



THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



(USPS 808300)

Official Bi-Monthly Journal of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately,
an Incorporated Non-Profit Organization
Winner of Numerous Philatelic Literature Awards

A.P.S. Unit 18

ISSN: 0526-5843

Vol. 60

NOVEMBER /DECEMBER 1998

No. 6, Whole No. 552

NOMINATIONS COMING UP

The Society Bylaws provide that a Board of Directors comprising 15 members shall govern the SCP. This Board is divided into three groups of five members, each serving a term of six years. The Bylaws further require that the terms of office expire alternately every two years. Those whose terms of office expire are nevertheless eligible for reelection.

Serving our Society as a Director is both a serious responsibility and an honor. The Board conducts all of the Society business including election of officers. The Board normally meets twice each year, one of which is held at the time and place of our national convention and show; but some of its business is handled through the mails.

The following five Directors will have their terms expire in 1999: Tom Cossaboom, Henry Hahn, Savoy Horvath, Ludvik Svoboda, and Mirko Vondra. Continuing on as Directors are: Charles Rehman, Frank Garancovsky, Alan Hoover, Robert Koschak, Frederick Lawrence, Edwin Lehecka, John Miskevich, Richard Palaschak, Jaroslav Verner, and Kimber Wald.

Any Society member in good standing is eligible for nomination and election to the Board. But in order to be elected (or reelected as the case may be), a member must first be nominated by two other members. To prepare our members for this upcoming election, complete instructions and the form for nominating proposed Directors will be contained in the Jan/Feb 1999 issue.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ARTICLES	Author	Page
1. Nominations Coming Up	Ludvik Svoboda	1
2. Currency Control/Examination of Mail in Bohemia & Moravia, 1939	John Miskevich	3
3. US and Society Exhibits at PRAGA '98	Henry Hahn	14
4. PRAGA 98: The Report	Jaroslav Verner	18
5. A 'Foreign' Critics View of PRAGA 98	Mirko Vondra	23
6. Kroměříž	Miloslav Vlček	27
7. The Scarcest Stamps of Czechoslovakia	Hans Klein	33
COLUMNS		
8. Philatelic News and Views	(various)	32
9. New Issues	(various)	35
10. Letters to the Editor	(various)	38

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Here is a list of all benefits to which S.C.P. members in good standing are entitled:

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.
3. A Society library is housed with Richard Palaschak, librarian. For inquiries on borrowing books, buying past SPECIALISTS or making book donations, contact Rich Palaschak, 4050 Carbury Court, Chantilly, VA 20151-2613.
4. An expertization committee operates under the direction of Ludvik Z. Svoboda. Depending on the nature or substance of the item to be expertized, he will direct you to the appropriate source for expertization. Please contact, Ludvik Z. Svoboda, 4766 S. Helena Way, Aurora, CO 80015, or e-mail: Lsvoboda1@aol.com.
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: Lsvoboda1@aol.com.

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

(ISSN 0526-5843)

Official Journal of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately, Inc.

A.P.S. Unit 18

VOL. 60

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1998

No. 6, Whole No. 552

Published bi-monthly - \$18.00 per year

Periodical Paid at Chambersburg, PA 17201

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST,

2363 McCleary Drive, Chambersburg, PA 17201

Web Site: www.erols.com/sibpost

Editorial Staff

Managing Editor: Lou Svoboda, 4766 South Helena Way, Aurora, CO 80015
e-mail: Lsvoboda1@aol.com FAX: 303-627-9688

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

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

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

Special Projects Ed.: Phillips Freer, Apartado Postal 646, Oaxaca, Oax, 68000, Mex.

Advertising Manager: Lou Svoboda (Address Above)

Elected Officers

President: Jaroslav Verner, 8602 Ewing Drive, Bethesda, MD 20817

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

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

Treasurer: Edwin Lehecka, 217 Hazel Ave., Westfield, NJ 07090

Appointed Officers

Book Sales: Edwin Lehecka, 217 Hazel Ave., Westfield, NJ 07090

Circuit Man.: H. Alan Hoover, 6070 Poplar Spring Dr. Norcross, GA 30092

Expertizing Chrm.: Ludvik Svoboda, 4766 South Helena Way, Aurora, Co 80015

Librarian: Richard Palaschak, 4050 Carbury Ct., Chantilly, VA 20151-2613

APS Representative: Henry Hahn, 2936 Rosemoor Lane, Fairfax, VA 22031

*All officers and board members serve the Society voluntarily
and without compensation.*

CURRENCY CONTROL AND THE EXAMINATION OF MAIL IN BOHEMIA & MORAVIA DURING 1939

by John Miskevich

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the sacrifice of a small nation for the convenience of large nations at Munich. The location of the Czechs in Europe has always been geographically and historically that of a small country in a valuable borderland between East and West. While the Poles have been squeezed on two sides by powerful neighbors, the Czechs have faced recurrent confrontation only with the Germans -- but on three sides. As a result, the Czechs since the Middle Ages have alternately sustained independence and experienced incorporation within a larger German-dominated political entity. On March 15, 1939 the historic lands of Bohemia and Moravia (Čechy a Morava) once again passed entirely into the German orbit.

German military authorities ruled Bohemia and Moravia until April 16, 1939 when personnel of the German protectorate assumed control. As the first non-German nation to be subjugated by the Nazis, the Czechs were in a unique position. The German plan was that the Czechs should be treated in a conciliatory manner although with great strictness. The regime in Bohemia & Moravia was the first embodiment of the German concept of a protectorate, and everything was to be avoided that might deter other nations from someday expressing the desire to be added to the German Empire as protectorates. In internal matters German interference with the concurrent Czech national government was relatively limited until the outbreak of the Second World War¹. The extent to which the Nazis allowed Czech officials to govern in 1939 -- under rigorous supervision to be sure -- would later be unparalleled in other countries. This German formulation likewise applied to the inspection of mail for currency control purposes. Bank notes would not be permitted to be sent out of the Protectorate by means of the postal system. It was a regulatory task permitted to be carried forth by Czech postal and customs officials and not by Germans.

Origins of Currency Control Examination in the Protectorate

During the 1930s Germany had carried forth a campaign for economic self-sufficiency. The foreign trade of Germany was strictly controlled and importation was discouraged except for the purchase of necessary raw materials as it was intended that Germany should become stronger and less susceptible to naval blockade during wartime. A concomitant of these aims was the manipulation of the currency and the prevention of any excess exportation of Marks (units of currency) from Germany. Every Mark that left Germany had to have a usage to which it would be put approved by a branch of the Foreign Ministry, and extreme penalties were enacted for the evasion of these laws.

In Germany, mail was opened to combat the smuggling of currency out of the country. If, while sorting mail to addresses outside Germany, a postal clerk discerned a thick private envelope, he might forward it to be opened at a control office. If there were no bank notes found inside the letter, the envelope would be sealed with a strip of vertically perforated control labels and forwarded back into the mail stream for delivery. If the envelope contained currency, the act could cost the sender a prison term.

Prior to annexation Czechoslovakia had also maintained a currency control watch over the mails as a part of the customs administration. Laws relating to the sending of currency through the mail were not enforced in a pervasive manner as

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

was the case in Nazi Germany. However, under the German Protectorate, mail began to be examined in ever greater volume during the Spring and Summer of 1939. All the same, Czech postal administration and customs offices continued to perform the function until the outbreak of the Second World War. Only at this point did German postal administrators and the Geheime Staatspolizei (German secret state police), known under the acronym GESTAPO, take over². It was then that the German model relating to currency control began to operate in full force within the Protectorate.

It must be noted that the Germans prudently handled the issue of a customs union between Germany and the Protectorate which was a necessary first step towards economic incorporation. Because of the overvaluation of the German Reichsmark in relation to the Czechoslovak Koruna the abolition of the customs frontier would only force prices up to adjust to the higher German level. The cost of production would increase so as to seriously impair the competitive power of Protectorate industry resulting in a reduction of exports. A customs union would undermine the ability of Czech businessmen to earn foreign exchange which the Nazis considered highly desirable³.

So, only belatedly, on Oct. 1, 1940, did the Protectorate become part of the German customs administration [Reichsgesetzblatt (German Law Gazette), I, page 1238, edict of September 16, 1940]⁴. In addition, currency restraints with Germany (defined by a law of June 23, 1939) also did not fall until October 1, 1940⁵.

Currency Control Examination Labels

Shown at Figure 1 are three varieties of currency control sealing tapes and labels utilized in the Protectorate. The first was applied at PRAHA 7 on March 28, 1939 and appears on the reverse of a cover addressed to Germany. The tape, printed in purple, is of pre-annexation variety reading Úředně otevřeno kontrolou devisovou/Ouvert d'office pour le contrôle des devises (Opened by the Office for the Control of the Currency), bilingual in Czech and French. The sealing shows the dated postmark of the post office, that



Fig. 1a

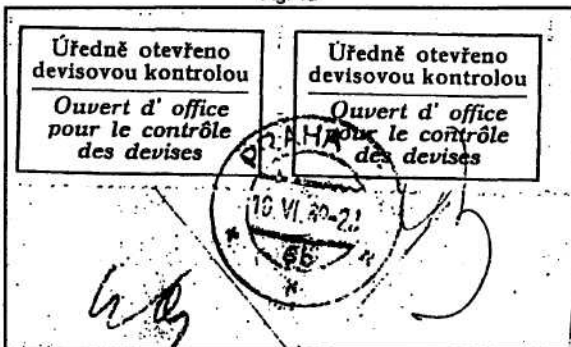


Fig. 1b

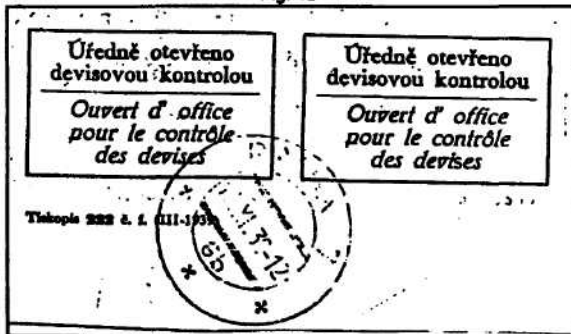


Fig. 1c.

an examination ensued, and the monogram of the examining official(s).

The second variety features a pair of perforated glued sealing labels from an envelope addressed to New York and posted at PRAHA 7 on June 19, 1939. The text is nearly identical to the above but is in black on non-chalky white paper. The rectangular frame printed on the label measures 24mm by 40mm.

The third variety is from a cover posted at IVANČICE on November 9, 1939 and addressed to Chicago. The PRAHA 7 postmark tying the currency control label to the cover was applied two days later. The closing labels were manufactured in sheets for customs officials. To the left on the bottom margin you find the printing information. The latest date known to exist that has been confirmed is March 1939 -- Tiskopis 222 č.f. (III. 1939). A February printing is also said to exist, but I have never seen such a margin inscription. The serif type used on the label is smaller in size than in the prior example (and also note the "f" in the word "office"). Examined covers of this kind with well struck town cancels tied to currency control labels are not abundant. Otherwise, these kinds of covers are common.

The perforated currency control sealing labels displayed are not of German origin but products of the Czechoslovak "Second Republic" [sic]. However, I do not believe that these labels were ever put to use prior to March 15, 1939. When German personnel arrived in September 1939 to conduct currency control examination they also utilized these already available closing labels although this was not the usual German practice when postal personnel were deployed in an occupied country.

