



THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



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SOCIETY TO MEET AT NOJEX 98

The Society will hold the first of its two 1998 meetings and get-togethers at NOJEX over the Memorial Day Weekend, Saturday, May 23 through Monday, May 25, 1998 (PRAGA 98 is the second one). The NOJEX show will be held at the Meadowlands Hilton Exhibition Center, Secaucus, NJ. The Meadowlands Hilton is directly attached to the Exhibition Center and will be offering a reduced rate for attendees. There are a variety of other accommodations in the area, all being convenient to the airport, the NJ Turnpike and the Garden State Parkway. This show is a major regional show, a Champion of Champions show, and, due to its central location, is always well attended. As is our custom we will have a table that will serve as a focal point for Society activities. You will be able to meet other members and to investigate a large range of publications which will be for sale. Watch future issues of the SPECIALIST for more details.

But above all, we would like to see as many members exhibit as possible. Elsewhere in this issue you will find an article by Henry Hahn outlining the ins and outs of exhibiting, and giving you vital information on how to get involved in this exciting aspect of our stamp collecting hobby. You have just over 6 months to get your material ready. The prospectus for submitting an exhibit is available from Ed Lehecka, 217 Hazel Ave., Westfield, NJ 07090.

Table of Contents

	<i>ARTICLES</i>	<i>Author</i>	<i>Page</i>
1.	Sport Under Red Flags . . . Workers Olympiads 1921-34	John Miskevich	3
2.	The Enclave of Vitorazsko	Miroslav Vostatek	9
3.	Levoča	Gerald van Zanten	12
4.	Have You Thought of Exhibiting?	Henry Hahn	16
5.	Field Post of Soviet Army in Czechoslovakia in 1968	Miroslav Vostatek	18
6.	Unwin Article Receives 1996 Apfelbaum Award	Bill Welch	24
	<i>COLUMNS</i>		
7.	Society to Meet at NOJEX 98	Ed Lehecka	1
8.	For the Beginner	Phillips B. Freer	20
9.	PRAGA 98 - Travel and Accommodations	Jaroslav J. Verner	23
10.	New Issues	(Various)	25
11.	Letters to the Editor	(Various)	27

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1. A sales circuit is operated by H. Alan Hoover. The circuit itself has been fully written up in the Aug/Sept 1989 SPECIALIST, page 8. For complete details, contact H. Alan Hoover, 6070 Poplar Spring Drive, Norcross, GA 30092.
2. A book sales division is run by Edwin Lehecka. Ads listing philatelic books for sale appear regularly in the SPECIALIST. For further information, contact Edwin Lehecka, 217 Hazel Avenue, Westfield, NJ 07090.
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5. THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST is the official bi-monthly publication of the Society. For inquiries on obtaining back issues, contributing original articles of related significance, advertising rates, and bound copies, contact Ludvik Z. Svoboda, 4766 S. Helena Way, Aurora, CO 80015, or e-mail: Lsvoboda@aol.com.

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**“SPORT UNDER RED FLAGS”: POSTMARKS AND
POSTAL CARDS OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK
WORKERS OLYMPIADS 1921-1934**

An original article
by John Miskevich

Czechoslovakia is a country with a glorious tradition in voluntary physical education and training. In 1862 Dr. Miroslav Tyrš and his friend Jindřich Fügner founded the first Czech Gymnastic Society and called this the “SOKOL”. The word Sokol translated literally means falcon -- symbol of swiftness, activity and freedom of Slav nations.

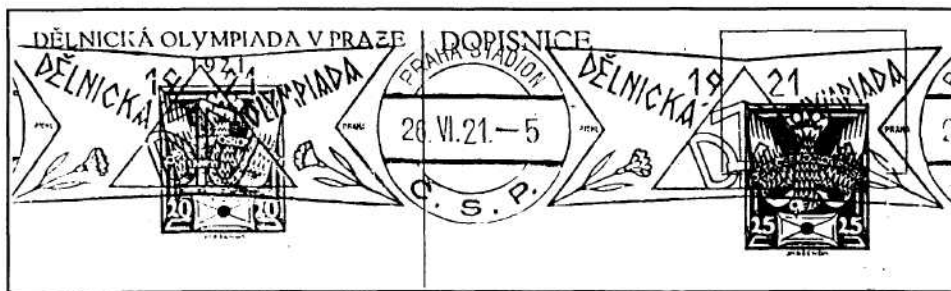


Fig. 1

It was Dr. Miroslav Tyrš (1832-1884), professor of art history at Charles University in Praha, who created the modern Sokol idea and system of physical training. From the study of ancient Greek history he concluded that physical training could make a small state able to withstand the attacks of more powerful peoples. His physical training regimen covered every type of gymnastic exercise as well as track and field athletics and sports games (soccer, handball, basketball, and volleyball). Tyrš believed a nationality so weakened in physical and moral substance as was the Czech nation, subjugated for centuries by the Austrian monarchy, would have to renew its physical strength, reform its character, regain its national pride, and revive its self-confidence.

Toward this end the Sokol became a national organization in the broadest sense of the word. Sokol training was conducted in the national spirit. Membership was open to both sexes, to all political parties, and to all religious confessions. The most joyous manifestation of the Sokol movement and the most inspiring were the Sokol Festivals. The first was held at Praha in 1882. The program of the Sokol Festival contained a great variety of youth, men, and women's contests of all kinds, public gymnastic mass displays, and a parade through Praha.



Fig. 2

An aim of the Sokol Organization was to gather together members belonging to all classes of society. However, many

workers, although Sokol members, never separated or detached themselves from the social classes to which they belonged. In 1897 new Workers Physical Training Units began to appear having been established by the Czech Social Democratic Party. In 1903 the "Dělnických Tělocvičných Jednot" (Association of Workers Physical Training Units) known as the DTJ was formally situated to head these independent athletic organizations.

There were two reasons for instituting the Workers Physical Training Units. The Sokol Organization strictly propagated the nationalist idea while the Czech Social Democratic Party inclined towards internationalism. Also, physical training was an excellent item of propaganda helping the Social Democrats to increase party membership. The Association of Workers Physical Training Units copied almost entirely the Sokol Organization, adopted the Tyrš system of physical education and after Czechoslovak independence



Fig. 3

organized three "Dělnická Olympiada" (Workers Olympiads) -- festivals not very different than the Sokol Festivals.

The Workers Olympics

The First Czechoslovak Workers Olympic Games were held at Praha Stadium



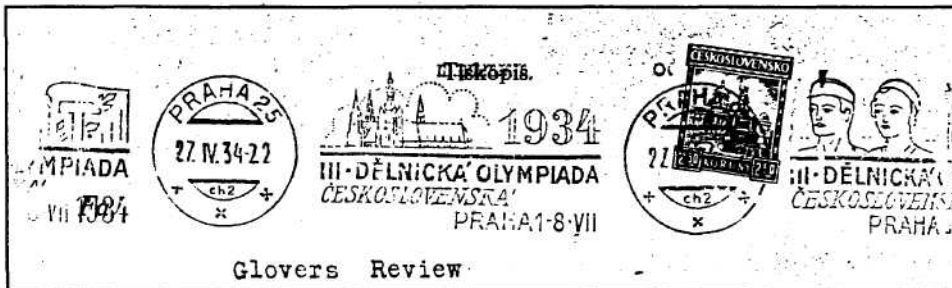
Fig. 4



Fig. 5

on 25.-26. June 1921. These games are considered a direct forerunner to the European Socialist (Social Democratic) sports festivals convened at Frankfurt am Main (1925), Vienna (1931), and Antwerp (1937). Applied in black ink, the postcard at Figure 1 has a continuous roller postmark celebrating the [June 1921] event. Note the words "DĚLNICKÁ OLYMPIADA 1921" as well as stylized initials (in the triangle) which read "DTJ", that is, "Dělnických Tělocvičných Jednot". Flanking the roller emblem insert are the words "PICHL" and "PRAHA". They may represent designer accreditations. The double-circle-bridge postmark at Figure 2 was also utilized at the Workers Olympic Games. The handstamp can be found with either an "a" or "b" below the bridge. The cancel appears only in black. To round out coverage of the festival there is a color postcard shown in Figure 3 adapted from an oil painting by S. Soukupa.

