



THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

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Numerous International and National Literature Awards

A. P. S. Unit 18

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No. 2, Whole No. 524

JERSEY-BOUND IN 94

The Society will hold its 1994 Annual Meeting and get-together at NOJEX over the Memorial Day Weekend, Saturday, May 28, 1994 thru Monday, May 30, 1994. The show will be held at the Exhibition Center, Meadowlands Hilton, Secaucus, NJ. This is a very central location in northern New Jersey convenient to major highways and Newark Airport. NOJEX is also providing free bus service from New York City.

This show is a major regional show and, due to its central location, is always well attended. As is our custom, we will have a table that will serve as a focal point for Society activities. You will be able to meet other members and a large range of publications will be available for sale. Above all, we would like to see as many members exhibit as possible. I will be serving as our Society's chairman so please write me for the prospectus if you wish to exhibit.

The Meadowlands Hilton is directly attached to the Convention Center and is offering a reduced rate in the \$70-80 range for attendees. It is a first class hotel and has the advantage of being the site of the show. There are a variety of other accommodations in the immediate area, all being convenient to Newark Airport, the NJ Turnpike and the Garden State Parkway. Contact me if you wish further information on the Hilton or other accommodations.

Our tentative plans are for a dinner at 6:00PM Saturday that would be followed by a Board Meeting at around 7:30PM. An awards breakfast will probably be held on Sunday. Full details will be published in the next SPECIALIST. Right now just mark your calendar and plan to come. And be sure to send for your exhibition prospectus as soon as possible, especially since the deadline for submitting exhibitors' applications is April 1! Mail your request to me as program chairman: Ed Lehecka, 217 Hazel Ave., Westfield, NJ 07090, tel: 908/232-4159; FAX 908/889-8162.

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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 H. Alan Hoover. The circuit itself has been fully written up in the Aug/ Sept. 1989 SPECIALIST, page 8. For complete details, contact H. Alan Hoover, 6070 Poplar Spring Street, Norcross, GA 30092.
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, 4050 Carbury Ct., Chantilly, VA 22021.
4. An expertization committee operates under the direction of Ludvik Z. Svoboda. Depending on the nature or substance of the item to be expertized, he will direct you to the appropriate source for expertization. Please contact Ludvik Svoboda, 4766 South Helena Way, Aurora, CO 80015.
5. 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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BOOKLETS: THE LAST FIVE YEARS

by Frank A. Garancovsky

The March/April 1993 SPECIALIST on page 7 announced a writing contest for members who had not had more than two articles published in our journal. Although not many members participated, those who did made an excellent effort. One, in particular, was outstanding. Frank Garancovsky, who never wrote an article for the SPECIALIST, won first place and was awarded his prize at FLOREX 93. The editorial staff is proud to publish this article now.

Much has happened in Czech Philately during the past 5 years. Politically there was the "Velvet Revolution" in November of 1989. This led to the establishment of a Federated Republic and New Year's Eve of 1992 witnessed a "Friendly Divorce".

Philatelically we saw the demise of Communist-oriented stamps, and a new Federation President, Vaclav Havel, signaling yet another era of Czechoslovak Philately.

Although specialists were enjoying their hobby with new issues, it was PRAGA 88 that signaled something afoot in the nation's future. As was reported by the worldwide philatelic press, PRAGA 88 was a huge success. Although lacking few creature comforts, those in attendance were treated to a world class exhibit and friendly social affairs.

Our journal reported similar views but noted that there was a lack of zest and sparkle of previous exhibitions. The most glaring was the lack of Czech national representation in the exhibits. Furthermore the judging was reported as being erratic. As hindsight would have it, the following year, 1989, proved to be a year of Eastern European unrest, which culminated in a Federated Czechoslovak Republic.

American Czechoslovak specialist collectors looking forward to some classic new issues, were deluged with a plethora of stamps and souvenir sheets. The year 1988 and Praga '88 awakened this writer to a new though dormant phase of Czech Philately. Booklets! A philatelic partner had mailed me a Historical Automobile booklet as an exhibition souvenir. (see Fig. 1). Its most unusual size (approximately 6 1/2 x 3 3/4 inches) contained a souvenir sheet type of pane with two values. Scott #2694 and 2695, along with a printed coupon logo of PRAGA '88 (see Fig. 2). A print run of 160,000 booklets certainly established a collectible classic!

Booklets as we know them in the



Fig. 1

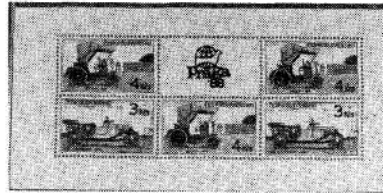


Fig. 2



Fig. 3

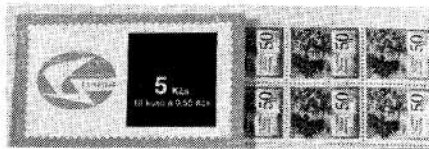


Fig. 4a

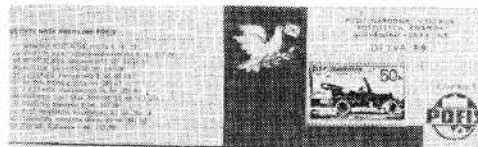


Fig. 4b

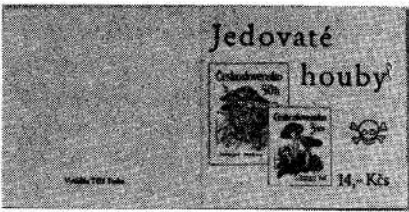


Fig. 5

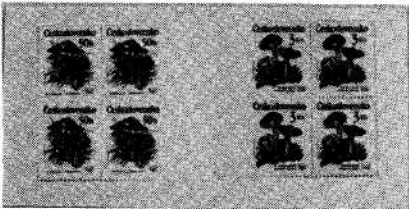


Fig. 6



Fig. 7



Fig. 8

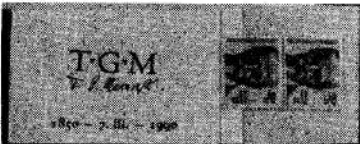


Fig. 9a

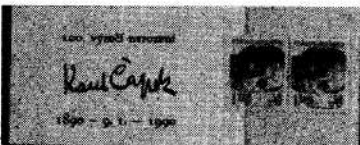


Fig. 9b

U.S. enjoy a very high collector priority. They have their own catalog numbers for complete booklets, booklet covers, and booklet panes. Since 1989 yet another catalog variety emerged: the unfolded booklet pane. This opened another specialized arena with an additional value entry. Construction of U.S. booklet panes takes on a special format in that they are imperforated on two sides and along the bottom of the panes. The covers have a glossy finish, are in color and have much market appeal.

Czechoslovak booklets prior to 1988 could be described as functional at best, dull and unattractive in the least, but not anymore. I shall attempt to describe a reawakening process. The year 1978 saw the last use of nail staples to attach booklet panes in Czech booklets. The modern method of attachment is with a selvedge portion of a strip of perforated sheet stamps. Usually the stamps are of one denomination. However, on occasion, there could be more, as in the historical automobile and poison mushroom booklets.

It happened more or less accidentally that Czech booklets caught my attention in a local stamp bourse dealer's stock. It was a 1986 Unicef booklet of Scott # 2614. Being a luke-warm collector of U.S. booklets, I purchased it and filed it in my stockbook. Meanwhile my Czech philatelic partner sent me an additional four booklets from the 1988 vintage year. These were of the Olympic skiing and basketball events (Fig. 3); the Matica Slovenska Cultural Association (Fig. 4a) and the DETVA '88 exhibition featuring Scott #2691, Laurin and Klement automobile of 1914. (Fig. 4b).

Since the inception of booklet technology in the early 1900s, the booklet flourished in many countries. The advertising forum realized a bonanza of money for postal administrations worldwide. Ironically the U.S., driven by a market economy, has no commercial advertising on its booklets. Up to this point, Czech booklet advertising, with the exception of public service informational announcements, was also missing until after the velvet revolution.

A most notable example of a public service announcement was the poison mushroom booklet in the fall of 1992 issued because of many mushroom poisoning medical emergencies. The booklet was an oversize 3 1/2 inches square and contained two values from the 1989 poison mushroom series, Scott #2758 and 2761. An attractive booklet cover portrayed mushrooms plus the international poison symbol of skull and crossbones. (see Fig. 5 & 6)

Czech booklets may be divided into two major types; Standard booklets and the private organizational commemorative booklet usually sponsored by clubs, civic organizations, and special interest groups calling attention to a past historical or national event.

