



THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

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Official Bi-Monthly Journal of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately,
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Numerous International and National Literature Awards

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NOVEMBER/ DECEMBER 1994

No. 6, Whole No. 528



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

An appropriate philatelic item is this postal Christmas greeting card sent from Prague to Westfield, N.J. on December 6, 1948. The picture shows villagers lined up before a local postoffice with gift parcels ready for mailing. Since the picture part of the card is actually its reverse side, you will note the backstamp which shows no date. The cancellation reads: "New York - 1968 - Delayed by Stoppage in Steamship Operations." The card was received in Westfield 22 days after initial mailing.

The editorial staff wishes all its friends and readers a cheerful holiday season!

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Editorial Staff

Managing Editor: Mirko L. Vondra, 2363 McCleary Dr., Chambersburg, PA 17201

Assistant Editor: Gerald van Zanten, P.O. Box 159, Napier, New Zealand

Foreign Editor: Henry Hahn, 2936 Rosemoor Lane, Fairfax, VA 22031

Special Projects Editor: Phillips Freer, Apartado Postal 646, Oaxaca, Oax, 68000, Mexico

Advertising Manager: R. T. Cossaboom, Jr., Box 25332, Scott AFB, IL 62225

Elected Officers

President: Ludvik Svoboda, 4766 South Helena Way, Aurora, CO 80015

Vice President: Henry Hahn, 2936 Rosemoor Lane, Fairfax, VA 22031

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Book Sales Manager: Ed Lehecka, 217 Hazel Ave, Westfield, N.J. 07090

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INSTALLATION OF NEWLY AUTOMATED RECEIPTS

by Miloslav Vlček

The automated receipt of registered mail and packets at selected postoffices in the Czech Republic was started at the beginning of June 1994 with a trial operation at the postoffice of Kroměříž 1 on June 6. Two further postoffices followed: Havířov 1 and Praha 4. The operation is carried out on new NCR on AT & T Company machines from Germany. Such installation is being contemplated for use at all major postoffices in the Czech Republic.

New blanks have been printed for use in this streamlined undertaking. They comprise postal receipts (see Fig. 1) and dispatch notes (see Fig. 2). Eventually they will replace all blanks currently used at postoffices. An insured self-adhesive sticker (Fig. 3), size 41 x 68 mm affixed to manipulation wax sheets, size 211 x 310 mm., measure 7 x 3 cm. each, with a total of 21 pieces (Fig. 4). This insured sticker has a white background

Podací lístek				
Vyhrazeno pro služební údaje pošty:				
Odesílatel				
Adresát			Dobírka Kč	
			Cena Kč	
Druh zásilky	Podací číslo	Hmotnost	Poplatek	Výplatě

Fig. 1

Podací lístek					Poštovní průvodka				
Vyhrazeno pro služební údaje pošty:					Vyhrazeno pro služební údaje pošty a výplatě:				
Odesílatel					Odesílatel				
Adresát				Cena Kč	Adresát				
Druh zásilky	Podací číslo	Hmotnost	Poplatek	Výplatě	Cena Kč		Poplatek při odcání oplatné Kč h		
					Hmotnost kg g		jine poplatky Kč h		
							Celkem Kč h		

Fig. 2

with a repeat pattern slanted diagonally bearing yellow lettering that spells "ČESKÁ POŠTA", a postcode followed by the name of the postoffice, a light blue outline of a perforated stamp showing "Ceská Republika" at the top and the amount of postage paid below it and a red frame for the registry number. All this information on the insured sticker is printed by multifunctional Olivetti printer. The postcode and the name of the postoffice of mailing is printed additionally on the sticker shown for postoffice at Kroměříž 1.

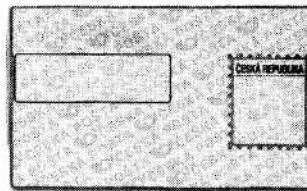


Fig. 3

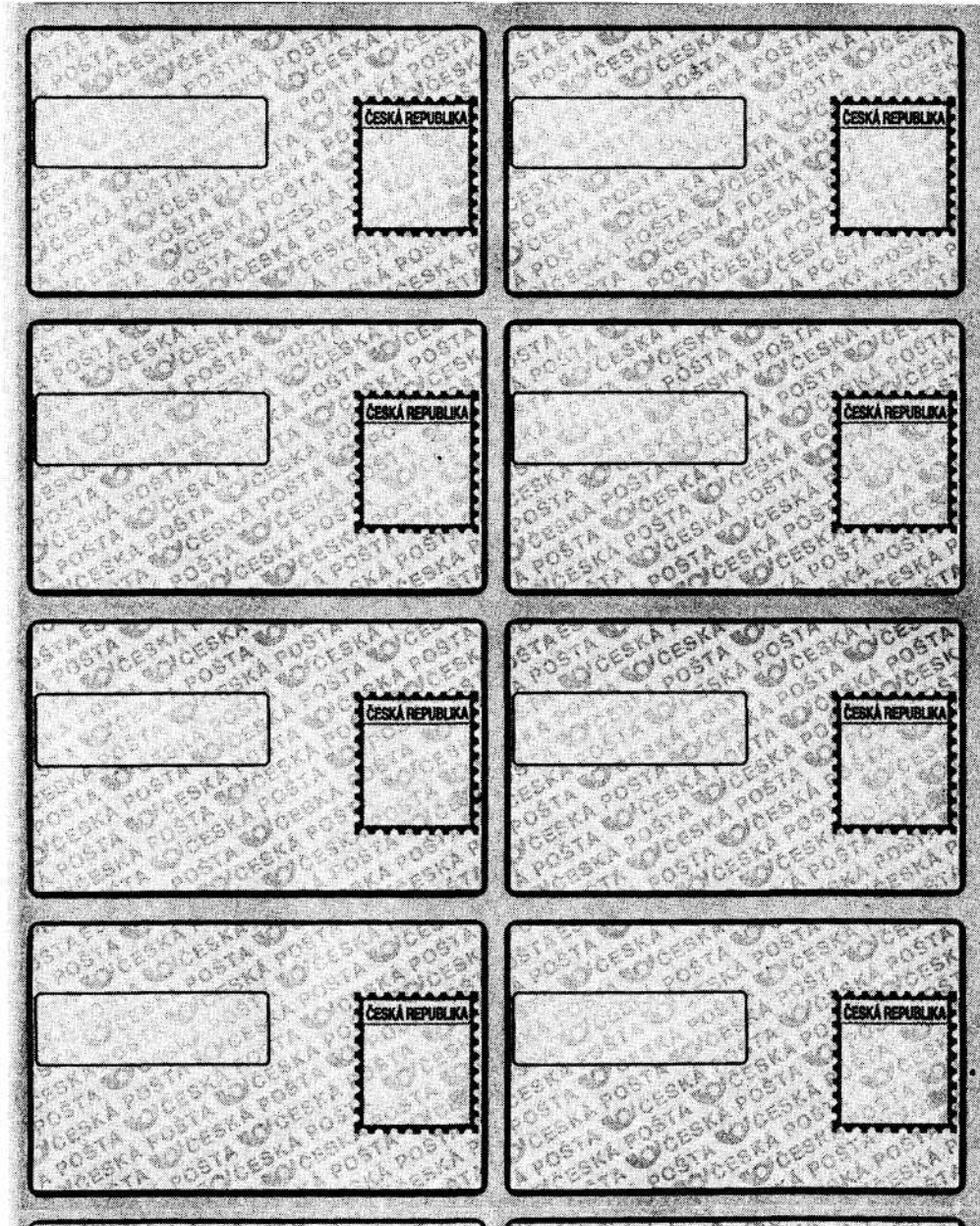


Fig. 4 - This is 8 of 21 pieces in actual size of a complete sheet.

