



# THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

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A. P. S. Unit 18

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## SOCIETY TO MEET AT NOJEX

We now have final plans and details for the 1994 Annual Meeting and get-together to be held May 28-30, 1994 at NOJEX, Meadowlands Hilton, Secaucus, N.J. This location is easily reached by Garden State Parkway or N.J. turnpike, both connecting to Route 3. Newark Airport is nearby and although none of the hotels offer airport service, a limo service is available for \$17. The Meadowlands Hilton offers a show rate of \$84 including continental breakfast. NOJEX offers an additional \$10 discount coupon on this rate. Please contact me directly for both hotel application and discount coupon. The only other hotel within easy walking distance is the Red Roof Inn at 15 Meadowlands Parkway (201-319-1000) and they quote a \$68 rate.

Society activities will be centered on Saturday, the show's opening day. At 2 P.M. we will hold a general meeting, present a program and have an awards ceremony. Our speaker will be one of our British members, Alec Page, a specialist in "World War II Exiled Forces" material, who will share with us his extensive knowledge on this subject. During this meeting we will also make the award for the Best Society Exhibit. At 6 P.M. all members are invited to join together for fellowship and a good dinner at a nearby restaurant. The Board will hold its annual meeting at approximately 7:30 at the Hilton.

The NOJEX banquet will be held at 7:30 Sunday, May 29th. All reservations must be made in advance. None will be accepted at NOJEX. The cost is \$35 per person and reservation forms can be obtained from chairman Ed Lehecka.

NOJEX will provide free bus service from Penn Station in New York City on a regular basis to the Hilton for the duration of the show. Remember that this is a three day show beginning on Saturday, May 28th and the Society's lounge table will be fully manned all three days with members ready to answer your questions and a full range of publications available for sale.

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THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Please introduce yourself to our officers so we can get to know you and better serve your needs.  
Please contact me if you have any questions or need hotel applications, discount coupons or banquet applications. All of these forms have cutoffs so do not delay.

Edwin W. Lehecka, Chairman, 217 Hazel Avenue, Westfield, NJ 07090  
Tel: 908-232-4159 FAX: 908-889-8162

Here is a list of a few of the 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 information, contact Ed Lehecka. (see above)
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.

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## KAFKA AND PRAGUE

By Gerald M. van Zanten

### Preface

Egon Ervin Kisch (see Nov/Dec 1993 SPECIALIST, Page 14) once told Gustav Janouch, Kafka's friend, "Prague is different. Prague is a spell - something that holds you and always draws you back to her. One can't forget her." In 1902, Franz Kafka wrote, "Prague doesn't release you. This little mother has claws." In one of his letters he also wrote, "I have never lived among the Germans; German is my native tongue and therefore it is natural for me, but Czech has grown more into my heart." And in a letter to Felice Bauer on August 14, 1913, he stated, "I have no literary interests but am made of literature. I am nothing else and cannot be anything else." The author Joseph Wechsberg writes that Kafka knew how to put the whole world into one word. That word is "Prague." Hugo Siebenschein, a literary critic, said, "Kafka and his friends were German according to their language and Jews according to their origin, but they refused not to love or even to hate, the Czechs with whom they shared their hopes of civilization."

Franz Kafka was born on July 3, 1883 above the Battalion Schnapps Bar on the corner of Maislová and Kaprová Streets. Maislová was named after Mordechai Maisel, a rich man and former mayor of the Jewish Town. The Bar below his birthplace has since been demolished. (see fig. 1) A bust of Kafka by K. Hladik identifies "U Radnice 5" near St. Nicholas Church in the Old Town Square standing on the site of the house where he was born.

Kafka attended the German School on the Fleischmarkt in 1889, German being the native tongue of his parents. From that time, the family lived for seven years in the beautiful Renaissance Dum U Nimuti, next door to Staroměstská Radnice.

In 1893 at the tender age of ten, Franz went to the German Gymnasium located on the third floor of the Golzkinsky Palace on Altstadter Ring. From there he graduated in July 1901 and began his studies in chemistry and later in law at Prague's Karl-Ferdinand University. A semester of German studies was followed by a journey to Munich in October 1902, after which he resumed his law studies. Toward the end of that year he met his lifelong friend and posthumous biographer and editor of his works, Max Brod, for the first time.

In 1905, Kafka wrote BESCHREIBUNG EINES KAMPFE (Description of a Struggle). After receiving a Doctorate of Law in 1906, he took up law practice in October of that year. However, writing was in his blood and he wrote part of HOCHZEIFORBEREITUNGEN

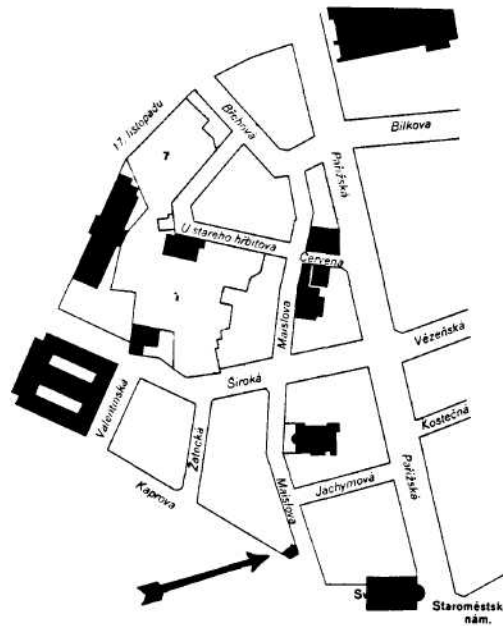


Fig. 1



Milena Jesenská

Fig. 2

AUF DEM LANDE (Wedding Preparations in the Country). Though his writings were in German, he considered himself a true Czech author. His Prague-based literature was to have a significant impact on world literature at the commencement of the 20th century.

He took up temporary employment at the "Assicurazioni Generali", an Italian insurance company in October 1907. The following year he accepted a post at the Workers' Insurance Office on Na Poříčí, where he remained until he was forced to retire due to ill health in 1922.

With his friend, Max Brod, Kafka travelled to Italy in September 1909, visiting Riva (just north of Lago di Garda) and Brescia (west of the same lake and about 50 km. east of Milan).

The following year sees the start of his diaries, his visits to performances of a Yiddish Theater group as well as a trip to Paris in October. Another vacation to the North Italian Lakes with Max and Otto Brod was undertaken in 1911, after which he spent some time

at the Erlenbach Sanatorium near Zurich. Then, in July 1912, he made a trip to Weimar and on August 13, he met Felice Bauer (note Preface to article) which was the beginning of their correspondence. However, she had to suffer through his chronic indecision over matrimony.

That year, Kafka commenced work on AMERICA which was to become his funniest story. In it he tells about a young immigrant, Karl Rossman, who "was packed off to America" by his parents only to find himself caught up in a whirlwind of dizzying reversals, strange escapades and picturesque adventures. It was his first such story. It was followed that same year by THE JUDGMENT.

He made trips to Vienna, Venice and again to Riva and published a story titled MEDITATION. He became engaged to Felice Bauer in June 1914, but the engagement was broken off the following month.

While living in bachelors' quarters on the corner of Dlouhá and Masná Streets in Prague, he worked on THE TRIAL and THE PENAL COLONY. THE TRIAL is the terrifying story of Joseph K., his arrest and trial, and has proven to be one of the great novels of the 20th century, despite its relatively short length (120 pages). The PENAL COLONY, together with METAMORPHOSIS, A COUNTRY DOCTOR, THE JUDGMENT and A HUNGER ARTIST brings together a powerful collection of stories published during his lifetime. It was during this period of time that he met Albert Einstein (1879-1955) at the celebrated literary salon of Berta Fantova at 17 Old Town Square in Prague.

After a brief reunion with Felice Bauer in January 1915, he undertook a trip to Hungary. Returning to Prague, he settled down first in the Bilekgasse and afterwards in the Langegasse during which period he was awarded the Fontane Prize for Literature. The following year, he stopped in Marienbad to visit Felice Bauer and then proceeded to Munich for a public reading of his PENAL COLONY. There he took a room in the house of his sister, Ottla, in the Alchimistengasse.

Back in Prague, he moved into the Schonborn Palace on Malá Strana. Built by Karl of Lichtenstein in the first half of the 17th century, the Palace subsequently belonged to the Counts of Colloredo and, after World War II, became the American Embassy.





Fig. 3A

For the second time, Kafka became engaged to Felice Bauer, but two months later, his illness was diagnosed as tuberculosis and soon thereafter, that engagement was again broken off.

