



THE CZECHOSLOVAK Specialist



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Winner of Numerous Philatelic Literature Awards

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NOJEX 1998 ANNUAL CONVENTION

A final reminder that the Society will hold its annual get together at NOJEX over Memorial Day weekend, May 23 through 25. NOJEX is held at the Meadowlands Hilton, Secaucus, NJ. This location is easily reached by Garden State Parkway or N.J. Turnpike, both connecting to Route 3. NOJEX is providing free shuttle service to New York for those wishing to visit there or for those who are coming in from that area.

A number of our members are exhibiting, and it promises to be an interesting and enjoyable event. Contrary to what was said in the Mar/Apr issue, the general meeting for members as well as the program presentation by John Miskevich on Czech airmail beyond New York will take place Saturday afternoon, May 23rd, rather than Sunday. The exact times and locations of this and all other events will be published in the show catalog, or you can learn of them at the Society table which will be manned throughout the convention. We urge you to stop by so that we can meet you. We can answer any of your questions, and a variety of publications will be available for sale there. Saturday evening members are invited to join the Board for dinner and good fellowship at a nearby popular Italian restaurant.

The Meadowlands Hilton has a special rate for those attending the show, \$92, but this is offset by a \$10 credit available from Ed Lehecka, SCP Show Chairman. For information on any aspect of NOJEX please contact Ed at 217 Hazel Avenue, Westfield, NJ 07090 or by phone at 908-232-4159 or FAX 908-889-8162.

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1829 Srb, George

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1831P Fikar, Charles R.

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1822 Schloss, Howard H.
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GREETINGS FROM THE CZECHOSLOVAK SHORTWAVE STATION AT PODĚBRADY NEAR PRAHA

An original article
by John Miskevich

The original purpose of radio was to eliminate the telegraph -- a system of communication relying on wire and poles both expensive and difficult to maintain. Although telephone characterized a great leap in technology, it too required wire and poles and lacked portability. During the early 1920's efforts were made to transmit radio signals over long distances by bouncing them off layers of charged particles in the Earth's ionosphere. The success of these experiments prompted the establishment of worldwide shortwave radio communications by the late 1930's. Shortwave broadcasts today provide the major source of news and entertainment in many parts of the world except in more highly developed areas where government or commercial programming is transmitted within the mediumwave band (AM radio), the VHF band (FM radio) and the longwave band.

Shortwave radio broadcasting today involves the transmission and reception of information by means of electromagnetic waves

approximately 10 to 100 meters in length. Most shortwave receivers cover the entire shortwave band (1800 to 30,000 kilohertz frequencies). That's about all the technical stuff postal historians and philatelists need to know -- leave all the talk about the use of coaxial switches, scanners, and dual-band antennas to the amateur radio operators. Our hobby interests center around what is known in shortwave parlance as the QSL card.

What, then, is a QSL card? A QSL is a card (or letter) from a shortwave radio station that confirms you heard them. While most radio technology was still young, stations were naturally concerned with how well they were being received by

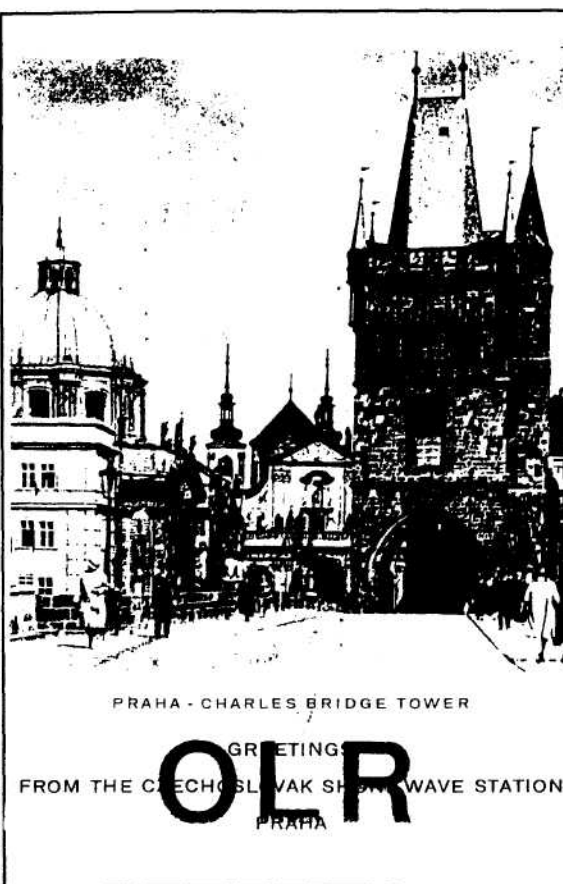


Fig. 1A

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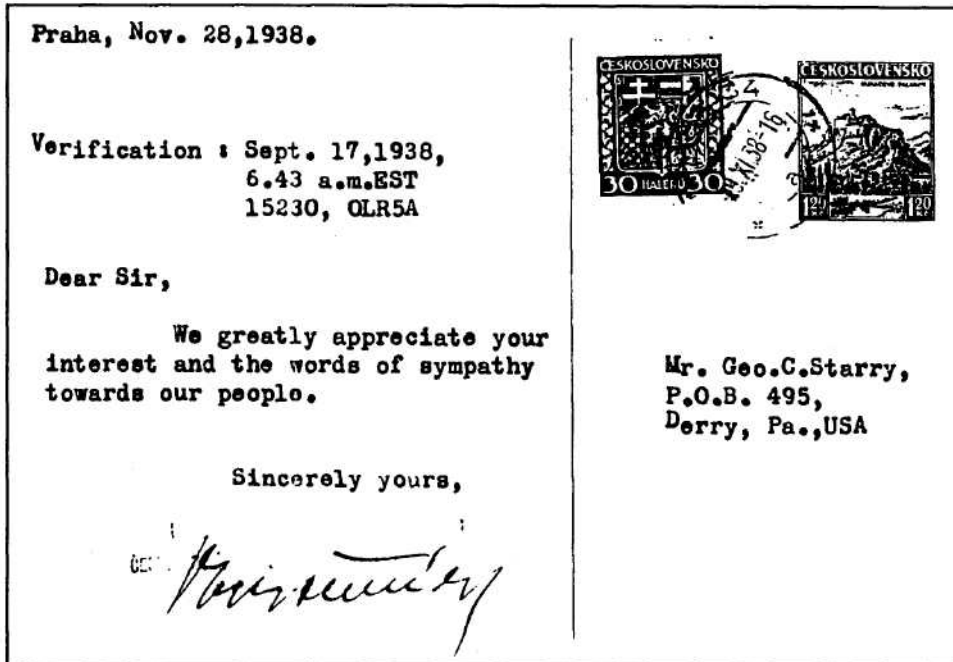


Fig. 1B

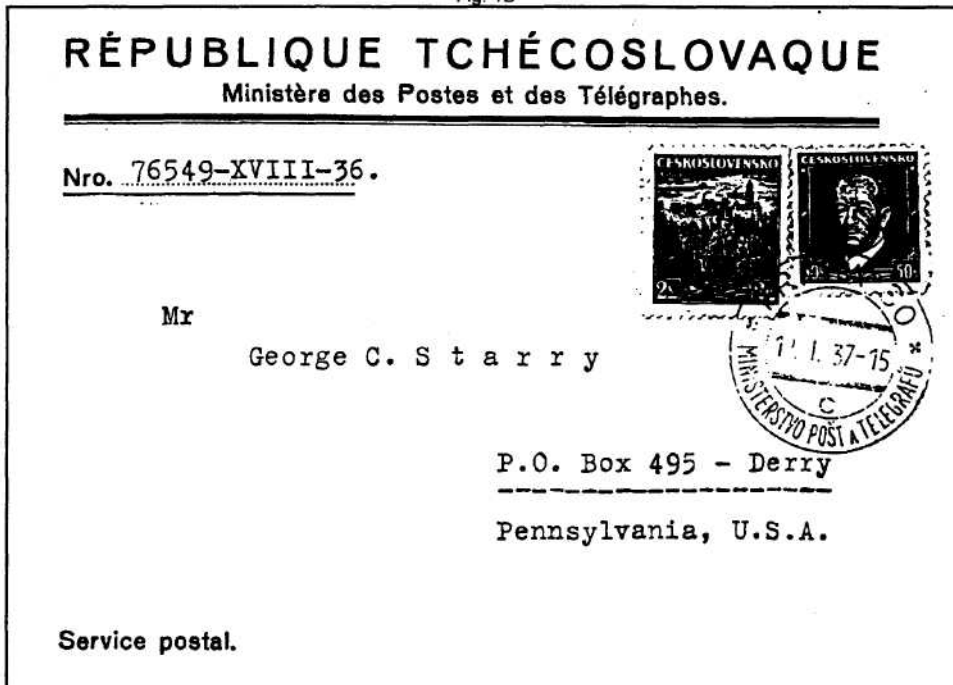


Fig. 2A

listeners. To discover how well, by whom, and where, stations began mailing verification cards (known as QSL cards) and letters to listeners who sent in reports on how well the station was heard (called reception reports). What does "QSL" stand for? Well, actually nothing at all -- radio has always made use of brief coded lingo and "QSL" means "contact confirmed".

Figure 1 shows both sides of a QSL card mailed on November 28, 1938 by the Czechoslovak government shortwave station (call letters OLR) at Poděbrady near Praha. The Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs physically owned the broadcasting plant including the antenna array. The QSL card confirms contact reported by a listener in the United States of a program broadcast September 17 to North America during what was internationally known as the Sudeten Crisis. Note that the English language was utilized in the printing on the postcard and poignantly in a short personal message.