The insured sticker contains the following data produced by the multifunctional printer:

- a-Postcode and name of postoffice,
- b-Abbreviated method of mailing and number of posting,
- c-Date of posting, transaction code (numerical designation of method of mailing),
receiving clerk's code and weight of mailed item,

d-Significant services requiring use of the following abbreviations-

R-registered	DC-Collect on delivery (COD)
EX-Express	and paying-in slip
VR-To the addressee	UC-Price given
D-Advice of delivery	U-Urgent parcel
DA-Collect on delivery (COD)	F-Fragile parcel
and postal order A	EN-Bulky parcel
DC-Collect on delivery (COD)	UP-Sealed
and postal order C	LT-Airmail

The current stickers or labels available for Express, Airmail, Fragile, etc. (Fig. 5) are to be attached to the appropriate item of mail.

e-On the right side of the sticker is an imprinted image of a blank perforated stamp with the amount of postage electronically typed in. If the sender pays the postage or its equivalent by means of actual postage stamps or by a franking machine of his own, only the remainder of postage assessed is typed inside the imprinted stamp. Fig. 6 is a cover with a sticker that shows all postage prepaid.

The amount of postage to be typed on the imprinted stamp is replaced by the abbreviation BSAZ if it involves postage-free mails such as official mail or mail sent by blind persons. (Fig. 7).

Postmarking of the new forms of postal receipts and dispatch notes at automated postoffices is carried out by multifunctional printer and, with the exception of the data on the insured sticker, the stamp includes the identification of the receiving clerk (his personal number, the number of the cycle and the transaction) and the code and symbol warranting against corruption and embezzlement. (Fig. 8).

The above-described operation is valid only for internal use within the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

International operations started on September 1, 1994. From the sender's point of view, the procedure appears somewhat cumbersome, tedious and time-consuming. When the office



Fig. 5

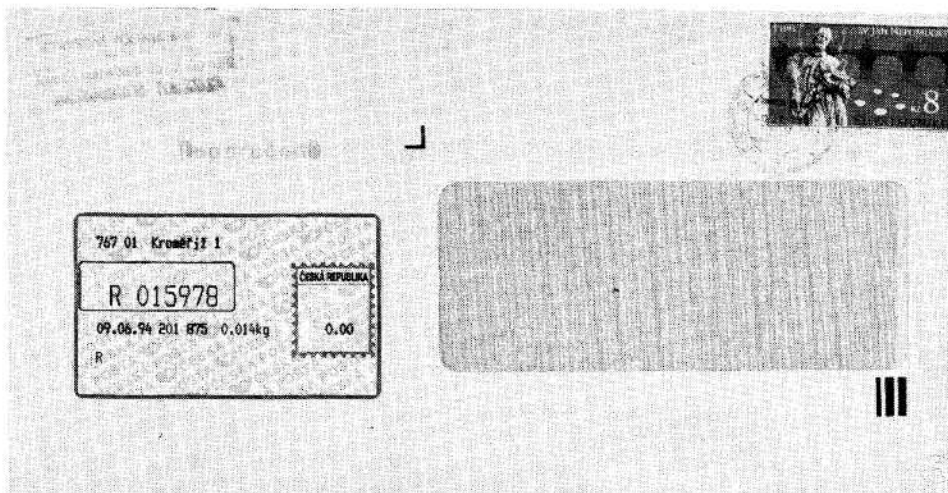


Fig. 6
5



Fig. 7

Podací listek	
Vyhrazeno pro státní úřady pošty:	
767 01 Kroměříž I	201
R 018713 569 R	10.00K2
19.07.94 0.035kg 80750 13	48
Odesílatel: M. Vlček, PoB 13	
768 24 HULÍN	
Adresát:	Dobírka Kč
Ing. Otto Barton	Cena Kč
Wolkerova 845	
845, o. s. Brankova	
Účt. číslo	Právní nást.
Restrikce	Podpisání
Výše úhr.	

Fig. 8

clerk takes over the item of mail, he places it on the scales, enters the date in the computer and then inserts the whole sheet with the insured stickers in the multifunctional machine which prints the given data on one sheet of the insured sticker. The clerk then removes it and affixes it to the item of mail. If further data is required, he attaches an appropriate label like Express, Airmail, Fragile, etc. to the parcel. He then inserts the postal receipt into the printer which prints up the data needed. Finally he hands to sender the postal receipt as confirmed.

The fact of the matter is that the automated operation now being employed at major postoffices throughout the Republic not only speeds up and improves services, but actually accelerates the internal balances of account.

RICHARD MACILRATH MAJOR, 1922 - 1994

We are greatly saddened to report the passing of Dick Majors, our most recently elected Honorary Member and our most recent (September/October) Member of the Month.

Dick Major passed away on September 2nd at the home of his daughter in Reston, VA. He had suffered from Hodgkin's disease for several years, during which he fought valiantly, supported by his deep faith, family, friends and philately.

Many details of Dick Major's superb life are detailed in the above mentioned Member of the Month article of the SPECIALIST. There are just a few further facts to be mentioned concerning his intellectual capability. Most notably, Dick spoke twelve languages, and served as a bible study class teacher and vestryman at the Truro Episcopal Church in Fairfax, VA. There he was also active in the Church out-reach and missionary groups.

Dick served our Society well and in many functions. He will be missed by a great many of us for his warm friendship, great intellect, and many unselfish deeds. We will treasure his memory.

His memorial service took place at the Truro Episcopal Church in the presence of hundreds of his friends and family. He was buried with full honors at Arlington Cemetery. His survivors include a son, Michael, two daughters, Marilyn Tangonan and Maggie Marcum, and eight grandchildren.

PRAGA MUSICOPOLIS EUROPÆ PART II THE PROVISIONAL THEATRE

by Gerald M. van Zanten

In my first article on the above subject we examined the early development of music and looked at the Tyl theatre in Prague.

We shall now have a look at the PROZATIMNÍ DIVADLO (Provisional/Temporary Theatre), the fore-runner of the NÁRODNÍ DIVADLO (National Theatre).

In the February 20, 1861 issue of *Národní Listy* (National Newssheet) there appeared details of a competition of the two best operas composed on National Czech themes, a prize of 600 gulden was offered for each of the winners.

