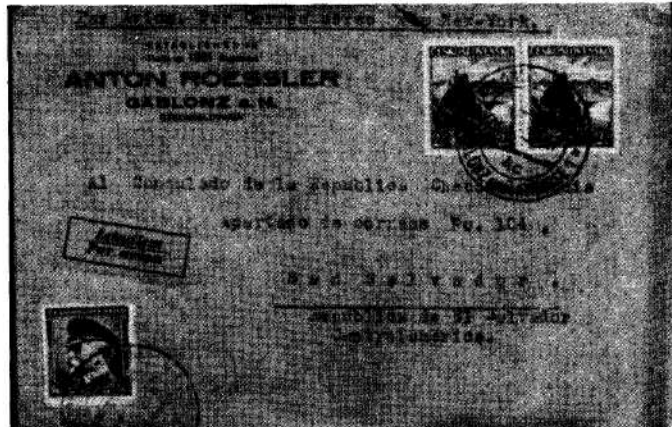


Fig. 4

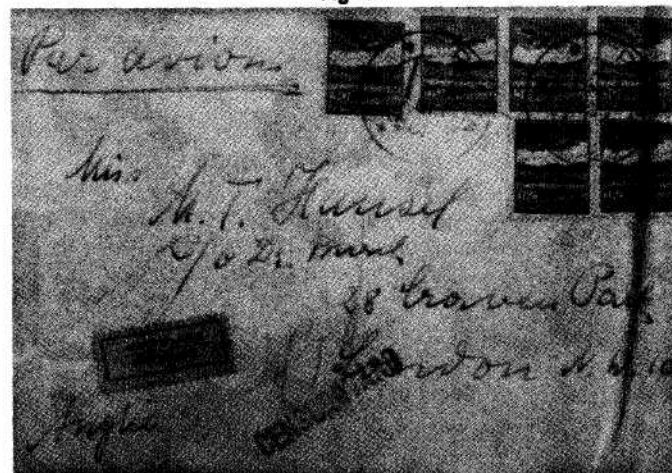


Fig. 5

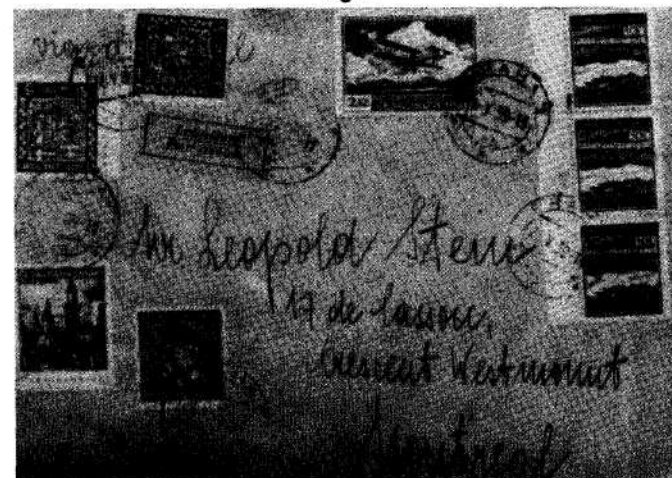


Fig. 5



THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

domestic routes until the end of 1938 (in 1939 flights along domestic routes were not in service) was 1 Kč for letters and 50 hal. for postcards. Surcharges on flights abroad depended on the distance of the flight and can be found in most specialized literature.

The period of the Third Airmail Issue is very rich in the variety of interesting flights and airmail entries. Every collector of Czechoslovak aerophilately should know which covers deserve special attention:

- Covers with mixed franking of The Second and Third Airmail Issue.
- Covers with mixed franking of Czech stamps and stamps of other states (Zeppelin post before 1932, i.e. before Czechoslovakia began to participate in these flights).
- Zeppelin flight covers.
- Covers where airmail surcharges were paid by definitives instead of airmail stamps.
- Covers franked by meters.
- Covers with censorship marks during the Munich crisis of 1938.
- All Airmail expedited from territory of former Czechoslovakia after March 15, 1939 (German occupation).
- Really flown covers destined abroad franked by 30 h. violet airmail stamp (Scott C18).
- Covers franked by stamps of the Third Issue with different perforations.
- Covers franked by 2 Kč airmail stamp of the Second Issue.

