



# THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

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## BALPEX RESULTS



The S.C.P. winners, left to right: Robert Koschalk (Silver), Henry Hahn (Court of Honor), Dr. Walter Rauch (Gold), Randy Frank (Vermeil), and J. J. Verner (Gold). M. L. Vondra garnered a Vermeil, but was unable to attend the ceremony. (For more details, see page 20.)

### CONTENTS

<i>Articles</i>	<i>Author</i>	<i>Page</i>
1. The Celebrated Infant of Prague .....	James P. Deency	3
2. More on Preissig Recruiting Cards .....	W. Alec Page	6
3. The "Stolen" Postal Cards .....	Miloslav Vlček	10
4. Postmarks of German Southern Moravia .....	Lubor Kunc	12
5. Philatelic Tour of Legendary Prague Part III .....	Michele Patrick	14
6. Field Post 26 .....	Miroslav Vostatek	20
7. Exhibit Awards at Balpex '95 .....	Henry Hahn	20
8. BALPEX '95 Board Meeting .....	Ludvik Svoboda	22
9. BALPEX '95 Membership Meeting .....	Jaroslav J. Verner	23
<i>Columns</i>		
10. Editorial Hinges .....	Mirko L. Vondra	25
11. New Issues .....		28
12. Library Notes .....	Richard Palaschak	29
13. New Members .....		30
14. Available Publications .....	Ed Lehecka	31

## 1996 MEMBERSHIP DUES

Outgoing President Lou Svoboda announced at the Annual Meeting held at BALPEX that 1996 membership dues will remain the same and are not expected to increase in the foreseeable future. This happy situation has been caused by our strong financial position largely due to an increasing membership base and added income from other sources, notably circuit sales fees.

You will be billed on January 1, 1996 for your 1996 membership dues. A return envelope will be provided for your remittance. Please treat this as you do your other bills and pay it promptly. This will save the Society both money and time in needless follow-ups. Under the provisions of our by-laws we are required to drop any member who has not paid his dues by February 18. We value your membership so please help us by keeping costs down by remitting promptly.

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and without compensation.*

## THE CELEBRATED INFANT OF PRAGUE

by James P. Deeny



Fig. 1

*(For this holiday season, the SPECIALIST is doing something a bit different. The COROS CHRONICLE, official journal of the Collectors of Religion on Stamps in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, published a remarkable article in its December 1992 issue, which we are pleased to reprint, courtesy of the editor, the Rev. Augustine H. Serafini. This journal has just reprinted in its August 1993 issue "The Hussite Priest" by our own member, Phil Freer.*

*James P. Deeny, author of the following article, is an active member of COROS and member of the British St. Gabriel Guild representing the Union of St. Gabriel where worldwide religious philately was organized. An Irishman now residing in England, Mr. Deeny is chiefly known in international circles for his long association with the Pacific Islands Study Circle of Great Britain, which he serves as Publications Sales Officer and Group Leader for Christmas Island (Indian Ocean) and Cocos (Keeling Island).*

In the farmhouse where I grew up was a statuette of the boy Jesus wearing regal robes and a crown which our parents taught us was a representation of the Holy Infant of Prague. Never mind that the statuette had a chip off the nose, it was the center of much of our childhood devotion and, if ever I did query the relationship between the "princely" Jesus depicted in the statue and the carpenter's son of Nazareth, I cannot remember it.



Fig. 2

Childhood devotions die hard, especially when nurtured by an Irish mother and, for all of my adult life, the Infant and the city and homeland where it is primarily venerated have been close to my heart and ever in my prayers

Though the Infant has been philatelically honored at least twice previously (Vatican 1968, Christmas set SG 516, 517, 518 [Fig. 1] and the Sovereign Military Order of Malta 1986 Christmas issue, Sassone 257-9; MS 21 [Fig. 2]), it was a particular

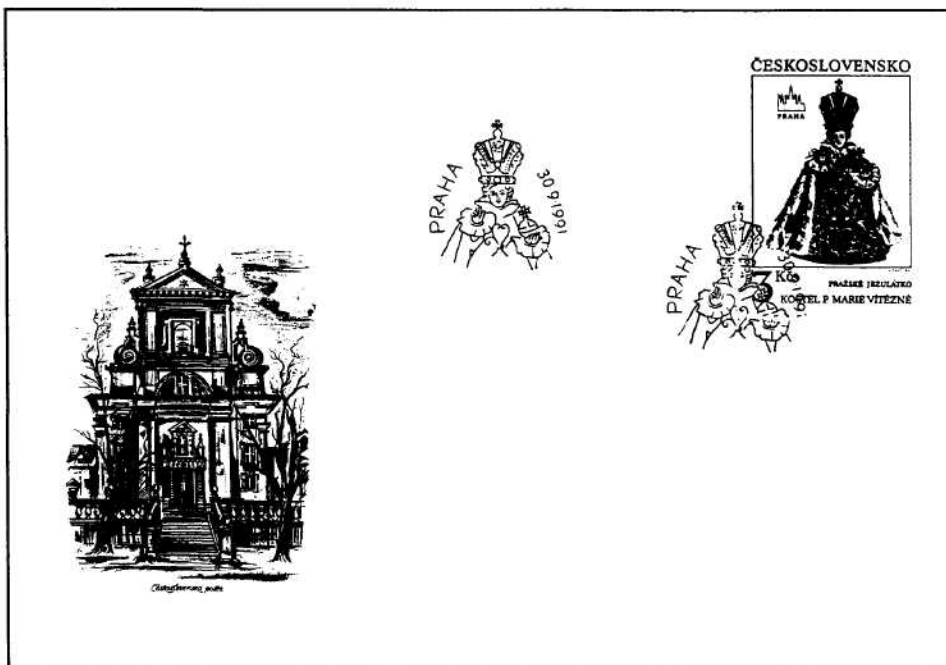


Fig. 3

delight when on September 30, 1991, "free" Czechoslovakia issued a stamp, miniature sheet of 8 with center gutter and a First Day cover with appropriate special cancellation in its honor (Fig. 3). The stamp is inscribed: PRAŽSKE JEZULÁTKO, KOSTEL P. MARIE VITEZNE (The Little Jesus of Prague, Church of Our Lady of Victory.)

The statuette is of Spanish origin and, according to an old legend, was modeled by a Friar to whom the likeness had been revealed. It was brought to Prague by Maria Manriques who, in 1556, married Vratislav of Pernstejn, a Czech nobleman. It later became the property of Maria's daughter who, in 1628, gave it to the Carmelite Monastery and the adjoining Church of Our Lady of Victories which had been founded a short time before. The statuette was for many years looked after by the Carmelites and, through them, devotion to the Infant spread worldwide.

The fame of the statuette owes much to the fact that the Sisters of the Congregation of the Angelical Maids change its garments several times a year, usually in line with the liturgical seasons.

The Infant's wardrobe contains more than 50 garments dating back to 1700. One of the most beautiful was a gift from the Empress Maria Theresa on the occasion

of her coronation as Queen of Bohemia in 1743. In more recent times, robes have been donated by Czechs and Slovaks living in the United States. Two robes have come from the Far East, one from China and one from Vietnam. The robes were made from the finest materials and are often decorated with gold and precious stones.

A copy of the statuette had been prepared and was sent as a present to EXPO '92 which was held in Spain that year.



Fig. 4 The Prince Edouard do Lobkowicz, Ambassador Plenipotentiary of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta to Lebanon, his wife, The Princess Francoise (born Her Royal Highness, Princess of Bourbon-Parma, niece of her Imperial Highness, The Empress Zita of Austria), and their children, the Princess Gabrielle (L.) And the Prince Charles-Henri (R).

The set issued by the Order of Malta's (SMOM) Magistral Post in 1986 illustrates the Infant of Prague vested in 3 different colors of garments: green (2 scudi), red (3s) and ermine and gold cape (5s). Moreover, the Maltese Cross is most often that which surmounts the orb held in the left hand, as on the Vatican design of 1986 by Casimira Dobrowska.

Because Polyxena, the daughter of Maria Manriquez de Lara, had married the Prince Zdenek Adalbert of Lobkovic (de Lobkowicz) this princely family and members of the Order of Malta of the Grand Priory of Bohemia became the protectors of the shrine in Prague and the Knights of Malta became its present custodians and administrators (Fig. 4). Prince Edouard de Lobkowicz had for many years been the SMOM ambassador to Lebanon where he and his wife Princess Françoise de Bourdon have personally directed a tremendous humanitarian relief assistance. They have been widely acclaimed in the European press not only for managing but also for directly working in the effort themselves.

