



# THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



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Winner of Numerous Philatelic Literature Awards

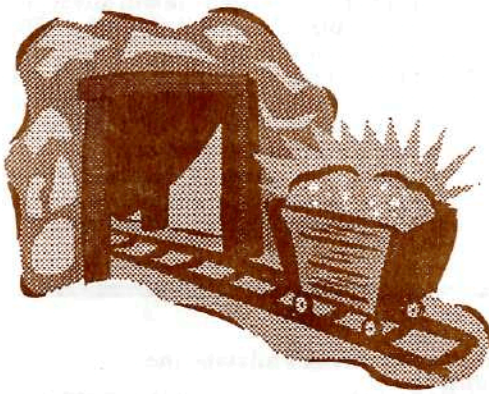
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No. 1, Whole No. 571



## SOCIETY STRIKES

## GOLD

AT

## CHICAGOPEX 2001

(see page 19)

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**WARS, FIELD POST OFFICES and CZECHOSLOVAKS  
1878 - 1921**  
by Lubor Kunc

I would like to show in this article the development of the Austrian field post during 1878 - 1918 and its substitution by the Czechoslovak one in 1918 - 1921. Many times during this article you will find the sentence "this theme needs a separate article", because the theme is really so extensive that detailed information about it would create a bulky book. The goal of this article is to give you a basic overview only. For more detailed knowledge please refer to the articles/books mentioned as resources. I am also not an expert in all of these areas, so this article could become an impulse for better informed collectors to write articles on these themes.



Fig. 1

Let's start in the year 1878. At that time Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia were an integral part of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy governed by Emperor Franz Joseph I. You can see his portrait on a stamp issued in 1867 (Fig. 1, Scott (Sc.) Austria 29). In that year the Austro-Hungarian army (including many Czechoslovak soldiers) defeated Turkey and occupied the former Turkish provinces of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Thanks to the political situation in Europe, the Monarchy was not allowed to incorporate the area directly into its own territory, so the Emperor decided to create the special status of "Occupied Territory" for the

area. This status was valid until 1908 when Bosnia and Herzegovina were annexed to the Monarchy.

Within this special status territory only the field post offices (FPO's) -- serving both public and military bodies -- were in operation. Through the end of July, 1878, Turkish stamps were valid for use, and during Aug. 1, 1878 - June 30, 1879, Austrian and Hungarian stamps were used. Finally, on July 1, 1879 the Austro-Hungarian Military Postal Administration issued the first stamps for Bosnia and Herzegovina. You can see one of these stamps at Figure 2 (Sc. Bosnia & Herzegovina 7). On a Bosnian stamp of 1906 (Fig. 3, Sc. B&H 42) can be seen a car used by the Austro-Hungarian Field Post for the transportation of mail. The currency used on the stamps was the same as in the Monarchy -- until Dec. 31, 1899, they were denominated in Gulden (each having 100 Kreuzer), and from Jan. 1, 1900 to Nov. 1918 the currency was the Crown (having 100 Heller -- 100h). These military stamps of 1879 for Bosnia and Herzegovina began the new period of the Austrian Field Post, which ended with the fall of the Monarchy in 1918.



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

We will now move from Bosnia to Bohemia. During peacetime the Austro-Hungarian army organized maneuvers to train their soldiers. Such maneuvers occurred on the territory of the current Czech Republic in 1894, 1895, 1897, 1899 (twice), 1904, 1905, 1909 and 1913. The participants of the maneuvers used the

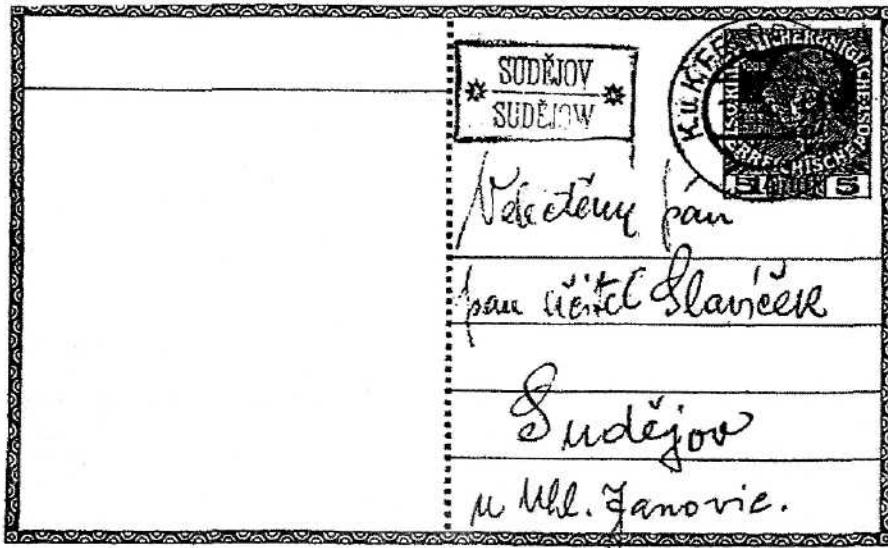


Fig. 4

services of the Field Post (its training was an intergral part of each maneuver), but they had to pay postage. An example is shown at Figure 4 -- this is a card sent from a soldier taking part in maneuvers on Sept. 13, 1913 from FPO 14 and delivered to the addressee through the Sudějov civilian post office. (I would like to thank my colleague Mr. Kubat for the loan of this entire.) More detailed information about the maneuvers and their field posts can be found in Votoček's Monograph, book no. 14, chapter "Razítka manévrových poštovních úřadů z let 1894-1913".



Fig. 5

We have to visit Bosnia again. Bosnia's capital, Sarajevo, became famous on June 28, 1914, when the Austrian Crown Prince Ferdinand and his wife Sophie (coming from the old Czech aristocratic Chotek family) was shot there -- see the Bosnian stamp issued in 1917 showing Sophie and Prince Franz Ferdinand (Fig. 5, Sc. B&H B15). The assassin was the Serbian student Gavril Popov. The Austrian Emperor sent a "Peace Message" to the

Serbian king with proposals on how to solve the situation. Because the acceptance of the proposals would finish the independence of Serbia, the King of Serbia refused them. The Serbian King Petar can be seen on the Serbian stamp at Figure 6 (Sc. Serbia 132) -- which shows the king on the battlefield in 1914. This stamp issue originally consisted of 7 stamps, but because of the late date of issue (Oct. 15, when the Serbian army was beaten by the Austrian one), only two stamps were issued. The king left Serbia for Korfu Isle where he set up a government in exile.



Fig. 6



On July 26, 1914, a partial mobilization was announced, and on July 28, 1914 the Emperor Franz Joseph declared war on Serbia. On July 31, 1914 mobilization was announced for men born in the Monarchy in 1893 (those that were 21 years old and thus believed by Austrian generals to be the right age for war) and also for those born in 1882-1889. By these procedures began World War I -- the war in which a total of 44,558,000 soldiers took part and 9,422,000 of them died.

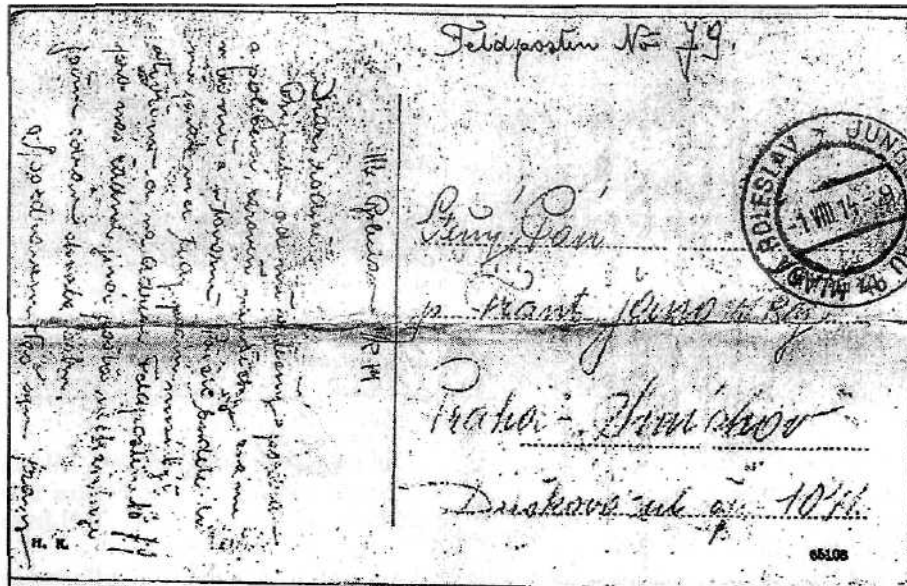


Fig. 7

On the very next day the Austro-Hungarian Field Post for WW I was created. At Figure 7 you can see a card sent on this first day of service of the Field Post by a soldier from Mladá Boleslav to Praha informing his parents they should write to him at FPO 79.

On Aug. 12, 1914 the first Austrian attack of Serbia occurred and WW I began. Originally when the FPO's did not have their own cancels and all of the mail was sent from civil post offices, it was decided to use "okresní razítka" (area cancels) for canceling military mail to prevent the detection of the location of the sender's military unit. This "okresní razítko" was originally used at the civil post offices to confirm the post office that was sending a money order

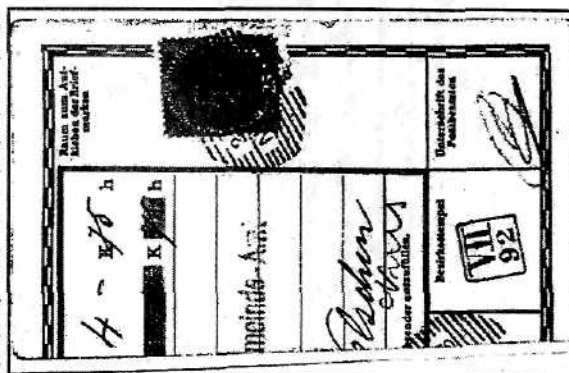


Fig. 8

(Fig. 8)[small rectangle at the bottom]. The entire Monarchy was divided into postal



Fig. 9

areas described by Roman numerals -- e.g. Bohemia was VII, Moravia VIII, Silesia IX, etc. The other number was that of the sender's post office. At Figure 9 is pictured a card bearing an "okresní razítko" that was sent in September, 1914 from Silesia to Rokytnice in Bohemia.

Not only soldiers, but also the public sending mail to soldiers were allowed to



Fig. 10

send it free of postage. It was only needed to write into the upper right corner of the envelope the German word "Feldpost" or the Hungarian word "Taboriposta" (field post)(Fig. 10 -- this card was addressed to a member of the military police). Sometimes you can find a card bearing the Czech text "polní pošta" instead of the German "Feldpost" (Fig. 11) -- but it is the exception since usually the German version was used.