A standard booklet design since 1988 was an overall perforated stamp on the front and back covers, the borders of which alternated with a dark blue and orange color. In addition, the front cover portrayed an oval world globe pierced by a winged lightning bolt logo on which was printed "ČS SPOJE." (see Fig. 7) This was the distributor. Alongside was a reverse colored square on which was indicated its contents and selling price. The distribution alternated with POFIS until 1991 when it became TUS followed by HÚP in 1992. They were all restructured divisions of the Ministry of Posts engaged in the manufacture and distribution of philatelic products.

It was a standard booklet that carried the first of many commercial advertisements beginning in 1990. The booklet contained the Flora issue, Scott #2780 with the usual blue and orange colors on the front cover, but the back featured a simple well-designed ad for the Japanese firm OKI (see Fig. 7). At last the sleeping giant of Czech marketing awakened. This was to be followed by another Japanese industrial giant, MINOLTA, in 1991. The colors were reversed for both covers of this booklet to avail the use of a dark blue border on the back cover, adding depth to the light blue logo of Minolta. (see Fig. 8).

The year 1990 witnessed an explosion of booklet issues with fourteen in all. Three sets totaling ten booklets usually carried an added premium to the cost of the postage stamps. Two booklets were of the Famous Men series: the Republic's first president Masaryk on Scott #2772 (Fig. 9a) and the writer Karel Čapek on Scott #2771. (Fig. 9b) The second set of private booklets commemorated the entry of American Forces into Pilsen in 1945. The set consisted of five booklets in various colored text on a white booklet cover. One booklet carried the word VERNISAZ, which was only available at the opening ceremony. The four others carried a serial number indicating a limited supply. This type of booklet had two distinct faults - a lack of color and an overly simplistic design. Like it or not, it is another variety and shares in a catalog listing.

The lone exception to these private booklet faults was the soccer booklets honoring a national sport. There were three booklets sharing the same stamp, Scott #2790, 1 kcs ITALIA '90. (see Fig. 10) All were printed on a white cover with a multi colored soccer ball on the front. The back covers carried the colorful logos of the two Czech leagues and one Slovak league. These may have been government-sponsored since they sold at face value. They were a welcome change from the 1988 standard booklet design for the Olympic issues. Such a prestigious event honoring a national athletic endeavor certainly deserved a better fate.

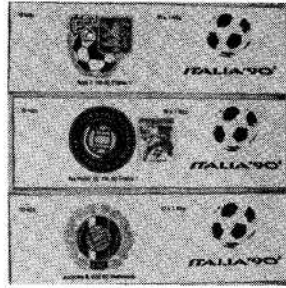


Fig.10



Fig.11



Fig.12a



Fig.12b



Fig.13



Fig. 14a Fig. 14b

Apart from these private issues, there were four standard booklets issued in 1990: President Vaclav Havel, Scott #2777; (Fig. 11) a French Poodle booklet for the World Dog Show in Brno, Scott #2796 (Fig. 12a) and the 100th anniversary of Steeplechase

Racing in PARDUBICE, Scott #2802 (Fig. 12b). The final booklet mentioned earlier as the nation's first advertising booklet contained the Flora issue Scott #2780 and the OKI ad on the back cover.

Only two standard booklets having the alternating colors blue and orange were issued in 1991. The back cover, shown in Fig. 13, reads: "Pišete Správně Adresu?" (Have you written the address correctly?) Already mentioned was the Minolta ad booklet which carried the Bohemian Lily, Scott #2839. The other was the Bethlehem Chapel, Scott #2817. From here on the booklet covers are revitalized with a color explosion. An oblique stamp image layout portrays the contents and the price on the front cover. The back cover contains a short biography of the issue plus a vertical strip indicating a press run. Seven booklets of 1991 presented this format with press runs from 100,000 to 200,000 booklets. They were with Scouting issue, Scott #2816 (Fig. 14a); Mozart, Scott #2818 (Fig. 14b); the General Exhibition Hall, Scott #2829/2830 (Fig. 16 a & b). These were followed by the 13th Biennial Exhibition of Children's Book Illustrators, Scott #2834 (Fig. 17a) and the Bohemian Lily itself, Scott #2839 (Fig. 17b). All were manufactured and distributed by TUS.

One private issue series of nondescript booklets was sponsored by rail enthusiasts. Following a 38 year lapse of rail service between Czechoslovakia and what used to be East Germany, it was renewed. Logos consisted of rail semaphores and locomotives. Reportedly most were sold in Germany at a 100% premium and the printed text alternated in both languages on their respective covers.

TUS began its final year of production and distribution in 1992 with the 16th Winter Games at Albertville, France. The designs of 1991 continued with Scott #2850 (Fig. 18). It was an attractive booklet with a large press run of 300,000. Along with it came HUP, the latest name change, but still serving the same purpose of philatelic activity and telecommunica-



Fig. 15



Fig. 16a



Fig. 16b



Fig. 17a



Fig. 17b

tions.

Now the design changes ever so slightly and continues to be attractive. Postal stationery appears in the form of three envelopes bearing the letters HUP. There were two such booklets colored blue and brown on white. Enclosed were Scott #2840 Alpine Aster of 1991 (Fig. 19a) and the new Table Tennis stamp (Fig. 19b). The back covers finally produced national advertisements. These were followed by the R.A.F. and two beetle booklets. All HUP booklets had a press run of 100,000.

The 3 kčs Český Krumlov booklet and the 2 kčs Christmas stamp booklet again appeared with minor design changes and more national advertising. A major downward press run of 50,000 for these and the final four booklets signaled the beginning of the end for the Federated Republic.

The final four were Stamp Day booklets, and all had the same 2 Kčs Jindra Schmidt stamp enclosed. Each booklet did, however, portray stamp day issues of 1992; 1991; 1989; and 1987. (Fig. 20a,b,c,d) The back covers all featured professional service advertising.

Czech and Slovak engravers and designers have furnished collectors worldwide with scores of beautiful stamps, politics notwithstanding. This artistic endeavor promises to continue in future stamp and booklet designs of the two new Republics.

Booklets will enhance and compliment any stamp collection with color and symmetry. Try it on for size and see how it wears in your collection, certainly with more compatibility than postal covers and not nearly as expensive.

So ends another era of Czechoslovak philatelic history. After a 74 year contentious mar-

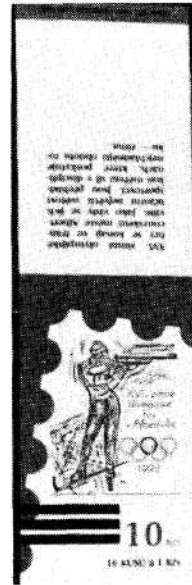


Fig. 18

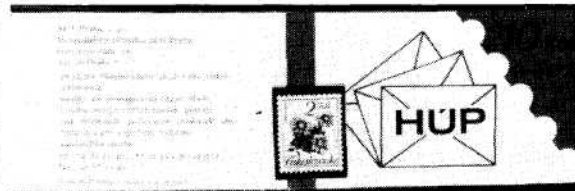


Fig. 19a

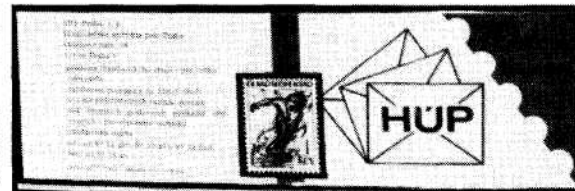


Fig. 19b



Fig. 20a



Fig. 20b, 20c & 20d

riage fraught with ethnic bickering, a divorce, no matter how amicable, created the independent states now known as the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic or Slovakia. For the specialized collector, yet another division of albums.

Though the F.I.P. is not prone to temerity, how will they divide the spoils of future exhibits? Certainly it is hoped that common sense will prevail!

ADOLF BORN AND THE COLUMBUS SHEET

by Gerald M. vanZanten

Many of our readers will recall the sheet issued on May 5, 1992 commemorating the 500th anniversary of the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus. (see Sept/Oct 1992 issue of SPECIALIST, page 22). Not many will have noticed the name of the artist in very fine print in the bottom right corner. His name is ADOLF BORN, who celebrated his 63rd birthday in June 1993.

At first glance, the writer thought the stamp rather outrageous, but after looking at it for some time he came to appreciate the overall concept and design by a caricaturist like BORN. Also taken into account is the fact that it represents a subject perhaps quite alien to Europeans of 1492. The stamp depicts a native "beauty" looking at the strange ship and at Columbus. Minor images are an odd looking fish, as well as the dates 1492 and 1992 on the hull of the vessel.