The Second Czechoslovak Workers Olympics were held at Praha Stadium from 26. June - 6. July 1927. Applied in black at Figure 4 is a continuous roller postmark used at PRAHA 25 (and probably other sites) serving as publicity for the event. There is also a special double-circle-bridge postmark used at Praha Stadium during the Workers Olympic Games. The handstamp was applied in black and will be encountered with either an "a" or "b" below the bridge.



Glovers Review

Fig. 6



Fig. 7

The Communist Party of Czechoslovakia was constituted in 1921 by members separating themselves from the Czechoslovak Social Democratic Party and its affiliate organizations. Athletes withdrew from the Association of Workers Physical Training Units and established a new organization which by 1926 became known as the "Federace Proletářské Tělovýchovy" (Federation of Proletarian Physical Training Units) or "FPT". They organized their own festivals known as the "Spartakiade". This federation accepted a physical education organization and system dictated by the Soviet Union. The color postcard illustrated at Figure 5 exalts the second of these festivals held in 1928 at Praha by the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia. It was characterized by propaganda and a class character. No postmarks are known to me. The gathering, in addition, may have served as a qualifying event to select Czechoslovak athletes for the First International Spartakiad held in Moscow in 1928 which as an expression of "proletarian sport" took place simultaneously with the "bourgeois" Amsterdam Olympic Games enjoined by the International Olympic Committee.

The Third Czechoslovak Workers Olympics were held at Praha between 1.-8. July 1934. The publicity slogan roller cancellation displayed in Figure 6 originated at the PRAHA 25 post office. This model was certainly employed by other postal venues. There are two

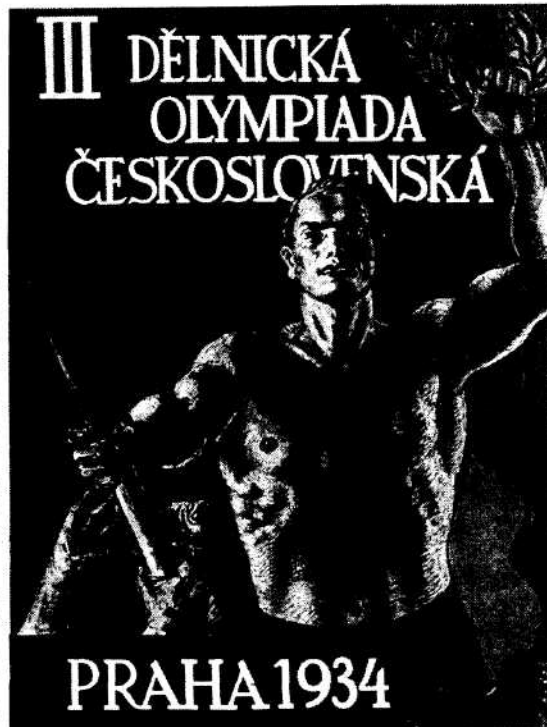


Fig. 8



Fig. 9

different roller inserts positioned along side circular postmarks. One of these inserts profiles a male and a female athlete together with the symbol of the Workers Physical Training Units.

Two different postmarks were in use to commemorate the sporting festival. There is a special machine cancel with a seven line "killer" to the right. It is shown at Figure 7. The cancel appears on the reverse of the color poster card promoting the Games at Figure 8. The cancel reads "*PRAHA* III. DĚLNICKÁ OLYMPIADA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ". The cancel is most often found on postcards and appears usually in violet ink. Note at the upper left on the postcard the words "III. ROBOTNICKÁ OLYMPIADA", a term also delineating these Games. The other postmark is exhibited at Figure 9 and is a handstamp of the double-ring-bridge variety. The text is the same as on the machine cancellation. The handstamp will be seen in black or violet and will be discerned with an "a", "b", "c" or "d" below the bridge.

Czechoslovakia honored the "III. Dělnická Olympiada" in 1934 with the issuance of a set of seven cream colored postal cards (see Priced Catalog of Postal Stationery of the World, Higgins & Gage, Incorporated, Second Edition, 1974, Czechoslovakia, Section 3, Special Reprint for the Society for Czechoslovak Philately, Nr. 51 at page 5). Two of these are shown at Figures 9 and 10. A portrait of Thomas G. Masaryk (1850-1937); Czechoslovakia's first president, graces a green 50 haleru stamp imprint. While all postal cards bear the caption "III. Dělnická Olympiada Československá, Praha 1.VII - 8.VII 1934", some depict Workers Olympics while others show scenic Praha.

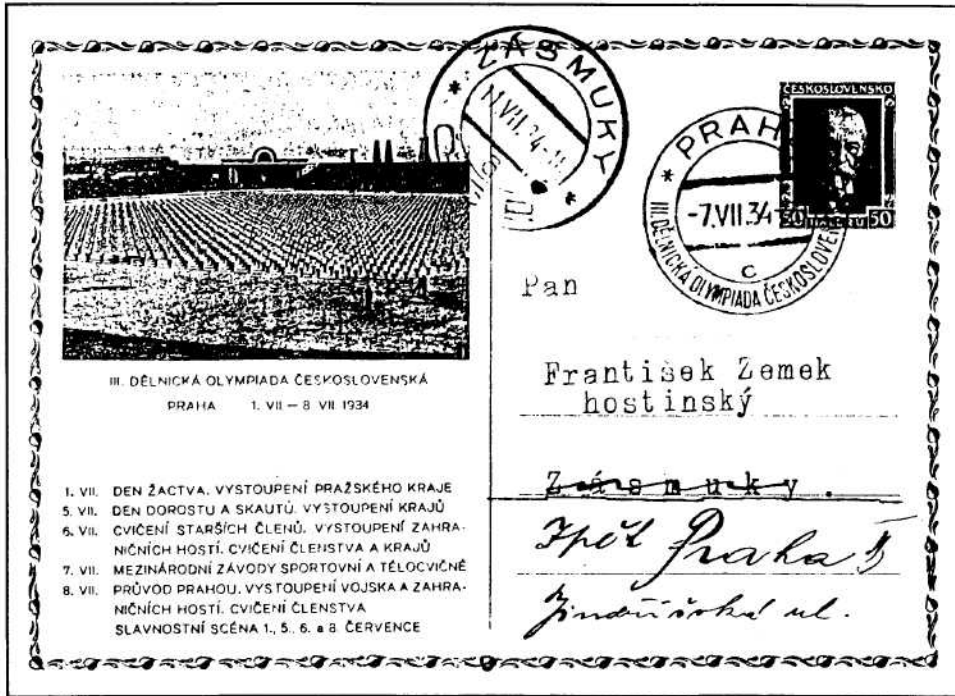


Fig. 10

There were no postage stamps issued to commemorate the Workers Olympics. Collecting legitimate government issue postage stamps is the desire, but instead satisfaction must be allayed by the acquisition of poster labels (Figure 11). The next Workers Olympic Festival was to have assembled at Praha during July 1940.



Fig. 11

Conclusion

The Workers Physical Training Units never reached the same importance and level as the Sokol Organization, either by number of their members or by professional standards of physical training. With the final Nazi takeover of Czechoslovakia beginning March 15, 1939, they were annihilated. On October 8, 1941, the Sokol Organization too was liquidated by the Nazi Party, its property confiscated, and the leading personalities and more than 20,000 Sokol members executed or sent to prisons and concentration camps.

In 1948 the Communist Party took control of the Czechoslovak Republic and became the leading political power. After 1948 the Czechoslovak Sokol Community and Sokol Physical Training Units were broken up because of their political undesirability. I

do not know if the Workers Physical Training Units were reconstituted after the Second World War. Social Democratic Party political and cultural organizations

that had managed to revive after the war were required to merge subsequent to 1948 within the political and cultural institutions of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia.