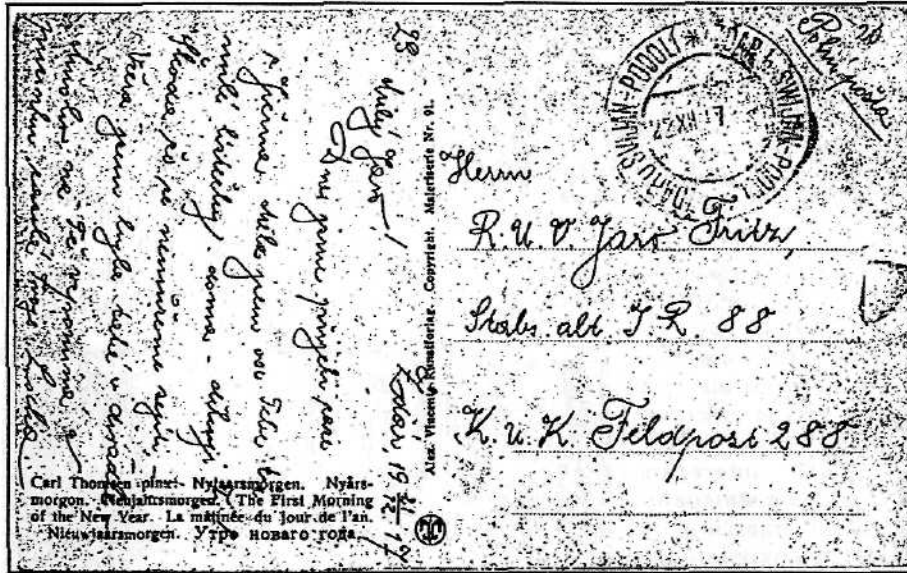


Fig. 11

For normal postal operations the civil Austrian and Hungarian Postal Administrations issued war stamps. Such stamps were issued in order for the public to contribute to the WW I effort, because the purchase of every stamp of the issue required that a surcharge be paid in addition to the face value.

The following sets of war stamps were issued by:

- Austrian Postal Administration (PA) on Oct. 4, 1914 (5h and 10h with 2h surcharge)(Fig. 12, Sc. Austria B1), Michel Österreich 178, 179



Fig. 12



Fig. 13

- Hungarian PA on Oct. 7, 1914 (set of 17 stamps)(Fig. 13, Sc. Hungary B19), Michel Ungarn 145-161

- Hungarian PA on Jan. 10, 1915 (set of 17 stamps)(Fig. 14, Sc. Hungary B50), Michel Ungarn 162-178



Fig. 14



Fig. 15

- Austrian PA on Apr. 2, 1915 (set of 5 stamps; the pictured stamp at Figure 15 [Sc.



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Austria B5] shows a Škoda-Mörser cannon produced in Pilsen, the stamp was the only one being issued in the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy that had a Czech motif, Michel Österreich 180-184

- Hungarian PA on Nov. 15, 1916 (set of 2 stamps, Fig. 16, Sc. Hungary B53) and on May 1, 1917 (1 stamp), Michel Ungarn 183-185; this set was the only one being



Fig. 16



Fig. 17



Fig. 18

valid after the establishment of the independent Czechoslovakia, and it was overprinted with "POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ 1919" (Fig. 17, Sc. Czech. B100)

- Hungarian PA on Sep. 15, 1917 (set of 2 stamps)(Fig. 18, Sc. Hungary B56), Michel Ungarn 208, 209.

The above stamps issued by the civil Austrian PA were valid in the Austrian part of the Monarchy (which means also in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia), and the stamps issued by the Hungarian PA were valid in the Hungarian part (which means also in Slovakia).

Other interesting "Austrian" war stamps are the British forgeries of the valid Austrian civil stamps pictured at Figures 19-21 (Sc. Austria 146, 148, 170).



Fig. 19



Fig. 20



Fig. 21



Fig. 22



Fig. 23



Fig. 24

The forgeries of Austrian (and also German and Bavarian) stamps were printed in London in 1918. They were first discovered in 1922. The forged stamps differ from the original ones by the paper used and by some of the details in the stamp picture. It is not possible now to state why they were printed -- there are two versions of their origin. The first one says the stamps were printed for British spies in the Monarchy; the second one says they were printed because Great Britain expected to occupy an Austrian territory, and the stamps should be then used by the public as regular issues in that territory. Unfortunately, nobody knows which of the above stories is correct -- we only know that the stamps were never put into circulation.



Fig. 25

Propaganda postal items were not born in WW II as a majority of people believe -- we can find them in WW I as well. Figure 22 shows a propaganda postal card "commemorating" the British Army. The card was produced in Aussig -- today, Ústí nad Labem in Bohemia.



Fig. 26

The war caused a lot of difficulties in the postal services, especially in the delivery of correspondence. The first problem was the fact that on some territories the military action interrupted the normal postal delivery, and the second was the huge quantities of mail being sent by and to the soldiers.



Fig. 27



Fig. 28

Because the military mail had the highest priority, the Austrian and Hungarian Civil Postal Administrations decided to deliver printed matter only if the situation allowed for it. Due to this decision, such correspondence was delivered with significant delays, and therefore businessmen put the postal administrations under pressure. The administrations then decided that such correspondence would get normal delivery, but only at a higher postage rate. Beginning Oct. 1, 1916 there were two possible ways to mail printed matter:

- as printed matter mail for 3h porto (the same as before the reform), but with low priority
- as printed matter with higher priority, but for postage of 5h.



Fig. 29

For the printed matter mail with higher priority, special delivery stamps were issued -- 2h stamps were used to up-frank the originally used 3h stamps to make up the 5 hellers that payed up the whole postage. The following special

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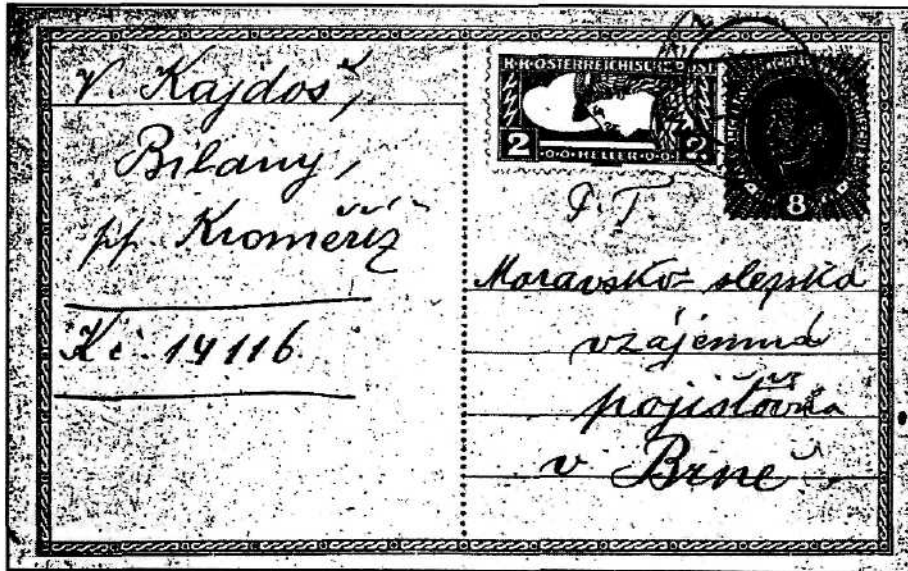


Fig. 30

delivery stamps were issued: by the Austrian Civil Postal Administration in 1916 (Fig. 23, Sc. Austria QE1) and 1917 (Fig. 24, Sc. Austria QE4); by the Hungarian Civil Postal Administration in 1916 (Fig. 25, Sc. Hungary E1). This reform was copied by the Austro-Hungarian Military Postal Administration for Bosnia, which issued a similar special delivery stamp in October 1916 for civil businessmen using the military post offices in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Fig. 26, Sc. B&H QE2).

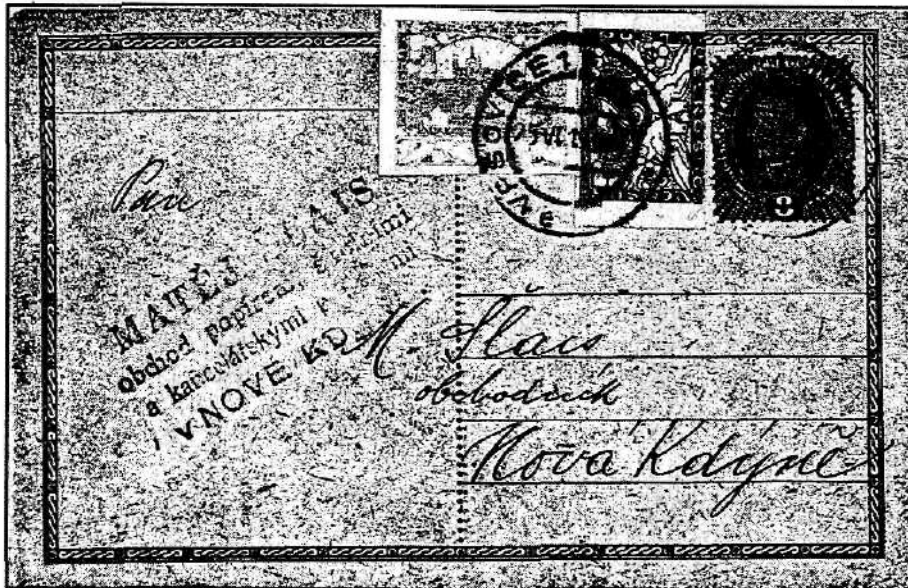


Fig. 31



The Austrian and Hungarian special delivery stamps were valid after the establishment of Czechoslovakia in 1918. There was such a large quantity of them on Czechoslovak territory, that they were also overprinted using the "POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ 1919" -- but the overprinted stamps were for definitive and not special delivery uses (Fig. 27 & 28, Sc. Czech. B36 & B99). The Czechoslovak Postal Administration also issued special delivery stamps for the same purpose (Fig. 29, Sc. Czech. E1). They were issued in February 1919, only a short time before the original Austrian and Hungarian ones lost their validity (Feb. 28, 1919).

We can generally say that the special delivery stamps were not used very often for their original purpose (up-franking to higher priority printed matter). The majority of them were used to up-frank to a new postal card rate (Fig. 30 -- a card from the Austrian period, and Fig. 31 -- a card from the Czechoslovak period). The first card was up-franked with the 2h special delivery stamp (in February 1919), and the second was additionally up-franked with a 5h definitive Hradčany stamp (in May 1919).  
*(To Be Continued)*

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## PRAGUE, AN UNSPOILED PHILATELIC PARADISE

by Donald J. Landis

I have heard of United States stamp dealers coming to Central Europe every year to restock their wares. Since my recent visit to Prague, I understand why.

On arriving at what is perhaps the most beautiful city of Europe, I decided to limit my tourist activities to a general tour of the city. I studiously avoided the cathedrals and crypts that monopolize most of a tourist's time.

In a tourist office on the Charles IV Bridge, a helpful young lady used her computer to get the addresses of the main post office and a stamp shop for me.

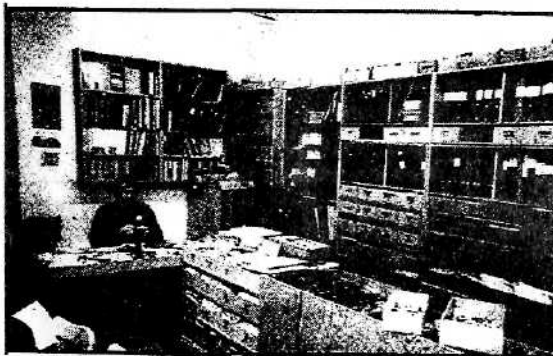


Figure 1. Interior of the Alfafila stamp store in Prague.  
Note the pick boxes on the counter,  
with more in the shelves.