## MORE ON PREISSIG RECRUITING CARDS

by W. Alec Page

Since publication of the notes in the March/April 1995 issue of SPECIALIST, the feedback from members and others has been gratifying and thanks are due to those who provided me with additional copies of cards and further supporting information. In particular I would like to make special mention of our Prague member, Tom Morovics, who not only provided a wealth of information, but also more cards!

As a result, it is now appropriate to up-date the previous notes and expand the information already published.

It is now virtually certain that there are 16 cards in each group, but in five identifiable groups rather than three as previously stated. Details of identification is relatively simple although there are some "differences" on individual cards within the groups.

The following are the main features:

Group I - Cards produced in USA - Recruiting Offices' addresses on front of card in red. Cards numbered 1-16 at bottom right. (Fig. 1 in previous article.)

Group II - Cards produced in USA - Recruiting Offices' addresses now printed in black on back of card. Front of card bears short slogans in English, printed in red. Numbered as in Group I. (Fig. 2 in previous article.)

Group III - Cards produced in USA - Without Recruiting Offices' addresses. Front of card bears short slogans in Italian, printed in black ink. Numbered as in Groups I & II. (Fig. 8 illustrates example.)

Group IV - Cards published in Prague - Back shows only small logo "P.O." (See Fig. 3 in previous article.) The "P.O." means Památník Odboje, translated as "Independence Album". Cards are unnumbered but may be linked to the first three groups from the designs. Format is important - 140 x 90 mm.

Group V - Cards published in Prague - As in Groups IV, but in slightly reduced format - 137 x 87 mm, and printed on whiter paper.

This group is understood to have been a special printing prepared for mounting into an album "LISTY OSVOBOZENECKÝCH STŘELCU" (Postcards of Shotgun



Fig. 1

Fighters for Freedom). There is also an additional card in this group picturing a lion from a wood carving and embodying the above title (Fig. 1).

There are a number of additional features to take into account when identifying individual cards, namely:

In all five groups, cards numbered 11-16 or the unnumbered equivalents have an additional text under the lower main slogan "VOJÁCI ČESKOSLOVENSKÉ ARMÁDY VE FRANCII" (illustrated in my previous article as Figs. 1 & 2). This slogan does not appear on cards numbered 1-10 or the equivalents.

To add to the complications, there are a number of differences between cards in the various groups. These are listed below, however there may be others, as not all of the cards in the four groups have been seen.



Fig. 2

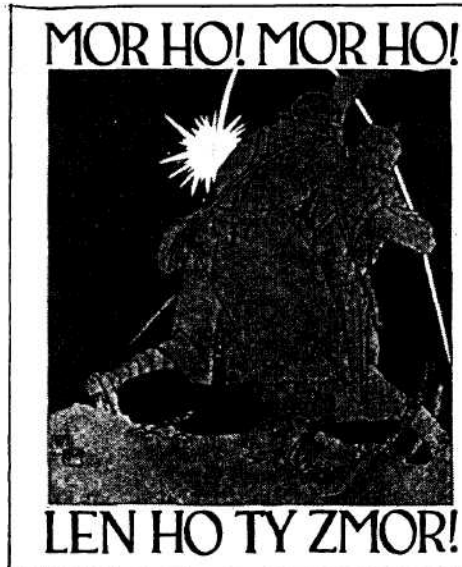


Fig. 3

- Card No. 1 - In Group I. Different from the equivalents in Group IV & V. Main slogans differ. Card in Group I is black & grey but in Groups IV & V is black and greenish-grey - quite a marked difference. (Fig. 2 & 3).
- Card No. 2 - In Group I. Different from the equivalents in Groups IV & V, but only in the design of the flag (Fig. 4).
- Card No. 3 - In Groups I & II. Has extra motif in design which is absent in Groups III, IV & V. (See Fig. 4 in previous article.)
- Card No. 6 - In Groups I & III. Has different slogan from Groups II, IV & V (Figs. 5 & 6).
- Card No. 7 - In Group III. Difference lies in the flag compared to Groups II, IV & V (Fig. 7).

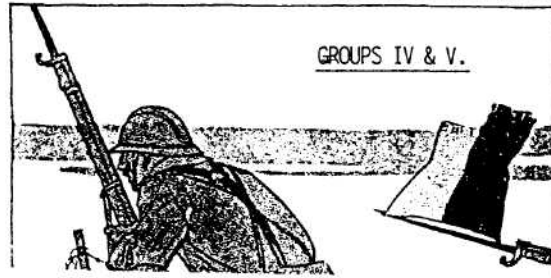
Card No. 13 - In Group III. Entirely different from those in Groups II, IV & V (Figs. 8 & 9).

The above comprise those differences identified from the cards seen. But it is worth recording that the design of Card No. 8 and its equivalent is the same as the card published by the Ministry of Defense in Prague, illustrated as Fig. 5 in my previous article. Likewise attention is drawn to cards numbered 9 & 10, or their equivalents. These cards reproduce a "Proclamation to the Czechoslovaks in America". (Card No. 9 is in the Czech language and Card No. 10 is in Slovak.

While the above detail now goes a long way to providing an overall study of what could constitute a complete collection of 81 cards (5 groups out of 16 plus the added card in Group V), there are still 12 cards not yet seen, by far the most being in Group III with the Italian slogan, 13. There is a further 9 in Group IV, 8 in Group I, and 2 in Group II. It is safe however to assume that Group V, which is complete, is identical to Group IV.

Naturally further information and copy cards will be gratefully welcomed.

ZA NAŠI SVOBODU! KU PŘEDU S



ZA NAŠI SVOBODU! KU PŘEDU S

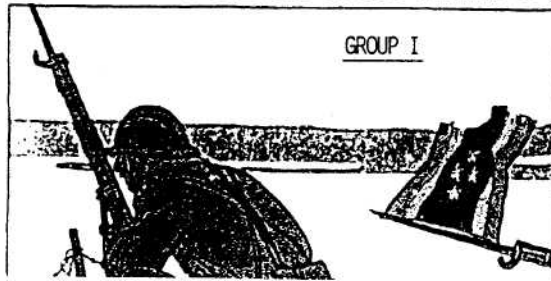
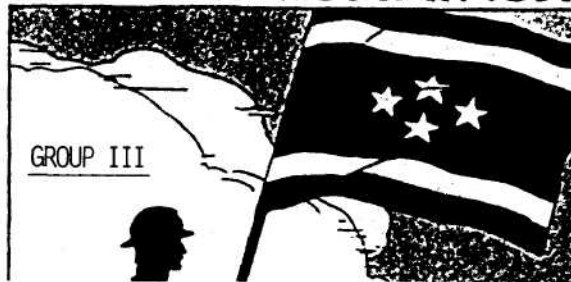


Fig. 4

ZA NAŠI SAMOSTATNOST



ZA NAŠI SAMOSTATNOST

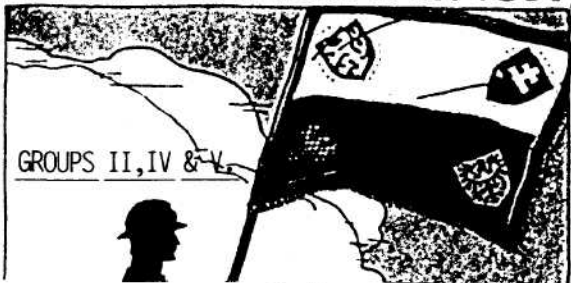


Fig. 7





Fig. 5



Fig. 6



Fig. 8



Fig. 9

## THE "STOLEN" POSTAL CARDS

by Miloslav Vlček

If you possess a postal card with a printed stamp showing the legendary Bohemian mountain, Říp, with a lined border around it and text in the lower left corner of the card reading: "Vyhrazeno pro služební nálepky údaje pošty", you can be sure you have a stolen postal card (Fig. 1).

After the breakup of the former Czechoslovakia, two new countries were born: the Czech Republic and Slovakia on January 1, 1993. Since that time, both have issued their own stamps.

The first Slovakia postal card with a printed stamp showing the mountain, Křivan, and the name "Slovensko" appearing above it was issued in January 1993. The first Czech postal card was not issued until August 1993. It could be reasoned that Czech postal authorities were late with the issuance of that card. But the facts are otherwise. The issuance of the first Czech postal card was postponed because of wrongful acts committed at the printery and the subsequent destruction of the few remaining copies.