REFERENCES:

- Hoberman, John; The Olympic Crisis, Sport, Politics and the Moral Order, Aristide D. Caratzas, Publisher, New Rochelle, New York (1986) at pages 62, 63, 73, 106-7.
- Johnson, William, Editor; Sport and Physical Education Around the World, Stipes Publishing Co., Champaign, Illinois (1980) at pages 161-66.
- Jones, Stephen G.; Sport, Politics, and the Working Class, Manchester University Press, New York, New York (1988) at pages 164-75.
- The Czechoslovak Specialist, December 1945 at pages 71-78; May 1972 at page 66; June 1972 at page 93; November 1972 at page 146.



THE ENCLAVE OF VITORAZSKO

by RNDr. Miroslav Vostatek
trans. by Henry Hahn

One of the territories that became part of the Czechoslovak Republic as a result of the treaty of St. Germaine - which took place on September 10th 1919 - was the enclave in the south of Bohemia called Vitorazsko. This actually occurred by July 31st 1920, the date clearly observable in the postmark of the letter shown in Fig. 1. The Territorial Commission composed of treaty participant officers (which included those from Czechoslovakia and Austria but even involved one from Japan) established the boundary line which is still valid today. The boundary was definitively established on October 1st 1920. In this way this former Czech area - after having been part of Austria for some 600 years - was returned to young Czechoslovakia.

The annexation included eleven (11) registered communities with a total population of 11,076. These communities included Halámky, Kunšach, Německé (now Dvory nad Lužnicí), Rapšach, Spáleníště, Trpnouz, and Tuš' among others. It is an interesting fact that the enclave included settlements with eye-catching names such as London, Paris, New York and Bosnia. They are still there today.

The Vitorazsko enclave takes its name from the castle Vitoraz, built on the upper branch of the river Lužnice. One is reminded that old Slavic tribes originally inhabited the region by observing a list of the local names of adjacent towns and villages of present day Austria, such as: Zwettl - Světlá, Thaya - Kyjov, Litschau - Ličov, Gaming - Jamník, Haslau - Cáhlava, etc. The enclave was taken from the Bohemian Prince Kuering family by Rudolf of Hapsburg in 1279 as punishment for aiding Přemysl Otakar II in the battle of Moravské Pole. It thus ceased being part of the fiefdom of the Bohemian Crown and became part of the Duchy of Lower Austria.

At the center lies the town of Weitra - Vitoraz, where to this day stands a grand castle. Also at the center are the twin-towns of Gmünd - České Velenice. This town



Fig. 1

lies on the railroad line connecting Prague with Vienna. Thanks to the railroad the town gained in importance and became a railroad terminal. Soon railroad workshops, a railway station, residential homes, trade shops, and a post office were built. The post office -- which was at the train station -- began operations in 1876.

When Vitorazsko became a part of Czechoslovakia, the town itself was split. The railroad workshops, railroad station and adjacent residences became part of Czechoslovakia. The historic part of town, across the Lužnice river, where there were waterworks, a hospital, an electric power station and other buildings went to Austria. The Austrian side was known as Gmünd, and the Czechoslovak side as Cmunt. On this spot -- where the town of České Velenice is located (formerly Cmunt) -- there was not a single building in 1870. The main part of České Velenice was the former town of Dolní Velenice, to which was connected Česká Cejle and Josefov. Thus, inside of a very few years this spot changed names from Gmünd, then Cmunt v Čechách, followed by Český Cmunt and finally České Velenice.

When on the 8th of October 1938 the Nazis occupied České Velenice, its population included 4,780 Czechs and merely 180 Germans. During World War II the town and railroad station were bombed, and toward the end of the war there occurred an explosion of a munitions train. After liberation the town passed into Czech hands on May 23rd 1945.

Naturally, from the philatelic standpoint, we find numerous things of interest here, including cancels with the above mentioned names. Ambulatory railway posts passed through the enclave, and hence we find numerous railroad cancels. Some examples are Gmünd - Praha 35 or 36, later Cmunt - Praha 52, 56a, 57, 57a, 58, or 58a, and Praha - České Velenice. There also exist cancels from the period of German



Fig. 2

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

occupation. Particularly interesting are cancels of towns in the Vitorazsko enclave from the period 1945-46.

Vitorazsko presents an interesting and challenging specialty in our hobby. The following cancels are illustrated in Figure 2 on the preceding page:

1. Regular cancel GMÜND 1, which remained on the Austrian side during partition in 1920. GMÜND 2 was in use at the railroad station post office and was taken over by the Czechoslovak Postal System.
2. Regular cancel of the town of WEITRA - VITORAZ in Austria
3. First Czechoslovak Republic cancel of ČESKÉ VELENICE -- Type 1
4. Post WWII cancel of ČESKÉ VELENICE
5. Rubber cancel -- provisional of 1945 (violet color)
6. Regular postmark of one of the small post offices -- RAPŠACH
7. Bilingual postmark of the post office in NOVÁ VES nad LUŽNICÍ - ERDWEIS, of 1931
8. Registry label of another small post office in TUŠŤ, from the period near 1931
9. Cachet from ČESKÉ VELENICE commemorating the 150th anniversary of the post office and take-over of the GMÜND post office by the Czechoslovaks in 1920
10. A commemorative cancel of 1945 celebrating the 25th year of unification of the VITORAZ enclave with Czechoslovakia
11. Cancel documenting the railroading tradition of the town -- railroad repair shops and machine shops in ČESKÉ VELENICE (it is significant that it was here that patriotic railroaders saved President T. G. Masaryk's club car from destruction.)

✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠



Fig. 1

LEVOČA

by Gerald van Zanten

Along the 463 km of route E85 (which runs from Hranice in the west to Vyšné Nemecké in the extreme east of Slovakia) we pass through the charming town of Levoča (population about 11,200). It is situated in beautiful surroundings on a low hill above a stream at the very foot

of forest-clad mountain peaks.

We arrive just in time for lunch at the Restaurant Café Cavern opposite the Cage of Shame in the main square.

Over lunch we learn that the town was founded in the year 1245 by the inhabitants of the earlier original Levoča. They had fled into the Slovakian Paradise during the Tartar invasions.

The town is one of the best preserved historical sites in the whole of Slovakia. Figure 1 shows the coat of arms of the town on a 1971



Fig. 2



Fig 3 - Town Hall and Saint Jakob Church



Fig. 4 - Madonna with baby on the main altar - St. James Church

stamp [Sc. 1743, Pof. 1887]. The town still has an almost complete set of original fortifications. As Levoča is situated at the crossroads of trade routes, it developed rapidly and became prosperous; linen & cloth weavers, metal founders, wood carvers and goldsmiths made the town into an international and commercial center.

In 1271, Levoča became the capital of the federation of the 24 Spiš towns, the so called "Provincia Saxorum". The 15th and 16th centuries gave the town some of the most beautiful relics. The Town Hall (1615) with Renaissance arcade courtyards and the "Cage of Shame" (kietka hanby) are considered the finest building examples. Figure 2 shows the 1928 stamp [Sc. 143, Pof. 234] of the Town

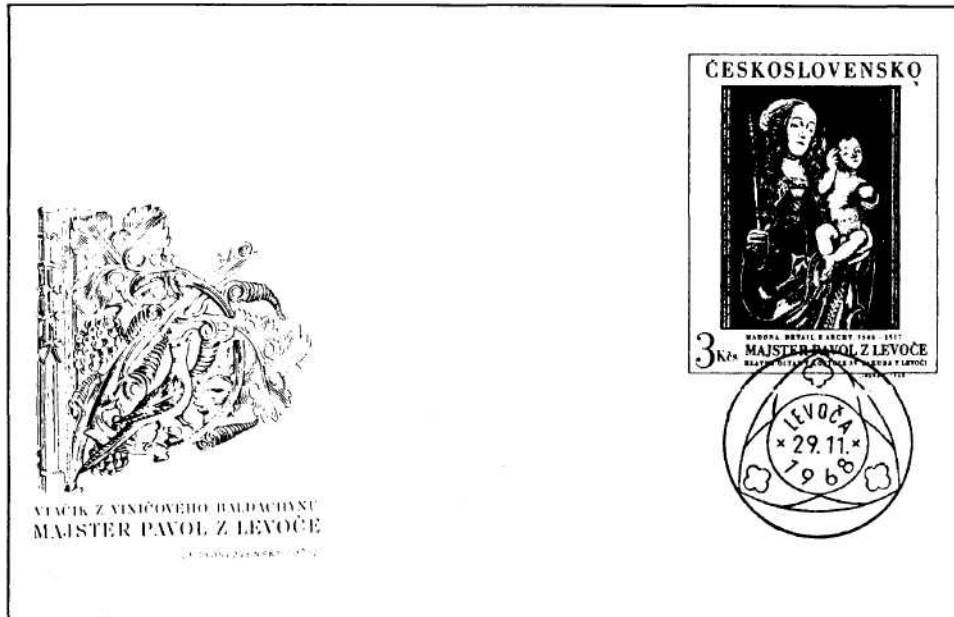


Fig. 5

Hall and the Bell Tower.