The period of validity of stamps comprising the Third Airmail Issue during the thirties was a time of considerable expansion of air transport all over the world. Aerophilatelists were introduced to some very beautiful material. Covers from this "Golden" period are becoming extremely popular and constitute a bonus compliment to any current exhibit or collection.

Figure 1 illustrates the Zeppelin cover from the 4th South American flight of 1932.

Figure 2 shows an excellent picture postcard expedited by the airship LZ 129 Hindenburg.

Figure 3 shows cover sent from train station Pernštejn via Praha 7 - letecká pošta to Manila, Philippines.

Figure 4 shows air mail cover to San Salvador, entire postage franked by regular (not airmail) stamps.

Figure 5 shows cover censored and delivered by airmail to London at the time of the threat to the Czechoslovak Republic by Hitler (Munich pact) Postmark of Praha 7 - letiště on reverse.

Figure 6 shows exceptional cover to Montreal, Canada, Franked by 30 h. violet together with the 2 Kč of the Second Airmail Issue.





## TRIBUNA STAMP COMPANY announces another big auction sale in November 1992

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- Hradčany 3h gutter se-tenant of 4 showing the plate number marking. Extremely rare!
- 50h die of B. Heinz - unissued value.
- The unique right sheet margin gutter pair of the 3.50 kčs Křivoklat. As far as we can tell, this is the first gutter pair of Křivoklat ever offered at a public auction.
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## THE POST AT HABRY

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

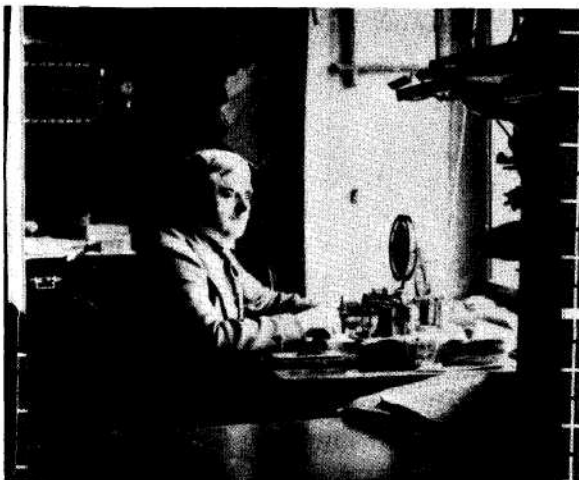


Fig. 1

The town of Habry lies on the road from Kolin across Čáslav in the direction of Havičkův Brod (formerly Německý Brod) and about midway between the last two. The town lived off the trade of countless carrier wagons drawn by teams of horses that passed along this Imperial road. Around the year 1870, it had been planned to construct a railway from Kolin across Čáslav and the former Německý Brod to Jihlava. The authorities decided the railway could not be constructed along that route as it would hurt commercial enterprise in those towns. Therefore to this day the existing railway diverts from Golčův Jeníkov to Světlá nad Sázavou and then to Německý Brod. The poorly planned route unfortunately condemned Habry, despite its District Court seat, to a meager existence.

By a stroke of luck, some interesting photos of its erstwhile postoffice have survived. During the Austrian Monarchy, Jindřich Frerking was its postmaster (see fig. 1). Noteworthy is the fact that the postoffice was equipped with a telegraph and was also a telephone center as can be seen in the picture. Fig. 2 shows a bus used for transportation to