"OPERA COMPETITION"

"There is no nation that loves song and music in greater measure and at the same time could prove itself with a treasure of genuine songs and delightful melodies than the Slav in general and the Czech in particular. ...I want to encourage the composition of Czech National Opera and therefore announce two prizes, each of six hundred gulden, for the two best two-act scores, and two prizes, each of two hundred gulden, for the best Czech texts to these. The first of these operas is to be based on the history of the Czech people; the second should be of gay content and taken from the national life of the people in Bohemia, Moravia or Silesia.

"The composers are free to choose their texts and their librettists so that each can work out, in collaboration with his own poet, his own treatment. It is not necessary to remind the entrants that the selected plot must be simple but sufficiently dramatic, at the same time rich in lyric and pathetic moments so that there can be an adequate basis for song and music. The characters should be lightly drawn and well contrasted; the verses must be fluent and singable; rhythm and form molded to the mood and situation; the diction should be poetic, natural, easy and correct and the whole content imaginative, emotional and above all musical.

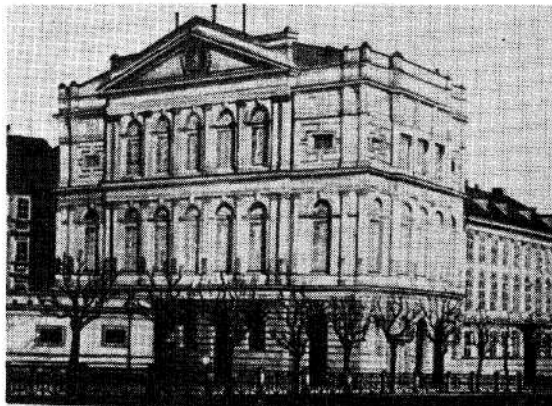


Fig. 1

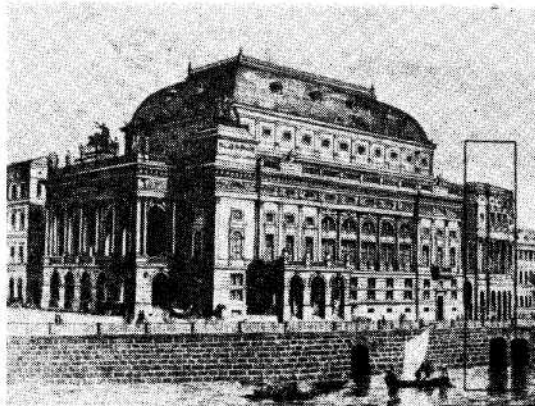


Fig. 2

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



Fig. 3

"Concerning music and song, I stipulate that the opera shall be based on a diligent study of the national songs of the Czech and Slovak peoples. The music must have real national identity. The chorus in gay operas should not cause boredom among the audience, but rather a vivid reflection of national songs which stimulate a lively interest. In gay operas, national dances may also be introduced to advantage. To what extent historical operas employ old chorales as themes for the chorus is left to the discretion of the composer according to his chosen plot.

"A basic condition is that the composer should by birth belong to the lands of the Czech Crown. The composition, text and music should be delivered at the latest on September 30, 1862, to my address in Prague. On the first page should appear a motto which, at the same time, should be written on the envelope of a letter in which is sealed the name of the poet and the composer, his position and address. Manuscripts and compositions not awarded a prize will be returned by means of this motto. The jury that will make the decision for the successful composition and the best text will be called together officially and announced at a later date. The

poet whose text will be recognized by the jury to be the best will receive a premium even if the musical setting is not awarded a prize, and he will be free to do as he wishes with his text. The prize-winning opera shall remain the exclusive property of the composer with one condition—that the first performance shall be given in a Prague theatre. And so I invite my dear compatriots, wherever they may be, to participate enthusiastically in this Czech enterprise—to produce a real national work that will glorify the Czechs!

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February 10, 1861.

JAN HRABĚ HARRACH"

This announcement coincided with another stating that a Provisional Czech Theatre was to be constructed, to be the home of opera until a permanent National Theatre could be erected.

The competition was organized by Count Jan Hrabě Harrach (1828-1899), who was the chairman of the building committee as well as founder of the patriotic group "Česka Matice".

Since nearly all art institutions were in the hands of the Austrians, there was no State support, so the Czechs raised the necessary funds for their own theatre by public subscription.

The site chosen was found adjoining the old Salt House on the banks of the River Vltava. Plans were drawn up by Hynek Ullmann; the cost was estimated to be 100,000 gulden. In actuality it was built at a cost of 106,626 gulden, 82 kreutzer in six months! The site was only 32 meters by 20 meters, and all accounts agree about the inevitably cramped conditions. A contemporary account relates:

"Even the stalls were reached by a large number of stairs. The staircase was narrow, the steps uncomfortably high, and the galleries on individual floors were narrow and virtually without cloakrooms. A visit to the new seat of the muses was achieved by a wearisome climb and an anxious return. Luckily the audiences of the time had good nerves..."

The theatre opened its doors on November 18, 1862. (see Fig. 1). There were 362 individual seats, of which 159 were in the stalls, 44 boxes of four seats, on three tiers, and standing room for 340 (about 140 of these in the stalls).

A further two rows in the stalls were added to the 9 already there, thus gaining another 23 seats, bringing the total capacity to 900. The stage measured 9.5 meters across, 7.5 m to the top and a depth of 9.5 meters, the theatre was usually referred to as the "matchbox". Fig. 2 shows The National Theatre with the Provisional Theatre outlined.

Smetana's "Brandibofí v Čechách" (The Brandenburgers in Bohemia) was performed on January 5, 1866. On March 27 Smetana received the following letter from Count Harrach: "Your score has complied with the rules of the competition and the judges have been unanimous in their decision to award you the Prize of six hundred gulden. My heartiest congratulations!"

In that same year, on May 30, the first performance of "Prodaná Nevěsta" (Bartered Bride) took place.

Before completing his first opera, "The Brandenburgers in Bohemia", Smetana had himself photographed in 1863. It is a famous likeness of him which he gladly signed. (see Fig. 3).

As a contributor to the newspaper, NARODNI LISTY, Smetana agitated for a new theatre in an article published on July 22, 1864, barely two years after the opening of the Provisional Theater. In it he wrote:

"If we are to build a Czech Opera, we must build a Theater that is suitable for Opera-and the sooner, the better!"