The complete sheet measures 107x170mm and consists of eight stamps of 22 Kčs each, making a face value of 176 Kčs. The sheet is printed in ochre, blue, brown, red and black; printing was by the Post Printing Office in



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

Prague. (Fig. 1)

The FDC accompanying the stamp shows a mermaid in rose, brown, and green colors (Fig. 2). As usual, the first day cancel is in keeping with stamp and cover, depicting a 1492 vintage ship (Fig. 3). Besides the eight stamps in the sheet, the center gutter has a stylized map and a ship sailing westward; top margin shows in Latin and English the title of the sheet as well as a female head; stylized drawings of a maritime theme complete the sheet.

As mentioned, ADOLF BORN was the artist (Fig. 4). He has illustrated many children's books as well as a large number of fiction books by Czech as well as other authors. He is also involved in making animated films, which are favorites with children and adults alike. One of these is a puppet film based on the story of Robinson Crusoe. He portrays in his work a unique touch as well as very original humor as shown in (Fig. 5) "Alchemist Kelly on His Way to Prague".

Adolf Born studied under Professor Antonín Pelc (1895-1967) at the College of Applied Arts in Prague. Examples of Pelc's work are shown on Pofis No. 2703 issued on June 4, 1985 as well as Pofis No. 2054 issued on Nov. 27, 1973. Both BORN and Pelc later moved to the Academy of Arts. People who had an influence on BORN were, among others, Jaroslav Hašek (1883-1923) (of "The Good Soldier Švejk" fame) for his highly intellectual humor. Also writer Bohumil Hrabal (Born March 28, 1914) who wrote many novels, among them "Closely Watched Trains" a book well worth reading, later made into a film.

As a caricaturist, BORN does not try to glorify women the way Alfons Mucha did. He has drawn skinny girls as well as fat ones. His idea of a perfect woman? See Pofis No. 2503 (Fig. 6). For him the ideal woman is "a bright, slim, vigorous one, quick at grasping things. If she has an attractive appearance in addition to this, she's perfect" It would be interesting to know his opinion and his version of America's bathing beauty!

ADOLF BORN received many foreign awards for his work. In the 1960's at a festival in Italy which was devoted to humor on a broader base, he was awarded several prizes. They were among the first major awards in the field of graphic art. He is now a member of its international jury. Further awards for him came from Montreal. In 1974 he was elected "King of the Year" out of some six hundred caricaturists. He has exhibited at the Leipzig Biennial where he received two prizes. Further exhibitions include Heillbronn, Constance, Oslo and Istanbul.

He is now over sixty years of age. Upon encountering this viperous man, most people marvel at his humor and comedy. Let us hope we will see more of his art on stamps of the Czech Republic. In this era of violence and discontent, who is there better than a caricaturist like ADOLF BORN to give us an uplift and a breath of fresh air?

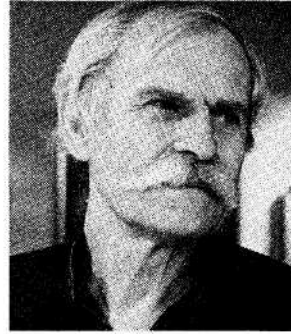


Fig. 4



Fig. 5



Fig. 6

PROFIL'S EIGHTH INTERNATIONAL AUCTION

by Henry Hahn

November, by recent "tradition", has become auction-time in Prague. Thus, on Saturday, November 13th, "PROFIL House of Philately" auctioned some 1,050 lots at Slovanský Dum (Slavic House) on Příkopy (Prague's Fifth Avenue) to an overflow crowd of several hundred enthusiastic floor bidders. Most lots received mail bids, many well in excess of the starting bids listed in a well presented, though poorly illustrated catalogue. Over half of the lots were covers and postal history, with a good sprinkling of postal stationery, stamps and literature.

The format of the auction generally followed those in the U.S., though with a few exceptions. Floor bidders were required to deposit 100 Kč to receive a number and the catalogues were sold at 20 Kč. Only 5% was added to the knock-down bid, and lots receiving no mail or floor bid could be bought at the listed starting price at anytime after the auction or in the PROFIL retail store.

The two participating auctioneers were highly competent, and the handling of lots was prompt, polite and efficient.

Bidding was rather uneven and brought this participant several surprises. A "Pošta Československá 1919" overprint light with mottled print opened at 8,000 Kč (about \$276), but did not sell. A lot of four (4) Siberian field posts went for just 2,800 Kč (about \$95). The 10h and 20h mint Scout "Arrival of President Masaryk" went for 105,000 Kč (about \$3,620)!! A flown First Air Mail issue cover to France via Strasbourg brought a more reasonable price of 25,000 Kč (about \$862), while a block of 8 of the 20h imperforate "SO" overprint was bought at the opening minimum bid of 200,000 Kč (about \$6,820). The greatest surprise, in this participant's view, was an official cover from the post-WWII Carpatho-Ukrainian minister of posts, M. Fedeles, franked with the overprinted 30f Hungarian "ČSP/1944". This cover opened at 2,000 Kč, but sold for 11,000 Kč (\$378)-possibly reflecting a growing interest in this area.

There were a few smiles and hardly any frowns as the auction closed. This writer's smile will last well through the mounting of his purchases.

THE NATIONAL POSTAL MUSEUM

by Charles E. Kern II



Fig. 1

With the opening of the U.S. National Postal Museum in part of the magnificent old Washington City Post Office building on July 30, 1993, the nomadic Smithsonian postal history and philatelic collection has presumably arrived at its ultimate resting place. The collection, which began with a modest donation of stamps in 1886, was originally housed in the Arts and Industries Building adjacent to the Smithsonian Castle, but in 1964 it was moved to larger quarters across the Mall in the new Museum of American History. In furthering its persistent tendency to exceed available space,

the Smithsonian collection has grown to over 16 million stamps and stamp-related objects, the largest such assemblage in the world.

The Washington City Post Office was among the last projects designed by Daniel H. Burnham of Chicago, one of the most highly influential architects of his era. It was construct-

ed in 1911-14 in a modernized classic style planned to complement Burnham's no less remarkable Union Station Building, completed in 1908, which stands immediately to the east. Neither structure could ever be considered a candidate for the application of Frank Lloyd Wright's dictum that while a doctor can bury his mistakes, all an architect can do is plant ivy.

Entrance to the new Postal Museum is through a handsome and ornate marble lobby (where this writer has dropped off many a last-minute tax return.) The postal services windows have been closed and the hall carefully restored to its original neoclassical splendor. Midway along its axis, the visitor descends by escalator to the museum proper on the ground level.

One's attention is immediately drawn to three early air-mail planes suspended overhead awaiting instructions from a nearby navigation tower. Among a great many other more solidly rooted artifacts are an early stage coach, a walk-through railway post office car, a 1931 mail delivery truck and mail boxes from around the world. There is even a dark forest through which you may travel as a Colonial American letter carrier, complete with wild animal sounds to speed you on your way. There are abundant display cases filled with philatelic material as well as numerous interactive exhibits, including - hold on to the joy stick! - a simulated landing in a mail plane. A functioning post office has all current U.S. material and a large shop offers hundreds of stamp-related items, from beginner's packets to 1918 "Inverted Jenny" T-shirts (but why not a T-shirt featuring the 4K "POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ 1919" overprint on granite paper?)

Approximately 50,000 foreign stamps are encased in vertical sliding files, including roughly half of Czechoslovakia's issues from 1918 to 1964 mounted on album pages. Thus one sees Hradcany I but not Hradcany II, and even the visible pages include but a cancelled specimen of the unwatermarked carmine 1929 Karlstein Castle 1.50K, and lack the dark blue 1939 Štefanik 60h. (Perhaps one of our members will be moved to contribute mint specimens to the national collection.) There are no rarities among the Czech stamps on display, and no stamps whatsoever of the Czech Legion, the Bohemia-Moravia Protectorate or Slovakia. This particular area is rather dimly lit in order to protect the exhibits, but improved lighting is said to be under consideration.

