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NOMINATIONS COMING UP

The Society Bylaws, as presently constituted, provide that a Board of Directors comprising 15 members shall govern the S.C.P. This Board is divided into three groups of five members, each serving a term of six years. The Bylaws further require that the terms of office expire alternately every two years. Those whose terms of office expire are then eligible for reelection. In addition, any member in good standing is also eligible for election. But in order to be elected (or reelected as the case may be), a member must first be nominated.

The following five members, elected to the Board in 1993, will not be due for reelection until 1999: Charles Bush, Tom Cossaboom, Henry Hahn, Ludvik Svoboda and Mirko Vondra.

The terms of office of the following members do not expire until 1997: Richard Palaschak, Charles Chesloe, Jaroslav Verner, Ed Lehecka and Jane Sterba.

That leaves these remaining five members whose term of office expire next year: Phil Freer, Fred Lawrence, Richard Major, Jack Benchik and Robert Koschalk. These five Board members, along with all members in good standing in our Society, are eligible for nomination to serve on the Board when the Board convenes in the second half of 1995.

To nominate a person for the Board, any two members may nominate a third member by filling out and signing the Nominating Form appearing on the last page of this publication. Cut out the form and mail it to the secretary: Tom Cossaboom, Box 25332, Scott Air Force Base, Illinois 62225, no later than December 31, 1994. Nominees will then become candidates for election to the Board and their names will be announced in the Mar/Apr 1995 SPECIALIST.

Word of caution - BE SURE TO SECURE YOUR NOMINEE'S CONSENT TO RUN FOR OFFICE BEFORE SENDING IN YOUR COMPLETED NOMINATING FORM.

TABLE O	F CONTENTS	
Articles	Author	Page
1. A New Masaryk Plate Variety	Frank A. Garancovsky	3
2. 5H Light Green Hradčany "Pair" Gutt		4
3. The Czechoslovak Exiled Forces-WW		5
4. How Lidice Survived the Death Wish		8
5. The Sokols and the Kroměřiž Confere	ence Set .Henry Hahn	10
6. A Final Tribute to Fritzsche	Gustav A. Pohlig	12
7. Two Czech Officers from Siberia		14
8. Václav Procházka-Military Hero	Miroslav Vostatek	15
Columns		
9. Member of the Month	Richard Major	16
10. Circuit News: Reminder	H. Alan Hoover	18
11. Editorial Hinges		20
12. New Issues	Joseph Lacko	26
13. Library Notes		26

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. Svododa. 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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A NEW MASARYK PLATE VARIETY

By Frank A. Garancovsky

Last year, Frank Garancovsky received a special award for the best article in our contest by a novice writer on Czechoslovak philately (see page 3 of the SPECIALIST, Mar/Apr 94). Now the author writes about his new discovery of a 5k Masaryk stamp variety of 1925.

Since upgrading my Second Republic Czechoslovakia collection from generally used copies to mint stamps, I have channeled my interest to mint copies of the early issues of Hradčany through the Masaryks of 1925/1927. Although the Hradčany offer a greater challenge through sheer volume of varieties, the Masaryks likewise (with



eight watermarks) can be intimidating to a collector.

Armed with various Czech catalogs, specialized handbooks, plus the work by Henry Hahn on "Stamps With The Portrait of T.G. Masaryk", I was soon overwhelmed by the Czech language description of types, watermarks, and 'mustaches'. The word 'mustache' presented me with elements of intrigue and resulted in my decision to follow this speciality more closely.

Catalogs by Ekstein, Pofis, and Michel describe the mustache in more ways than appear in fact. Generally the long mustache is more woolly whereas the short mustache is thinner or trimmed. The illustrated copy of the 5K Scott #101 and Pofis #193 type I B is a short version of the longer woolly type arbitrarily cut shorter by a full millimeter. Nothing in the aforementioned publications support this stamp find much less the short mustache in the 5K value.

Discouraged that at best my copy may be a freak or perhaps even a counterfeit, I sought to meet with Mr. Hahn in 1992 at BALPEX in Baltimore, Md. It was not for my lack of trying but rather his countless Society meetings that thwarted me after three days. FLOREX 93 in Orlando, Fla. was yet another exercise in frustration since he was not in attendance. Finally in 1944 at NOJEX in Secaucus, N.J. we met in the hotel dining room for a breakfast with other Society members. Following cordial introductions, I displayed my travelling album of Masaryks that included this short mustache 5K variety in used condition. After a careful examination he had determined that this was indeed a previously unreported variety and not just a 'flyspeck' variety. The stamp was examined by other Society members in our midst and they all concurred with his finding. The stamp was submitted for expertization and was certified as being genuine. Nevertheless, forewarned is forearmed. With the photograph and the descriptive text that follows, the stamp will be referred to as used. The mint copy alongside is a type I. However I hesitate to use the word 'type' since types differ in stamp size. Here both stamps measure 19 3/4 x 22 1/2. The mint stamp is watermarked 8 and the used copy 5, and both are line perforated 13 3/4. At first glance the short mustache is quite obvious as is the finer outer frame and sharper inscription letters. Upon closer scrutiny aided by a 10x power glass, the most notable difference that establishes a strong case for a new plate engraving is the grille work behind the portrait.

Viewed under a 30x microscopic glass, the used stamp has sharply defined vertical and horizontal grille lines. Compared to the grossly distorted inscription letters and their shading, these are very distinct on the used stamp. The numeral 5 in the value tablet is also clear with no flaws in the shading as large as the one in the large bend of the numeral in the mint stamp. The short mustache itself is joined with the chin whiskers of the beard. There are other subtle differences noted between the two stamps. In the used stamp, the vertical lines are more prominent as are the shading lines below the left eye. The right eye appears clearer or more alert. The ends of the diagonal line on the right cheek are curved at both ends in opposite directions. There is an additional vertical line next to the value tablet before the letter 'K'. Finally the columns of linden leaves and buds framing the portrait are more firmly etched.

The definitive publication "Stamps with the Portrait of T.G.M." by Mr. Hahn states that except for the 5K value, all denominations later went through several re-engravings. This stamp therefore is unique and certainly must have been printed from all-new steel engraving plates as opposed to the early steel-plated plates that soon deteriorated.

As an addendum to the previously mentioned research sources, the "Forgeries Of Czechoslovak Postage Stamps", by Karásek, Kvasnička and Pauliček was also carefully checked for mention of counterfeits.

Although the Masaryk issues of the 1923 Jubilee, the 1925 overprints for the Olympic Congress and the 1926 III Sokol Festival are described at length, all were of a different format. Apparently none were made or reported for the 1925 series of stamps which included this short mustache variety.

With the demise of the Czechoslovak Republic and nearly 75 years after the fact, a totally new variety may have surfaced. With the publication of this article, it is hoped that other copies will be found and reported to this writer. Surely it appears to be a rarity whose value remains to be determined. Imagine finding a copy on cover!