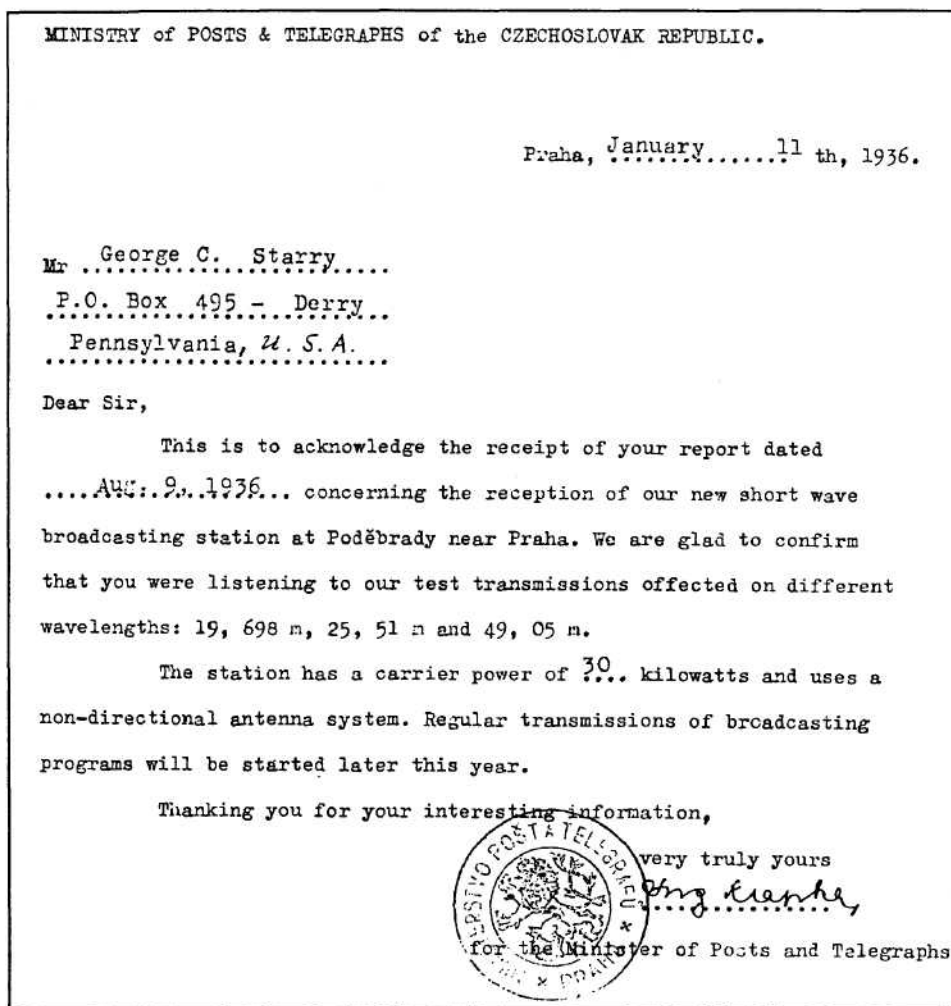


Fig. 2B

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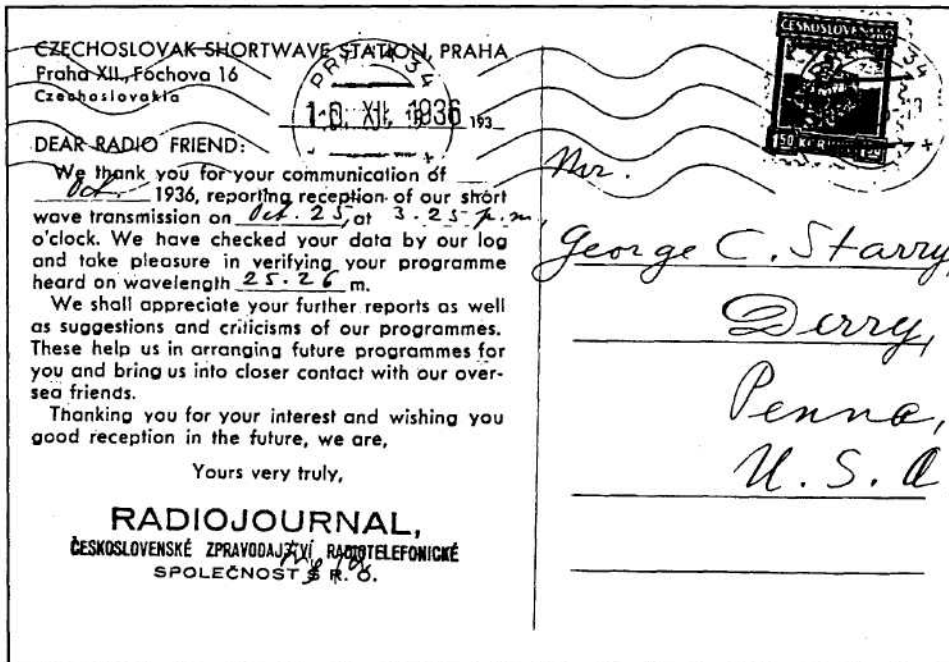


Fig. 3

Radio broadcasting was introduced in Czechoslovakia during the earliest years of the First Republic, but the legal basis for broadcasting over the various wavelengths was not established until the legislative act of December 20, 1923, concerning the manufacture, keeping, sale, and import of radio-electrical apparatus and accessories. The ordinance of the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs dated October 20, 1924, conferred the right of granting licenses to acquire radio receivers upon the Post Office. At the same time subscription rates to the radio programming provided by the broadcasting entity Radiojournal were substantially lowered widening the circle of subscribers. To promote radio the Praga International Fair organized a radio exhibition at the Spring Fair held March 22 to 29, 1925.

The Czechoslovak government -- through its Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs -- controlled the erection and operation of radio broadcasting stations on a rental basis. The United States government created the Federal Radio Commission to control the rapid growth and conflicts in broadcasting, but for a variety of reasons radio was under much greater regulation in other countries. In fact, the private ownership of radio stations was not allowed in many countries and even amateur shortwave broadcasting was banned in some. Czechoslovakia appears to have had a thriving amateur shortwave radio fellowship prior to March 15, 1939.

The first Czechoslovak shortwave radio station to broadcast to North America on a regular basis was installed by the Western Electric Company of New York at Strážnice near Praha in 1925. With a carrier power of 5 kilowatts it went on air in February 1926 using a 368 meter wavelength with broadcast hours from 5 to 6 a.m., 10 to 11 a.m., and 3 to 4 p.m. United States Eastern Standard Time. Its call letters were reported to be OKP.

The signal was weak, and it was not commonly received in 1926 in the United States by owners of shortwave receiving sets.

In February 1929 the Czechoslovak government ordered the equipment to build the most powerful radio station in Europe at Poděbrady near Praha. The station began to operate in 1930. In the realm of radiotelephony, tests were conducted by the Czechoslovak Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs and RCA Communications, Inc., leading to the first direct radio telephone service between Praha and New York on December 1, 1930. The first telephone communications opening this service to the public was exchanged between Czechoslovak President Tomáš G. Masaryk and United States President Herbert C. Hoover.

Illustrated at Figure 2 is a postal document together with the envelope in which it was received by an amateur shortwave enthusiast in the United States. Note that the postmark on the envelope in part reads,

"MINISTERSTVO POŠT A TELEGRAFŮ" (Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs). The document confirms reception of experimental radio broadcasts from Poděbrady beamed to the United States and heard August 9, 1936. This also, by definition, is a shortwave QSL. Praha had one of the most powerful shortwave broadcast transmitters in Europe. The power in the aerial -- depending on the wave length -- varied between 24 and 34 kilowatts. The station utilized three omnidirectional aeriels and was to deploy six directional aeriels in the near future. Figure 3 shows a QSL card printed in the English language mailed December 10, 1936, from this station now broadcasting a regular slate of programs to North America from Poděbrady. It was sent by a representative of Radiojournal.

Figure 4 is another version of a Czechoslovak government QSL card verifying reception of a broadcast from OLR Radio at Poděbrady in 1937. The photograph displays a Ruthenian Belfry. Ruthenia -- the eastern most portion of the country and also know as Carpatho-Ukraine -- vanished from the map of Czechoslovakia in March 1939. Some of the illustrations on QSL cards mailed from Praha on behalf of the shortwave station at Poděbrady were also utilized on postal cards issued by the Postal Ministry of the Czechoslovak Republic.

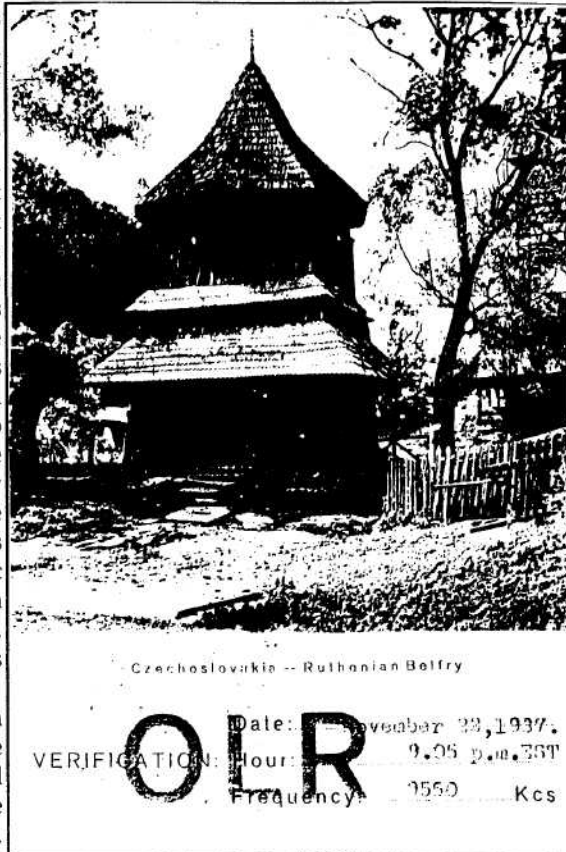


Fig. 4



Fig. 5

With the invasion of Czechoslovakia on March 15, 1939, Germany expanded her radio holdings along with an expansion of territory. The German Post Office physically took over the entire Czechoslovak Post and Telegraph Administration inventory of radio transmitters including seven stations in the medium and longwave bands. Shortwave stations taken were Praha I, Praha II (known as Mělník), Moravská-Ostrava, and Brno. Stations in Slovakia at Prešov, Banská-Bystrica, and Bratislava came under German influence. Germany acquired no fewer than three exclusive shortwave lengths. General Klaus von Heppner, German Army commander in Prague, ordered March 16 that all amateur shortwave radio broadcasting sets be surrendered to the police as there were several hundred extant in Bohemia and Moravia.

On February 6, 1940, a German Court in Prague held that Czech residents of the Protectorate of Bohemia & Moravia were subject to the ban which had forbidden Germans to listen to foreign shortwave radio broadcasts. A Czech woman in Prague was sentenced to ten months imprisonment for listening to broadcasts from London and Paris. Still, only two of eight secret shortwave radio stations regularly transmitting in the Protectorate had been discovered by the Germans – one in a cemetery and another along the Pilsen-Prague highway. Seven Czechs were put to death for operating these “black” transmitters.

Lest I end this article on a depressing note, let me offer an addendum regarding shortwave communications today from the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

Radio Slovakia International has a mailing address Mýtina 1, 812 90 Bratislava. Its telephone number is 042 7498 075 and can receive facsimile transmissions through 042 7496 282. Slovak Radio maintains an Internet Web site at <http://www.xs4all.nl/~xavcom/rozhlas>. Prime frequencies are in Europe 5915, 6055, 7345 KHz 1730-1800, 1930-2000 UTC; in North America 5930, 7300, 9440 KHz 0100-0130 UTC; and in Australia 11990, 17485, 9440 KHz 0830-0900 UTC. Listening to Radio Slovakia International has been compared to a tour of Slovakia. Everything pertains to Slovak culture. Programs

include: Slovak Kitchen, Back Page News, Slovak Personalities, and Listeners' Tribune. Shown at Figure 5 is a QSL card mailed from Radio Slovakia International.


Radio Prague is located at Vinohradská 12, 120 99 Prague and receives Internet e-mail on cr@radio.anet.cz. It maintains an Internet Web site at <http://www.radio.cz>. Radio Prague broadcasts to all continents (except Antarctica) with 27-minute programs in various languages (including a number of English broadcasts) on 5930, 7345, 9420, 9505, 17485, and 21705 KHz. Most heavily used are 5930 and 7345. Some of the featured programs include Letter from Prague, Week in Politics, The Arts, Musical Feature, and Current Affairs.

Nearly all shortwave stations have souvenir items to send out to their listeners especially if they ask for them. Station pennants, photographs, labels, stickers, and station postcards are among the most common items. Stations also send out program schedules upon request. If you send them a report on how well their signal is reaching your area, they will be happy to send you a QSL card.

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McCormick, Louise, The Shortwave Listener's Q and A Book, TAB Books, a division of McGraw Hill, Inc., New York, New York (1994)
 Yoder, Andrew, The Complete Shortwave Listener's Handbook, 5th Edition, McGraw Hill, Inc., New York, New York (1997)
The New York Times: "Interest in Broadcasting Spreads to Central Europe", January 18, 1925, Section VIII at page 13; "Will Strive by Radio to Make Prague World's Music Centre", February 8, 1925, Section VIII at page 16; May 3, 1925 at page 24; "Prague on 368 Meters", February 21, 1926, Section VIII at page 21; "Short Wave List", March 28, 1926, Section IX at page 8; "Radio Service to Prague Likely", November 26, 1930 at page 12; "Radio Telegraph Circuit to Prague", December 1, 1930 at page 37; "Radio's Short Waves", January 24, 1937, Section X at page 10; "Prague Radio Must Carry German Program", December 23, 1938 at page 11; "Nazis Rule Czech Press; Amateur Radios Taken", March 17, 1939 at page 8; "Behind the Scenes", April 23, 1939, Section X at page 12; "Radio Ban Extended", February 7, 1940 at page 6; and "Czechs Doomed to Economic Ruin; Businesses Give Way to German", February 22, 1940 at page 6.


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President's Corner

SOCIETY UPDATE

By the time that you read this, the first of this year's Society convention/exhibits will be just around the corner. The Board of Directors will meet at NOJEX on Friday, May 22. The General Meeting and presentation by John Miskevich will take place the following day. As is our practice, there will be a Society table at the show, and I urge all of you to stop by, help to man the table, or just say hello. I especially urge new members as well as old members who have not had much contact with fellow members to stop by and get acquainted. Elsewhere in this issue you will find more details on your Society's planned activities at NOJEX. Also, please remember that a special rate is offered to show attendees by the Meadowlands Hilton, the venue of the show.

The second convention/exhibit we are planning to participate in will take place at PRAGA 98 -- as I hope you all know by now. I am delighted to report that all of our members who applied to exhibit in Prague have been accepted. The dates of PRAGA 98 are September 10 to 14. There will be a dinner for Society members the evening of September 9, the evening before the show opens. Details on this event can be found in the January/February issue of the *SPECIALIST*. Please remember that reservations are required and can be made by sending your check for \$15 per person to our Treasurer, Ed Lehecka. By now your travel plans are, hopefully, firm. Remember that airline fares are always a moving target, and the closer you get to your travel date, the less options you will have. If you need assistance or advice with this, please contact Annette Hoover at 803-216-0309 or 770-840-8766. If you do not get her the first time around, leave a message, and she will get back to you. In the next issue of the *SPECIALIST* we will publish the many activities that are planned around PRAGA 98. Those of us working on preparation for PRAGA have been pleased and pleasantly surprised by the number of our members and their families that plan to attend this show. This is a wonderful opportunity, not only to "do" philately, but also to visit one of the world's most beautiful cities, meet old friends and make new ones, and perhaps even look up family roots.