I expect little assistance from the average European stamp shop. These places usually seek a quick turnover of stamps at near catalog value.

There is little for the customer who wants to enjoy a leisurely purchase. This was not the case in Prague.

There are 14 stamp stores in the city of Prague.

I was pleasantly surprised by my visit to Alfafila, located at Václavské Náměstí 28. Two customers were seated at tables poring over thousands of off-paper stamps in large boxes.

There were a half-dozen pick boxes with topicals and general stamps, shown in Figure 1. I was pleased to see pick boxes in a stamp shop again, after not having seen them for at least a quarter-of-a-century.

Neither of the two dealers there spoke either of my languages, English and

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Spanish. However, they quickly understood my gestures and beckoned me to another table.

Before me was placed a drawer brimming with older used stamps and an empty box so that I would not have to sift endlessly through the same material.

Lots of my favorite bull's-eye cancels (clearly canceled stamps with date and location on stamp) turned up. There were world wide stamps prior to 1927 as well as back-of-the-book stamps that I enjoy collecting. Perfins and postcards were also plentiful.

It was refreshing to be in a new area, away from Madrid, where I have already seen most of what dealers have to offer.

Much, if not all, of the material was from the local region or nearby countries. As small and portable as postage stamps are, most of the stamps I saw undoubtedly never left the area where they were used or received on letters.

I snapped up dozens of stamps with clear socked-on-the-nose cancels from Prague and Vienna, such as those shown in Figure 2, from the time when both were cities of the Austro-Hungarian empire.

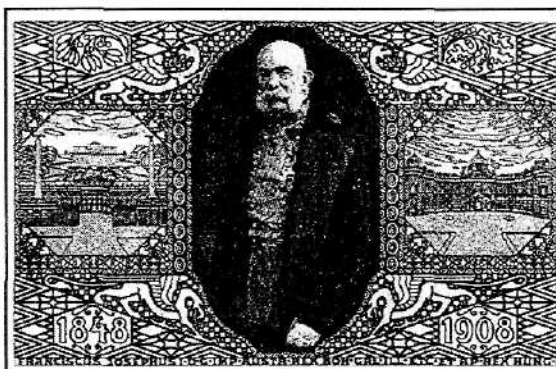


Figure 3. Franz Josef II Jubilee postal card with views of Schoenbrunn in Vienna and the Royal Palace in Budapest.

I could almost see the old king and kaiser, Franz Josef, shown on the Jubilee postal card pictured in Figure 3, gazing across his vast multi-national empire from the time that these stamps were canceled.

Another prize was a U.S. 10¢ yellow-green George Washington, Scott 68, shown in Figure 4, for which I paid the equivalent of less than 3¢. Pen-canceled and with some short perforations, it was still well worth the price.

This shop was open weekdays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. (except on Mondays) and on weekends, when the business session was two hours shorter.

In my three days in Prague, I spent 14 enjoyable hours there. I left the shop quite content with 260 nice stamps. My total purchase, including two later visits, was more than 1,000 stamps at a cost of about \$30.

The proprietors made me feel at home, even offering free coffee and an anise flavored liquor to the tarrying customer. Naturally many others stopped by to enjoy the economical



Figure 2. Vienna (left) and Prague (right) bull's-eye cancels on Austrian stamps from the pick boxes.

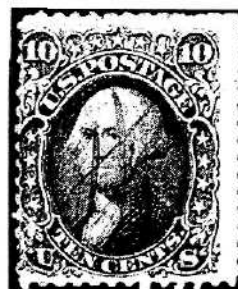


Figure 4. This U.S. classic, the 10¢ yellow-green Washington stamp, cost about 3¢.

wares and cheerful treatment at Alfafila.

Several customers spoke German and were answered in kind by the proprietors. This led me to dust off my circa 1962 college German.

My reward for my linguistic effort was to receive the address of the Prague philatelic flea market.

The flea market is held every Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.



Figure 5. The Barikadnike cultural hall, venue of the weekly stamp flea market in Prague.

The subway brought me to the 10<sup>th</sup> outskirts district of the city. The flea market is inside the Barikadnike cultural hall, shown in Figure 5.

There I was told that Britain and Belgium lack weekly stamp markets because of their weather.

The Czech Republic occasionally has abominable weather, but the dealers solve the problem by holding the market indoors.

The price of admission was 2 koruny or about 6¢, a reasonable sum, indeed.

Here I was lucky to encounter an English-speaking dealer, Pavel Simonek, who informed me that the weekend flea market had been at its present location for the last 20 years.

This hall had about 40 dealers and about twice as many tables, which rent for the modest sum of 30Kč, or about 90¢ each. Several vendors used more than one table, and different dealers sometimes attend.

There were some smaller cigar and tin pick boxes here, but some dealer offerings consisted of a pile of stamps spread out on a table with modest prices ranging from one-half of a koruna to 2Kč per stamp.

They also offered many old sepia postcards with views of Prague and other cities.

Vendors who knew their wares were selling expensive material. For example, an Austrian 2-krone yellow Franz Josef definitive stamp, Scott 27, was offered at 1,450Kč (\$43.50) in mint condition.

I purchased some back-of-the-book material, such as revenue stamps and U.S. Christmas seals from 1921 at 6¢ to 12¢ each. Figure 6 shows two of these stamps.

I also bought a couple of stamped documents for a total purchase price of 80Kč or \$2.40.

Business was slow for some dealers. I noticed a pair of them playing chess, complete with regulation timer clocks. Try as I

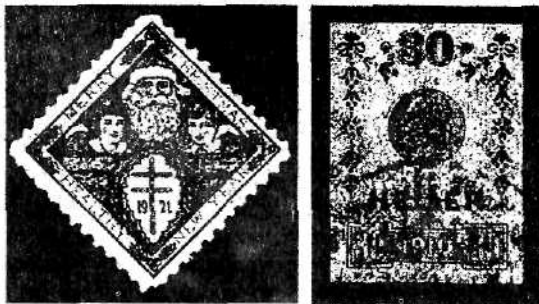


Figure 6. This 1921 U.S. Christmas seal (left) and 30-heller blue and rose 1920 Austrian revenue stamp were among hundreds of stamps purchased at the flea market for a few cents each.



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might, I could not attract their attention. The time for enjoying this market was shortened, as many dealers packed up their wares a half hour ahead of closing time.

Stamps were not the only items offered at this market. Coins, banknotes and even compact discs were for sale.

Because the cultural hall held many types of events, an open bar catered to patrons even at this early hour. A glass of draft pilsner beer cost a modest 30¢, while a pint cost 15¢ more.

One enterprising dealer was conducting business outside of the hall as it closed.

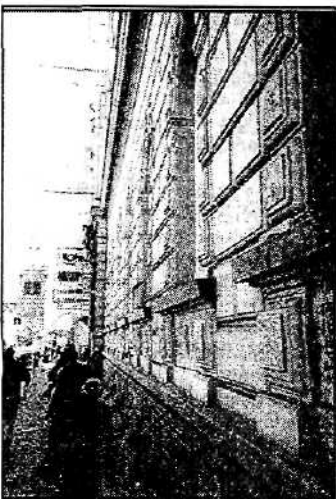


Figure 7. View from the street of the main post office in Prague.

I rode back to the city center with one dealer on the trolley car. He had to hoist three heavy packages onto the tram, but he refused my help. Because the median salary in the Czech Republic is equivalent to \$361 per month, most dealers here probably don't own cars.

Low average income is also what makes stamps and beer so inexpensive. All my Prague acquisitions cost me less than \$80.

On any route, the average tourist will see few postage stamps of interest to collectors. I did see the 25 most common Czech stamps offered for the sum of 400Kč (\$12, far too expensive) among the Karlova souvenir shops.

The Hradčany Castle souvenir shop offered a large packet of 50 stamps for a more modest price of 85Kč (\$2.55), but it did not include a single stamp from the first issues of Czechoslovakia that feature the castle where the stamps were being sold.

These stamps are of minimum catalog value and including them in the packet would enhance its attractiveness to collectors, its obvious purchasers.

No photos were permitted in the main post office, shown in Figure 7, so I missed photographing the attractive Bohemian mural on the interior.

I found no one in the building who spoke English, but there was an excellent philatelic window where I purchased the souvenir sheet shown in Figure 8. It commemorates Czechoslovakia's first stamp and its designer, Alfons Mucha.

Recent Czech year sets are inexpensive. In 2000 the Czech Republic issued only 47 new stamps.

The postal museum guide, Jarmila Richterova, who speaks English, was of great assistance. She pointed out the wall murals by Josef Navratil that provide an unusual postal

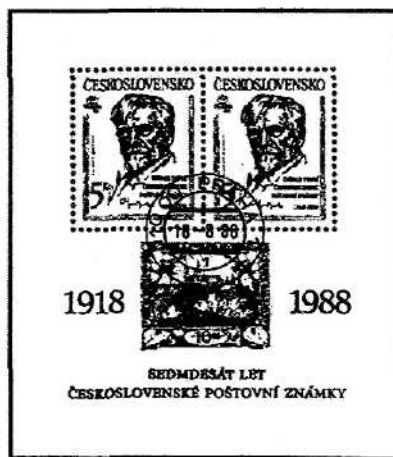


Figure 8. Czechoslovakian souvenir sheet for the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their first postage stamp and its designer, Alfons Mucha.

backdrop along with some 7-foot-tall ceramic jars. Stamp designer displays, such as the one shown in the sheet pictured in Figure 8, accentuated this artistic theme.

U.S. stamps are featured in the museum on 22 pull-out panels. The 43 Czech panels are truly breathtaking.

I suppose that I've let the cat out of the bag.

The next time I'm in Prague, I'll probably have to wait in line at the flea market.

---

*Don Landis is retired from the Air Force and lives in Madrid, Spain. He is editor of The Belgiophile, the publication of the American Belgian Philatelic Society and acting president of the Bullseye Cancel Collectors Club.*

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## NAPEX 2002 IS CLOSER THAN YOU THINK!

by Henry Hahn

While some of us are still resting from CHICAGOPEX '01 -- our 2002 CONVENTION and SHOW is already busy getting organized, and it is time for you to obtain a PROSPECTUS and PRELIMINARY APPLICATION for this great show. It is to be held May 31<sup>st</sup> to June 2<sup>nd</sup> at the McLean Hilton at Tysons Corner which is a suburb (and near) Washington DC. The PROSPECTUS and PRELIMINARY APPLICATION may be obtained from our Show Chairman, Henry Hahn, 2936 Rosemoor Lane, Fairfax, VA 22031, e-mail [hhahn25@aol.com](mailto:hhahn25@aol.com), or telephone: (703) 560-2972.