However, the most significant building on the square is the Gothic parish church of St. James (Kostol Sv. Jakuba) dating from around 1400 (Fig. 3 - the building on the left). This church has the distinction of having the largest wooden altar in the world, measuring 18.62 meters high and 6.24 meters wide. It was carved by the renowned Master Pavol of Levoča between 1507 and 1518. It is said to be the most beautiful Gothic wooden carving in all of Slovakia. The entire church is a museum of medieval religious art.

On the main altar one can admire the gilt polygrome image of the Madonna and Child (Fig. 4) which is faithfully reproduced on the 3Kčs value in the 1968 Art on Stamps set (Fig. 5 - Sc. 1593, Pof. 1733). The graphical art work and engraving were both done by Jindra Schmidt.



Fig. 6

This sculpture (as part of the whole) dates from about 1508. It is 247 cm high, and was most likely commenced immediately after Pavol's arrival in Levoča.

Our lunch is finished and was good. Before leaving Levoča, someone -- who by now found out that we collect stamps -- shows us the 5h yellow stamp issued in 1965 (Fig. 6 - Sc. 1345, Pof. 1480). Personally, give me the 1928 version. I wonder what Pavol would think of it!!

References:

- "Umění na Známkách" [Art on Stamps]; July, 1988; Světová Výstava Poštovních Známeček PRAGA 1988, Staroměstské Nám. 15, Praha 1, Czechoslovakia
- Karol Plicka, SPIŠ
- Various travel books

*Jiří Majer and Jaroslav Thraumb Auctions
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HAVE YOU THOUGHT OF EXHIBITING?

by Henry Hahn

All of you know that stamp collecting includes a host of pleasurable aspects. Obtaining stamps to fill empty spaces in a pre-printed album is just a start. Though worthy of pursuit for a lifetime, it often acts to initiate broader, and often more creative activities. These include philatelic reading and research, philatelic writing, fancy acquisition and trading - particularly the art of separating a collector from the stamp you want, expertizing, visiting stamp shows, judging and, most gratifying of all, exhibiting. It is the latter I wish to encourage you to try, if you have not done so as yet.

An analogy to philatelic exhibiting may be found in high diving. You sit by the pool, see those elegant high dives, and say to yourself - "I should really try that". You then climb the high diving board, and the pool looks so small you aren't sure you will not miss it and die a miserable death. You next have two choices; either climb down and never try again, or dive and probably become hooked, even if you land on your belly. So it is in philately. We all have collections, some have pretty good ones. We go to stamp shows and think of giving exhibiting a try. Some will even climb the diving platform, i.e., prepare an exhibit. But when it comes to filling out the entry application, they climb down the ladder. But some, fortunately, do not get "cold feet". They may experience a belly landing on first try - but there's always another show. Though all of us may never achieve Olympic standards - the experience has us hooked.

There are probably no more than two dozen exhibitors of Czechoslovak stamps in the US, who regularly exhibit at national stamp shows. First time exhibitors are few; probably less than one a year. As both an APS and FIP judge, I am conscious of this lack of new exhibitors - and, frankly, would more than welcome a few new exhibits. This is particularly true since I know there are excellent collectors in our Society, whose time to exhibit has surely come.

Do you need help to prepare your exhibit? Exhibiting technique has in recent years become somewhat more sophisticated, and there is a lot of reading the future (as well as present) the exhibitor must do.

The most basic reading is the "Manual of Philatelic Judging". Get the most recent edition from the American Philatelic Society, POB 8000, State College, PA 16803. Be sure to read the Bibliography in this manual. For those of you wishing to stay current on the subject, you may want to join the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors (222 E. Torrence Rd., Columbus, OH 43214). Their back issues are available. One of the best publications on how to present an exhibit is by Robert P. Odenweller and Paul H. Jensen entitled "The FIP Guide to Exhibiting and Judging Traditional and Postal History Exhibits". It illustrates good and bad techniques using the same material. Get it from our Society Library. Two additional FIP exhibiting references include the "General Regulations for the Evaluation of Philatelic Exhibits" and the "Special Regulations for Judging Philatelic Exhibits". Both are formulated by the Philatelic Commissions of FIP and may also be found in our Society Library. As most of you know, our Society includes several experienced exhibitors whose help may be solicited. They will probably ask for photocopies of your exhibit and title page and provide valuable comments. Last, but not least, go to shows and spend at least as much time studying the exhibits as you spend with the dealers.

There are some basic facts potential exhibitors should be aware of. Unlike FIP International Shows, US shows (including the APS major shows - Champion of Champions) do not particularly reward rarities. Difficulty in acquisition is recognized, but the cost of the item is not important. You can achieve a major award if you show knowledge of your subject, obey the conventions in the title page and presentation, and tell a "story" if possible. You may select narrow subjects rather than the whole of CSR 1918-1939. Post WWII exhibits are most acceptable, as are topicals and thematics. Avoid, if possible, "philatelic" or non-commercial material.

Remember that the criteria you will be judged on in US shows include philatelic knowledge, research, condition, difficulty and presentation. The FIP or any other point system is still not used in judging US shows, except in Thematic, Youth, and Maximaphily exhibits.

Where to exhibit? Local shows are a good place to start. The main trouble is that you are not likely to be judged by an accredited judge familiar with Czechoslovakia. You might therefore skip this step and try directly for acceptance in a National Show, such as one in which our Society participates. Exhibiting in other National Shows is also valuable, though it is necessary to first determine whether a Czechoslovakia accredited judge will participate. An important advantage in showing at APS National Shows is that achievement of a vermeil medal is sufficient qualification for application to an International FIP show. At National Shows in which our Society participates, in addition to regular awards, special awards provided by the Society are presented. Aside from awards, exhibiting is the best way to publicize Czechoslovak philately - a most worthy effort in itself.

The joy of exhibiting is extraordinary. There are some exhibitors who have virtually given up collecting and will not acquire items that they will not exhibit. I hope you will not succumb to this - for exhibiting is only a byway in philately, though an important and challenging one.

So why not start with NOJEX in May, 1998 or, if you qualify, with PRAGA'98 in September 1998, both of which are described elsewhere in this issue. Take the dive - the water is perfect.

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If you subscribe to LINN'S STAMP NEWS, then you have an opportunity to advertise our Society -- for FREE!!

When it is time for you to renew your subscription to LINN'S, they will include a form to return for a free one-issue 25 word ad. Indicate that you want the ad to run in Classified Section 180, Philatelic Societies. The suggested ad is:

Society for Czechoslovak Philately, award winning bi-monthly journal, sales circuit, expertising, translations, conventions, auctions, lending library. Write: Tom Cossaboom, POB 25332, Scott AFB, IL 62225.

FIELD POST OF THE SOVIET ARMY IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN 1968

by RNDr. Miroslav Vostatek
trans. by Henry Hahn

On August 21, 1968, armies of five countries entered Czechoslovakia -- Soviets, Poles, East Germans, Hungarians and Bulgarians. After seven weeks, the armies of four countries were withdrawn, but the Soviet Army stayed for over twenty years. Soviet troops were scattered all over the country. The troops were numerous, and most barracks were overfilled. The troops were rotated every five to six months. Ordinary soldiers and non-commissioned officers were confined to the barracks. When they were permitted outings, they could only go in organized fashion, for a specific purpose, and under the supervision of officers. Most of the time the purpose was to do some work in the fields.