The Society web site continues to grow and be up-dated. Reactions to the page have been quite positive. Several new members have joined after finding us on the Web. If you have not looked at it lately, check it out. A new feature is a "cover-of-the-month" page where we hope to feature interesting or unusual covers connected with Czechoslovakia. We hope many of you will submit covers for inclusion in this project. You can send the cover (or a colored copy of both sides) and a write-up to me for inclusion. Covers will be returned immediately after we scan them into our computer.

Finally, I am sorry to report that Dr. Charles W. Bush submitted his resignation from the Board of Directors due to the press of professional obligations. In accordance with the Society's By-Laws, I have asked Savoy Horvath to serve out the unexpired portion of his term. I am pleased to report that he has accepted, and we look forward to his active participation in the Board's work.

Jaroslav Verner

PNEUMATIC TUBE MAIL OF VIENNA AND PRAGUE

(Continuation of an article from the March/April issue)



Fig. 16

Lettercards

Lettercards with an imprinted 20 Kr stamp were first issued in 1886. The rate was lowered to 15 Kr in 1887. The imprinted stamp design was changed from the Double Eagle to Franz Josef in the issue of 1890, which were issued both line and comb perforated 11. A similar issue appeared in 1892, both line perforated 9 1/2 and line perforated 11 1/2. Shown in Figure 16 is a card of the issue of 1892, line perforated



Fig. 17

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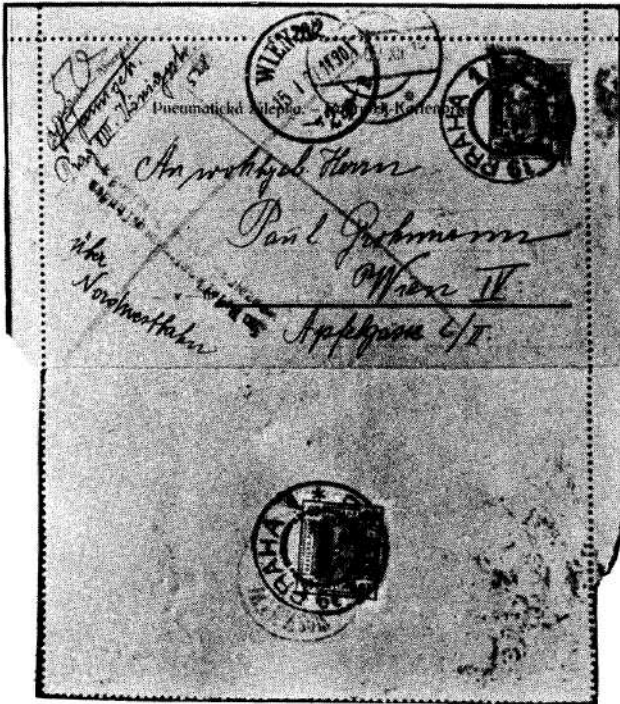


Fig. 18

lettercard was placed in a mailbox, as marked in German and Czech by a straight line handstamp. Postmarked at Prague 1, January 14, 1907 at 9 a.m. -- two days before the

11 1/2, posted in Vienna 1/1, Station 2 on May 18, 1893 at 4:50 p.m. Dispatched to Station 23 by blue crayon marking, it was arrival postmarked Vienna 2/1, Station 23 at 5:00 p.m. Note type with "Sammelkasten" with long "s".

A rate increase effective January 16, 1907 from 30 Heller to 35 Heller was accommodated by addition of a 5 Heller adhesive to the card shown in Figure 17 posted in Prague 10 on May 10, 1907 at 8 p.m. The card is arrival postmarked on reverse at SMICHOV on May 11th at 7 a.m.

Inter city supplemental franking by a 10 Heller adhesive is shown in Figure 18. The

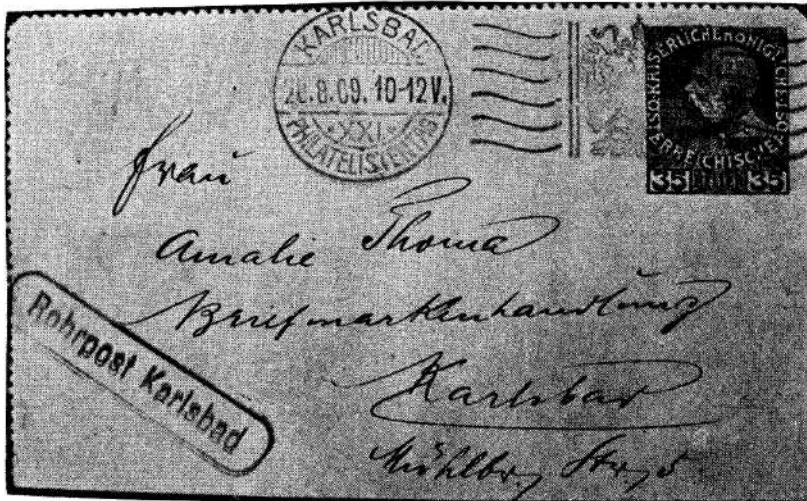


Fig. 19



Fig. 20

pneumatic mail rate change from 30 Heller to 35 Heller. The lettercard left Prague at 12 noon on the "Nordwestbahn" (North-west Railroad) as indicated by the writer on the lower left. Forwarded in Vienna by pneumatic mail to Station 24 on January 15th, at 11:30 a.m. (V = Vormittags). Supplemental franking covers the normal domestic rate from Prague to Vienna.

Lettercard without text for use in Vienna and Prague, bearing 35 Heller postage by the imprinted KFJ Jubilee portrait was issued in 1908. This lettercard as well as the 1908 postcard were used in KARLSBAD, when the system came into public use during the philatelic exhibition from August 20 to August 23, 1909. A card bearing the philatelic show cancel and pneumatic mail marking is shown in Figure 19. The card was posted



Fig. 21

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on August 20, 1909 between 10 a.m. and 12 noon from the show to the main post office. The markings are in purple.

On January 16, 1917 the lettercard rate was increased to 45 Heller as reflected by the issue of 1917 bearing the 45 Heller Austro-Hungarian shield imprint. The card remained valid to January 31, 1921 despite several rate changes -- to 80 Heller on September 1, 1918, to 1 Krone on January 15, 1920, and to 2 Kronen on April 15, 1920. The card, thick paper type, violet rose inside and outside, is shown in Figure 20. Used on penultimate day of validity, January 30th, at which time the rate was 2 Kronen, hence the card is upfranked by adhesives totaling 1.55 Kronen. Posted by Station 10 and addressed to Station 104, located at Hofferplatz 1 in the XVIth District.

Upfranking of the issue of 1918 to meet the 2 Kronen rate in effect since April 15, 1921 by both imprinted stamp and adhesives is shown in Figure 21. The card was sent on its last day of validity, January 31, 1921 from Station 10 to Station 104.

The last postcard issue of the First Austrian Republic was to meet the 27.50 Kronen



Fig. 22

rate effective in 1922. It is reported that no properly used cards exist. However, the card shown in Figure 22 appears to be posted from the 1st District, Pneumatic Post Station 10, to the 18th District, Station 104 on April 7, 1922 at 12 noon. Arrival postmarked at 3 p.m.

Issues of the Czechoslovak Republic

No trial printings, proofs, or essays are known to exist on the Austro-Hungarian or Austrian Republic issues. However, such trial printings are known of the early pneumatic mail issues of Czechoslovakia. The issue of the Allegory of the Liberated Republic was selected and trials were produced of the 140 h imprinted stamp, intended for postcards, and the 160 h imprinted stamp, intended for franking lettercards. These rates included the basic postal rates plus the pneumatic surcharge. The trial printings were made by typography in several colors: black, blue, brown, light and dark green,

light and dark red, violet, olive, and orange. Use of papers included ordinary gummed stamp paper, heavy chalk paper, and porous orange waste print paper. Trials exist imperforate as well as perforated line 13 3/4. The printed sheets contain 12 subjects. One lay-out includes two rows of 6, with the first four trials of the top row and the first four trials of the bottom row containing the 140 h trial, with the last two trials in each row with the 160 h value. This layout, in dark blue on ordinary gummed stamp paper is shown in Figure 23.

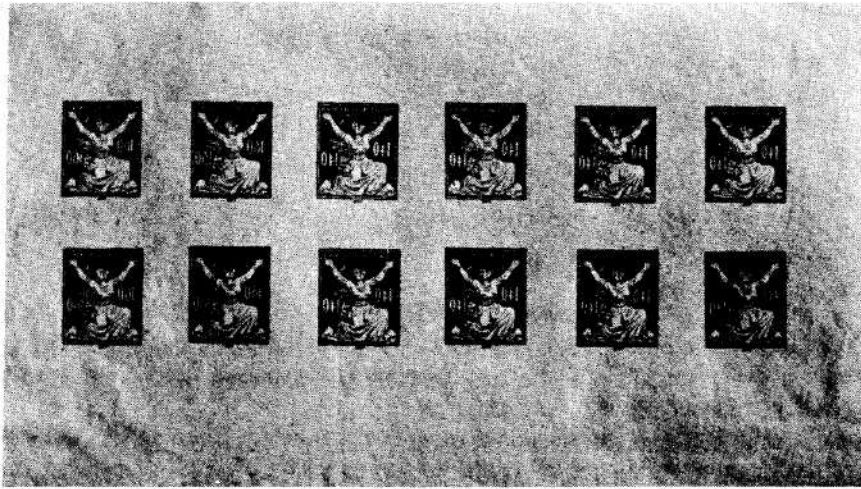


Fig. 23

An alternate layout, partly shown in Figure 24, contains all 140 h values in the top row and only the last four stamps in the bottom row with the 160 h value. The sheet is printed on orange porous waste paper in dark orange.

The 140 h value was imprinted on a postcard which sold for 1.50 Kč. The postcard was issued in October, 1920 and remained valid until August 15, 1928. The card shown on Figure 25 was posted in KRÁL VINOHRADY on December 5, 1925 at 10 a.m. and arrival postmarked at the PRAHA TELEGRAF offices at 12 noon. It is addressed "to the hands of the

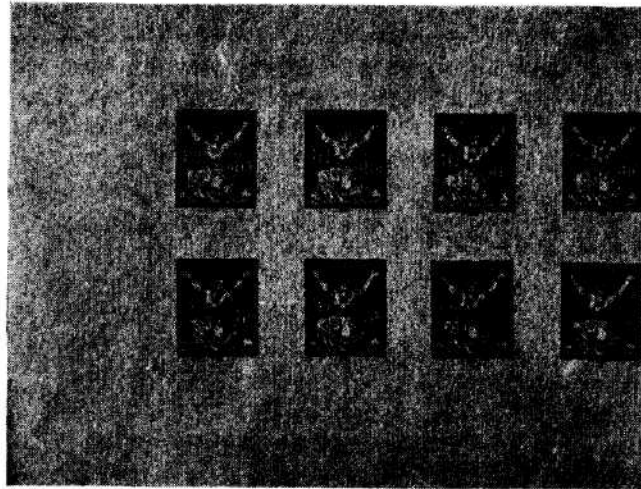


Fig. 24

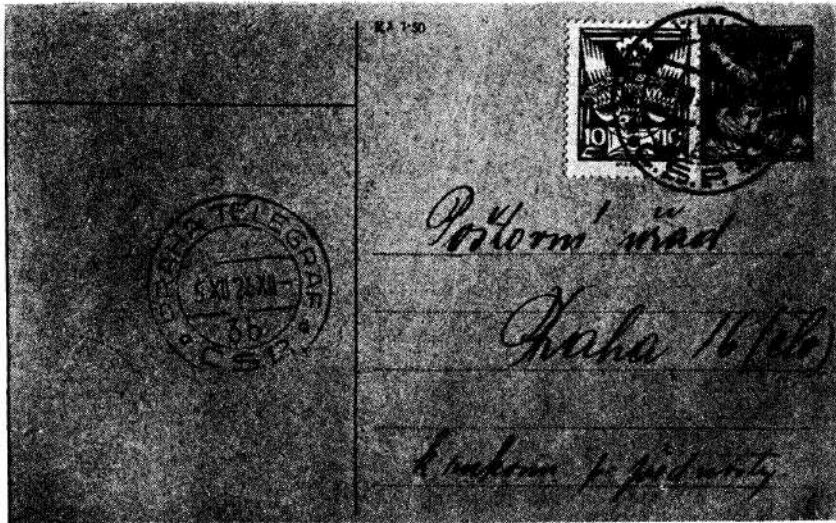


Fig. 25

postmaster" at PRAGUE 16. The ordinary postcard rate since January 1, 1922 was 50 h and the pneumatic mail surcharge was 1 Kč -- hence the card required supplemental franking of 10 h.