He spent the winter of 1918 in the Pension Studl, where he met and became engaged to Julie Wohryzek, daughter of a Jewish shoemaker - a match vigorously opposed by her father which prompted Kafka to write BRIEF AN DEN FATER (Letter to Her Father) which was never sent.

Travelling to Vienna, he met Milena Jesenská (see fig.2). She was an attractive Czech journalist of remarkable personality. She helped kindle Kafka's strong interest in Czech culture. Born in Prague on August 10, 1896, she was 13 years his junior. Her father was a prominent and prosperous oral surgeon - a professor at Charles University. Milena received a broad education at the Minerva School for Girls and later enrolled at Medical School, but soon dropped out. She experimented with drugs stolen from her father's practice. She became involved with men, spending her father's money lavishly on presents, flowers and clothes. She was rebellious, extravagant, decadent, daring and very much in love with beauty. Following their meeting, she embarked on a heavy correspondence with Kafka which culminated in their engagement. Meanwhile the ill writer went on sick leave in Merano in 1920 and then transferred to Matliary in the High Tatras, desperately seeking a cure, writing stories the whole time. LETTERS TO MILENA was published by Schocken Books of New York and comprises a compilation of letters written by him to Milena.

In the Autumn of 1921, his health deteriorated further after he returned to Prague. In 1922 while again in the High Tatras, this time in Spindlermuhle, he began work on his story THE CASTLE, which he continued to work on while back with his sister, Orla, in Plana nad Luziči. THE CASTLE was Kafka's final great novel - the haunting tale of a man known only as "K" and his endless struggle against inscrutable authority to gain admittance to a castle. It

*Franz Kafka Society of Prague is an international non-governmental organization aimed at the renewal of the general knowledge of the cultural plurality in Central Europe, where Czechs, Germans and Jews lived together for ages, and at the revival of the traditions which originated the unique phenomenon of the Prague German literature. In order to realize its educational and cultural activities Society has established the Franz Kafka Center, which would gradually encompass a publishing house, a bookshop, a gallery, a congress center, a library etc.*

*Společnost Franze Kafky  
Staroměstské náměstí 22  
Praha 1 - Staré Město*

*Phone: 26 08 44 Faksimile: 22 27 87*

Fig. 3B

is often referred to as his most autobiographical work. The New York Times called it “one of the classics of 20th century literature.”



Fig. 4

Yet another woman appeared on the scene in the person of Dora Dymant with whom Kafka experienced his last moments of happiness. He then moved to Steglitz, near Berlin, where he wrote another collection of short stories. On March 17, 1924, he returned to Prague for the last time. A month later, he was admitted to the Wienerwald Sanatorium in Vienna. Following examination in the University Clinic, he was moved to the Sanatorium in Kierling where he expired on June 3. He was buried in the Strašnice Cemetery in Prague on June 11, 1924.

The story does not end there. While still alive, he had loved Milena Jesenská for two years. She was the only one who translated some of his prose into Czech during his lifetime and she wrote the only obituary after his death in a Czech paper, *Národní Listy*, on June 6, 1924. In November 1939, Milena was arrested by the Nazis in Prague and sent to a camp for people who had consorted with Jews. Later she was transferred to Ravensbruck where, despite her failing health, she was

an inspiration to her fellow prisoners. After an unsuccessful operation, she died at that concentration camp on May 17, 1944, almost twenty years following the death of her lover and literary champion.

As a tragic figure, Franz Kafka eventually earned his place in the history of modern literature much the way Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart partly succeeded in early classical music while still alive. Real success came after death. At Kafka's funeral, the local writer, Johannes Urzidil, pronounced this moving eulogy:

“We German poets wrote in the language in which we lived and which we spoke all day long. That went for Karl Egon Ebert, Rainer Maria Rilke, Egon Ervin Kisch.

Between written poetry and spoken idiom there was no abyss...The complete coincidence of the daily language with the language of poetry is probably the strongest secret of form and effect of the Prague writers, especially of Kafka. Whoever heard him speak, now hears him down to the subtlest nuance in each of his lines."

Today a Franz Kafka Society flourishes in Prague, compiling newly-discovered manuscripts and letters of its namesake and bits of evidence of his personal activities. It also encourages and helps young writers find a foothold in their field of endeavor.

Pictured here is the front and reverse side of a publicity folder released by the Society (fig. 3a and 3b). Inside the folder is a glassine protective slot containing the one and only stamp of Kafka issued by the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications of the former Czechoslovakia. It is part of a six-stamp caricature set issued in June 1969 honoring great cultural figures (fig. 4). Not even on the 100th anniversary of his birth in 1983 was there a special stamp commemorating the occasion. Will this oversight be rectified by a stamp commemorating the 100th anniversary of his death in the year 2024? Mostly our children, if interested, will find out.

## FRANTIŠEK ADÁMEK, MILITARY HERO

*By Miroslav Vostatek*

*Translated by Mirko L. Vondra*

Stamps of the London Issue, whose validity took effect in the Fall of 1945 in liberated Czechoslovakia, contained portraits of some of its fallen servicemen, airmen, medics - troops from western and eastern resistance movements. These were actual living soldiers. I once had the good fortune of discussing them with Dr. Antonin Tichý of Teplice. He was with the exiled Ministry in England in charge of preparing an edition of this set for postal release at the War's end.

Collectors were quick to determine which servicemen were involved. In the course of years, collectors gathered around philatelic groups in the eastern portions of Bohemia researching postal history dealing with the backgrounds of these brave soldiers. They succeeded in finding their friends or comrades-in-arms from whom they secured much relevant information.

One of the least known of these heroes was František Adámek who is seen on both the 60h and the 10k of this set. Despite that fact, I was able to make contact with Jaroslav Řoutil of Leštín only last year (1993). He resides in the same parish in which František Adámek was born and where his sister still resides.

Adámek was born on August 20, 1919 of a poor family. There were five children of whom he was the only boy. He learned the masonry trade and was hired to work in a nearby paper factory. In 1938, Leštín was occupied by the Germans. His escape to the West was a complicated one. He first had to cross the Protectorate border and then travel to Ostrava. There he illegally left his homeland and entered Poland. In Krakow he reported to Czechoslovak Army Headquarters on August 10, 1939 and soon became a soldier in the Czech Legion in Poland. On Sept 18, his unit reached the former Soviet Union and passed through the Camps at Kamenec, Oranka and Suzdal. Together with Polish units, he was recalled to the center of the Eastern Front. He became a member of the Czechoslovak Infantry Battalion no. 11 East. As a foot soldier, he operated in what was then Palestine and Egypt. In October 21, 1941, he was transferred to Tobruk.



It was at Tobruk that he fell on December 6 of that year. At that time, he was a machine-gunner guarding the front lines of the 4th Company. Carefully he prepared his gunner's post, but while under Italian fire, there was a pause in the barrage during which a mine exploded nearby, fatally injuring Gunner Adámek.

I had a picture of the military cemetery at Tobruk where his name is engraved on stone. But the name is given as Addamek F. Jinak. His likeness appears at the family grave in Leštín with a forage-cap on his head.

So much for one twenty-year-old young man who gave his life for his country at the remotely- distant place of Tobruk in North Africa. For this episodic information, my gratitude goes out to Jaroslav Routil.

## ZDENĚK KVASNIČKA: A MEMORY

by Jaroslav J. Verner

May 1959. Along with 75 other young Americans I was enroute to Moscow to participate in the American National Exhibition, later of "kitchen debate" fame. Never before during the existence of the Soviet Union had a Western country been able to organize an exhibition of this kind, so the adventure was a real trip into the unknown. Training took place aboard ship as we steamed East and consisted mostly of speculation about what we might expect when we arrived, how the audience would behave, and how we could communicate over the historical and ideological gap that exists between us and the Soviet public. Once in Europe we traveled by train with stops in Prague and Warsaw where we were guests of the student associations, which put us up in dormitories and planned "cultural" events and meetings for us.

But for me, an overnight in Prague during the late 50s was just too great a temptation philatelically and so I "disappeared" from the group, much to the consternation of our "handlers." After our first visit to Prague two years earlier, I developed a correspondence with a couple of collectors both of whom met our train as it pulled into Prague's "Hlavní nádraží." Then followed an intense philatelic experience that ended only when the train pulled out the following day. During this period I visited the apartment on Čapajevovo Náměstí which would become so familiar over the years and so closely identified with my letters of introduction to both Jan Mrňák and Zdeněk Kvasnička and in those days I was just brash enough to make use of them. I always have wondered why both of these superb philatelists were so welcoming and helpful to me over the years - perhaps they were bemused by the American student who popped up on their doorsteps that May evening. An even more likely explanation is that both were very generous with their knowledge and were pleased that another young, interested collector had appeared.