Understandably, these soldiers needed to maintain at least minimal contact with their home. For this purpose, field posts were established in various units. But as was characteristic in the Soviet Army, all that was done in secrecy. I, personally, tried to obtain a letter which came to a Soviet officer. This could not be accomplished since it would have required a "special order". It was easier to purchase a barrel of gasoline from them.

For this reason, any mapping of field posts was complicated, as reported some time ago in *FILATELIE*. In addition, the field post cancels did not contain

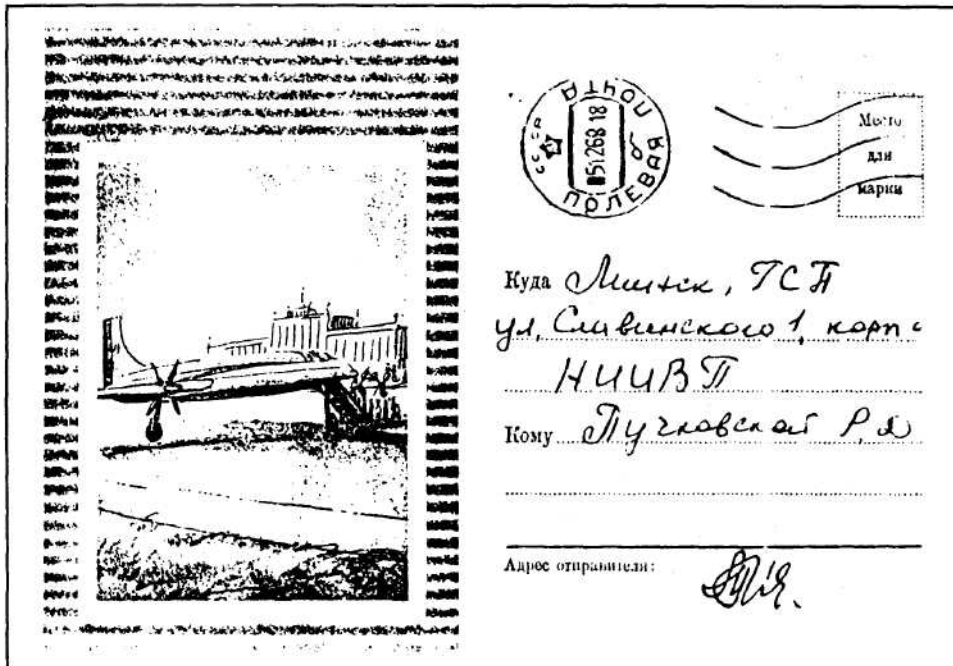


Fig. 1

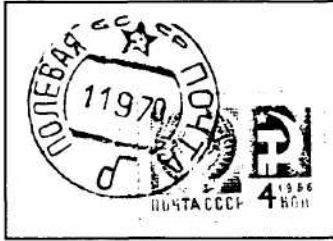


Fig. 2

numbers, which would have given a clue as to identification. This too was secret.

I therefore present two examples. First, there is a December 5th 1968 letter sent apparently from Czechoslovakia to White Russia -- to its capital Minsk (Fig. 1). The addressee was some sort of research institute (NIIVP -- Naučno Isledovatělskij Institut ...) at 1 Slavinskovo Street, corpus (section ?), to a woman named Pučkovskaia P.D. Now, I live in Pardubice, and just 10 kilometers from me there was

a large Soviet encampment in Lázně Bohdaneč. It was known that units from White Russia were there. In addition, a field post letter addressed by a partner from a street address in Minsk is known. The second example is a field postmarked stamp belonging to a collector who obtained it with great difficulty in Milovice (Fig. 2). The headquarters of the Central Group Army which was temporarily located in Czechoslovakia was in that town. It can be conclusively shown that the postmark was from there.

Milovice is a small town, located about 40 km northeast of Prague. During WWI an army unit was located there as well as Austro-Hungarian prisoner of war camps holding Italian POWs. Some of the prisoners died there during the war, and there used to be a memorial. Between the wars the area served as the garrison for a Czechoslovak elite tank army and for training battalions. A short railroad line connects it to Lysá nad Labem. When the Soviet army was there, express trains ran directly between Moscow and Milovice!

Because this kind of Soviet field post operated on the territory of what is today's Czech Republic, it is part of our field post history and certainly deserves us to mention it.



Obituary

Ivan Hajdu

It is with great sadness and complete shock that we have to report the death of Ivan Hajdu, member number 1574, of Amherst, New York. He died on Friday, September 12th, following a heart attack. He was just 52.

Mr. Hajdu was a collector of First Republic material and had a very strong interest in the POSTA 1919 overprints. He had developed into a promising expert in this area. He was a practicing pathologist in the Buffalo area.

He is survived by his wife, Alena, and two grown children, a daughter, Dana, and a son, David.

Our Society extends its heart felt sympathy and condolences to his wife and all members of his family.

For the Beginner

SOME STAMPS OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA
and THE STORIES THEY TELL

by Phillips B. Freer

[Ed. Note: This article is reprinted with permission, *Global Stamp News*, P. O. Box 97, Sidney, Ohio 45365-0097. A free copy of their publication is available by simply writing to them.]



Fig. 1

On January 1, 1993 the former Republic of Czechoslovakia ceased to exist and was peacefully divided into two countries, the Czech Republic and Slovakia. As a nation, Czechoslovakia had a turbulent century. Starting with its independence in 1918 was the so-called first Republic era which came to a screeching halt with Hitler's occupation of the lands in 1939. Then came the second phase known as the Bohemia-Moravia protectorate era during which Slovakia enjoyed a so-called period of "independence" under the sponsorship of the Third Reich. The end of World War II gave the country a brief return to freedom until 1948, when it fell under Communist domination and was then known as the CSSR. Finally, in January 1990, its post-World-War II democracy was restored under the name of the Czechoslovak Federated Republics. This lasted until the division into two separate countries in 1993.

It is not at all surprising that such a turbulent history would result in the production of many stamps picturing personalities and scenes associated with these events.

During the period 1914-1916, three men were working hard towards the eventual establishment of the Republic of Czechoslovakia. Thomas G. Masaryk, as seen in *Fig. 1*, and who eventually became the first President of the Republic, was, in 1916, the president of the Czech National Council which was formulating plans for making the Republic a reality. Associated with him was Dr. Edward Benes, as seen in *Fig. 2*, who was a Professor of Sociology, and Milan R. Stefanik, an astronomer, as seen in *Fig. 3*.

To commemorate the establishment of the First Republic, the first stamps were issued. These first stamps, one of which is seen in *Fig. 4*, depict Hradcany Castle in Prague. On close examination one can see the sun arising behind the Castle. Actually the sun could neither rise or set behind the Castle; it was meant to be

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Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

During the period 1920-23 three other stamps were issued which are very symbolic in their design. The first is known as the "Chainbreaker" stamp as seen in Fig. 5, which symbolizes the country in the form of a woman breaking the chains of bondage. This stamp was issued in ten denominations and tete-beche as well; there are shade and color varieties and a slight design variety which is found in the 40h stamp. It is called Type I if there are nine leaves on the right side of the woman's hip and Type II if there are ten leaves.



Fig. 5



Fig. 6

A second stamp issue during this period is known as the Hussite Priest stamp. This stamp was also designed by Alfons Mucha and pictures Jan Hus, the founder of the Hussite movement. It shows Hus with chalice which signifies the belief of the Hussites that, in opposition to the Catholic practice, the laity should have the right to partake of both bread and wine at communion. This stamp is seen in Fig. 6.

The third stamp issued in this period, as seen in Fig. 7 is the Agriculture and Science issue. The design shows a seated figure holding a sheaf of wheat with the left arm and supporting an open book with the right arm. In front of the book and extending upward from it is a linden tree from which leaves are growing. In the upper [sic - lower] right-hand corner is a buried sword from which leaves are sprouting.



Fig. 7

This stamp was first issued in 1920 in six values and again in 1923 in three values. Of the 1923 issue, three different types are recognized.

Again, an early Czech stamp is full of symbolism. Because of the popularity of this issue among philatelists and the interest it has generated worldwide, there

symbolic of the "new day" for the new Republic. There are two sets of this issue. The first set consists of 20 stamps of different denominations, some of which are imperforate and some perforated. The second set comprises 33 stamps, again some imperforate and some perforated. All imperfs were officially issued, but only some of the perforates are official. Those that are not were privately perforated.