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Mr. Bretislav Janik

He served as secretary of the organizing committee of the world exhibition of postage stamps, PRAGA 1988

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BACKGROUND OF THE JEWISH RELICS ISSUE

by Michele Patrick

(This article is reprinted by permission of the author, a new member of our Society, from *Global Stamp News* of August 1994)



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

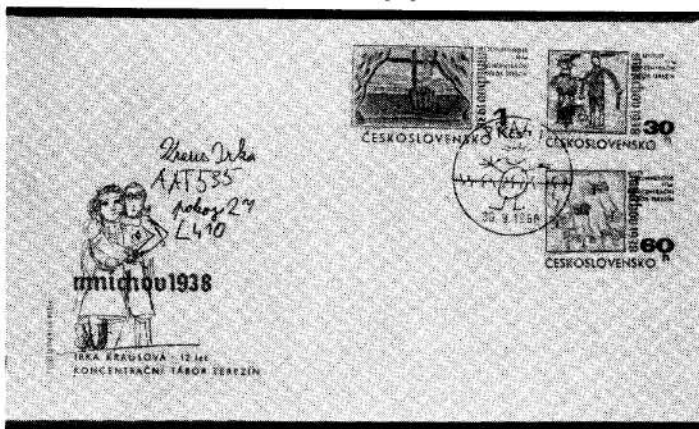


Fig. 3

One of the most fascinating aspects of philately is that stamps allow you to remain in your favorite armchair and still gain a glimpse of another place and culture. Such is the case with a special set of stamps issued by Czechoslovakia in May 1967. The stamps commemorate the renowned "State Jewish Museum" of the Czech Republic; they can also take you on a wonderful philatelic "tour" of Prague's renowned Jewish Quarter.

The State Jewish Museum contains the greatest collection of Jewish artifacts in Europe, housed within six synagogues and other buildings in the Josefov, or Jewish Quarter. Although Jewish people have lived in Prague since at least the tenth century, the museum's legacy is due to a perverse set of circumstances.

Planning a massive "Exotic Museum to an Extinct Race," Adolph Hitler gathered Jewish artifacts and treasures from all over Europe and deposited them in Prague. He amassed over 200,000 items. Hitler also prevented the destruction of the various Josefov buildings and the famous Jewish cemetery, since they, too, were to be part of his "museum".

Inherited by Czechoslovakia after World War II, Czech Communist leaders spent the next 40 years trying to discourage museum visitors. Priceless collections of objects and historic buildings were often closed to the public for many years, and only a very small portion of the items was ever taken out of storage.

Now, with the restoration of democracy after the "Velvet Revolution" of 1989, Czech authorities are giving the collections the respect they deserve. Consequently, this is the perfect time to take our philatelic tour...

The heart of the area, both physically and spiritually, and one of the most popular tourist attractions in Europe, is the old Jewish cemetery. This is the logical place to begin our visit. The cemetery is actually the primary "treasure" of the State Jewish Museum.

The first burial occurred 1439; it is the oldest surviving Jewish graveyard in Europe. (The only older cemetery, in Worms, Germany, was completely destroyed by the Nazis.) It is believed that as many

as 20,000 people are buried in at least 12 underground levels!

The site is indescribable with nearly 12, 000 gravestones literary falling over one another in an area no larger than a small city block. This "forest" of worn and warping gravestones, many intricately carved with Talmudic symbols or even portraits of the deceased, and decorated with finals or figures or flourishes, wildly lean over one another in what appears to be natural formations of stone formed by centuries of wind and erosion.

Fig. 1 depicts the gravestone of seventeenth century astronomer and historian, David Gans; notice that, like most of the stones, it is not standing upright. It is a site which seems to simultaneously transfer the visitor back in time and to another world.

The macabre landscape also seems to be the perfect setting for a horror story and, in fact, one of history's most famous legends has its origins in this graveyard. A certain Rabbi Loew, a historical figure supposedly well versed in magic and the cabala, lived in Prague in the late 1500s. According to local belief, one night, Loew formed a man out of mud and used magical incarnations to bring him to life in the Jewish cemetery. Eventually, the creature went wild, rampaged through the Jewish Quarter and had to be destroyed. Loew realized that he never should have tampered with the laws of creation. This was history's very first incarnation of the "Frankenstein" myth. This one was called The Golem.

The Prague cemetery certainly appears a vision of the surreal; however, there is one final piece of unpleasant reality which must be faced before leaving the area. Many of the vaults, which line the cemetery wall, have been ripped open - a legacy of the Nazis who were searching for valuables deposited by transported Jewish people.

On the southern edge of the cemetery is the Pinkas Synagogue, which stands on the eleventh century foundations of what may have been Pragues' first synagogue. Inside the building is the official memorial to Czech Jews; on one wall are inscribed



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 1993

The financial result for 1993 were reported on and approved at the May 28, 1994 Annual Meeting. Below is a summary of those results:

INCOME:		
Membership Dues	\$5,327.00	
Net Sales & Services	(174.25)	
Advertising	162.01	
Interest	170.00	
Total Income		5,548.76
Expenses:		
SPECIALIST Printing & mail	5,026.99	
Convention Expense	308.43	
Patron Books	522.67	
Membership Fulfillment	258.47	
Officers Expense	144.05	
Printing & Misc.	294.25	
Total Expenses:		6,554.86
Net Loss		(1,006.10)
Submitted and Certified by E. W. Lehecka, Treasurer May 28, 1994		



Fig. 6



Fig. 7

the 77,297 names of Czech Jews murdered during WWII.

Fig. 2 echoes that memorial by showing the names of the various Nazi concentration camps inscribed on a wall, behind a menorah. Under the late Communist regime, this synagogue was closed for over a decade for "restoration", and there was a rumor - never disproved - that they were actually planning to plaster over the memorial!

At the cemetery gate stand the neo-Romanesque Ceremonial House, built in 1908. The building contains what must be the most moving of all the museums exhibits. The ground floor contains two rooms devoted to the "Children of Theresienstadt."

Theresienstadt, the only concentration camp in Czechoslovakia, was the Nazi's "model" camp - their Potemkin's village. It was the camp which Red Cross officials were shown and where a propaganda movie, "Hitler Gives a City to the Jews", was filmed. (Unfortunately, everyone shown in the film was immediately sent to Auschwitz.)

The camp had its own money featuring a picture of Moses; its own stores-where internees could buy back their own suitcase; a pool and cinema which the Jews could use when the Red Cross was visiting; a childrens' playground built immediately before a Red Cross visit, etc. Still, by camp standards, the regime was "lax" and, consequently, various cultural activities, such as clandestine newspapers, plays, concerts, etc., did flourish.

It needs to be remembered, however, that, although it was not a death camp, inmates still suffered from brutality and disease. In the words of author Sadakat Kadri. "The laxness was very relative indeed; only some 20,000 of 140,000 deportees survived the war."

Yet, even in the midst of the nightmare, the spirit of a child will remain. Because of the comparatively easy regime, the children of Theresienstadt produced dozens of drawings which survived the war. These drawings are unique in the history of the Nazi concentration camps. They depict flowers, butterflies or, sadly, the homes

they left behind.

Yet, many of the pictures have a disturbing quality, since they also contain portraits of menacing looking guards or blackened landscapes. In 1968, Czechoslovakia issued three stamps which honored all the children. The stamps reproduced three of their drawings, Fig. 3-First Day Cover of 9/30/68. While two of the works seem to be typical examples of childrens' art, the third could only have been done in a concentration camp. It shows a Jewish man, wearing a Star of David, with a camp guard, and it is done completely in black.