Handstamps of the Customs Offices

Currency control examination offices utilized circular handstamps of about 20mm in diameter with the letters "D.K." standing for Devisová Kontrola (currency

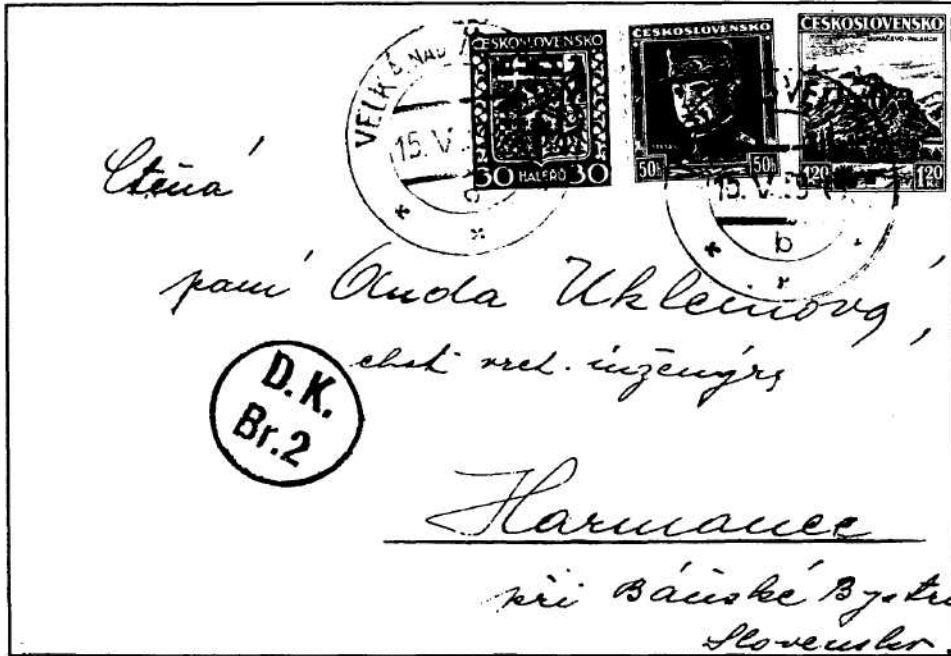


Fig. 2

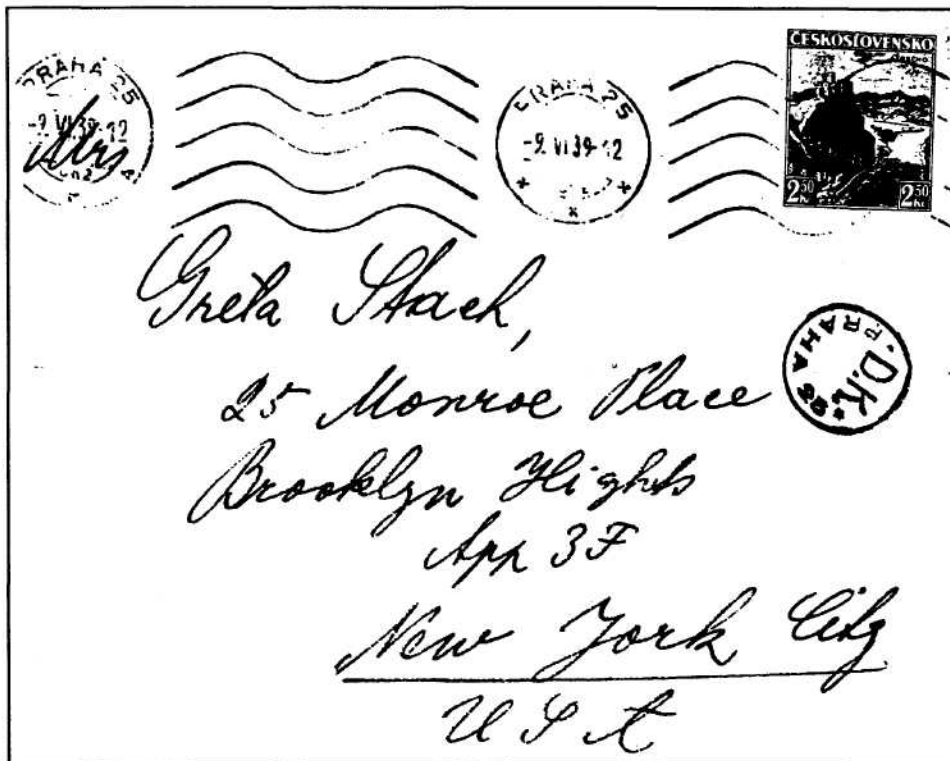


Fig. 3

control). In the German language the letters "D.K." can also stand for Devisenkontrolle. Additionally, the markings contain the names of post offices from where the mail was forwarded spelled out or in abbreviated form. The color of the handstamp is always a shade of blue, violet, or purple.

Illustrated at Figure 2 is a cover posted May 15, 1939 from VELKÁ nad VELIČKOU. The "Br" in the circle stands for Brno or Brunn (which is the German name for the city). At Figure 3 is a cover having been mailed June 2, 1939 and exhibiting a PRAHA 25 currency control mark. Shown at Figure 4 is a card sent from PILSEN/PLZEN on December 13, 1939 with a PRAHA 7 monitoring handstamp. Notice the use of a variety of Czechoslovak stamps even though Germany had annexed the lands in March. Many stamps of Czechoslovakia not already withdrawn and demonetized prior to March 15 continued to be valid for postage in the Protectorate as late as December 1939. The stamps, when they are found on cover, command a premium. They are considered forerunners on the stamps of Bohemia & Moravia when used prior to July 15, 1939 and mixed-frank period stamps until December.

The "D.K." handstamps exhibited in Figure 5 are the balance known to me. "D.K." currency control marks from Plzen, Olomouc, Hradec Králové, and Přerov are not often seen on cover, because these cities each processed a lesser volume of mail than Brno or Praha. Circular currency control handstamps will be found on the face of envelopes and on the stamped side of postcards. In addition, many covers will also bear the sealing labels. If you have a cover that has a circular handstamp of a

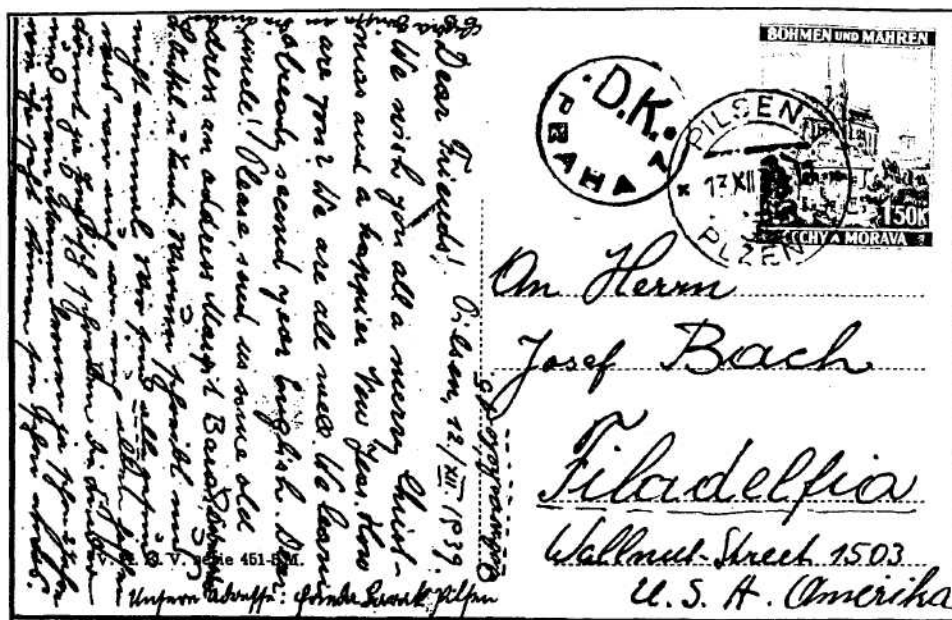


Fig. 4

currency control examination office different from the ones shown in this article, please contact the editor.

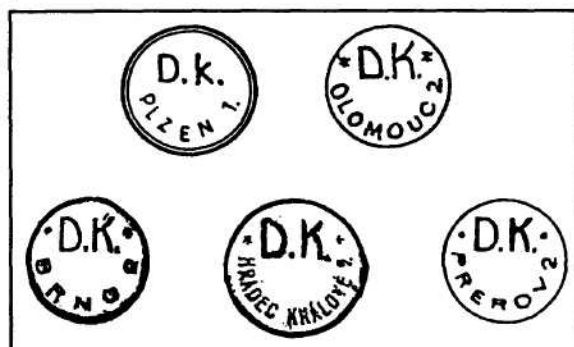


Fig. 5

Straight-line currency control handstamps are also indigenous to the Protectorate. Markings known to me appear in Figure 6. Some occur in black and others in blue, and they are scarce. If you have a cover with these or any straight-line currency control handstamp, please send a photocopy and description to the editor.

Some of the above currency control examination labels and handstamps used on mail and unique to Bohemia & Moravia

may conceivably appear as late as September 1940. However, they are less often seen as the year progresses as wartime civil censorship (conducted by the German Army) usurped the examination of foreign mail for currency control purposes.

Censorship of the Mails?

Were the perforated currency control sealing labels at one time or another used as "censor" labels?

The standard German catalogue sets forth that currency control examination in the Protectorate has been mistakenly identified as censorship. It is claimed that the

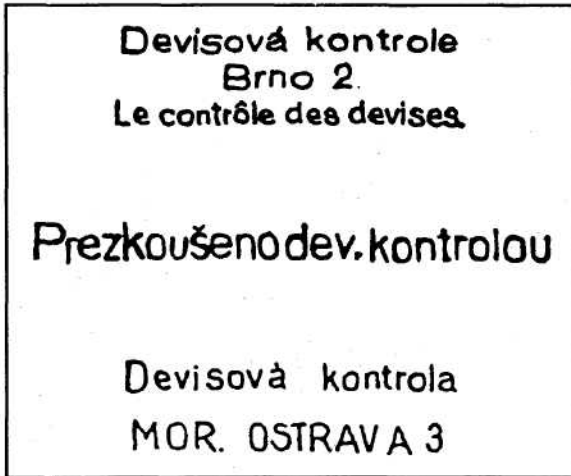


Fig. 6

examination of the contents of the text of letters did not ensue⁶. An American source, to the contrary, states that the inspection of mail for currency control purposes became an ideal way to "legitimize" the opening of foreign mail for other purposes "particularly in the Protectorate"⁷. The later source indicates that examples of the "disguised censorship" can be found sealed with a strip of currency control examination labels which conveniently omit the office name and certifying signature of the customs officer. (It can also explain why some postcards were forwarded to



Fig. 7a

currency control offices in Bohemia & Moravia where they were marked with "D.K." currency control handstamps.)

It is a fact that German currency control labels were openly used in Germany by the Auslandsbriefprüfstellen (Foreign Letter Censorship Offices) of the Oberkommando der Wehrmacht (German Armed Forces Command) to censor civilian mail with the outbreak of the Second World War in September 1939⁸. They were employed most conspicuously at Berlin, but also utilized in other censorship offices,

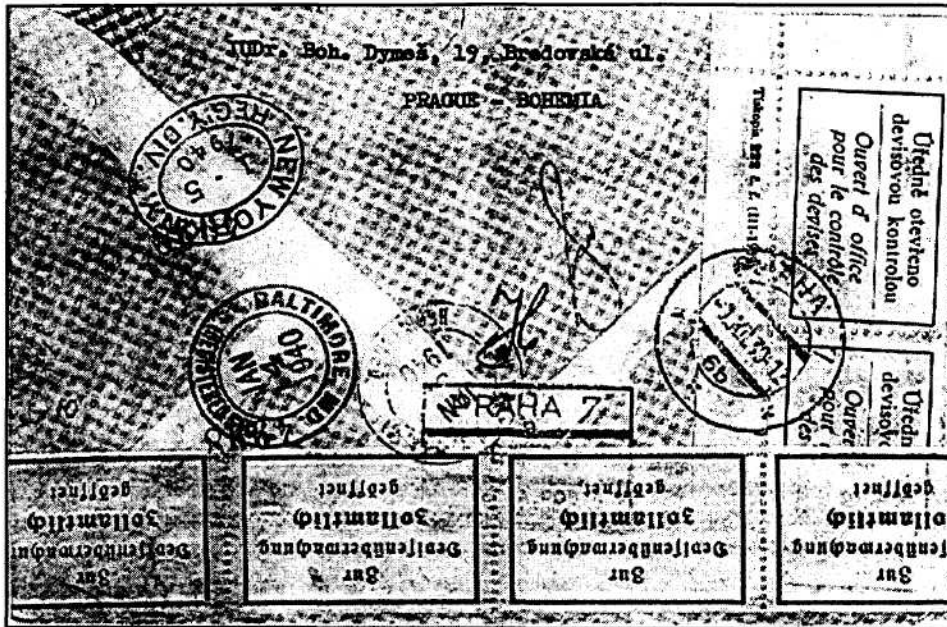


Fig. 7b

for example, Frankfurt/Main⁹. These labels were employed on an exigency basis until such time as the German Army could supply more appropriate censor tapes. The German Army did not open a Foreign Letter Censorship Office in the Protectorate of Bohemia & Moravia. The examination of mail for currency control purposes continued in the Protectorate after September 1, 1939. I do not believe the currency control labels extant in the Protectorate began to be employed in the censorship of civilian mail in the absence of a Foreign Letter Censorship Office in existence in the Protectorate.