The government had ordered the printing works in Opava in northern Moravia to do the printing. A large segment of the printed copies was stolen from there before they could be officially issued. As the quantity of "stolen" postal cards was obviously large, the rest had to be destroyed, probably at the paper mill in Stěti. Unfortunately some of those cards were stolen from there as well.

The "stolen" postal cards went into circulation and stamp collectors started to seek them, especially the ones that were mailed approximately two or three months after the theft.

This includes the period up to Sept. 1993. Most of them were mailed from offices

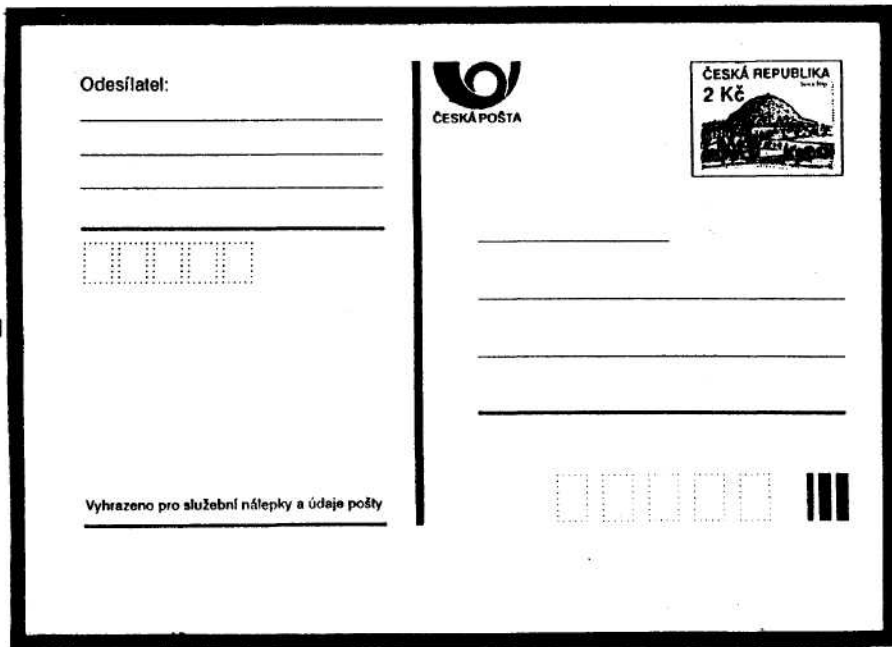


Fig. 1

in Opave and Stěti, as we can tell from the postmarks. How is this possible? Many were sold to private dealers who, in turn, sold them to collectors. Some of those cards were mailed at postoffices that were unable to check them as to postal validity.

On Sept. 3, 1993, a new official postal card was issued which looks very much like the previous one. The new one has the same printed stamp of the mountain Říp, but the stamp picture has no lined border and the official text in the lower left part of the card is missing (Fig. 2).

The numbering of the postal cards in Czech catalogs starts with these unissued ones bearing Code CDV IV. That includes the new Catalog of Postage Stamps and FDC's of the Czech Republic 1993-94. The Catalog mentions this card without a price. But the card has been sold at stamp bourses at variable prices ranging from 300 Kč to 1,500 Kč. It has not yet been offered at large stamp auctions like PROFIL. But the small auctions do offer them.

The second stamp auction MIDOFILA held in September 1994 presented the unused cards in their catalog under number 178 for a starting price of 400 Kč. They sold for 850 Kč. The Auction Catalog of the Collectors Club in Trutnov presented it under number 347 with a starting price of 700 Kč. They sold for 700 Kč. (Bear in mind that at the time of this writing, there were 26Kč to one American dollar.)

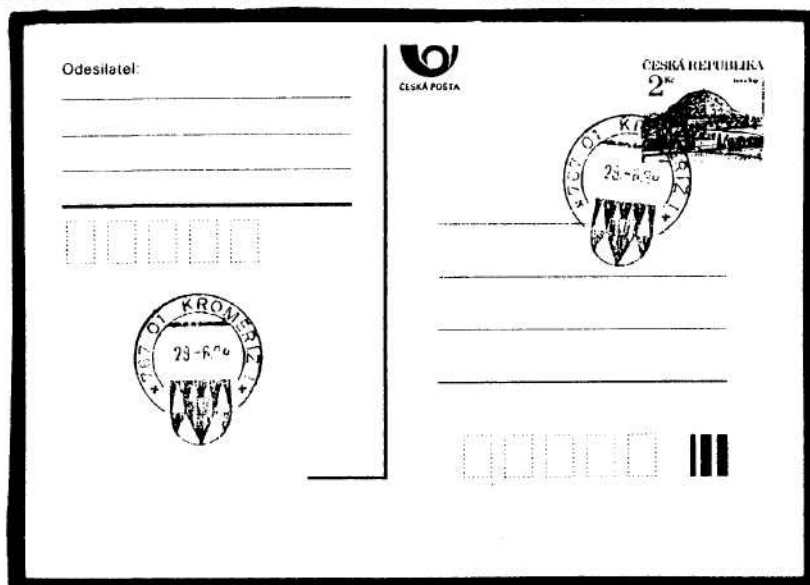


Fig. 2

The third stamp auction which was held in March 1995 presented it under number 329 with a starting price of 600 Kč. I do not yet have the results of that sale. The new catalog INFORMACE 3/94 of the firm HOBBY PHILATELIE in Pilsen offers it under number 03/75/00/04 COV Mountain Říp (lined picture) for a price of 1,500 Kč.

Nowadays it is possible to buy this card at exchange meetings of the bigger stamp clubs for a price of about 500 Kč. In the future, the market price should stabilize, though at a higher figure. Stamp collectors seem to like this card and are willing to pay the price. Postal card collections should make these "stolen" cards an attractive item alongside the ones subsequently issued as officially valid.

## POSTMARKS OF GERMAN SOUTHERN MORAVIA

by Lubor Kunc

The Germans were in the majority in Southern Moravia, eg. the town of Znojmo (in German, "Znaim"). About 10 percent were Czech and 90 percent were German citizens at the beginning of this century. The relations between Czechs and Germans were not good. In 1918, the Germans realized that the Austro-Hungarian Empire would not survive World War I and they worried about the rise of a new Czech State.

On October 27, 1918, City Hall authorities in Znaim issued a Proclamation of Nationality claiming Southern Moravia as belonging to Lower Austria (Lower Austria is currently one of nine states of the Austrian Federal Republic). On November 3, 1918, a meeting of representatives of Southern Moravia issued an Act of Annexation of the so-called German Southern Moravia (Deutschsüdmähren, or GSM) to Lower Austria. The Parliament of Lower Austria confirmed annexation of the area on Nov. 5. On Nov. 12,



Fig. 1 Scale - 1:500,000 (1cm = 15km.)

the Austrian Parliament (Parliament of the then German-Austrian State) promised to protect GSM's citizens and dispatched the Austrian Navy to defend the area.

The Czech National Committee situated in Brno ordered a blockade of the GSM zone on Nov. 3. Czechs living in Znojmo and its surroundings formed their own armed guard and National Committee. The GSM was beaten back by the Czech Armed Guards who liberated the area on Nov. 9 at the village of Hustopeče (Auspitz). The last part of the area near the Austrian border was liberated on Dec. 17, 1918. Members of the Sokol movement organized a Sokol Congress in Znojmo in August 1919 to demonstrate that this territory belonged to Czechoslovakia. The special postmark in honor of the Congress became Czechoslovakia's first special postmark.

The so-called GSM zone consisted of 195 towns and villages with 68 postoffices and 173,000 inhabitants. Its size was about 1,840 sq. km, or approximately 710 sq. miles. The biggest towns were Znojmo, Mikulov (Nikolsburg), Miroslav (Misslitz), Pohořelice

(Pohrlitz), Břeclav (Lundenburg) and Hrušovany nad Jevišovkou (Grusbach, a railway center) (See map in Fig. 1). The largest sugar refinery in Czechoslovakia was located here.

Authorities in the GSM zone had removed the Czech names from postmarks with letters "c", "d" and "h" at postoffices in Znojmo 1 and Znojmo 2 and at Hrušovany nad Jevišovkou from postmarks with letters "a" and "b". In 1918 when Czechoslovakia became a Republic, postmarks had their Czech names restored at postoffice Znojmo 1 and 1920, were replaced by new bilingual postmarks.