The second (and last) postcard in the Czechoslovak Republic is shown in Figure 26. It was issued on December 16, 1932 and remained valid to May 20, 1940. The card was posted at the "Telegraph Station" on December 30, 1932. It contains a "Pneumatic Mail" label as well as an EXPRES (special delivery) label requiring the 1 Kč supplemental



Fig. 26

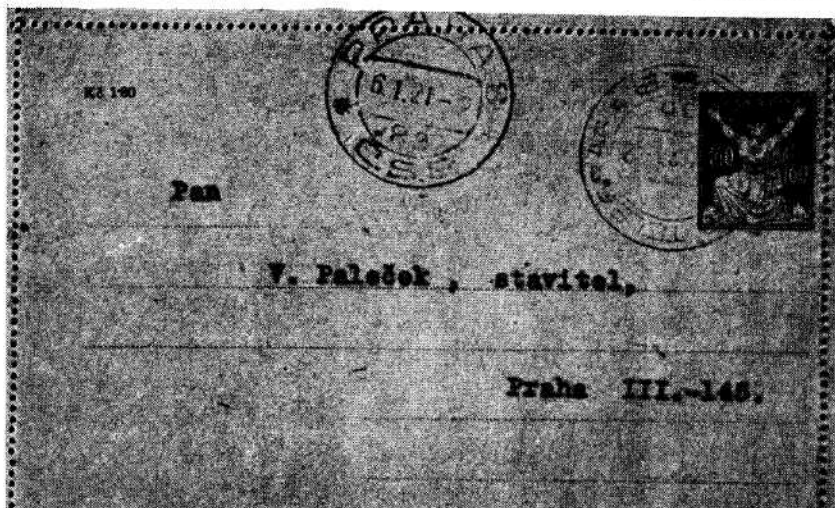


Fig. 27

franking. At that time the pneumatic mail surcharge was 40 h and the postcard rate 50 h, for a total of 90 h.

The first Czechoslovak lettercard was issued in October, 1920 and remained valid through August 15, 1928. It sold for 1.80 Kč. The lettercard shown in Figure 27 is line perforated, though it more commonly exists comb perforated. It was posted at the "Telegraph Station" on January 6, 1921 at 2 a.m. and receiving postmarked at PRAGUE 8 during the same hour. The pneumatic surcharge at the time was 60 h and the regular letter rate was 1 Kč.



Fig. 28
17

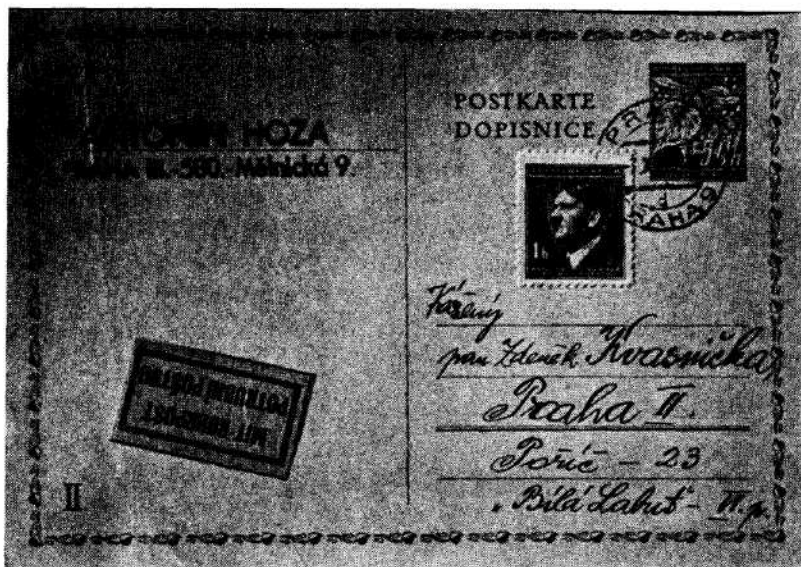


Fig. 29

The pneumatic mail which operated during the Protectorate period never was written on postal stationery, since no pneumatic mail postal stationery was issued during the Protectorate. The pneumatic mail surcharge for any form of pneumatic mail since November 1, 1940 was 1 K, as shown in Figure 28. The card was posted on November 3, 1940 at 12 noon, addressed to the well known collector and entrepreneur at his place of business, the Bílá Labuť. It bears the bi-lingual label to identify it as a pneumatic mail card.

Much pneumatic mail posted in Czechoslovakia was not on pneumatic mail postal stationery. To identify such mail there were issued labels saying "POTRUBNÍ POŠTOU" which translates to "By Pneumatic Mail". A typical card of this type is shown in Figure 29. The card was posted on February 26, 1937 at Prague 21 at 11 a.m. It transited the TELEGRAFNÍ ÚSTŘEDNÍ STANICE (Telegraph Central Station) the same hour, and shows an arrival postmark at Prague 1 at 14 o'clock, i.e. 2 p.m. The supplemental franking of 40 h pays for the pneumatic mail delivery.

Some mail from the Czechoslovak Republic may not be readily identifiable as pneumatic mail, since it carries no label on the front, and is delivered by pneumatic mail in another city, this time Vienna. A cover of this type is shown in Figure 30. The air mail cover was postmarked Prague 25 - LISTOVNÍ VYPRAVNA (letter dispatch) on October 6, 1925. It had been left in a mail box, as indicated by the rubber stamp marking "V poštovní schránce nalezeno" (found in a mail box). It is franked with the 100 h air mail to pay the air mail surcharge, and two 60 h stamps to pay the treaty letter rate to Austria. The letter was flown to Vienna, and transited the postal station at TELEGRAPHENAMT WIEN (telegraph station Vienna), where it arrived the following day. There, noting that the letter had arrived by air mail, the blue crayon markings on the front were applied, bracketing the words "Par avion" (air mail) and marking the letter for pneumatic mail delivery to Station 64. The receiving pneumatic mail postmark for Station 64 was

applied on the back, showing arrival on October 7th, but unfortunately with an indistinguishable hour of arrival.

While some used postal stationery of the Vienna and Prague pneumatic mail is

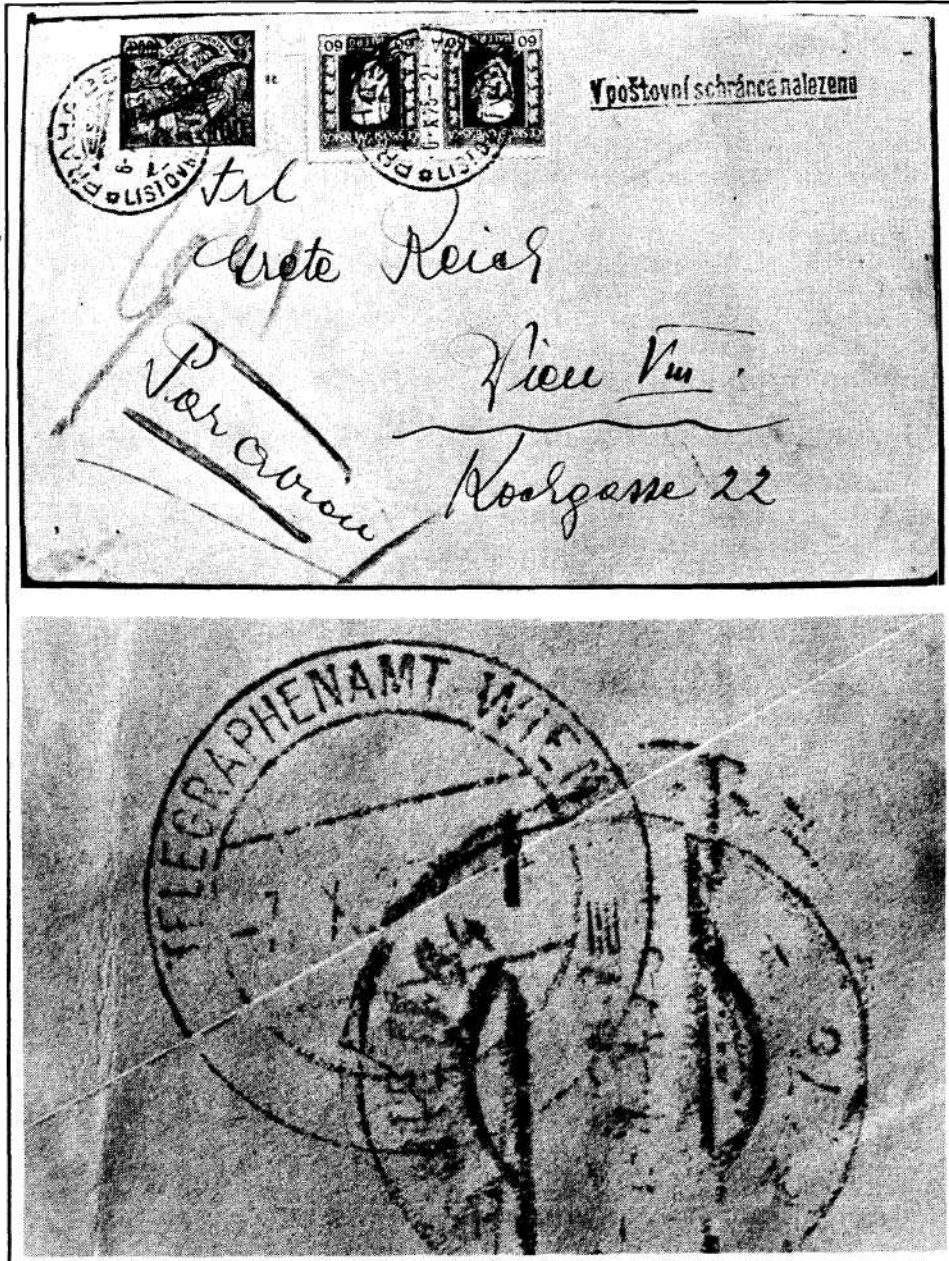


Fig. 30

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

priced higher than mint copies, this is not uniformly true. Most collectors find used copies more interesting, since one can marvel at the speed of the service, particularly when compared to today's "snail mail". In a way it was the FAX or electronic mail of its day, though limited to intra-city service. While reaching its maximum expansion both in Vienna and Prague in the 1930's, the need for pneumatic mail began to succumb to expansion of telephone service which put an end to pneumatic mail services after World War II.

Nevertheless, the romance of pneumatic mail service in its time will long remain embedded in the souls of collectors, and there is much research to be done by the relatively small circle of enthusiasts. Will you join us?

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The author wishes to express his appreciation for the loan of the cover shown in Figure 30 to its owner, Ludvik Z. Svoboda.



PRAGA 98 MEDALS UNVEILED

by Jaroslav Verner

The PRAGA 98 Organizing Committee has unveiled the medals for this international exhibition. Academic sculptor Zdenek Kolar, who was winner of design competitions for past PRAGA exhibitions, designed the medal. The design contains the dates of past PRAGA exhibitions, the symbol of PRAGA 98, and the text "International Exhibition of Postage Stamps" in Czech and French on one side, and a stylized representation of Prague on a stamp background with the Latin text "Prague, Capital of the State" on the other. This design will be used on the Large Gold, Gold, Large Vermeil, Vermeil, Large Silver, Silver, Silver Bronze, and Bronze medals which will be awarded at PRAGA 98.



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GLOSSARY OF PHILATELIC TERMINOLOGY

*** UPDATE ***

by Ludvik Z. Svoboda

In the January/February 1997 issue, we announced the availability of the above publication. It is a translated listing of those technical philatelic terms (as well as everyday terms) that would most probably be encountered by a philatelist in examining and attempting to classify a Czech/Slovak philatelic item. There is a section for Czech/Slovak terms translated into English, and a section which has English into Czech/Slovak. It also translates the table of contents, paragraph headings, codes, symbols, acronyms, abbreviations, colors, months, numbers, military terms, continents, and countries found in a typical Czech/Slovak catalog.

