



THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

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an Incorporated Non-Profit Organization
Winner of Numerous Philatelic Literature Awards

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Presents

MILCOPEX '96

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Society for Czechoslovak Philately

at

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THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

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CZECH SCOUT MAIL

By Ivo Kvasnička
Translated By J. J. Verner

(The editor of the AMERICAN PHILATELIST called Ivo Kvasnička's original monograph on the "Czech Scout Official Mail one of the most thorough presentations to be published under one cover on the subject of this unusual mail service." Originally published in the January 1969 issue of the AMERICAN PHILATELIST and reprinted serially in the CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST in the April through November issues of the same year, this article has remained the most important reference work for collectors of both Czechoslovakia and Scout mail. After more than 25 years, Ivo Kvasnička adds details to his seminal work. The following article is based on a richly illustrated talk he gave at a joint meeting of the S.C.P. and



Fig. 1

Scout on Stamps Society International at our annual meeting during BALPEX 95. J. Verner, PRES.)

Anyone who wants to collect seriously must delve very deeply into the history of the period when the stamps and stationery in question were issued. We will examine, with the help of illustrations, some of the events and people

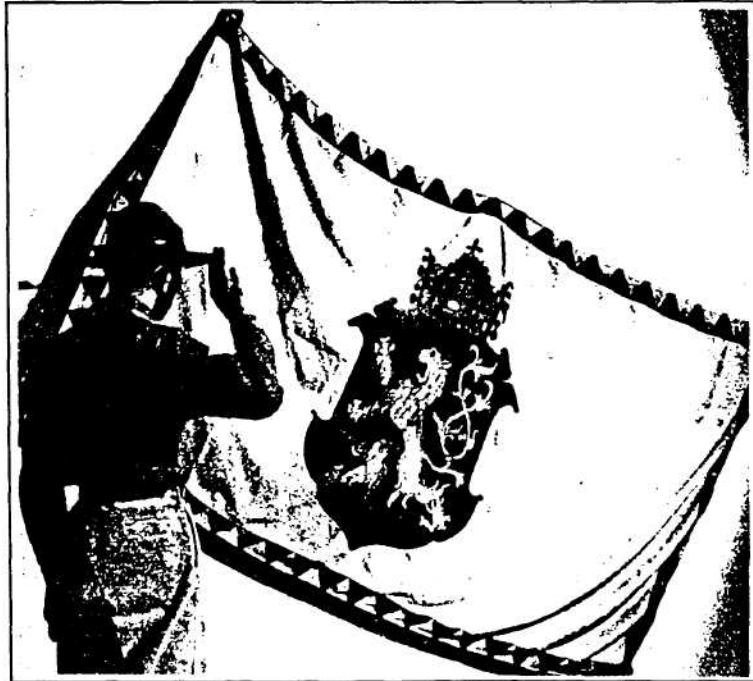


Fig. 2

surrounding the origins and functioning of the Scout official mail delivery system during the end of October and in November of 1918.

Figure 1 shows the well known features (in 1919) of the founder of the Boy Scout movement in Czech Lands, Professor A.B. Svojsík. His face is probably known to the reader from the stamp that was issued in 1991 by the former Czechoslovak Republic on the occasion of the 115th anniversary of Professor Svojsík's birth and the 80th anniversary of the Boy Scout movement in Czech Lands. Figure 2 illustrates the manner in which Boy Scouts took an oath of allegiance before the Olympic flag of Czechs - they had no national flag at the time - before becoming official helpers to, and messengers for, the Prague National Council. For those youngsters, it was not only a pleasure, but a great honor to serve the National Council.

Figure 3 shows the official scout identification card. It reads: "Boy Scout Citizen (*the Scout's name*) is empowered to maintain peace and order in the name of the National Council," and is signed by the Scout at lower left and by Professor Svojsík on the right. Figure 4 shows how the Boy Scouts in this appeared. The picture was taken October 28, 1918, the first day of their service with the National Council. The uniform

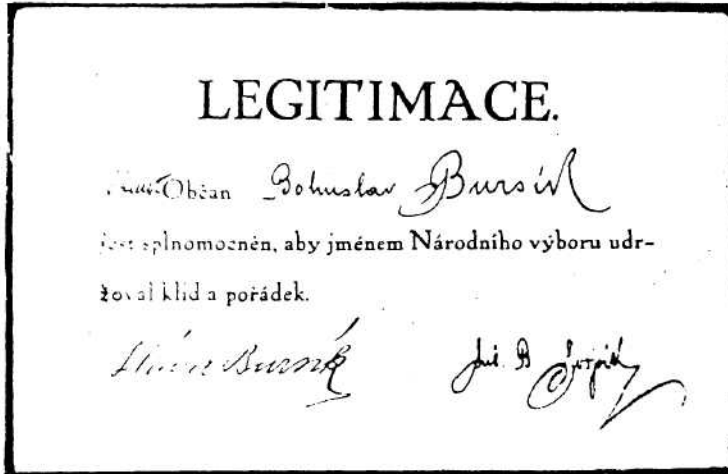


Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

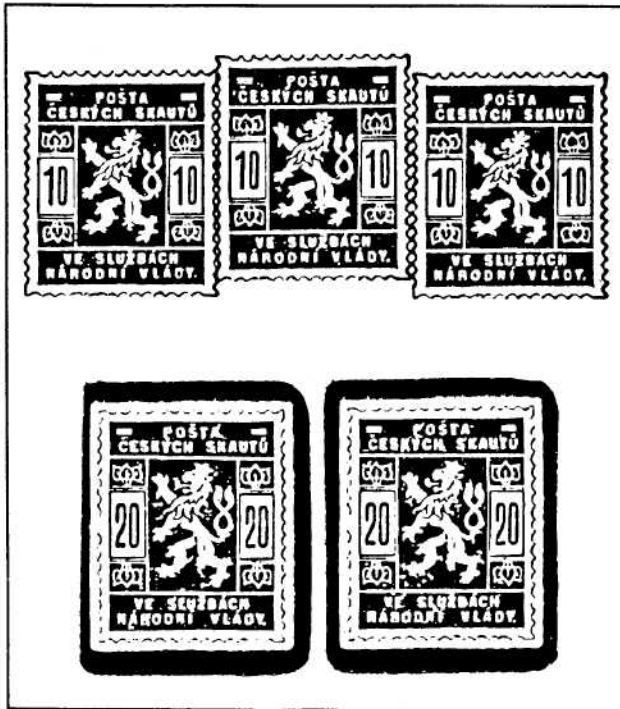


Fig. 6

and identification card were the only verification of their official status used in contacts with members of the government, the National Council, and Parliament. At that time, the Prague National Council actually was the provisional government and also the institution which took over governmental functions after the end of World War I. We Czechs call it a revolution, as it was also the result of a long

struggle for national freedom. Actually, the National Council took over governmental power without blood-shed. So it, too, was a kind of "Velvet Revolution."

Only a few pictures of Mr. Rössler-Ořovský, the President of the Boy Scouts at the time, exist. One of the most famous is in Figure 5, where he is shown with his nephew, Alba, in scout uniforms. Actually, Professor Svojsík was the Chief Scout, and Mr. Ořovský, who was older than Svojsík, was president of the Scout organization. He was a very clever and intelligent man. In addition to being actively involved with the Boy Scout movement, he organized Czech Olympic teams for the Olympic

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Games, and was also a member of the first Prague National Council to put together a Boy Scout service for the needs of the National Council. It is not known if he knew about the story of what happened at Mafeking in

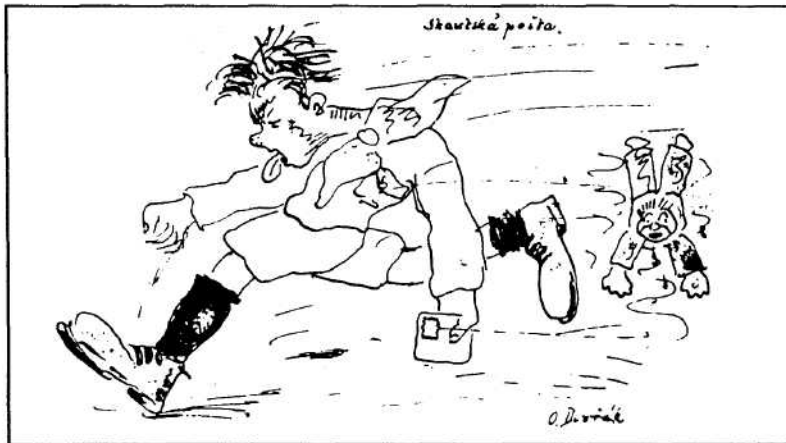


Fig. 7

the Cape of Good Hope during the Second Anglo-Boer War. But he did almost the same thing that Sir Baden-Powell did at Mafeking in 1900. He ordered issuance of two Scout stamps (Fig. 6), both of them nationalistic in character. The 10 heller is in blue and the 20 heller is in red; both colors are usual on Slavic flags. The center of both stamps is a Czech double-tailed lion. Leaves of the Linden tree, The Czech national tree, appear above and below the value tablets. The text is obvious: "Mail of the Czech Scouts in the service of the National Government."