I have an Austrian stamp with face value of 10 hellers canceled on Oct. 18, 1918 at postoffice Znojmo 2. This stamp was not shown as canceled on the first day of Czechoslovakia's independence because the area was not a part of Czechoslovakia on that date. Generally the stamps on mail coming from GSM with cancellations after Dec. 18, 1918 were canceled in the Czechoslovak Republic and can be referred to as Czechoslovakia's forerunner stamps. In order to ascribe nationality to GSM, one must know the date of liberation of the respective town or village where the mail was canceled. The above-mentioned dates were published in one of the *FILATELIE*'s in 1967, pages 63-65. For example, Břeclav was liberated on Oct. 31 and since then, stamps canceled with all of Břeclav's postmarks (Lundenburg 1 and 2 and Lundenburg Bahnhof) rank among Czechoslovakia's forerunner stamps.

Covers coming from the GSM zone of that era are somewhat more valuable because postal service operated in the GSM area only. To send a letter from there to Bohemia or to the rest of Moravia was not possible, thanks to the blockade. Possibly some letters were sent by Austrian sailors to Austrian destinations, but there was no special postmark of the Austrian fieldpost. Perhaps a few letters came from the GSM zone franked with Austrian stamps bearing an overprint "Deutschösterreich" (German Austria). In Dec. 1918, a stamp with face value of 20 hellers showing a portrait of King Charles I was issued with "Deutschösterreich" overprint (Fig. 2) with stamps of other denominations following it, but none were sold in the GSM zone.



Fig. 2

From 1918 to 1938, Southern Moravia belonged to Czechoslovakia. In 1938, it was annexed to Sudetengau (the southern region), but Sudetengau was also established in northern Bohemia and Moravia (the word "southern" applies to the territory south of Germany). Annexation included the lands of Deutschsüdmähren and Sudetenland. German stamps were used there from 1938 to 1945. Southern Moravia was liberated by the Russian Army in 1945 and all people registered as German nationals were deported to Austria and Germany. The region was then resettled by Czechs. As a result of these deportations, the town of Znojmo, which had a population of around 18,000 in 1900, had grown to 24,000 Czech citizens by 1992.

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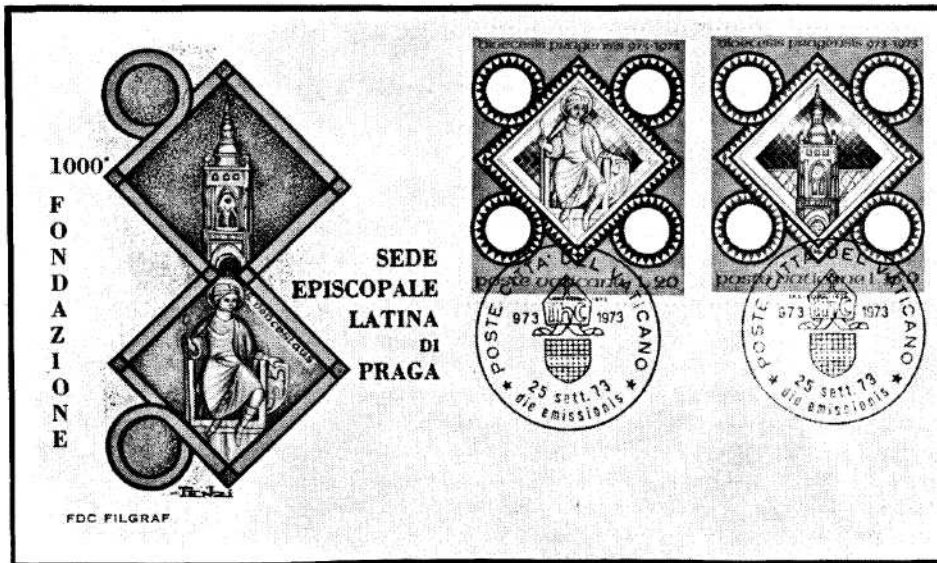


Fig. 1

## PHILATELIC TOUR OF LEGENDARY PRAGUE PART III

by Michele Patrick

*(In the two preceding issues, the SPECIALIST reprinted the first two parts of Michele Patrick's amazing "Philatelic Tour". Again with the permission of the author and the publisher GLOBAL STAMP NEWS, our publication proudly presents the final portion of her absorbing serialized article.)*

In Part II of our Philatelic Tour of "Legendary" Prague, we ended our journey with the chimes of the famous Astronomical Clock resounding off the cobblestones of Old Town Square. This time, we will momentarily leave the city's ancient sections and explore the social, political and economic center of modern Prague: Wenceslaus Square.

Only a short distance from the Old Town Square, this sophisticated European boulevard bustles with shops, cafes, hotels and street vendors hawking everything from oranges to Communist kitsch. At the top of the avenue sits the grandiose Neo-Renaissance, National Museum with its distinctive golden dome. In front of the building, there stands an imposing statue.

Of the millions of Prague's visitors, how many realize that this grand equestrian statue of a warrior king is actually the "Good King Wenceslaus" of the English Christmas carol? Thanks to that hymn, probably no Czech historical figure is better known around the world, and no person in Prague's long history has been the subject of so many legends. Consequently, we will not travel far during this section of our philatelic journey; instead, we will focus on the life and legends of Good King

Wenceslaus. His brief reign, and the tales it inspired, will fascinate anyone who enjoys tales of supernatural good and human evil.

The story of Wenceslaus is a whirlwind of murder and royal intrigue, which resembles fiction more than fact. It begins with his grandparents. In 874, Duke Borivoj Premyslid became the first ruler of Bohemia, the western part of the modern day Czech Republic, to be baptized. His wife, Ludmilla, also a Christian convert, was Wenceslaus' primary teacher. A devout and pious woman, the widowed Ludmilla was murdered on September 15, 912 at the instigation of her daughter-in-law, Drahomira. She was strangled, with her own veil, by men loyal to her evil daughter-in-law.

As a pagan, Drahomira hated Ludmilla and hoped that her death would allow the restoration of the Old Religions. Incidentally, such events were not uncommon in the Medieval world and demonstrate that soap opera fiction has nothing on historical fact! Ludmilla later became the first patron saint of Bohemia. (Her statue is one of four which, fittingly, stands below her grandson's monument on Wenceslaus Square.) As a result of Ludmilla's death, Drahomira was sent into exile and her plan to restore the pagan religions failed.

Despite his mother, Prince Wenceslaus never forgot his grandmother's teachings and was a devout Christian. In 921, he succeeded to the Ducal throne of Bohemia. All chronicles agree that he was an extremely pious man who spent a great deal of time laying the foundation stones for a great many new churches, including the first Church of St. Vitus in Prague (Fig. 1).

This tiny rotunda would eventually become the great St. Vitus Cathedral, whose spires dominate Prague's skyline. Wenceslaus also worked to unite minor tribes which inhabited Bohemia.



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

Unfortunately, evil rarely exits the stage for long. With Drahomira's demise, her younger son, Boleslav the Cruel, became the standard bearer for Bohemia's pagans. Lusting for power, Boleslav was determined to remove his Christian brother.

As a long standing rival to the throne, Boleslav had the support of a number of nobles, particularly pagans and those from rival tribes who resented Wenceslaus' attempts at unification. On September 26, 929 (some historians claim that it was 935), history repeated itself.

Wenceslaus was on his way to Mass in the tiny town of Stara Boleslav when he was attacked by his brother; Boleslav earned his nickname by hacking the young sovereign to death as he clung to the door knocker of a church (Fig. 2).

So ends the short story of "Good King Wenceslaus". Yet, from these brief threads of fact were woven masterpieces of legends which were to enrich not only Czech history, but world history.

Soon after killing Wenceslaus, in the cruelest form of irony, Boleslav realized that being the brother of a martyr could have its advantages. Thus in 939 Boleslav had Wenceslaus' remains transferred to the original church of St. Vitus, and he began to

extensively spread the legend that the good Christian prince was killed by pagans because of religious beliefs.

He made Wenceslaus a religious hero, a martyr for the faith, and so planted the seed of a legend in fertile soil. Pilgrims soon flocked to his grave and many miracles, through the saint's kind intercession, were reported. Consequently, it was not long after his death that Wenceslaus, like his grandmother, was declared a patron saint of Bohemia.