From this first meeting Pan Kvasnička (for me he remained Pan or Mr. Kvasnečka over the intervening 35 years) shared with me his concept of how Czechoslovakia should be collected - universally. He always felt that the true collector was interested in all aspects of a collecting theme, in that case Czechoslovakia. Often was the time he would say "you should also be collecting this" as he showed me an aspect of Czechoslovak collecting I had not yet dared to embark on. Further, he repeatedly said that each aspect should be done knowledgeably and exhaustively. This meant that the study of paper, colors, perforations, usage, the reason for issuing a given issue were not only legitimate subjects for collecting, but that they all should be of interest to a serious collector. I suppose I was predisposed to such a universal view of collecting even before I heard Pan Kvasnička's collecting philosophy, but his arguments and reasoning confirmed my conviction. Over the years most of my visits began, after open faced sandwiches and his beloved Moravian white wine, of course, with the question "What should we look at today?" He most wanted me to see how he had developed the material on which I was currently working. Over time we studied his extensive holdings of Czechoslovak

philatelic materials, though to this day I doubt that I have seen it all. Often we would return to an issue or subject that we had examined earlier. Returns to previously viewed material frequently coincided with Pan Kvasnička's reworking, expanding, and reinterpreting his material.

In a sense he was lucky because he was present at the "philatelic creation," so to speak. Before World War II and until the nationalization of private business, he was a merchant in Prague. He was active in organized philately and for a time was president of the Czechoslovak Union of Philatelists. Later, and for some time, he was a professional philatelist and expertizer working for Pofis.

There was a seriousness to Kvasnička's philately. Research was, to him, an integral part of collecting. To be sure he had more in his head than I have in my rather large philatelic library, but he never stopped seeking additional documentation for what he already knew, both in the form of covers and collateral documents. He was a man of strong views, but would listen to well reasoned arguments and consider them, and he valued my research. He was considered among the greatest authorities on Czechoslovak philately (not to mention a number of other countries) by just about every philatelist I have met. To invoke the opinion of Zdeněk Kvasnička was a powerful argument indeed. He was a collector from whom I learned much every time we met.

Many of our Society's members were his friends and acquaintances. He conducted a large correspondence with philatelists abroad, a practice that caused him no little trouble during the dark days of the cold war. Our trips to and through Prague were quite frequent and we experienced numerous instances when he would wave a visit off as too dangerous during some politically sensitive time. Invariably, whenever the immediate political climate warmed sufficiently, he would invite us to visit again "soon." He often asked me to send letters for him or contact people to let them know it was not possible for him to write during a particularly sensitive period. But the correspondence would be taken up again as soon as it was possible. For him philately had nothing to do with politics, and he refused to recognize the right of the oligies to set priorities and agendas for the hobby. Of course they did just that during much of the last 40 years and many in Czechoslovakia played the political game to further their positions in philately. Zdeněk Kvasnička recognized the attraction to "getting along by going along," but rejected such procedures as immoral.

Philatelic knowledge was to be shared, in Kvasnička's view. He not only shared with individuals, but wrote extensively on Czechoslovak philately for the SPECIALIST and other philatelic publications. Browsing through past issues of our journal, the first article of his I found was titled "How to Collect and Evaluate Trial Printings of Czechoslovak Stamps" and was published in the November 1947 issue. That was the year he joined our Society.

His membership number was 292 - that makes him a real "old-timer" among our members. He was later made an honorary member in recognition of his service to our Society. Kvasnička's articles were well written and easy to translate - something I and his other translators greatly appreciated. The subject matter of his articles was wide ranging and a "must read" for all of us.

Many members will remember the exhibits he prepared for our Society show. They will also remember his gold medal and National Grand Prix exhibits at international exhibitions. It was not possible for other exhibitors to compete with his exhibits, but we were always glad to have them because they were a valuable contribution to any show in which they were entered.

Zdeněk Kvasnička died this past December. He had suffered deteriorating health over the last several years. He is survived by his wife, Aleška, and son, Ivo. Zdeněk Kvasnička was a true gentleman, a generous teacher, and a good and true friend. He will be greatly missed but warmly remembered by all who knew him.



## POSTAL STATIONERY OF 1993

by Antonin Tachecí

Translated by Henry Hahn

The first year of the independent Czech Republic and independent Slovakia has ended. Both countries issued numerous adhesives but not much postal stationery. But it was in the latter category that some unusual varieties have appeared which I wish to call to the reader's attention.

The first Czech Republic postal stationery was printed in the Spring of 1993. However in early



Fig. 1

March, there appeared in northern Moravia correspondence cards with a design of the hill Říp, in blue. These cards had the traditional inscription at the lower left reading: "Vyraženo pro služební nálepky a údaje pošty" (Reserved for service labels and postal notations). The official cards were to have been issued without this inscription. The Postal Administration immediately called for an investigation of how these "unissued" cards went on

sale, suspecting they may have originated through theft from the printing plant. What is known for certain is that the "unissued" card will not be listed in catalogs listing items only officially issued.

The official issue took place on August 3, 1993, bearing the 2kč Říp design in blue with the rest of the design and lettering in black. A second card was issued simultaneously bearing a design picturing a medieval postal courier, in red. If this design reminds you of the Austrian stamp issued for the occasion of "Stamp Day" in 1967, you are very observant. The designs are the same. This card was sold with numbers omitted and at only a few post offices, since the Postal Administration wanted to offer this card to philatelic organizations for further imprinting and sale. Specialists identify three types of the issue bearing the postal courier design. (fig.1) They differ by the shading in the horizontal bar under the right toe.

In a relatively short time, collectors discovered two varieties of the Říp design: one printed by typography, having heavy printing of the word "Odesílatel:" and heavier lines in the return address portion that are closer together (Fig. 2). The second variety is printed by offset, and has distinctly finer printing of the word "Odesílatel:" and lighter address lines (Fig. 3). High magnification of the first address line of the offset printed variety will reveal that the line consists of miniature lettering, spelling out "Česká pošta 93". The purpose of this is supposedly to prevent copying the card by "super-modern" copiers.

The first Czech Republic Aerogram bearing 7 Kč franking is being awaited. The date of issue at the time of this writing is still not known.

Only one correspondence card was thus far issued in Slovakia. The stamp design is that of the mountain Kriváň, in brown-violet, and the value is just "2" without denoting the currency. (Fig. 4) Two types of this card were printed: one showing the price as "Kčs 2.30" and the other showing the price as "2,30" in the lower left corner (Fig. 5). It is likely that the design showing the price as "Kčs 2,30" was the earlier printing, since that corresponds to what was used in the last correspondence card issued by the former united republic with the stamp reading "ČESKO-SLOVENSKO".

Slovakia completed its printing of an Aerogram but the entire printing was scrapped due to "mismanagement" of the printing technique. Thus, we will have to wait.

Finally, please permit me to draw your attention to a nostalgic philatelic observation: around 1991 Czech post offices sold correspondence cards bearing the Hradčany design with the 50h denomination.

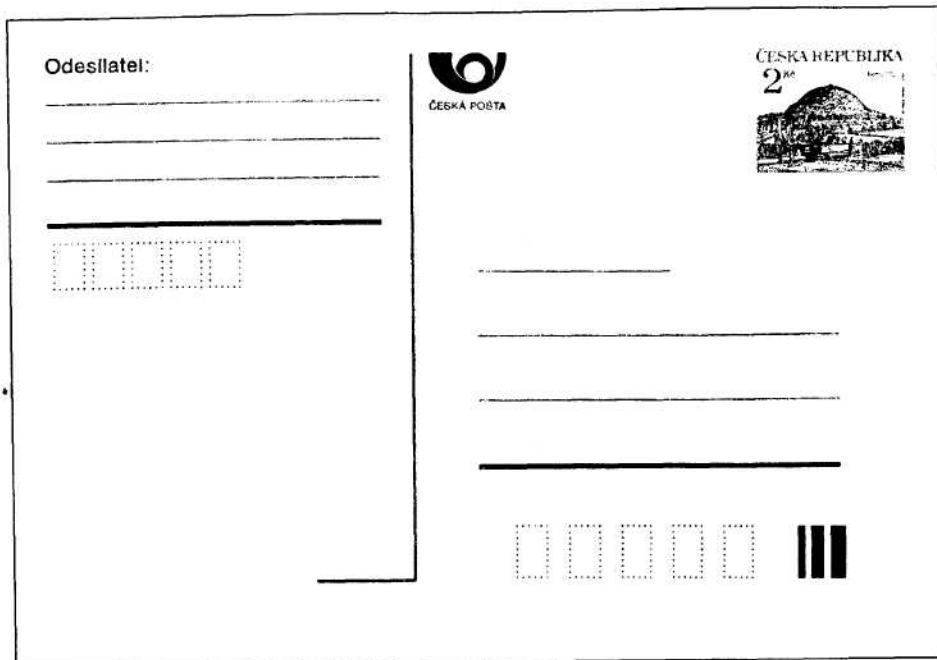


Fig. 2

The stamp was in violet-black and the denomination in black. Curiously, it bore the text "Odosielateľ" and "Vyhradené pre služobné nálepky a údaje pošty" IN SLOVAK. Too bad that the Postal Administration was late in expressing its drive toward unity with our Slovak brothers! (Fig. 6 on p 13).