Mr. Orovský also did one thing that preserved a lot of envelopes and covers. He used the envelope as a receipt, instead of receipt books. Actually, receipt books may have existed; I do not know for certain for I have never seen any. It should be noted that the official regulations establishing the Scout Mail do make reference to receipt books. But the envelope obviously did serve as a normal receipt, and Scouts were




Fig. 8

**Služební předpis pro české skauty
pro doručování dopisů a listin.**

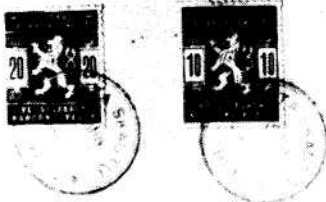
- 1/ Části Skautů ve službách Národního výboru jsou náležitě opatřeni legitimací svého čestí a ruší za dopisy a listiny jim svěřené, které vyložíte na předepsanou adresu dodají.
- 2/ Dopisy předávají se skautům k doručení v přízemní úřadovně v t. sv. Barrachovské paláci, sídlo Národního výboru v Jindřišské ul. Při doručení musí být každý dopis potvrzen přijímající osobou buď na obálce, kterou Skaut přinese zpět, nebo v recepční knize, kterou dopisy doručující Skaut adresátovi předloží.
- 3/ Veškeré dopisy Skauty doručované jsou opatřeny značkou českých Skautů, která se nalepi v Skautské úřadovně.
- 4/ Nebylo-li by možno dopis, listiny, telegram, neb balík řádně a důležitě doručiti, musí tento ihned dočtyřmístnému číselníku, který jej dopravě Skautů předal navrácen býti.
- 5/ Ku potvrzení příjmu dopisu bylo pořízeno zvláštní razítko, do kterého se zanese datum a jméno Skauta.

V Praze, dne 7. listopadu 1918.




Za Velitelství českých Skautů na vědomí vsazl :

Skautské poštovní známky :



Dopis od skauta _____
převzal: _____



Handwritten signatures:
Janík *Malibug*
Standa *Standa*
Standa *Standa*




Fig. 9

instructed to have the recipient sign it and they countersigned. The scouts then returned almost all the envelopes and other items to the Postal Agency of the Scouts at the National Committee. The Scouts were, at times, quite insistent that they retain the cover when mail was delivered to the addressee. One can see hand drawn colored postal cards, probably contemporary, such as in Figure 7, illustrating this. The recipient is lying on the floor, blood drips from his nose after a fight over the envelope, and the Boy Scout is running off with the envelope in his hand. So, thanks to the way Mr. Rössler-



Fig. 10

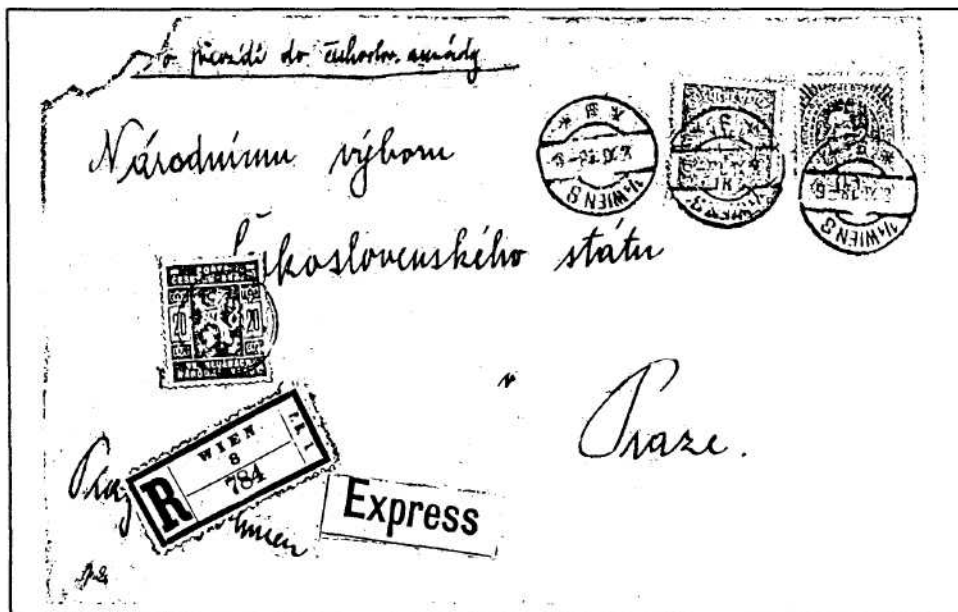


Fig. 11

Ofovský organized delivery of official mail by the Scouts, many more covers are extant today than would have been otherwise.

I hasten to add that Mr. Rössler-Ofovský was **not** himself a philatelist. It is true he was involved with other "private issues" such as the First and Second so-called Prague Revolutionary overprints and the Siberian Lion stamps. It is known he did not make much money from the Scout issues or his other philatelic activities.

There are some interesting points regarding the National Council and, as I call it, its Postal Agency. The information was obtained from *Český Filatelista* (Czech Philatelist) of November 15, 1918, that is, during the actual functioning of the Scout Mail. The second primary source is the same magazine's December 15, 1918 issue - only 14 days after the Boy Scout post ceased. From these contemporary sources, we see service of the Scouts beginning on October 28 in the evening. At that time the National Council as well as the Scouts' office, or Postal Agency, was located in Harrach Palace

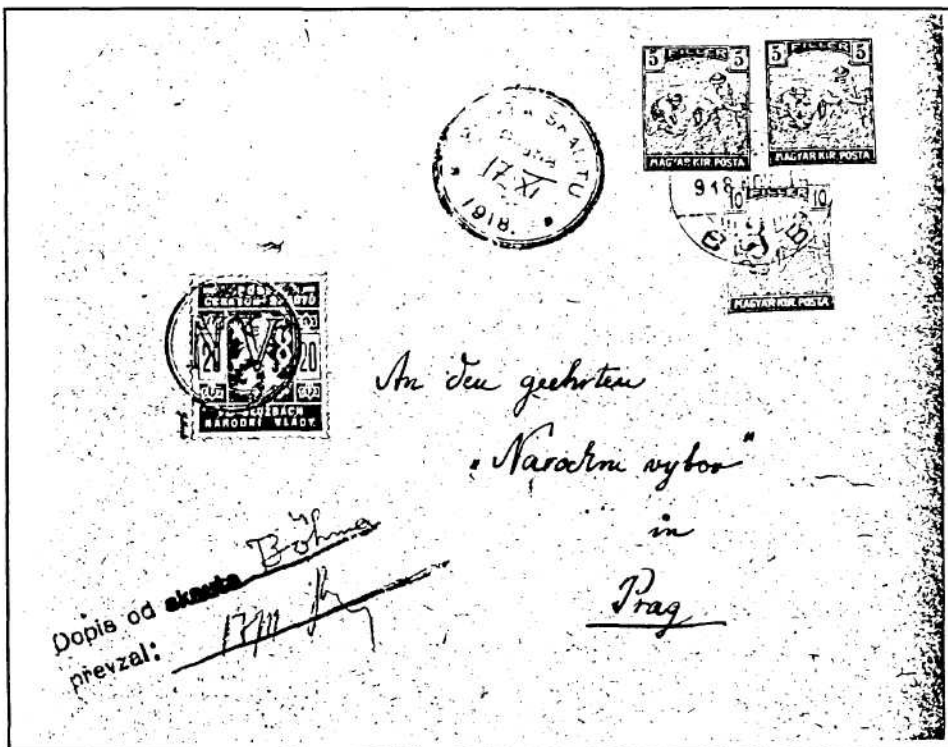


Fig. 12

on Jindřišská Street. On November 10, the entire administration moved to the Cadet Academy. On November 13, the National Council and the Scouts moved to the Czech Parliament which became their permanent home. The date of November 16 is very important because the second office was opened in the former governor's office in Prague's Hradčany Castle. The entire Scout mail operation ended on November 25, in the evening. A summary of this time line would look like this:

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START	October 28(evening)	Harrach Palace
		↓
	November 10	Cadet Academy
		↓
	November 13	Parliament
		↓
	November 16	The second Scout Post office opens in the former governor's palace
		↓
STOP	November 25(evening)	Scout Mail ends

It is important to note that an additional one or two, perhaps all three, cancelers might have been prepared for the second Scout post office. You can actually find two