Of the later Czech rulers, it was Holy Roman Emperor Charles IV who did the most to encourage devotions to the saint. While making Prague the Imperial Capital and transforming it into the finest Gothic City in Europe, Charles turned Wenceslaus' tomb into a shrine (Fig. 3).



Fig. 4

The chapel remains as Charles designed it; two of its distinctive features are a Gothic statue of the saint and a door knocker which is said to be the one Wenceslaus clung to when murdered (Fig. 4).

A door in the southwest wall leads to the repository of Czech crown jewels, including the crown commissioned by Charles. (A fuller description of the chapel, the adjacent crown jewels and the legend that any pretender who places the crown on his head soon dies a terrible death was presented in Part I of this series.)

According to author Sadakat Kadri, "The saint's reputation for goodness emerged from a devoted Christianity, but over the years he metamorphosed from religious to national hero." Wenceslaus became the National Saint of Bohemia and was gradually transformed into the symbol of Czech unity and independence. It is, therefore, not surprising that most of the Czech legends cast Wenceslaus in the role of protector, including tales of "Wenceslaus' Banner"...

The year 1125 was a strange one, indeed, in the land of Bohemia. The summer witnessed terrible frosts and, in winter, there were such thunder storms that the sky illuminated with bolts of lightning that turned the heavens the color of blood. The peasants took this as a sign of impending calamity; unfortunately, they were soon correct.

At that time, the rule of Duke Sobeslav of Bohemia was threatened by his cousin Otto. Otto had gone so far as to plead his case for the throne before the German Holy Roman Emperor. In return for a promise of rich war booty, the Emperor supported Otto and called on his many German vassals and allies to amass on Bohemia's borders.

Sobeslav, who was greatly loved, began to rally his people. Knights and fighting men came from every corner of the Duchy to join the fight. When his army had assembled, the Duke took St. Wenceslaus' holy spear from Hradcany Castle; it was to go before his troops. But as the army readied itself, Sobeslav's heart was heavy. He knew that his troops would fight to the last man, but he also knew that they would be slaughtered by the vastly superior German numbers.

Then, on the day before the army was to march, the Duke's chaplain had a disturbing dream. He related the strange incident to his sovereign. Apparently St. Wenceslaus' son, St. Vojtech, told the chaplain that victory would be assured if he led the army with his father's banner, which was secretly hidden in a church in the small



village of Vrbcany. With rising hope, Sobeslav instructed the chaplain and his escort to make haste and find the banner, for the battle was soon to begin.

The small party rode at a constant gallop. Upon arriving in Vrbcany, they searched the small church, but as the hours slowly drained away they grew fearful; they had not yet found the banner. Then, almost in despair, the chaplain found a secret compartment behind the altar. Inside was a luminous strip of silk cloth with an embroidered star.

As the chaplain raced to meet his sovereign, Duke Sobeslav faced the overwhelming enemy. In front of him, there stood the combined ranks of Saxons, Flemings, Frisians, Brabants, Swabians, Bavarians, Rhinelanders and others. Just as the trumpets were to herald the beginning of the battle, the chaplain appeared on a ridge above the battlefield. He reared his steed and held the banner high for all the troops to see.

Sobeslav was elated, but there was still much fear in the ranks. Sobeslav prayed to the saint to give his men courage. Suddenly, as the German soldiers began to move toward the Bohemians, a large white eagle (the eagle was the symbol of Wenceslaus' royal house) appeared in the heavens. He screeched and began to dive at the enemy. Simultaneously, the sound of peeling church bells was heard on the battlefield.

With tears streaming from his cheeks, the chaplain screamed that St. Wenceslaus, himself, was leading the battle. To a man, the troops began to immediately sing a hymn of praise to the saint. In the fight which followed, the Czechs experienced light casualties. The Germans, however, lost 500 noblemen - including Prince Otto. And the German Holy Roman Emperor, who was watching from a nearby hill, was captured. The Emperor sued for peace and recognized Sobeslav's lifetime right to the throne. In thanksgiving, Wenceslaus' banner was brought back in procession to St. Vitus Cathedral (Fig. 5).



Fig. 5

The banner, however did not stay at rest for long. In 1260, The Hungarians were threatening King Premysl II (in the preceding 100 years, the Dukes of Bohemia had been elevated to Kings). At Morava River in Austria, 100,000 Czech troops met 140,000 Hungarians and their allies, which included the menacing Turks and Tartars.



Fig. 6

The parties stood on either banks of the river; neither wanted to cross and be at a disadvantage. Thus, it was mutually decided that the Czechs would allow the Hungarians to cross, unimpeded, on the twelfth of July, and the battle would be joined on the thirteenth. Both sides took religious oaths on this agreement. As agreed, the Hungarians crossed during the day. However, as night fell, and the sun was reduced to a single rose colored band in the western sky, they broke their word and attacked the Czech camp.

Surrounded, at first the carnage seemed less like a battle and more like a massacre. But the Marshall of the Czech army knew what he had to do; he raised the holy banner in front of the Czech troops. Whichever way he

turned it, the enemy retreated and the Czech Knights were not even wounded.

What the Marshall did not see was the sudden appearance of a snow white eagle, with a golden head and throat, which flew over the Czechs and circled the banner. The reserves in the rear saw the bird grow, until he cast a shadow over the entire army; only the eagle and the banner were illuminated. The bird continued to circle until the battle was over and the Czechs were victorious.

It was later discovered that a certain young knight named Jan had experienced a miraculous vision of Wenceslaus on the very day of the battle. Jan had been preparing to join the Czechs when he was struck with a violent illness. He was very near death when, suddenly, he grew still; a smile formed on his lips, and he exclaimed, "God be praised!"

Jan then explained his vision to those at his bedside. The knight saw the battlefield and the outnumbered Czechs. Then, in a golden glow, St. Wenceslaus appeared above the assembled armies. He was surrounded by holy companions and dressed in full armor with his sword in a golden sheath studded with pearls (Fig. 6).

To his supporters, Wenceslaus shouted, "Our forces languish, so let us go to their aid." Wenceslaus, himself, then began to direct his banner towards the enemy pointing in one direction and then another. As he did, the enemy fled.

In gratitude, the banner was returned to the church in Vrbany and placed in a much more inaccessible place. Unfortunately, over the centuries the location of the relic's resting place was forgotten. But, somewhere, in the simple village church, the banner waits to again answer the Czech's call to battle.

The tales of Wenceslaus' banner are only a few of the many Czech legends which cast the saint in the role of guardian and deliverer. Although Wenceslaus is revered in his native land as patron and protector, it is his legendary goodness which has made his name known throughout the world.

His most famous legend involves the English Christmas carol. Written in the 1850's, the carol soon achieved wide popularity; it also elevated Duke Wenceslaus to the status of King. The song celebrated the good deeds of the King which were performed on December 26th. According to legend, during the cold winter months, Saint Wenceslaus would cut wood in the forest and secretly bring it to needy widows and orphans.

His servant assisted him and, supposedly, did not feel the cold when he walked in the future saint's footprints. Fittingly, this hymn was originally sung by those who collected alms for the poor in Victorian England, especially on December 26th - St. Stephen's Day.

The famous statue of the medieval prince, which has anchored our journey, was unveiled on Wenceslaus Square in 1912. Since then, virtually all important national events--from the announcement of an independent Czechoslovakia (Forerunner of the Czech Republic), to the protests against the 1968 Soviet invasion, to the rallies of 1989's Velvet Revolution which overthrew Communism--have unfolded at its feet.

It is also not surprising that a legend grew about the monument itself. During the long night of Communism, when Czechoslovakia seemed fossilized in Soviet amber, indomitable Praguers would point to the statue and, with a smile, remark that things were not at their worst. After all, legend foretold that at the darkest moment Wenceslaus would come down into the square and lead his oppressed people to victory.