These first stamps of the new Republic were designed by the world renowned graphic artist Alfons Maria Mucha.

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

is much literature to be found for the benefit of those wishing to delve further.

Also in 1920, a group of Czech stamps were overprinted "SO 1920". There is a part of the former Austrian Silesia which is known as Teshin and, because of its economic importance, was of great interest to both Poland and Czechoslovakia. Following the fall of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Poland occupied this territory. However, the Czechoslovak army pushed the Poles back and occupied the region. At a conference in 1920 the Teshin area was contained within the boundaries of Czechoslovakia and a commission which took over the government of the area, suggested that both Czech and Polish stamps be overprinted "SO", which probably stood for the Latin "Silesia orientalis", Eastern Silesia, plus the year date 1920. One of the Czech stamps with the overprint is seen in Fig. 8 and a Polish stamp with similar overprint in Fig. 9.



Fig. 8



Fig. 9

On March 15, 1945 Nazi Germany occupied Czechoslovakia proclaiming it a part of the German Reich. From that date until the liberation in May, 1934, the Czechs lost their independence and human freedom.

Toward the end of 1941, Hitler appointed Reinhard Heydrich as Reichprotector of Bohemia and Moravia, the western parts of Czechoslovakia. On June 4, 1942, Heydrich was killed, in Prague, by a car ambush by two Czechoslovakian soldiers. As a reprisal for the shooting of Heydrich, a reign of terror was launched against the Czechs. As the village of Lidice had been implicated in the death of Heydrich, Hitler ordered that all the male inhabitants over 15 years old be shot, 199 in all. All women were deported to concentration camps and the 105 children were sent to German educational institutions and never heard of again. All houses in Lidice were burned down and no trace of the village was left. Since then the Republic of Czechoslovakia issued stamps commemorating

that tragic event. The first one issued, with attached tab, is seen in Fig. 10.



Fig. 10

Some of the world's most beautiful stamps comprise reproductions of famous paintings and were issued by the Czechoslovak Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications. Two examples are seen in Figs. 11 and 12. The first is titled "Josefina" painted by Josef Manes and the second is



Fig. 11



Fig. 12

"Caberet Performer" painted by Frantisek Kupka. The process by which these stamps are printed is of considerable interest. A planographic steel print in four to six colors is used. For example, if six colors are used, six different color plates have to be engraved. Once the different color plates are finished, the

engraver makes trial prints on a small press in order to judge the correct color intensity and to make desired changes in the engravings. Once the engraver is satisfied with the end product, all trial prints are destroyed and the plates for the single stamp are sent to the printer where the definitive plates are made for the final flat plate printing. The presses for this type of work are not automatic but have to be operated by hand.

Those readers who may wish more information concerning Czechoslovak philately should write to: R.T. Cossaboom, Secretary, Society for Czechoslovak Philately, Inc., Box 25332, [sic] AFB, Ill. 62225 and request a free brochure.

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PRAGA'98

TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATIONS

Now that potential exhibitors are deep in thought developing their exhibiting strategy and tearing their hair trying to figure out how best to organize the limited space they will have to show their collections in the best light, it is time for the rest of us to consider our plans for our visit to PRAGA 98. We are very fortunate that Annette Hoover has graciously agreed to take on the task of preparing attractive opportunities in travel and housing arrangements. Tentative arrangements are underway with Conventions Management & Events Services to create various alternate trip packages for SCP members, family and friends. Negotiations are currently in process to offer travel from any US city and link with the key carriers at the designated departure ports to Prague. Hotel options, tour arrangements, and spouse itineraries are still in the planning stages, but our goal is to provide attractive choices which will be open to anyone wishing to travel to PRAGA 98. This will enable all philatelists, spouses, family members, and friends to accompany you on this historic trip. As details solidify and are approved by the SCP board, details will be available in *The CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST* and via our web page where we will also post all up-to-date information.

Plan now, but do not make final arrangements until you see what we will have available to us! We expect that firm offers will be available soon after you read this. Participation in a PRAGA exhibition is available only once a decade and is a philatelic opportunity that should not be missed. And, of course, a visit to Prague is always an adventure! Begin planning now!

Jaroslav Verner

UNWIN ARTICLE RECEIVES 1996 APFELBAUM AWARD

[Ed. Note: The *SPECIALIST* is pleased to reprint the following article from *The AMERICAN PHILATELIST*, August, 1997, with the permission of the editor, Bill Welch. Alec Unwin is a member of our Society.]

"Canada's Pacific Maritime Mails," by Alec Unwin, has earned the \$1,000 Earl P. L. Apfelbaum Award for the best article published in *The American Philatelist* in 1996. The article appeared in the June issue, in conjunction with the CAPEX 96 World Philatelic Exhibition in Toronto . . .

Alec Unwin, of Bellevue, Washington, is a retired Boeing physicist. He devotes much of his time to the study of Canada's transpacific ship mails and enjoys giving talks on the subject while dressed in 1890s period costume [see illustration]. "I try to recreate the magic of the shipping era," he says, "and my costume helps me conjure up a living link." His exhibit, "Via Vancouver -- Canada's Pacific Maritime Mails," won a Vermeil medal at PACIFIC 97.

Unwin was born in Czechoslovakia and attended an English school in Prague. He went to boarding school in England and earned his university degrees in Canada. He and his wife, Joan, have three grown children. During the 1930s, Unwin's late father-in-law was an engineer aboard three of the Pacific Empress ships.

[End of article]

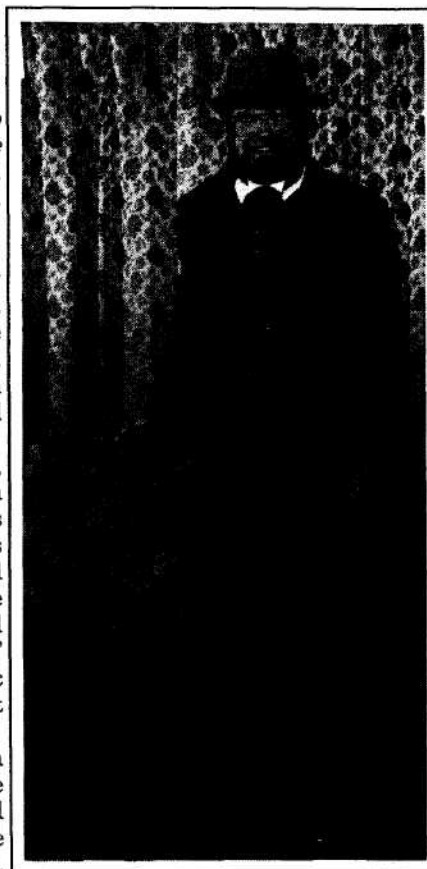
In addition, Alec won the Frank W. Campbell Award from the Postal History Society of Canada for this article being the best one published outside the *PHSC Journal* in a given calendar year. They also praised him for winning the PHSC Certificate and Ribbon for best BNA postal history exhibit "Via Vancouver - The Story of the Canadian Transpacific Mail" at Edmonton Spring Show '97, which won a Vermeil Medal and Felicitations of the Jury.

Alec is a long time collector of Czech Republic (1918-1948) issues and is beginning to specialize in a study of Prague postmarks.

When the German occupiers arrived in Prague on his 10th birthday (March 15, 1939), they expedited his widowed mother's plan for him to continue his secondary education in England, where they joined his older brother.

His father, Herman Ungar of Boskovice, Moravia, a well known playwright and author, had died of peritonitis during Unwin's first year of life, abruptly ending in his 30s what Thomas Mann predicted would be a brilliant writing career. He had previously worked as first secretary at the Czech Legation in Berlin. His mother, Marketa Stransky, was a native of Smichov.

Congratulations to Alec on a great accomplishment!