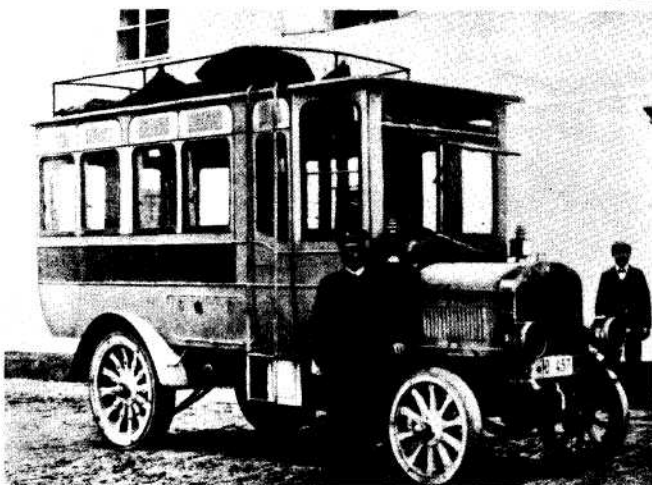


Fig. 2

Habry on a postcard. The reverse side bears a bilingual cancel, "Habry - Habern 3-IV-15." (see fig. 3). Note the guard rail on the roof which holds in place bags of mail. In the background stands the postoffice with the name of its town near the top of the picture. The Great War was already in progress in 1915 and many of these buses had been pressed into service transporting troops to the front lines. Postal routes had been discontinued and buses were again replaced by teams of horses.

And therein lies a brief overview of one small postoffice in the highlands of Moravia during the old former Monarchy.

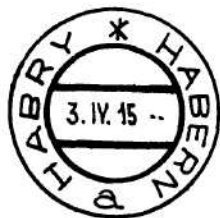


Fig. 3

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**ALSO  
CZECHOSLOVAK LEGION POST  
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## OVERPRINTS



FIG. 1



FIG. 2



FIG. 3



FIG. 4



FIG. 5

Up to this point we have discussed the early stamps of the First Republic. Considering that Czechoslovakia became a free nation in October 1918, the only stamps that were being used during the first two years of its existence were intended for surface mail. Europe did not start issuing airmail stamps until 1920 and then only on an experimental basis. Furthermore, Czechoslovakia was confronted with a unique problem: Postal services in the new Republic had to continue uninterrupted from the end of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and therefore some sort of stamps had to be used.

By decree of the new Government in Prague, Austrian and Hungarian stamps were valid as postage until the end of February 1919. In the meantime, the newly formed Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications rushed to print its own stamps, the first of which were not issued until December 1918. That left almost two months when Austrian and Hungarian stamps enjoyed usage in the new Republic. During that time, certain private parties designed their own overprints which were used on Austrian stamps. Those included Mareš ("Česko-slovenský Stát" - see fig. 1), Horner ("Česko-slovenský Stát" - see fig. 2), Šrobár and Rossler - Ořovský (Provisorní Československá Vláda" - see fig. 3). These were used on Austrian stamps. Other overprints include Skalica, Žilin and Chust. These were used on Hungarian stamps. Lack of space does not permit us to illustrate the last three. Stamps with these overprints were postally used and cancelled on covers. Counterfeits abound.

In the meantime, the Ministry of Posts prepared a series of overprints "Pošta Československá 1919" which are found on many Austrian and Hungarian stamps but which experienced virtually no postal usage. Despite their non-use, many counterfeits exist and collectors, especially beginners, are warned to seek expertization of any overprinted stamps they wish to acquire.

As mentioned earlier, much of Europe was experimenting with airmail during 1920 but there were few, if any, regularly scheduled flights or routes. Czechoslovakia finally took part in the signing of agreements for airmail flights abroad. But again the country had no airmail stamps of its own so, as a temporary measure, early Hradčany issues, both imperf and perf, were overprinted and surcharged with new values to serve as its first airmail stamps.

The first overprints were as follows: 14 kčs on 200h ultramarine (reddish overprint); 24 kčs on 500h red-brown (blue overprint) and 28 kčs on 1000h red-violet (green overprint) (see fig. 4). On each of those denominations, 300,000 copies were overprinted with a high-wing monoplane, a surcharge value in the center near the bottom of the stamp with an airplane propellor on each side of the value. These first airmail stamps are listed as Scott numbers C1 to C6.

Counterfeits exist and expertizing is advised.