5H LIGHT GREEN HRADČANY "PAIR" GUTTERS

by Georg Wilhelms Edited by J. Verner

In order to utilize the capacity of available printing equipment and to attain the volume of



stamp production needed, Hradčany stamps were compiled into a printing form comprised of 4 plates. Each plate had 100 fonts and this resulted in sheets of 100 stamps. The quadruple printing sheets were cut into four sheets of 100 stamps for distribution to post offices. During the third week in December 1918, time pressure caused by the need to get the stamps out to post offices led to printing sheets being cut only vertically, thus creating gutters between sheets of 100 stamps. These "double" sheets were distributed to some post offices. In addition to the gutters thus created and distributed, additional values are known, mostly vertical, but also some horizontal, which were created due to poor inspection controls and certainly reached their current homes in collections through less official means.

The Hradčany gutters regularly registered in general catalogs are all with first design. They are 3h purple, 5h light green, 10h red, 20h blue green, 25h, and 30h olive yellow in the těte běche format; and the 3h purple and 10h red "pair" format (stamps in the same direction).

Other values of the imperforate Hradčany stamps with the first design, as well as those of other designs, also escaped the printing office inspector's notice and ended in collectors' hands, but in very limited numbers. Barely

known are "pair" gutters of the Hradčany stamps of the first design such as the 5h light green and 20h blue-green. The gutter "pair" of the 1h brown stamp bearing the third design is also known. The 5h blue-green and the 10h green stamps with the fifth design are known with "pair" gutters though these are printed on gum.

Illustrated is a "pair" gutter of the 5h light green Hradčany stamp bearing the first design. The upper stamp is from plate II and the lower stamp comes from plate I. The auther knows of 6 copies of this gutter - 5 having different control numbers. The known control numbers are: - .50; 1.50; 4 - ; 4.50; and 5.-. The control number of the 6th gutter pair is not known at present.

Since only 6 gutter pairs of the 5h green are known, my conclusion is that only one "print sheet" (composed of 4 plates of 100 stamps) was cut only vertically resulting in two "double sheets" (two sheets of 100 stamps each connected by a gutter). This would mean that no more than 20 gutters could have existed of the 5h Hradčany and of these only 6 are known to have survived. From this we must conclude that the 5h "pair" gutter is one of the great rarities of Czechoslovak philately.

THE CZECHOSLOVAK EXILED FORCES - WORLD WAR II by W. Alex Page, FRPS, L.

(A presentation of the postal activities of the Czechoslovak forces during World War II was given at the Society's General Meeting held in conjunction with "NOJEX 94" near Newark, NJ on May 28-30th. 1994. The lecture, supported with color slides and back-up material, was given by our British member, W. Alec Page FRPS, L, and covered the period from 1939 to 1945 excluding the Eastern front. The following synopsis highlights the coverage of the material shown which represented only a small part of the overall collection.)

The Introduction saw a map of a typical escape route from the homeland in 1939 (fig. 1); a copy of the call to arms in France and the assembling of the escapees in Southern France to be built into a new fighting force.

The Camp in Southern France was at Agde, to the west of Marseilles, and there the first of the May wartime cancellers were introduced. These were frowned upon by French authorities who had already provided the Camp

with a handstamp of the type allocated to civilian post offices handling mail for reserve formations away from the war zones. Likewise standard French Army and camp cancellers were subsequently introduced. (fig. 2).

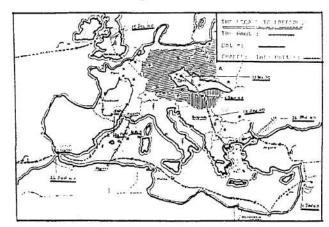


Fig. 1

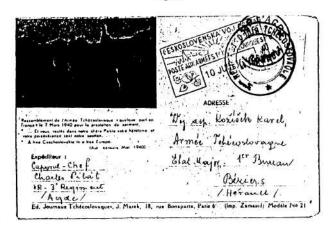


Fig. 2

This did not deter the Czechoslovaks from preparing their own cancellers, which were ini-



Fig. 3



tially used on incoming mail and for the many locally produced souvenirs. Only three such cancellers were utilized in France and were shown with a variety of uses. (fig. 3)

Additionally a variety of Field Postcards were produced in Paris for use by the Forces. However, apart from unused examples and others cancelled with special postmarks, very few genuinely used cards appear to have survived. (fig. 4).

The reformed army units went into battle on June 1, 1940, but with the collapse of France, the forces were withdrawn back to Agde and were soon evacuated to England.

During their time in Britain, where they were



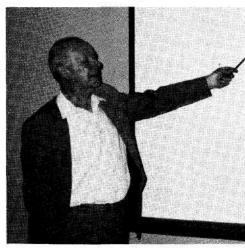


Fig. 5

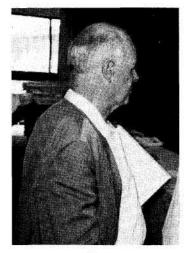


Fig. 6

trained in readiness for the fight for victory, the pattern of their postal activities followed a similar development to that in France. Within a very short time, a Field Post was established and commemorative cancellers prepared, marking important anniversaries and special National days. However, it was ten months before a definitive Field Post canceller was put into use.

Use of the early commemorative cancellations on mail was not allowed and they were con-



Fig. 7

fined to the variety of souvenirs that were prepared. But incoming mail was often stamped with these handstamps as a receiving mark. Examples of mail, souvenirs, locally-produced propaganda postcards covering the majority of the cancellations used were all shown to the audience. Proof strikes of the designs by Dolfa Bartosik were also shown. (see SPECIALIST May/June 1992)

Ingoing mail from outside of Britain was routed through special British Post Office Box Numbers in London, with P.O. Box No. 226 for the Army and P.O. Box No. 281 for the Air Force.

The return to Europe in August 1944 was covered with examples of mail from the Dunkirk area where Czechoslovak forces held the perimeter defences until the end of the war. Other Czechoslovak units fought alongside the American Army and mail was shown to the group in attendance where use had been made of the U.S. Army Post Office facilities in the Pilsen area.

The display concluded with a small selection of mail going to the Czechoslovak unit in North Africa and some French commemorative material marking the inauguration of a monument for the 50th anniversary of the Agde Camp, which had housed many other nationals as well as Czechoslovaks in 1939.

The full story and illustrations of the postal activities of the exiled forces has been published in a series of Monographs by the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain. They are:

Monograph No. 1 (1981) - Supplement (1982 and

Monograph No. 5 (1987) - Supplement (1982) - (This covers the French periods in greater depth than Monograph No. 1).

(Ed. Note - Two glimpses of the author at his NOJEX 94 presentation are shown in figures 5 and 6. Part of the audience appears in fig. 7. Spectators in last row are unidentified. All others, from left to right, are: Dick Major, Ed Lehecka, Mirko Vondra, Jerry Verner and Bob Koschalk).