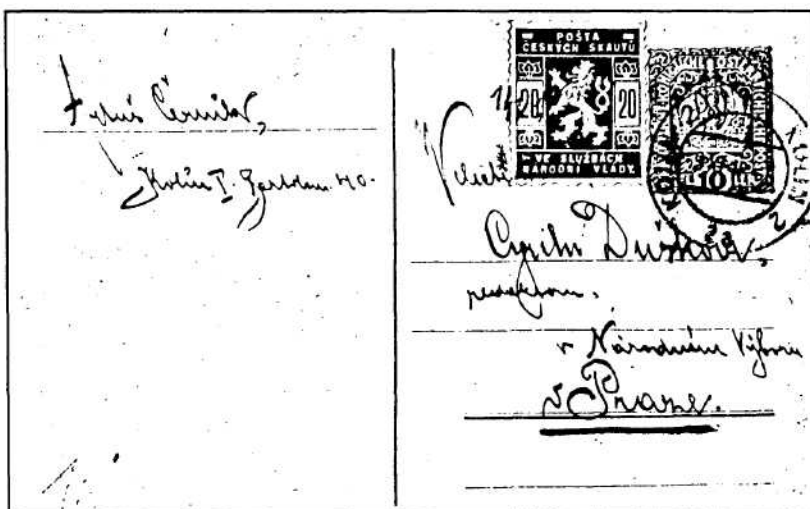


Fig. 13

different "Pošta skautů" cancellations on your envelopes or other Scout items. I cannot say for certain that all the Scout cancels exist in two examples, but it is certain that "Pošta skautů" cancels or hand stamps do exist. The left cancel in Figure 8 has no notches on bottom or on top. The cancel on right has notches both at the bottom and a somewhat longer and shallower one on top. I think this one was used from the beginning and the second one, without notches, was used in the second Scout office. There are slight differences between them, in addition to the notches. The distance between "Praha" and "1918" in the two cancels is different. From the bottom of "A" in "Pošta" to the top, the second number "1" in "1918" measures 11.5 mm in the left cancel and in the right one, 12mm. The difference of 0.5mm is hard to recognize with the naked eye, but if the cancels are enlarged, one can see a significant difference when they are overlaid, e.g. with the help of transparencies. Forged cancels or hand stamps can also be identified in this manner. The official regulations for Boy Scout Mail appear as Figure 9. Both hand stamps are shown on this document: The unnotched cancel is at center of the document on the document; on the left side of the page immediately under

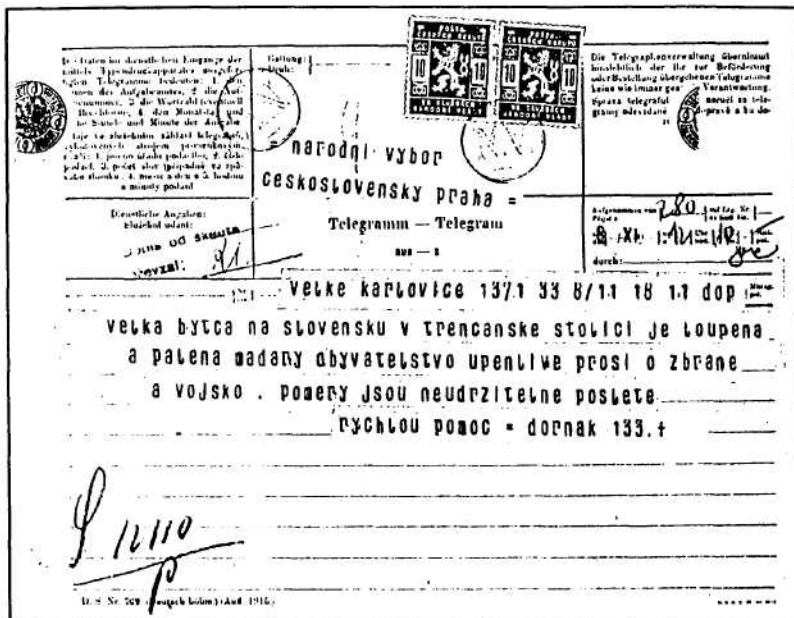


Fig. 14

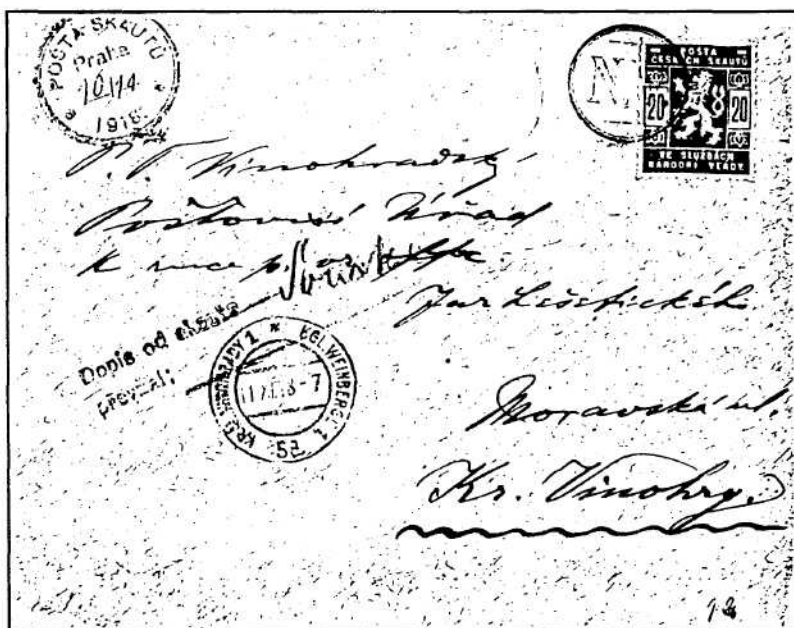


Fig. 15

More frequently one can find letters or documents delivered only by Scout mail between members of the Prague National Council, members of Parliament, important institutions and persons. Letters or cards between the headquarters of the Scouts and certain officials, institutions or even private persons or between Scout units are relatively common. The letter in Figure 15 was sent to Mr. Lešetický who was the director of the Vinohrady Post Office, the second largest in Prague at that time. In the new Republic, Mr. Lešetický became a consultant to the Czechoslovak government on stamps and postal markings it bears. Letters like this one, but without regular postal markings, can be questionable. While everything on them - stamps, cancels, markings - may be genuine, it is hard to say with certainty if they had been delivered by Boy Scouts or made up after the event. (Of course, manufactured covers with non-existent addressees are quite easy to identify for what they are). The same is true of the controversial elliptically shaped cancel which served officials in the National Council Building. Some covers exist with only the elliptical cancel on the Scout stamps which I think were really delivered by Scouts (Figure 16), especially if they were sent between officials of the National Council and Scout leaders.

The cancelers, documentation on the Scout Mail and all other material concerning the National Council were deposited in Prague's City Hall, which contained the archives of the Prague National Council. This fact is attested to in Mr. Ofovsky's personal papers as shown in Figure 17. The text of this entry reads: "Delivery stamps (official) of the National Council (the government at that time), the so-called Scout stamps, were relief printed in color. Both metal die tools are in the archives of the National Council and are de-faced (as are those of the I and II Revolutionary issue) Postal cancels "N.V." for these delivery stamps are also in the "N.V." archives."

Prague's City Hall was intentionally destroyed at the end of World War II, on May 8, 1945 by Nazi tanks. However, nobody knows if the Scout items were destroyed then or earlier by the Nazis, who did not like the Scout Movement because of the ideas it espoused. The loss of these archives deprives us of primary source material on Scout Mail. The consequence of this is that many troubling questions remain; their answers will continue to be the subject of research in secondary sources, as well as conjecture and speculation.

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Three -color cachet cover with local contest design winner's pictorial cancel commemorating the 48th annual Czech Days celebration on June 14 and 15. \$1.00 each.	
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<i>Tabor Area Chamber of Commerce,</i> PO Box 21, Tabor, SD 57063-0021	
Attention: Special Stamp Cancellation A #10 SASE required	 96 

**25th
ANNIVERSARY OF
THE FIRST
REPUBLIC**

by W. A. Page. FRPS,L

(Ed. Note: The following is a capsule summary of Monograph no. 10 compiled by Vladimír Králčák and W. A. Page and published by the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain earlier this year. We are grateful to the author for writing this synopsis especially for this publication and hope it will generate the kind of interest and curiosity to persuade its readers to see and read the entire text of this new Monograph no. 10.)

Two stamp exhibitions were mounted in London towards the end of 1943 to commemorate the anniversary of the founding of the Czechoslovak Republic on Oct. 28, 1918. Quite an achievement under wartime conditions! It required the full involvement of the exiled Czechoslovak Government, their Forces and the then newly formed Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain was needed to ensure the success of the events.