NAPEX 2002 promises to be an outstanding show, with many superb exhibits, philatelic lectures, and Society activities. We expect at least three exhibits from Europe, several novice exhibits, and significantly more showings by Society members than we had in the recent past. We will have a Society booth for the sale of literature and a cachet, honoring the 600<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Jan Hus's first preaching at Prague's Bethlehem Chapel. Hus was convicted of heresy and executed by fire. He is the initiator of Protestantism in the Bohemian lands. Society lectures will be delivered by Hans van Dooremallen on the Postal History of Brno, Jan Verleg on the Carpatho-Ukraine (both lecturers from the Netherlands), and Milan Černík of Prague on Czech Postal Stationery 1918-1939. A Society meeting is scheduled for Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, and a Society Award Breakfast will take place Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Society awards, including gold, silver, bronze and novice will be selected by a Society appointed jury and presented at the Breakfast. Regular NAPEX awards will be presented at the NAPEX Palmares on Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup>. An excellent jury has been appointed which includes a newly APS accredited judge of Czechoslovakia, Jay Carrigan.

The show closes on Sunday at 4 p.m., and will be followed by a "decompression cook-out" at the Hahns, to which all Society participants are invited.

The definite closure for PROVISIONAL ENTRY FORMS is March 1, 2002.



Fig. 1

## ORLÍK nad VLTAVOU "EAGLE'S NEST"

by G. M. van Zanten

Still one of the finest castles in the Czech Republic, Orlik has however lost its majestic position high above the Vltava, shown here on a pre-1912 postcard in its former majestic position between water and forest (Fig. 1). The following appears on the reverse of this card: Orlik was founded by Emperor Charles IV; Václav IV bestowed the castle on his underchamberlain Zikmund Hulerov whose brother Ondřej sold it to Mister Petr Zmrzlikov of Svojsína, the highest Master of the Mint, whose descendants ruled here until 1515; from them, Orlik was inherited by the Švenberk nobility. During the Thirty Years War, Orlik was captured by General Marradas, was confiscated from the Švenberks, and sold to the Prince's of Eggenberk from whom it was inherited in 1719 by the Prince's of Švarcenberk, during whose rule the castle was repaired and richly decorated; today it is the seat of the second line of

Švarcenberg Prince's. (This card was kindly loaned to me by Vladimír Kralicek, who also did the translation.)

The original early gothic castle dates from the late 13<sup>th</sup> century. However, it was Figure 2 which inspired me to write a brief history of this magnificent castle. This



Fig. 3

stamp was issued on March 13, 1970 as part of the six stamp set for the Osaka '70 Expo. It depicts a colored etching after a drawing by František Karel Wolf

(1764-1836) from 1787, the original of this work measures 145 x 195 mm. It is from a cycle of 39 illustrations of Czech castles issued during 1803 and 1809. It shows the castle before it was rebuilt by B. Grueber in 1849/60, which gave the castle the appearance as shown on the pre-1912 postcard mentioned earlier, when it was strategically



Fig. 2





Fig. 4

built near what was once a ford across the Vltava.

In 1932 Orlik castle appeared on the 4 Kčs stamp issued as part of a 3 stamp set depicting castles (Fig. 3).

The castle itself had quite a history. Over a period of time a palace was built opposite the castle, and the whole complex was encompassed by fortifications, to which new palaces were added in the middle of the 14<sup>th</sup> century. In 1514 there was

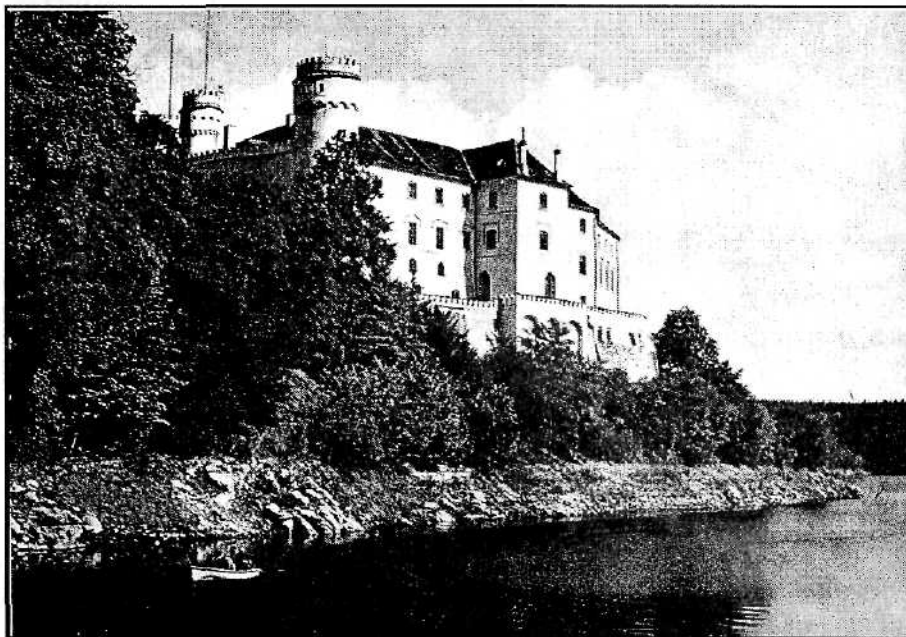


Fig. 5



Fig. 6

a fire which necessitated rebuilding, during which the castle was extended. Another fire occurred in 1802, after which it was still further extended and richly decorated. The highlight of these new decorations is the magnificently and deeply carved, coffered ceiling executed between 1882 and 1884 (Fig. 4).

The scene changed drastically after the Orlik dam was built and completed in 1961. It is the largest hydroelectric work in the Czech Republic and is situated 12km north of the castle. The dam is 92m high and 550m long. Behind the dam lies a 68km long reservoir with an area of 26 square km with the lake almost up to the lower wall of the castle (Fig. 5).

The dam itself was shown on a 20h stamp issued on October 23, 1961 for the PRAGA 1962 stamp exhibition. The stamp also depicts one of the giant Kaplan turbines (Fig. 6).

For the Brussels Exhibition in 1958 a Kaplan turbine was shown again, this time on a 75h stamp (Fig. 7).

In 1995 card No. 26 was issued depicting the castle as it appears today (Fig. 8).

There have been several other picture postcards issued, but I would like to mention the ones listed in the catalogue! They were:

- 1936 No. 35 in the series *Obrazové Dopisnice* [picture postcards]
- 1937 No. 77 in the series *Poznejte Svoji Vlast* [recognize your homeland]
- 1953 No. 21 in the series *Krásy Naši Vlasti* [beauties of our homeland]



Fig. 7

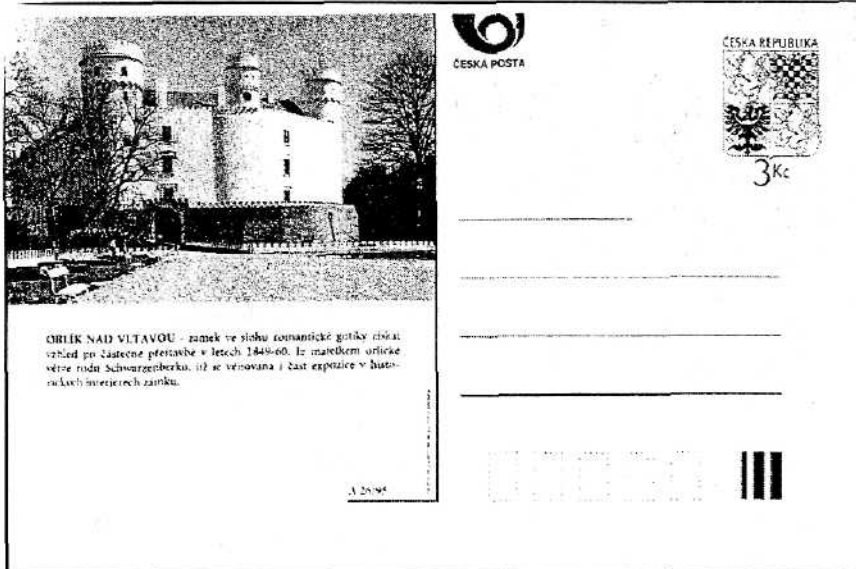


Fig. 8

## SOCIETY ACHIEVES HIGHEST VALUATION OF STAMP EXHIBITS EVER

by Henry Hahn

Of some 60 competitive philatelic exhibits at CHICAGOPEX 2001, only five were by members of the SCP. In an unprecedented sweep, ALL FIVE EXHIBITS BY SOCIETY MEMBERS RECEIVED "GOLD" AWARDS (Fig. 1). Jaroslav "Jerry" Verner was also the winner of the "RESERVE GRAND AWARD for FOREIGN -- Richard W. Canman Award", the highest award presented for a non-US exhibit; plus he was also awarded the "American Philatelic Society Medal of Excellence -- Material from 1900 - 1940". In addition, one non-competitive exhibit, that of Jerry Verner entitled "Czechoslovak Siberian Field Post, 1914-1921" was displayed in the "Court of Honor" and thus received an Honorary Gold Medal. Finally, *The Czechoslovak SPECIALIST* was entered in competition in the Literature class by its Editor, Ludvik Z. Svoboda, and received a "VERMEIL" award -- which was the highest award in recent years. About fifty competitive literature exhibits were submitted.

The philatelic jury included: Burton Sellers, Chair - Arizona, Robert Cunliffe - Pennsylvania, Douglas Clark - Massachusetts, Stephen Shumann - California, and Henry Hahn - Virginia. The literature jury included Dr. Jason Manchester, Chair - Ohio, Dr. Dane S. Claussen - Pennsylvania, and Nancy Z. Clark - Massachusetts.

A separate Society jury, appointed by SCP President, Richard Palaschak, made the following awards at the Society breakfast: GOLD medal - Jerry Verner, SILVER medal - Charles Chesloe, and BRONZE medal - Olech Wyslotsky.

Below are presented some highlights of the SCP member stamp exhibits:

- Jerry Verner, "CZECHOSLOVAKIA 1918-1938". This exhibit had previously won several Golds at FIP and FEPA shows, and was somewhat altered for CHICAGOPEX. It includes a large number of rarities, including the 10K on "granite" paper, modestly displayed with other stamps at the bottom of a page in a bottom row. (The judges appropriately kneeled when viewing this rarity.) Other rarities include the only known plate block of four of the purple 60h Masaryk on parchment paper, all four types of P.C. 1919 Hungarian postage dues with black numerals in complete sets, the 1 ruble with "Českja Pošta" overprint, and many more rarities including the Scout issue, rare perforations and gutter pairs of the Hradčany issue, all types in complete sets of the P.C. 1919 large numeral Postage Dues, as well as other rarities seldom seen in the U.S.

- Charles Chesloe, "SLOVAKIA 1938-1945". This exhibit, also shown previously at FEPA and probably FIP shows, contains extremely rare material. The exhibit, while well deserving of the GOLD award, could be improved from the presentation standpoint and clarification of some of the descriptions. Most striking are the unissued Bozovsky overprints of 1938, followed by the 1939 overprinted issues showing varieties, proofs, trials, coupons and rare plate numbers. The comprehensive Hlinka issue showing rare perforations was somewhat marred by the unclear presentation. There were two possibly unique 50h Hlinka cards, one sent September 5, 1939, triple censored with the last censor removing the 1 Kč adhesive, and a second of 1943 addressed to the "undercover" Box 506 in Lisbon, Portugal. Another Hlinka card, this one with 1.20 Kč shows the rare error in color and the reply side used. Also shown are imperforate varieties of the Child Welfare sheet of 1944. The exhibit continues with rare postage due and newspaper gutter pairs,

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Slovak Field Post and concludes with a 1945 cover when the "puppet state" stamps were no longer valid and the "T" for postage due was indicated in blue crayon.