The registered cover shown at Figure 7a/b was mailed from Praha to New York City on December 8, 1939. On the reverse we find Protectorate currency control labels tied with a PRAHA 7 postmark of December 9 together with the monograms of currency control examining officials. There is also a strip of German currency control labels applied at Frankfurt/Main -- the motive being civil censorship. If the cover were opened and then sealed at Praha in December 1939 for censorship purposes, there would have been no reason to open it again at Frankfurt/Main. This cover is an example of the German military using German currency control labels on an exigency basis to censor civilian mail.

It is safe to say that the opening of mail for currency control purposes prior to September 1, 1939 did not generally involve the censorship of the text of letters. Czech postal officials and currency control examiners continued to perform their functions until the outbreak of war when German postal officials and the GESTAPO took over. It is interesting to note that a remarkable network (created in the Protectorate by the chief of the official Czech censorship bureau) supplied Czechoslovak intelligence officers -- who had escaped from Praha to London on the eve of the German invasion -- with desired information¹⁰. The network employed former army officers who had been placed as district censors throughout the country. If anything, some Czech currency control examiners may have been reading mail

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

making sure useful information was relayed on to Czechoslovak intelligence officials in London! This network was destroyed by the German police in August 1939.

There is one more cover in my collection beneficial to our discussion concerning

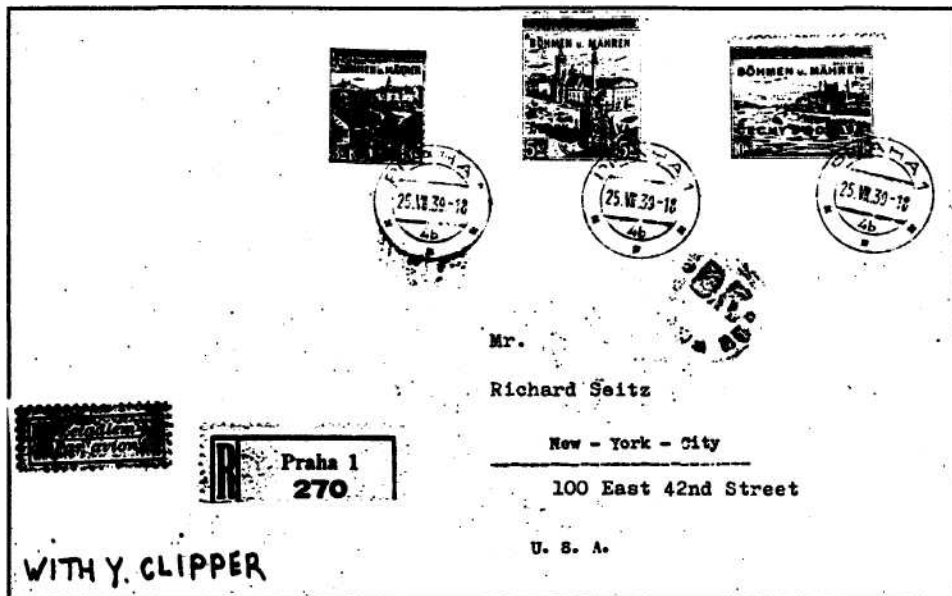


Fig. 8

editorship of the mail. At Figure 8 is a registered envelope posted July 25, 1939 from Praha. It bears a "D.K." currency control handstamp PRAHA 25 that is unquestionably larger in size than the one illustrated at Figure 3. This one measures approximately 25mm in diameter. There is no indication that this oversize registered cover addressed to New York City was opened by examiners. However, of importance to me, is a tiny handstamp applied at the lower right in a shape which resembles an eight petal floret or pointed star. The mark, enlarged, appears in Figure 9. The color is blue. What is the significance of the handstamp?

German documents indicate that prior to the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin there had been a plan to censor mail. Items mailed by people of "unfriendly countries" -- in the course of the Olympiad in Berlin -- would be examined and passed in Berlin-Charlottenburg, but not before being marked with a small sixteen-pointed star. The purpose of the exercise was to gauge foreign opinion. Documentation discovered relating to the scheme is contradictory as to whether or not there was an actual implementation of the plan¹¹.

However, there is no question that the Germans began to open, censor, and seize mail entering Bohemia & Moravia from foreign lands during the Summer of 1939

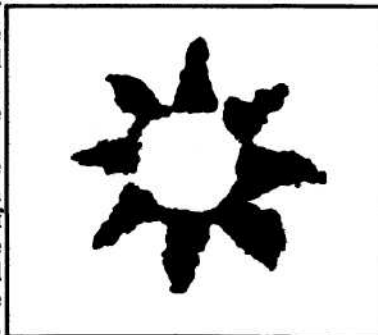


Fig. 9

containing what they referred to as "political propaganda"¹². Thousands of envelopes made to look like they were from private persons (but usually with no return addresses) began arriving in Germany as well as Bohemia & Moravia in July. They had been posted in Great Britain at a variety of post offices. The envelopes contained printed letters. These included mass waves of mailings by a writer from "Kings Hall". A secret communication by the Der Chef der Sicherheitspolizei (The Chief of the German Security Police) of August 11, 1939 reports that due to the close cooperation of the German Post Office and the German Finance Ministry with the Security Police, it was estimated that only a third of the propaganda letters were now getting through to the public¹³.

The cover at Figure 8 is outgoing rather than incoming mail of the Protectorate. There is no return address and being oversized may have contained printed material. We know that it was routed by the PRAHA 25 post office to customs per the "D.K." currency control handstamp. From there it might be forwarded to the German Security Police in Bohemia & Moravia for examination, particularly if the sender's name or that of an addressee appeared on a "Watch List". The eight petal floret/pointed star may be a marking applied by the Security Police. Having examined the contents, a security policeman might apply the mark and so pass the cover for delivery. There was a heightened state of alert as far as the mail was concerned in Germany in July 1939. There is no reason to doubt that mail from -- rather than to -- the Protectorate was also subject to greater scrutiny.

The above mark, in the alternative, may appertain to the currency control office associated with the PRAHA 25 post office. Is it really a censor or currency control marking at all? What do you think?



Fig. 10

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Conclusion

On October 1, 1940 the German protectorate over Bohemia & Moravia became a part of the German customs administration. By this time the examination of the mail for currency control purposes was no longer distinguishable from the censorship of civilian mail being carried out by the German Armed Forces Command.

Currency control markings once again begin to be found on covers in the post-World War II era. The cover at Figure 10 was mailed in late 1948 from KOŠICE -- at lower left is a new variety of Devisová Kontrola (D.K.) handstamp. The Communist Party of Czechoslovakia had just become the leading political power in the country.

It seems to me that the subject of the currency control markings utilized in Czechoslovakia can form the basis of a very interesting postal history exhibit.

FOOTNOTES

¹ Mastny, Vojtech, The Czechs Under Nazi Rule, Columbia University Press, New York and London (1971) at page 62.

² Riemer, Karl-Heinz, Devisenkontrolle im Auslandsbrief und Paketverkehr im Deutschen Reich 1933 bis 1939, Poststempelgilde "Rhein-Donau" e.V., Düsseldorf (1981) at page 21; Mastny at page 106.

³ Mastny, at page 69.

⁴ Riemer, Karl-Heinz, Die Überwachung des Auslandsbrief Verkehrs Während des II. Weltkrieges durch Deutsche Dienststellen, Poststempelgilde "Rhein-Donau" e.V., Düsseldorf (1979) at pages 210-11.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Houston, Robert J., Mail Surveillance Under the Third Reich, Third Reich Study Group of the Germany Philatelic Society, Inc., Arnold, Maryland (1980) at pages 2 and 3.

⁸ Riemer, Die Überwachung, at pages 24 and 25; Riemer, Devisenkontrolle, at page 41.

⁹ Ibid. At page 95.

¹⁰ Mastny at pages 146-47.

¹¹ Riemer, Devisenkontrolle, at page 40.

¹² Ibid. At page 20.

¹³ Ibid.

ADVERTISEMENT



CZECHOSLOVAKIAN POSTCARDS AVAILABLE

*Extensive Collection
Slet, Views, Military, etc.
Send Want List*

JERRY KOTEK ♦ DELTIOLOGIST
424 CORBIN ROAD
YORK, PENNSYLVANIA 17403
717-843-3479



ADVERTISEMENT

WINTER PARK STAMP SHOP

Michael Rogers, Proprieter
Alvin Hintz/John Demeter, Managers

Ranch Mall, Suite 1-2
325 South Orlando Avenue (17-92)
Winter Park, FL 32789-3608
Office 407-628-1120
Toll Free 1-800-845-1819
Fax 407-628-0091

<http://www.michaelrogersinc.com>

Comprehensive World Wide Pricelists

US	Central & South America
Pacific Area	British Caribbean
Great Britain & British Europe	Colonial & Independent Africa
Canada & Provinces (BNA)	Middle East & Turkey
Western Europe	Worldwide
Eastern Europe	Zepp & Airposts (stamps/covers?)
Asia (specify country or region)	China (specify which)

We stock a strong Czechoslovakia inventory, including specialized material

We are knowledgeable & aggressive buyers of US/World Wide stamp and postal history collections

Send a long #10, 55¢ self-addressed, stamped envelope for free pricelists (\$1.00 for overseas).

Michael Rogers is a member of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately



US AND SOCIETY EXHIBITS AT PRAGA '98

by Henry Hahn

PRAGA '98 took place at Prague's Veletržní Palác (Fair Palace) from Thursday, September 9 through Sunday, September 13, 1998. While not nearly as extensive as PRAGA '88 -- which was the largest FIP show ever presented -- PRAGA '98, which was a FEPA show, may nevertheless have included the very best of Czechoslovak philately ever assembled in one place.

The international jury was assembled with the support of FEPA and recognition of FIP, under whose auspices the entire jury was qualified. The Honorary Chairman of the Jury was Ladislav Dvořáček, former FIP President. The Chairman was Mr. Alan K. Huggins, whose competence and genial leadership served to inspire the nineteen regular jurors and four apprentices. Mr. Pavel Pittermann served as Jury Secretary, assuming responsibility for a broad range of activities which he handled most competently. His staff generated the computer results which were available to the jury both accurately and promptly. Henry Hahn served as the only US juror and headed the Czech national team. Paul Jensen headed the Postal History team, Mr. Kurt Kimmel the Traditional, Alan K. Huggins the Postal Stationery and Revenues, Brian L. Asquith the Aero and Astro, Giancarlo Moroli the Thematic, Karl Dostal the Maxiphilately, Yaakov Shabtai the Youth, and Ladislav Dvořáček the Literature team.

Some three hundred ninety (390) exhibits were presented, which number includes



Fig. 1 -- J. L. Klein and his friend, Soelie, standing before his Grand Prix National awarded exhibit.

all classes of competitive as well as non-competitive exhibits. Of these, twenty-eight (28) were from the USA and twenty-three (23) were by members of the SCP residing outside the United States. Mr. J. L. Klein, member of the SCP residing in the Netherlands, was the recipient of the Grand Prix National award with his superb showing of Czechoslovakia (Fig. 1). This showing of rarities -- which included material from the 1988 Grand Prix National winner, Fred W. Hefer, as well as the 1978 Grand Prix National winner Max Mahr -- represented the pinnacle of Czechoslovakia collecting. In addition, Mr. Klein was the recipient of a Large Gold for his showing of the Postal History of the Kingdom of Bohemia. Both Large Golds were awarded with Special Prizes.

Mr. Knud Mohr of Denmark was the winner of the Grand Prix International with his superb showing of the postal history of Copenhagen, while the Youth Philately Award was won by Lisbeth Fransen, also of Denmark for her showing of King Frederik IX, 1947-1972. Just one Large Gold with Special Prize was awarded to a US exhibitor, Mr. Nicholas Asimakopulos, for his excellent showing of Plate Flaws on the Large Hermes Heads of Greece.

Of a total of twenty-five (25) Gold Medals, eight (8) were awarded to US exhibitors or members of the SCP. Details of these and other US/SCP winners may be found in the table below.