Potential Czech collectors may be attracted by a nearby "Stamps and Stories" exhibit which

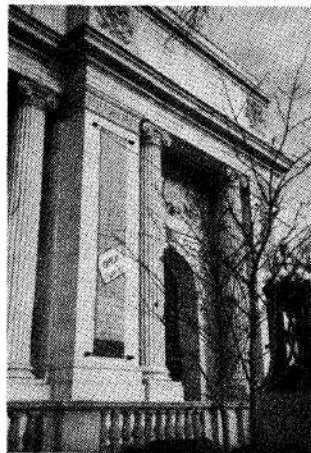


Fig 2



Fig 3

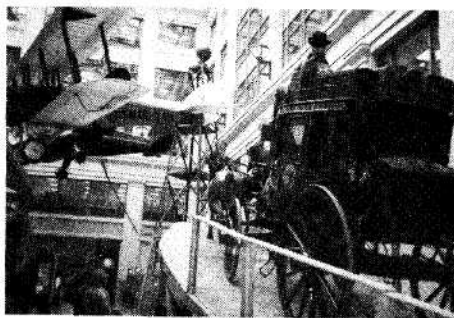


Fig 4

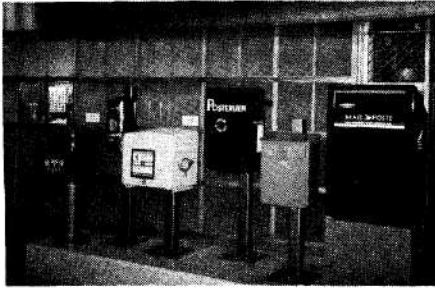


Fig. 5

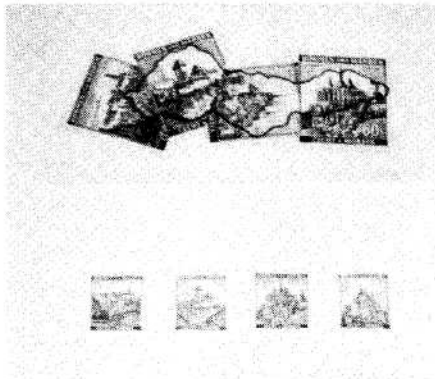


Fig. 6

includes the story, new to this writer, of the 1939 second Bohemia-Moravia Protectorate issue. J.C. Vondrouš, the Czech designer, outlined the clouds and terrain on four stamps in such a manner that when placed in a certain sequence they compose a map of Czechoslovakia with its original pre-Munich boundaries intact. This is clearly demonstrated in a sketch that accompanies the stamps in the exhibit. You may achieve this result yourself by tilting the 40h stamp 60 degrees to the left, overlapping it slightly with the upright 50h stamp, following this with the 1K rotated 90 degrees to the right and ending with the 60h tilted slightly to the right. I am advised by two of our members that the Germans never caught on to this act of silent patriotism and passive defiance, due in part to the muteness of Czech philatelists.

The National Postal Museum also contains the world's largest philatelic and postal history research facility, with more than 40,000 books and manuscripts available. To access this source, contact the librarian, Tim Carr, at (202) 633-9370. Appointments to examine stamps and other postal material not on public display may be arranged by calling Joseph Geraci, the muse-

um specialist (and probable future curator of the collection), at (202) 633-9369.

Most museums represent an often uneasy compromise between the demands of broad popular appeal and serious scholarship. Through the excellence of its public presentations, the Smithsonian's new National Postal Museum succeeds to a notable degree in being fun, challenging and genuinely informative for advanced collectors while at the same time providing them with access to invaluable philatelic research material behind the scenes. Perhaps in the future someone more learned than the present writer will assess these additional resources for readers of the CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST.

CZECHOSLOVAK POSTAL TRAINING ISSUES

by Henry Hahn



Fig. 1a & 1b

On a recent visit to Prague, Dr. Miroslav Vostatek, noted postal historian and philatelic writer, presented me with some curiosities which both of us would like to share with our readers.

U.S. collectors are familiar with USPS training adhesives used to test equipment and/ or train postal employees. Similarly in the ČSSR, there existed adhesives issued to train postal employees, as shown below. The first adhesive, having a denomination of 20h and showing the laying of cable is in

ochre, while those depicting a lady postman and originally bearing a 15h value are in green. The latter are overprinted as shown with values of 3 Kčs, 80h, and 3. Each adhesive is titled at the top "VÝCVIKOVÉ STŘEDISKO" (Training Center) and below "CVIČNÁ ZNÁMKA" (Training Stamp). All of these are one price, cancelled on November 19, 1965 with a canceler having the name of the locality removed. (see Fig. 1 a,b,c,d).

Any additional information pertaining to the above would be appreciated.

Another curiosity, possi-



Fig 1c & 1d



Fig 2a, 2b, & 2c

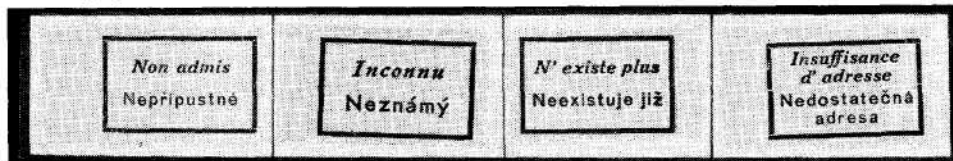


Fig 3a, 3b, 3c & 3d

bly a "Cinderella" adhesive is shown here. It originated in Sao Paolo, Brazil. The vignettes are in brick red, and the portraits of Jan Hus, Thomas G. Masaryk and J. Vrchlický are in blue. The text reads "National Alliance in Sao Paolo" in Czech and French. The value is 100 Reis. (see Fig. 2 a,b,c). These most likely are charity/ethnic labels. Based on the young likeness of Masaryk, these may have originated before World War I. Seeing them on cover would help establish their period of issue. Can you help?

Finally, we would like to draw your attention to the use of French which used to be the "THE" diplomatic language and was also adopted by the UPU. A few examples of such usage are shown in Fig. 3 a,b,c,d. This practice, with the decline of French as the language of commercial and diplomatic importance, may soon disappear. (Francophiles - please don't BLAME us - we're innocent).

SALES CIRCUIT NEWS!

by H. Alan Hoover

At this time of year as we reflect on what we are all thankful for, I as Circuit Manager would like to thank all the participants in our circuit, both sellers and buyers. In the last 9 months, we have gone from a circulation of only 6 booklets to over 140! I especially thank those that have heard my plea and have submitted material to the circuits for sale. We have much exciting material and sales of some contents of books have been total sell-outs.

Covers

We are receiving numerous lots of covers and postal stationary; many from the Czech Republic. Material has included Sudetenland covers, early stampless covers from 1849, Carpatho-Ukraine covers, Austrian stamps used in ČSR in the early Republic & provisional cancellations. Fieldpost cards & covers are very hot right now and sellers have supplied five hundred of these to the circuit for members to buy! There are plenty of railway post office box cancellations, Austrian stationary used in Czech cities, unusual covers such as Protectorate stamps used after liberation on cover, many Hradčany and Slovakia cards, full sets on cover and used in postal service, numerous parcel cards, Austrian covers to Czech cities and Austrian & Czech stamp covers having mixed franking as well as Sokol cards.

For the military and fieldpost collector, there is some correspondence to Czech soldiers in the Austrian Army and parcel cards to soldiers. Numerous covers to members stationed in Italy have just been received. Two other beautiful covers are: 1-an Austrian Coat of Arms #3 (3kr.red) and an Austrian #4 (6kr.brown) postmarked in Prague. These are the first stamps of Austria used on Czech territory; and 2-a Prague cover, franked with an Austrian #54 (5kr.rose) to Milan, Italy. The cover also is franked with 3 Italian 10 centesimi postage due stamps and dated 1894. Just a small sample of what beauties we have in the Sales circuit!

Another rarity is the Slovakia set #34-37, found postally used on cover. This was prepared for the anniversary of General Stefanik's death but was never issued. An "SO" used for payment on a money order can also be found, some Hussite stamps on cover and the National uprising against the Germans (Scott 288-292), rarely found on cover, are also in a circuit lot.

For the airmail enthusiasts, we have various cards and covers, all that will make your mouth water. So if you're not a current sales circuit member, why not drop me a line today and request to be added to the sales circuit. You may just find that unusual cover or card that will add depth to your collection or exhibit. A detailed article can be found on page 6 of the Sept/ Oct 1993 SPECIALIST on the particulars of the Sales Circuit if you are unfamiliar with its operation.

Lost Circuit

A recent circuit sent from one member to another, in accordance with US postal insured requirements, has been lost. But since the member followed the rules and did save the receipt, we have recovered the loss via the Postal and APS insurance plans. I have received reports that some circuits were received without insurance from a previous member. Should that circuit have been lost, the **sending member** would have been responsible for the entire replacement cost of that lost circuit. **YOU** are responsible from the moment of receipt until you receive the insurance slip when you forward it to the next member.

Booklet Damage

While auditing the circuit books recently, I noted several stamps stuck to the paper. For these the Society will now have to pay damages. It is each member's responsibility to protect circuits from moisture damage while in his or her possession. When forwarding them on, it helps to secure and package them properly to prevent damage. Please treat a circuit as your own material and be considerate of other circuit members.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

For the Beginner

THE EARLY AIRMAILS

The first airmail stamps of the Republic of Czechoslovakia have already been mentioned in the Sept/Oct 1992 SPECIALIST on page 18. They comprise the early Hradčany issues and three values of the Agriculture and Science set which were overprinted for use as airmail stamps until actual airmail stamps could be printed. They are listed as Scott nos. C1 through C6 and C7, C8 and C9.