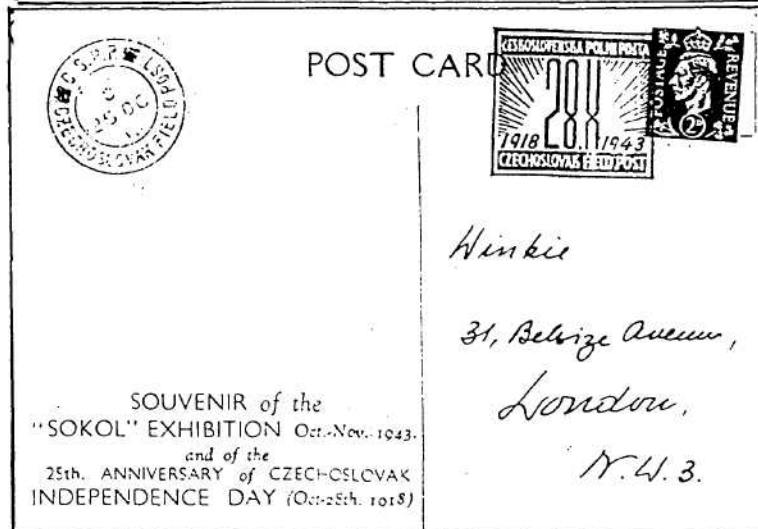
The first exhibition opened on Oct. 23, 1943 and was to promote and publicize the "SOKOL" movement - the Czechoslovak National Gymnastics Organization. This exhibition lasted until Nov. 4 and embraced national Independence Day, always celebrated on Oct. 28. A number of souvenirs were produced for the "Sokol" exhibition and a postal cancellation was designed to commemorate the anniversary of national independence. The cancellation chosen was that produced by Jindřich Křeček. (See SPECIALIST Sept/Oct 1995, page 11). Some souvenirs were stamped with the standard Field Post cancellation. Both cancellations were applied in red.

On Nov. 8, 1943, a second well-publicized exhibition opened and lasted until November 20. Both exhibitions were held at the British Council Czechoslovak Institute Hall at 18 Grosvenor Place, London SW1, and provided an opportunity of raising much needed funds for the Czechoslovak Red Cross organization in London.

Quite a lot has already been written about the stamp exhibition and its philatelic souvenirs, especially the non-postal miniature sheet printed by Waterlow & Sons Ltd. (See SPECIALIST May/June 1993, pages 18/19.) For example, did you know that of some 46,000 souvenir sheets printed, only 150 were imperforated? Also, has anybody spotted the error in the exhibition special cancellation? (See SPECIALIST Sept/Oct 1995, page 11.)



Title page of the program for the first Sokol
Exhibition - Oct. 23 - Nov. 4, 1943



TOP - The Exhibition Field Postcard of Oct/Nov 1943
BOTTOM - Reverse shows the SOKOL & Independence texts in English

These two pieces of information and many other related facts on the background and organization of the two exhibitions have now been assembled in a new Monograph. Published by the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society Of Great Britain, it was co-authored by our New Zealand member, Vladimír Králíček, with valuable input from Hans Klein in the Netherlands.

Apart from recording the full story of the events, the publication stands as a tribute to the Czechoslovaks and their determination to regain their lost freedom and independence. Happily achieved, but not without many sacrifices and hardships, the publication abounds with useful information and fine illustrations.

THOUGHTS ON BOHUMIL HEINZ

by Charles Chesloe

(Ed. Note: In October 1974, the SPECIALIST, whole no. 344 on pages 131-133 published an article titled "Charley's Corner" in which the author honored the engraver, Bohumil Heinz, and compared his style to that of another great Czech engraver, Karl Seizinger. In that brief article, the author concludes with the following sentence, "More on Heinz in future Corners." Today, over twenty years later, Mr. Chesloe favors us with his further thoughts on this great creator of the stamps of Czechoslovakia.)

Being an avid collector of Czechoslovakia for many years, I would like to pay tribute to one of the world's finest stamp engravers, Bohumil Heinz. 1996 marks the 56th year since his untimely death on May 22, 1940. He was only 46 years old then and at the peak of his engraving career.



Fig. 1

B. Heinz was responsible for engraving 31 popular regular issues with seven coupon-on-tab designs, 8 semi-postal issues with one coupon design and two souvenir sheets - all

between the years 1934 and 1939. For the Protectorate of Bohemia & Moravia, he engraved ten different stamp designs during 1939-1940.



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

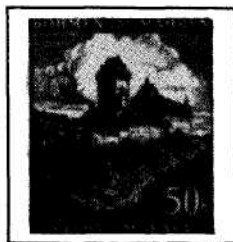


Fig. 4



Fig. 5

Illustrated here are some of his remarkable proofs. Fig. 1 shows an early essay which was probably prepared for the 1930 Masryk Issue. This

Issue (Scott no. 168-171) was engraved

by Karl Seizinger. Another work is shown in Fig. 2, but it too was rejected. This design was eventually used in 1953 (Scott no. 619), but was re-engraved by Jaroslav Goldschmidt.

Fig. 3 shows the engraving for the 1939 Bohemia & Moravia Issue of Karlstein Castle (Scott no. 28), but with the Czech text "Čechy a Morava" at the top and the German text "Böhmen und Mähren" at the bottom. In Fig. 4, one can see how the German authorities changed that and instructed Heinz to place the German text at the top.



Fig. 6

Figures 5, 6 and 7 show some other die proofs that Heinz prepared for the Bohemia & Moravia Protectorate.

Besides engraving stamps, Heinz also engraved Czechoslovak bank notes. In addition, he worked for the engraving firm of De la Rue and Sons of London, England, where he engraved stamp designs for Canada, Sweden, Western Samoa and Turkey. He had the great talent of being able to engrave landscapes, buildings

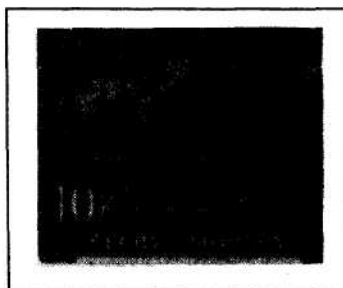


Fig. 7

and portraits of people with equally excellent quality and style.

While he and Karl Seizinger worked together, Czechoslovakia produced some of the most beautiful stamp designs in the world. That was during the 1930-1939 period.

Collectors of Czechoslovak stamps are indeed fortunate to have had an engraver like Bohumil Heinz. Had he not died at such an early age, he would have produced many more designs to the delight of the average collector as well as the specialist.

OLOMOUC TO PRAGUE A RAILWAY ANNIVERSARY

by Karel Holoubek

The railway line from Vienna to Olomouc and points beyond in Poland, which had belonged to Austria at that time, was opened in 1841. On this strategic track, a branch line was built from Olomouc to Prague. To enable construction to be completed sooner, it was built in many sections at one time. That is why this line was able to be put into operation in 1845. A special inauguration train left on August 20, 1845. Regular

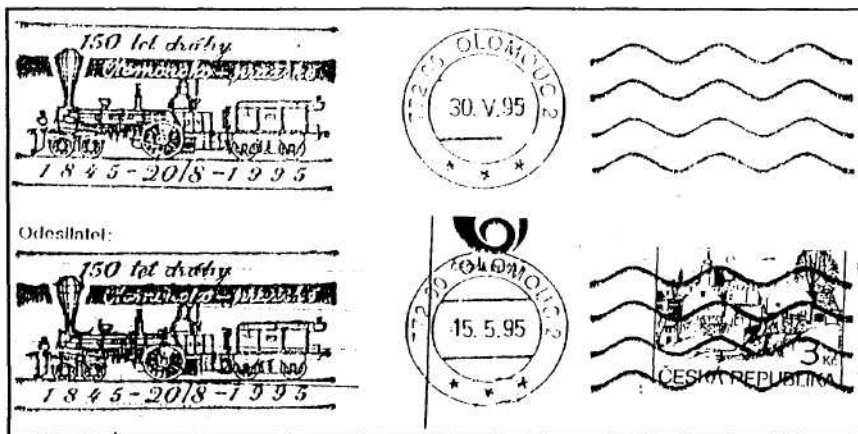


Fig. 1

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

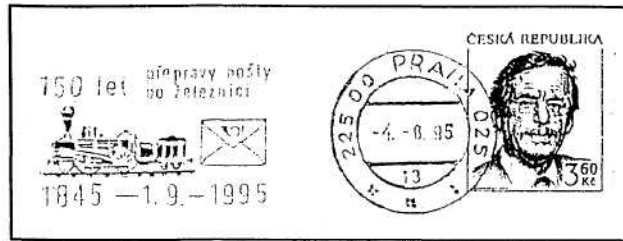


Fig. 2

service was begun starting September 1st. At the outset, there were only two trains functioning. 1845 was an important year from a postal standpoint as well as philatelically. It was the year a regular railway postal service was initiated. At first, it involved the transporting of postal bags only. Later, special mail cars were put into operation.