Three US exhibits were shown in the Court of Honor, including Jaroslav Verner's Czechoslovak Siberian Field Post, 1914-21, Henry Hahn's Czechoslovak Republic 1918-38 and Fred Blau's Air Mail History of the Holyland. The exhibit of Judge and Society member Paul Jensen of Norway, entitled Postal History of the Czechoslovak Territory During 1450-1850, and J. L. Klein's exhibit entitled Czechoslovakia: Allegories Issues were shown in the Non-Competitive Class.

US AND SCP COMPETITIVE EXHIBITS SCORING AT PRAGA '98

Name	Origin	Soc. Mbr	Subject	Award/ Points
Klein, J.L.	NL	yes	Czechoslovakia 1918-1938	GP+SP/96
Asimakopulos, N.	US	no	Plate Flaws of Large Hermes Heads of Greece	LG+SP/95
Klein, J.L.	NL	yes	Postal History of the Kingdom of Bohemia	LG+SP/95
"Kosta Panitsa"	US	no	North and South Bulgaria -- Independent and Unified	G+SP/94
Stilwell-Walker, P.	US	no	Baltimore: Postal History from 1773 until UPU	G+SP/92
Verner, J.	US	yes	Czechoslovakia 1918-1938	G/91
Adema, K.	US	no	Early Postal Markings of the Netherlands	G/91
Sandrik, Wm.	US	yes	Disinfected Mail 1666-1972	G/91
Fischmeister, L.	US	yes	Czechoslovakia 1918-1945	G/90
Wilhelms, G.	DE	yes	Czechoslovakia: First Issues 1918-1920	G/90
Hedbom, G.	SE	yes	Czechoslovakia: Air Mail 1920-1939	G/90
McAuley, G.	IE	no	Where is my Home?	LV+SP/88
Trettin, K.	US	no	The American Revenuer, 1997 Volume 51	LV+F/88
Zulueta, A.	US	yes	Nepal: Pre-Stamp and Classical Period 1820-1930	LV/87
Dooremalen van	NL	yes	Postal History of Brno 1638-1869	LV/87
Hammer, J.	DE	yes	Brno, Capital of Moravia	LV/87
Karasek, J.	CZ	yes	MERKUR REVIEW	LV/87
Cuesta, E.	US	no	Cuba: King Alfonso XII, 1876-1888	LV/86
Rauch, W.	DE	yes	Field Post: Kingdom of Bohemia and Upper Hungary	LV/86

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Verner, J.	US	yes	Czech. Field Post in France, Italy, and Slovakia	LV+F/86
Wiatr, F.M.	US	no	Postal History of Krakow before WWI	LV/86
Hedbom, G.	SE	yes	Czechoslovakia 1918-1926	LV/85
Blau, F.	US	no	Austro-Hungarian Field Post during WWI	LV/85
Wolff, G.	US	no	Zeppelin Mail	LV/85
Asimakopulos, N.	US	no	Plate Flaws of the Large Heads of Greece, 1861-86	LV/85
Fischer, K.	CA	yes	Czechoslovakia: Kosice Issue	V/84
Unwin, A.	US	yes	Transpacific Post: Canadian Pacific Steamships	V/83
Green, R.	US	yes	The Inflation in Austria, 1919-1925	V/81
Rosen, M.	US	no	Mail in Ghettos and Concentration Camps	V/81
Rauch, W.	DE	yes	Field Post Offices on Czech. Territory 1938-1946	V/81
Cermak, V.	DE	yes	Czechoslovakia: First Issues	V/80
Koschalk, R.	US	yes	The German Occupation of Czechoslovakia, 1938-45	V/80
Kuca, D.	SK	yes	Slovakia, 1939-1945	LS/78
Dunn, R.	US	no	The German Occupation of Denmark	LS/77
Page, J.	ES	yes	Transcarpathian Ukraine	LS/77
Wilhelms, G.	DE	yes	Field Post of the Czech. Legion in Siberia, 1914-20	LS/77
Vondra, M.	US	yes	Czechoslovakia: Hradcany Issue	LS/76
"Stupel Archives"	US	yes	Postal Rules of the Protectorate, Bohemia&Moravia	LS/75
Cermak, V.	DE	yes	Czech. Mail in Slovakia after the End of WWII	LS/75
Follansbee, N.	US	no	Catalogue of Stamps of Mexico, 1865-1900	LS/75
Asklund, S.	SE	yes	Czech. Franking Machine Postmarks 1926-1948	S/73
Asklund, S.	SE	yes	Czechoslovakia: Dove Issue 1920 -- 20 heller	S/71
Riccio, D.	US	yes	Postal History of the Transcarpathian Ukraine	S/71
Svoboda, L.	US	yes	<i>The Czechoslovak SPECIALIST</i>	SB/69
Dissen, E.H.	NL	yes	Czech. Issues of the N.Y. Worlds Fair, 1939-40	SB/65
Norbjerg, M.	DK	yes	Extended Plate Reconst. of Hradcany Drawing I	B/56

According to Jury Secretary Pavel Pittermann, no significant complaints regarding jury awards were voiced, though at least one US exhibit was downgraded for showing forgeries.

The jury worked diligently to complete its assigned task in the allotted three days. On the somewhat negative side from this jurors point of view was the fact that the start of judging was delayed due to lateness in mounting the exhibits -- with which task the jurors pitched in. In addition there was no air conditioning in the jury room or the exhibition hall.

The Jury Report points out that the jury was pleased with the outstanding exhibits presented and especially pleased by the great interest shown by the large number of visitors. They congratulate the Organizing Committee, headed by Lumír Brendl, President, Union of Czech Philatelists, on creating such a success. The assistance provided by many (including the Society's Directors, exhibitors, and attendees) to enable the jury to complete its work on time was acknowledged.

The jury and national commissioners were graciously treated to a Prague sight-seeing tour. The Palmares was a pleasant affair, held in elegant facilities in the Vinohrady district of Prague. Gold and higher awards were ceremoniously presented.

Altogether, PRAGA '98 was a memorable show. Not being a FIP show and held for a mere four (4) days was regretted by some, but this was largely compensated for by the enthusiasm for philately so characteristic of the Czechs.

ADVERTISEMENT



INTERFILA PRAHA

Veletržní 53, 170 00 Praha 7
tel.: 02/ 24316025
fax: 02/ 379703

Po - Pá 10⁰⁰-13⁰⁰, 14⁰⁰-18⁰⁰

- * We buy stamps, covers, postal cards, varieties, Scouts, collections and estates
 - * We will personally call on larger collections
 - * Expert evaluations, authentications and advice
 - * Payments made on the spot in cash
- * Extensive selection of stamps, including entires and reasonable priced items from the Czech Republic and worldwide

ADVERTISEMENT

Custom Impressions Album Pages CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Part 1 - First Republic 1918-1939 (103 pages)	\$47.30 (3.50)
Part 2 - Second Republic 1945-53 (68 pages)	\$29.40 (3.50)
Part 3 - 1954- 1958 (52 pages)	\$22.80 (3.50)
Part 4 - 1959-1965 (73 pages)	\$32.55 (3.50)
Part 5 - 1966-1972 (88 pages)	\$38.70 (3.50)
Part 6 - 1973-1980 (104 pages)	\$45.70 (3.50)
Part 7 - 1981-1987 (88 pages)	\$38.70 (3.50)
Part 8 - 1988-1993 (73 pages)	\$32.55 (3.50)
Supplement #40 1994 (11 pages)	\$5.00 (3.50)
Supplement #41 1995 (14 pages)	\$6.00 (3.50)
Supplement #42 1996 (18 pages)	\$8.10 (3.50)
Supplement #43 1997 (16 pages)	\$7.20 (3.50)
Eastern Silesia (15 pages) for Czecho and Poland	\$6.00 (3.50)
Bohemia & Moravia 1939-1945 (35 pages)	\$15.00 (3.50)
Slovakia 1939-1945 (32 pages)	\$14.00 (3.50)
Supplement #1 1993-1994 (18 pages)	\$8.00 (3.50)
Supplement #2 1995 (10 pages)	\$4.50 (3.50)
Supplement #3 1996 (10 pages)	\$4.50 (3.50)
Supplement #4 1997 (23 pages)	\$10.35 (3.50)

ASK FOR SPECIAL PRICE ON COMPLETE CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Shipping in (). Max shipping \$10.00
Binders and Dust Cases Available.

Visa - MasterCard - Discover - Amex accepted Min. \$10.00



CUSTOM IMPRESSIONS

P. O. BOX 2286
La Grange, IL 60525-8386

We are the new publishers of K-Line Albums.
Phone (708) 579-1447 Fax (708) 579-1473
E-Mail: album@ziplink.net Web Site: www.ziplink.net/~album.

PRAGA 98: THE REPORT

by Jaroslav J. Verner

PRAGA 98 is now only pleasant memories. Since this was the first time our Society participated in an exhibition outside the United States, the question "was it worth the effort?" is constantly hovering in the background.

The main Society event was the dinner held on the eve of the opening of PRAGA 98. Earlier in the day, a short Board of Director's meeting was held which focused on the Society's planned activities in Prague. When all preparations had been approved, the Board adjourned to assist in the mounting of exhibits of Society and other American exhibitors. This became a major effort which ended just in time for the hard working American crews (by the end of the day we had also drafted a number of exhibitors who had innocently wandered

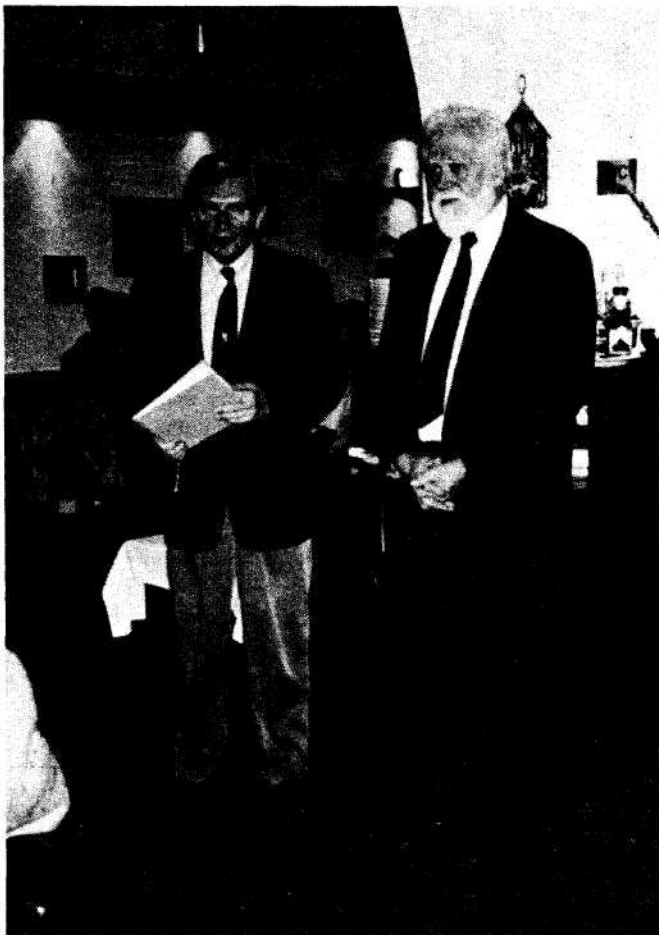


Figure 1 -- Lumír Brendl making an award presentation to Jaroslav Verner.

by to see what was going on) to get to their hotels, shower, change and get to the Society dinner in time to greet arriving members and guests.

The Society dinner was held at the attractive Prague restaurant, Na Pořiči, and attended by 80 members and guests. The restaurant was chosen because its decorations largely consist of engravings by the famous engraver of Czechoslovak stamps, Jindřich Schmidt. The reason? His nephew is the owner of the restaurant and, along with his staff, did everything possible to create a relaxed, friendly atmosphere for our event. Social interaction between friends old and new was the purpose of the evening and was interrupted only briefly by a short welcome by the Society president, the presentation by the President of the Union of Czech Philatelists

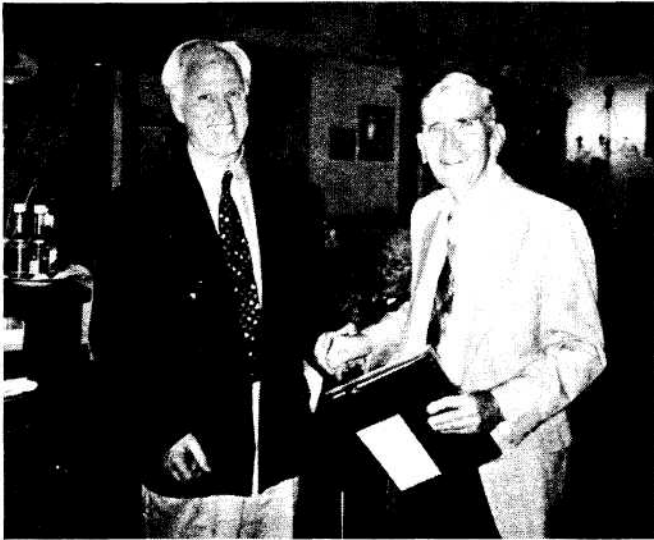


Figure 2 -- Eckhart Dissen presenting the first copy of his NYWF overprint sheetlet book to Mirko Vondra.