It is a truly touching legend, but it also entails a note of poignancy. After all, we must remember "Wenceslaus" is English for VACLAV...And it was Vaclav Havel, the leading Czech dissident for over a decade, who came to Wenceslaus Square in November

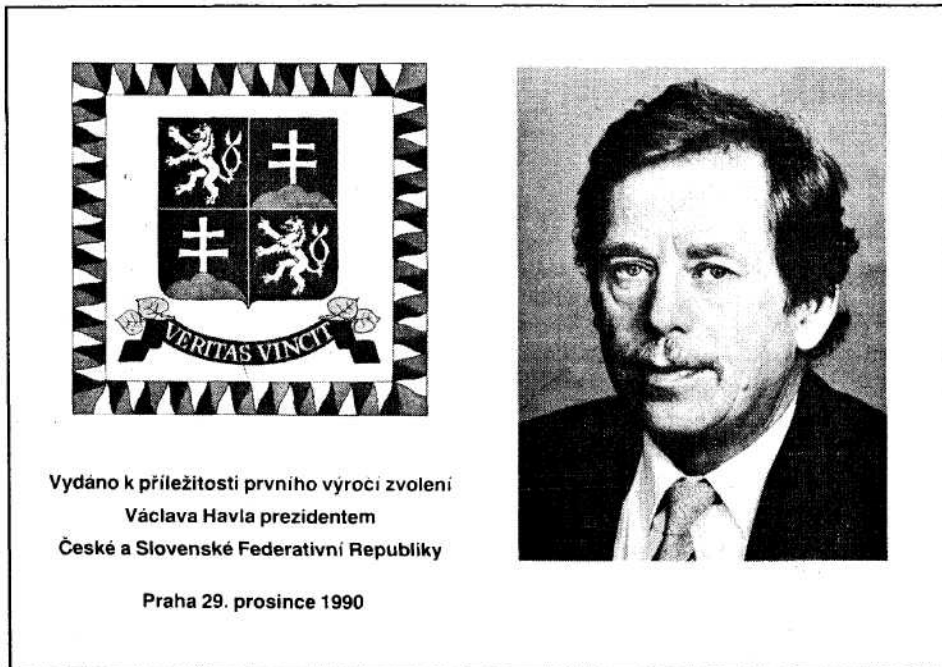


Fig. 7

of 1989 and overthrew Communism (Fig. 7). And it was Vaclav Klaus whom he appointed as Premier.

Havel now leads the Czechs as their first democratically elected president since 1948. As always, legends provide a fleeting glimpse of man's imagination and uncanny glimpse of his reality.

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**FIELD POST 26**  
by Miroslav Vostatek  
translated by Henry Hahn

Field Post 26 was active during the mobilization of 1938 and was associated with the 14th Motorized division. This was Czechoslovakia's only motorized division. It was originally located in Kroměříž from whence it was transferred to the Moravian town of Trest, southwest of the city of Jihlava.

The commander of this field post was First Lieutenant Antonin Sousedík and we find his signature on the section of a money order illustrated in Fig. 1. In peacetime, Sousedík worked as the head clerk at the post office of Fryvaldov, in northern Moravia. This town was re-named after the war to Jeseník. The town is well known as a spa.

The money order was printed in red and, as seen in the lower portion, appeared on form 8 Pp (Polni Posta, i.e. Field Post of 1937). Though the sending of the money was not uncommon, such receipts are not seen often today and are scarce. Hence it is worth noting.

It is interesting that a novel was written in 1938 about Fryvaldov entitled "The Last Train from Fryvaldov", which some years ago appeared as a television serial. Its hero is a postman, though the head postal clerk is also mentioned. The story deals with the saving of the cash box from the occupying German Army. Thus the little cut-out reminds us of things that happened long ago.

**EXHIBIT AWARDS AT BALPEX '95**  
by Henry Hahn

The fifty (50) exhibits at BALPEX '95 filled nearly 300 frames and were dominated by those representing the three participating national societies: The Society of Israel Philatelists, Inc., The Society of Czechoslovak Philately, Inc. and The Scouts on Stamps Society International.

While some excellent exhibits were presented by members of the above societies, curiously, the winners of both the Grand Award and Reserve Grand Award were unrelated to them. The Grand Award was won by Alexander Hall with his superb showing of "Independent State and Confederate Mails: December 1860 through June 1865", while Edward J. J. Grabowski received the Reserve Grand Award for his exhibit of "Guadaloupe: The Development and Use of the French Colonies General Issues".

Members of the SCP garnered three (3) gold, two (2) vermeil, one (1) silver, three (3) silver-bronze, and one (1) bronze. One exhibit was shown in the Court of Honor.

The finest Czecho-related exhibit at BALPEX '95 was that of Walter Rauch, entitled "Carpatho Ukraine". It won a Gold as well as First Award of the SCP. The exhibit began with Austrian Imperial mail sent to the Carpatho Ukraine and covered all of the periods of national changes ending with a 1992 cover bearing Ukrainian



stamps. Included were rare covers of the 1944/45 overprinted Hungarian and Carpatho-Ukrainian issues, the 1939 3 Kc issue on commercial mail, and an in-depth exposition of the country's turbulent postal history. Its German write-up may have kept it from gaining additional Special Awards.

J. J. Verner's showing of "Czechoslovakia Field Post in France, Italy and Slovakia" won a Gold, the Special APS Research Award, and the Second Award of the SCP. This was the first time we have seen this new exhibit by our well-known FIP exhibitor of Czechoslovakia and Siberia, and we were not disappointed. The exhibit is the result of extensive research into these specialized areas on which far less has been published than on the Czechoslovak Field Posts in Russia.

The exhibit of Frederick P. Lawrence, member of both SOSSI and SCP, entitled "Scouting on Stamps "Classics": Three Specialized Studies" won a Gold and Best Scout Related Award. The three studies included the Mafeking issue, the Czech Scout issue, and the Scout issues of Siam. Developed as three separate exhibits, we particularly noted the rarities in the Czechoslovak exhibit which included freaks and varieties, a rare Rosler-Orovsky document, telegram usage, "Arrival of President TGM" stamps and covers, including the showing of the 10h value with (described) forged cancel.

Another first time exhibit was that of Mirko Vondra, entitled "Early Overprints on Stamps of Czechoslovakia, 1918-1938." It received a Vermeil and the Third Award of the SCP. The exhibit is well described and we note a good variety of commercial



The judges from left to right are: Douglas Ukazewics (apprentice), John E. Livesay, Hubert C. Skinner, Leroy Collins (apprentice), Joseph D. Schwartz (chairman), Henry Hahn and Nathan Zankel.

covers bearing overprinted postage dues and others. The exhibit is well on its way toward a gold, which could be achieved by addition of early airmail covers and other rarities.

A Vermeil award went to SCP and SOSSI member Randy S. Frank for his showing of Scouting Postal History of the 1930's. While the "golden" period (1918) of Scouting in Czechoslovakia was not included, the exhibit covered the major Jamborees of the 1930's including the elusive rarities. We believe the exhibit could move into "gold territory" by expansion of the time period back to 1918.

Robert F. Koschalk received a silver as well as an AAPE (American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors) Award for his showing of "German Occupation of

Czechoslovakia: 1939-45." The AAPE award, given for excellence in presentation, was well deserved, particularly for the diagrammatic presentation of coupons and selvage, and otherwise neat presentation. The rarities shown included the Heydrich Sheet and the 6K Hitler gutter. Exclusion in the exhibit of some common material and addition of Protectorate Militia, Dienstopost and additional Theresienstadt would almost certainly bring this exhibit a vermeil.

Silver-bronze awards went to Phillips B. Freer for both his exhibits, entitled "The Stamps of Czechoslovakia honoring Thomas G. Masaryk" and "Czechoslovakia - The Back of the Book", and to Frank A. Garancovsky for his exhibit entitled "Hitler Issues of Bohemia - Moravia - a Philatelic Legacy". Phil Freer's exhibits were both a few pages short of four (4) frames, while Frank Garancovsky's was two (2) frames. Both exhibitors have demonstrated good potential for growth. Phil through addition of material and expansion of his exhibits, and Frank through broadening of the scope of his showing to include other B&M issues.

The single Bronze awarded for a Czech-related exhibit went to one of our recently joined members, Salvatore J. Rizza, for his 3-frame showing "The Philatelic Odyssey of a Czech Town". The exhibit is of Znojmo, and gives the impression of a Heimatsausstellung" i.e. homeland exhibit - which it is not, since the exhibitor does not come from nor has he ever visited this town in southern Moravia. Despite some serious gaps in the early postmarks, the exhibit shows understanding and a good potential for growth.

The Court of Honor exhibit was entitled "Pneumatic Mails of Vienna and Prague" and included mint and used pneumatic mail postal stationery from 1875 to its demise. It belongs to Henry Hahn, one of the judges.

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## **BALPEX '95 BOARD MEETING** **by Ludvik Svoboda, Outgoing President**

Our Society continues to grow and to operate in excellent condition.

Elections - The Board elected Jerry Verner as President, Henry Hahn as Vice-President, and, by unanimous decision, re-elected Tom Cossaboom as Secretary and Ed Lehecka as Treasurer.