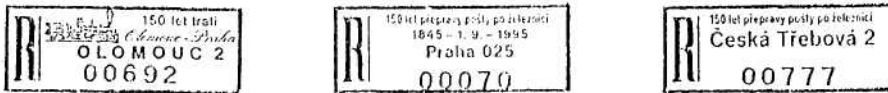


Fig. 3

For the 150th anniversary of this important event, two commemorative stamps were issued: a 3kč and a 9.6kč. In addition, a commemorative postcard with the same 3kč stamp printed on it along with a cachet was also issued. This was accompanied in many

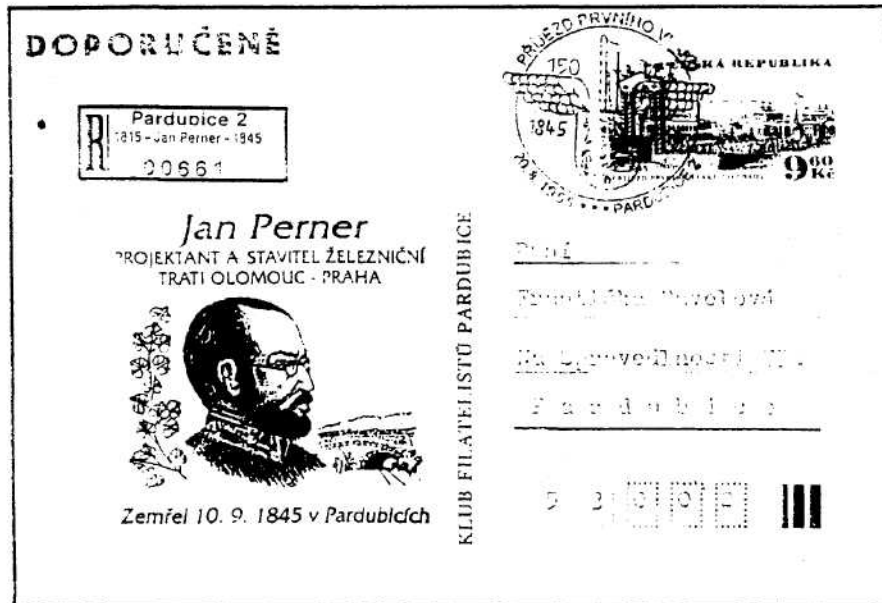


Fig. 4



Fig. 5

instances by a special cancellation (Note the SPECIALIST of Sept/Oct 95, page 26, Fig. 3). The occasion was further celebrated philatelically with various other items, many of which emanated from Olomouc. These included advertising stock in two cancelling machines in a postoffice at Olomouc 2 (Fig. 1). Two other stations along the railway line used advertising stock in their cancelling machines, namely Česká Třebová 2 and Kolín, as did the largest one of all in Prague (Fig. 2).

Less common were Registry labels at three of the four stations at Olomouc 2, Prague and Česká Třebová 2. Some Registry labels even showed pictures of different types of historical steam engines which had run along this line many years ago, such as the first one in Fig. 3.

A postcard published by the Philatelic Club of Pardubice shows a cachet portrait of Jan Perner (Fig. 4). This engineer built part of the line around Pardubice. During an inspection tour, he leaned out the window of the train just as it entered a tunnel. Severely hurt, he was rushed to a nearby hospital in Pardubice where he died of head injuries. He had just turned fifty years of age. At Pardubice, various special cancellations were used for the anniversary (Fig. 5) and even more in Olomouc (Fig. 6).

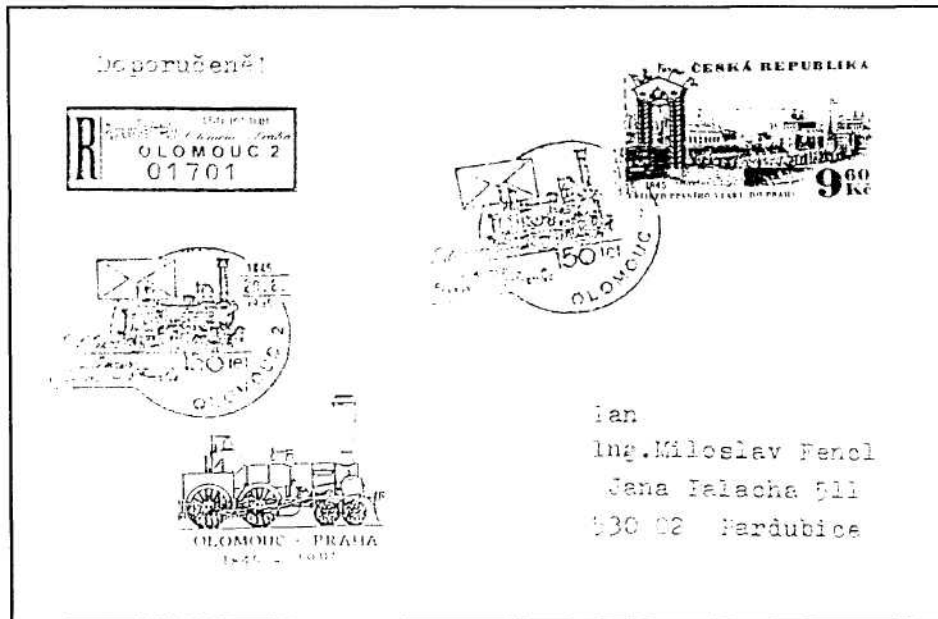


Fig. 6

The anniversary train which, on August 20, 1995, rode ceremoniously along the rail line from Olomouc to Prague, had a mail car attached to it filled with mail. It stopped at all major stations giving collectors ample opportunity to have special cancellations

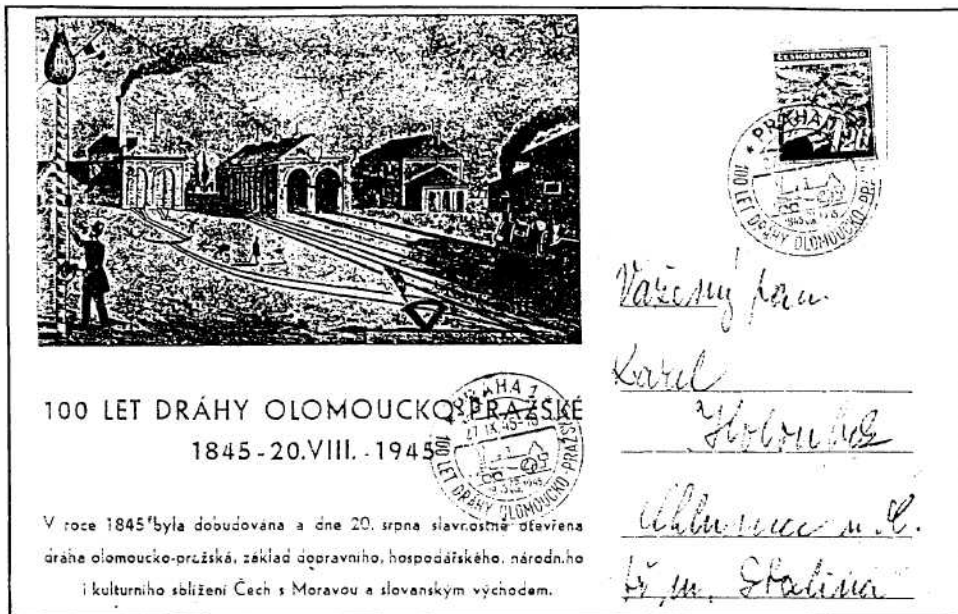


Fig. 7

affixed to their mail as it was being picked up for train delivery to friends and relatives.

Before concluding, let me remind our readers that, if this subject is in any way related to one their topical, the 100th anniversary of this same railway was celebrated in 1945 with only one single stamp cancellation (Fig. 7). Times have changed and today collectors of railroad stamps and cancels are inundated with material far beyond their expectations. But those who limit their topical to one country such as the Czech Republic will find anniversaries like that of the Vienna - Olomouc -Prague line to be philatelically rewarding.

For the Beginner

WHICH CATALOG? by Phillips Freer

In general terms, a catalog is for sale, issued by an individual, firm or company, listing the items for sale and their cost to the consumer. Such is not usually the case concerning stamp catalogs. It is true that stamp catalogs will list a price per item for both mint and used, but this listed price may or may not be what the collector will have to pay for a particular stamp.. Stamp catalogs are used mainly for identification and information purposes.

Perhaps the most used catalog in the United States is Scott's Catalog. For example, a collector approaching a dealer's booth at a stamp show, looking for a particular Czechoslovak stamp, will probably ask the dealer if he or she has a particular Czech stamp, Scott no. so-and-so. The prospective buyer will of course have some purchase figure in mind based on the Scott catalog pricing for that particular stamp. If the dealer

has that particular stamp for sale, the buyer may find the price considerably lower than the Scott listed price or considerably higher.

It is true that in the last few years, a sincere effort has been made by Scott Publishing Co. to reflect actual market values of foreign stamps including those of Czechoslovakia (also Czech Republic and Slovakia). Still, these values are based mainly on expert opinion with a tinge of wishful thinking running either in favor of, or to the detriment of, dealers who sell them. Thus, in general, market value should not be confused with catalog price. Each has its unique place in the realm of stamp collecting.