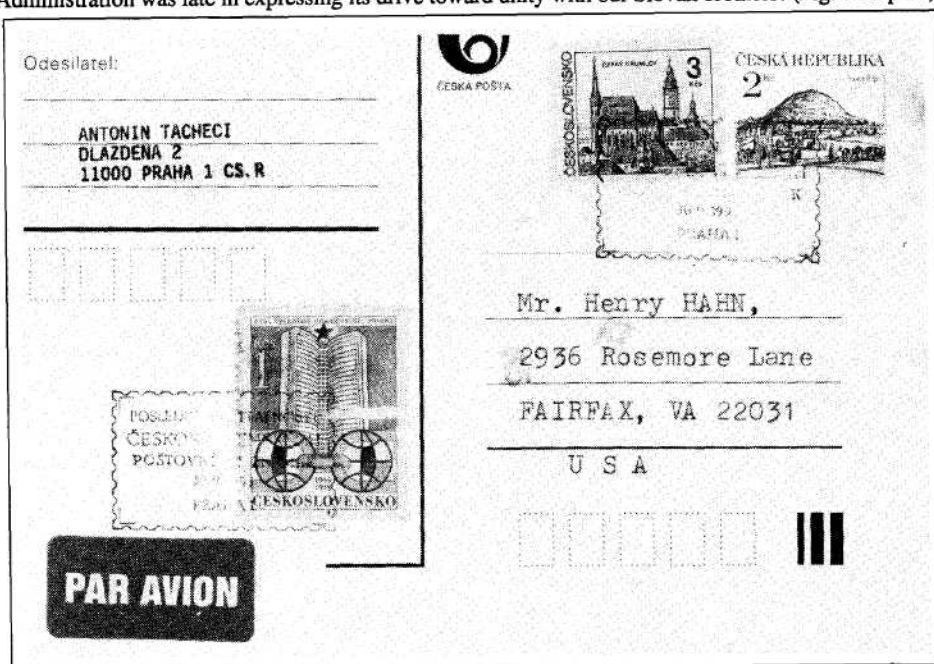


Fig. 3  
11

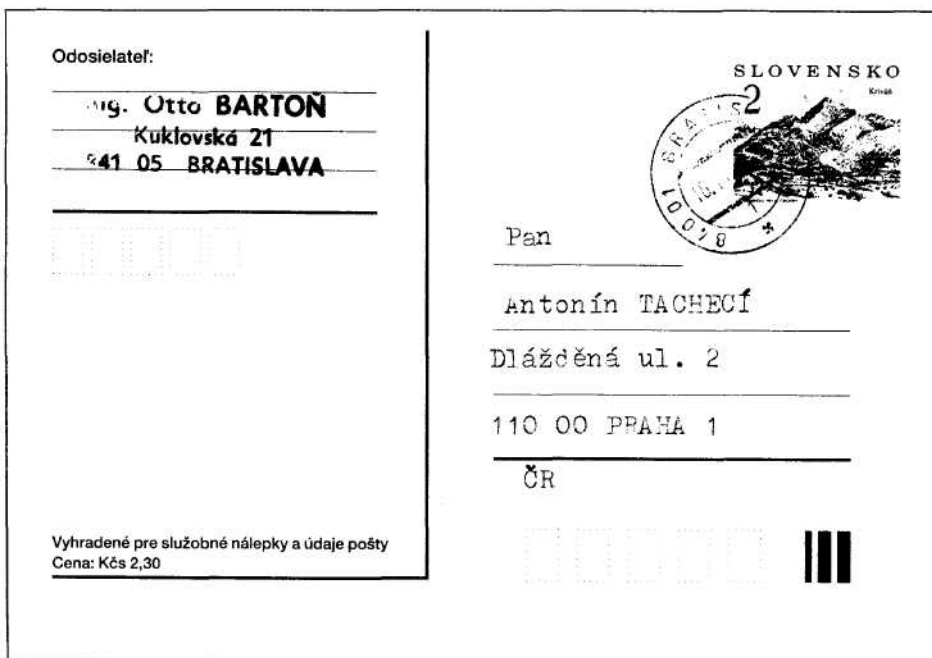


Fig. 4

Ref. "CELINY - Zpravodaj", issue of February 1993. (Publication of the Society of Postal Stationery Collectors in the Czech Republic.)

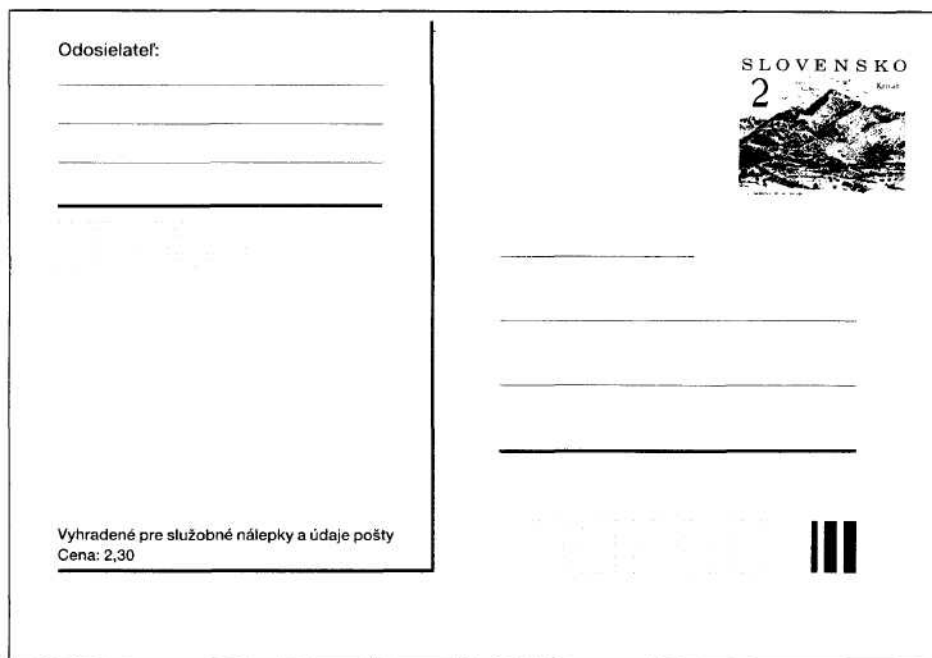


Fig. 5

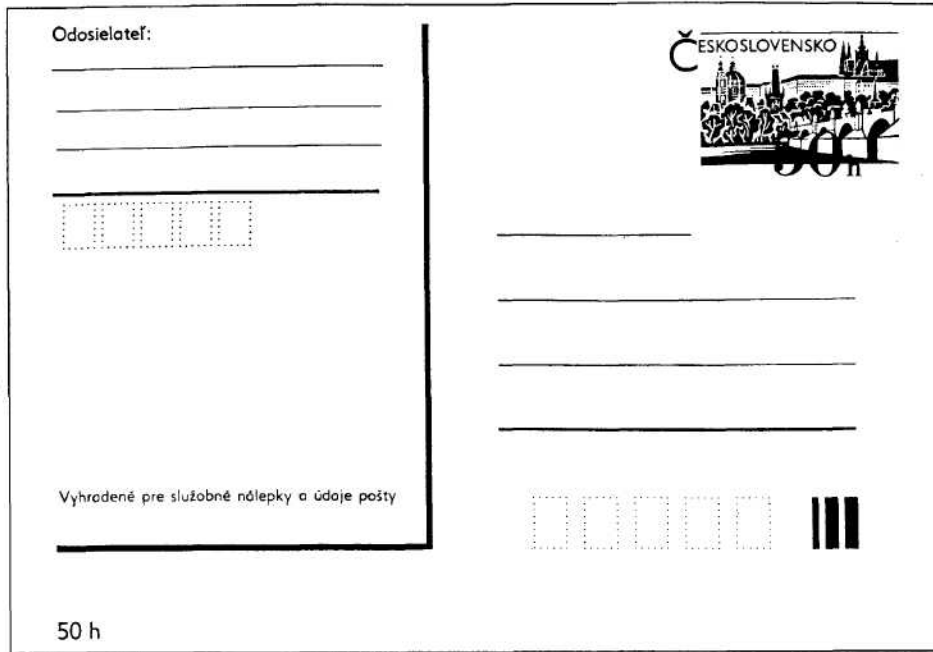


Fig. 6

## THE CREATIVE POSTMARK OF PODZÁMČÍ

by Miroslav Vostatek  
(Translated by Henry Hahn)