All three young artists would later perish in Auschwitz. The originals of these drawings, as well as many others, are on view in the Ceremonial House. More than any monument or museum, these art works attest to the tragedy of the Holocaust.

Leaving the Ceremonial House, on the other side of the entrance to the cemetery is the 17th century Klausen Synagogue, which houses a collection of Hebrew manuscripts and an exhibit on the history of printing in the ghetto. This exhibit is most fitting, since, in 1512, the world's first Hebrew printing press was established in the Prague Jewish Ghetto. A printed picture from a work of 1530, Fig. 4, commemorates the museum's collection of printed material.

One block from the entrance to the cemetery is Maiselova Street and the Gothic Old-New Synagogue. Built in 1270, it is the oldest synagogue in Europe still in continuous use. Fig. 5 depicts the facade of the building. According to local legend, the stones to build the structure were made from the rubble of the last Temple of Jerusalem, brought to Prague in AD 135.

Virtually next to the Old-New Synagogue is the Jewish Town Hall and adjacent High Synagogue, both constructed in 1568. Inside is housed an outstanding collection of Jewish

textiles, again, most taken from Jewish families from across Europe by the Nazis.

This collection was often closed to the public under the Communists. Although only a small selection of the items is on display, the complete collection contains: 2000 Torah wrappers; 6000 Torah mantels; wedding dresses; wedding camp rabbis' robes; etc.

Interestingly, the clock tower on the town hall has Hebrew figures; and since Hebrew is read right to left, it is the only clock in Europe which runs counter-clockwise!

The final stop on Maiselova street is the 16th century Maisel Synagogue. Undoubtedly the most outstanding of all the collections, it contains case after case of shimmering silver which the Nazis took from 153 Czech synagogues and private homes. The rows of richly detailed Torah crowns are not only the most aesthetically pleasing, they evoke the greatest sense of loss.

Sitting silent and unused in a museum, they testify to the loss of ancient Jewish communities throughout Europe, an important thread in the tapestry of European culture and history which can never be replaced.

Fig. 6 shows a stylized crown. Until the Communists were overthrown in 1989, the Maisel Synagogue had been closed to visitors for a number of years.

A short distance away from the Maisel Synagogue stands the last of the buildings which comprise the State Jewish Museum, and that is the 19th century Spanish Synagogue. A vision of the Arabian nights, with its Moorish influence, it commemorates the Sephardic Jews who came to Prague after being expelled from Spain in the 15th century. This building is not open to the public, because it is the museum's depository.

Fig. 7 depicts a beautiful 19th century pitcher; it serves as a reminder of the vast holdings of this museum which can be seen and enjoyed only during intermittent special exhibits. For as previously noted, only a small portion of the museum's objects are able to be displayed in its current exhibition spaces. For 40 years, the former Communist government undertook no effort to correct this situation.

Hopefully, the coming of democracy and the opening of all the permanent exhibits for the first time in many years means that initiatives will now be undertaken to ensure that this unparalleled collection can be fully enjoyed by the public.

Through Czechoslovakia's "philatelic commemoration", the entire world can enjoy the treasures of the State Jewish Museum and can help remember a Europe that, once vibrant and thriving, now exists only in the showcases of a central European City.

Thus, the stamps which comprise this "philatelic" walking tour of Prague's Jewish Quarter allow us to see and appreciate both the present which is, and the past which was...These stamps also allow us a unique look into "An Exotic Museum of an Extinct Race."

YEAR - END CLOSEOUT

A number of profusely illustrated hardcover books were published at the time of PRAGA 1988. Most run from 165 to 235 pages and have excellent articles and features. All in Czech, of course. They are offered at reduced prices and are well worth it.

They are:

ČESKOSLOVENSKA FILALETIE 1988
PRAGA 88 EXHIBIT CATALOG
PRAGA 88 - ART ON STAMPS

These are offered at \$4.00 postpaid or all three for \$10.00 postpaid.

In addition we have the SBORNÍK ČLÁNKŮ SERIES which are annual collections of philatelic articles in a soft binder. They are:

SBORNÍK ČLÁNKŮ 1987
SBORNÍK ČLÁNKŮ 2 1988
SBORNÍK ČLÁNKŮ 3 1989
SBORNÍK ČLÁNKŮ 4 1990

These are offered at \$2.00 postpaid or \$6.00 for all four.

Send your orders to: E. W. Lehecka, Society for Czechoslovak Philately, Inc.
217 Hazel Avenue, Westfield, NJ 07090

CZECHOSLOVAK ARMY FIELD POST IN GREAT BRITAIN 1940-1945

by Vladimír J. Králíček

In 1984 Dr. M. Vostatek published in INFORMACE an interview of the Czechoslovak Army Field Post Office 1st Commanding Officer, Capt. Oldřich Večerek. This was subsequently translated by Mirko Vondra, the present Managing Editor of the Czechoslovak Specialist, and published during April, May and June 1987 in the Czechoslovak Specialist.

Capt. O. Večerek, when interviewed, commented on the difficulties encountered in establishing the Field Post office. Following may help to understand the difficulties encountered:

The Czechoslovak Army Field Post Office was established on December 1, 1940 (MNO 3570 II/ 1 odd. 1940). Capt. O. Večerek was appointed as the Field Post Office 1st Commanding Officer by the MNO (Ministry of National Defense) on December 7, 1940 in Leamington Spa, England. He remained with the Field Post Office until August 31, 1943, when Capt. Josef Sommers took over as the Commanding Officer.



Fig. 1

When Capt. O. Večerek assumed his post, he found that there was no equipment, stationary, furniture, or anything else that was necessary to make the Field Post Office operational. Following document is a list of equipment, etc. submitted on December 17, 1940 by Capt. O. Večerek to the Commanding Officer of the Czechoslovak Army in Great Britain, Gen. Miroslav Neumann, as being necessary to start the Field Post Office functioning:

Here follows a translation of that list:

1. Premises - at present we have no working space, heating or furniture.
2. Cancellor - similar to the British Field Post type, inscription in Czech and English for examination reasons.
3. Postbags - 10 off., darkblue and lockable, for valuables with registered articles. Postbags to be marked with a sign and tie-on and a numbered tag. The jute bags (3 off.) will be used for ordinary consignments and parcels.



Fig. 2

4. 10 sh advance to buy office requirements, ie. twine, glue, pencils, gummed tape, pens, wrapping paper, acceptance ledgers, delivery books, etc. Amount spent will be accounted for.
5. 2 tables and 2 chairs.
6. 2 strong chests for inventory plus valuables. Dimensions adapted to allocated vehicles.
7. Train 50% of Field Post personnel to drive motor vehicles, to enable the distribution of post in all situations; at the same time, train motorcyclists.
8. Haversacks for carrying post on motorcycles (similar to those used by the British Field Post).
9. Shoulder bags, eight off.
10. Agde cancellers and statistical material about the Field Post in France.
11. Sealing tongs.