Lumír Brendl of a Certificate for Service to Czechoslovak Philately to Jaroslav Verner, and the presentation by Eckhart Dissen of his new book on New York World's Fair sheetlets to Mirko Vondra. It was especially satisfying that so many of our overseas members including the presidents of our German and British sister societies were able to join us. We were especially pleased to have Ing. Miroslav Spáček, Deputy General of the Czech Post and Co-Chairman of PRAGA 98; Lumír Brendl, President of the Union of Czech

Philatelists and Co-Chairman of PRAGA 98; Jarmila Mykytynová, Head of the Philatelic Department of the Czech Post; and Miroslav Langhammer, member of the PRAGA 98 Organizing Committee as our guests of honor.

PRAGA 98 opened to long lines of visitors on a beautiful sunny morning on September 10. The opening ceremony was by invitation only and consisted, as such events usually do, of speeches by government and postal officials as well as



Figure 3 -- (left to right) Svetlana Brendl, Katherine Svoboda, Marketa (Mike Swartz's guest), Mike Swartz, Lumír Brendl.

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



Figure 4 -- The Chicagoland contingent (clockwise) -- Walter Kolsbach, Jim Carone, Carol Ziegelmeier, Bob Koschalk, Ed Linhart, Mae Linhart, Jarmila Marsiglio and Jane Sterba.

representatives of the Union of Czech Philatelists and the PRAGA 98 Organizing Committee. A short period of viewing of the exhibits was also available to the invited guests before the crowds of interested visitors entered the Trade Fair Center exhibition hall. One of the most impressive things about PRAGA 98 was the large number of visitors who came to the exhibit throughout the four days of the show. American exhibitors were especially struck by this phenomenon, often commenting to me how impressed they were that the visitors were "actually studying the exhibits" and not only lining up at the dealers and postal administration to add to their collections. Some of us who have attended earlier PRAGA exhibitions, or who are familiar with the philatelic passions of Czech collectors, were perhaps not as surprised as first time visitors, but nonetheless were much impressed with crowds around many of the exhibit frames. Total attendance for the exhibition was 42,000 -- 6,500 of whom were young people 15 years old or younger.

The Society for Czechoslovak Philately, the Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Tschechoslowakei (our German counterpart), and the Union of Czech Philatelists were the only philatelic organizations that had booths at the exhibition. Our stand was organized by Mirko Vondra and staffed by many of our members from the United States and the Czech Republic. Our purpose was to publicize the Society and to that purpose we prepared Czech/English information sheets (Lou Svoboda, Peter Kleskovic), we displayed Society publications, medals, and copies of *The Czechoslovak SPECIALIST*, and we sold cachet covers which were prepared for the occasion (Mirko Vondra). With regard to the cachet envelopes, I must confess, we made a major mistake. We greatly underestimated the interest visitors would have in them. All 500 were sold out by early afternoon of the first day of the show!

Many events of interest to philatelists were prepared by the Exhibition organizers. These ranged from: experts assessing the genuineness and value of

stamps for visitors, meetings with designers and engravers of Czech stamps, mail carrying balloon flights, 18th century mail coach runs, autograph signing sessions with Czech Olympians, a series of meetings of philatelic societies, and a Congress of Czechoslovak Collectors. The program of the Congress was a full one, but unfortunately the planned simultaneous language interpretations of the papers did not materialize and thus, all the presentations ran over terribly (especially mine). The organizers have promised that participants will receive printed copies of the presentations, including those cut due to time constraints. We look forward to receiving this material.



Figure 5 -- Opening ceremony with PRAGA 98 Co-Chairmen Miroslav Spáček and Lumír Brendl

Especially impressive among the special events were the arrangements for young people. A large area was designated for young collectors where they could "design" stamps, process mail, develop album pages, and play mail-related computer games. With efforts to interest young people in collecting such as we saw at PRAGA 98, the Czechs will have little to fear that there will not be a generation to support Czech philately.

There were plenty of events for collectors who wished to add to their collections. In addition to the dealers and postal administrations located in the Trade Fair Palace, there was a bourse several blocks from the exhibition site with approximately 60 Czech and Slovak dealers. This bourse ran through the entire length of the show. In addition, two major auctions were held. The first by Majer and Thraumb on Friday afternoon, and the second by Profil on Saturday morning. It is unfortunate that this second auction conflicted with the Congress.

An international show is a good time to introduce not only new stamps, but also new publications. PRAGA was no exception. After 30 years a new hardbound edition of *Padělky Československých Známeček* has been published. This update of the 1972 classic is in three languages -- Czech, English, and German -- and thus should be

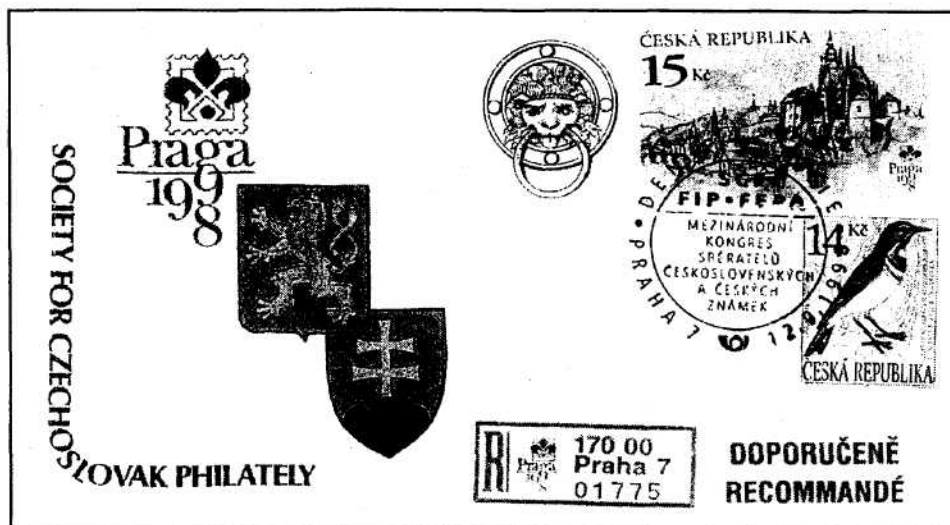


Figure 6 -- The Society cachet cover with stamps, cancels and registry label attached.

much more useful to all our members than was the original version. A new volume of Monografie has been published, this one dealing with the SO series. The first volume of a two volume catalog of Czechoslovak Postal Stationery has been issued, with the second volume expected next year. Finally, a new printing of the Specialized Czechoslovakia 1945-1992 catalog has also appeared. All of these new books will be available through the Society book sales program.

The Palmares on Saturday night was a grand affair. It was held in the elegant Majakovsky Hall in the Vinohrady National House. The Hall was a grand ball room in the 19th Century European tradition and had the interesting distinction of also hosting the Palmares of the first PRAGA in 1938. The organization of the affair was very good. The evening began with a cocktail hour outside the hall itself. The award ceremonies preceded the dinner and began with very short welcomes by the hosts and the chairman of the jury. The actual presentation of the awards was well organized and very efficient -- quite an accomplishment, given the number of awards that were handed out to the participants.

Of course there were some difficulties that one could criticize at PRAGA 98, but most of these were known only to those working behind the scenes. Few visitors would have been aware of them. One problem of which visitors were aware, was the large crowds, especially during the first two days. We should have such problems at stamp exhibitions in the United States! My own main complaint about PRAGA 98 is that it was much too short. There was so much to do and so many philatelists from so many different countries with whom to discuss mutual areas of interest that I did not have time to study all the exhibits I had marked in my catalog before the show opened.

Our Czech hosts were gracious and helpful throughout. Even though they had more than their fair share of problems and complications to solve, they always made time to address any difficulties or misunderstandings which we brought to their attention. Lumír Brendl -- from the initial invitation to American exhibitors to participate, to the very end of PRAGA -- was ever supportive and willing to make sure

things got done. He could not do it alone and his colleagues worked with us on many of the details of our participation and activities in Prague.

In closing, I would like to thank all those who helped make our participation in PRAGA a success. This begins with Alan Hoover who assisted, inter alia, in getting the American exhibits to and from Prague; Annette Hoover for her yeoman service in helping visitors with their travel and hotel arrangements; Mirko Vondra for organizing our stand; Lou Svoboda for preparing publicity material on the Society; and Savoy Horvath, Tom Cossaboom, Rich Palaschak, Bob Koschalk (and all those I have surely missed) who helped man the Society stand.

"Was it worth the effort?" Absolutely! Will we want to do it again? I suspect we will -- and we will have the chance when the next international stamp exhibition in the Czech Republic takes place at BRNO 2000.

[Ed. Note: We will be publishing additional pictures of our Society dinner in the next issue of the SPECIALIST.]

✱ ✱ ✱ ✱ ✱ ✱ ✱ ✱

A "FOREIGN" CRITIC'S VIEW OF PRAGA 98

by Mirko Vondra
photos by Henry Hahn

So there we were in the beautiful historic city of Prague, ready to attend the big philatelic exhibition for which we had planned and prepared for the past year. This was not the Show of Shows of prior decades, but was nevertheless an international exhibition approved and sanctioned by the F.I.P.

The individual exhibits were to be mounted the day before the show officially opened. I was there among others to mount our exhibits and help others mount theirs. But word came down from the organizing committee that most of their people who had volunteered to do the mounting had failed to show up. Our Society president, Jerry Verner, wisely called upon all our members present to help with the mounting, and the job was undertaken as soon as the forces were gathered that

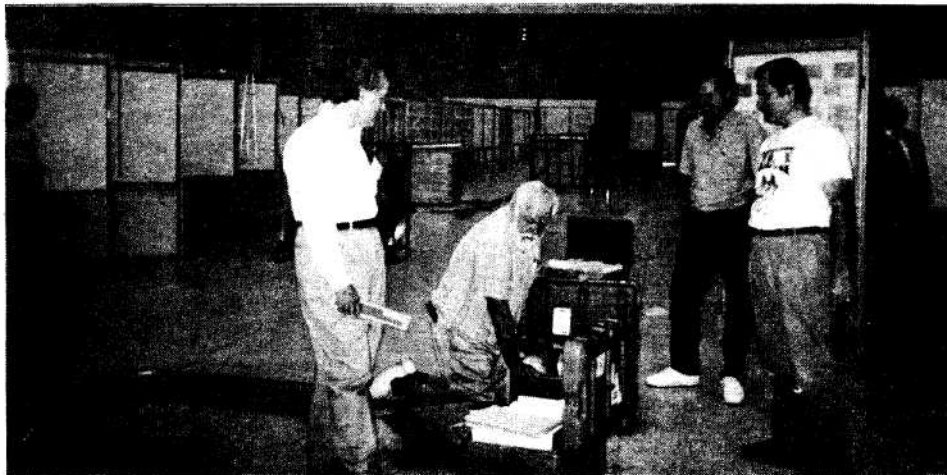


Figure 1 -- Ernesto Cuesta, Jerry Verner, Mike Swartz, and Alan Hoover getting organized to mount the SCP exhibits.

Cuts were sustained by several members until a pair of heavy gloves was provided, and then one member was assigned to handle only the glass plates. Our phase of the work was finally completed by late afternoon and by then, more help had arrived from other sources.