- Robert Koschalk, "GERMAN OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA". This exhibit has been shown in the US on several occasions. It includes the rare (three recorded) Hitler 6K vertical gutter as well as the Hejdrich souvenir sheet. The exhibit begins with the forerunner period, joint franking with Czechoslovak and overprinted issues and numerous overprint plate varieties. A comprehensive presentation of sheet layout of the later regular issues is shown. Among the interesting covers shown is one from the US Legation in Prague to New York City "via pouch", cancelled in Washington, D.C. The final pages of the exhibit include the Theresienstadt Admittance stamps, forms accompanying the mailing of the Admittance stamps, and a receipt for a parcel received in the Theresienstadt concentration camp.



Figure 1: Gold medal winners -- Jerry Verner, Charles Chesloe, Olech Wyslotsky, Robert Koschalk, Frederick Lawrence

- Olech Wyslotsky, "CZECHOSLOVAKIA -- THE HRADČANY ISSUE AND ITS USAGES". This exhibit, also shown previously at FEPA shows, includes the rare 30h vertical gutter and the "silver" 120h stamp. It is rich in joined spiral and joined column types, some in pairs and some in blocks of four. Also shown is the horizontal gutter of the 5 + 10h and 10 + 5h. Four rare essays and one proof in souvenir sheet form are presented, along with plate and printing flaws. The exhibit is clearly and artfully presented.

- Frederick Lawrence, "SCOUTING ON STAMPS - CLASSICS". This exhibit is presented in the "Special Studies" category, though it consists of three mini-exhibits in traditional philatelic form. It has been shown frequently in the US as well as internationally.

-- The first part of the exhibit deals with the 1900 Mafeking siege photograph or "blueprint" issue, the second part with the 1918 Czechoslovak Scout Mail Delivery Services, and the third part with the 1920 Siam "Scout's Fund"



overprints. The Mafeking portion includes a cyclist imperforate proof pair (one of three recorded), imperforates-in-the-margin, small format Baden-Powell head "imperforate between" error (only pair in private hands), "reversed design" error and many other rarities.

-- The Czechoslovak Scout Service stamps include numerous varieties produced as a result of the combined printing and die cutting operation such as albinos, under and over inkings, and incomplete die cuts. Other rarities include franked covers, postal cards and telegram usages, including "Arrival of President Masaryk" overprints on the 10h blue stamp with transitional overprint in red tinged with black, on the ultramarine shade stamp, inverted on the 20h red stamp, on three covers, and on two telegrams.

-- The 1920 Siam portion consists of nineteen stamps and nine postal cards overprinted in three types as semi-postals issued to raise funds for the Wild Tiger Scouts. Included are many rarities as well as twenty-six entires with stamps. The exhibit includes considerable personal research. Unfortunately, the exhibitor finds himself with insufficient material to present separate traditional exhibits, while the three combined do not form an appropriate unit to be shown in the traditional philatelic class. Nevertheless the exhibit is powerful, nicely presented and well deserving of a "GOLD".

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#### *Editorial Hinges*

Well, as you can see from the banner headlines and the article by Henry Hahn, CHICAGOPEX 2001 was a spectacular success from the standpoint of Czechoslovak exhibits. Many other aspects were very positive -- but there were also others that were rather disturbing or exasperating.

As is usual at our annual convention and exhibition, we began with our Board of Director's Meeting on the day before the philatelic exhibition opened. No one can claim that we have been squandering the Society's money, just take a look at the luxurious locale that we had for our meeting (Fig. 1). While in all other matters the Show Committee and its able Chairman, Al Kugel, were exemplary in satisfying our needs, they couldn't come up with a meeting room. So we threw some tables together in a corner of the Exhibition hall and listened to workmen hammering,

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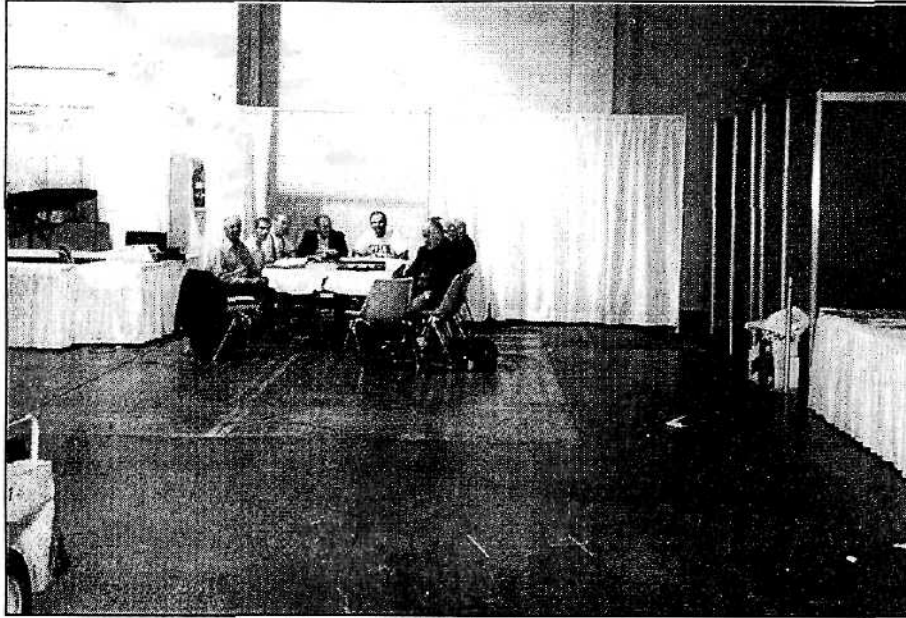


Figure 1: Our luxurious board room!

drilling, and scraping tables together while we conducted our business (Fig. 2). You will be hearing much more about what was discussed and what decisions were made



Figure 2: Rich Palaschak, Frederick Lawrence, Bob Koschalk, Tom Cossaboom, Alan Hoover, Savoy Horvath, Bruce Sebek, Henry Hahn, Jerry Verner, Chuck Rehman (not shown, Lou Svoboda)

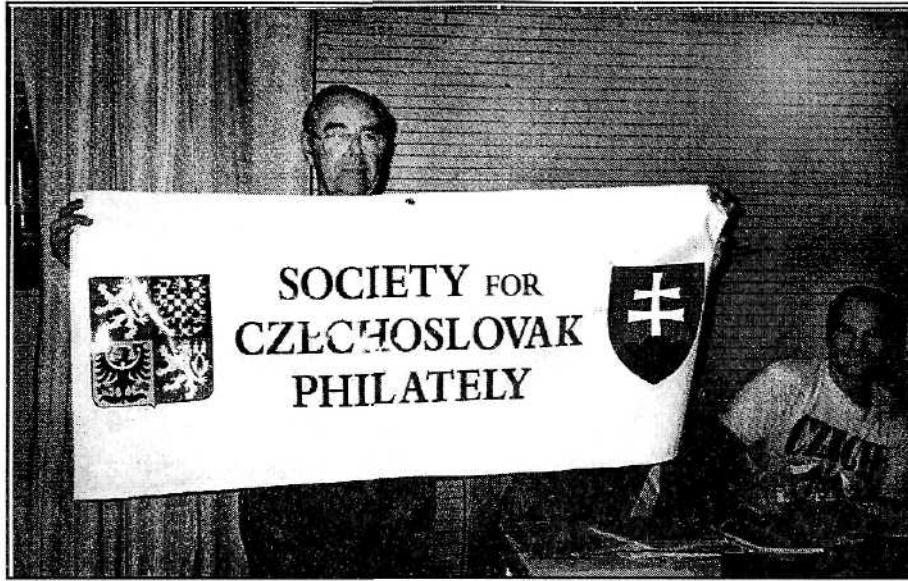


Figure 3: Proud Papa, Bob Koschalk, holding his Society sign.

in the near future after our President, Richard Palaschak, gets a copy of the minutes of the meeting to use as a source for an article on this subject. I would like here to simply highlight two events that were very positive and that we have photographs to memorialize:

- At a previous board meeting Bob Koschalk took on the responsibility to design, price, and have produced a new sign to hang over our table at this and all other future exhibitions. He did a fabulous job (Fig. 3). The sign is on very heavy cloth (similar to white tarpaulin material), is covered with a clear laminate for easy cleaning, and comes with its own mailing tube and hanging devices. If you are going to man a table at a local stamp exhibition, it should be available to help advertise our Society.

- Prior to the meeting -- and unbeknownst to him -- the Board voted unanimously to designate Jaroslav "Jerry" Verner an Honorary Member of our Society (Fig. 4). Jerry, with membership number 609, has been a very active member since 1958, despite the fact that many of those years were spent in foreign countries. He has authored many articles and translated many, many more for the *SPECIALIST* and for our specialty books; he is a past-president of our Society, and a Board Member for many terms; he started the Society Web-site and has continued to improve it; he has hosted many of our honored philatelic guests visiting from other countries and has always been an excellent and very articulate representative of our Society. This designation means that Jerry is absolved from paying membership dues for the rest of his life.

The meeting concluded just barely in time for our Society dinner held that night at a Czech restaurant in Berwyn. The food was fabulous especially when topped off with some Czech Pilsner beer -- in fact the food was so good that several of us went back two more evenings during the show. We spent almost three pleasant hours telling philatelic "war stories" and solving the world's problems (Fig. 5 & 6).



Figure 4: President Palaschak congratulating new Honorary Member Jerry Verner.

The next morning the exhibition opened with our table ideally located at the end of the central aisle (thank you Al Kugel)(Fig. 7). Thanks to Jerry Verner and Rich Palaschak we had an excellent selection of our books for sale at the table (we



Figure 5: Alan Hoover's left arm, Annette Hoover, Charley Chesloe, Peggy Sebek, Bruce Sebek, Jerry Verner, Marilyn Hahn, Savoy Horvath -- Lois Verner -- Tom Cossaboom, Chuck Rehman, Rich Palaschak.





Figure 6: Jerry Verner, Marilyn Hahn, Nadia Horvath, Savoy Horvath, Karen Wyslotsky, Olech Wyslotsky, Bob Koschalk, Lois Verner, Henry Hahn.

sold over \$400 worth during the show); Alan Hoover brought about six circuits for members to go through when they stopped by; of course there was Bob Koschalk's



Figure 7: You can see the Society's sign in the background framing the head of the man who is walking.

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Figure 8: Our "book rich" table being manned by Rich Palaschak, Alan Hoover, (standing) Charley Chesloe, Bob Koschalk.

new sign advertising the Society (Fig. 8); our president, Richard Palaschak, gave a very good presentation complete with slides on collecting Czechoslovak philatelic material at the Society general meeting; and our table was manned by board members throughout the Exhibition in order to greet, meet, and talk with our members (Fig. 9).