ERRATA

On page 7 of the July/Aug issue, the last sentence of Gerald van Zanten's article titled PRAGA MUSICOLOUS EUROPEA should read: "When Tyl died in 1856, a statue of him was erected in front of Pilsen's Tyl Theater." Our apologies to the author for this error.

HOW LIDICE SURVIVED THE DEATH WISH

by Michele M. Patrick

(The author, an American of Slovak heritage whose mother was born in Bratislava, holds a high post in the municipal administration of the City of Philadelphia. This article is reprinted with the author's permission from Global Stamp News of June 1994).

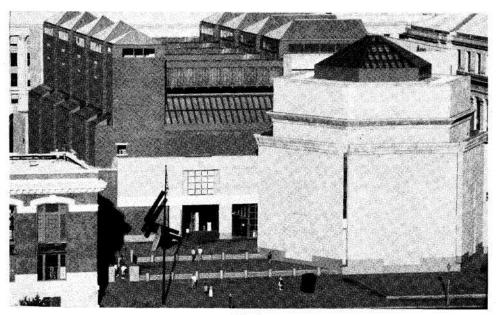


Fig. 1

The opening of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington D.C. was one of the defining events of 1993; already, nearly three quarter of a million people have toured the exhibits. To commemorate the Memorial's inauguration, the U.S. postal service issued a postal card which featured a drawing of the Museum, (Fig. 1). The building's stark design and dour colors echo the grimness and bleakness of the Nazi concentration camps.

The issuing of a postal item is fitting because the ultimate goal of the Museum is to ensure that the world never forgets the Holocaust. Similarly, one of the chief functions of postage stamps is to commemorate the past, whether it be people, ideas or events. By doing so, stamps help preserve history and ensure that we never forget....

By ensuring that the world "never forgets", the postage stamps of Czechoslovakia and now, the Czech Republic, have prevented a sinister goal of Adolph Hitler from becoming a reality. This goal is commemorated in a small section of the Holocaust Museum, a section devoted to the story of Lidice. In 1942, Hitler declared that the little village of Lidice, near Prague in the then "Reich Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia", was to be erased from the map and, more importantly, from human memory - as though it had never existed.

Hitler's order was in revenge for the killing of the so called "blonde beast", Rheinhard Heydrich. Heydrich, Himmler's lieutenant, is usually credited with being the chief architect of the Holocaust. He organized and chaired the Wannsee Conference, a meeting of 15 senior SS men held in Berlin in January of 1942. There, Heydrich outlined and ironed out the administrative aspects of what he termed, "the coming Final Solution of the Jewish problem." Much of what is documented in the Holocaust Museum is Heydrich's handiwork.

In September of 1941, Heydrich had been sent to Prague as "Reich Protector". He was to liquidate all resistance and to ensure that Czech industries, among the largest and most modern in the world at that time, provided a continuous supply for the Nazi war machine.

In the Spring of 1942, two Czech commandos were flown from England into occupied Czechoslovakia to assassinate Heydrich. They waited for him on the road to his office in Hradčany Castle and ambushed his car. When their guns jammed, the commandos hurled a bomb at Heydrich's car; the Reich Protector died on June 4, 1942 (Fig. 2, "The Death Mask of Rheinhard Heydrich").

Hitler ordered savage reprisals; among them, he chose the village of Lidice - a few stories suggest by sticking a pin in a map of Bohemia and Moravia - to be wiped off the face of the earth. On June 10, 1942, Gestapo and SS troops arrived in Lidice and shot all 172 male inhabitants above the age of 15. The 195 women were sent to Ravensbruk concentration camp. Seven babies out of 90 children were judged sufficiently Aryan to be sent to German homes; none ever returned. The remainder were placed in German "educational institutions". But the Nazi barbarism did not end there. Every living person who had been born in the village, but who had moved, was traced and executed.

All buildings were burned to the ground and their foundations dynamited. Gardens and trees

were uprooted. Even the stream which ran through the town was diverted from its natural course. All that remained was a barren field with patches of asphalt. (A film of the entire operation was made for Hitler). All references to Lidice were also removed from road signs; maps; etc.

Although the Nazis committed worse atrocities elsewhere, the calculated nature of the reprisal and the ruthless precision with which it was carried out was unparalleled. It was also the only instance where Hitler declared that a place would no longer exist in the present or the past.

With the destruction of the Third Reich, a memorial garden, with roses donated from around the world, was planted at Lidice. A museum, which shows the film intended for Hitler, was established. A new village of "Lidice" was also founded very nearby, and a few survivors of the tragedy did return. Moreover, towns around the world, from the U.S. to Scotland, renamed themselves "Lidice".

Yet, the Czechoslovak, and now the Czech, government has undertaken one measure which, more than any other, ensures that Hitler's sinister wish remains unfulfilled. Every five years, on the anniversary of the massacre, the Czech postal service issues special Lidice commemoratives. Beginning in 1947, most of the stamps have featured symbols of grief and resurrection or, evoking the memorial garden, a



Fig. 2



Fig 4.



Fig. 5



Fig. 6



Fig. 7

simple rose. For example, the 1957 issues combine both of these themes. One stamp depicts the face of a woman, half in the light and half shrouded in the darkness of grief, (Fig. 3). The other commemorative bears a fully blossoming pink rose, (Fig. 4).

One of the 1962 Lidice stamps shows a smiling young girl, with pink roses in her hair. Behind the girl, there stands a figure of a grieving woman in black, (Fig. 5). Again employing the rose motif, the 1967 issue depicts a single red rose bud, (Fig. 6).

More abstract in nature than the previous designs, the 1972 stamp features a hand reaching upward from among stylized ruins (Fig. 7). This last stamp beautifully illustrates the theme of resurrection.

It is through its "philatelic act of rememberance" that the Czech government proclaims to the world that it will never forget Lidice...Consequently, thanks to the power of the simple postage stamp, Hitler's wish to "erase the memory of Lidice" remains unfulfilled. As the motto of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum proclaims, "For the dead, and the living, we must bear witness...".

THE SOKOLS AND THE KROMĚŘIŽ CONFERENCE SET

(THE BALTIMORE PHILATELIST, published by the Baltimore Philatelic Society, has been running a series of columns under the heading of "Cover Identifier" by Rev. Edward J. Mullowney. In its January 1994 issue, it printed the cover shown below with the following questions: "What is it? What country? Scott numbers, etc.? Anything of interest about this cover?" Ever alert to these inquiries, our foreign editor, Henry Hahn, submitted the following response which is herewith reprinted from the March 1994 issue by permission of Editor Joseph E. Foley and Rev. Mullowney with annotations by your managing editor.)