The show began on Thursday, Sept. 10, amidst the usual television ceremonies and a crowd of visitors that lined the street almost an hour before the doors opened. A program and a beautiful catalog were available to all participants. This included a schematic template of the interior of the Trade Fair Palace (Veletržní Palác) allocated to PRAGA 98 (Fig. 2). The exhibit hall was enormous with a ceiling that rose to a height of almost 40 feet. I do not know the square footage of the hall area, but considering there were a total of 912 exhibits with an average of five frames per exhibit, more than 4,500 frames were crowded along the sides of the exhibit hall, leaving more than enough room for spectators to congregate in the center. Herein lies the first major problem. The frames were standing in zig-zag lines with aisles of no more than four feet between them. The reason for this angular arrangement was that the frames themselves stood straight up and down instead of the "A" frames that are used in the U.S. Thus, if two persons stood together viewing one frame on one side and another two persons were viewing another frame directly opposite the first one, they effectively blocked other people from passing down the aisle. This caused tie-ups requiring viewers to keep shuffling back and forth with the flow of traffic at all times. But in all fairness, it must be acknowledged that lighting was excellent and all exhibits were clearly visible to discerning spectators -- a feature that is lacking in many American stamp shows (Fig. 3).

In addition to the alignment of the exhibit frames, there were some serious oversights. Foremost among them was the stifling hot air that permeated the entire

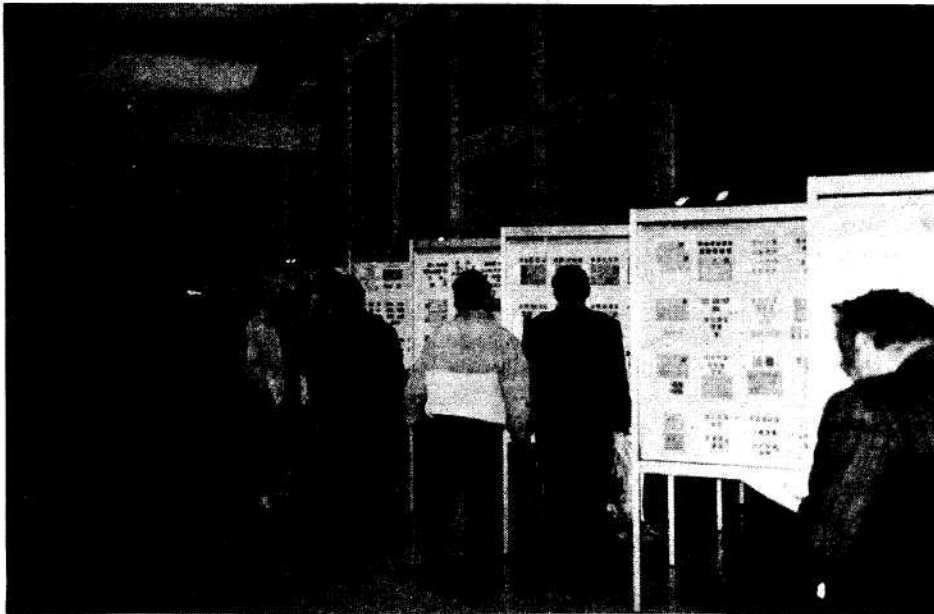


Figure 3 -- Shows the right half of the exhibition hall with the crowd congregating around the zig-zag arrangement of exhibits.

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

show area. The Trade Fair Palace was erected during the Communist era -- a typically modern structure with no regard for occupants' comfort. Air-conditioning is non-existent despite the huge throngs that filed into the exhibition chambers. There were many older visitors, a few with physical disabilities. Yet not a single bench or chair could be found anywhere in the exhibit hall. If you wanted to rest between viewings of the many exhibits, you had to go to the refreshment compound behind the sales booths and hopefully find an empty seat at a table. As for water fountains, there were none on the premises. Again, your alternative was a trip to the cafeteria where you could buy a soda or bottled water.

A redeeming feature for the lack of proper resting facilities was the Children's Room which served as a philatelic nursery for those families who brought their youngsters. But even there the air was so hot it was practically unbearable. One could stand in the exhibit hall and look at the tall interior walls where offices, like the Children's Room, had their windows wide open with tiny fans on each sill desperately trying to blow out the hot air. Where was the wherewithal to install a few huge exhaust fans to keep the place tolerably cool in the absence of air-conditioning?

Now let me turn to our own Society. You may recall we were allotted a hospitality table about which I wrote in this year's May/June SPECIALIST. This table was situated off the main hallway just past the entryway to the exhibit hall. There, a tiny corridor about 12 feet long and 5 feet in width, led first to the Arge Tschechoslowakei e.V. on the right, and then to our Society (SCP) next to them. Thus tucked away in the corner with no notice at the entry to the corridor that our Society was there, most visitors had to virtually fight their way through the crowd clustered around the "Arge" counter to reach our "table" -- a counter no more than 64 x 22 inches in size. Most of the time, two of our Society members sat together to service the "table". Despite the dense crowds and the heat, we were able to dispose of all our cacheted envelopes on the first day of the show. Why was this possible? Because no other Society or Organization, not even the Czech postoffice on the premises, had any cacheted envelopes of their own to offer.

While on that subject, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to those who voluntarily gave of their time to sit at our table under adverse conditions, assisting customers and visitors in whatever way was necessary. These members included Tom Cossaboom, Henry Hahn, Savoy Horvath, Alan Hoover, Peter Kleskovic, Bob Koschalk, Lubor Kunc, Bill Sandrik, Richard Palaschak, Mike Swartz and Ludvik Svoboda. Of particular help was our editor, L. Svoboda, who took over charge of the table, enabling me to perform other chores.

Finally, let me touch upon the show's best-kept secret. It was billed in the Program of PRAGA Bulletin No. 2 (no page numbers shown) as an "Afternoon in the Great Hall of the Faculty of Education of Charles University; International Congress of Collectors of Czechoslovak and Czech Stamps within the framework of the 'Day of Czech Philately, FIP & FEPA'." Admission was charged and I placed my reservation and bought a ticket several weeks in advance, having been warned that a sellout crowd was expected. Along with a Czech friend, I boarded a tram and rode crosstown, got off with him at a designated stop and followed him dutifully down the street, around a building, through several rooms, out another door, down a courtyard into a second building. Along the way, there was not a single sign announcing the "Congress" or pointing the way to it. I would still be looking for it now had I not been accompanied by my Czech friend. After several turns, we arrived at the entrance to an impressive theater-like hall where rows of seats were arranged in graduated

fashion. Our names were checked off the roster and we were granted entry. It was exactly 1 PM, the time this "Congress" was scheduled to begin. A table stretched along the width of the podium. Behind it sat the dignitaries, presumably all members of the PRAGA 98 organizing committee. Approximately 1.3 hours later, the m.c. rose, apologized for the delay and introduced the first speaker, who promptly apologized that due to other commitments, he could not deliver his speech, but promised that everyone in the audience would receive a typed copy of it. The m.c. then introduced the second speaker, our own President, Jerry Verner. J. Verner gave a very interesting talk on Siberian mail with overhead slides to illustrate his lecture. Unfortunately, the ground rules set by the committee required that after almost every sentence he gave in English, a translator had to repeat it in Czech and then another translator repeated it in German. Verner was about halfway through his presentation when I glanced at my wristwatch. It was almost 4 PM, and I had arranged to meet someone back at the show at that time. So I made a hurried exit, but not until I had counted a total of 40 heads present in the seats of the auditorium.

Back at the show, my other friend and I viewed the wondrous exhibits in the Court of Honor and, next to it, marvelled at the great rarities displayed on the kiosk-style bulletin board. One of them especially caught my eye. It was the 50 over 50 Chainbreaker rarity. Below it, the text appeared in three languages. The English version read (and it is printed here exactly as it appeared on the board): "Printing error of the provisional postage stamp 50/50 on the 50h stamp of the type 'Liberated Republic' in red colour, up today 13 to 17 pices are know."

I offer no commentaries on any of the above, but leave it up to each reader to draw his or her own conclusions. As for the show itself, it was filled with some very outstanding exhibits and was heavily attended on all four days, indicative of the keen interest that Czechs seem to share in philately. Too bad this kind of interest does not prevail at most stamp shows here in our own country.



KROMĚŘÍŽ

THE TOWN THAT IN 1848 GAVE BIRTH TO DEMOCRACY AND
THE FIRST HOPE OF FREEDOM FOR THE CZECH PEOPLE

by Miloslav Vlček

trans. by Vladimír Králíček

I.

In order to discover the roots of the 1848-1849 revolutionary events in Europe, it is necessary to look back in time to the 2nd half of the 18th century. The development of manufacturing techniques and the movement of the population into the cities led to the loosening of the old feudal relationships (e.g., allowing for the abolition of serfdom in 1781). These changes also influenced the French revolution with its maxims of LIBERTY -- EQUALITY -- FRATERNITY.

The resultant response by the power structure -- represented in the Austrian lands by Metternich and the rigid police regime -- was the inability to prevent the

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

events. In the early 1840's, Prague and Brno were shaken by worker's revolts with the people beginning to voice their rights.

Thus it is that the first revolutionary news in the spring months of 1848 of upheavals in Italy, France and elsewhere, found ready and fruitful soil in the Austrian empire. In March, Vienna made itself heard with demands for constitutional reforms and freedom of the press. Prague soon followed with her own demands.

In fact the Czech demands had already been submitted in March. They were: a joint Parliament for the Czech Crown lands; the establishment of a Czech national guard; the equality of the Czech and German languages; and freedom of the press and education. Especially noteworthy were two points which demanded the emancipation of the rural peasants and the payment to them of just wages for work performed.

In Austria these popular yearnings were to have been implemented by the Parliamentary Assembly which began its session on 22 July 1848 in Vienna. Its

productive work began on the 7th of September with the consideration of abolishing the impress labor and servitude laws. The new national constitutions were ready to be taken up for discussion when on the 6th of October revolution broke out in Vienna. Then, the Parliamentary Assembly was dissolved and the Deputies were dismissed.

Emperor Ferdinand V retired from the city with his whole Court and eventually withdrew to Olomouc from which he



Figure 1 - A view of old Kroměříž.

issued a proclamation to the Empire explaining the necessity for the move. The Parliamentary Assembly was then recalled (by Imperial patent dated 22 October) to reconvene on 15 November 1848 in Kroměříž (allegedly instigated by František Palacký) where they were supposed to work out the new Austrian Constitution. Thus Kroměříž became a city upon which the eyes of Austria and all of Europe were focused (Fig. 1). It brought patriots from all of the Austrian lands into Kroměříž. From the Czech lands came František Palacký, František Ladislav Rieger, Karel Havlíček, Josef Kajetán Tyl, Václav V. Tomek, and others. The artist-painter Josef Manes was also actively painting there during the Assembly session.

At that time public transportation was provided by the postal stage coach (so called, diligence) which from 1848 departed from the inn "U primasa Uherského" in Hrubý Rýnek. This stage coach was also used by the Deputies of the Parliamentary Assembly to travel to the Hulín railway station. This postal stage coach connection was also maintained with other towns, such as Brno, Vienna, Olomouc and Opava.

The railway track from Kroměříž to Hulín was not yet in existence. Its construction was not realized until thirty years later in 1879-80.

In Kroměříž -- which at that time was a small Hana town of about 6000 inhabitants -- the Constitutional Assembly began its deliberations on 22 November in the Great Dining Hall of the Archbishop's castle, which later got the name of the Hall of the Assembly. [Ed. Note: See Fig. 12, pg 38, Jul/Aug 98 SPECIALIST]

During the whole time that the Austrian Parliamentary Assembly was in session in Kroměříž, a special postal and telegraph office was set up in the castle. It was active from 22 November 1848 until 7 March 1849. This office ensured the transmission of all documents from the Assembly sessions and assured direct, speedy contact with the Emperor's Court in Olomouc.

Because the direct transmittal of a large quantity of documents was very demanding over the significant distance between Kroměříž and Olomouc, a postal relay station was established in Tovačové for a limited

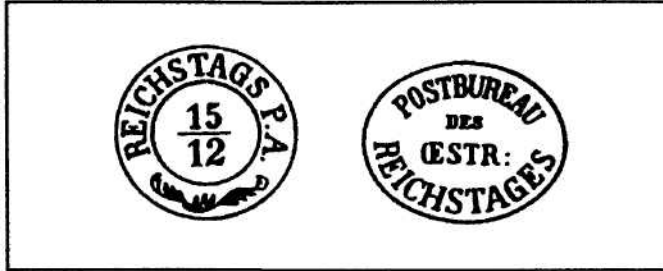


Figure 2 - Special cancels for the postal and telegraph offices.

period of time beginning in 5 December 1848 to handle State Treasury requirements. This relay station ensured a two way delivery of letter post between Olomouc and Kroměříž as well as printed matter parcels, State Treasury post and also private post. They also arranged to provide fresh horses for the postal coaches at transfer points.