With all its popularity, at least in the United States, the Scott Catalog has its disadvantages for collectors of the stamps of Czechoslovakia, the Czech Republic and Slovakia. First of all, one must buy a catalog in which a comparatively small portion is concerned with the items which are his main interest. Then frequently, and perhaps of special concern to the beginning collector, a particular stamp is not illustrated but a reference is made to a picture of a previously illustrated stamp. This can be a bit frustrating. Of course, one need not purchase all the volumes of the latest Scott Catalog or even a single volume thereof. A trip to the local public library will make the entire set readily available as a reference book. Some public libraries even permit Scott Catalogs to be loaned out to card holders.

Two other catalogs which list the stamps of Czechoslovakia are: the Stanley Gibbons Catalog Part V, fifth edition, which, in addition, lists the stamps of Poland. The other is the Michel Europa-Katalog which lists the stamps of the various European countries, including Czechoslovakia. This catalog is printed entirely in the German language. Both catalogs have their stamp prices listed in the currency of their respective countries.

Probably of greatest interest and utility to collectors of Czech stamps, certainly for beginners, are two catalogs, one of which was published in the former Czechoslovakia; the other, just recently in the Czech Republic. The first one is quite large, about twelve by eight and a half inches (hardly something that one would carry around while visiting dealers at stamp shows). It is the SPECIALIZOVANÁ PRÍRUČKA (Specialized Handbook) and is entirely in the Czech language. It covers all stamps issued from 1918 through 1985. All the stamps are illustrated and appear in color. In addition, many varieties are illustrated as well. Finally, the postal stationery of that period are all listed. This catalog should be a collector's item in itself.

The other catalog probably has the most utilitarian value to the beginner. It is the TROJAN KATALOG, which is available through our Society's book sales manager. It covers all Czechoslovak issues from 1918 to 1992 and all Czech Republic issues from 1993 to 1995, including varieties. It is printed entirely in Czech. In the front, there is a listing of philatelic terms, an explanation of "The System of the Catalog" and stamp colors are described in Czech as well as their equivalent in English. On that subject, mention must be made that our Society is in the process of publishing a Czech-English, English-Czech Glossary of Philatelic Terminology which will be of great help in the use of the above two catalogs. These catalogs, along with the Glossary of Philatelic Terms, are or will shortly be available from our treasurer and book sales manager, Ed Lehecka.

Finally, what about specialty catalogs? If you collect Czech postal stationery, there are at least three possibilities. In May 1974 the Society issued a combined 1963-73 Subject Index and the Higgins & Gage 1974 edition of the Catalog of Czechoslovakia Postal Stationery. This catalog lists Czech postal cards from 1918 through 1968, plus envelopes, airmail letter sheets, telegrams, pneumatic post, parcel post forms, etc. (See Library Notes: June 1982 SPECIALIST" elsewhere in this issue.) This mini-catalog is now outdated and incomplete. Furthermore, Higgins & Gage has discontinued its further publication.

The second possibility is a German book named KATALOG DER TSCHECHOSLOWAKISCHEN GANZSACHEN 1918-1992 (Specialized Catalog of Czechoslovak Postal Stationery). This book is approximately the same size as the

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SPECIALIZOVANÁ PRÍRUČKA mentioned earlier. It is all in German, but does contain a title page in Czech including a Czech Index. It is perhaps the most comprehensive catalog of the postal stationery of Czechoslovakia covering that period of time. However, it only lists prices for the most common items. There are no prices given for the many varieties. At the time this issue went to press, the book was not available through our Society. Members unable to secure this book from other sources might consider a third possibility, namely the SPECIALIZOVANÁ PRÍRUČKA whose postal stationery section is reasonably complete up to 1985.

If you collect the stamps and/or postal stationery of Bohemia & Moravia or of Slovakia of the World War II era, a handbook put together by George Kobyłka and George Blížil, both members of our Society in 1958, is available from our Society Library.

As for that neglected area known as revenue stamps, there is a catalog that was published in Germany in 1976 in the English language. It was originally compiled by the Rev. Severin Gottschmitt and later edited by M. Erler. It is well illustrated and a copy, on loan, may be obtained by members from our Society Library.

For those seeking an even more specialized area in the field of revenue stamps, there is a 12-page pamphlet-type catalog compiled in 1994 by František and Zampach and Tomáš Morovics and published in the May 1994 issue of FILATELIE. It is called HANDBOOK AND CATALOG OF FOOD REVENUE STAMPS. It includes the food revenue stamps of Czechoslovakia from 1921 to 1939 and Bohemia and Moravia as well as Slovakia from 1939 to 1945. It is all in Czech and illustrated in black-and-white. It also is obtainable on loan from the Society Library.

Library Notes

JUNE 1982 SPECIALIST

The mystery of the "missing" SPECIALIST has been solved! During the past year there were several inquiries from members about a 1982 issue of the SPECIALIST which was missing from their collections. Upon checking the Library's bound copy of the 1982 SPECIALIST, I found, to my surprise, that there was in fact a missing issue in it also. Initial inquiries to several long-time members produced no copies of the missing issue; I concluded that through some error, the Society had skipped one issue. The missing SPECIALIST should have been published in Volume XLIV, June 1982, Number 6, Whole Number 421. It turns out that the missing issue is actually the 1964-1980 Subject Index for the SPECIALIST. But this story cannot end that simply. The cover of the particular SPECIALIST was actually printed as Volume XXXVI, May 1974, Number 5a, Whole Number 341a (Obviously trying to use the printing master from an earlier 1964-1973 index) - Whoops! This problem was solved on some copies by gluing a strip of paper containing a corrected identification, it listed the issue as Number 4, Whole Number 419 - Whoops! It is actually Number 6, Whole Number 421. For those of you who want to purchase the Index, the Library has some extra copies available at twenty-five (25) cents per copy plus the cost of postage. Remember, the new cumulative Index for the SPECIALIST, which covers all issues from 1939 to 1992, is now available for sale to members of the Society; the details regarding how to purchase a copy can be found elsewhere in this issue.

Library Catalog: When the availability of the Library Catalog was announced in the Specialist, I failed to mention that those wanting the catalog on a computer disc needed to let me know which format you required, Macintosh or MS DOS (IBM). If you are requesting a Library Catalog on computer disc, please specify the desired format.

Richard G. Palaschak, SCP Librarian

(ED. Note: The Editor wishes to interpret and amplify the above brief article with the following information: Mr. and Mrs. Henry Stollnitz, who were Society members at the time, worked tirelessly to compile a 10-year Specialist Index after the former Wolfgang Fritzsche (No. 26), had been doing it for the first 20-plus years of the SPECIALIST'S existence. It was merged with the Society's own "Priced Catalog of Postal Stationery of Czechoslovakia (Higgins & Gage 1974 Edition)" and printed separately as a booklet with yellow cardboard cover and black plastic comb binding. Eight years later, this same Index, sans the postal stationery catalog, was expanded through the combined efforts of Mrs. Stollnitz, Anne Vondra and Eileen Hermann into a 16-year Index and published as the June 1982 issue (No. 6, Whole No. 421) of the SPECIALIST. It was titled "1964-1980 Subject Index" and was printed separately as a booklet with yellow cardboard cover and with electric-tape binding.)

Letters to the Editor

1. Dear Mirko:

Congratulations on you and your wife being named honorary members of your fine Society, as announced in your Jan/Feb issue of the SPECIALIST.

I also wish to comment on the very interesting article in the same issue titled "The 1 k Airmail Definitive Stamp of 1930." M. Vostatek's article was both informative and enlightening. (Translated from Czech).

Sincerely,
Lubor Kunc

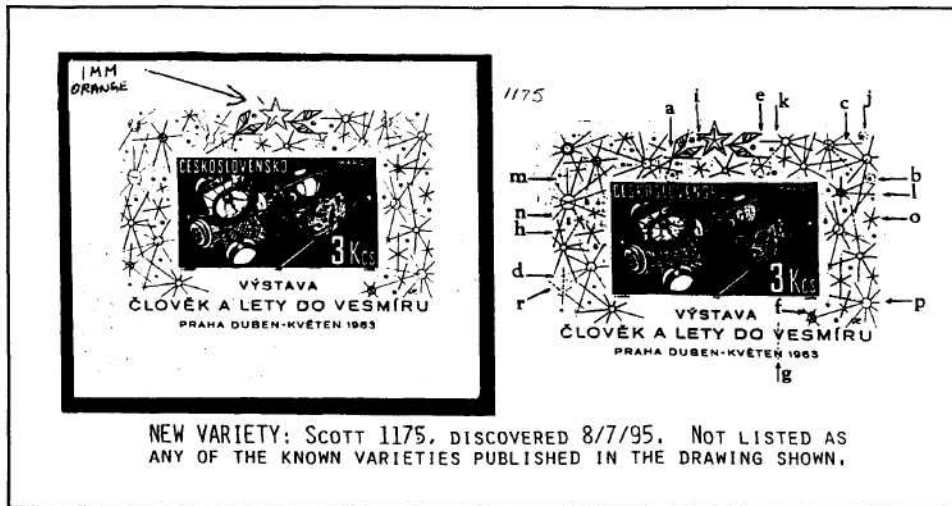


Fig. 1

2. Dear Mirko:

I came across a souvenir sheet (Scott no. 1175) that is not listed anywhere. There

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are twelve varieties! I have all but three. This new one makes 13 types with an orange ray about 1 to 1.5mm, but definitely an additional orange where indicated by the arrow. Has anyone else found such a variety? The photocopy I took picked it up only slightly, so I inked it in the approximate position for clearer reproduction (Fig. 1).