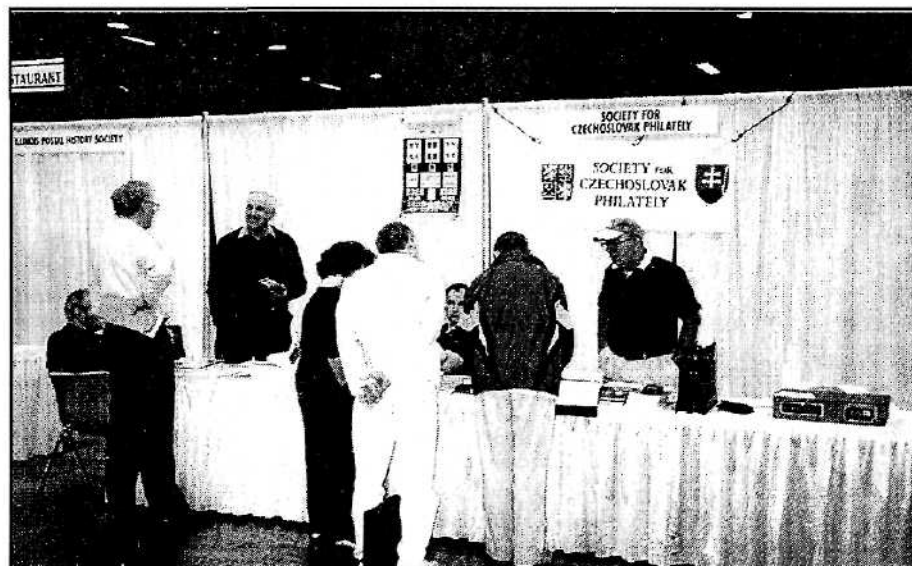


Figure 9: This was the busiest we ever got.



Figure 10: Lou Svoboda, Jerry Verner, Lois Verner, Charley Chesloe -- Rich Palaschak, Dr. Ben Ramkissoon, Bruce Sebek, Frederick Lawrence, Henry Hahn, Marilyn Hahn, Randy Frank.

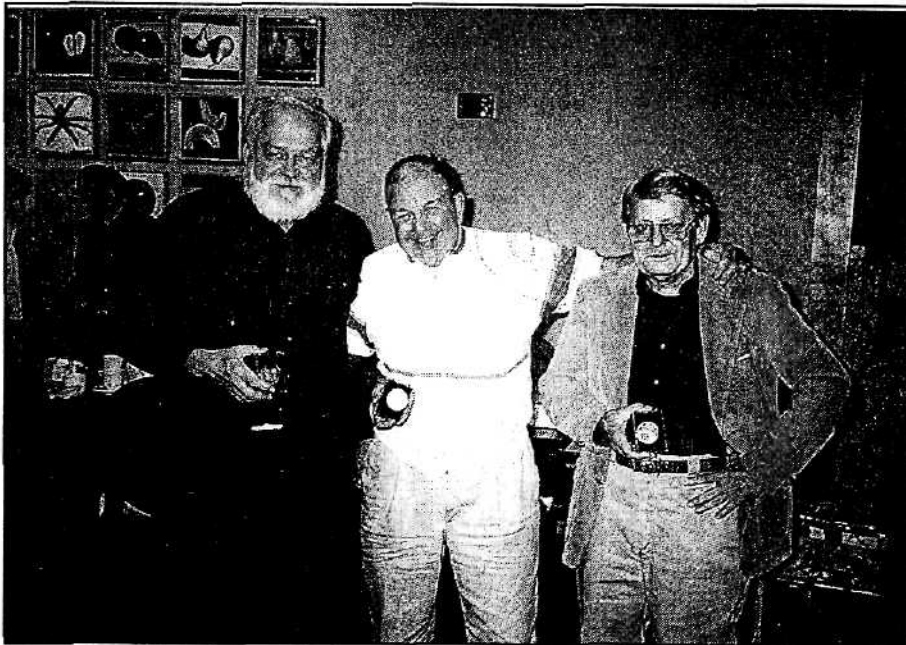


Figure 11: Society medal winners – Jerry Verner (Gold), Charley Chesloe (Silver), Olech Wyslowsky (Bronze).



Figure 12: Rich Palaschak presenting the show Vermeil medal to Lou Svoboda for the SPECIALIST.

We held our awards breakfast at the DoubleTree across the street with the president of the Chicago Philatelic Society, Dr. Reuben Ramkissoo as our guest (Fig. 10). Presentations were made to all of the honorees (Fig. 11, 12).

For me, the most disturbing aspect of CHICAGOPEX 2001 was the lack of attendance. I have been attending the Society's annual conventions/exhibitions since 1979. They are always held in conjunction with a medium-to-large size national level philatelic exhibition. I have never seen such poor attendance -- AND THE SHOW WAS FREE! Dealers that had six chairs for their customers were lucky to have two of them filled. Such poor attendance was no doubt a major factor in our not signing up a single new member during the show. In the past, we have averaged 4 - 8 new members at such a national show.

But the most exasperating aspect of this Society convention/exhibition was the fact that with 26 of our Society members living in the Chicago metropolitan area (not counting Board members) -- only 3 of them came by to see us. The members of the Board work hard to move our annual convention around the country in order to bring additional benefits to our local members -- face-to-face exchange of information and answering of questions, ability to see and peruse Society philatelic books before you buy, to get a chance to buy discounted stamps and covers from the Society circuit, and to view some of the finest exhibits of Czechoslovak philatelic materials in the world.

Getting into one of these national shows is not like picking from the newspaper which theater to go to to see a movie. You have to apply, be accepted, negotiate for a Czechoslovak accredited judge on the jury, negotiate for the number of frames of Czechoslovak material you can exhibit, get a table with location, arrange for meeting rooms, arrange for reasonable room accommodation rates, schedule



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restaurants for dinners and breakfast, etc. And all of this has to be started at least three years in advance, if not sooner.

After our CHICAGOPEX area members' participation, I for one will not be in a hurry to return to Chicago -- which is a shame only because we were treated so well by Al Kugel, Ben Ramkissoon and the Chicago Philatelic Society.

Ludvik Z. Svoboda

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**Please make note that the Editor's e-mail address has changed to:**

**LouSvoboda@attbi.com**

**Souvenir Sheet Varieties**

by Frank A. Garancovsky

1937 Bratislava  
Scott 239/POFIS A329/330

The evolving 'gooseneck' variety story continues. Since the initial report of the variety surfaced in *ZBĚRATEL*, December 2000 (by Jan Micka), followed by my article in the March/April 2001 *SPECIALIST*, there have been new developments in this continuing story of the 1937 Bratislava souvenir sheet (Fig. 1).

In early August, I successfully bid on a lot advertised in a Florida auction for 55 copies of this souvenir sheet. After reviewing Thomas Morovic's article in the February 1989 *SPECIALIST*, I anticipated finding a few printing and/or plate varieties. What I found astounded me! In what appeared to be original packaging from the printer in 1937, all 55 sheets were interleaved with tissue paper. Each tissue was impressed with the complete perforations of the souvenir sheet that followed.



Fig. 1

As I began examining the first sheet, I noticed immediately that it was a 'gooseneck' variety. Then came the second sheet and so on through 53 copies, all were of this variety. The final two sheets (numbers 54 and 55) were a Type I and Type III (Fig. 2). A second examination of the sheets revealed that each of the 53 'gooseneck' varieties were of the Type II. This obviously is a good indicator that this variety is only found on the Type II sheet. To satisfy my curiosity, I went to my collection and verified that all my previous copies (19) were indeed of the Type II variety.

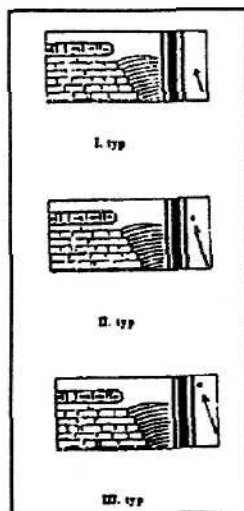


Fig. 2

In late August, I attended the APS STAMPSHOW 2001 in Chicago. For several days I waded through the myriad of cover dealers. Finally I found a dealer who had one copy of this sheet. Upon examining it, I noticed that it was a 'gooseneck', however, with NO trailing line following the curve that crossed the three slanted lines to the right. In an earlier illustration, this crossing line would stop at the fourth line (Fig. 3 & 4).

Monografie 3 does state that there were 7 to 10 plates for the blue ink. It goes on to mention a printing fault of a white stain over the letters 'NS' of ČESKOSLOVENSKO on the 50h blue stamp. Additionally it mentions that red and white stains are readily found on various copies. In the article by Thomas Morovic, he identifies 8 of the 10 plates in various combinations in the blue ink and 3 plates for the red ink. He qualifies his plating by stating that the "categorization does not in any way contemplate the precise chronological order in which the plates were used".



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

Jan Micka's find of the 'gooseneck' variety can very well be plate 9; my discovery of the missing trailing line following the curve may be plate 10 -- or just in the reverse order. Most likely this missing trailing line is a printing variety of the original 'gooseneck' variety. At this point, this is all conjecture on my part while awaiting the findings of the Czech Republic Commission of Expertizers. Further study of the sheets in my collection revealed that this trailing line varies in length. At times the trailing line crosses the fourth and fifth lines (mountain ridges), but never crosses the sixth line or ridge.



Fig. 5

An additional printing variety was found among my earlier copies (Fig. 5). My hand drawn extension of a previous illustration (Fig. 1, Mar/Apr 2001 *SPECIALIST*), indicates a long diagonal line and a gentle arc at the far right. The long line is located beneath the second and third mountain peaks from the left and below the letter "H" of TATRACH, and proceeds in a south-westerly direction and ends just below the curve of the gooseneck appearing as two diagonal parallel lines. The gentle arc is just below the third peak.

Thanks to Mr. Morovic's detailed study of a few dozen sheets, he was able to identify 8 plates. In the past few months I have examined over 200 copies to find that the 'gooseneck' is only found on the Type II sheet. The length of the trailing line plus the long diagonal crossing line in Figure 5 may all be printing varieties. There has been no further reporting on the Bratislava sheet since the original article by Jan Micka (*ZBĚRATEL*, December 2000).

Earlier, the Bratislava sheet has been referred to as a dealer pariah because

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of the huge print run combined with huge export volumes to the American Continents. On the other hand, the low cost of this sheet has provided a very affordable study that continues to yield philatelic interest 64 years later. I might add that the 'gooseneck' variety is found on all the overprints for whatever event or commemoration.

**\*\*\* NOTICE \*\*\***

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**MAILING COSTS**

In the last two years the US Postal Service has made three increases in postal rates -- both domestic and foreign -- and is planning another one for this January 2002.

There is NO increase in membership dues or foreign mailing surcharges for 2002. Likewise there is no planned increase in membership dues for 2003 or the foreseeable future. The Board has decided to absorb the additional mailing costs for both the domestic and foreign members for now.

However, there will definitely be an increase in the foreign airmail delivery surcharge (currently \$10.00) and possibly in the foreign surface delivery surcharge (currently \$5.00) beginning in 2003.