To keep it a "living" document, we deliberately double spaced all entries so that as new items are brought to our attention as being missing, they can be easily added. This article is our first installment on adding new items to the above document. The Society would like to thank all of the members who provided inputs that constitute the basis of this update.

A few general comments need to be made first. In the Czech/Slovak alphabet, the letters that have the small "v" over them, typically are placed in any alphabetical listing after their bare parents, e.g., ř comes after r, and therefore a word beginning with "pře. . ." will come after a word beginning with "pre. . .". [This method of alphabetical listing is being done away with in many newer Czech publications, and in fact our own publication has some mixing of how it deals with this situation, so look closely when you are searching for a particular word.] Also, any word beginning with the combination of "ch" will be found after words beginning with "h", not included with words beginning with "c", e.g., the word "chram" will be found after "h" words and before the "i" words not among the "c" words. Then, don't forget to put your update words into your English list also (most of you will be interested in putting these update words into the Czech/Slovak to English section, but don't forget about the other way too). And finally, we need to draw your attention to the distinction between a postal card (dopisnice) and a postcard (pohlednice, which means "picture postcard"). A postal card (dopisnice) already has the postage imprinted upon the card by the postal authority, and it is sold in the post office. The price of the postal card includes the postage. The postcard (pohlednice) requires the sender to add postage to it before mailing the card; the price of the postcard does not include the postage. These are usually found in various kinds of stores and have a local scene printed on them, but not always.

This listing has three columns which give the Czech/Slovak term, its English translation, and the appropriate page in the document where the term should be inserted.

centrováno	centered	5
ch. . . (words)	(found between "h" and "i" words)	5
čepice	cap	6
čtyřpáska	strip of four	7
decentrováno	off center	7

dopisnice	(remove "postcard"), (add) postal card	9
doplatit	to pay up postage due	9
druhý	second	9
esej	essay, test	10
falešný	(add) counterfeit	10
hezké	fine	11
jednoduchá frankatura	single franking	16
jméno	name	16
klínek	small wedge	18
kmen	stem, trunk	18
křoví	bushes, shrubs	21
kužel	cone, bowling pin	21
loket	elbow	25
lom	fracture, crease	25
mrak	cloud	27
nad	above	28
nachází	occurs, is found	28
natrženo	torn	29
nebo	or	29
nevyleptý	incompletely etched	29
neznatelný	insignificant	29
noha	leg	29
novinová nálepka	provisional newspaper stamp/label	30
nula	zero	30
obloha	sky	30
obuv	shoes, footwear	31
ocas	tail	31
odchýlka	deviation, variation	31
oko	eye	32
okraj	(add) selvage	32
Ondřejský kříž	St. Andrew's cross	32
páska	strip	33
patka	foot, bottom end	33
perforační otvor	perforation hole	34
pod	below, under	34
podélný	lengthwise	35
podškrtnout	underline	35
podvodný	fraudulent	35
Poštovní Směrové Číslo (PSC)	ZIP code	37
prasklina	crack	37
průpich	(add) (needle) after roulette	38
průsečík	point of intersection	38
první let	first flight	38
před	before, ahead of	38
přes	across, over	39

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přesné	accurate	39
přeškrtnout	strike out	39
příloha	supplement, enclosure	39
PSC	ZIP code	39
pták	bird	39
rastr	lined, grid	40
reparovano	repaired	40
roh	corner	41
rovnoměrně	evenly	41
rozřezané	cut off	41
ryska	line, scratch	41
řáda	(add) strip	42
řádkově zoubkování	line perforation	42
seřiznuté	clipped	42
silný	thick, strong	43
slovo	word	43
spodní	lower	44
spojené typy	(add) joined types	44
stítek	tablet, shield	45
strom	tree	45
střecha	roof	45
svítkové vyplatní známky	(add) coil stamps	46
syté	rich deep color	46
šňůra	string, cord, line	47
těsný	close, tight	47
tiskopis	printed matter	48
tisková deska	printing plate	48
tlapa	paw	48
tráva	grass	48
tvář	cheek	49
tykadlo	antenna	49
údaj	data	49
úhel	angle	49
ucho	ear	49
uprostřed	in the middle	49
úseč	arc segment	49
ustřížek průvodky	parcel dispatch card clipping	50
veliký	large, big, great	50
vícenasobná frankatura	multiple franking	51
vlasy	hair	51
výběžek	prominence, protrusion	52
vybíhat	project out	52
vzorec	(change to) specimen	54
vztahuje	relative to	54
zdvojený	doubled	55
zobák	bill, beak	56

žilkovaný papír	granite paper	57
<u>COLORS</u>		
jantarové	amber	58
lososové	salmon	58
<u>NUMBERS</u>		
rula	zero	60
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***** IMMEDIATE *****
PRAGA 98 BULLETIN

The following is the text of a press release by the American Embassy in Prague regarding the purchase of some Czech hotels by a Maltese/Libyan consortium. Patronizing these hotels by American citizens is a very serious mistake (big fines and jail time). We suggest that visitors to PRAGA steer clear of them.

"ADVISORY ON CORINTHIA-OWNED HOTELS (FORUM, PANORAMA)

Prague, March 23, 1998 -- The Corinthia Group of hotels, which has recently taken ownership of a number of hotels in the Czech Republic, including the Forum and the Panorama in Prague, has been determined by the U.S. Government to be a Specially Designated National of Libya. U.S. Persons are alerted that until such time as the U.S. Government has determined to the contrary, they should treat the Forum and other establishments listed below, as properties owned and/or controlled by the Government of Libya. Financial transactions with those establishments, including payment for lodging and meals, are prohibited by the Libyan Sanctions Regulations. U.S. persons, organizations, or businesses violating this prohibition may be subject to criminal and civil penalties under U.S. law. The hotels determined at this time to be owned or controlled by Corinthia include: Forum (Prague); Panorama (Prague); Palcát (Tabor); Bavor (Strakonice); and Eernigov (Hradec Kralove).

The U.S. Embassy will issue a revised list with additional establishments if deemed necessary based on further investigation of the case. The company Czech International Travel is also Corinthia-owned, and the same prohibition on dealing with it is applicable."

Jaroslav Verner

POST CARD -- ISSUE OF 1927

by RNDr Miroslav Vostatek

trans. by Henry Hahn

The postal card bearing the 50h stamp imprint with the intermediate State seal included four separate issues -- those of 1927, 1931, 1933, and 1937. In the catalog *SPECIALIZOVANÁ PŘÍRUČKA*, published in 1988 in conjunction with PRAGA'88 (page 405), the issue of 1927 is designated as CDV 37. It is distinguished from the later issues primarily in the frame design of the card. For the specialist it is remarked that the color of the printing is olive-green (whereas CDV 37a is printed in green), and the card stock is brownish. In fact, by examining the printed cards it is possible to demonstrate that the color of printing ranges from light green to dark olive-green, and that there exist differences in the shading of the paper all the way to dark brown. In addition the reference lists two types of postal cards: Type I with two vertical lines in the cross (Fig. 1) and Type II with one vertical line (Fig. 2). The above constitutes the entire description.

I have had an opportunity to examine a few dozen used postal cards of the issue of 1927 (which I know is statistically too small a number), but nevertheless I made some surprising observations. To make certain that I was examining only the first (1927) issue, I included only cards with regular postmarks of Moravian post offices in the period from June 1928 to March 1930. From these cards I found an entire series of interesting plate and printing fault varieties.

Perhaps most frequently (in about 40% of the postal cards examined) a variety is located in the upper right part of the framing (Fig. 3) where the top of the lower small wedge has a line of varying length. In general, the framing is rich in printing varieties, but these can be said to appear to be random. Nevertheless, they include:

Fig. 3 -- the upper right corner of the frame is reinforced

Fig. 4 -- incomplete lower line in the upper left corner, and reinforcement of this line in about 10% of the cards examined

Fig. 5 -- reinforcement of the top line in the upper left corner of the framing

Fig. 6 -- blunting of the upper right corner of the framing

Fig. 7 -- the lower right corner of the framing is incomplete

Fig. 8 -- the lower left corner of the framing is incomplete

Fig. 9 -- in the upper portion of the framing, to the right of the vertical line, there is a line between the two wedges

Fig. 10 -- horizontal line in the return address portion not completed

Random printing varieties (which some times repeat) also appear in the imprint of the 50h stamp, such as:

Fig. 11 -- the upper left corner of the stamp is reinforced

Fig. 12 -- there is a visible thinning of the letter "O" in "ENSKO", and on other copies the right vertical line in the upper right corner is over extended

Fig. 13 -- above the letter "K" in "ČESKO" is an interrupted upper horizontal line

Fig. 14 -- between the letters "S" and "L" there is a dot

Fig. 15 -- the head of the bear is "shaded", and there is a dot in the collar (not shown in this illustration)

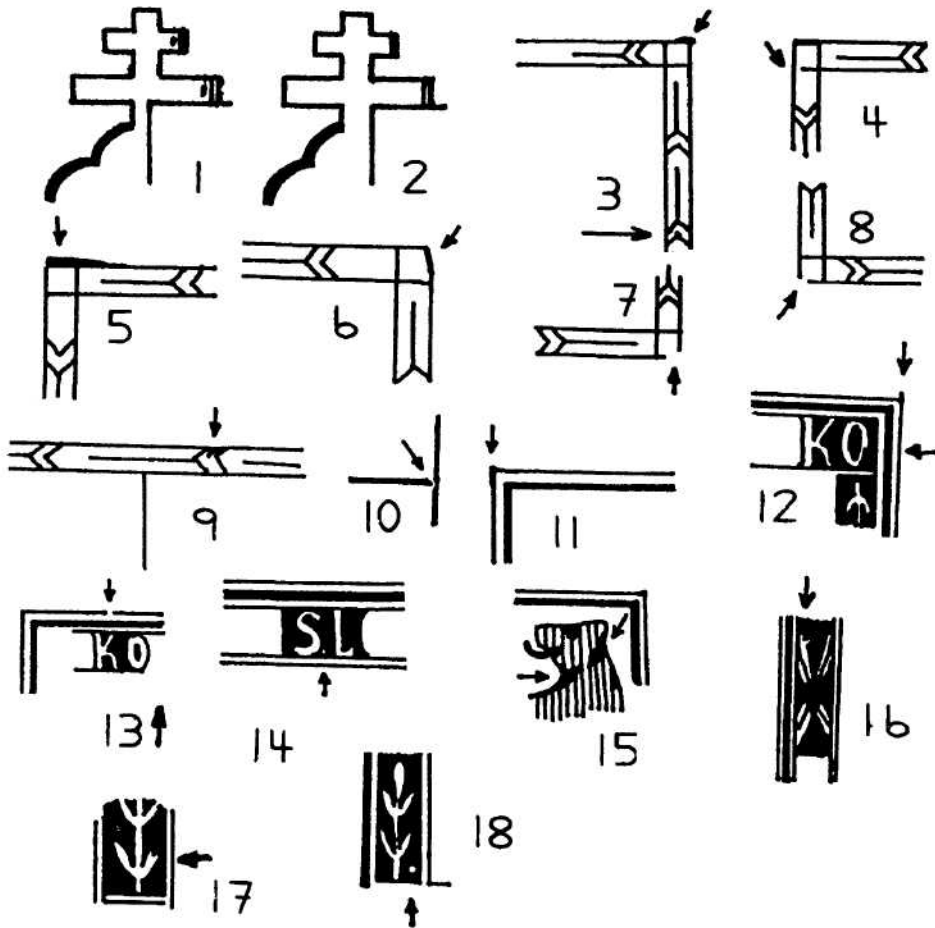


Fig. 16 -- in the left part of the ornamentation there is a white projection on the left inner upper line

Fig. 17 -- in the same area as above, the inside leaf is split/tattered

Fig. 18 -- in the same area as above, there is a white dot to the lower right of the leafed stem

It is certain that the printing of this issue was extensive. It is also obvious to the eye that the framing and the entire printing is uneven, ranging from areas of thin lines to heavy printing, which most likely was caused by the wearing of the printing plates.

In summary, I have described the cards of the first issue (1927) and have confirmed the ratio of appearance of Type I and Type II as approximately 1:1. The frequency of the variety in the top right of the framing (shown in Figure 3) may be characteristic of one of the printing plates and may thus be a plate variety.

The above summary and the other varieties described call for comments from specialists, which I urgently solicit. Please send them to the Editor.