Membership - Currently we have over 310 members, up from 300 a year ago, and about 282 in 1991. These increases are largely due to the publicity efforts of Phil Freer and Donna Lyons.

Financial - We have a very healthy balance of \$11,884, up from \$5,500 in 1991. This large growth has come about largely through the efforts of Alan Hoover in revitalizing our Circuit sales. Results - no dues increase foreseen.

SPECIALIST - Your dues are bringing in just enough funds to pay for printing and mailing the SPECIALIST (even though it has doubled in size from 16 to 32 pages.) These economics and the continued awards that the SPECIALIST is receiving are due to the efforts of editor Mirko Vondra and his entire staff.

Publication - Partially through the additional funds realized, we are going to be offering three new publications to our members. Watch for details in the SPECIALIST on how to obtain them.

1. A Library Catalog (free for the asking). We began serializing this in the Jan/Feb SPECIALIST, but realized we had space limitations. (See page 29 for details).
2. A SPECIALIST Index (fully covering all 53 years - 1939 to 1992). This is a monumental 80 page effort completed by Anne Vondra.
3. A Glossary of Czech/Slovak/English English/Czech Philatelic Terminology. Everything the non-Czech/Slovak needs to know about Czech/Slovak words and phrases in 140 pages (8½x11). Edited by Lou Svoboda with Jolana Machalek.

Future Conventions - MILCOPEX '96, Milwaukee, Sept. 20-22, 1996; PACIFIC '97 (FIP show), San Francisco, May 29-June 8, 1997. PRAGA '98 may not occur because of inadequate start-up funds.

Honorary Member - Anne Vondra was unanimously declared an Honorary Member to recognize her contribution to the Society by devoting 4 years in completing the SPECIALIST Index. Mirko Vondra was unanimously declared an Honorary Member to recognize his many years of contributions as member, President, and Editor of the SPECIALIST.

Optimistic Departure - I leave office with a great sense of satisfaction knowing that the Society is being turned over to an excellent new president and, because I know that the very same outstanding officers and members that made my tour a success are still in place for the future. Ed Lehecka, Tom Cossaboom, Mirko Vondra, Phil Freer, Richard Palaschak, Jerry Verner, Alan Hoover, and Donna Lyons are the ones who should receive your thanks and appreciation. I look forward to seeing you and working with you in the future.

## **BALPEX '95 MEMBERSHIP MEETING** **by Jaroslav J. Verner, Exhibit Chairman**

It is always a pleasure to report successes. And success is the evaluation given by all our Society's members who attended this year's general membership meeting held

## THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

in conjunction with Scouts on Stamps International at BALPEX in Hunt Valley, Maryland on Saturday, September 2. Giving an excellent talk on Czech Scout mail, Ivo Kvasnička of Prague presented his audience with the best documentation available on this very popular aspect of Czechoslovak philately. Following the talk, outgoing President Lou Svoboda reported on the excellent condition of the Society, the fine work of the Board of Directors, and the election of officers.

Additional Society activities included manning a hospitality table during the entire show to supply visitors with information about our organization, to sell literature on Czechoslovak philately, and to give our members a "home base." Alan Hoover arrived with a huge amount of material from his outstanding circuit sales operation and set up shop in our suite. Members, new and old, had considerable success in adding to their collections from Alan's large stock. The suite was also the location of a reception for our members hosted by the Hahns, Lou Svoboda, and the Verners on Saturday before the BALPEX awards banquet. SCP awards, two of which were generously donated by Anne and Mirko Vondra, were presented during our traditional Sunday breakfast.

Czechoslovak philately brings us together at these annual affairs, --an opportunity to see old friends and make new ones -- and keeps us coming back year after year. Evenings, after the meetings end and the exhibit doors close, are devoted to socializing and good food. At this show we started with a late evening dinner in a country inn on Old York Road (George Washington's horse slept there) and ended at two excellent restaurants at Baltimore's Inner Harbor.

As in the past, BALPEX was an excellent show with fine exhibits, good judging, and a full roster of dealers. We had fun, got new ideas and information on our hobby, won some prizes, met other members, and made new friends.

In conclusion, a personal word. The Board's confidence in electing me President of the Society is much appreciated. The challenge will be great, especially living up to the standards set by our several excellent past presidents. I look forward to help and support from all of you.

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*Editorial Hinges***VISITING****"FILATELIE"**

While visiting Prague last May (see July/Aug 95 SPECIALIST, pgs. 1,2), your editor along with wife Anne dropped in at the offices of FILATELIE on Klimentská ulice. There we met and conferred with the publication's colorful editor, Vladimír Schödelbauer (Fig. 1). We were impressed with their clean, modern



Fig. 1

quarters and their apparently efficient staff. We have agreed to exchange journals. As it is received periodically, FILATELIE will be turned over to the Society's library. The journal is entirely in the Czech language. Members desiring to borrow copies may do so from our librarian, Richard Palaschak.

**HOW MUCH IS THE GUERNICA WORTH?**

When it comes to philately, our Society has a few very discerning members. Take the case of our new advertising and publicity manager, Donna Lyons, who, incidentally, has just been elected to our Board of Directors.

Recently Donna was working on her own Czech collection and, in cross-checking some of Scott Catalog's listing on Czechoslovakia, she discovered that the Guernica stamp of 1966 issued on the 30th anniversary of the International Brigade in the Spanish Civil War (Scott. No. 1408) was described as having a 60k (koruny) denomination instead of the correct 60h (halirů). She wrote to Stuart Morrissey of Scott Publishing Co. calling the error to his attention. He responded by advising her that he was passing the letter on to James E. Kloetzel, the catalog editor, for further action.

On June 19, 1995, Mr. Kloetzel wrote a reply thanking her for pointing out the error, stating that she was the first person to have noticed it and to have brought it to his attention. He expressed his gratitude because it enabled his staff to catch the error in time to correct it in their printing of Scott's 1996 Catalog, vol. II.

In the August issue of SCOTT STAMP MONTHLY, page 11, there appeared this interesting paragraph in James Kloetzel's column titled "We Get Letters"

"...An officer of The Society for Czechoslovak Philately notified us that Czechoslovakia Scott no. 1408 has for several years been listed as a 60K stamp, whereas it actually should be 60h (halirů, not koruny). 'This is a minor error,' she notes, 'but I knew that you would want to know the incorrect listing.' She is right, and we thank her and all such collectors and dealers who drop us these notes."

At the bottom of his column was a reproduced photo of the Guernica stamp with this text beneath it: "Since 1989, this Czechoslovak stamp, Scott 1408, has been listed



Fig. 2

as a 60k value rather than 60h. A letter from a catalog user resulted in a correction for the 1996 Scott volume II."

By the way, how many of our collectors are aware that Czechoslovakia issued two Guernica stamps - the one by Pablo Picasso in 1966 (Scott no. 1408); the other by Imro Weiner-Král in 1976 (Scott no. 2083, Fig. 2). As a matter of fact, the Picasso stamp was issued twice - once, as noted above; the other, in 1981 as a souvenir sheet, (Scott no. 2374, Fig. 3). All three were issued to commemorate various anniversaries of the International Brigade in the Spanish Civil War.

### STAMPS AS POLITICAL HISTORY

The GLOBAL STAMP NEWS, which has already run a series of articles by our member, Michele Patrick, on

"A Philatelic Tour of Legendary Prague", has again come through with a thought-provoking article on Czechoslovakia. In its August 1995 issue, Roman Semeniuk details the tragic events leading up to the dismemberment of the First Republic and the eventual conflagration to which it led that killed over 35 million people and changed the lives of countless others. Semeniuk's "Stamps Document Road to World War II" is more than a philatelic review of that dark period leading up to the



Fig. 3

world's most costly and devastating war. It is a reminder that the current deep mistrust in political leaders did not begin either with Lyndon Johnson or with Richard Nixon. It began with Adolf Hitler, who, through cunning, deceit and downright lies, managed to bluff his way to a series of military conquests the likes of which eventually dwarfed the victories of Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar and Napoleon Bonaparte.

There are those who argue that politics and philately don't mix. But politics is the purveyor of history and philately mirrors the events that make history the absorbing documentation of everything of significance played out on the world's vast stage. (The Guernica stamp is a good example.) If Hitler elevated the art of political deception and cunning to the highest level of diplomacy, other leaders of countries the world over subsequently picked up on it and refined it to suit their specific goals and ambitions in places like China, Cuba, the Philippines, Iran, Lebanon, Panama, Haiti and yes, even the United States. All of them are documented by stamps of those countries with the possible exception of the United States where decorum and sophistication have so far prohibited Postal authorities from displaying personalities on stamps unless they are dead.