Yours truly,
Frank Garancovsky

3. Dear Mirko:

I have just read the March/April SPECIALIST and found it to be excellent! Regarding your note beneath the fourth "Letter to the Editor", the cover was mailed from Hustopeče 4 at Brno 69301. I checked it in the Czech Republic's Zip Code Directory. If the first letter have been a "P", it would be Postupice 25701....

Yours truly,
Savoy Horvath

4. Dear Mirko:

As a new member, I read with curiosity and with great enjoyment your March/April issue. I found the article "The Cheb Overprints of 1945" especially interesting because I found I had some of them in my collections, along with many others, including semi-postals.

In addition to that one, I "walked through Prague" reading Michele Patrick's excellent article "A Philatelic Tour of Legendary Prague". When the tour turned to Maislová and into the Ghetto, Michele brought to mind the legend of "The Golem". This prompted me to enclose the information on Peter Sis' book, "The Three Golden Keys" and his version of the "The Golem". I would like to share with your readers the magic of Prague that Peter Sis brings to life through his drawing and text. It is a marvelous book, especially for children.

Yours truly,
Karl J. Ružička

(Ed. Note - Your enclosures regarding the book "The Golden Keys" are very much appreciated. Unfortunately, it does not concern itself with philately and our publication is too small to allow space for such material, interesting and informative as it is. Nevertheless, copies will be placed in our library file for reference purposes. Furthermore, we cannot publish articles or columns from other periodicals, especially non-philatelic ones, without express permission of author and editor.)

Editorial Hinges

GENEROSITY APPRECIATED

Our Society recently received a very generous donation of books and periodicals from George Kobylka and Marilyn Jiránek. These donations were given in memory of Mrs. Jiránek's late husband, Joseph J. Jiránek, and Bertha Kobylka, George's late wife.

Besides some fine books on Czechoslovak philately, the donation consists of many single issues of our SPECIALIST starting with the year 1946 and continuing through 1984. In addition, there are issues of the Czech-language FILATELIE bound volumes from 1939 to 1966 and unbound single issues from 1967 to 1989. All of these have been shipped to our Society's librarian, Richard Palaschak.

Our Board and the entire membership is very grateful to Mrs. Jiránek and Mr. Kobylka for their thoughtfulness and generosity. Their donations will make a valuable and meaningful addition to our library.

MEDICAL NEWS

Our latest information on member Bob Koschalk is that he is progressing satisfactorily in his recovery from a multiple-heart by-pass operation. We wish him well and look forward to seeing him at MILCOPEX in September.

Meanwhile word has reached us that another member, Alec Page, has undergone serious surgery in London and is currently confined to bed. We are all hopeful that his recovery will be swift and complete and that he will soon be able to resume work on his many philatelic projects.

We were particularly saddened by the news of the demise of Alan J. Knight, retired editor of the British Society's fine publication, CZECHOUT, who expired on March 4, 1996, following a bad fall. Our condolences go out to his widow, Lindy Knight, who acted as his librarian and who shared many delightful moments in his philatelic pursuits.

New Issues

CZECH REPUBLIC

1. On Feb. 14, 1996, the Ministry of Economy issued a single 6 Kč stamp commemorating the 90th anniversary of the birth of V. Menčíková, a long-time Czech world champion chess player. Her portrait is shown next to part of a chess set. Along the bottom is the text: "Vera Menčíková 1906-1944" (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1

The stamp was designed by academic painter, Zdeněk Netopil, and engraved by Vaclav Fajt. Printed at the Post Printery in Prague by rotary recess print in black color combined with photogravure in ochre and brown-red, the stamp is 40X23mm in size and comes in sheets of 50.

Accompanying it is a First Day cover with special cancellation. The cachet bears a group of chess pieces and was recess printed from flat plates in brown.



Fig. 2

2. On March 13, the Ministry of Economy issued a 9.6 Kč stamp commemorating the 100th anniversary of the death of Josef Sudek, an outstanding Czech photographer of his day. In addition to countless photos of landscapes, portraits, etc., he authored a number of photographic publications with Prague motifs. The stamp shows him posing with his equipment. Below it is the text "Josef Sudek 1896-1976" (Fig. 2).

The stamp was designed by academic painter and graphic artist Vladimír Suchánek, and engraved by Josef Herčík. Printed at the Post Printery in Prague by rotary recess print in black color combined with photogravure in grey, brown, ochre and red brown, the stamp is 33X33mm in size and comes in sheets of 35.

Accompanying it is an FDC with special cancellation printed by recess print

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from flat plates in brown. The cachet bears a drawing signed by the author and dated Dec. 16, 1858 showing Sudek listening to music.

3. On March 13, the Ministry issued a 3 Kč stamp honoring the feast of Easter. The stamp shows a young lady in national costume holding a wicker basket containing Easter eggs (Fig. 3).

The stamp was designed by academic painter and graphic artist, Karel Beneš, and engraved by Pavel Kovařík. The stamp, measuring 23x30mm, was printed by the Postal Printery in Prague in black combined with photogravure in yellow, red, blue and rose in sheets of 50.

Accompanying it is an FDC with special cancellation. The cachet bears a drawing on an Easter egg with Easter greetings and was printed by recess print from flat plates in green.



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

4. On Feb. 7, the Ministry issued a postal card with an imprinted 3 Kč stamp commemorating the centenary of the Czech philatelic press affiliated with issuance of the first copy of the magazine ČESKÝ FILATELISTA (The Czech Philatelist) in 1896. The picture on the stamp shows postage stamps, a magnifying glass, a pincette and a magazine. The cachet is a re-creation of the title pages of three philatelic publications: ČESKÝ FILATELISTA, ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ FILATELIE and FILATELIE.