The special postal and telegraph office of the Parliamentary Assembly used two metal official postmarks with the text "REICHSTAGS P.A." and "POSTBUREAU DES OESTR. REICHSTAGES" (Fig. 2). These are considered to be the first special postal cancels, not only in Austria, but also in Europe -- and possibly in the whole world.

On December 22 in Olomouc, the Emperor Ferdinand V abdicated his throne in favor of his 18 year old nephew Franz Josef I. On December 21 the Parliamentary Assembly began debating the new constitution's first proposal of the peoples basic rights, which was submitted by the Czech representative F.L. Rieger. The constitutional proposal, which came out of Assembly deliberations, contains in its first paragraph a revolutionary element which is valid even today. It begins with these memorable words: All the State power emanates from its people and is exercised by the means provided in the constitution.

For the first time in modern history the whole nation -- by way of the mouths of its representatives at the Kroměříž Assembly -- showed that it was a permanent and significant factor in the political life of Central Europe.

After 48 meetings the Parliamentary Assembly debates ended on March 6, 1849 without completing their task. On March 7 the Assembly was dissolved and the delegates dispersed by troops. To the Hapsburg family and governing nobility only one issue was of concern -- to retain and keep their elevated positions, power and wealth. To this end they directed all their energies.

With regards to the new constitution the purpose of the Kroměříž Assembly was not fulfilled, but its significance is great, and in the history of nations -- especially the Slavic ones -- it is unforgettable.



Fig. 3

II.

After WW II, life began to return to its normal economical, political and cultural existence not only in Europe but also in our land. The National Exhibition "100 Years of Czech National Life" was inaugurated on June 20, 1948. This was a memorable event not only as a reminder of the period 1848-49 -- when the Austrian Constitutional Assembly was meeting in our city -- but it also showed the development of our nation for the past 100 years and the evidence of our achievements during the 1945-48 post war years.

For this special occasion the Ministry of Post issued two commemorative stamps following the design of the Academic painter Max Švabinsky -- who was a native of Kroměříž -- and engraved by Jindra Schmidt (Fig. 3).

The year 1988 was a special year for the Czechoslovak Republic, which was celebrating the 70th anniversary of its foundation. It was also the 140th anniversary of the Austrian Constitutional Assembly meeting. In commemoration of this event the Kroměříž philatelic club issued a small booklet with enclosures which documented the postal arrangements during the Constitutional Assembly meetings. The writer was successful -- despite strict censorship -- to put out the publication even including the necessary discussion to establish political events. It was published in the hope that there would be an early change to the political life of the country. This of course had to wait until the events of 17 November 1989.

The year 1998 arrived and Kroměříž was once again preparing for great celebrations. This time it was the 150th anniversary of the Austrian Parliamentary Assembly (Fig. 4). It can be said that the year long program was of great interest to

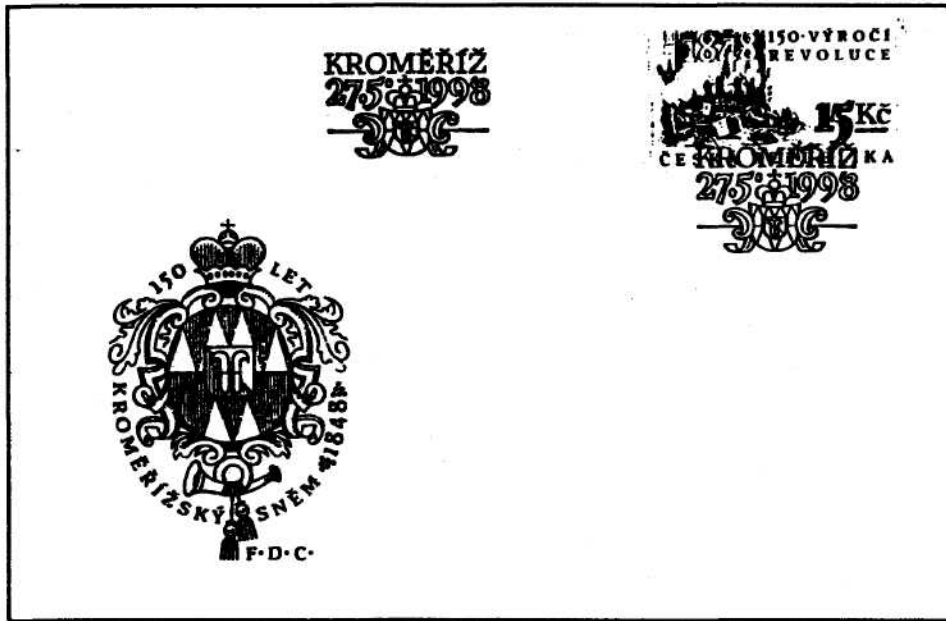


Figure 4 - FDC commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Kroměříž Assembly.

[See also para 2, fig. 2, pg 32 of the Sep/Oct 98 SPECIALIST.]

the many visitors to this beautiful and historical town, and that it attracted many foreign visitors.

Looking at the program for 1998 we see that on March 3rd there was a presentation ceremony by Vienna, the capital city of Austria, commemorating the 150th anniversary of the 1848 Kroměříž Assembly. This indicates the significance of this event even to other countries. On the 25th of March the official opening ceremonies were conducting in Prague including a press conference and the presentation of a production of Bedrich Smetana's opera, "Braniboř in Bohemia", in the National Theater. This production was attended by diplomatic and governmental representatives of the successor states of the extinct Austrian Empire. An extensive exhibition was held in Kroměříž from June through September dedicated to the year 1848 in Kroměříž. The slogan for the exhibition was "NA PŘELOMU EPOCH" (An Epoch Turning Point).

But the main celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Kroměříž Assembly took place September 14 - 16. It was held in conjunction with the International Science Conference which carried the slogan "Kroměříž Assembly 1848-1849 Parliamentary Tradition in Central Europe". Visitors had the opportunity to tour many of Kroměříž's attractions including the Castle gardens, the flower garden dedicated to UNESCO, the Castle's memorial Assembly Hall, the art gallery and library, and the Kroměříž Museum dedicated to the Kroměříž native the Academic painter Max Švabinsky.

So, welcome to Kroměříž -- known as the Athens of the Hana region.

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Philatelic News and Views

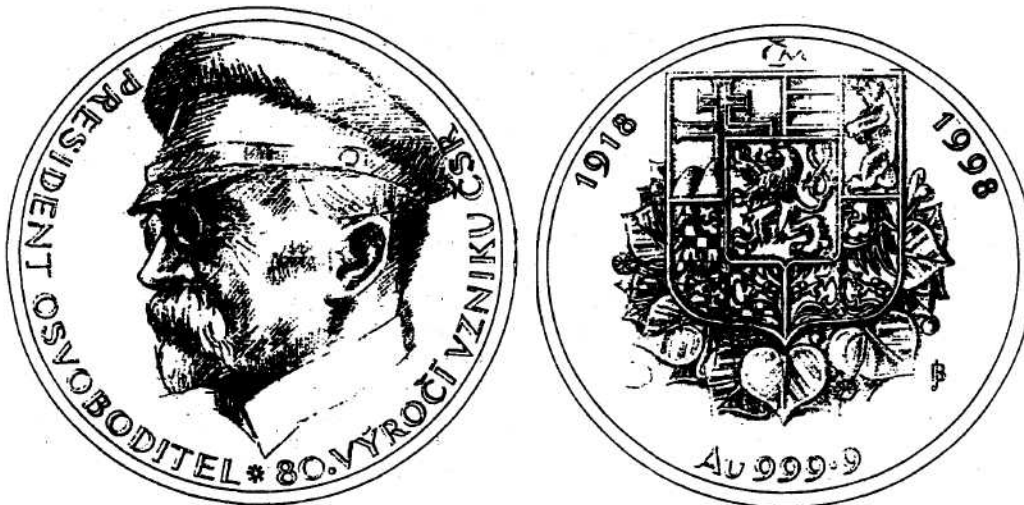
From Peter Kleskovic:

- As I have mentioned before, I wrote to President Havel asking why there was no stamp commemorating Tomas G. Masaryk in this year of the 80th anniversary of Czechoslovakia. Well, I finally received a response from the Office of the President. A translation of the key paragraph follows:

"On the instructions of the President, this office initiated an action with the Czech postal service and commission (who are responsible for the issuance of new postal stamps) to prepare a commemorative stamp dedicated to the memory of T. G. Masaryk. Unfortunately, this suggestion was not accepted for the 80th anniversary of the founding of Czechoslovakia, but rather for the 150th anniversary of the birth of T.G.M. in the year 2000 when three postage stamps of different values will be issued. This decision was made as a result of an agreement between the Czech mint office and the Czech National Bank. In October they will issue gold and silver memorial medals with a portrait of T.G.M. for the 80th anniversary of Czechoslovakia, but more specifically in his honor and to recognize his efforts in the founding of Czechoslovakia.

Jaroslav Safarik
Deputy Director for Internal Affairs"

The illustrations below indicate one possible design for the coins.



**THE SCARCEST STAMPS OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA:
1925 - 40h and 60h Masaryk Stamps - Neotypie**
by Hans Klein

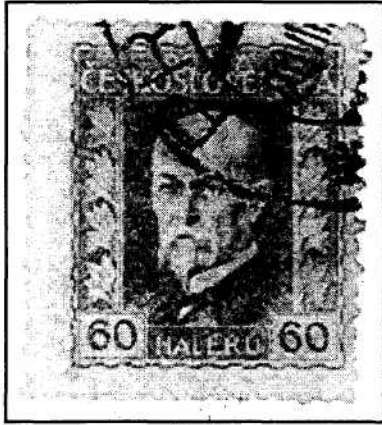


Fig. 1

Millions of copies of these stamps have been printed, both in line perforation 13 3/4 and later in comb perforation 13 3/4 : 13 1/2. They exist in the four [vertical] watermark positions, P1 - P4.

For many years it was not known that a minor quantity -- perhaps single sheets of both the 40h and 60h stamps -- were erroneously printed with horizontal watermark. It was only in the second half of the twenties that collectors reported in the philatelic press that copies of the 40h had been found. Hirsch-Franek write (page 268) that stamps with watermark positions P5, P6, and P8 exist. They do not mention the 60h.

Although at least a complete sheet was printed with horizontal watermarks, the fact that the discovery was made many years after the postal use of the stamps explains why only a very few (12 pieces) of the 40h stamps have been found. We can compare it with the 50/50 DOPLATIT error. While a sheet of this error was probably printed, so far only 17 stamps have been reported to exist.

In 1977, Henry Hahn wrote a brochure about these stamps with the portrait of T. G. Masaryk. He mentions the 40h stamps and writes that these stamps are extremely scarce and underpriced in most specialized catalogues.

So far not a single copy of the 40h with watermark position P7 has shown up -- only P5, P6, and P8 are supposed to exist. Meanwhile, in 1928 a publication appeared announcing that a watermark error of the 60h stamp had been found -- the position P5. On page 68 of the blue catalogue that was issued during PRAGA '88, the four errors -- three of the 40h value and a 60h -- are mentioned. Each is evaluated as RRRRR.

The four errors can be found in the Trojan catalogue without an indication of their prices. This is quite understandable because none of these stamps are ever offered at auction. With watermarks P5 and P6 only three are known to exist, with P8 only six copies have been reported -- all of these were used. No doubt these errors belong among the scarcest Czech stamps.

I have succeeded in obtaining a copy of all

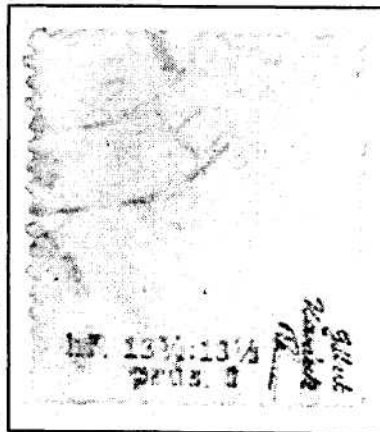


Fig. 2

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

three watermark positions of the 40h. I even have two copies of the stamp with watermark position P8. The collections from which these stamps originated did not contain a copy of the 60h stamp with watermark P5. A well-known Czech collector told me some years ago that such a stamp really existed; he had seen a photo of a 60h P5 when visiting expert Prof. Gilbert. But as far as he knew, the stamp had completely disappeared since then. Ing. Karásek told me that no more than two such errors have ever been known to exist, but both of these could no longer be located.