Undoubtedly, one of the most creative postmarks of May 1945 is that of PODZÁMČÍ - ČSR. At that time it was common to remove the German names of localities, leaving only the Czech ones. In the instance of this postmark, the German name of the locality, SCHLOSSDORF, was modified by means of a file, removing some of the letters but leaving the letters ČSR, the initials of the new state, created after liberation in 1945.

The post office of PODZÁMČÍ had existed since September 23, 1886, though its German name differed somewhat for the one used by the Nazis. The town was then known in German as Gestütthof, Bezirk (County) Opočno. Actually PODZÁMČÍ is a part of the East Bohemian town of Opočno, located near the railway station. At this location there was a sugar refinery which was torn down at the end of World War II, and in its place a factory for milk products was built. The post office was located in Building no. 391 and operated there for several decades.

Some years ago I searched for the origin of this altered (nationalized) postmark, and had the good fortune of receiving a letter from a certain Mr. Jaroslav Daněk who, in May 1945, was employed at this post office. He died shortly after writing the letter.

He wrote in part: "The Germans re-christened Podzámčí, calling it Schlossdorf. In the course of the



Fig. 1



Mistina, 1934  
razítko

Fig. 2

first few revolutionary days in May 1945, I altered the regular canceler by removing some of the letters in the German name but left the letters CSR which by coincidence are so located that POZÁMČÍ near Opočno had one of the first truly Czech postmarks in the entire Republic. The post office was flooded with requests from collectors of postmarks for an imprint...

It is to be assumed that this postmark could turn up even today. The Philatelic journal FILATELIE discussed the postmark in its first and second issues of 1945. Scarcer are postmarks of the 19th century, post World War I postmarks with the German name removed, or postmarks of the occupation period on cover. Shown here are some

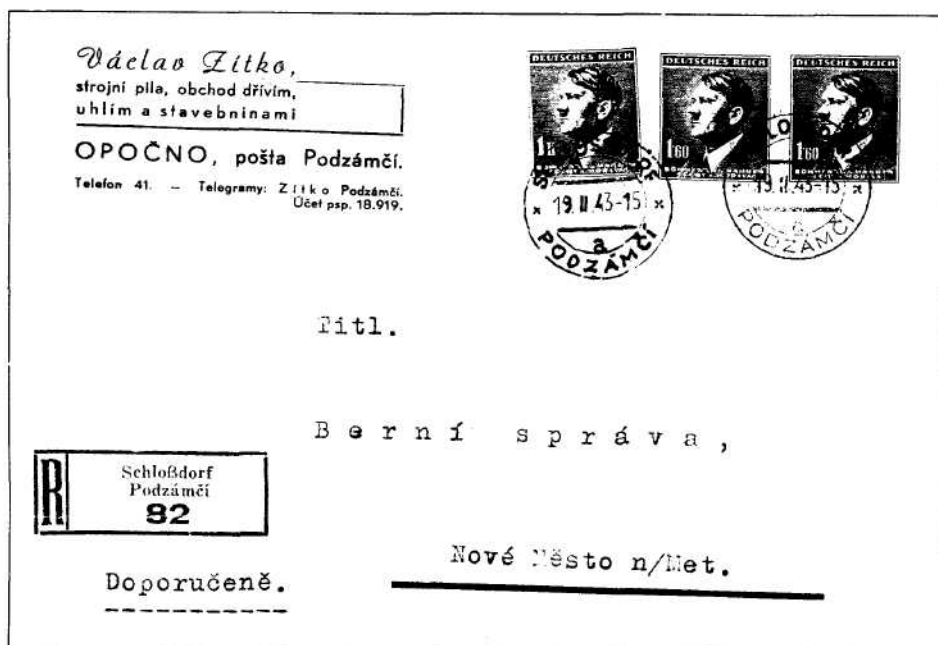
of the postmarks of the various periods, including that altered in 1945.

Fig. 1 - Nationalized postmark of 1918 - used as late as 1920

Fig. 2 - Period of the First Czechoslovak Republic

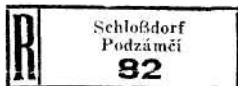
Fig. 3 - Bilingual postmark of the period of the German protectorate

Fig. 4 - The postmark used in 1945 before and after alteration



Titl.

B e r n í s p r á v a ,



Doporučeně.

Nové Město n/Met.

Fig. 3



Fig. 4



*Charley's Chapter***THE STORY OF TRIBUNA**

A little over three years ago I started a stamp business and named it Tribuna Stamp company. I did this because I always admired the old Czech stamp magazine named TRIBUNA FILATELISTU and the work and ethics of its editor, Ervin Hirsch, and his partner, Jaroslav Franek. Together they expertized stamps and covers, using the expert marks of Hirsch, Franek, and Tribuna. These gentlemen were also the teachers of perhaps the greatest philatelic expert of them all - Jan Mrnák.

The "Tribuna" name as used by Hirsch and Franek has never been copyrighted and the original firm has been out of existence now for nearly fifty years. With these facts in mind, I saw no problem in naming my business "Tribuna Stamp Co" and forming a Tribuna Expert Committee.

Of late, some criticism has been levelled against my use of the name "Tribuna" simply because Messrs. Hirsch and Franek included that name in their expertization markings. In my view, that is stretching a point! It reminds me of the fact that for years the Annheuser-Busch Company has called its beer "Budweiser" (now "Bud"), despite the fact that Budweiser Beer existed in Czechoslovakia long before then and was, in fact, named after the city of Budejovice (Budweis) where the beer was made. Why has this duplication by a huge American corporation of a famous European name been going on for years and continues to this day? Because it serves Annheuser-Busch well and no one is hurt by it, just as my use of the "Tribuna" expert marking hurts no one.



Fig. 1A



Fig. 1B

Fig. 2

I have seriously collected stamps of Czechoslovakia for over forty years and have personally known such philatelic giants as Zdeněk Kvasnička of Prague as well as Frank Kovařík, John Velek, and Dr. Jim Matejka, all from Chicago, and also Arthur I. Kessler of New York City. All of them are now deceased. In addition, I am personally acquainted with some current philatelic notables like Jan Karásek, Ivo Kvasnička, Jan Dvořák, Jiří Stupka and Svatopluk Sablatura - all from the former Czechoslovakia.

With all these knowledgeable collectors and experts I spent countless hours discussing various phases of Czechoslovak philately. With Arthur I Kessler, foremost dealer and auctioneer in Prague during the 1930's I spent four days at his New York City apartment in 1971 obtaining a schooling on all aspects of Czechoslovak philately. Mr. Kessler showed me how to detect forgeries, how to identify genuine overprints, perforations, printing paper, how to distinguish genuine cancels from fraudulent ones and how cancellations should look when applied to stamps tied to pieces on covers.

I have accumulated a vast collection of stamps and covers which I have studied and examined many times over. This insight and the discussions and seminars I had with all these collectors, experts and dealers has given me the confidence to expertize stamps and their uses along with covers from various periods - all relating to Czechoslovakia. I therefore began expertizing stamps and covers and issuing certificates for more expensive items under Tribuna Expert Committee. This Committee includes Dr. Sablatura from Bratislava in Slovakia and Jiří Stupka from Železná Ruda in the Czech Republic. Dr. Sablatura is the foremost expert in Slovakia on stamps of Czechoslovakia and is so recognized by the SVCAZ committee of Experts. Jiří Stupka is a noted collector and international exhibitor and an

expert on the 1920 issues of Czechoslovakia.