In the case of the recent article in GLOBAL STAMP NEWS, Semeniuk deserves to be commended for his forthright and reasonably accurate account of what transpired in Europe's ethnic political arena to enable Hitler to connive, divide and conquer and leave behind him a trail of torn treaties, broken promises and bloody devastation.

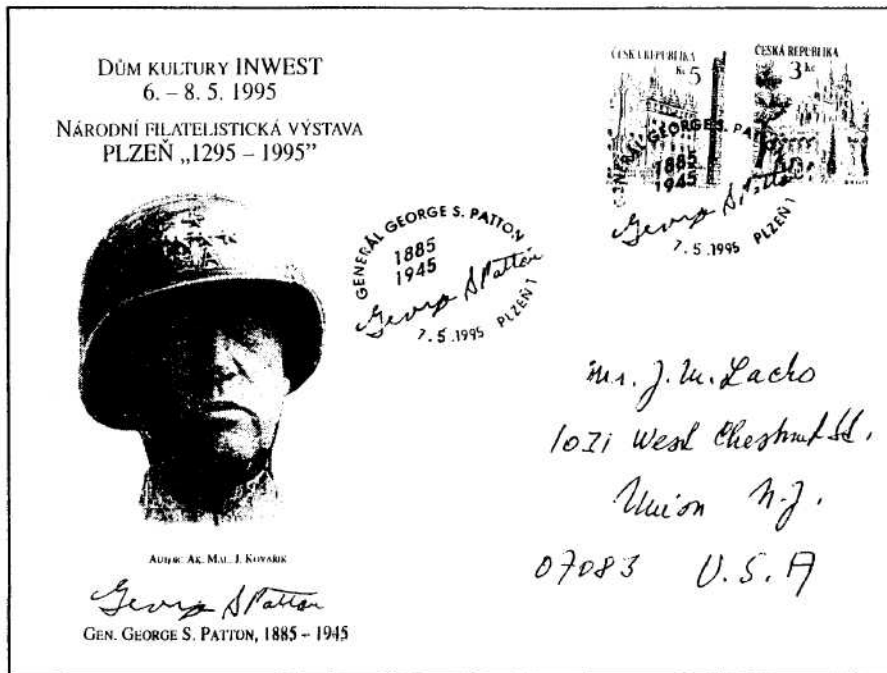


Fig. 6

### New Issues

*Limited space again prevents us from presenting a full update on both the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Here are the latest new issues of Slovakia.*

### SLOVAKIA

On May 3, 1995, the Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications issued a postal envelope with an imprinted stamp of 8sk denomination showing the State

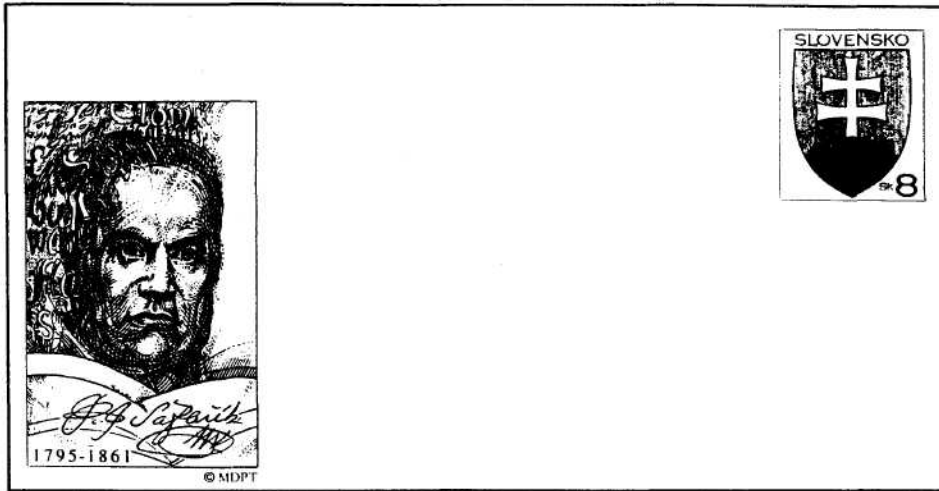


Fig. 1



Fig. 3

organized philately in Slovakia. Publicizing the philatelic exhibition DUNAJFILA 95, the two 3sk stamps symbolically portray three stamp corners showing the commemorations with "Slovensko 3sk" appearing in large letters. In the gutter between them is the exhibition logo represented by a sheatfish (*Silurus glanis*) and the legend "Dunajfila '95". Designed by Miroslav Čipar and engraved by Josef Herčík, the stamps are in blue and grey colors. In 1895, Aurel and

emblem. Appearing in grey color, the stamp was designed and engraved by Martin Činovský. Ten days later, another envelope was issued with the same imprinted stamp commemorating the 20th anniversary of the birth of Pavel Josef Šafařík (1795-1861), a Slovak scholar best known for his book "Slovanské Starožitnosti" (Slovak Antiquities) in 1837. This second envelope shows a cachet of his likeness as seen on a previous set of famous personalities issued by Czechoslovakia on July 2, 1955. Illustrated here is the new postal envelope (Fig. 1) as well as the 1.60kč stamp of 1955 (Fig. 2).

On June 1, 1995, the Ministry issued a sheetlet of two stamps commemorating the centenary of



Fig. 2

Klement Lehotsky founded a stamp club in their home in Kremnica which they called the Album Club. It was the first Slovak philatelic organization and this sheetlet honors its formation (Fig. 3).

On June 15, the Ministry issued a definitive 4sk stamp showing the former Town Hall and Trinity statue in Nová Baňa, situated halfway between Nitra and Zvolen. Designed and engraved by František Horniak, the stamp was done by rotary recess combined with recess printing at the Postal Printery in Prague (Fig. 4). Since Nová Baňa was chiefly a gold mining town, the FDC shows a reproduction of a miner from the relief of the parish church's altar.



Fig. 4

## Library Notes

### UNBOUND SPECIALISTS AND LIBRARY CATALOG

The Society Librarian has back copies of the SPECIALIST available for sale to members at reduced prices. Years 1981-1990 are priced at 25 cents per copy. Prior years are priced at 50 cents per copy. We do not have all years complete and in many cases only have a few copies of an issue. Therefore, the issues will be sold on a first come first served basis. Xerox copies can be made (at cost - about three cents per page) to provide a limited (small) number of copies to complete some year's issues, if specifically requested.

You may order the SPECIALISTS which you wish to purchase by submitting a request to the Society Librarian, Rich Palaschak, 4050 Carbury Court, Chantilly, VA, 22021. Please include your membership number and a deposit of \$10.00 to cover the cost of postage to mail the SPECIALISTS to you. (If you are purchasing less than five of them, the deposit may be reduced to \$5.00.) Unless requested otherwise, they will be mailed to you Third Class. You will be billed for the SPECIALISTS which you are purchasing when they are mailed to you. Any balance from your deposit, after subtracting the cost of postage, will be applied to your bill (or refunded, if your total purchase cost plus postage is less than the deposit).

SPECIALISTS are available from the following years: 1966, 1968 to 1971, 1973 to 1990. **Not all years are complete!** If you only want complete year sets, please say so; otherwise, I'll send those copies currently available for any year which you request.

At its recent meeting, the Society's Board of Directors decided to offer the Library's current Catalog of Books free to Society members. To obtain your copy, send a request to the Librarian along with your membership number. A xerox copy will be provided. The Catalog is maintained on Microsoft Word 5.1. If you would like to obtain the Catalog on a personal computer disc, please send a blank disc with your request and the Catalog will be copied onto your disc. [Note: Because of computer program limitations, some diacritical marks on foreign language listings will be absent from the Catalog when copied onto a disc.]

---Richard Palaschak

## NEW MEMBERS

The following persons have joined the S.C.P. since we published the last list of new members in the July/August 1995 SPECIALIST. We are pleased to welcome the latest contingent of new members and wish them all the very best in their philatelic pursuits within our Society. The last four names have not had their numbers entered in time for publication in this issue.

From time to time, we publish a listing of benefits to which our members are entitled. We, who are on the Board of Directors, the Editorial Staff and heads of the various committees, stand ready to assist them in whatever way possible.

## Member

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