New Issues

SLOVAKIA

by F. Garancovsky and G. M. van Zanten

1. On July 17, 1997, the Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications issued a 9 Sk commemorative stamp entitled "World Year of Slovaks" (Fig. 1). The stamp shows an allegoric figure representing the Republic against a background containing an outline map of Slovakia. In addition, the top left corner contains the coat of arms of the Republic. The stamp was designed by Igor Rumanský and engraved by Rudolf Cigánik. The multicolored stamp was produced using rotary-recess printing combined with recess printing in sheets of 50 stamps by the Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague. The FDC contains a single color symbolic drawing.



Fig. 1

2. On July 17, 1997, the Ministry issued a 7 Sk definitive stamp entitled "MARTIN" (Fig. 2). The stamp depicts the church of the holy Martin (from which the town received its name) as well as the coat of arms shield (escutcheon) of the town. Martin has a population of around 65,000 and is situated at an altitude of 394m. St. Martin's, a gothic church originally built in 1270-1280, is the town's principal church. It is situated right in the center of town. The stamp was designed and engraved by František Horniak. The multicolored stamp was printed by the Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague, using rotary-recess printing combined with recess printing in sheets of 100 stamps. The FDC shows a detail of a Gothic fresco with the figure of magister-knight Donča-Maecenas (a worldly patron of the church) along with his wife.



Fig. 2

3. On August 5, 1997, the Ministry issued a 3 Sk special stamp entitled "BIENÁLE ILUSTRÁCIÍ BRATISLAVA" (Fig. 3). The horizontal stamp pictures an illustration by Jana Kiselová-Siteková showing an elf and a wood nymph playing the pan pipes. In the upper right hand corner is the B.I.B. logo. The graphic designer as well as engraver was Martin Činovský. The multicolored stamp was



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

printed using rotary-recess printing combined with recess printing in sheets of 50 stamps by the Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague. On the FDC appear the words Bienále Ilustrácií Bratislava, an illustration, and the name of the author: John A. Rowe, Great Britain.

4. On August 5, 1997, the Ministry issued a 4 Sk special stamp entitled "VODNÝ KOLOVÝ MLYN - JELKA" (water wheel mill - Jelka) (Fig. 4). The multicolored stamp shows a water wheel driven mill on

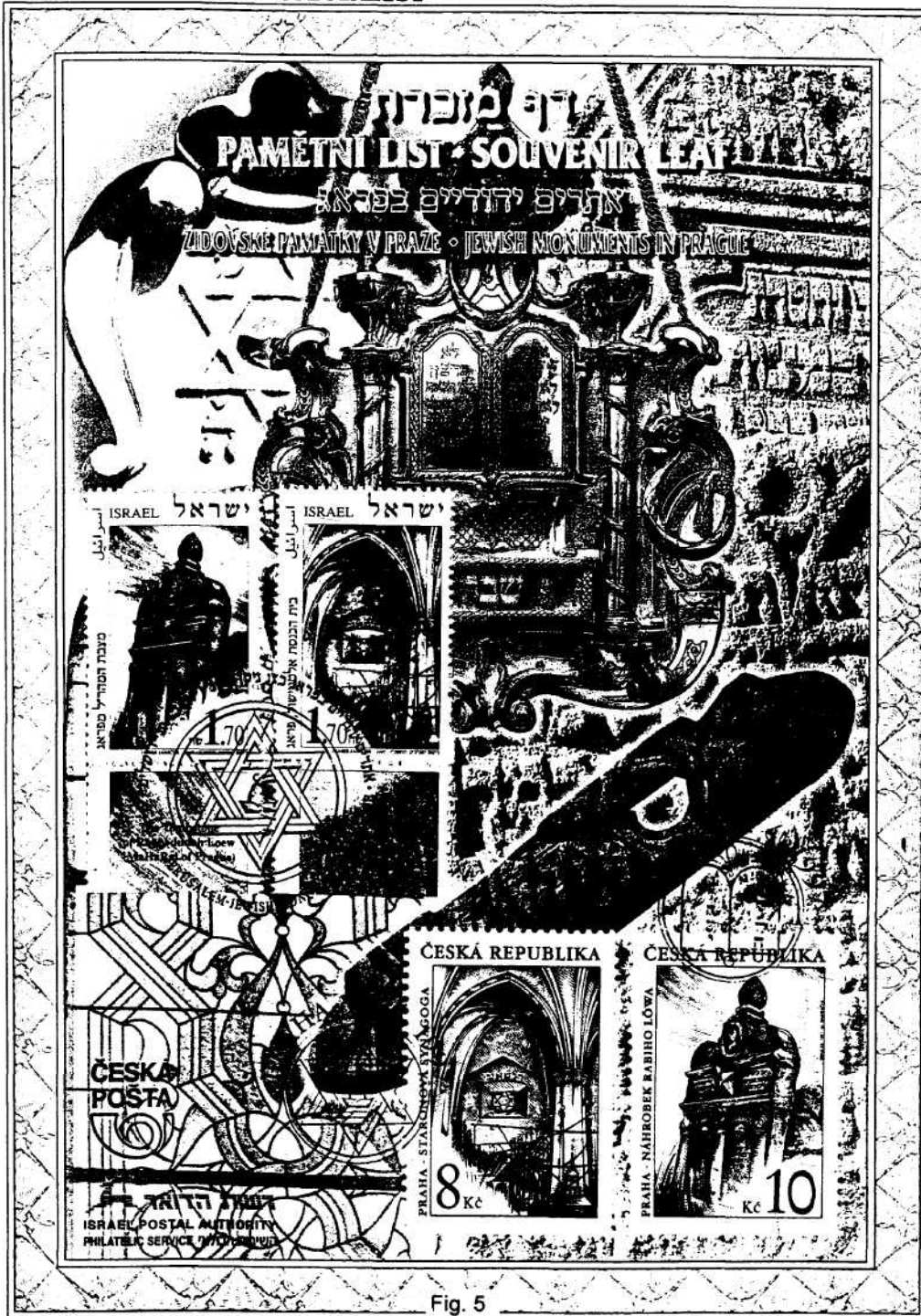


Fig. 5

a river in Jelka. It is from a series of stamps of technical monuments with the theme of river mills. The town of Jelka is in Slovakia about 25 km east of Bratislava. The Malý Dunaj (Small Danube) river runs past it. The stamp was designed by Karol Felix and engraved by F. Horniak. The stamp was printed by the Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague, using rotary-recess printing combined with recess printing in sheets of 35 stamps. There is a FDC, but the details other than being printed in a brown color are not currently available.

CZECH REPUBLIC

by G. M. van Zanten

5. This is additional information on the Jewish Monuments in Prague issue (a joint issue with Israel) that was reported on page 26 of the Sept/Oct 1997 issue of the SPECIALIST. A Pamětní List/Souvenir Leaf printed on light card material was jointly issued by the two postal services depicting the stamps issued by both countries (Fig. 5). On the reverse the following text is printed in Hebrew, English, and Czech against a silvery background: "JEWISH MONUMENTS IN PRAGUE. This souvenir sheet is being issued jointly by Israel and the Czech Republic, together with the issue of the joint series of stamps commemorating the centuries old culture of Czech Jewry. The wealth of Jewish institutions and monuments in Prague bears witness to the thriving of Jewish culture in Czech lands. The joint issue by the State of Israel and the Czech Republic acclaims this Jewish community which was culturally integrated in its environment and produced for the world such illustrious names as the Maharal of Prague, Sigmund Freud, Gustav Mahler, Franz Kafka, Franz Werfel and others."

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Letters to the Editor

1. Dear Lou:

Thought that you might find the following story of a Czech carrying mail interesting. It's about the Iditarod Trail dog sled race and the mail that is carried.

This yearly race of 1,049 miles from Anchorage to Nome, Alaska, was first staged in 1973. The race is held to commemorate the 1925 Great Race of Mercy. When Nome had an outbreak of diphtheria, which was turning into a fatal epidemic, the antitoxin serum was raced by 20 drivers from Nenana, Alaska, to Nome. In 1973 the memorial race took 20 days. This year's race took only 9 days, 8 hours. The map of a typical route can be seen on the cacheted envelope (actually carried during the 1983 race) shown in figure 1. Each racer-musher carries on his sled a packet of mail - actually cacheted envelopes (107 mm x 241 mm) - postmarked the day of departure in Fairbanks and then again on the day of arrival in Nome. Each cover is also signed or name stamped by it's carrier. A cover not having the second postmark from Nome means the musher had to either quit the race or was disqualified.