It is impossible for one person to know everything there is to know about philately and I stand ready to acknowledge that fact. When there is the slightest doubt on my part about the genuineness of any philatelic item, I send it to my other two colleagues in Czechoslovakia. However, once my mark of "Tribuna" is placed on a stamp or cover, I will personally stand behind that mark indefinitely. If the item was bought from me either by private sale or through a Tribuna action, the purchase price will always be refunded in full so long as the item has been erroneously attested by me. The "Tribuna" mark never has and never will be used to defraud any collector. But even experts are not infallible and I know of actual instances where experts have disagreed amongst themselves whether a piece of philatelic material is genuine or fraudulent. There have been instances where certain stamps, clearly expertized, have been later found to be forged or counterfeited. On occasion, an item I myself expertized has been questioned, but not once has a stamp or cover marked "Tribuna" been proven to be anything but genuine. However, if and when that happens, proper restitution will be made if the item was purchased from me.

The Tribuna Stamp Company which I founded is committed to provide quality service to our members and stands behind what its Committee expertizes.

The "Tribuna" mark of Hirsch-Franek(Fig. 1A and 1B) and the "Tribuna" mark of the Tribuna Expert Committee(Fig. 2) are quite different as can be seen from these illustrations and can readily be distinguished.

### **TRIBUNA'S SUCCESSFUL MAIL SALE**

Tribuna Stamp Company's first mail sale proved to be a huge success. It contained over 240 lots of Czechoslovakia and related material. Ninety two bidders participated of which 61 succeeded in purchasing at least one lot apiece. Only 22 lots were left unsold and in the case of most of the lots, bidding was intense. A majority of lots exceeded the estimates placed on them with some lots receiving bids over two to three times their estimated sales value. Three lots received bids five times their estimated value, though prices realized did not reflect this. Our prediction of prices continuing to climb for good Czechoslovakia material seems to be right on target.

To secure a list of prices realized in Mail Sale no. 1 of February 18, 1994, please send \$1.50 to the Tribuna Stamp Co., P.O. Box 100, Willow Springs, IL 60480.

-Charles Chesloe

#### ***For the Beginner***

### **PRINTING AND EXHIBITING TOPICALS & THEMATICS**

We have discussed up to this point the various aspects of collecting early issues of the Czechoslovak republic and some of the elements of design and printing of stamps which refer for the most part to forming a traditional stamp collection. However, there are other areas which collectors of Czechoslovakia may be interested in. For example, there are topical and thematic.

A topical collection is of course a collection of stamps built around some specific topic, ie. sports, railroads, art, music, flora or fauna. The stamps of Czechoslovakia abound in topical subjects because topicals have, in the past few years, become the rage of many collectors. And so it is that the one feeds on the other.

I myself believe that some of the world's most beautiful stamps comprise reproductions of famous paintings issued by the Czechoslovak Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications. The process by which these stamps are printed is of considerable interest. The older pho-

togravure process was discarded and, instead, a planographic steelprint in four to six colors is now used. When six colors are employed, six different color plates have to be engraved. Once the different color plates are finished, the engraver makes trial prints on a small press in order to judge the correct color intensity and to make desired changes in the engravings. Once the engraver is satisfied with the end product, all trial prints are destroyed and the plates for the single stamp are sent to the printer where the definitive plates are made ready for the final flat-plate printing. This is a long and laborious process not only on the part of the engraver, but also on the part of the printer because the presses for this type of work are not automatic but have to be operated by hand.

A few examples of stamps produced by the steelprint method are illustrated here. Of course the beauty of these stamps cannot be fully appreciated unless they are seen in color. Scott no. 1484 is a reproduction of a self-portrait by Henri Rousseau. The engraver was Jiří Švengsbir (see fig. 1). Scott nos. 1908 to 1913 is a set of six stamps on Art, the last four of which were made into a lovely souvenir sheet. No. 1910 is a self-portrait by Rembrandt; no. 1911 is called "Pierrot" by Bohumil Kubišta; no. 1912 is a self-made "Ilona Kubinyiova" by Peter M

### RUDOLPH E. KUTAK - 1917-1994

The Society mourns the passing of Rudolph E. Kutak, member no. 698.

Born to the late Anton and Marie Cihanek Kutak in Astoria, Long Island, he was known to his friends as Rudy.

Early in life he worked as an electroplater and engraver. He was a 50-year member of the New York Chapter of Sokol. He and his wife married in October 1943 and eventually moved to Monroe, New York, where he took over as proprietor of a restaurant.

Rudy was an avid stamp collector for over sixty years, belonging to the Newburgh Stamp Club, the Elmira Stamp Club (both of New York), the American Philatelic Society and the Society for Czechoslovak Philately. He was a 25-year member of our Society and a 30-year member of the American Legion, post no. 488. In addition, he served

as dispatcher for the Monroe Volunteer Ambulance Corps for 25 years, delivered Meals-on-Wheels and was a devoted member of the Retired Seniors Volunteer Program. Though he was not an exhibitor and avoided the limelight as much as possible, he nevertheless amassed a respectable collection of the stamps of Czechoslovakia and has been a steady and reliable member of our Society.

Rudy died on March 2, 1994 at the Westchester County Medical Center in Valhalla, New York. He is survived by his wife, Rose (see photo), a married daughter, a granddaughter and several nieces and nephews. He and his wife celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on October 30, 1993.

Our deepest sympathy and condolences go out to his entire family and friends. May his soul rest in peace!



Rudy Kutak with wife, Rose

Bohuň; and no 1913 is "Madonna and Child" by an unknown artist. Nos. 1910 and 1912 were engraved by M. Jindra and Nos. 1911 and 1913 by J. Jerčík.(see fig. 2) Masterpieces like these can be the basis for a truly beautiful exhibit of modern stamps.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

movement or even the cancels of the various town and cities of what was Czechoslovakia - in Czech, Slovak, Austrian, Hungarian or bilingually. As an example, a friend of mine has a thematic collection called "Anniversaries of the United Nations." For its 20th anniversary, he shows a page of three stamps of Czechoslovakia issued on June 24, 1965 and May 25, 1966, mounting them as mint, used on FDC, along with a flag of the country, (see fig. 4) inasmuch as other countries issued stamps commemorating other anniversaries of the United Nations and he also shows those.

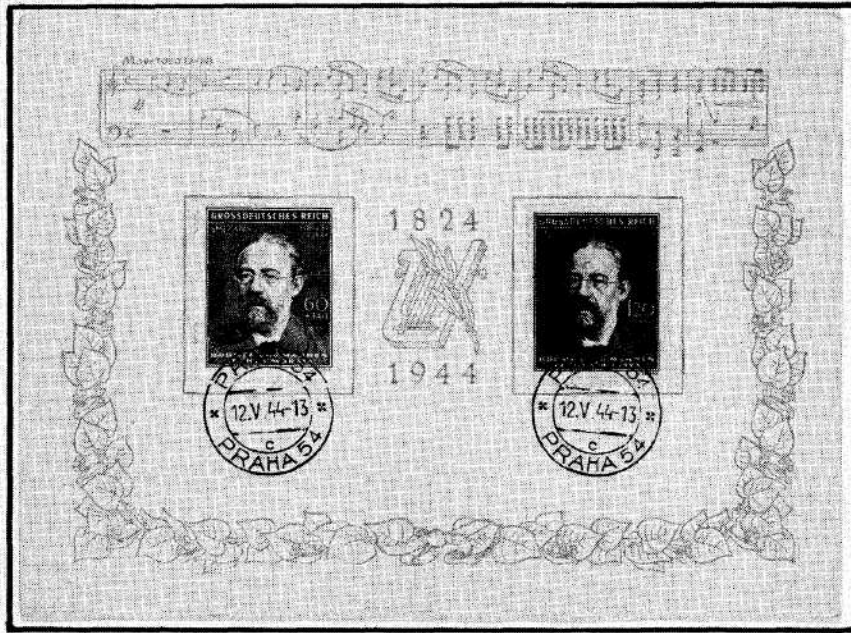
Having decided what it is you want to collect, you embark on your venture. Now, what do you do with that collection once you get it started? In the evenings or on weekends, do you get it out and browse through it? Presumably all of us do that and we get a lot of satisfaction

There are an infinite number of topicals besides Art, as mentioned above. The trick is not to make your topical so broad and all-encompassing as to make it too easy to accumulate and too cumbersome to maintain. For example, a topical like Railroads can be confined to locomotives or cabooses. In sports, it is advisable to limit yourself to a specific area like hockey or gymnastics. In Music, you can specialize just in opera or in musical instruments. Besides, searching for stamps covering a limited area can be both challenging and rewarding.