Additional information will be published during 2002 to help our foreign members decide which delivery method to choose before they receive their 2003 dues requests next November 2002.

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**IN MEMORIAM**

**JUDr. VRATISLAV PALKOSKA, 1923-2001**

On Sunday, November 4, JUDr. Vratislav Palkoska died at the age of 78. He was one of the principal personalities in Czechoslovak philately. JUDr. Palkoska was an accredited FIP juror in Postal History, particularly in field posts during WWII, and an expert in the postal services in the Theresienstadt Ghetto. His last service to philatelists was an issue of postal stationery commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Field Post of the Czechoslovak Army in Great Britain. For many years JUDr. Palkoska was a high ranking member of the Union of Czech Philatelists, of which he was a founding member in 1965. He was active as a writer and as an exhibitor. His lectures were substantial in content, well illustrated, and superbly delivered. He served as a judge at JUVALLUX'98, PRAGA'98, BRNO'00, OSTROPA'00 and at Euregia Egrensis'01 in KARLOVY VARY where I last spoke with him regarding translation and publication of a manuscript by our Society. Collectors throughout the world have lost an irreplaceable expert and friend.

Henry Hahn



*Philatelic News and Views*

[Ed. Note: When I read Henry Hahn's report "Philatelic Exhibition 'Euregia Egrensis' in Karlovy Vary" [Nov/Dec issue, pg 22] I was curious as to where the term "Euregia Egrensis" came from. Via an e-mail, I asked several members if they knew anything about it and the exhibition. The following are the responses from Frank, Lubor and Savoy.]

-- From Frank Garancovsky: Three new postal cards were issued for the event. The 2<sup>nd</sup> . . . on the left side will be a reproduction of a tempura type painting by F Matsche of the Madonna of Karlovy Vary. She is the patron saint of the spring or fountainhead -- which relates to the pump room.

-- From Lubor Kunc: I don't know if Euregia Egrensis has any religious meaning or if the Lady of Karlovy Vary exists. But if she exists, she is the patron of pump-rooms (in the Czech language this is "vridlo" = the natural source of mineral water springing or being pumped from underground). In Karlovy Vary there are 12 natural mineral springs, while a 13<sup>th</sup> one is the drink Becherovka.

-- From Savoy Horvath: The painting of Karlovarská Madonna was done by Franz Matsche in tempura style on sheet metal. As for the term Euregia Egrensis, it's referring to the Cheb/Eger region. The settlement of Eger came into being in 1061, and became a part of the German Empire. At that time it was the only town in today's western Bohemia, which was called Euregia Egrensis. I recently received a nice cover from there. The new envelope has a 9 Kč National Stamp imprinted on it, an additional illustration imprinted on the left of St. Peter and Paul Orthodox Cathedral, and has the stamp show logo cancel (Fig. 1). I believe that they put a



Fig. 1

## THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Russian Orthodox church on the cover for the reason (not talked about in the CR) that Karlovy Vary is more than 50% Russian in population and ownership. The CR is known for having picture post cards for every little town and village. The Karlovy Vary cards are the only ones that have the information on the back printed also in Russian.

From Savoy:

-- The CR is planning another postal rate hike averaging 6% for January 1, 2002. On a CR talk show, all of the 30 people who called in were not happy with the rate hike and complained about the quality of the CR postal service. This is odd keeping in mind that the CR is about the size of Iowa, has 95% next day mail delivery, and that the basic rate for a card or letter is only about 7 cents. Other factors to keep in mind include: CR postal workers are way below the national average in pay, and the postal service has competition. Any mail heavier than 350 grams (12.5 oz) can be privately delivered with the biggest competition coming in parcel post, and even first class mail weighing less than one ounce can be privately delivered in the CR as long as the carrier charges five times the official rate.

From Lubor Kunc:

-- During the "2001 FIP Web Sites Evaluation", the Society web site "[www.erols.com/sibpost](http://www.erols.com/sibpost)" [old name] received the designation of a 3-STAR-SITE. Congratulations!

-- In the hall of the Praha 1 Main Post Office on Jindřišská Street (near Václavské Náměstí) a machine has been installed that prints the "automated" stamps (the ones issued at the Brno 2000 philatelic exhibition). It is not clear whether this is a new machine bought by the Postal Administration, or if it is the one from Brno that has been moved to Prague. But at the moment there are two such machines in Prague (one in the Main Post Office and one at Praha - Holešovice). Do any of our readers have a bill issued by the Brno stamp machine? If so, then please check the first line of the bill where you will find the "SERIOVÉ ČÍSLO" (the production or ID number of the machine). The Holešovice machine has the number 142740, while the Prague Main Post Office machine is 143018. By comparing the Prague machine number with the one from an original bill of the Brno machine, we can determine whether the Prague machine is the one that was originally in Brno.

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The finest collection of Czechoslovak philatelic literature outside of the Czech and Slovak Republics is at your fingertips as a Society member. Contact our librarian, Richard Palaschak, for a Library Catalog listing of the books and periodicals that are available (or if you have an Internet connection, go to: [www.czechoslovakphilately.com](http://www.czechoslovakphilately.com)) -- there are currently over 360 of them. He will also provide you with all of the details on borrowing items by mail. You can reach him at 4050 Carbury Court, Chantilly, VA 20151-2613.

**NEW MEMBERS**

**CALIFORNIA**

1920 Martin McNally  
1916 John Miller

**ILLINOIS**

1909 Bohdan Pauk

**IOWA**

1911 Mrs. Eliska Drahovzal

**MISSOURI**

1914 Pavel Rozabek

**UTAH**

1926 Ryan Mechan

**WISCONSIN**

1917 Harold W. Kralik

**GREAT BRITAIN**

1921 Jason Cartwright

**JAPAN**

1910 Kenichi Takaku  
1927 Hukaya Tomoyuki

**COLORADO**

1913 Colin Barnhorst

**FLORIDA**

1924 David Grundy  
1908 Florence Rose

**MINNESOTA**

1923 James Chlebecek

**PENNSYLVANIA**

1918 Richard E. Howard

**VIRGINIA**

1922 Richard Livingston

**CANADA**

1925 Karl Edel  
1915 Paul Vedlak

**ITALY**

1912 Piero Santangelo

**NETHERLANDS**

1919 Simon H. Blazer  
1907 S.K.H. Oosterhuis  
1906 J.A.J. Trip

\* \* \* \* \*

**2000 FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE  
SOCIETY FOR CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELY INC.**

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Member Dues	\$6,765.01	SPECIALIST	\$7,335.28
Circuit Sales Fees	1,000.00	Patron Books	964.22
Net Interest & Fees	274.15	Postage & Adm Exp	264.12
Donations	153.00	Membership Expense	212.41
Advertising	420.55	Education Expense	56.94
Net Book Sales	850.70	Advertising	80.00
Expertization Fees	44.00	Convention Expense	102.95
Postcard/Cachet Sales	(0.90)	Miscellaneous	15.00
Czech Members	40.00		
<b><u>TOTAL INCOME</u></b>	<b>\$9,546.51</b>	<b><u>TOTAL EXPENSE</u></b>	<b>\$9,030.92</b>
	<b><u>NET GAIN/LOSS</u></b>		<b>\$515.59</b>

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT**  
**Jan 1, 2000 – Dec 31, 2000**

Membership --	January 1, 2000	344
	December 31, 2000	338
	Regular Members	263
	Patron Members	55
	Honorary Members	10
	Senior Members	5
	Complimentary Members	5

\* \* \* \* \*

**NEW MEMBERS WANTED**

HELP your society to grow! Enlist a fellow collector of Czechoslovak stamps for membership. Talk up the Society at your local stamp club or exhibition. Membership benefits are listed periodically on page two of issues. If you still have it, there were two application forms tied in to the middle of the July/August 2000 issue. If not, application forms and Society information are available from our Secretary, Tom Cossaboom, Box 25332, Scott AFB, IL 62225-0332, or from our web site: [www.czechoslovakphilately.com](http://www.czechoslovakphilately.com)

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**SALE OF UNBOUND SPECIALIST'S**

The Society has back copies of the SPECIALIST available for sale to members at reduced prices. Years 1981-2000 are priced at 25 cents per copy. Prior years are priced at 50 cents per copy. We do not have all years complete, and in many cases only have a few copies of an issue. Therefore, the issues will be sold on a first come first served basis. Photocopies can be made (at cost -- about 3 cents per page) to provide a limited number of copies to complete some year's issues, if specifically requested.

You may order the SPECIALIST's which you wish to purchase by submitting a request to the Society Librarian:

Richard Palaschak  
4050 Carbury Court  
Chantilly, VA 20151-2613

Please include your membership number and a deposit of \$10.00 (make the check out to Richard Palaschak and not to the Society) to cover the cost of postage and packaging to mail the SPECIALIST's to you. (If you are purchasing less than five SPECIALIST's, the deposit may be reduced to \$5.00.) Unless requested otherwise, the SPECIALIST's will be mailed to you as Third Class mail. You will be



billed for the SPECIALIST's which you are purchasing when they are mailed to you. Any balance from your deposit after subtracting the cost of postage and packaging will be applied to your bill (or refunded, if your total purchase cost plus postage is less than the deposit).

SPECIALIST's are available for the following years: 1966, 1968 to 1971, and 1973 to 2000. Not all years are complete! If you only want complete year sets, please say so; otherwise I'll send those copies currently available for any year which you request.

I sometimes obtain a very limited number of loose issues from earlier years; if you are missing an issue from one of these earlier years, I may be able to help, but these will be sold to you at the cost which the owner sets.

Richard Palaschak

\* \* \* \* \*

*New Issues*

**CZECH REPUBLIC**

by G. M. van Zanten

**2002 ISSUE PLAN  
FOR CZECH REPUBLIC STAMPS**

Date of Issue	Name of Issue	Number in set	Value Kč
Jan 20	Tradition of Czech Stamp Production	1	5.40
Jan 30	XIX Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City	1	12
Jan 30	Winter Paralympic Games in Salt Lake City	1	5.40
Mar 6	Personalities of Czech Popular Music	2	
	- Karel Vacek (1902-1982)		5.40
	- Jaromír Vejvoda (1902-1988)		9
Mar 6	Easter	1	5.40
Apr 23	Art Work on Stamps I (joint issue with Croatia)	1	
	- Vlaho Bukovac (1855-1922)		17
May 5	EUROPA -- Circus	1	9
May 7	Czech Culture and France	2	23
			31
May 29	For Children	1	5.40
June 19	Czechs of Europe -- Mistr. Jan Hus	1	9
June 19	Nature Conservation -- WWF/Butterflies	4	5.40, 5.40
			9,9
Sep 11	Nature Conservation -- Stream Pearl-Oyster (joint issue with Germany)	1	9
Sep 11	Emil Zátopek (1922-2000) -- (best Czech athlete of the 20 <sup>th</sup> century)	1	9
Sep 11	Beauties of Our Country -- UNESCO	2	
	- Castle area in Litomyšl		12
	- Obelisk of the Holy Trinity in Olomouc		14

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Oct 16	Technological Memorials -- oldest Czech watch towers	2	
	- Klef near Czech Krumlov		5.40
	- Slovanka near Jablonec		5.40
Oct 16	Collecting -- Stylish Furniture	3	5.40
			9,12
Nov 6	Art Work on Stamps II	3	
	- Jaroslav Panuška (1872-1958)		12
	- Mikoláš Aleš (1852-1913)		20
	- Jan Petr Molitor (1702-1757)		26
Nov 6	Christmas	1	5.40



Fig. 1

1. On June 20, 2001 the Ministry issued a set of four commemorative stamps entitled Animal Breeding -- Dogs (Fig. 1). These 5.40 Kč stamps depict four popular breeds of dogs. The dog is the oldest of domestic animals. Prehistoric man first began to tame its wild ancestors -- wolves and jackals. Modern pedigree breeding began in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. There are now around three hundred recognized breeds, but the actual number is much greater. The stamps were designed by Ladislav Kuklík, typographically arranged by Václav Kučera, and engraved by

Miloš Ondráček. They were produced by the Post Printing House, Prague, using rotary recess printing in black combined with photogravure in dark brown, red-brown, orange and ochre in printing sheets of 50 pieces in a chessboard arrangement on the sheet (2 and 2 - German shepherd with retriever and west highland white terrier with beagle).