The first stamps specifically printed for airmail use (Scott nos. C10 through C18) were issued during the period of 1930-1939. They show an airplane in flight over various Czech and Slovak landscapes taken from photographs. They are: 50h green, 1 kč red, 2 kč green, 3 kč violet, 4 kč dark blue, 5 kč brown, 10 kč violet-blue and 20kč grey-violet. C10 and C11 are in a narrow format (see fig. 1); C12 through C17 are in a wide format with slightly different designs in plane and background (see fig. 2 and 3). Later a 30h violet was printed with the nation's label hyphenated to read "Cesko-Slovensko". (see fig. 4).

There is a difference in dimensions found in the 50h green, the 1 kč red, and 2 kč green and the 4 kč blue even though they were all printed from one single plate. These dimensions are as follows:

| <u>Denomination</u> | <u>Original Dimensions</u> | <u>New Dimensions</u> |
|---------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 50h Green | 17.7 x 21 MM | 17.2 x 21.7 MM |
| 1k Red | 17.7 x 21 MM | 17.2 x 21.7 MM |
| 2kc Green | 31.5 x 21.5 MM | 30.5 x 21.8 MM |
| 4kc Dark Blue | 31.5 x 21.5 MM | 30.5 x 21.8 MM |

The explanation for these differences has to do with the way the paper roll was cut which in one case was slit in the longitudinal direction of the roll and in the second instance, transversely. The cut sheets, which were wetted prior to printing, shrank the design to the differing dimensions when they were dried. The paper expands in longitudinal direction and shrinks in transverse direction, so that the stamps are either higher and narrower or shorter and wider.

These stamps were printed from steel plates and since there were frequent printings, there are many shade varieties. They were line perforated 13 3/4. However, a few stamps were found to be perforated 12 1/4, so the Ministry of Posts issued some additional values with line perf 12 1/4. Despite that, they are all more valuable than



Fig. 5



Fig. 6



Fig. 7



Fig. 8



Fig. 9

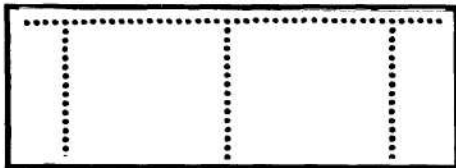


Fig. 10



Fig. 11

those with $13 \frac{3}{4}$ perfs. Other perforations also exist, as well as imperforates, but those are mainly proofs and were not valid for postage.

The above-mentioned group of stamps with their perforation varieties and their slightly different dimensions highlight the necessity of obtaining very accurate perforation gauges and a very accurate millimeter rule, both of which should be used under magnification. There are many perforation gauges available—some more accurate than others. Be sure to check with reliable authorities before choosing which ones to buy.

At this point it might be well to consider the difference between "line" and "comb" perforations, since stamps of Czechoslovakia, particularly the First Republic, were perforated by both methods. The terms "line" and "comb" refer to the positions of pins in perforators and how they work. The "line" perforator perforates in a straight line across the entire sheet, both horizontally and vertically. The "comb" perforator has pins that literally look like a comb and move from one side of the sheet to the other, cutting the comb sequentially. The comb just cuts down the page (actually it is the paper that moves, not the comb). Thus the holes at the corner are "clean", that is, they do not overlap. The line seldom has clean corners because the pins are not mounted in a horizontal-vertical relationship. Note the "clean" corners of the comb

perfs in fig. 10 and the ragged or overlapping corners on the line perfs in fig. 11.

The next set of airmail stamps was issued during 1946-47, a total of nine stamps. They are Scott nos. C19 to C37. Four of them show the portrait of a flyer (see fig. 5); the others show planes in flight (see fig. 6). Each stamp has a different color and denomination. Those showing a plane in flight exist with coupon tabs (see fig. 7). In September 1949 when new airmail rates took effect, C19 to C22, C24, C26 and C27 were surcharged with new values and bars obliterating the old denominations. The surcharged stamps are listed as Scott nos. C28 through C35 (see fig. 8).

The last set to be mentioned here is the airmail issue of 1951. These stamps were issued in

miniature sheets of ten, as was illustrated in Fig. 5, page 10 of the Sept/Oct 1993 SPECIALIST. They picture an airplane flying over various cities. There were four stamps in this set. They show a plane flying over Karlový Vary (6 kč, sage green), over Piešťany (10kč, deep plum), over Mariánské Lázně (15 kč, ultramarine, see fig. 9) and over Silač (20 kč, sepia). They came perforated $13 \frac{1}{2}$ only.

This last set comprises the first airmails to be issued by the country's new Communist regime. These as well as most of the sets that followed were as attractive as the early issues and their propagandistic themes were kept, with a few exceptions, to a minimum. Many collectors who specialize in airmails will find those of Czechoslovakia particularly appealing.

Member of the Month**FRANK A. GARANCOVSKY**

Born in 1924 of immigrant Slovak parents in Youngstown, Ohio (commonly known as Mahoning Valley), it took Frank Garancovsky more than 60 years to discover and join the S.C.P., whose activities he now enjoys thoroughly. He spoke Slovak at home and did not learn much English until he went to parochial school. At Collegeville, Ind. he attended St. Joseph's College where he became acquainted with Jack Benchik's uncle and Gil Hodges of baseball fame. During World War II he hopperscotted the Pacific for two years as communications officer for a fighter control unit. As a civilian, he joined the U.S. Postoffice in Youngstown first as a clerk, then as a carrier and branch supervisor and finally as an accounting manager, retiring after 31 years of service.



In 1975, he survived a heart attack with triple bypass surgery. Following his retirement, he and his wife moved to Florida, then Arkansas, then Kentucky and lastly, back to Ohio. While in Lexington, Ky., he attended a local stamp show and got hooked on philately. He focused his specialized interests on Czechoslovakia and discovered how much was lacking about that country in Scott's Catalog. With several philatelic correspondents in Czechoslovakia, he acquired handbooks and catalogs which enabled him to fill many missing gaps. With timely advice from members like Wolfgang Fritzsche and Charles Chesloe, his collection has grown appreciably in content and value.

So far, Frank Garancovsky has not exhibited. At his current youthful age, he believes in attending as many stamp shows as possible so he can study what makes certain exhibits continuous winners. In 1991, he travelled to Czechoslovakia and obtained considerable material to improve his collections of Bohemia-Moravia as well as Slovakia. In addition, he collects U.S. coils, booklets, unfolded panes and matched blocks of se-tenant issues.

One of these days, he will surprise us all by exhibiting some of his specialized material. Look to him to win on what he exhibits just as he has won our writing contest by submitting the article on booklets published in this issue.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

I make reference to your "Lost SPECIALIST" article in the July/Aug 1993 issue on page 20/21 and to the answer you published in the Sept/Oct issue on page 15/16 from Frank Garancovsky.

I think that the history of this "Lost SPECIALIST" is not such a mystery. The publication had been sent to and stamped by your bulk mail contact in Klatovy because I too have copies of that issue sent to me from Klatovy. The postage should have 5kč instead of 3kč. "T" for "Tax" or "postage due" was probably hand-stamped on it at Klatovy and should have been charged by the postman to the addressee. Why the addressee's correct address in Prague was not known to him is, of course, an unresolved question. After that, the publication was sent back to the return address in the U.S. shown on the address page without an additional fee. Our postoffice was tolerant.

With kind regards,
Ing. Jiří Cisler, Praha, Czech Republic



Fig. 1

Dear Mirko:

A not-too-pretty but interesting cover I rescued from a Prague wastebasket, as shown in this illustration.

The postal meter marking from Postoffice Praha 1 Nové Mlýny is devoted to Prague's Postal Museum (see SPECIALIST of Nov/Dec 1991, p. 12), a superb institution for philatelic education and research.

The 8kč meter reflects the combined rates of postage and registry. Delivery of the letter to the addressee did not materialize and the addressee did not fetch the letter from the postoffice (NEVYZVEDNUTO). It was hence returned to the sender (VRACENO ZPĚT). A very faint rubber stamp near the denomination position of the meter reads ADRESÁT NEZASTIŽEN (Addressee not encountered). The penned marking above probably shows attempts at delivery. (see fig. 1)

Yours truly,
Henry Hahn

Dear Mirko:

Thank you for the nice write-up and wishes for my recovery, especially for your encouragement. I am healing well, taking daily brisk walks of a half hour each and doing everything the doctor prescribed.