The first flights were scheduled for transport of mail from Prague to Strasbourg, Prague to Paris, Prague to London and Prague to Warsaw. In some instances, emergency landings had to be made before final destination was reached and the postal authorities did not guarantee direct air delivery in such cases.

The original airmail rate for a letter was quite high and hence the public made little use of airmail. As a result, genuinely flown covers during this early period are quite scarce. From October 5, 1920 to March 31, 1921 there were perhaps only four or five hundred genuinely flown covers, which means that existing ones are of considerable value.

On March 27, 1921, the Ministry of Posts announced a reduction in the airmail rate which took effect on April 1, 1921. The new rates were: Prague to Paris - 3 kčs, Prague to Strasbourg - 1.50 kčs and Prague to Warsaw - 1.50 kčs. The use of airmail and airmail stamps immediately increased.

Official airmail labels were printed for the Paris, Strasbourg and Warsaw flights. The labels were perforated and the text was in Czech as well as French.

In 1922, three values of the Agriculture and Science issue of 1920 were overprinted for use as airmails. They are the 50h on 100h, the 100h on 200h and the 250h on 400h (see fig. 5). They carry Scott numbers C7 to C9. The overprint and surcharge markings of these three stamps are somewhat different from the Hradčany overprints. There is the same monoplane, but above and a bit to the left are two propellers and the surcharge is also below the airplane but on the right-hand side of the stamp.

The above constitute the first overprints used in the new Republic both for surface mail (such as the private overprints mentioned earlier) and for airmail (Hradčany and Agriculture/Science).

In our next installment, we will discuss the "Vzorec" overprints, the overprints of "Eastern Silesia";, the "Postage Due" overprints and a few others.

*Editorial Hinges*

**DEATH WITHOUT AN OBITUARY**

Since the last issue of the **SPECIALIST** was released, your editor has learned of the demise of three more of our respected members: Dr. Jan Kostekla of Brno, Edwin Hanish of Old Bridge, N.J. and Karl Brownell of Lockport, N.Y.

All three have been members of the S.C.P. for many years. Your editor still remembers Ed Hanish attending meeting of our New York/ New Jersey branch during the seventies and early eighties when your editor was residing in



Westfield, N.J. As a matter of fact he still has in his possession a copy of the now rare book "Disinfected Mail" which Mr. Hanish sold him during that time. Ed specialized in collecting



the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia and also Spain and Portugal.

In the July/August issue, I wrote in my editorial under the subject of "Death" a recommendation that every member make some sort of provision to have a Society friend or next of kin prepare an obituary for our publication when that member passes away. Incidentally, as this issue was going to press we just learned of the demise of Ed Lisy's charming and devoted wife, Emily, who succumbed to surgery on July 12. The Board, the editorial staff and all Society members who know our former secretary of many years, express their sincere condolences on the passing of his spouse. A picture of Emily with Ed appeared on Page 12 of our 50th anniversary issue of May 1989.

This trilogy of deaths which I painfully make known to our subscribers at this time underscores the sorry state of affairs that prevails which prevents us from paying our last respects to members whom we knew and loved. An obituary is a personal family responsibility. If the family overlooks the deceased member's most cherished hobby and fails through oversight and bereavement to provide an obituary to his Society, there should at least be another member ready and prepared to assume that small function.

Fortunately your editor has a photograph given to him by the late Joseph Janečka showing him visiting Jan Kostelka at his home in Brno during PRAGA 88. This photo had already appeared in one of our earlier issues. (Kostelka is on the left; Janečka on the right). Regretably we have no picture available of either Ed Hanish or Karl Brownell.

Let us hope this pathetic and disrespectful situation will soon be remedied. Your editor knows of no other organization having its own journal that does not make provisions for the automatic dissemination of obituary data on all members in good standing.