Whatever it is you choose to collect, enhance each mint stamp with supportive material such as a first day cover or better still, a postally-used cover on which that stamp appears. And be sure to describe its relevancy and importance to your topic. Illustrated here is a page from a friend's collection of Opera on Stamps showing the composer, Bedřich Smetana on a stamp and his opera, "The Bartered Bride" symbolized on a souvenir sheet. (see fig. 3)

There are other subjects in which the collector might wish to specialize: Postal History of Czechoslovakia, its postal stationary, overprints, airmails or even "back-of-the-book" material. The possibilities are limitless. Whatever your particular interest, you will find adequate material to form your own specialized collection. Whatever it is, always remember that other members in our Society will be happy to help you in any way possible.

Apart from topicals, there are also thematics. A thematic collection concerns itself with a particular theme in which all the stamps, covers and perhaps other pertinent material are concerned with a central theme. For example, in Czech philately, the theme might be the life of President Masaryk, or the Sokol



(Above) Commemorative favor sheet showing Bedřich Smetana set of 1944 issued by the Protectorate of Bohemia-Moravia during the reign of the Third Reich.  
(Below) Souvenir sheet issued by Czechoslovakia in 1966 honoring the centenary of Bedřich Smetana's opera "The Bartered Bride."



Fig. 3  
19



THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

20th ANNIVERSARY OF UNITED NATIONS -- CZECHOSLOVAKIA



Above - Stamp issued on April 25, 1966 commemorating UNESCO.



Below - Set of three stamps issued June 24, 1965 honoring 20 years of United Nations.



Fig. 4

out of looking at the result of our labors. However I would like to suggest a way we can get even more satisfaction out of it and that is to prepare an exhibit. There is just one way to learn. Look at other exhibits and attend judging critiques. Whatever the initial results, make a

beginning and do not be discouraged if your first efforts are not successful. I remember the first time I exhibited many, many years ago. I worked very hard on the exhibit and entered it in a national show. (That was in the times when there was no requirement that specimen pages be submitted prior to acceptance and there were seldom any judges' critiques). I received no award, not even a Certificate of Participation. Naturally I was disappointed. But I spent a lot of time looking at other exhibits and I acquired a lot of ideas for improving mine. I continued with the same exhibit and finally won a bronze medal. Soon judges' critiques came into vogue and I attended as many as I could. Over the years my same exhibit kept improving. Eventually I won a gold in national competition and a silver in international competition.

Of course, winning an award gives a collector a great deal of personal satisfaction. But the most gratification can be obtained from the fact that, through your own efforts, your exhibit has told a story, whatever that story may be. That, in my view, is the ultimate goal in stamp collecting.

-Phillips B. Freer

### *Circuit News*

#### **A SHORT HISTORY OF THE SALES CIRCUIT**

*Reprinted from the Aug/Sept 1989 SPECIALIST*

*Augmented, updated and revised by H. Alan Hoover*

At a meeting held in the back room of a coffee shop on First Avenue in New York City on an autumn day in 1940, the Society's membership decided to initiate a Sales and Exchange Department and appointed Wolfgang Fritzsche to get it organized. The first announcement of this service appeared in the September 1940 issue of the Specialist. The second announcement came with the November 1940 issue and contained the Rules and Regulations as formulated by Circuit Manager Fritzsche. After notices were sent out and sales books solicited, the first circuit went on its way on January 7, 1941. It contained nine books with materials submitted by members Secky, Horechny and Fritzsche. After that, each month more members sent in their sales books for circulation. That included Lowey, Pearce, Michelson, Velek, Bryant, Kempe, Křivohlavý, Stach, C.E. Brown, Klemm and Slocum in chronological order. With that kind of beginning response, twelve circuits were circulated in 1941 comprising 119 books at a total gross value of \$901.61. At today's philatelic rate of inflation, that would amount to well over \$2,000.00. The sales from those books came to \$392.76 or 43.3%. Three books sold out completely though three others realized no sales at all. Since then, the Department has placed into circulation over 850 circuits. In 1993 circuits, we had 140 books with a total gross value of \$38,361.95. Sales from only 25% of the routings has resulted in \$6,835.77 or 17.2%. Even during the war years there was no interruption of service.

In the first few years, books containing stamps of Czechoslovakia were sent out along with books containing stamps of other countries because there was not enough Czech material to



#### THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

make it worthwhile. Since most members also collected other countries like Austria, Hungary and Germany, they were included in the circuits. Presently only philatelic material of Czechoslovakia, Slovakia, Eastern Silesia, Silesia, Carpatho-Ukraine and Bohemia-Moravia is accepted. Since early Czechoslovak postal history includes combined frankings and different town cancels, this material is also permitted.

Over the 50 years of the Department's existence, only 16 circuits were lost in the mail. The first loss did not happen until 1948 when one circuit was lost. The following year, another was lost. Not a single loss occurred during the fifties and sixties. Suddenly nine losses took place in the seventies and three more in the eighties and two already in the nineties. In the beginning, there was adequate postal insurance. As time went on and US postal authorities did not see fit to raise insurance limits even though stamp values rose sharply, the Society found it necessary to add compensation from its own insurance fund. Realizing that this placed the Society at a certain risk, the Board of Directors voted in 1986 to obtain additional insurance through the American Philatelic Society.

Each time a member forwards a circuit via the mail, the member pays the postal service for \$100.00 worth of coverage. The additional insurance for that circuit is covered by the APS policy and costs \$1.50. Each time a circuit moves from one member to another it costs \$1.50 and this expense is paid by each member on the routing. This payment is forwarded to the Circuit Manager and he in turn submits it to the APS.

Thanks to the conscientious and cooperative efforts of our members, circuits were well handled and only twice did members fail to pay for what they obtained.

There is nothing mysterious or complicated about the Society's Sales Circuit. It accepts stamps, miniature sheets, covers, postal history and stampless covers from the above mentioned areas. Any of these may contain special cancellations, plate numbers, errors and varieties as listed in specialized catalogs. With the exception of covers and postal stationery, all material submitted must be mounted in the Society's approval books each of which has ten pages of 5 x 8 inches in size and holds 120 stamps. They are available from the Circuit Manager at \$1.00 each. Covers and postal stationery may be submitted unmounted, but each cover or card must have the sales price written in pencil in the lower right-hand corner. The manager then batches them and inserts them into a pouch with similar front and rear cover information. This lot is then combined with other philatelic material for sale in a circuit.

When a "seller" or "owner" applies for and receives his approval books, he fills them with his stamps, prices each item in the spaces provided, totals the value of each book's contents at the end and returns the books to the manager. The manager then sorts the newly received books into groups of not less than six and not more than ten and begins circulating them among those members who have applied for the service. They are the "buyers" or "purchasers." Thus a so-called "Circuit" may be defined as a grouping of six to ten circuit approval books submitted by owners which travel by mail from buyer to buyer according to a route sheet accompanying each grouping. Only Society members in good standing may participate in our sales and exchange circuit and only if they apply as a purchaser or owner or both. Those who apply as purchasers and wish to receive groups of approval books are placed on a mailing list by the manager and have a different spot on each routing. This is done to prevent the same members from having the worst selection by being on the bottom. Purchasers are required to pay \$1.50 into the insurance fund for each circuit they receive, whether they bought anything or not. This supplements the insurance purchased through the APS and assures full coverage.

After a circuit is retired, the manager totals the sales and returns the books to the owners. They receive a check for their sales less 15% commission if the owner is a member, 20% if a non-member and 1% of the gross value of the book for insurance and cost of return postage. Checks payable to the Circuit Manager for purchases made are sent to the manager by the buy-

ers as soon as each buyer mails the books they received to the next buyer on the routing sheet.

The Department handles on the average of twenty circuits a year or approximately one every 18 days. These circuits help form the life-line of our Society. Ever since its inception, in 1941, the Department has been a constant supplier of funds and has aided immeasurably in maintaining the solvency of our Society's treasury. By making purchases from these circuit books, members not only serve their own philatelic needs, but also give financial support to their Society.