Fig. 1

The cover is, of course, that of Czechoslovakia. (see fig. 1) It is "philatelic, " showing the full set of the XIth Sokol Slet issue, the full set of the 100th Anniversary of the Kromeriz Conference, and the single stamp issued on the 100th Anniversary of the abolition of serf-dom. (Scott 350-356.) The total franking is 13.50 Kčs and hence it is overfranked by 50h. The

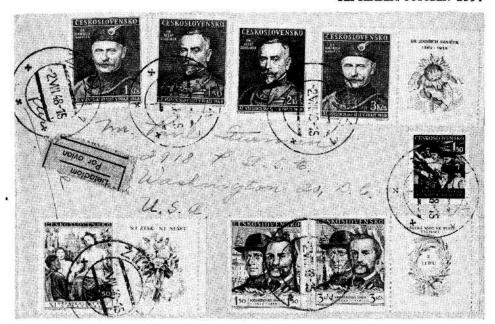


Fig. 2

correct rate is 5kčs for overseas 1st class, and 8kčs for registry. The hand stamp at top left says "Please cancel cleanly (Stamps for collectors)." The rubber stamp under the two stamps at bottom left reads "FIRST DAY COVER' - which this cover is NOT, since the single stamp was issued on May 14, 1948, the Sokol set on June 10th, 1948, and the Kroměřiž set on June 20th, 1948. I can't determine the date of the postmark, though it may be June 19th or more likely July 19th. If it were June 19th, it would be a "sort of" first day for the Kroměřiž set, since it is known to have been placed on sale one day before the official First Day.

Too bad this cover can't talk! Its story would be a truly sad one. Czechoslovakia ceased as a democracy the previous February, and hence it is most likely that the stamps were designed in



Fig. 3

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

democratic Czechoslovakia. The design of the single stamp is by Janko Alexy (1894-1970) from a painting called "Peasant Revolutionaries," painted in 1946. The Sokol set depicts Jundrich Vaniček, Chief of the Czech Sokols and Union of Slavic Sokols, and Josef Schneider, Mayor of the same organizations. The Kroměřiž Conference set depicts František Palacky, Czech historian, and Ladislav Rieger, early Czech political leader. Both sets were designed by Max Svabinsky and engraved by Jindra Schmidt. Thus, the philatelic transition lagged the overthrow of democracy by just a few months. Czechoslovakia's deposed democratic President died shortly after the overthrow, and his "death" stamp appeared on September 28th, to be followed shortly by the first stamp bearing the protrait of Communist President (of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic) Klement Gottwald on October 28, 1948; ironically on democratic Czechoslovakia's Independence Day. Gottwald and his gang, with Stalin's help, plunged Czechoslovakia into a dark age of oppression which lasted into November of 1989, when freedom and democracy returned to Czechoslovakia.

Not surprisingly, validity of all of these stamps for postal use ceased on December 31, 1948. The Communists had no use for any of those individuals depicted in the stamps. The abolition of freedom led to serfdom. The Sokol movement was suppressed. The Kroměřiž Conference had dealt with the rebirth of the Czech people, then (in 1848) under Austrian domination. Hence these were the penultimate stamps before the Gottwald issue (the last ones, issued on August 27th, depict Slovak patriotic personalities), and before the onslaught of stamps dominated by Communist themes and propaganda.

If I were to place this item on an exhibit page, I might title it as the "FAREWELL TO FREEDOM" cover. It is history, though not postal history. But even as such, well worth holding on to.

Henry Hahn, Fairfax, VA

(Interestingly enough, the cover shown in Fig. 1 has almost been duplicated by another similar cover sent to our member, the late Paul Sturman (see page 5 of the SPECIALIST Jan. 1988) as shown in Fig. 2. Cancelled on Aug. 2, 1948, the cover has the same stamps in the same denomination and quantity as the cover in fig. 1 except that it has one additional stamp of 1.50kčs, making the total franking 15kčs. A further difference is that where the cover in fig. 1 shows a Registry label, the one in fig. 2 shows an Airmail label. Missing from this second cover is any notation indicating the cover is for collectors and should be lightly cancelled. Finally, fig. 3 shows a third cover again with the Kroměřiž set which was obviously favor-cancelled and was not mailed. The only reason it is shown here is to illustrate the large decorative cachet with portraits of F. Palacký (upper left) and Dr. Rieger (lower right) and text in Czech which, translated, means: "100th Anniversary of the Kroměřiž Converence in 1848").

M. Vondra

A FINAL TRIBUTE TO FRITZCHE

by Gustav A. Pohlig

(The author was Wolfgang Fritzsche's best friend and though not a member of the S.C.P., he joined both the Finger Lakes Stamp Club in Geneva, N.Y. and the Germany Philatelic Society. This article, a revised version of a speech the author gave at the 40th anniversary of the Geneva Club, has been specially prepared and edited for publication in this journal.).

I met Wolfgang almost 35 years ago through a mutual friend who was a stamp collector. Philately was not one of my hobbies, but that was soon to change. The Fritzsches still lived in Flint, Michigan, where I spent many an afternoon and evening. We both came from Germany,

although he arrived here almost 30 years before me. We of course talked a lot about our lives. Wolfgang grew up in a small town between Dresden and the Czech border. It was called Aue - a mining town. His father was a teacher. The boy started to collect stamps, mainly those of the German area. After World War I, the young man worked at various jobs in his home town, but the declining economy made him look for greater opportunities elsewhere. He went to Italy for a while, but decided to seek a better life in the United States.

1926 was the year Wolfgang came to this country. First he worked as a radio man on a ship that sailed to South America, but when he lost his license because he was not a citizen, he settled in New York. There was a deep depression in this country and work was not easy to find. But Wolfgang had a strong will and a determination to succeed. Sometines he held two or even three jobs at one time. He worked as a waiter seven days a week and saved up enough money to marry Louise, a fine young lady from his own home town.

In 1939, he and a group of friends headed by Josef Lowey founded what is today the Society for Czechoslovak Philately. During World War II, he worked mainly at the Western Electric Plant. In 1945, he got a job with the New York State Employment Agency in New York but relocated to Geneva in Upstate New York and finally to Canandaigua where he became director of a local employment agency until his retirement.

Wolfgang had indeed a very colorful and interesting life. He was enthralled with philately from childhood and never stopped pursuing that hobby. Sometimes it was difficult to get a stamp - the U.S. Zeppelin set cost \$4.50 - and that was during the depression when money was scarce. But Wolfgang kept on collecting. Germany, Italy, Austria, Hungary, Liechtenstein and Czechoslovakia were his chief areas of interest. he met and corresponded with other philatelists and befriended many collectors. His knowledge expanded and he eventually became an eminent figure among philatelists. There is, as you know, a striking difference between a collector and a philatelist. The former accummulates stamps and puts them in an album. The latter researches all areas that have to do with mail. The little pieces of paper are the beginnings of a study of transportation, mail routes, regulations, postal rates, postmarks, etc.