At PACIFIC '97 in San Francisco, one of the dealers told me that he had collected Czechoslovakia for many years but had decided to dispose of his collection. While looking through this collection, I was already excited as a result of finding a hidden treasure (an unused pair of the 40h Liberated Republic joined types, line perforated 13 3/4), when I found a 60h Masaryk comb perforation with the famous watermark P5. It was the stamp expertized by Gilbert many years ago!!! In view of the fact that for the time being this was the only 60h error P5, I decided that this find (now also expertized by both Ing. Jan Karásek and Ing. Pavel Pittermann) certainly deserved a place in my exhibit.

Figures 1 and 2 show both sides of this stamp. The other lost copy might appear again one day. It is also possible that one of our fellow collectors may one day make a quite agreeable discovery when going over 60h duplicates.



EXCHANGE PARTNER

The following individuals have contacted the Society with a request for an exchange partner. Any exchange relationships are strictly between the two individuals, because the Society is a disinterested and uninvolved party.

1. Ing. Josef Hlaváč He understands some English; collects USA mint and used; offers Czech Republic, especially Kuk Feldpost, and phone cards.
P.O. Box 185
Slunečná 11
69501 Hodonín 1
Czech Republic
2. Jaromír Skácel Understands & can write some English; collects mint USA; offers Czech Republic and Slovakia.
Pod Vodojemem 1053
14900 Praha 4 - Chodov
Czech Republic
3. Bohumil Mrklas Understands and can write in English; wants to exchange for USA; offers and has strong interest in World War II material (Bohemia-Moravia, Theresienstadt, Concentration Lagers, propaganda) and space philately.
Na Vapence 763
46822 Železný Brod
Czech Republic

New Issues

CZECH REPUBLIC
by G. M. van Zanten

1. On October 7, 1998, the Ministry of Transport and communications of the Czech Republic issued a set of two multicolored commemorative postage stamps in the "Beauties of Our Country" series (Fig. 1) depicting cultural monuments entered into the World Cultural and Natural Heritage List of UNESCO. Both stamps were graphically designed by Antonín Odehnal and engraved by Václav Fajt. The stamps were produced by the Post Printing House, Prague, using recess printing from flat plates in sheets of 8 stamps.

-- The 8 Kč stamp (in black-brown, ocher, blue, and green) shows St. Barbara's Cathedral in Kutná Hora. In 1388 the building of a cathedral dedicated to the patron saint of miners, St. Barbara, was entrusted to Jan Parlér, the son of the famous Petr Parlér. The Gothic part was completed in 1499 by the Prague master builder Matyáš Rejsek and, after him, the royal architect Benedikt Rejt. The building was finally finished, however, in 1905 with the addition of a pseudo-Gothic front and a tent roof, under the direction of J. Mocker and L. Lábler. A FDC in blue-grey shows two silver coins from Kutná Hora and bears a commemorative cancel designed by A. Odehnal.

-- The 11 Kč stamp (in black-brown, ocher, red, and blue) shows the Baroque Chateau of Valtice. The chateau is situated on the site of a Gothic Castle and later a renaissance Chateau. The Baroque rebuilding of the chateau was begun before 1688 by K. E. Lichtenstein and was not finished until the end of the 18th century. Many architects took part in the modifications, in particular D. Martinelli, the sculptor F. Biener and the stucco plasterer Alberti. At the end of the 19th century, the surroundings of Valtice and nearby Lednice were interconnected by extensive landscaping. This Lednice-Valtice area has been classified as a UNESCO World Cultural and Natural Heritage monument and includes two chateaus, municipalities, gardens, and ponds. A FDC in brown shows an old wine press since Valtice is in a wine-growing region.



Fig. 1

SLOVAKIA

by F. Garancovsky and G.M. van Zanten

2. On August 20, 1998, the Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications issued a set of three multicolored commemorative stamps in the "Technical Monuments" series with a theme of "150 Years of Railways in Slovakia" (Fig. 2). The stamps were the creative design of Dušan Grečner and engraved by Martin



Fig. 2

Srb. The stamps were produced by the Postage Stamps Printing House, Prague, by rotary recess printing in combination with recess printing in sheets of 50 stamps.

-- The 4 Sk stamp shows a steam locomotive. The FDC in grey-blue shows a water crane in the act of arming the locomotive. It bears a commemorative cancel from Bratislava.

-- The 10 Sk stamp shows an electric locomotive. The FDC in dark-green shows a rail switching mechanism. It bears a cancel from Bratislava.

-- The 15 Sk stamp shows a diesel locomotive. The FDC in dark-brown shows lever operated machinery for the safeguarding of the railway station. It also bears a cancel from Bratislava.

3. On September 7, 1998, the Ministry issued a set of three multicolored commemorative stamps in the "Nature Protection" series with a theme of "Fish" (Fig. 3). The stamps were designed by Dušan Kállay and engraved by Josef Herčík. They were produced by the Postage Stamps Printing House, Prague, using recess printing from flat plates in combination with offset printing on sheets containing the 3 different stamps. In the remainder of the sheet are portrayed additional fish including the European eel, the northern pike, catfish, and others.

-- The 4 Sk stamp shows the Blatniak Tmavý -- Umbra krameri. The FDC in grey-blue shows the *Esox lucius* with a cancel from Bratislava.

-- The 11 Sk stamp shows the Kolok Velký -- Zingel zingel. The FDC in grey-blue shows the *Hucho hucho* with a cancel from Bratislava.

-- The 16 Sk stamp shows the Kapor Obycajný -- *Cyprinus carpio*. The FDC in grey-blue shows the *Acipenser ruthenus* with a cancel from Bratislava.

4. On September 12, 1998, the Ministry issued a 5 Sk definitive stamp entitled "Trnava" (Fig. 4). The black, yellow and blue stamp depicts the center of the historical town showing the city tower (built in 1574), a statue of the Holiest Trinity, and completed by the city coat-of-arms. Trnava was the first town in Slovakia to



Fig. 3

receive the status of a free royal town in 1238 from Bela IV who reigned in Hungary from 1235 - 1270. In 1635 Cardinal Péter Pázmány founded a university in Trnava, at that time the only institution of higher learning in Hungary. Trnava is only 47 km from Bratislava and is an important railway



Fig. 4

junction. The stamp was designed and engraved by Martin Činovský. The stamp was produced by the Postage Stamp Printing House, Prague, using rotary recess printing in combination

with recess printing in sheets of 100 pieces. The FDC in brown and brown-yellow shows an older version of the city coat-of-arms in a baroque frame.



Fig. 5

5. On September 14, 1998, the Ministry issued an 18 Sk commemorative stamp from the "Art" series entitled "PIETA, 1564" (Fig. 5). The multicolored stamp depicts the renovated statue of a Pietà (Mary, the mother, grieving over the body of Jesus after the Crucifixion) from the main altar of the Basilica of the Virgin Mary in Šaštín dating from the year 1564, by an unknown sculptor. Mary is a patron of Slovakia. The stamp designer was Martin Činovský, and the engraver was Miloš Ondráček. It was produced by the Postage Stamps Printing House,

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Prague, using recess printing from flat plates on a printing sheet containing 4 stamps and two blank tablets. The FDC shows a three-sided "Marian" chapel. It bears a cancel from Šaštín-Stráže.

✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠

Letters to the Editor

1. Dear Lou:

Got my SPECIALIST this month (July-August) and regretfully I find it boring. It's mostly about exhibitors, social events at the shows and new and recent issues.

Not very many interesting articles any more as were present in the past.

You will recall many years ago my column Charley's Corner was one that was very popular in the SPECIALIST, but I haven't written anything recently because it's never used.

The SPECIALIST today has lots of "vata", "cotton" -- an expression used by collectors when a collector has an exhibit but does not have enough good material, so he makes up the other pages with cotton to fill up his exhibit. This seems to be what is going on with the SPECIALIST.

. . . I'm sure you could find some collectors willing to help. Pay them maybe \$25 per complete article, it would be worth it. Look at all the great articles written in the 50's by Zdeněk Kvasnička and for those articles he was paid.

With regards,
Charley [Chesloe]

[Ed. Note: (1) While it is true that the Jul/Aug issue had more "general" material in it versus "new discoveries", that is largely driven by what is available and submitted to the editor. I am constantly corresponding with members and searching for new and interesting materials to publish. Most of it tends to be in Czech. Then I have to find someone to translate it accurately and readably. I will continue to do my best to generate "interesting" SPECIALISTS. (2) I have published everything that Charley has submitted to me that was in publishable condition. (3) To the best of my knowledge, we have never paid for any articles to be written. It is the Board's policy that we do not pay for articles.]

2. Dear Ludvik:

Thank you for helping me catch up on past issues . . . I am writing you so that if you have space in your next issue maybe you can print this letter. In addition to collecting Czech/Slovak stamps, I am also an avid collector of Olympic pins, and also coats-of-arms and any sports pins from either CzechoSlovakia prior to 93, or both republics. I am especially interested in High Tatras Ski competitions or Olympic bid pins. Perhaps there are some readers who also collect them and would be willing to either trade or sell some of them? I would be most appreciative if interested members could contact me at 305-374-4529, or send a list of traders to:

Albert Hernandez
1051 Brickell Plaza, #8
Miami, FL 33131

SOCIETY FOR CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELY INC.
***** AVAILABLE PUBLICATIONS *****

(All prices are postpaid; E=English,Cz=Czech,Sl=Slovak)

Three New Books Just Arrived From Prague —

- [NEW] CZECHOSLOVAK POSTAGE STAMPS AND THEIR COUNTERFEITS \$35.00
 1918-1939 (PADELKY) (E,Cz,G) -- A beautiful hard cover, fully illustrated,
 new and updated version in three languages -- English, Czech, German.
 This is a must for any serious collector and a magnificent addition to any
 philatelic library.
- [NEW] MONOGRAFIE 5 -- THE SO 1920 ISSUES (Cz) -- A long awaited new book \$30.00
 in this series. A complete study of these issues,including valuations of
 stamps, varieties, and on cover. Some color illustrations.
- [NEW] POFIS - CZECHOSLOVAKIA STATIONERY & POSTCARD CATALOG \$22.00
 1918- 1992 (Cz) -- This is volume I of a two volume set. The second volume
 is due out next year.

Back In Stock —

- POFIS - SPECIALIZED CATALOG, CZECHOSLOVAKIA 1945-1992 (Cz) -- 1998 \$15.00
 edition that is an absolute must for the varieties collector
 (original reviewed Jan/Feb 98)
- TROJAN - CZECHOSLOVAK AIRMAIL 1918-1939(Cz) \$15.00
 (not yet reviewed)
- TROJAN - CZECH PRIVATE OVERPRINTS ON STATIONERY 1945-1996 (Cz) \$12.00
 (reviewed: Mar/Apr 98)
- TROJAN - CZECHOSLOVAKIA 1918-1992, CZECH REPUBLIC 1993-1996, \$25.00
 SLOVAK REPUBLIC 1993-1996 (Cz)(reviewed: Mar/Apr 97)
- TROJAN - PROTECTORATE, SLOVAKIA, AND SUDETENLAND (Cz) \$12.00
- THE PHILATELY OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA FOR BEGINNERS by Phil Freer (E) \$ 3.50
- GLOSSARY OF PHILATELIC TERMINOLOGY (E)(reviewed: Mar/Apr,97) \$20.00
- CUMULATIVE INDEX OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST 1939-92 (E) \$15.00
- MONOGRAFIE - VOLUME 4 (Cz) \$25.00
- MONOGRAFIE - VOLUME 13 (Cz) \$25.00
- MONOGRAFIE - VOLUME 14 (Cz) \$25.00
- MONOGRAFIE - VOLUME 16 Part 1 & Part 2 (Cz) \$50.00
- MONOGRAFIE - VOLUME 17 Part 1 & Part 2 (Cz) \$50.00

All publications available on postpaid basis from:

**Society for Czechoslovak Philately Inc.
 Attention: Edwin W. Lehecka
 217 Hazel Avenue
 Westfield, NJ 07090**

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST
(USPS 808300)
2363 McCLEARY DRIVE
CHAMBERSBURG, PA 17201

----- Address Service Requested -----

Periodical
Postage Paid
Chambersburg, PA 17201
and additional
mailing offices