Submitted to Gen. Miroslav on Dec. 17, 1940.

Večerek

The above two photographs of the Czechoslovak Army Field Post Office were taken by the Czechoslovak Army Photographic Unit during June 1943 at Dovercourt, England.

As figures 1 & 2 show, the facilities available to the Field Post Office were very minimal, as was to be expected during wartime.

CROWN PRINCE FRANZ FERDINAND

Miroslav Vostatek

Trans. by J. J. Verner

Daily we read of the suffering of Bosnia's capital, Sarajevo. The date June 28 reminds us of an important anniversary which was inscribed as another tragic date in the history of the 20th century. On that date in 1914 a successful assassination attempt was made on the heir to the



Fig. 1

Austrian-Hungarian throne, Franz Ferdinand. It was here that he, along with his wife Sophia, a divorcee, were shot by a Serbian assassin. Because of Franz Ferdinand's close connection with the Czech lands, it is not inappropriate that we discuss this a bit.

Franz Ferdinand was the heir to the throne of the Monarchy that at that time encompassed the Austrian Empire, the Kingdom of Hungary, the Kingdom of Bohemia, Croatia, Slovenia, Galicia, Transylvania, Slovakia, Bukovina and so on. At that time, Emperor Franz Joseph was already 84 and had ruled since 1848. His son had died under mysterious circumstances scores of years earlier. Franz Ferdinand was born on December 18, 1863, the son of Archduke Ludvig, Franz Joseph's brother, and Marie

Annunciata. She was the daughter of the Bourbon king of Sicily, Ferdinand II, who is known in history as "Re bomba" (the bomb king). Ludvig, the father, was an ardent philatelist.



Fig. 2

Ferdinand took the military track. He was an enthusiastic hunter and traveler. Later he married Sophia, Countess of Chotkov, and even though she didn't know but a few words of Czech, she was Czech ethnically. It was a morganatic marriage, so it was not very convenient for a future Emperor since he had to sign a document giving up any claim his issue might have to the throne.

Franz Ferdinand inherited considerable wealth and he used it to buy some properties in the Czech lands. The most important of these were the castle Konopiště near Benešov, south of Prague, and an estate at Chlum near Třeboň. At considerable expense, he renovated Konopiště and settled there. As can be seen from figure 1 there was also a post office there. The cancellation is less than 20 days before his assassination.

Finally, a set of stamps were issued showing Franz Ferdinand as well as his wife, (see Fig. 2). They are Austrian-Hungarian stamps issued for use by the military post in Bosnia-Herzegovina. They were issued on the third anniversary of the assassination, the event which led to the death of millions of people in World War I.

RESULTS OF TRIBUNA'S FIFTH AUCTION

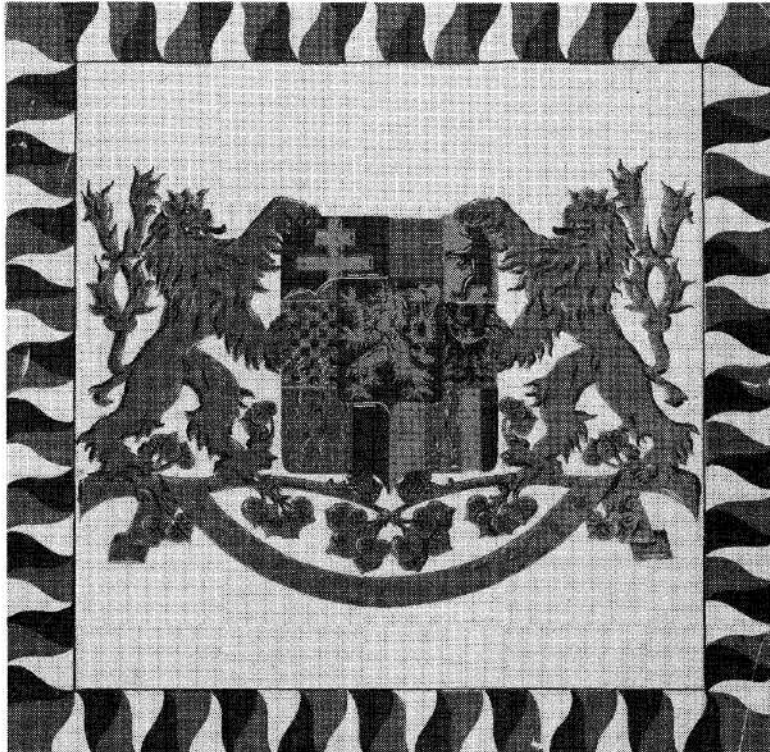
by Charles Chesloe

Tribuna Stamp Company held its fifth public auction on May 1, 1994. It was Tribuna's largest sale to date with over 450 lots comprising Czechoslovakia and related areas.

Extreme interest was expressed in Lester Behnke's Czech Scout collection with many

TRIBUNA STAMP COMPANY

proudly presents
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(Part I) Lolly Horechny's collection
of Czechoslovakia, and
(Part II) Lester Behnke's collection
of Czech Scouts, and
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Don't miss out on this fabulous sale !!!

pieces realizing very high prices. Keen interest and spirited bidding was also evident in the excellent military section of the sale. Many covers, mostly Siberian, sold from \$200 to over \$500 each - and these covers showed only cancels, no franking. An overweight cover mailed from England through the Czechoslovak fieldpost to Cleveland, Ohio with one pound, 2 shillings, 6 pence brought \$360 without the ten percent surcharge.

Lot 93, the 15h Hradčany Issue with compound perforations of 13 3/4; 11 1/2; 10 3/4 was declared by our Czech expert, Jan Kařasek, not to possess genuine perforations. The stamp sold at auction for \$3,000 plus ten percent. The money plus \$50 expertizing fee was refunded in full to the buyer. Tribuna stands behind everything that it sells.

Tribuna Stamp Company has been commissioned by Mrs. Horechny to sell the collection of the deceased Lolly Horechny, a long time and honorary member of the S.C.P. As past president of our Society, he possessed a collection that was vast and, in many respects, superb. He had an outstanding array of rare provisionals of 1918, genuinely used on wrappers, newspapers and bands. His airmail block of the First Airmail Issue (24kč/500h showing the joined types) is a first-class rarity.

Lolly Horechny purchased most of his rare material in the 1930's from various Prague dealers such as Ekstein, Kessler and Brunner. Tribuna is indeed proud and fortunate to be able to offer this outstanding collection to the many interested collectors of Czechoslovakia throughout the world. The sale will be held in early 1995 and catalogs will be available. To secure a copy of a catalog, write to Tribuna Stamp Company, P.O. Box 100, Willow Springs, IL 60480. To receive a list of prices realized at this Fifth Auction Sale, send your check for \$1.50 to the same address. If you desire both the catalog and List of prices realized, send a check for \$3.50.