Becoming well-known in philatelic circles, Wolfgang was asked to judge exhibitions and represent the U.S. at international events. Here he rubbed elbows with many distinguished and familiar personalities. He himself exhibited in national and international shows where he earned many prizes. His specialized collections of German Colonies, of German Naval Covers, of Catapult Mail flown between the steamers Europa and Bremen and between American and British shores in the 1930ies became very well known. Some of Wolfgang's collections are on film strips and are part of the A.P.S. Library. To establish such specialized collections was laborious. For securing catapult covers, he had to study time tables, prepare covers for his father to send from Germany and get everything into the mail on time. And while all that was happening, he found time to write articles and communicate with philatelists the world over.

Besides starting the Finger Lakes Stamp Club in Geneva, New York in 1950, Wolfgang, together with a few Rochester friends, founded the Germany Philatelic Society that same year. This became an important American organization with a world-wide membership in which his member number was "2". In addition, he continued as an active member of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately, managing its sales and exchange circuits for over fifty years - yes, I mean over 50 years!

The Fritzsches travelled widely during their last 30 years inasmuch as Wolfgang was an outstanding photographer and his colored slide travelogues were shown throughout the country.

If all this sounds impressive, it is. But much more impressive was the man himself. Our ini-

tial acquaintance had grown into a friendship which enriched my life tremendously. Wolfgang had taught me how to walk philatelically by willingly sharing his vast knowledge with me. Yet in sharing that knowledge, he did so with remarkable modesty and himility.

Now that he has departed form us all, we are socially poorer but philatelically wiser. We will miss him all, but we will carry on his work in spirit just as Alan Hoover now carries on his work in deeds.

TWO CZECH OFFICERS FROM SIBERIA

by Miroslav Vostatek translated by Henry Hahn

At the conclusion of World War I, there were approximately 70,000 Czech and Slovak troops in Siberia and further east who had to fight their way eastward. Their Army was well organized and was referred to as the Czechoslovak Legions in Russia. Because some of them had been gone from their homes for as much as five or six years, their families knew nothing about their whereabouts. Therefore the Red Cross began notifying the relatives by mail of the military fate of their loved ones. It began sending postal cards addressed to district offices requesting each office to contact the families of those soldiers. Fig. 1 shows what the reverse side of such a postal card looked like. It informs the family of B. Závada that their loved one is in the Czechoslovak Army in Siberia. This was communicated by the military branch of the Czechoslovak National Council in Russia (Č.S.N.R.).

Praha, dne 1919.
Byla nám doručena tato zpráva: Jméno: Lavada Bohuslav roz. 111 - 1890
Hodnost: Hays. Pluk:
Sdělení NACHÁZÍ SE V CSL. ARMÁDE V SIBIŘI
Vy odbr. & Y.N.R. Československý Červený kříž. Zajalecký oddíl.

Fig. 1

After the War, B. Závada became a professional soldier. After some years he even became the commander of the 30th Infantry Regiment in Vysoke Myto. It was through his initiative that this regiment assumed the name "Infantry Regiment of Master Alois Jirasek." His friendship with the author was personal. During the occupation, then-colonel Bohuslav Zavada joined the resistance organization "Defense of the Nation". He was apprehended and after

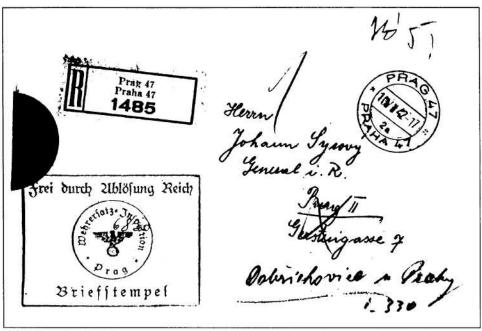


Fig. 2

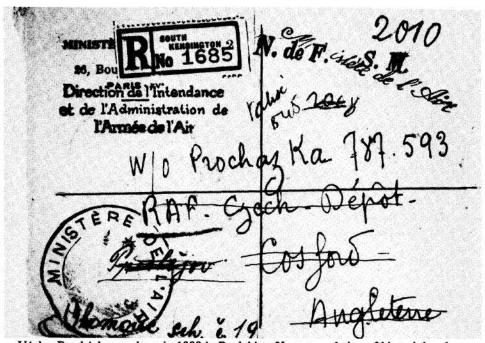
serving in various prisons, he was executed in Berlin. He left behind a wife and three little girls.

A further member and commander of the Czechoslovak Legion was General Syrovy. (see fig. 2) Earlier, as a Lieutenant, he fought in the battle of Zborov, where he lost an eye. He then became a regimental commander and between the wars served as General of the Czechoslovak Army. During the fatefull fall of his country in 1938 he even served as Chairman of the Government and Secretary of Defense. However, shortly before the occupation, he served in the "new" (post-Beneš) Government. After a little over a month, he left the government and lived in retirement. After the war he was convicted and incarcerated. He died in 1970. During the occupation he received an assignment in the Reserve Inspectorate in the German Army, which informed him that he must make available to the Armed Forces his personal car. So much of the "other" side about our Legionaires as documented by postal evidence.

VÁCLAV PROCHÁZKA - MILITARY HERO

by Miroslav Vostatek translated by Mirko L. Vondra

When postal services began functioning in Czechoslovakia immediately after World War II, Major Václav Procházka, an RAF pilot, received a registered letter. He was then a flying instructor. The letter was delivered by the French Air Ministry in Paris, as is evident by the return address on the illustrated envelope and the two cancels. The letter was directed to the Czechoslovak Air Depot within the framework of the RAF at Cosford, but did not reach him there. It was then sent to liberated Czechoslovakia. He was no longer at the airport in Prostejov (where, as a young Army pilot in 1926, he learned to fly) but the letter went on to Olomouc. In it, there was apparently some discussion about him being awarded a medal for bravery which, as a pilot in a French Army uniform, he well deserved.



Václav Procházka was born in 1908 in Pardubice. Upon completion of his training, he was made an instructor at the Aero Club of Eastern Bohemia in Pardubice. After the German occupation, when he was 31 years of age and married, he fled into uncertain exile. He made his way to Poland and then to France where he learned to fly a bomber. He witnessed the fall of France and escaped to England. During a raid on Wilhelmshafen in formation with the 311th Czechoslovak Bomb Squadron, his plane was hit and forced to land at night on the sea near the offshore island of Texel. The entire crew fell captive to the Germans, After the unsuccessful attempt on Hitler's life, he was arrested and interrogated by the Gestapo in Prague. Condemned to death, he was discovered at the War's end imprisoned at the Colditz concentration camp at Lipska. After 1948, he was dismissed from the Czech Army and became a laborer at a chemical plant until retirement. He died in 1973.

For a brief period, he and I worked at the same location. This gave me an opportunity to learn much about our war-time flyers. Since then, I have delved more deeply into this interesting subject of which the illustrated cover is but one such fine example.