One of the mushers who has been racing since the early 80's is Jan Masek, born in Prague in 1942. Jan's family was nearly destroyed during the communist terror of the 1950's. His grandfather was beaten to death in a Czech uranium mine. His grandmother and father died during questioning by the STB - Secret Police. Jan - with his mother, sisters and brother - were sent to a state farm and were forbidden

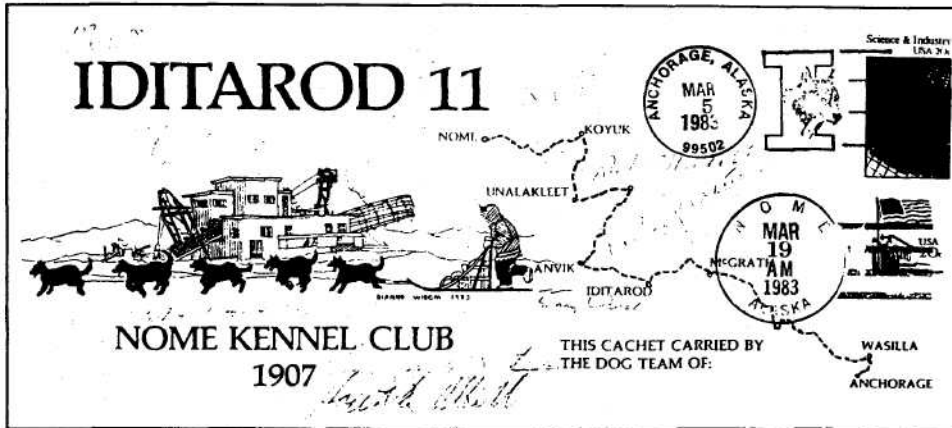


Fig. 1

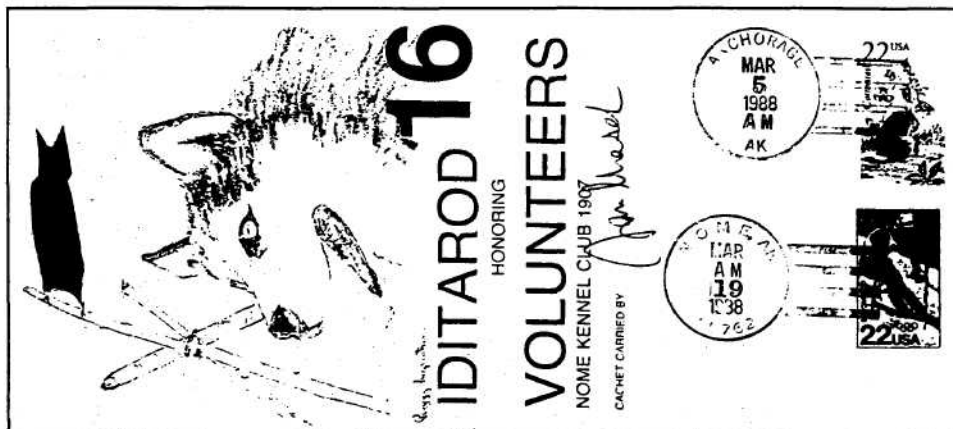


Fig. 2

to study beyond grade school. In later years Jan got into car racing. During a Czech Gran Prix Race in 1967, he managed to escape in a race car. He came to the USA, lived in Colorado, and then settled in Alaska. Figure 2 shows one of Jan's cacheted covers from the 1988 race.

Jan married a "fellow" musher, Beverly, who is a full-blooded Athabascan Indian. She participated in a sled dog race in St. Moritz, Switzerland, in 1990. Because all the American slots were taken, she registered to represent Czechoslovakia. For her efforts in the race, she was later honored by Czech President Vaclav Havel. In May 1991, she was invited as a private guest of Prime Minister Petr Pithart to honor the anniversary of Liberation of Czechoslovakia by the U.S. Army in Pilsen.

Jan is globetrotting as a consultant, Beverly is a commissioner for native affairs, and together they operate a sled dog kennel in Willow, AK of over 80 dogs all of which are 7th generation Athabascan village dogs.

Savoy Horvath.

2. Dear Lou:

In my travels I went to Kolacky Days in Montgomery, Minnesota, where I had the pictured (Fig. 3) souvenir cover canceled. Many people don't realize that coach Halas was 100% Czech!

George Stanley Halas's parents emigrated from Pilsen, Bohemia, in the late 19th century settling in the Pilsen area of Chicago. George was born February 12, 1895, the last of 8 children (four of which died while very young). George got his love for sports early in life as a member of SOKOL/Pilsen. He was an excellent player whether in baseball, football, or on the SOKOL/Pilsen teams. He joined the Navy in WWI going through OCS to become an ensign. He also re-joined in WWII and was a lieutenant commander.

After WWI, George played baseball with the New York Yankees. One day while he was playing third base he hurt his hip sliding -- he was replaced by Babe Ruth. But his first love was football, so he came back to it in Chicago.

He started with the Chicago Bear's forerunners, the Decatur Staly's. In 1920 he moved the team to Chicago's Wrigley Field and as it already had the Cubs, George named his football team the BEARS. In the early days, he was a player, coach, and manager. This lasted until 1978.

Playing football, George Halas was as American as "apple pie", but in his heart he was as Czech as "Kolacky".

Savoy Horvath

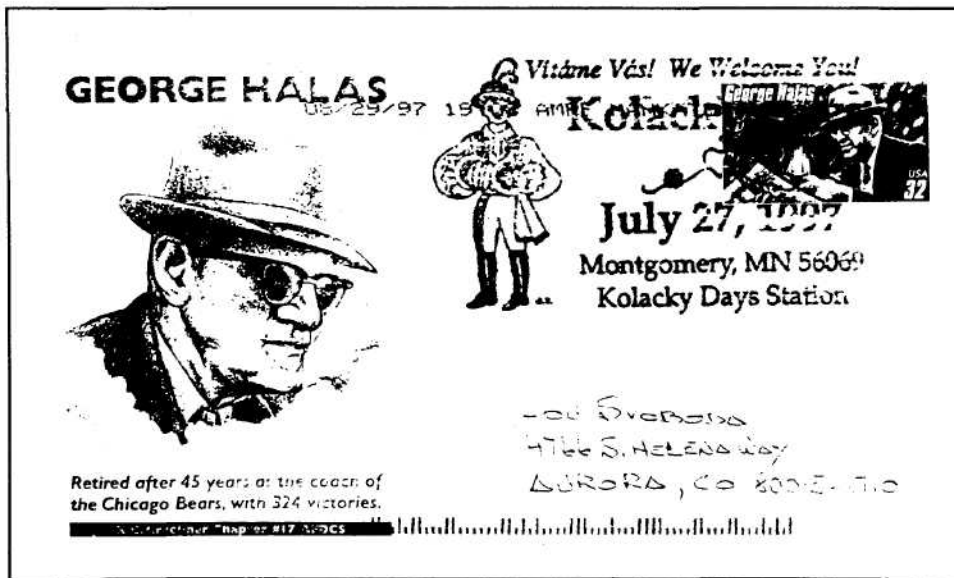


Fig. 3

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ERRATA

- In the bottom right corner of page 32 of the September/October issue, the words "I recently received this new" should have appeared after "2. Dear Mr. Svoboda:".

1996 FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE
SOCIETY FOR CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELY INC.

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Member Dues	\$6,612.23	SPECIALIST Printing	\$5,880.60
Circuit Fees	2,000.00	SPECIALIST Mailing	1,027.16
Net Book Sales	(215.63)	Patron Books	746.67
Interest	293.86	Library Binding	351.80
Donations	237.50	Membership Expense	237.49
Advertising	128.00	Officers Expense	223.31
		Advertising	215.07
		Book Projects	175.00
		Convention Expense	141.42
		Printing	130.55
		Miscellaneous	12.00
<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>	\$9,055.96	<u>TOTAL EXPENSE</u>	\$9,141.07
NET GAIN/LOSS	\$ (85.11)		

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