Editorial Hinges

HOLIDAY CHEERING AND MOURNING

Announcing the demise of two of our most active and highly-respected members put a damper on what might otherwise be the happy climax to a successful year for our Society.

Our participation at the NOJEX show in the Meadowlands of New Jersey proved to be a triumph both in the area of exhibiting and in signing up new members at the lounge table.

The enthusiastic and aggressive manner in which Alan Hoover undertook his duties as circuit manager has not only been an eye-opener to our membership-at-large, but has raised the level of member involvement to an all-time high. The same applies to our treasurer, Ed Lehecka, whose book sales program has increased member interest in philatelically-related books and brought much-needed income to a depleted treasury. Please note his latest announcement on the bottom of page 13.

MOVING DAY FOR YOUR EDITOR

Those who have written to or communicated with the editor, Mirko Vondra, during the month of September and received no reply or only a cursory note on a card are reminded that September was moving time for the Vondras. Your editor will resume his correspondence with those whose letters remain unanswered as soon as possible. Please note that his new address is: 2363 McCleary Drive, Chambersburg, PA 17201.

Meanwhile your editor wishes to express his thanks and appreciation to others on the editorial staff for their patience, indulgence and valuable assistance in helping to put together this issue with but a minimum of delay.

THE SPECIALIST MARCHES ON

Our publication received another Vermeil - the sixth in a row - in Philatelic Literature competition. This one came in Pittsburgh, PA on August 20 at the A.P.S. Stampshow 94.

However, there was an interesting twist to this story. At the judges' critique, it was noted that not a single periodical received a Gold. Only two received a Vermeil, the SPECIALIST being one of them. One of the judges confided that the SPECIALIST was only a hair's breadth away from a Gold. In the coming year, we will endeavor to comb out that hair.

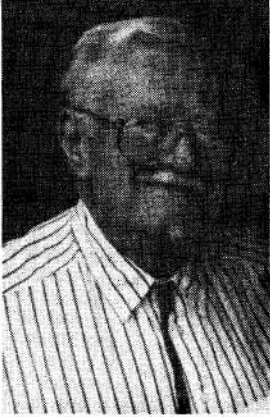
THE MIXED FRANKING "FAUX PAS"



Fig. 8

Have you enjoyed the Sept/Oct issue? I hope you did as much as we enjoyed compiling it-at least until we got to page 25. And there it was-the most glaring mistake of all! With apologies to Frank Garancowsky, we referred the reader to fig. 8 as an example of modern-day mixed franking which he had submitted, but with no fig. 8 illustrated in the text. Belatedly we are illustrating the cover now and, to avoid further confusion, are marking it as

originally intended - fig. 8!



LOLLY HORECHNY 1911 - 1994

The Society mourns the passing of Lolly Horechny, a long-time devoted though controversial member (no. 34). Born in Newark, N. J. on February 11, 1911 of a mother from Bratislava and a father from Prague, he died in Fairhope, AL. on August 19, 1994. He is survived by his wife, Betty, three children, eight grandchildren and four great grandchildren. He and Betty had been married 58 years.

He was employed by Wallace and Tiernan of Belleville, N.J. for 35 years. He started as a draftsman, then as manager of the Reproduction Department and finally as commercial photographer. He retired from work in 1972 and moved to Fairhope, AL. His hobbies were gardening and wood-working, but his greatest love was stamps.

Lolly started collecting stamps as a young boy with emphasis on the United States and Czechoslovakia. He purchased most of his Czechoslovakia material through the late Alfons Stach, a dealer specializing in Czechoslovakia and former member of the S.C.P. Shortly after the formation of our Society in 1939, he joined and became an active member. In 1964, he was elected President of the S.C.P. and served during the Society's turbulent years until 1967 when he was succeeded by the late Joseph J. Janečka Jr. He exhibited in many regional and national shows and, in 1954, his exhibit attained championship class. After retiring, he helped organize a stamp club for retired people in Fairhope, where he became a philatelic celebrity and was often written up in local newspapers.

His widow informs us that the accompanying photograph was taken of him two weeks before his demise.

MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NOW DUE

This is the issue in which our readers are reminded to send in their dues to our treasurer, Ed Lehecka, at 217 Hazel Ave, Westfield, N.J. 07090 before the end of this year. By doing so, you will assure the continued and uninterrupted delivery of the SPECIALIST to you while helping to maintain the solvency of our non-profit Society.

This is YOUR organization-keep it alive and well! Pay your dues on time! Don't allow yourselves to be "Delayed by Stoppage in Steamship Operations."

And have yourselves a Happy Holiday, everyone!

New Issues

CZECH REPUBLIC

1. The Ministry of Economy issued a stamp on August 3, 1994, commemorating the 120th anniversary of the Universal Postal Union, the 21st Congress of which was held throughout August and September in Seoul, Korea in conjunction with the World Postage Stamp Exhibition PHILAKOREA. The 11 Kč stamp comes in picture size of 40 x 26 mm. and is printed in miniature sheets of 8 pieces. Illustrated thereon in color is the flight of postal pigeons with Czech and French text - "Světová Poštovní Unie" (Unie Postale Universelle), an official emblem of the UPU and the years 1874-1994. (see Fig. 1).



Fig. 1

Designed by academic painter and graphic artist Vladimír Kovařík and engraved by academic painter and graphic artist Pavel Kovařík, the sheetlets were printed at the Post Printery in Prague by recess print from flat plates in black, grey, blue, pink and red. In the center of each sheetlet is an engraver's transcription of the official emblem of the World Stamp Exhibition in the colors of the stamps.

Accompanying the stamp is a first day cover printed by recess print from flat plates in pink and blue and with a commemorative cancellation. The cachet part of the cover shows a drawing with the inscription UPU corresponding to the subject of the stamp.

2. On August 24, the Ministry of Economy issued a set of three stamps in its series on the Preservation of the Environment, namely Song Birds. The three stamps are as follows:



Fig. 2

3 Kč - Saxicola Torquata - in yellow, grey, red, brown and black colors.

5 Kč - Carpodacus Erythrinus (Bullfinch) - in green, ochre, red, brown-grey and black colors.

14kč - *Luscinia Svecica Cyanecula* (Nightingale) - in pink, red, blue, grey-brown and black colors.

Designed by academic painter and graphic artist Hana Čápková and engraved by Josef Herčík, the stamps come in picture size of 23x30 mm. and are printed in sheets of 50 at the Post Printery in Prague by rotary recess print combined with five-colored photogravure. (see Fig. 2).

Accompanying them are three first day covers with commemorative cancellation printed by recess printing from flat plates. They bear the following cachets: On the cover for the 3 kč stamp is a drawing of a pair of *Panurus biarmicus* in black-brown. On the cover for the 5 kč is a drawing of two *Lanius Collurios* in green-grey. On the cover for the 14 kč stamp is a drawing of *Motacilla flava* and *Motacilla alba* in brown.