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

**76th APOSTOLIC JOURNEY OF POPE JOHN PAUL II
TO THE CZECH REPUBLIC (3rd VISIT)
APRIL 25-27, 1997**

by Arkadiusz Walinski

[Ed. Note: The SPECIALIST is proud to reprint the following article from The COROS Chronicle, the official bi-monthly journal of the Collectors of Religion on Stamps, with the permission of the editor, the Rev. Augustine H. Serafini, and the author, Arkadiusz Walinski, who supplied the text and illustrations.]

The Holy Father's third Pastoral Visit to the Czech Republic began on the evening of Friday, April 25, with arrival ceremonies at Ruzyně International Airport, Prague. On hand to greet the Pope were dignitaries of Church and State, including Cardinal Miroslav Vlk and President Václav Havel. Later in the evening, the Holy Father met members of the Czech Episcopal Conference.

On Saturday morning, April 26, the Holy Father went by helicopter from Prague to Hradec Králové, where he celebrated Mass with Czech young people in the Great Square in front of the Holy Spirit Cathedral. Back in Prague, the Holy Father received a delegation from the Charles University, to whom he gave an authentic copy of Pope Clement VI's Bull of 1347 promulgating the foundation of the university. After a courtesy call on President Havel at Hradčany Castle, the Holy Father went to the Archabbey of Brevnov, founded in 992 by St. Adalbert, for a prayer service with religious and the sick.

The focal point of the Holy Father's visit was the solemn Mass he celebrated on Sunday, April 27, at Prague's Letná esplanade to commemorate the Millennium of St. Adalbert, Bishop and Martyr [see Sv. Vojtěch -- Saint Adalbert, Sep/Oct 1997 issue]. Prague's first Pastor of Czech blood was martyred by pagan Prussians on April 23, 997. In the afternoon the Holy Father went to St. Vitus Cathedral for an ecumenical prayer service in honor of St. Adalbert. Later the Pope prayed at the tomb of Cardinal Tomášek. After the departure ceremonies at the Prague airport, the Holy Father returned to Rome.

VATICAN

1. Commemorative travel postmark in Latin
Pope John Paul II in mitre with Pastoral Cross
in greeting gesture.

* IO. PAULUS II MILLE ANNOS S. ADALBERTI */
IN CECIA MEMORAT / POSTE VATICANE
+ 25-27 APR. 1997 *

"John Paul II commemorates the 1000 years of
St. Adalbert in the Czech nation"





CZECH REPUBLIC

2. Hradec Králové -- April 26, 1997
 Commemorative postmark
 Coat of arms of the Vatican State
 Návštěva Svatého otce Jana Pavla II. /
 Hradec Králové 1 / 26.4.1997
 "Visit of the Holy Father John Paul II"

3. Prague -- April 27, 1997
 Commemorative postmark.
 Coat of arms of the Vatican State
 Návštěva Svatého otce Jana Pavla II. /
 PRAHA 7 / 27.4.1997
 "Visit of the Holy Father John Paul II"



POSTAL CARD



Fig. 1

4. 4Kč imprinted stamp. Illustration on the card -- coat of arms of Pope John Paul II combined with the Vatican State coat of arms (Fig. 1). [Coat of arms are in black, red, dark blue, and gold. Narrative under the coat of arms is in blue.]

Imprint on the card:

PASTORÁLNÍ NÁVŠTĚVA SVATÉHO OTCE JANA PAVLA II

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V ČESKÉ REPUBLICE UPŘÍLEŽITOSTI TISÍCILETÍ OD ÚMRTÍ
SV. VOJTĚCHA 25 - 27. 4. 1997

"Pastoral Visit of Holy Father John Paul II in Czech Republic to commemorate the 1000th anniversary of the death of St. Adalbert"

NOTE: The postal card with the 4 Kč imprinted stamp was issued on March 26, 1997. The coat of arms of Pope John Paul II was added to the card in April of 1997.

5. Prague -- April 23, 1997
Commemorative postmark
Bishop's crozier and alpha and omega
the first and last letters of the Greek
alphabet, signifying the early Church
and the eternity and the infinity of God.
Map of Europe
· 997 · sv. Vojtěch · 1997 /
23.4.1997 · PRAHA 01
"St. Adalbert"



This postmark honors the 1000th anniversary of the death of St. Adalbert. Since this anniversary was the main reason of the Pope's visit, the postmark could be included in the John Paul II collection.

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THE NEWEST PACKAGE LABELS

by Savoy Horvath
trans. by Peter Kleskovic

Although the Postal Bulletin article appended to this introduction is dated May 28, 1996, it still provides important information for philatelic collectors. It identifies an era of further progress in the automation of postal operations -- in this case in the transportation of packages. It marks the point from which the use of bar coded self-adhesive labels has been expanded to many more post offices, and the days of the older style labels -- such as paper ones and others -- will soon become a part of postal history.

The Postal Service is currently using three kinds of package labels: the old paper labels, the yellow/red/blue labels produced by the APOST terminals, and the labels with the bar code. At the major post offices -- where the package section is split into two parts (one for individual packages and the other for packages submitted by larger users) -- they are using both of the last two kinds of labels.

However, the newest kind of label is being used on a test basis at two post offices -- Kolín 2 and Ostrava 2 (as described in the appended Postal Bulletin article). It will probably be a very difficult task to obtain one of these test labels since all of the new labels are strictly accounted for and unknowing recipients will probably not save the packaging material. If you want one of these, you had best send a package addressed to yourself or have someone do it for you.

* * * * *

Bar Coded Shipping Labels for Packages

In conjunction with the Collector Post Office project, effective 1 June 1996, the post offices 702 00 Ostrava 2 and 280 00 Kolín 2 will be applying shipping labels using bar codes to packages received from bulk shippers. Regular packages will have shipping labels with a white background and black lettering, while packages with a stated value above 2,000 Kč will have shipping labels with a red background and black lettering. The labels do not have a border around them.

The collector post office shipping label contains the following information about the shipment (Fig. 1):

- a) the ZIP code and the name of the post office
- b) the 10-digit number of the shipment, as follows:
 - the first and second digit identifies the collector post office (e.g., 29 - Kolín)
 - the third and fourth digit denotes the sender (e.g., 01 - is the firm Willy)

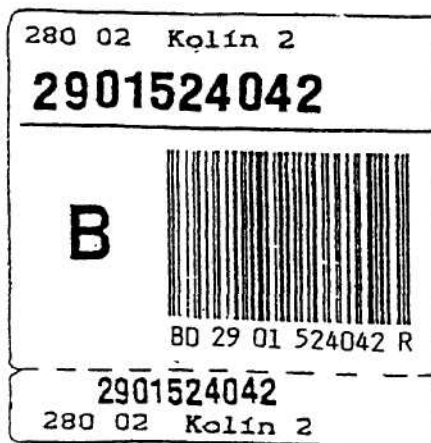


Figure 1. Collector Post Office Shipping Label

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- the fifth through the ninth digit identifies the shipment serial number
- the tenth digit is the control number provided for control against misuse -- it is created automatically by the computer system
- c) the type of the shipment (B - regular, V - insured)
- d) bar code
- e) the alphanumeric transcription of the bar code, as follows:
 - 2 bars -- denote the type of shipment (BX - regular, BD - C.O.D., VX - insured, VD - insured C.O.D.)
 - 2 bars -- the number of the collector post office
 - 2 bars -- the number of the shipper
 - 6 bars -- the sequential number of the shipment and the control number
 - 1 bar -- the identification of the type of bar code.

The lower tear off portion of the shipping label (which is to be pasted on the dispatch note - "Průvodka") contains the number of the shipment, the ZIP code, and the name of the post office.

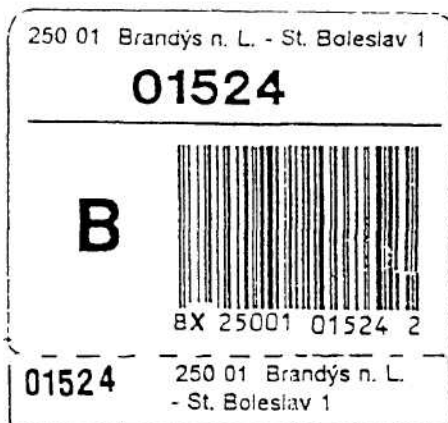


Figure 2. Shipping Label for Regular Package at a Normal Post Office

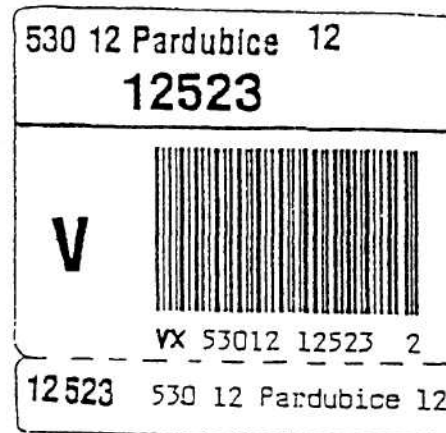


Figure 3. Shipping Label for an Insured Package at a Normal Post Office

During the second half of this year, the Postal Service will be implementing the shipping labels with the bar code for use on both the regular and insured packages at all other post offices. The labels for the regular packages have a white background with black print, and the labels for the insured packages have a red background with black print.

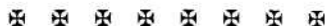
The regular post office shipping label contains the following information about the shipment:

- a) the ZIP code and name of the post office
- b) the sequential number of the shipment
- c) the type of shipment (B - regular (Fig. 2), V - insured (Fig. 3))
- d) the bar code
- e) the alphanumeric transcription of the bar code, as follows:
 - 2 bars -- denote the type of the shipment (BX - regular, VX - insured)

- 5 bars -- the ZIP code of the submitting post office
- 5 bars -- the sequential number of the shipment
- 1 bar - the control number

For non-automation submitted shipments, the shipping label will consist of two parts. The lower portion (which is to be pasted on the dispatch note) shows the shipping number of the package, and the ZIP code and name of the sending post office.

For automation submitted shipments, the shipping labels will consist of only one part. The required information on the dispatch note will be printed by automation.



RETURN YOUR EXTRA *SPECIALIST*s TO SOCIETY

by Richard Palaschak

Four years ago the Society's Board of Directors authorized the Librarian to sell loose back issues of the *SPECIALIST* to Society members at reduced prices. This initiative has been very popular, particularly with our new members. During these four years the Society has sold over 2,300 issues. We've also donated over 700 issues to Philatelic Libraries in the U.S. and several foreign countries in order to promote interest in Czechoslovak philately and to improve accessibility to our Society's publication.

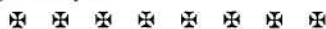
Now, however, the Society lacks extra copies of many issues.

For many years extra copies of the *SPECIALIST* were provided to Directors and Patron members for subsequent distribution at local stamp shows/clubs in an effort to generate interest in Czechoslovak philately and membership in our Society.

If any of our members have extra issues of the *SPECIALIST*, please consider returning them to the Society Librarian. We will continue to redistribute them through sales to members and donations to Philatelic Libraries.

The revenues generated by these sales have permitted the Society to purchase additional philatelic books for our Library and to bind many older periodicals related to Czechoslovak philately -- thereby preserving them for use by our members in the future.

I look forward to hearing from you.



SPECIALIST INDEX ERRORS

A little over a year and a half ago the Society published the *SPECIALIST* Cumulative Index: 1939-1992 by Anne Vondra. Readers have reported it to be an extremely valuable tool in doing research.

It has seen brisk sales. As such, enough members have had a chance now to use it to such an extent that a few errors in the citations have begun to be reported. This is not surprising in view of the extreme technical nature of the citations involved.

We are requesting that anyone discovering an error in a citation please drop a post card to the editor of the *SPECIALIST*. These errors will be accumulated and reported out in a future issue of the *SPECIALIST* so that all readers can make the appropriate corrections in their Index volumes.

Obituary

ING. FRANTIŠEK HUTYRA
1930-1998

It happened on March 14th -- a week after he reached his 68th birthday -- when with sudden severity, he was struck with an illness that he was unable to resist.

All who knew him and worked with him lost a self-sacrificing, reliable friend and an outstanding philatelist. His philatelic beginnings go back twenty five years to when he began his work with the former Commission for Czechoslovak Stamps of the Union of Czechoslovak Philatelists.

During his service with the Commission, he became an accredited judge and an active exhibitor. He participated intensively in the activities of the section for Czechoslovak forerunners, and later took part in the organizations concerned with territorial philately. It was these activities which created in him an interest in the stamps of Austria.