Enclosed is a clipping from the Czech publication FILATELIE discussing the contents of the July/Aug 1993 SPECIALIST which a friend of mine sent me. Also enclosed is a special meter cancel publicizing RELIGFILA exhibition in the Nitra Museum from June 6 to July 5, 1993, showing religious objects of Slovakia. Note that despite the split into two separate countries effective January 1, 1993, the meter bears the name "ČESKOSLOVENSKO" six months later. (see fig. 2)

Sincerely,
Joseph Lacko

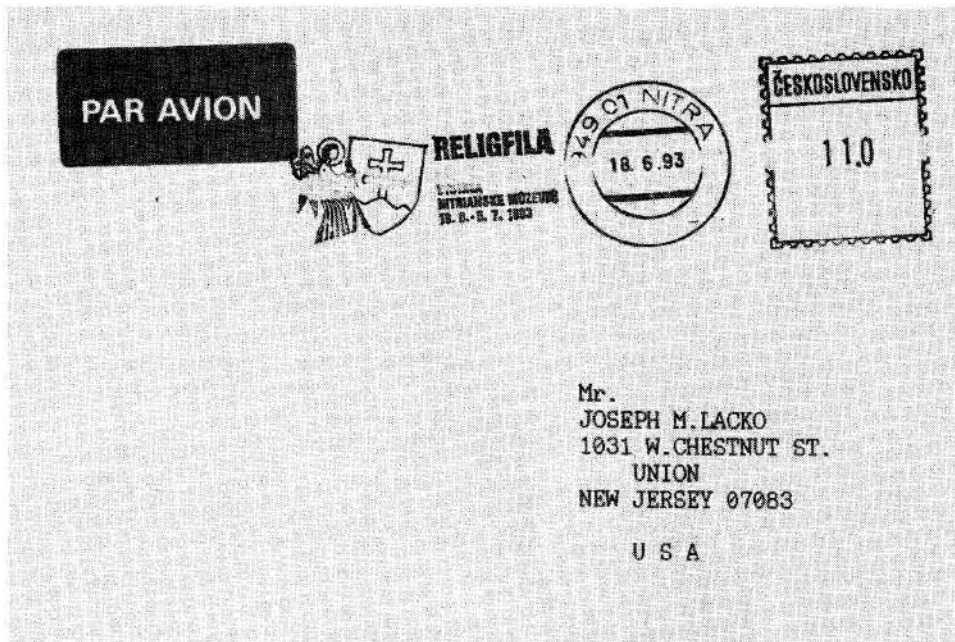


Fig. 2

(Ed. Note-The brief article in *FILATELIE* is of course in the Czech Language. It refers to interesting articles by Henry Hahn about the international exhibition at Poznan, Poland (POLSKA 93), by Gerald van Zanten on Emma Destinn, by Vladimír Králíček on Czechoslovak fieldpost in England during 1942, by Stig Asklund on international mail rates during the war years and Joseph Lacko's assortment of ten covers from Slovakia).

Editorial Hinges

HISTORY OF THE INDEX

During a Board meeting which took place about 1988 (give or take one year), Anne Vondra, wife of your editor and then cataloging librarian at the Lancaster County Public Library, was delegated to revise and update the *SPECIALIST* Index.

The person credited with compiling the first Index of our *SPECIALIST* was Wolfgang Fritzsche. That was published in the Jan. 1945 issue. This he followed up with another Index in the Dec. 1948 issue. These two Indexes were rudimentary in scope and were limited to feature articles only. In the 1948 Index, Fritzsche made this observation in his introductory remarks: "... In this Index we omit the titles and authors as well as material which has no bearing on stamps."

With the passage of time and the accumulation of 25 volumes of our then-monthly periodical, Fritzsche decided on compiling a cumulative Index which covered the first 25 years and was published in the Feb. and March 1964 issues. Dr. William Reiner-Deutsch then compiled a continuing series of Indexes from 1963 to 1968 published serially in several issues starting in April 1964.

The first complete Index to be published singly and issued in booklet form was in June 1982. It covered the period from 1964 to 1980 and was compiled through the combined efforts of Mrs. Henry Stollnitz and Anne Vondra. It is still available to members through our Society Library.

When Anne Vondra accepted the invitation to compile a then 50-year Index, certain guidelines were laid down which she agreed to follow. These included a compilation of all philatelic-related material in all issues starting with vol. I no. 1 to the present (meaning the last

issue of the last complete year). It also included doing it in the same or similar form as the June 1982 published Index which, incidentally, was titled "Subject Index".

POLLING THE MEMBERSHIP

A 50-year Index comprising 50 volumes of 10 issues each means indexing 500 issues, each containing, on the average, 12 pages each, following by three years of 6 issues, 24 pages each. All told, that left about 6,550 pages to be indexed by a single person.

Anne Vondra undertook the project on a part-time basis for the first 4 or 5 years and full time after she retired at the end of 1992. She had reached the point where all the issues from the very first up to the end of 1993 were indexed manually on index cards and ready for compilation in book form.

In the meantime, technology in our country has been overtaking the era of printed books. Libraries (both public and private) are replacing their card index catalogs with computers. Within our Society several Board members have now voiced their beliefs that a more efficient and less expensive way of providing our members with a complete Index is to simply sort all the SPECIALISTS' contents by subject, title, author and date of publication by one of several possible computer programs, including Word Perfect, Data Base or Paradox.

In essence, there are three possible ways of providing our members with a comprehensive 55-year Index:

- a. Compiled manually and printed by laser print on loose-leaf paper to be inserted in a 3-ring binder. This would be updated by annual printed Supplements which would replace certain obsolete pages for a small annual fee.
- b. Compiled on one of three computer programs mentioned above and available on floppy disk for sale to members at reasonable prices.
- c. Compiled by combining printing with computerization. Again, the indexed information would be entered on one of the three computer programs, then copied on floppy disc and laser printed on loose leaf pages with both available for sale.

To help guide the Board in making the right decision, we are polling the membership and requesting each member to respond to the questions listed below. You may either photocopy this list and return it with your answers or you may, if you so desire, write your answers on a separate sheet of paper, elaborating on them as you see fit. Remember, the more responses we get, the more appropriate will be the Board's decision and the more likely it can satisfy the majority of our members. A total response from every member CAN be achieved, provided each of you resolve to cooperate and do YOUR part in furnishing us with the requested answers.

1. How far back does your collection of SPECIALISTS go?
2. Have you ever used one of the existing SPECIALIST Indexes to locate information in previous issues? If so, what results have you had?
3. If you had access to a comprehensive 55-year Index, would you use it?
4. How necessary is such an Index for your philatelic needs?
5. If you used the Index and the information you sought was in an issue you did not have, would you then request a copy of that issue from our Librarian?
6. Do you own or have access to a computer? If so, specify brand.
7. Would you buy a 55-year Index in loose-leaf form with annual Supplements if it were available?
8. Would you buy a floppy disc to bring up the same information on a computer?
9. How comprehensive should an Index be, ie. what headings do you recommend? Should it include topicals, New Issue entries, scheduled shows and meetings?
10. If called upon, would you be willing to enter a 55-year Index on a computer using one of the three listed programs, to be laser printed and copied on floppy disc?

Please mail and address your answers within thirty days to Mirko L. Vondra, 1511 Clearview Ave., Lancaster, PA 17601. Responses to our questions, with commentaries, will be published as space permits.