The following are the rules and regulations governing the use of circuits:

1. Stamps must be mounted in the Society's sales books which can be obtained from the Circuit Manager for \$1.00 each. Only good peelable hinges or non-destructive mounts are to be used. Unused spaces are to be blocked out to prevent mistaken blank spaces. Covers may be supplied in a 6 1/2" x 9 1/2" clasp envelope but each item must have the sales price marked in pencil on the front lower right corner.
2. Scott's current catalog numbers are to be used. If you use any other specialized catalog, you must identify it and it must be in the current year catalog. Enter in the proper spaces the catalog number, catalog value and the NET price at which you want to sell. Total net value of a book may not exceed \$400.00.
3. All books must remain in the Sales Department for at least one circuit routing.
4. After the books are retired from the circuit, they will be checked and the proceeds less charges will be paid to the owners. Charges include 15% for the service for members, 20% for non-members, return postage on the books, money order fee for payment of proceeds (if any) and 1% of the total value of each book for the insurance fund.
5. Upon obtaining a mailing of circuit books, a buyer must first check the number of books received. If one finds any empty unmarked spaces, they must notify the sender of the circuit as well as the Circuit Manager. In each such space, the buyer should write "Found Empty" and include your name and membership number. The prices of those stamps will then be charged to the member who had the books before them. Do not hold up the circuit.
6. A buyer must sign (use a felt-tip pen or a rubber stamp so as not to "emboss" the stamps on the next page) every space from which he or she removes a stamp and place their membership number there. The buyer must mark the report sheets and the back of the book with the total amount removed from that book.
7. **DO NOT HOLD BOOKS FOR MORE THAN TEN DAYS.** A fee of 50 cents per day will be assessed for holding of a circuit beyond the 10 days. After removing the material you want, send the books by third class mail **INSURED FOR \$100.00** to the next member whose name appears on the routing list accompanying each circuit. Try to use postage stamps when forwarding the circuit; the next member appreciates receiving used US stamps also. At the same time, send the filled out report sheet and the amount due (there will always be an amount due) to the Circuit Manager.
8. Switching of stamps, or substituting poor copies for better ones is stealing and will be dealt with as the offense warrants.
9. Members are responsible for the full amount of the circuit as long as it is in their possession and until they receive the insurance receipt from their post office or, if delivered personally, until they receive a receipt from the next member. Members should save all postal receipts for at least six months in case of a loss in the US Postal system. The \$1.50 insurance fee on the report sheet must still be paid even if the circuit is properly hand delivered to the next mailing list recipient.
10. Checks or money orders must be made payable and sent to: H. Alan Hoover, 6070 Poplar Spring Drive, Norcross, GA 30092.

**CZECH REPUBLIC**

1. The Ministry of Economy issued a postcard on January 11, 1994 on the occasion of the meeting of heads of governments of Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and the United States as well as the visit of President Bill Clinton to Prague.

The card was designed by academic painter and graphic artist Alfred Fuchs. The cachet portion of the card shows a drawn bouquet of flowers with a circular text surrounding them that reads: "Návštěva Prezidenta USA v České Republice: (Visit of the U.S. President to the Czech Republic). Beneath it are the words: "A Setkání hlav států a vlád Maďarska, Polska, USA, České Republiky a Slovenska" (And the meeting of heads of state of the governments of Hungary, Poland, USA, Czech Republic and Slovakia). The picture on the stamp shows a view of Prague in brown and violet color with a denomination of 5kč. (see fig. 1).

The card was printed by Victoria Security Printing in Prague by means of a three-color offset. Its selling price is 5,30 Kč and it is valid from date of issue until officially withdrawn from circulation.



Fig. 1

2. On February 2, 1994, the Ministry of Economy issued a set of two stamps commemorating UNESCO. The first is a 2 Kč stamp showing a portrait of Voltaire with an open book on which are inscribed his life dates - 1694-1778. The stamp appears in brown-red, rose, violet and grey colors. The second is a 6 Kč stamp bearing the likeness of Georgius Agricola and his life dates as 1494-1555. (see fig. 2).

The stamps appear in sizes 40 x 23 mm. Designed by academic painter and graphic artist Oldřich Kulhánek and engraved by Miloš Ondráček, they were printed by the Post Printery in Prague by rotary recess print combined with multi-colored photogravure in sheets of 50.



Accompanying the stamps are two first day covers with commemorative cancellations printed by rotary recess print from flat plates. The cover for the Voltaire stamp bears a drawing of a hand with a caligraphic inscription "Voltaire" and the years "1694-1778." For the Agricola stamp, the cover has a drawing composition of a water machine, crossed miners' hammers, a snake and a book with the name "Georgius Agricola 1494-1555" to symbolize the activities in which he specialized.

3. On February 2, 1994, the Ministry of Economy issued a stamp publicizing the XVII Winter Olympics at Lillehammer, Norway. Of 5 Kč denomination, the stamp shows the faces of two skiers at the Giant Slalom with this text in Czech: "XVII Zimní Olympijské Hry - Lillehammer 1994." Designed by academic painter and graphic artist Radomír Kolář and engraved by Miloš Ondráček, the stamp is 23 x 30 mm in size and was printed by the Post Printery in Prague by rotary recess print in black color combined with four-colored photogravure in yellow, green, red and blue. The stamps come in sheets of 50. (see fig. 3).

A first day cover with special cancellation was printed by recess print from flat plates in black and yellow. The cachet part of the cover shows a drawing of the passing of the relay baton at the ski races.

The stamps and the postcard are valid for domestic as well as international usage from date of issue until officially withdrawn from circulation.



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

## THE S.C.P. LIBRARY CATALOG

The Society's Library has been steadily growing over the years, thanks to the efforts of our current librarian, Richard Palaschak, as well as his worthy predecessor, Jay Carrigan.

The first comprehensive Library Catalog list under R. Palaschak was published in the June 1989 SPECIALIST. Since then, five supplementary lists have been printed.

R. Palaschak has undertaken to alphabetize the complete up-to-date catalog which, starting with this issue, is being published serially for the benefit of our members.

Part I is devoted exclusively to Periodicals. Since many of these are being continually updated, it would be impractical to list all the issues under each title. Members desiring any particular issue should write to our librarian requesting that issue and he will notify them whether or not the Library has it. As to our own CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST, the Library has ALL issues from its inception date to the present.

Part II, the main section of the Library, is devoted to books, pamphlets and all other miscellaneous material. Part II will be published in subsequent issues.

Those interested in borrowing any material contained in our Library are requested to refer to the Rules and Regulations found on page 21 of the May/June 1992 SPECIALIST.

PART I - PERIODICALS

1. The American Philatelist (English).
2. Archiv für Deutsche Postgeschichte (German).
3. Austria Bulletin (English).
4. Berichte aus der Tschechoslowakei Philatelie (German).  
-See Forschungs-Berichte aus der Tschechoslowakei Philatelie
5. Breněský Kompas
6. Časopis Českých Filatelistů (Czech).
7. Československá Filatelie (Czech).
8. Český Filatelista (Czech).
9. The Collectors Club Philatelist (English).
10. Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain: Bulletin (English).
11. Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain: Czechout (English).
12. Filatelie (Czech).
13. Filatelista (Slovak).
14. Filatelistická Revue (Czech).  
Note: Name changed to "Národní Sběratel" in 1939.
15. Filatelistické Listy (Czech).
16. Forschungs-Berichte aus der Tschechoslowakei Philatelie (German).
17. Latvian Collector
18. The London Philatelist (English).
19. Merkur (Czech).
20. Národní Sběratel (Czech).  
Note: Name changed from Filatelistická Revue in 1939.
21. Mladý Filatelista (Czech).
22. Il Nuovo Corriere Filatelico.
23. Oběžník Členů Klubů Českých Filatelistů v Praze (Czech).
24. P.C.P.S. Journal.
25. The Philatelic Exhibitor (English).
26. Philatelic Literature Review (English).
27. Polonus Philatelic Society: Bulletin (English).
28. Posta PNS
29. Postal History Journal (English).
30. The Postcard Dealer and Collector (English).
31. Poštovní Věstník (Slovak).
32. Rossica
33. Slovenský Filatelista (Slovak).
34. S.P.A. Journal (English).
35. Stamp Lover (English).
36. Stamps (English).
37. Tribuna Filatelistů (Czech).
38. The Trumpeter
39. Ukrainian Philatelist.
40. Věstník Ministerstva Post (Czech).
41. Zpravodaj (Czech).
42. Zpravodaj Naši Filatelie (Czech).

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#### NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Many members have already responded. Those who have not, please read the Editorial starting on page 19 of the Mar/Apr SPECIALIST. You still have till May 25 to answer the questions and send in your answers to Mirko Vondra, Editor, 1511 Clearview Ave, Lancaster, Pa 17601. Please participate and cooperate for the good of YOUR Society!

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