The principal organs of the Union of Czechoslovak and later Czech Philatelists elected him in 1989 to membership in their executive committee. For several years he headed the Organization of Collectors of Czechoslovak Stamps and participated in the professional commissions of the Ministry of Communications and the Czech Post in the area of stamp issuing policies and activities.

His publication activities were extensive. He participated in the writing of the Specialized Catalogue of Czechoslovak Postage Stamps (1978) and played a major authorship role in the creation of the Specialized Handbook of Czechoslovak Stamps and Postal Stationery (1988). We find his name associated with virtually every catalogue published by the Organization of Collectors, reflecting his tireless efforts and enthusiasm.

Members of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately knew him as an active supporter and friend, mainly through personal contact during his two visits to the United States in recent years. He supported our activities in his function as Chairman of the Commission for Czechoslovak Stamps, but most notably by being personally in charge of distributing the *SPECIALIST* to our members in the Czech Republic.

His contributions to philately will be lasting. At this time we would merely like to remind our readers that we have lost a valued friend. We will think of him often, for we shall miss him. Honor to his memory!

František Hutyra is survived by his wife Marie (who visited the United States with him on his second visit) and his daughter, Michaela Lišková. Services took place within a private family circle.



Pavel Pittermann
trans. by Henry Hahn

PRAGA 98 HOSPITALITY TABLE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

*****This is an urgent appeal for volunteers to staff the Society's hospitality table at the upcoming PRAGA 98 International Stamp Exhibition.*****

The Society's participation at PRAGA 98 is gradually taking shape. Our Society has been fortunate in acquiring its own hospitality table for the duration of the PRAGA 98 show. This is the first time ever that our Society will have a hospitality table at one of Prague's International Shows.

But the hospitality table is only as good as the effort and material put into it. It will involve some intricate logistics to make the function a success. As former editor of the SPECIALIST, I now have the honor of chairing the effort to manage this table.

We plan to have booklets, pamphlets and periodicals, including back issues of our SPECIALIST, on display and for sale through our librarian, Richard Palaschak. Our "customers" will be philatelists and visitors from all over the world.

Then, there is the responsibility to see that the table is adequately staffed at all times. This means that we need volunteers who will donate a given number of hours of their time on a specified day to "man" the table. The Society needs people to sit at our table and converse with those who are interested and curious enough to come and spend a few moments to learn more about our organization, our publications and our activities. The dates and hours of the show are as follows:

Thursday, Sept. 10	11 a.m. to 6 p.m. (7 hours)
Friday, Sept. 11	9 a.m. to 6 p.m. (9 hours)
Saturday, Sept 12	9 a.m. to 6 p.m. (9 hours)
Sunday, Sept. 13	9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (6 hours)

A cursory review of this schedule will disclose that the Show will be open a total of just over 30 hours. If a member were to devote 3 hours to a single session of being at the table to discuss the Society and the material on display with passing visitors, then it would take ten members to staff the table for the duration of the Show. But a better approach is to have not one, but two people manning the table at all times. This would require 20 members to do the job right. Those who will be attending the Show with their spouses or friends might wish to volunteer jointly with them for this venture.

Now let me take this one step further. If, instead of 20 members volunteering their time, we had 30 members to sign up, then we could reduce each session to only 2 hours. Thus, the burden could be spread around to a greater number of volunteers, each of which would only give up a shorter period of their PRAGA time.

I call upon all members and their spouses who plan to attend this important event to let me know that they will volunteer for a maximum of 3 hours to spend at our table. Hopefully we can reduce this to fewer hours apiece if a sizeable number of members sign up. Please write to:

Mirko Vondra
2363 McCleary Drive
Chambersburg, PA 17201
or call me at (717) 263-5523.

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

If you are willing to serve, please specify which date and what time of day (morning or afternoon) you would prefer. Then, give me a second choice of dates and time in the event more than two people volunteer for the same period of time. In addition, please indicate whether you speak or understand Czech or Slovak. One of the two persons serving at any given time should be somewhat familiar with one of those languages.

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ADVERTISING AND PUBLICITY MANAGER

Your Society needs your help!

We are looking for a member to take on the responsibility of being our Advertising and Publicity Manager. The new ad manager would be taking over an existing operation which has been running successfully for the past four years.

The primary functions of the ad manager are two fold:

1. To scour the philatelic world to find advertisers for the *SPECIALIST*.
2. To design and to place ads in other appropriate publications which would promote our Society and would seek new members.

Ideally the person would have some experience in either small business or advertising. In addition, he/she would need to be comfortable in corresponding with businesses. The time involvement is estimated to be about 10 hours per month. There is no requirement to be able to read or write Czech. This person would be on the editorial staff of the *SPECIALIST*.

If you would like to help your Society with this position or would like some more information about it, contact our editor, Lou Svoboda (see page 2 for address, etc.).

✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠

LOCAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

A group of Czechoslovak area collectors meet regularly in Orange County, California. New persons are always welcome. For information, please call or leave a message for:

Frank Vogel, P. O. Box 11201, Santa Ana, CA 92711
(714) 542-3002, e-mail: fvogelca@aol.com

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SALES CIRCUIT

MATERIAL NEEDED! The SCP Sales Circuit is unusually low on offerings to its members at this time. Our members seek all types of philatelic related material -- stamps, covers, cards, booklets, philatelic postal history, proofs, etc. Why not offer some of that material you have been "accumulating" and generate some cash for your own future purchases? Contact Alan Hoover, Sales Circuit Manager, for more information at the address on page 2 of this issue or e-mail to: alan.hoover@boeing.com.

New Issues

**1998 ISSUE PLAN
FOR SLOVAK REPUBLIC STAMPS**

Date of Issue	Name of Issue	Number in set	Value Sk
Jan 1	5th Anniversary of Founding of Slovak Rep	1	4
Jan 19	Winter Olympic Games -- Nagano	1	19
Jan 19	Personalities	3	
	- Martin Rázus		4
	- Ján Smrek		4
	- Jozef Škultéty		4
Mar 3	Folk Traditions	1	3
Mar 3	Splendors of Our Homeland	3	
	- Budatín		6
	- Krásna Horka		11
	- Nitra - Archaeological Findings		18
May 5	EUROPA - Folk Wedding	1	12
May 5	Clergyman Renovation	1	16
Jun 1	Children Center	1	3
Jun 1	Anniversary of Revolt in Kragujevac	1	3
Jun 1	Slovak Uprising 1848-9	1	4
Aug 20	Historical Railways and Locomotives	3	4,10
			15
Sep 14	Trnava - definitive	1	5
Sep 14	Nature Protection - Fish	3	4,11
			16
Sep 14	Religious Holiday of Virgin Mary	1	18
Oct 5	Ecotopfilm - 25th Volume	1	4
Oct 15	Art on Stamps	2	
	- Martin Benka		10
	- Ludovít Fulla		12
Nov 3	Prešov - definitive	1	10
Nov 3	Christmas 98	1	3
Dec 18	Stamp Day - History of Post	1	4

[Ed. Note: Thanks to Frank Garancovsky]

CZECH REPUBLIC

1. On January 22, 1998, the Ministry of Transport and Communications of the Czech Republic issued a 4.60 Kč definitive stamp entitled "President of the Republic Václav Havel" (Fig. 1). The red, green and black stamp was issued on the occasion of the re-election of Václav Havel to the presidency of the Czech Republic. The graphic artist for this issue was Jiří Rathouský, while the engraving was done by Miloš Ondráček. The stamp was produced



Fig. 1

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess printing combined with photogravure in sheets of 100 pieces. No FDC was issued.



Fig. 2

2. On February 25, 1998, the Ministry issued an 8 Kč stamp commemorating the occasion of the World Skibob Championship to take place in Špindlerův Mlýn from 9 - 15 March, 1998 (Fig. 2). This dark blue, yellow, red, and light blue stamp shows a drawing depicting a competitor in the slalom race. The graphic design was by Kryštof Krejča, and the engraving work was done by Miloš Ondráček. The stamp was produced by the Post Printing House in Prague using rotary recess printing combined with photogravure in

sheets of 50 pieces. A FDC in dark blue depicts a scene from the race on an uneven track surface.

3. On February 25, 1998, the Ministry issued a commemorative souvenir sheet entitled "History of Exhibitions -- PRAGA 1998" (Fig. 3). The souvenir sheet promotes the International Postage Stamp Exhibition PRAGA 1998 to take place from 10 - 13 September, 1998, and commemorates 60 years since the first exhibition, PRAGA 1938. It bears two copies of the engraver's transposition of the stamp "Vyšehrad" by J. C. Vondrouš and K. Seizinger from 1938 with new denomination of 30 Kč. Between the stamps is the logo of the PRAGA 1998 exhibition. The stamps and the logo are in dark blue, while the text reading "THE PRAGA 1998 INTERNATIONAL POSTAGE STAMP



Fig. 3

EXHIBITION" (in Czech) and the years "1938 - 1998" are in red. The graphic design as well as engraving was done by Bedřich Housa. The souvenir sheet was produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by recess print from flat plates combined with offset. A FDC in red bears the engraver's transposition of the stamp "Hradčany" by J. C. Vondrouš and K. Seizinger from 1938.



Fig. 4

4. On March 25, 1998, the Ministry issued a 4.60 Kč stamp commemorating the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Ondřejov Observatory (Fig. 4). The observatory was built by Josef Frič, astronomer and industrialist in 1898-1905. In 1928 it was donated to Charles University. In its day it was one of the world's most important observatories, and even today, it is the most important one in the Czech Republic. The black, yellow, and red stamp shows the historical conservatory building on the left, the

dome housing the 2 meter telescope on the right, and a stylized sun in the middle. Graphic design was by Zdeněk Mézl, with the engraving being done by Josef Herčík. It was printed by the Post Printing House in Prague by rotary recess printing combined with photogravure in sheets of 50. A FDC in black shows a comic drawing of an astronomical observation and, in the corner, the coat-of-arms of Ondřejov.

5. On March 25, 1998, the Ministry issued a 4 Kč stamp commemorating Easter (Fig. 5). The yellow, red, and green stamp shows a chick (sitting in an eggshell) which is decorated in traditional Easter egg ornamental fashion. Anna Khunová did the graphic design, while Bedřich Housa was the engraver. The stamp was produced by the Post Printing House of Prague by rotary recess printing combined with photogravure in sheets of 50. A FDC in light brown displays three willow twigs with not only leaves and buds, but also Easter eggs and pussy willows.



Fig. 5

6. On April 1, 1998, the Ministry issued a commemorative souvenir sheet with three stamps se-tenant entitled "Prague of Charles IV" (Fig. 6). Charles IV -- Czech King and Holy Roman Emperor from the Luxembourg Dynasty -- was one of the most important European rulers of the Middle Ages. His seat was in Prague, and he took extraordinary care of the city. The grey-blue, blue-grey, and dark red souvenir sheet commemorates the 650th anniversary of the founding of Charles University and Prague's New Town as well as the unique building -- St. Vitus Cathedral. The 15 Kč stamp depicts a stylized pointed arch including two hands enclosing a commemorative seal of Charles University. The 22 Kč stamp shows a profile of Charles IV which melds into a plan of the New Town. The 23 Kč issue depicts a groin arch with pier from St. Vitus Cathedral. The graphic designs were by Oldřich Kulhánek, and the engraving was by Miloš Ondráček. The souvenir sheet was printed by the Post Printing House of Prague by recess printing from flat plates. There are three FDCs, all in red-



Fig. 6

violet. The 15 Kč -- shows a symbol of education (an open book on a stand) with the initials KU next to it, and under them is "CHARLES UNIVERSITY 650" and the years "1348 1998". The 22 Kč -- shows the scheme of the newly-founded town with the initial K and the text "PRAGUE'S NEW TOWN 650 YEARS". The 23 Kč -- shows a portrait of the master-builder Petr Parler (1332/3 - 1399) with elements of gothic architecture.