### WITHER BOHEMOSLOVENIKA?

In the March/April SPECIALIST on page 19, we published an appeal letter from Ing. Antonin Černý of Pelhřimov seeking volunteers to fill the void left in that most interesting area of philately by the demise of Joseph J. Janečka Jr. Concurrently in the February 1992 issue of BOHEMOSLOVENIKA B, there appeared an announcement on page 26 which is translated as follows:

"Vol.53, no. 5 of the American philatelic journal, THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST, contained an interesting and moving article on pages 4, 5 and 6 about their member and founding father of our Bohemoslovenika Section, the late Joseph J. Janečka Jr. of Riverside, Illinois. As president of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Club of America, he was shown on a picture together with another one of our illustrious members, Dr. Jan Kostelka of Brno.

"The Society of Czechoslovak Philately published the SPECIALIST in English and the fine journal is available to any collector who joins that Society. We call attention to the fact that any member of our Section interested in joining this Society may request details by writing to Jiří Stupka, Hotel Šumava, P.O. Box 48, 340 04 Želiezňá Ruda, Czechoslovakia."

A nice plug for our Society, don't you agree? But guess what? I just received a letter from Inc. Antonin Černý, editor of BOHEMOSLOVENIKA B, that he has not received a single response from any one of our members anywhere to his appeal that we had published and so enthusiastically endorsed.

Is it possible that no one is interested? Or is it that no one bothers to read our editorial column?

## ANOTHER HOT MEMBER

The heat continues - and we're not looking at the thermometer, either! In our last issue we extolled the virtues of Phillips B. Freer for contributing so much time and effort to the expansion of our Society. Another member has now joined his ranks. He is Michael Rogers of Winter Park, Florida.

As a dealer, his ads are becoming familiar to readers of our SPECIALIST. But his beautiful article on the Czechoslovak Legion in Siberia which appeared in the June 22 issue of Linn's Stamp News on page 28 deserved special praise. What impressed your editor in particular was the following, quoted from that article:

"Novotny's controversial 1923 memoirs have been published in the CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST, the excellent bi-monthly journal of the Society of Czechoslovak Philately. Those memoirs, along with later SPECIALIST articles correcting Novotny's self-serving recollections, form the definitive historical and philatelic record of the Czechoslovak Legion.

"For a large stamped addressed envelope, the S.C.P. will send a membership application and a photocopied article about the Czechoslovak Legion. Write to secretary Jane Sterba, 6624 Windsor Ave., Berwyn, Ill. 60402."

This is the kind of voluntary publicity our Society and its bi-monthly journal needs in order to continue its program of expansion and development. Regardless of the person's purpose or personal motivation, his will to become involved in the Society's growth is worth its weight in stamps. Not only the editorial staff, but the Society's entire Board is grateful to those who give of their time to propogate the cause of Czechoslovak philately in this country.

*Letters to the Editor*

## REPORTING ON NEW ISSUES

Dear Editor:

I noted your "New Issues" article in the July/August issue. Under item 6 on page 19, the identification of the Czechoslovak air units as "Wings 310, 311, etc. is in error. Your "copy" may have said that, but it is wrong. Those numbers refer to RAF squadrons (The Wing was not an RAF designation at that time) that had Czech and Polish pilots. On one trip to the United Kingdom, we visited Biggin Hill, a famous RAF station in World War II where there is a very beautiful memorial in their chapel to the downed pilots with many Czech and Polish names. I think the 310th Squadron was stationed there among others.

Yours truly,  
Ed Lehecka

*(Ed. Note - For about the past year, information on "New Issues" has been and is being extracted from official releases of the Ministry of Posts in Prague).*

### COMMENTS ON THE SPECIALIST

Dear Editor:

. . . . I highly regard the information in your journal and find it to be the main inspiration in my continuous and growing appreciation of Czech Philately . . . .

- Richard G. Miller

Dear Editor:

I think I can say you deserve credit for the excellent work on our Society's magazine. This is not only my opinion, but also the opinion of collectors I met in Prague. That includes Dr. Horka, Dr. Vostatek and also Jiří Štupka whom we met last year in Chicago. Czechoslovak philately deserves an editor of your calibre! Thank you for your fine work . . .