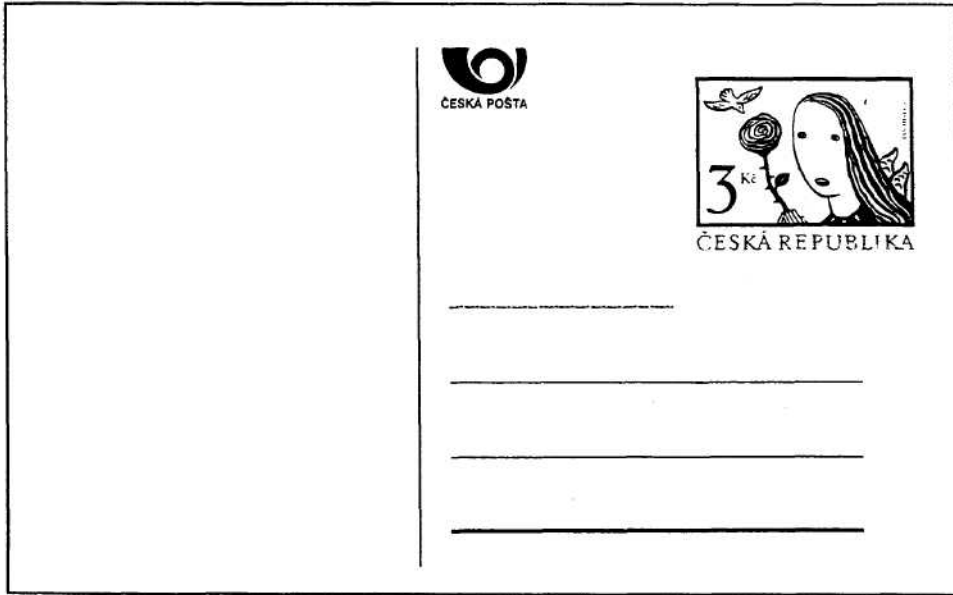


Fig. 5

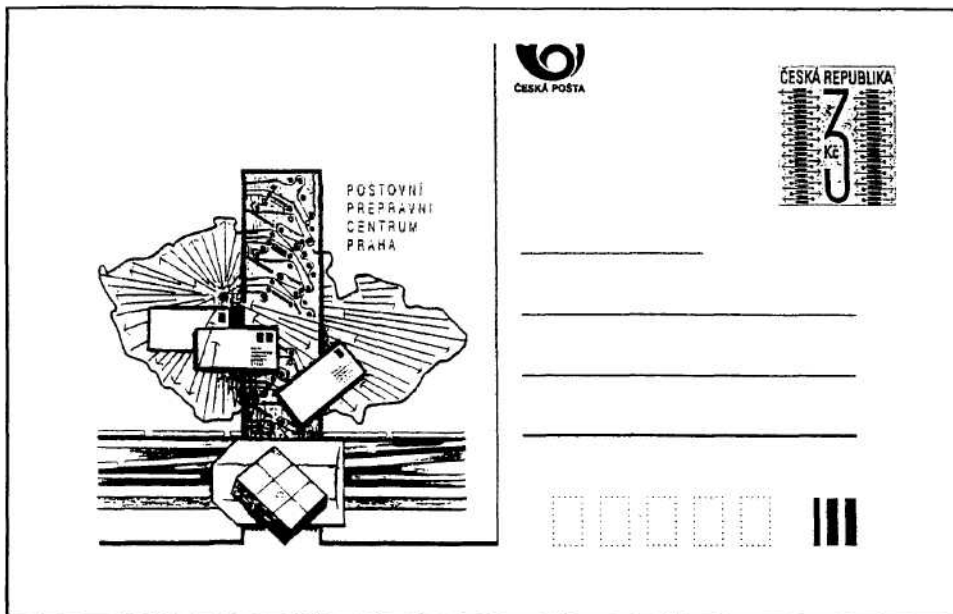


Fig. 6

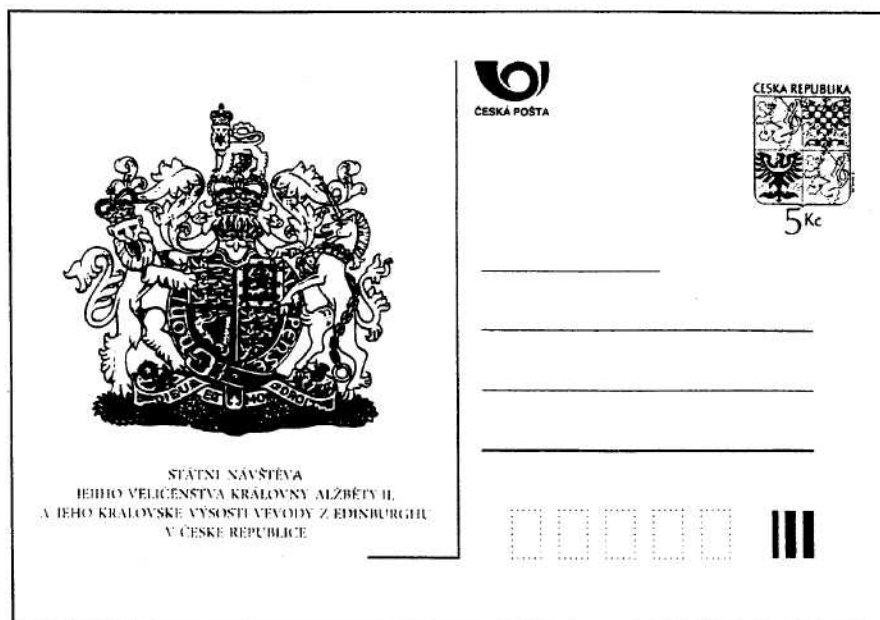


Fig. 7

Both were designed by academic painter and graphic artist Jaroslav Fišer. The postal card was printed by the Post Printery in Prague by offset in blue, brown and black (Fig. 4).

5. On January 24, the Ministry issued a postal card with an imprinted 3 Kč stamp for general use. The stamp bears a stylized drawing of a girl with a rose and bird in flight. The left half of the card is blank (Fig. 5).

Designed by academic painter and graphic artist Jan Hísek, the card was printed by the Post Printery in Prague by offset in blue-black, blue and red.

6. On March 25, the Ministry issued a postal card with an imprinted 3 Kč stamp commemorating the completion of the Postal Transport Center at Malešice in Prague. The stamp consists of two columns of darts forming a pattern with a large "3" in the center. A cachet on the left superimposes a computer block with three stamped covers over a map of the Czech Republic with the text "Poštovní přepravní centrum Praha". (Fig. 6). Designed by academic painter and graphic artist Jan Solpera, the card was printed by the Post Printery in Prague by offset in blue-green and black.

7. On March 25, the Ministry issued a postal card with an imprinted 5 Kč stamp for the occasion of the state visit of the British royal couple to the Czech Republic. The stamp shows the Great Seal of the Czech Republic as designed by Bedřich Housa. The cachet bears the official British royal coat-of-arms together with an inscription in Czech: "The state visit of her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II and His Highness, the Duke of Edinburgh to the Czech Republic" (Fig. 7). The card was printed at the Victoria Security Printing House in Prague by multi-color offset.



Fig. 8

8. On March 27, the Ministry issued a 9.60 Kč stamp commemorating the 100th anniversary of the New Age Olympic Games. The stamp bears a portrait of Jiří Guth-Jarkovský with the Olympic Stadium in the background. Guth-Jarkovský was the only direct participant from Bohemia of the Olympic Games in Athens and was also one of the founders of the International Olympic Committee as well as first president of the Czech Olympic Committee (Fig. 8).

Designed by Milan Erzim and engraved by Václav Fajt, the stamp is 30 x 23 mm and comes in sheets of 50. It was printed by the Post Printery in Prague by rotary recess print in black combined with photogravure yellow, red, green and blue.

Accompanying it is an FDC with a special cancellation showing a portrait of Pierre de Coubertine along with his signature. He initiated the first Olympic Games in Athens. The cover was printed by recess print from flat plates in grey.

9. On March 27, the Ministry issued a set of four stamps honoring the four rulers of the Luxembourg dynasty on the occasion of the 700th anniversary of the birth and the 650th anniversary of the heroic death of King John of Luxembourg and also the 680th anniversary of the birth of his son, Charles IV, who later was to become King of Bohemia and Bohemia's only Holy Roman Emperor. All four stamps are of 14 Kč denomination and are printed as a single souvenir sheetlet, each stamp bearing a likeness of each ruler, their names and their dates of birth and death.

Designed by Oldřich Kulhánek and engraved by Miloš Ondráček, the stamps are 40 by 50 mm in size



Fig. 9

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and were printed by the Post Printery in Prague by recess print from flat plates. The center gutter contains a drawing of the royal crown with the text: "Panovníci Lucemburské dynastie" (Rulers of the Luxembourg Dynasty) (Fig. 9).

There are four FDC's - one for each stamp. The cachet on the cover for the John of Luxembourg stamp shows a composition of the coat-of-arms bearing the Bohemian Lion with royal helmet. The text in Czech reads: "700th anniversary of the birth of King John of Luxembourg". The cachet for the Charles IV cover shows the Charles monogram as part of a Gothic arch. The cachet for the Václav IV cover shows a kingfisher in the emblem of a barber's guild. The cachet for the Sigismund cover shows a variation of the royal monogram. These covers were printed by recess print from flat plates in blue and green.

All of the above stamps and postal cards are valid for domestic and foreign use from date of issue until withdrawn from circulation.

AVAILABLE PUBLICATIONS

IT'S FINALLY HERE....

The CUMULATIVE INDEX OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST 1939-92. This is a professionally done and impressive production that will prove to be an indispensable tool for anyone doing serious research. There is extensive cross referencing that enables access to subjects in a number of ways. \$15.00 Postpaid

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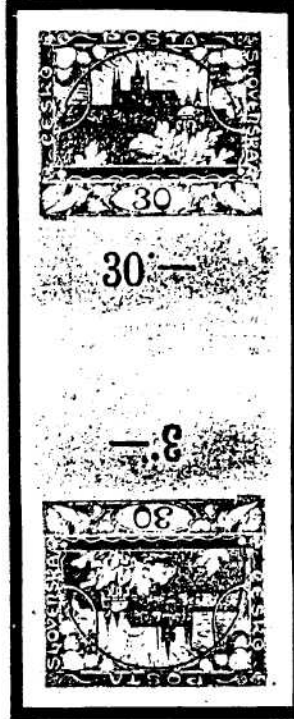
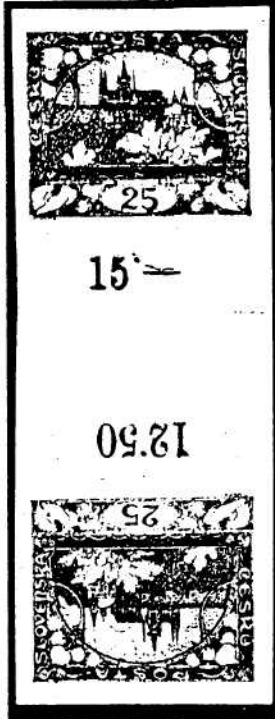
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