Postal Stationery

7. On January 22, 1998, the Ministry issued a commemorative cover for "President of the Republic Václav Havel" (Fig. 7). The 4.60 Kč imprinted stamp depicts the same image and is in the same colors as that of the stamp issued the same date to

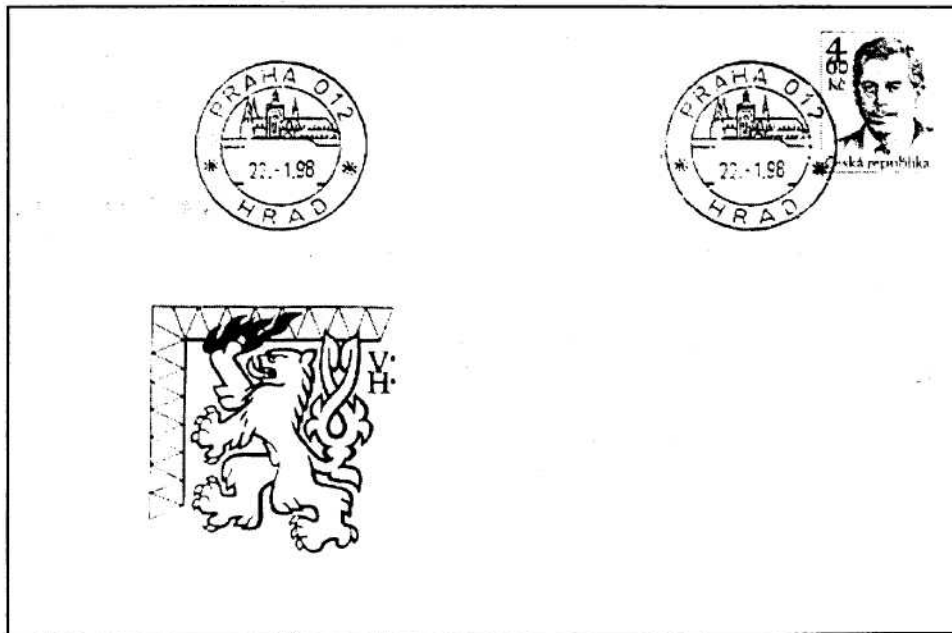


Fig. 7

commemorate the re-election of President Václav Havel. On the left of the cover is depicted in red a Czech lion with a torch and the initials V.H. As with the stamp, the graphic designer was Jiří Rathouský, and the engraver was Miloš Ondráček.

SLOVAKIA

by F. Garancovsky and G. M. van Zanten

8. On January 1, 1998, the Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications issued a multicolored 4 Sk stamp entitled "Five Years of Slovak Republic" (Fig. 8). The central part of the design shows the dominant architectural landmarks of Bratislava (capital of the Slovak Republic). On the left and right



Fig. 8

sides are shown the coats of arms of the 8 district towns -- Bratislava, Trnava, Trenčín, Nitra, Žilina, Banská Bystrica, Prešov, and Košice. The graphic design was by Peter Augustovič with engraving by František Horniak. It was printed by the Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague, using rotary recess printing in combination with recess printing in sheets of 25 pieces. A FDC in dark blue shows a view of Mount Kriváň as well as archaeological artifacts from the times of the

Great Moravian Empire, including the hilt of a sword from the magnate of Blatnica. It is canceled in Bratislava.

9. On January 19, 1998, the Ministry issued a 19 Sk stamp commemorating the "Winter Olympic Games Nagano 1998" (Fig. 9). The multicolored stamp depicts the Olympic rings and a hockey player in the motion of firing a puck. The designer was Igor Piačka, engraving was by Bohumil Šneider. It was printed by the Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague, using rotary recess printing in combination with recess printing in sheets of 50. A FDC in gray-blue shows a scene from a hockey match and carries a cancel from Bratislava.



Fig. 9

10. On January 19, 1998, the Ministry issued three multicolored 4 Sk stamps from the "Personalities" series (Fig. 10). All three stamps were produced by the Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague, using rotary recess printing in combination with recess printing in sheets of 50 pieces. All three stamps were graphically modified by Martin Činovsky to form a set.

- JÁN SMREK, 1898 - 1982: depicts a portrait of Smrek along with a menage of trees, flowers, birds, an open book, pair of lips and an eye. Smrek's real name was Čietek. He

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

was a poet, translator, journalist, and cultural organizer. The design was by Marian Čapka, engraving by Rudolf Cigánik. A FDC in green-brown shows a motif from Smrek's poetry. It is canceled in Modra.



Fig. 10

- JOZEF ŠKULTÉTY, 1853 - 1948: depicts a portrait of Škultéty along with the emblem of Slovakia (double bared cross) sitting atop the Slovak Cultural Society building. Škultéty was a literary critic, historian, linguist, translator, and journalist. Jozef Baláž was the designer, and Martin Činovský did the engraving. A FDC in gray-blue depicts a motif of Škultéty's works along with a reproduction of his signature.

- MARTIN RÁZUS, 1888 - 1937: depicts a portrait of Rázus along with a rock cliff, trees, and a town in the background. Rázus was a Lutheran pastor, writer, journalist, and politician. The design was by Jan Trojan, and engraving by František Horniak. A FDC in black shows a motif of Rázus' works and carries a cancel from Liptovský Mikuláš.

11. On March 3, 1998, the Ministry issued a 3 Sk commemorative stamp in the "Folk Traditions" series entitled "The Banishing of Moraine" (Fig. 11). The multicolored stamp depicts the



Fig. 12

banishing (throwing out) of the Morena (Moraine) -- the Slavonic Pagan Goddess of Winter. The ceremony is usually performed by a children's folk ensemble

(Fig. 12). [See also the March 26, 1975 issue on Czech & Slovak Folk Costumes. The 2 Kčs value of that set (Sc. 1999/Pof. 2133) depicts "The Death Effigy -- The Drowning of Morena".] Katarína Ševellová was the designer, and Rudolf Cigánik did the engraving. Printing was by the Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague, using rotary recess printing in combination with recess printing in sheets of 50 stamps. The FDC in dark blue shows a couple of young people in national costume. The cancel is from Bratislava.



Fig. 11



Fig. 13

12. On March 3, 1998, the Ministry issued a set of three multicolored stamps in the "Splendors of Our Homeland" series with a theme of Slovak castles. The 6 Sk and 11 Sk stamps were printed in sheets of 50 pieces (Fig. 13). The 18 Sk stamp was printed as a perforated part of a miniature sheet (Fig. 14). All three were printed by the Postal Stationery Printing House, Prague. The first two used rotary recess printing in combination with recess printing, while the miniature sheet was done using recess printing from flat plates in combination with 4-color offset printing.

- The 6 Sk issue shows Budatín castle. This castle lies at the confluence of the Kysúca and Vah rivers. The origin of this later reconstructed castle goes back to the 13th century. The design and engraving of this issue was by Martin Činovský. A

FDC in dark brown shows the castle courtyard and is canceled in Žilina.

- The 11 Sk issue shows Krásna Hôrka castle. Krásna Hôrka is a medieval castle in the eastern part of the Slovak Ore Mountains, mentioned for the first time in 1333. It's museum exhibitions are visited by large numbers of people. Again, the design and engraving were by Martin Činovský. A FDC in dark green shows the castle courtyard and is canceled in Krásnohorské Podhradie.

- The 18 Sk issue on a miniature sheet shows the castle at Nitra. The stamp is surrounded by illustrations of archaeological artifacts found at sites around Nitra. Centered at the bottom is a logo for the stamp exhibition "NITRAFILA". This castle was built in the 11th century. Nitra was once occupied by a Great Moravian castle complex where formerly (about the year 830) the Slavonic Prince Pribina had the first historically known church in the Czech lands built. The designer was Karol Felix, and the engraver was František Horniak. A FDC in grey-blue depicts the statue "Atlanta" and bears a cancel from Nitra.



Fig. 14

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Letters to the Editor

1. Nazdar Ludviku:

I received my SPECIALIST's for 1997 on Saturday, and immediately sat down to read them all through and through. To my surprise I discovered an article by Peter Kleskovic from New Jersey. We knew each other as boys in Prague, and then through 3 years of good times and bad in emigrant camps in Germany.

In the Jul/Aug issue I saw the article "Prague bars Masaryk stamps" which reminded me of the darkest times of the Communist oppression. I am sending you an example of a returned cover which represents the postal persecutions of those times (Fig. 1).

NAZDAR!
George Srb

[Ed. Note:
George, one
of our
newer
members
having
joined late
in 1997,
received all
of that
year's issues
at one time.]

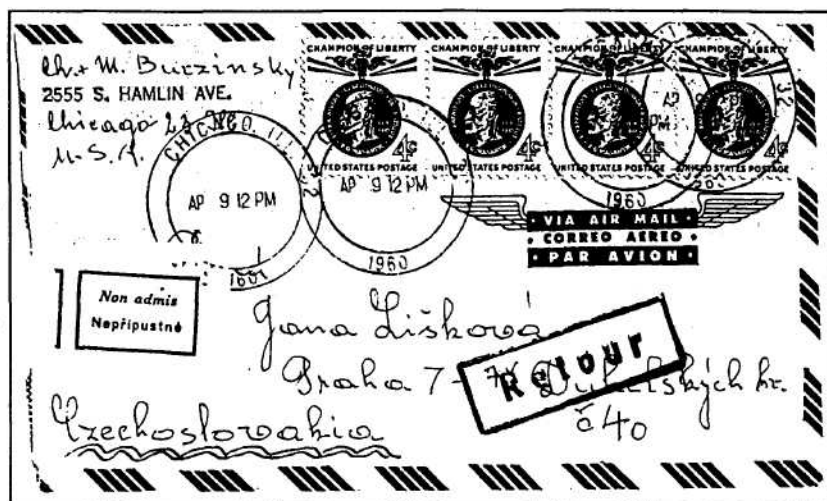


Fig. 1

2. Dear Lou:

While rummaging around in a dealer's \$1 box, I came across this postcard (Fig. 2). It looked familiar and interesting, so I bought it.

When I got home, I went back to my previous SPECIALISTs and discovered that it was an example of the special Austrian 60th Jubilee postal card of 1908 that was put out for the 1908 Exhibition in Prague. It was described in Salvatore Rizza's article in the Jul/Aug 1997 issue.

After doing some research the story of this card came to light. The most interesting aspect of it is that it was never used in the Austro-Hungarian empire at all! It seems that a friend apparently bought the card on a trip to Prague. He took it back to Breslau (then in German Silesia, now Wroclaw in Poland), put a German 5 Pf stamp on it, and sent it to a friend "for your postal stationery collection" in Landeshut (then also in German Silesia, now Kamienna Gora in Poland). The 5 Pf stamp was necessary because



Fig. 2

the imprinted Austrian 5h postage was not valid for use in German Silesia -- in fact, the postal clerk should have used a blue pencil or crayon to strike out the Austrian imprinted postage.

This card is not a great rarity, but after researching it, it tells an interesting story.

Sincerely,
Kivdul Adobovs

3. Dear Lou:

Recently I received my copy of the latest Phillips International Stamp Auction catalog. In it there is a very fine photo of the late Alec Page along with an interesting biographical sketch. That is the best part of the catalog.

Three pages in the catalog describe the 34 lots that comprised "The Alec Page Collection of Czechoslovakia". I might have bid on one or two of these lots had I only known what specifically is in them and in what condition (mint, used, hinged, unhinged, etc.). Merely to say there are over 100 pieces in one lot, some used, some unused, is information that is totally useless. What's more, not a single illustration is shown for any item in any of the 34 lots.

Obviously this catalog is geared to the collector who personally attends the auction and can physically view the collection. This is most unfortunate. Consider an auction catalog published by any of the Czech Republic's auction houses, and you will generally find in it everything one needs to know about the lot being offered for sale. The Phillips catalog has made me appreciate the Czech catalogs so much more.

Yours truly,
Mirko Vondra

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

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217 Hazel Avenue ■ Westfield, NJ 07090

MAY/JUNE 1998



SOCIETY
FOR
CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELY
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP



To: R. T. Cossaboom
Box 25332
Scott AFB, IL 62225-0332

Date: _____

I hereby apply for membership in the Society for Czechoslovak Philately, Inc and, if approved, agree to abide by the Society's By-Laws. (Check one of the following:)

_____ \$18.00 for annual dues/Regular Membership. This includes a one-year subscription to the Czechoslovak Specialist.

_____ \$30.00 for annual dues/Patron Membership. This includes a one-year subscription to the Czechoslovak Specialist and a bound volume of all issues for the subscription year.

_____ \$3.00 for annual dues/Youth Membership. Limited to persons under 18 years of age. (Please list Date of Birth)

Foreign members residing outside the U.S., please add
_____ \$5.00 for surface mailing. _____ \$10.00 for airmail delivery

Total enclosed: _____
Remit by money order or check drawn on a U.S. bank and payable to the Society. Do not send cash or stamps.

PLEASE PRINT:

Name: _____ Age: _____

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e-mail: _____

Collecting Interests: _____

Membership in other societies: _____

How did you learn of the Society: _____

Applicant's Signature: _____

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