Member of the Month



RICHARD MAJOR

Dick Major was born in Chester, PA, on July 16, 1922. He graduated from Media, PA, High School and attended Albright College in Reading, PA, until his education was interrupted by World War II. He served in the U.S. Army as a translator/cryptanalyst decrypting and translating German radio messages. His company was in Salzburg, Austria, on V-E Day, where he then transferred into the local Military Government detachment. He returned to the U.S. in December 1945 and graduated from Albright in June 1946. He attended Graduate School at the

University of Pennsylvania while teaching German at the University of Delaware and received an MA in Germanic Linguistics.

Dick remained in the Army Reserve and was commissioned a second lieutenant in 1948. With the Korean War, he came to Arlington Hall Station for assignment to the National Security Agency. The out-break of the Hungarian Revolution in 1956 saw him assigned to Munich, Germany, to assist in debriefing Hungarian refugees pouring into the West. In 1962 he was assigned to Opa Locka (near Miami) to assist in debriefing Cubans fleeing from Castro. In 1963 he was assigned to Frankfurt, Germany, and pulled a second tour there in 1969. He returned to the U.S. in 1973 and retired from the Army as a lieutenant colonel in 1975.

Lt. Col. Major then went to work in the CIA's Questioned Documents Laboratory where he became an expert in passport forgeries used by terrorist gangs. In the



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

course of this work, he travelled to some 50 countries giving instruction to customs and immigration officers on how to detect terrorists travelling with false passports. He retired from the CIA in 1986.

Dick's wife, Peggy, died of cancer in 1984. He has three children: Michael, Marilyn and Marsha, and eight grandchildren.

As far as stamp collecting is concerned, Dick became member no. 111 of our Society in 1976 as a result of meeting Henry Hahn at a stamp bourse. Since then, he has been elected twice to the Board of Directors, has been Vice-President of the S.C.P. and was the editor of our SPECIALIST for almost six years. Oddly enough, he does not collect stamps of Czechoslovakia per se, but only covers which reflect the breakup of the Hapsburg Empire, especially the Hradčany stamps on covers with Hungarian or altered Austrian postmarks and fieldpost covers from both 1919-20 and the mobilization in 1938. His primary interest is in covers from the Armies and Navies of all countries during and immediately after World War I, especially the marking of the ships of the Austro-Hungarian Navy.

At NOJEX 94, Dick Major was named Honorary Member of our Society and was presented with an authentic copy of the Thaler of St. Joachimsthal, which was an oversized silver coin recognized as valid currency throughout Europe during the 16th century. Shown here is a photo of that presentation being made by our president, Ludvik Z. Svoboda. (fig. 1) Bob Koschalk, Henry Hahn and Alan Hoover are seen seated next to him. In a second photo (fig. 2), Mirko and Anne Vondra are shown seated next to Dick at the same ceremony.

Circuit News

JUST A REMINDER!

This month's column is a brief refresher course on the various items of importance that relate to our sales circuit. Those who have just recently joined our Society should find this of particular interest.



Fig. 1

Insurance receipts - It is extremely important for members to insure all circuits for the required \$100.00 of US Postal insurance when forwarding a circuit. NUMEROUS reports have been received and front envelopes forwarded to me showing members do not insure as required! You are responsible for the value of that circuit should it be lost in the postal system if it is not insured. Members will now be dropped for non compliance with our insurance requirements for any further violations of this important rule. Keep the receipt at least 6 months in case of a loss. It is helpful if you record he Circuit number on your receipt should you be contacted regarding a lost circuit. As of this writing,

another postal loss seems to have occurred. The sender kept excellent records and completed the necessary postal form and supplied the postal insurance receipt to file the claim.

Dating & Recording Circuit recipient on Report Sheets - The bottom of each Report Sheet has ample room for Date forwarded: _____ and To: _____. This is very helpful and needed information for the circuit manager. This lets him know the exact date of your mailing of the circuit and to whom you sent it to. Please take an extra minute when completing that form to include this information. Many members do not. It is important to know when to start worrying about a circuit not been received. This can only be ascertained once I know when you mailed it. Many changes occur in the Routing List while a circuit is making its rounds. I send post cards to members and ask them to modify these lists when a member wishes to be bypassed or removed.

Damage to Circuits - It is imperative to know immediately when damage has occurred to a sales circuit. If you receive a package damaged or stamps stuck down, please contact the sales circuit manager immediately. If you do not record damage, and the next member does, you may be held responsible for the amount of the damaged material. Some members have done an excellent job in notifying me and others seem to take it as standard operating procedure not to notify the sales manager.

Routing List Changes - As mentioned earlier, many members travel for extended periods or decide to withdraw from the sales circuit. When they are next on the circuit list it is important that you help me remove that member from the appropriate Routing List when you receive my postcard. Many times this takes a phone call. I unfortunately do not have all members' phone numbers due to unlisted numbers. (Believe me, I have tried to reach many of you by phone.) Please forward me your phone number with your next Report Sheet. This will help

me tremendously should I need to discuss a circuit issue with you. Most of the time this is done via the mail but often it does require a call.

Meter Stamps - I have received proof from various members of the sole use of meter stamps on circuits they receive. They like to receive used US stamps too and would appreciate your cooperation. As members can attest on packages I send, I wallpaper the package with stamps! The new higher rate stamps are very attractive and while you are at the sales window to have it insured, why not indicate FIRST to the Postal Clerk that you wish to purchase stamps to frank that package. It costs the same; just takes a little extra effort on your

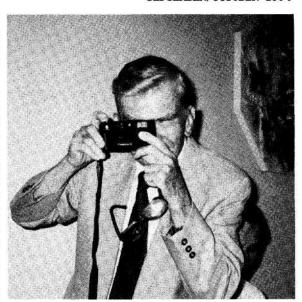


Fig. 2

part to request the stamps and warn the postal clerk not to push that automatic meter printer button!

Keeping track of Circuits received - As you can probably tell, there are over 45 circuits that have been making the rounds lately. Approximately 6 to 8 have just been retired so the number is dropping. But when I contact you via the mail requesting that a Circuit Routing List be changed, it helps if you record what circuits you have received so you can see if I am behind. I always include my phone number on post cards so call me and let me know if the circuit has already left you.

Receiving multiple circuits - Many members wonder why they receive no circuits for some weeks, then suddenly get 3 or 4 in one week! With each new circuit, I alter your name on the distribution list anywhere from #1 to #33. I only send out circuits made up of lists of 10 to 12 individuals. But some members hold the circuit much beyond the normal time - some as much as 4 to 5 weeks. This delays others from obtaining that circuit. Other circuits may have various individuals that drop off or are bypassed, cutting down on the time factor. Then suddenly you get both circuits at once. I have no way of controlling this other than trying to police the members that take too long habitually in reviewing circuits. I have taken members off the circuit routing when this becomes a persistent problem.