SCHEDULE OF SLOVAKIA'S NEW ISSUES FOR 1994

| St. No. | Issuance Date | Name of Issue | Face Value in Sk* | Size | Print Type | Sheet or Se-tenant |
|---------|---------------|--|-------------------|---------|------------|--------------------|
| 1. | 25.1. | WPG/HIGH-JUMPS | 2 | 23 X 30 | Wif | |
| 2. | .3. | Year of the Family | 3 | 23 X 30 | Wif | |
| | | Personalities | | | | |
| 3. | 21.3. | Chattam Sófer | 5 | 23 X 30 | Wif | |
| 4. | 21.3. | A. de Saint Exupéry | 9 | 23 X 30 | Wif | |
| 5. | 21.3. | J. A. Segner | 8 | 23 X 30 | Wif | |
| 6. | 21.3. | Š. Banič | 10 | 23 X 30 | Wif | |
| 7. | 21.3. | W. Kempelen | 6 | 23 X 30 | Wif | |
| | | BEAUTIES OF OUR COUNTRY | | | | |
| 8. | 21.4. | Kostolany under Tribeč | 20 | 33 X 33 | Wif | |
| 9. | 21.4. | Svatopluk - 1100 anniv. | 12 | 40 X 50 | Wt | Se-tenant |
| 10. | 17.5. | World soccer championships | 2 | 23 X 50 | Wif | |
| 11. | 20.5. | 120th anniversary of UPU | 8 | 40 X 23 | Wif | |
| 12. | 31.5. | World Anti-smoking Day | 3 | 23 X 30 | Wif | |
| 13. | 31.5. | EUROPA-Murgaš | 28 | 26 X 40 | St | Se-tenant |
| 14. | 23.5. | Olympic Movement - WOC | 8 | 23 X 30 | Wif | |
| 15. | 4.7. | Wildlife protection-eagle | 4 | 40 X 23 | Wif | |
| 16. | 4.7. | Wildlife protection-falcon | 4 | 40 X 23 | Wif | |
| 17. | 4.7. | Wildlife protection-owl | 4 | 40 X 23 | Wif | |
| 19. | 28.8. | 50th anniversary of Slovak National Uprising, Golian-Viest | 6 | 40 X 23 | Wif | |
| 20. | 28.8. | French partisan | 24 | 40 X 23 | Wif | Sheet |
| 21. | 31.8. | 150 anniv. "Nad Tatrou" | 34 | 26 X 40 | Wt | Sheet |
| 22. | .9. | B. Bystrica Post office Established | 3 | 23 X 30 | Wif | |
| 23. | .9. | 75th anniversary of Bratislava Comenius University | 22 | 23 X 40 | Wif | |
| 24. | 22.10. | Art on Stamps | 7 | 40 X 50 | Wt | |
| 25. | 22.10. | -V. Hložník | 14 | 40 X 50 | Wt | Se-tenant |
| 27. | 14.11. | Christmas | 2 | 23 X 30 | Wif | |
| 28. | 1.12. | Slovak shipyard | 5 | 40 X 23 | Wif | |
| 29. | 1.12. | Slovak shipyard | 8 | 40 X 23 | Wif | |
| 30. | 1.12. | Slovak shipyard | 10 | 40 X 23 | Wif | |
| | | *Slovak Koruny (crowns) | | | | |

ZDENĚK KVASNIČKA - 1905-1993

The Society mourns the passing of its long-time member, Zdenek Kvasnička of Praha. Dr. Kvasnička had many friends in the S.C.P. One of them Ed Sabol, has submitted the following lines translated from a Czech poem which he has dedicated in his memory:

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love, for it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life. Amen



This last known public photograph of the late Zdeněk Kvasnička was taken a few months before his death on Dec. 28, 1993 after he just turned 88. He is shown on the left with his friend, Jan Karásek on the right. (This photo comes to us courtesy of our member, Ed Sabol of Woodbury, N.J.)

ZDENĚK KVASNIČKA (1905 - 1993)

A personal tribute by Henry Hahn

Zdeněk Kvasnička's passing just two days after his eighty-eighth birthday, on December 28, 1993 brought many a tear to generations of collectors, to whom he was an outstanding human being, an unequalled collector, exhibitor, teacher, author and elder statesman. He is survived by his loving wife and son, Ivo.

Many have known Zdeněk Kvasnička better than I, and much will undoubtedly appear in philatelic print, both in the Czech Republic - (he lived and died in Prague) - and in other parts of the world in which collectors were more influenced by him than by any single individual.

Zdeněk Kvasnička was born in Hodonín, Moravia but left for Prague at an early age to learn the food retailing trade. By the mid-thirties he became owner of a succession of food retailing and wholesaling businesses, which he "lost" following the "political events" of 1948. His continuous interest and dedication to philately led him toward his second career,

which was as a buyer for the State Philatelic Agency "POFIS", where I first made his acquaintance. My first purchase, through his "good offices" was a specialized collection of the Chainbreaker issue which included the first installment of his course of education that was to last nearly up to the time of my last visit with him during the week of Thanksgiving.

As an exhibitor, he hardly had an equal. He once mentioned that he first exhibited in Bratislava in 1937, though his first International showing was PRAGA 1938. His triumph in FIP International Exhibiting came at PRAGA 1968 with his "CZECHOSLOVAKIA 1918 - 1939" for which he received the Grand National Prize. Ten years later, at PRAGA 78, Zdeněk Kvasnička, then serving on the Commission for the Czechoslovak Stamp, and as a member of the FIP jury, assembled a two hundred (200) frame non-competitive exhibit by members of the Commission. This exhibit will almost certainly remain the most comprehensive showing of Czechoslovakia ever to be seen. PRAGA 78 was also my first FIP experience and my first "gold". His human side was securely in place, for after the show he took me aside and said: "You are lucky I didn't notice it while judging - but DO take that phoney cancel on your Narodnie Noviny (Martin) provisional newspaper label out!" (I did).

Kvasnička's range of philatelic interest reached well beyond his Grand National Prize-winning "Czechoslovakia 1918-1939". He collected classical Austria, Old German States, Serbia, Bosnia and probably others. In the course of my penultimate visit with him last spring, just after POLSKA 93, we spoke of the Vienna and Prague Pneumatic Mail. A few years earlier, in the course of a lengthy visit, he showed me his magnificent collection of Pneumatic Mail Postal Stationery, and instantly inspired me to try to follow in his path. Ivo, his son and highly regarded Scout Issue Exhibitor, this time exhibited patience while I listened carefully to the old gentleman's remarks. During a break, Mrs. Kvasnička snapped a picture of the three of us under the original design of the 1938 Vouziers stamp which hangs in the Kvasnička living room. This photo appeared in the March 1981 SPECIALIST, page 4.

Our generation of collectors living in the Czech Republic honors Kvasnička most as a philatelic judge and as a mentor who has had a major influence on the way their exhibits of the 70's and 80's were constituted. Those of us living outside the Czech Republic are most indebted to him for his philatelic writing which displays vast knowledge and his selfless desire to share with his colleagues. The most significant example of this is his co-authorship of "Padělky Československých Poštovních Známek" (Forgeries of Czechoslovak Postage Stamps) the translation of which, by Jerry Verner and me, remains the all-time best seller among our Society publications. A frequent contributor to the SPECIALIST, his full complement of articles will be listed when the new SPECIALIST Index becomes available.

Zdeněk Kvasnička loved philately as well as philatelists. In his earlier years he devoted a great deal of his effort to organized philately. The last time I saw him in public was at the PRAGA 88 banquet at Prague's Palace of Culture. Here, without official function, his presence gave the occasion undisputedly true class.

We will always cherish his memory and wish to express our condolences to his family and loved ones.

New Issues

CZECH REPUBLIC

1. On January 19, the Ministry of Economy issued a postage stamp commemorating "Tradition of Czech Music". Having a face value of 3 Kč, the stamp shows a portrait of the famous Czech violinist Jan Kubelik, father of Raphael Kubelik, with a music staff and a violin in the background. The vertical text along the right side reads: "Jan Kubelik 1880 - 1940." Designed by academic painter and graphic artist Karel Demel, and engraved by



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

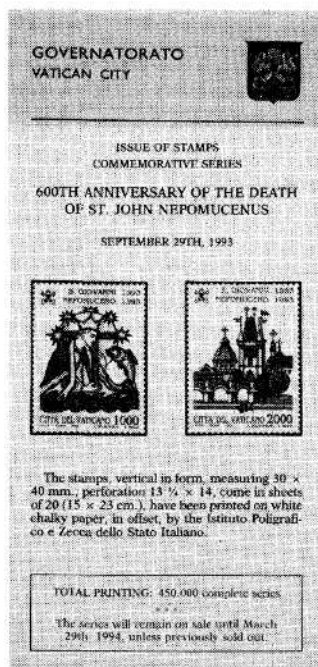


Fig. 3

Martin Srb, the picture is 38 x 23 mm in size. It was printed at the Post Printery in Prague by rotary recess press in black color with dual colored photogravure in bright yellow and orange-yellow and produced in sheets of fifty. (see fig. 1)

The first-day cover with a commemorative cancellation has a drawing of a violin with music notes and the text "Tradition of Czech Music" in Czech. It was printed by recess print from flat plates in black-grey and brown colors.

2. Also on January 19, the Ministry of Economy issued a stamp commemorating the International Year of the Family as declared by the United Nations. Having a face value of 2 Kč, it shows a stylized drawing of a family of three in an embrace symbolizing love, devotion and security of home. The text on the left side reads "Mezinárodní Rok Rodiny - 1994" (International Year of the Family - 1994). Designed by academic painter and graphic artist Alfred Fuchsa, and engraved by Václav Fajt, the picture size is 23 x 30 mm. It was printed at the Post Printery in Prague by rotary recess print in brown color combined with four-colored photogravure in violet, red, brown-green and blue in sheets of fifty. (see fig. 2).