- Vladimír Bubák

*(Ed. Note - Your editor is encouraged by the comments he has been receiving. Abstracts from recent letters like those shown above are very gratifying and inspire him to improve the publication with every issue. He also acknowledges that it is the members' participation in the submitting of excellent articles of philatelic research that makes the SPECIALIST what it is today.)*

### NEW ISSUES

1. The Ministry of Posts in Prague announced that on May 5, 1992, a souvenir sheet commemorating the discovery of America was issued (see fig. 1). Design is by graphic artist Asof Dorn; engraving by Bedřich Housa. The size of each picture is 40 x 23 mm, but the size of the entire sheet is 107 x 170 mm. Printed in ochre, blue, brown, red and black colors by recess print from flat plates, the sheet contains eight stamps each with a value of 22 kčs.

Accompanying the miniature sheet is a first day cover also recess printed from flat plates in rose, brown and green showing a sketch of a mermaid with the text "America 1492-1992". Both the sheet and FDC were produced at the Post Printery in Prague.

The individual stamps of the sheet are valid for domestic as well as foreign mailings from date of issue until officially withdrawn from circulation.

2. On June 10, 1992, the Ministry of Posts and telecommunications issued a 2 kčs stamp of 23 x 30 mm. dimensions commemorating the Czechoslovak Red Cross. (see fig. 2)

Designed by Karol Feliz and engraved by Martin Činovský, the stamp was produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print combined with three-colored recess print. The stamp pictures a red cross on which appear paper boats symbolizing the hopes of rescuing of humanity in peril. The text in Slovak reads "Humanitou



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

k mieru" (With humanity to peace). The colors are red, black, violet and yellow and the stamp was printed in sheets of 50.

The first day cover shows a child's face in black and a stylized drop of blood in red. It was produced by recess print from flat plates.

The stamp is valid for both domestic and international usage from date of issue until withdrawn from circulation.

3. On June 30, 1992, the Ministry of Posts issued a single stamp commemorating European Junior Championships in Table Tennis in Topolčany. This is a 1k stamp of 23 x 30 mm. dimensions designed by Igor Rumanský and engraved by Václav Fajt. (see fig. 3)

The stamp pictures a player in action with the following text in the lower left corner: "Topolčany 1992 - European Junior Championships in Table Tennis" (in Czech). Its colors are black, yellow, blue, grey and green.



Fig. 3

Produced by the Post Printing House in Prague, it was printed in sheets of 50 by rotary recess print combined with four-color recess print.

The first day cover design shows the official emblem of this championship with the text; "European Table Tennis Youth Championships Topolčany - ČSFR 1992" in dark green. It was recess print from flat plates.

The stamp is valid for both domestic and international usage from date of issue until withdrawn from circulation.

4. On July 15, 1992, the Ministry of Posts announced the release of a four-stamp set in the nature series - this one for the protection of beetles. The stamps are in denominations of 1k, 2



Fig. 4

kčs, 3 Kčs and 4 Kčs. Designed by Peter Johanis and engraved by Miloš Ondráček, the pictures are 23 x 30 mm. in size. They were done by rotary recess print combined with four-colored recess print in sheets of fifty. (see fig. 4).

The 1k is in black, brown, ochre, grey and yellow colors while the first-day cover is in black and green. The 2 Kčs is in black, brown, grey, green and green-brown colors. The 3 Kčs is in black, red, light blue, grey and dark blue. The 4 Kčs is in black, brown, blue, grey and yellow. All four stamps and first day covers were produced at the Post Printery in Prague.

The stamps are valid for domestic as well as foreign mailings from date of issue until officially withdrawn from circulation.

5. On July 22, 1992, The Ministry of Posts announced the issuance of a set of three stamps publicizing the Beauties of Our Country comprising the Castle Troja, Donner's Statue of St. Martin and the Castle Lednice. Issued in denominations of 6 Kčs, 7 Kčs and 8 Kčs, the stamps were designed and engraved by Miloš Ondráček, Martin Činovský and Pavel Kovařík respectively.

Limited space prevents us from giving further details and showing their illustrations. They will be described more fully in the next issue of our publication.

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