COVERS ONLY Circuit - I have started a COVERS ONLY circuit since namy members are only interested in this aspect of SCP collecting. If you desire covers only, drop me a line and I will add you to that circuit. Other members prefer to see all circuits so no change is needed there. If you are not a current sales circuit member and desire to be on this circuit only, drop me a line and say so.

Sales - Sales have been astounding this year! Sales are recently averaging \$2000.00 per month for the entire circuit and many owners are seeing book sale percentages anywhere from 33% to 100% of material being sold. So people are buying - why not send some of that better material you no longer are interested in to the circuit? Again covers and Fieldpost material are very popular as well as early Austrian covers & cards used in Czech territory. Contact the circuit manager with any items you have to sell.

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

NOJEX Circuit Sales - A small amount of material from the sales circuit was on diaplay this year at our annual show at NOJEX. The Society table facilities proved to be extremely poor for review of circuit material so my room got a good workout from some interested members. Some members supplied material at the show and other members bought it on the spot! Covers again were the biggest attraction. My thanks to the various members who looked at all that material and especially to Tony Strechansky who made the meeting of another member of the sales circuit so special.

Sister Hungarian Circuit - Our sister APS Sales Unit, The Society for Hungarian Philately, has also started a sales circuit. I am the circuit manager for that circuit as well. Since some members have similar interest in this area of philately too, drop me a line if you wish to participate in that Society's activity.

Illustrated here are two photos taken at NOJEX 94. Fig. 1 shows me examining a stamp submitted for the circuit. Fig. 2 shows the photographer, Mirko Vondra, pointing his camera in the wrong direction. I am seated, partly obsured, right behind him.

H. Alan Hoover

Editorial Hinges

FLUCTUATING VALUES?

Linn's Stamp News reported in its June 6, 1994 issue that "out of more than 10,000 value changes in volume 2 or the 1995 SCOTT STANDARD POSTAGE STAMP CATALOGUE, nearly half are in China. The Easten European countries of Albania, Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia also show many value increases, particularly among sets with topical interest.... The Three prolific East-European stamp issuing countries......together recorded almost as many value changes as China. Albania and Bulgaria showed many strong increases in propaganda issues as well as topicals, while changes in Czechoslovakia were mixed."

Are the values of stamps of Czechoslovakia fluctuating or does the work "Mixed" infer that the First Republic issues are going up along with stamps of the so-called Protectorate while the 40-years' Communist Regime issues are either unchanged or declining in price? It will be interesting to see what next year's SCOTT'S CATALOG holds in store for us.

KAMIL KUBIK

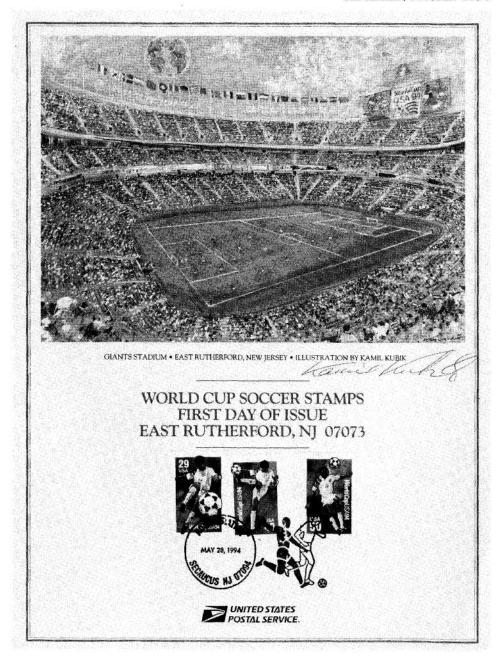
Those who were in attendance at our S.C.P. general meeting at NOJEX 94 were not only awed by W. Alex Page's remarkably well-documented and beautifully-presented talk, but received an unexpected bonus when Czechoslovak-born Kamil Kubik distributed his neatly-designed 9x12 souvenir favor-cancelled card celebrating the first day of issue of his U.S. World Cup Soccer stamps. For those who were not there and who have not seen this fine card, a full-page reproduction of it appears on the next page.

RAILROADS AS TOPICALS

Miroslav Valeš of Pilsen has sent us two postal cards for the railroad enthusiasts. Fig. 1 (page 22) showing the 50h view of Hradčany, was specially cancelled at Železná Ruda for the reopening of the rail line between Železná Ruda and Bayerisch-Eisenstein. Fig. 2 (page 22) shows a card issued in 1989 commemorating the 50th anniversary of the railine connecting Brno, Břeclav and Vienna.

SPORTS AS TOPICALS

Member Joseph Lacko, himself an avid sports fan, has submitted two postal cards and two covers honoring various phases of sports. Fig. 3 (page 23) shows a card mailed on Feb. 27,



KAMIL KUBIK'S SOCCER SOUVENIR CARD

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

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Fig. 1

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Fig. 2 22



Fig. 3

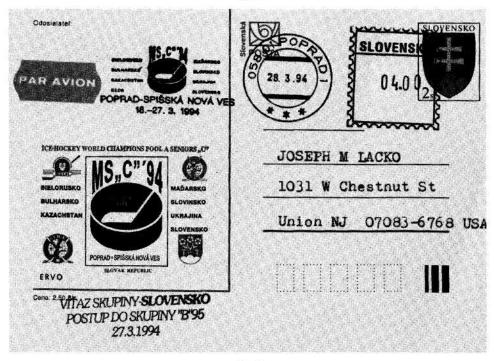


Fig. 4 23

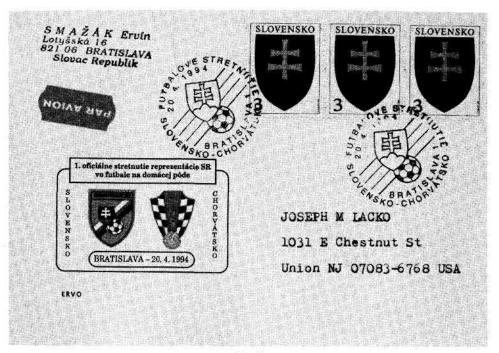


Fig. 5

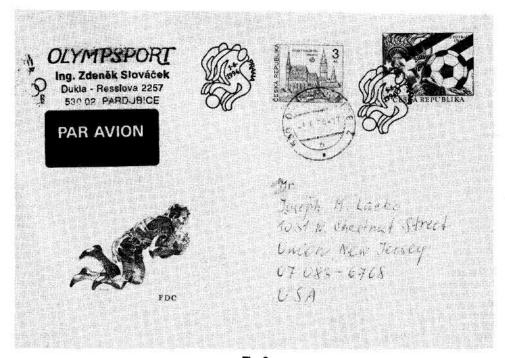


Fig. 6 24



Fig. 7

1944 from Bratislava to his home in New Jersey by airmail. The special cancel honors Slovakia's hockey team playing at Norway's Winter Olympics at Lillehammer 94. Fig. 4 (page 23) shows a card sent airmail from Poprad-Sišská Nová Ves to New Jersey on Mar. 28, 1944 whose cancellation and cachet honors the elevation of Slovakia's hockey team from Senior Class "C" to Class "B" in 1995. Fig. 5 (page 24) is a cover specially cancelled on April 20, 1944 in Bratislava publicizing the soccer match between Slovakia and Hungary on its home grounds. The last cover seen in Fig. 6 (page 24), was cancelled at Pardubice on June 3, 1994 with a special cancellation and cancel honoring Prague's soccer team.