The first-day cover with a commemorative cancellation bears a drawing of a table set for a family with the text "International Year of the Family - 1994" in English and the official emblem. It was printed by rotary print from flat plates in green.

Both stamps are valid for both domestic and international use from date of issue until withdrawn from circulation.

VATICAN CITY

In the May/June 1993 SPECIALIST, page 22, we reported on the issuance of a new stamp honoring St. John Nepomuk. The stamp was issued jointly by the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Germany. We have recently learned that a fourth country has issued a set of two stamps honoring the Czech saint. Rather than describe all the details relating to the stamp, we are taking this opportunity to reprint the flyer, courtesy of our alert assistant editor, Gerald van Zanten, that he obtained from Vatican City describing this fine set. Topical collectors, please take note!

The stamps themselves were illustrated by C. Brusvaglia and S. Isola in the following denominations:

1.000 Lira - A stylized version of the Saint bearing a cross and surrounded by a halo with five stars. On the right, a carp is seen leaping out of the waters of the River Vltava.

2.000 Lira - Some of Praha's churches and towers with Charles Bridge in the foreground. A fish may be seen swimming through the waters of the Vltava (see fig. 3).

BOOK REVIEW**KATALOG ČESKOSLOVENSKÝCH POŠTOVNÍCH ZNÁMEK 1918-1939**

Svaz českých filatelistů, Praha, 1992

Stamp catalogs are the among the most basic tools for philatelists - and we are never satisfied with them. They have too little or too much detail. They are too big to take along to dealer bourses or so small as to be incomplete, not adequately covering our special areas of interest. And the prices are always out of date. A good part of the trouble, it seems to me, is that we expect any given catalog to be all things to all people; to fit the needs of the moments and to be continually useful. Of course such expectations, while understandable, are not realistic. The result is that our philatelic book shelves fill up with specialized catalogs to complement our favorite general catalog.

The recently published **Katalog Československých poštovních známek 1918-1923** will certainly fall into the complementary category. This small, 56-page volume was published in 1992 by the Svaz českých filatelistů (Union of Czech Philatelists) in conjunction with the firm Filatelie Trojan. The catalog was put together by Pavel Pittermann and proofed by Jan Karásek. Its purpose, as outlined in the Forward, is to give collectors a quick, contemporary overview of the prices of Czechoslovak stamps issued during the 1918-1923 period. The stamps issued through 1935 are priced in three columns: the first for unhinged, superb mint copies; the second for hinged, mint copies; and the third for used copies. For stamps issued after 1935 only two columns are used - unhinged mint and used. It is assumed that mint stamps issued after 1935 that have been hinged are valued at only half that of an unhinged copy. Values are in Czech koruny (or crowns) and in straight type for stamps that appear on the stamp market regularly. Values for stamps that seldom appear on the regular stamp market are listed in italicized type and are based on prices realized in auctions. The "classic" -- indicates stamps, all rare, for which "objective" values can not be established. It should be remembered, however, that the prices listed are in koruny in the Czech philatelic market and reflect, in the opinion of this writer, the shortage of better classic material in that market.

The small size of the catalog makes it very useful as a take-along for stamp shows, club meetings and such. Its disadvantage is that only the main types and sub-types of stamps are listed. However, these do include perforation and paper varieties. Additional, useful information is given in condensed paragraphs following the stamp listing for each issue. The practice of reprinting stamps of this period, using original plates to create sheetlets which were then distributed in catalogs, books, or exhibit catalogs, was common in the 1960-80s period. The issuing authority assumed that the sheetlets would make the publications more attractive to philatelists because, it was further assumed, the sheetlets would soon find their place in the philatelic marketplace. They have, and are now sought, by many collectors. Such reprints are listed and priced. Also listed and priced are some counterfeits, especially those intended to defraud the Post.

At the end of the catalog are listings of the S.O., Scout, Siberian Field Post and private overprints. Also included are Austrian stamps which were used in Czechoslovakia before it produced its own stamps, that is, during the period October 28, 1918 to February 28, 1919. Users of this catalog should note that the first column is the valuation of a used stamp on piece or with the entire cancellation showing (bulls-eye cancel); the second column is for such stamps on covers. And finally, for the philatelist who also dabbles in coins, page 56 has a price list of Czechoslovak silver coins issued between 1947 and 1992.

Our members will certainly find this catalog a useful addition to their libraries. They will also be pleased to learn that a few copies of this catalog are currently available through our Society's publication service. (see Available Publications on page 26)

Jaroslav J. Verner

AVAILABLE PUBLICATIONS

We have received a supply of Czech and Slovak catalogs that should prove very useful to the serious collector. They are in paperback style and easy to follow in case you don't know the language

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| 1. Catalog-Czechoslovak Postage Stamps 1918-39 Published | \$8.00 Postpaid |
| 2. Catalog-Czechoslovak Postage Stamps 1945-89 Published by POFIS Bratislava | \$9.00 Postpaid |
| 3. Catalog-Czechoslovak Postage Stamps 1945-91 Published by Svaz Českých Filatelistu | \$10.00 Postpaid |
| 4. Catalog-Czechoslovak Booklet Stamps Published by POFIS | \$5.00 Postpaid |
| 5. Catalog-Slovak Postage Stamps 1939-45 Published in Bratislava 1990 | \$10.00 Postpaid |

Other publications that are still available:

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| FUNDAMENTAL PHILATELIC TERMINOLOGY This pamphlet lists philatelic terms in Czech/German/English . An invaluable tool. | \$2.50 Postpaid |
| KAFKA IN PRAGUE. A souvenir card published by the Kafka Society with the official Kafka stamps. Great for the topical collector. | \$5.00 Postpaid |
| FORGERIES OF CZECHOSLOVAK STAMPS The English translation and fully illustrated. | \$22.50 Postpaid |
| AGRICULTURE & SCIENCE ISSUE of 1923 A new study of this famous issue. In Czech | \$10.00 Postpaid |
| HRADČANY By Jan Karásek. For the Hradčany specialist. | \$7.50 Postpaid |
| PERFORATION HANDBOOK By Jan Karásek. In Czech. 1918-39 issues. | \$7.00 Postpaid |

All prices are postpaid and orders should be placed with:

SOCIETY FOR CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELY
217 Hazel Avenue
Westfield NJ 07090 Attention: E. W. Lehecka

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Due to lack of space, we have had to forego printing the "Welcome to New Members" column in the last few issues. Belatedly we now take this opportunity to welcome into our Society those who have been accepted as new members since June 1993. We invite their attention to the "Membership Benefits" article appearing on page 2 of this issue. If they have any additional questions or inquiries, it is suggested they contact any of the Board members whose names and addresses are listed on the bottom of the same page under the Publisher's Statement.

- 1.1668 Linda Pankuch, 33 Stewart Court, New Britain CT
- 2.1669 Fumikazu Shimizu, 1809-3-402 Shimo-Sakunobe Takat, Kawasaki-Shi, Kanaj,
Japan

- 3.1670 John Tinney, 5 Niki 2 Court, Frankston, Vic, Australia 3199
- 4.1971 Gerard York, Box 15152, Altamonte Springs, FL 32715
- 5.1972 F. S. Duda, 1233 Litard Knot Creek, Oviedo, FL 32765
- 6.1973 Walter R. Liphardt, 166 Azalea Trail, Leesburg, FL 34748
- 7.1974 Mrs. Janet R. Koupal, 303 Menlo Ct., Walnut Creek, CA 94598
- 8.1975 Mary Donna Lyons, 11 Carver Circle, Simsbury, CT 06070
- 9.1676 F. Carter, 15 Athlone Drive, Etobicoke, Ont., Can., M8Y 3M5
- 10.1677 Mary Ann Coe, 3302 Crystal Court, Miami, FL 33133
- 11.1678 M. Lanahan, 24935 Roesner Road, Katy, TX 72492
- 12.1679 Josef Chvalkovsky, Sobinská 681, Praha 6 CzRep 16100
- 13.1680 Dr. Dusan Kuca, Rovniakova 16, Bratislava, SLOVAKIA 85102

ERRATA AND APOLOGIA - Our faces are red - not because of sunburn due to an escape from the northeast snow and ice to bask in Florida's sunshine, but because of two successive "faux pas" in illustrating post cards.

In Nov/Dec 1993 SPECIALIST, we inadvertently showed two Masaryk postal cards through a reverse negative (see fig 6 and 7 on page 21). Then in Jan/Feb 1994 issue, we showed a lovely picture of Telč on page 12 when we meant to show the reverse side with its cancel markings. Our apologies to both Phil Freer and Henry Hahn for these "crimes of the heart."

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