3. On August 3, the Ministry issued two envelopes with an imprinted 3 kč stamp on each-one plain envelope and one with glassine window for address viewing. They are referred to as Type DL and Type DLo. The imprint of the stamp is the same as the one issued on May 4, 1994 - the oldest view of Prague from 1493, which was designed by Jiří Švengsbír. The picture size is 34 x 21 mm. and is in brown color. The address part of the cover is in black. The envelope with the inside protective overprint was printed by the Printing House Helma Praha by modified flexo print process. The sale price of the envelope DL is 4.20 kč and of the DLo envelope is 4.40kč.

All of the above stamps and envelopes are valid for domestic as well as international use from date of issue until officially withdrawn from circulation.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The following persons have applied for and received membership in our Society since the last list of new members was announced in our July/August issue. We sincerely welcome them into our midst and urge them to avail themselves of the many benefits offered by the S.C.P. as outlined on page 2 of this issue.

Member No.	Name	Address
1694	Paul J. Zeman	P.O. Box 340, Seattle, WA 98111
1695	Dr. C.J. Zamora	1 Mendez Liciaga, San Sebastian, Puerto Rico
1696	Robert J. Hill	1435 Ashton Old Rd, Manchester, England M11 1 HJ
1697	John Miskevich	74 Larkspur Lane, Clifton, N.J. 07013
1698	Anthony F. Dewey	157 Warrenton Ave, Hartford, CT 06105
1699	Tom Joyce	5408 Hounds Ear Place, Raleigh, N.C. 27606
1700	W.H. Gorman	7620 South Sunset, St. Louis, MO 63121
1701	A. Hanzl	5775 Hickory Hill Dr, Mayfield Village, OH
1702	S.J. Rizza	13807 Congress Drive, Rockville, MD 20853
1703	Mrs. Z.J. Vomela	Box 317, Damascus, PA 18475
1704	David Anderson	218 Main St. #408, Kirkland, WA 98033
1705	Donald Bodow	P.O. Box 270458, San Diego, CA 92198
1706	Pavel Zima	413 N. Inner Drive, Hibbing, MN 55746
1707	Michelle Patrick	

Letters to the Editor

1. Dear Mirko:



Fig. 1

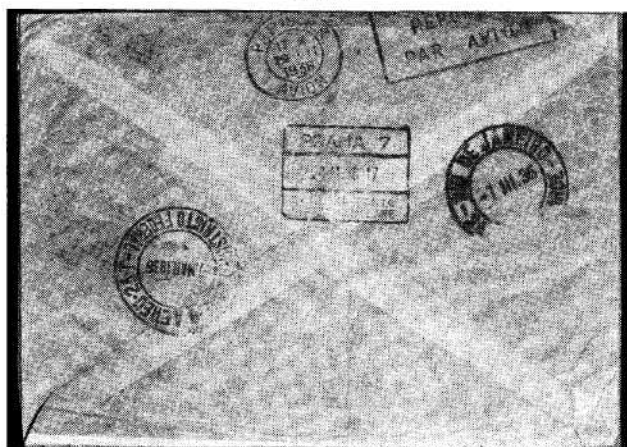


Fig. 2

both showing a date of March 7, 1936.

Is this the third one of these covers? Can anyone put a value on it? Photos show both front and back of the cover. (Fig. 1 and 2)

With best wishes,
Gerald M. van Zanten

2. Dear Mr. Vondra:

A postscript to Gerald N. van Zanten's article about Egon Ervin Kisch in the November-December 1993 issue of the CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST. At the beginning of his career, in March 1918, he interviewed Leopold Hilsner when the latter was set free after having been imprisoned for 18 years (Kovtum, Jiri. Tajuplna Vrazda: Případ Leopolda Hilsnera. Prague, Sefer, 1994. 574 p.). At the other end, on May 22, 1946, he was one of the 200 persons invited to the small Pankrac courtyard to witness the execution of Karl Hermann Frank and can be seen on the film made of this event. K. H. Frank was the last Reichsprotektor for Bohemia and Moravia.

It was with a great deal of interest that I read the article by Richard Beith "Transatlantic Air Routes for Czech and Slovak Mails" in CZECHOUT as well as in our SPECIALIST.

As soon as I saw figure 1, it jogged my memory and so I went through my box of odds and ends. My memory had served me well and I unearthed a cover as mentioned including the AIR FRANCE and postal rates tablets.

The cover bears the blue 10 Kč and brown 5 Kč stamps of the 1930 airmail set. The cancel dates from Feb. 28, 1936 and shows the PRAHA 7 *** double circle cancel with counter letter 4b.

On the reverse in date order are the following markings: The Feb. 28, 1936 PRAHA 7 rectangular cancel with the legend: LETECKA POŠTA/POSTE AERIENNE (see page 60 of Monografie 17 Vol' 1.) , a Paris postmark of Feb. 29, 1936 and two different Rio de Janeiro postmarks

Cordially,
George D. Havas

3. Dear Mr. Vondra:



Fig. 3

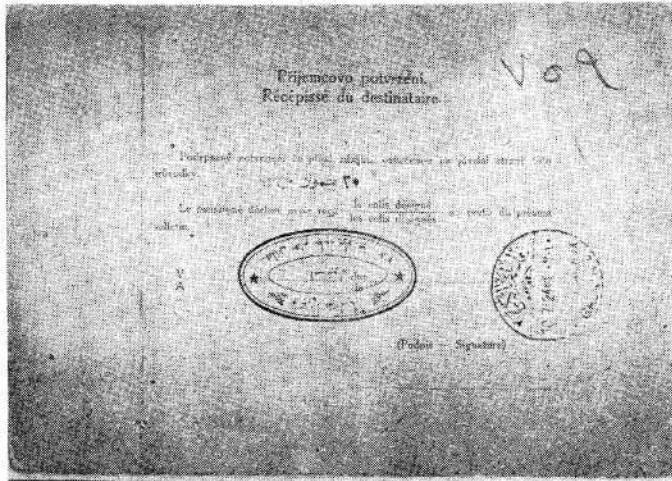


Fig. 4

I found the articles on the postal waybills in the Jan/Feb. 1994 SPECIALIST and the gutter pair on page 4 of the Sept/Oct. 1994 issue to be of particular interest. I had purchased an example of a waybill at NOJEX. It is similar to the item in figure 16 in Petrasek's article, but it is a used example. It and the package that it accompanied seemed to have had an interesting journey. The package was received at the Czech post office on June 11, 1924. Instead of stamps to pay the postage, there is an indication of 22.75 written in pencil in the upper right-hand corner. The package, weighing in at a hefty 4.6 kilos, was sent by Julius Bendix Sohne (German?) to a bank in Constantinople (Istanbul), Turkey. It was routed via Hungary (Magyarien) and perhaps Bulgaria (?) and made it to Budapest by June 13. However it seems to have been delayed as the back stamp has a date of

July 10, 1924 - almost a full month later. I enclose photocopies of the cover for you to enjoy. Any comments or observations are indeed welcome. (see fig. 3 and 4)

With Regards,
Anthony F. Dewey

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