PRESIDENT CLINTON IN PRAGUE

Turning into a world traveler, Pres. Bill Clinton visited Prague in January 1994 and Dr. Vratislav Palkoska sent our Henry Hahn a specially-cancelled postal card honoring his visit. The cancel as well as the cachet read: "Visit of the U.S. President to the Czech Republic." Additionally the cachet reads: "And meeting of the heads of state of the governments of Hungary, Poland, U.S.A., Czech Republic and Slovakia" (see fig. 7 above).

We thank all of the above-mentioned persons who submitted special covers and cards for publication in our periodical. To those many others who also sent publishable material, we are indeed grateful for your thoughtfulness and hope you will understand that limited space prevents us from illustrating everything we receive. We would love to do so and perhaps in some future issues this may be possible.

MODERN-DAY MIXED FRANKING

Frank Garancovsky recently sent us the cover illustrated in Fig. 8 which was sent to him Airmail from Prague to Youngstown, Ohio on August 25, 1993. It shows Scott no. 1 of the

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Czech Republic and Scott no. C23 of Czechoslovakia. C23 dates from the year 1946. Although total franking of 19 kčs. appears to be correct assuming the letter weighed 30 grams, stamps of Czechoslovakia were no longer valid for international use in August 1993. The letter was nevertheless accepted by the Prague postoffice and reached its destination in the U. S.

New Issues

SLOVAKIA

We have finally secured what we believe should be a reliable source for obtaining "New Issues" information from Slovakia just the way we are now receiving it from the Czech Republic, thanks to member Joseph Lacko, The contact seems to have been firmed up and hopefully this information will continue to arrive in an uninterrupted manner. Unfortunatley, we are unable to start the "New Issues" of Slovakia at the beginning of the year, but at least the prospect for the constant future flow of this service is encouraging. We hope to receive photos of the stamps themselves eventually.

- 1. On May 25, 1994, the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Public Works of Slovakia issued a stamp in its series on Celebrated Personalities. Showing a protrait of the physicist and physician, Ján Andrej Segner who, in 1750, produced the first simple-reaction waterwheel, the stamp was designed by academic painter-artist Robert Brun and engraved by Martin Činovský. Printed at the Post Printery in Prague by rotary recess printing combined with recess printing, the stamp had a run of seven million. The first-day cover along with a special postmark was designed by Robert Brun and engraved by František Horniak and had a print run of 10,000.
- 2. On May 27, 1994, the Ministry of Transport issued a stamp in its continuing series on Europa. Showing a portrait of Jozef Murgaš who, in 1904, was granted two patents from the U.S. Patent Office for his so-called "Tonsystem" in the field of radio-telegraphy, the stamp was designed by academic artist-painter Dušan Grečner and engraved by Martin Činovský. Printed at the Post Printery in Prague by recess printing from flat plates with a print run of 400,000, the stamp has a first day cover designed and engraved by the same persons with a print run of 10,000.
- 3. On May 31, 1994, the Ministry of Transport issued a stamp publicizing the World Campaign against Smoking. Designed by academic artist-painter Zdeno Brázdil and engraved by Martin Činovský, the stamp was printed at the Post Printery in Prague by rotary recess printing combined with recess printing with a print run of five million. The motif for the first-day cover is the symbol of the International Day without tobacco. Designed by Zdeno Brázdil, it was printed by offset at Kasico in Bratislava and had a print run of 10,000.

Library Notes

A SIGNIFICANT ADDITION FROM W.A. PAGE

We have been informed that W. A. Page, whose synopsis of his four-volume collection titled "The Postal and Related Activities of the Exiled Czechoslovak Forces - 1939 to 1945" can be found on pages 5 to 7 of this issue, has donated copies of that collection to our Society Library which will shortly become available to our members on a loan basis. The collection includes backup ephemera with additional copies of items from other collections suitably identified and will form a useful reference for interested collectors. It is contained in four volumes comprising over 400 pages in similar format as the MONOGRAPHS produced by the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain.

The four volumes contain the following data:

Vol. One: The reformation of the Forces at Agde, Southern France, in 1939-1940. Evacuation to United Kingdom after defeat of France & arrival at Cholmondley. Contents - Introduction, Czechoslovak Forces at Adge, Evacuation from France, Arrival at Cholmondley, Postoffice Boxes 226 & 281, Commemorative cancellations and related material.

Vol. Two: United Kingdom: Establishment of field postal facilities and introduction of commemorative fieldpost cancellations. Contents - Commemorative cancellations: Leamington, Ilminster, Lowestoft.

Vol. Three: United Kingdom: Preparation for return to Europe. Regular & commemorative fieldpost cancellations. Contents - Commemorative cancellations continued: Desborough, Galashield; Regular fieldpost cancellations.

Vol. Four: The return to Europe. Regular fieldpost cancellations. Censored mail"Victory". Supplementary commemoratives & related material. Contents - August 1944Dunkirk. Czechoslovak soil. May 1945-Prague. Middle East & Africa. Related material:
United Kingdom, United States, Royal Air Force, Propaganda Material, Red Cross,
Miscellaneous, Agde Camp-50th anniversary.

Our Society is, of course, immensely indebted to Alec Page for his invaluable contribution to our library. However, it should be noted that while the information contained in these four volumes may be used for publication elsewhere provided the source is acknowledged, the volumes have been copyrighted and cannot be republished without the author's express and written consent

In the meantime, our librarian, Richard Palaschak, has received numerous requests for unbound back issues of the SPECIALIST at our special discount price as noted in the July/August issues, page 14. This sale will remain in effect until the existing supply is exhausted. Several numbers have already been fully depleted. Those interested in securing back issues are advised to place their order in as soon as possible while most numbers are still available.

The Society wishes to express its sincere condolences to the Klein family on the passing of Hans Klein's beloved wife and Bram Klein's mother. Born Catharina Juliana van Broek, Mrs. Klein passed away on June 9th in the Netherlands after a long illness in the 83rd year of her life. She leaves behind three married children and five grandchildren. Funeral services were held on June 12th in Rotterdam. Hans Klein is currently our member no. 1213.

NOMINATING FORM						
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Directors of the S.C.P.						
1. Signed	Member no	Dated				
2. Signed	Member no	Dated				

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