-- The German shepherd is surely one of the most beautiful and intelligent of dogs. In its build and appearance it is very like a wolf. It is a wise, courageous and alert dog, suitable not only for training for any kind of work but also as a family pet. A FDC in brown depicts a Neapolitan mastin (Fig. 2).



Fig. 2

-- The golden retriever, with its beautiful longish golden-yellow coat, was bred to retrieve hunters' quarry, and so is originally a hunting dog. Today it can far more often be seen in the role of a patient and intelligent companion for families with children. A FDC in black depicts a Labrador retriever (Fig. 3).

-- The West Highland white terrier is a luxury "toy" dog. It is small,



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

strong and courageous, a lively and entertaining companion. Its coarse white coat only comes out with pulling, loves regular brushing, and is resistant to dust and dirt, so the dog always looks clean. A FDC in brown depicts four leonberger pups (Fig. 4).

-- The beagle is a small, sturdy and loyal hunting dog. In England, where it was bred, it was originally used for hunting in packs. In more recent times, we can more and more often see it as a great friend for humans. A FDC in brown depicts

another beagle (Fig. 5).



Fig. 5

2. On September 5, 2001, the Ministry issued a set of four commemorative stamps in the Nature Conservation series, entitled Animals in the Zoo (Fig. 6). This issue presents exotic mammals which are kept and breed successfully in zoological gardens in this country. The set was designed by graphic artists Libuše and Jaromír Knotek and were engraved by Martin Srb. They were produced by the Post



Fig. 6

Printing House in Prague by rotary recess print in black combined with photogravure in yellow, red, blue and gray in printing sheets of 50 pieces in a chessboard arrangement (fox with panda and tiger with orangutan).

- A 5.40 Kč stamp -- The fennec fox (*Fennecus Zerda*) is a small carnivore of the dog family from North Africa. It is superbly adapted to life in desert conditions. Its large thin ears rich in capillaries not only afford it excellent hearing but also act as a body temperature regulator in the sun-baked desert. Fennecs are largely active at night. They hunt small rodents, birds and insects. A FDC in brown depicts a mother giraffe (Rotschild) and her young (Fig. 7).



Fig. 7

- A 5.40 Kč stamp -- The red panda (*Ailurus Fungens*) is a member of the bear family, or according to some zoologists the raccoon family. It is not as popular as the giant panda, but, with its beautiful mahogany colored fur and long striped tail, is a delightful little animal. Its home is the forests in



Fig. 8

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



Fig. 9



Fig 10

the mountain foothills of Nepal, Bhutan and China. Forest clearance has made the red panda a critically endangered species, but it is successfully raised in captivity. A FDC in brown depicts a mother bongo antelope with her young (Fig. 8).

- A 5.40 Kč stamp -- The Amur tiger or Siberian tiger is the largest subspecies of tiger and also the largest member of the cat family. It used to inhabit the whole Amur basin as far as the sea and North Korea. Today only about 250 individuals survive in the wild. Several young of this beautiful animal have been born and raised in the Prague Zoo. A FDC in brown depicts a mother Przewalski horse and her young (Fig. 9).

- A 5.40 Kč stamp -- The orangutan or "old man of the woods" is the only Asian great ape. It has two subspecies, living on the islands of Sumatra and Borneo. These creatures, with long rust-colored hair, are most endangered by the felling of the tropical forests in which they live. Orangutans cannot easily be bred in captivity. A FDC in brown depicts a mother monkey with her young (Fig. 10).



Fig. 11

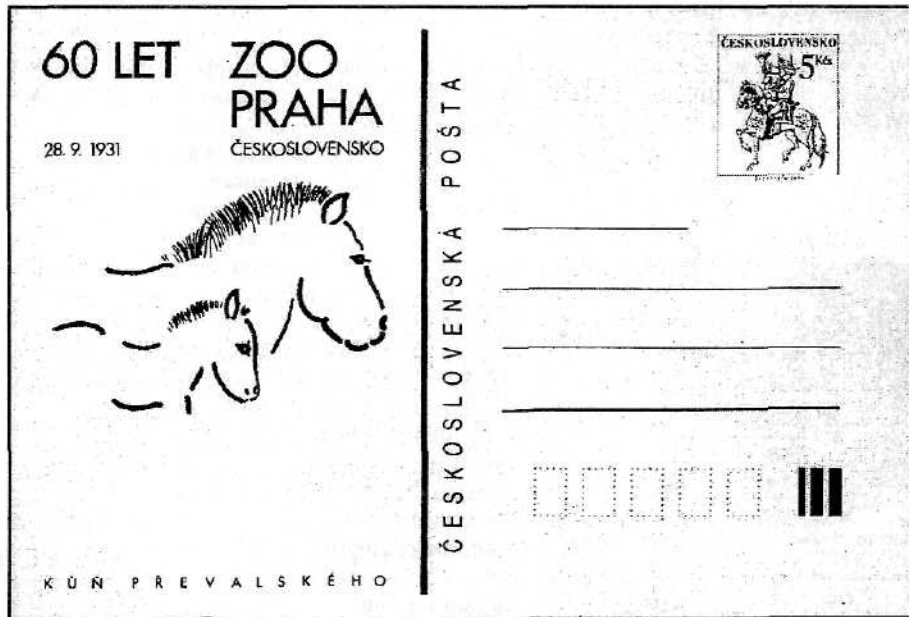


Fig. 12



For the interest of our readers, I am including the stamps issued for the "50 Years of the Prague Zoo" (Fig. 11) as well as a card issued in 1991 for the 60 years anniversary showing a Przewalski horse and foal (Fig. 12). The Prague Zoo was opened to the public in September 1931, its first director was Professor Jiří Janda. The zoo only covered eight hectares, a very small beginning compared with the approximate 64 hectares it covers at present. There are approximately 2500 animals representing some 500 species of which some 50 are extremely rare in the wild. An extensive breeding program is undertaken with the Przewalski horses, perhaps the best known as well as being by far the highest number among all zoos in the world. The zoo attracts large numbers of visitors particularly on fine days when around 25,000 people may be visiting.

3. On October 9, 2001, the Ministry issued a set of two commemorative stamps in the Beauties of Our Country series (Fig. 13). The stamps were designed by Pavel Sivko, engraved by Václav Fajt, and produced by the Post Printing House, Prague using recess print from flat plates in printing sheets of 8 stamps.



Fig. 13

-- The 12 Kč stamp (in black, yellow, red, green, and blue) depicts the Kroměříž baroque castle. For many centuries, Kroměříž was the property of the bishops of Olomouc. Their impressive seat was a chateau converted from a former Gothic castle. In 1686, after the Swedish invasion, Bishop Karel Liechtenstein had the damaged Renaissance chateau rebuilt in the Roman Baroque style. He also established two gardens, the Podzámecká Zahrada (the Garden Below the Chateau) and the Květná Zahrada (Flower Garden), which are among the most significant pieces of garden architecture in this country and in all of Europe. In 1998, the whole chateau complex with its gardens was added to the UNESCO World Culture and Natural Heritage List. A FDC in green depicts an octagonal rotunda in the Flower Garden (Fig. 14). It bears a cancel from Kroměříž showing a fountain consisting of

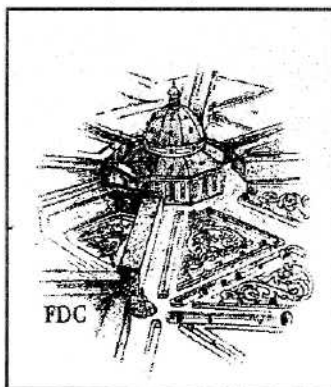


Fig. 14

a winged dragon with water spouting up out of its mouth.

-- The 14 Kč stamp (in black, yellow, yellow-green, red, and blue) depicts popular baroque buildings in Hološovice. The village of Hološovice is first mentioned in 1292, when it became the property of the Cistercian monastery in Vyšší Brod. Most of the largely gabled



Fig. 15

## THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

buildings, in the South Bohemian Baroque style, were built in 1846-86, but the mediaeval layout of the village was retained. One of the best complexes of popular rural architecture is built on a regular Gothic floor plan. In 1998, the village was added to the UNESCO World Cultural and Natural Heritage List thanks to its unique character and charm. A FDC in dark green depicts an example of a popular Baroque building (Fig. 15). It bears a cancel from Dubné arranged as a "hairy" balloon with a flowered ornament in its center.

### SLOVAKIA by Gerald M. van Zanten Frank Garancovsky 2002 ISSUE PLAN FOR SLOVAK REPUBLIC STAMPS

Date of Issue	Name of Issue	Number in set	Value Sk
Jan 15	Personalities	3	
	- Milan Rastislav Štefánik		6
	- Juraj Papánek		10
	- Björnstjerne Björnson		14
Jan 25	Winter Olympic Games	1	18
Feb 15	Easter Stamp (eggs)	1	5.50
Feb 15	Levoča -- definitive	1	12
Feb 15	Dog Teams	1	6
Mar 20	First Slovak Grammar Schools	3	
	- Revúca		9
	- Martin		13
	- Kláštor pod Znievom		19
May 6	EUROPA -- Circus	1	18
May 6	Kežmarok -- definitive	1	10
Jun 26	Nature Protection -- butterflies	3	10,15 25
Jul 4	Alexander Rudnay	1	?
Aug 20	Beauties of our Country	3	
	- Kližská Outer Court		12
	- Rotunda in Skalice		14
	- Spišská Capital		22
Sep 10	Technological Memorials	2	
	- Vineyard Implements		7
	- Vintner's Life		12
Oct 12	Chinese-Slovak Issue	2	
	- Chinese Castle		?
	- Bojnický Castle		?
Oct 15	Art on Stamps	3	
	- Ladislav Medňanský		18
	- Master Pavol from Levoče		20
	- Koloman Sokol		24
Oct 15	Bethlehem of Rajecká Lesná	1	5.50
Dec 18	Day of the Postage Stamp -- NITRAFILA 2003	1	6

**SOCIETY FOR CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELY INC.**

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**(E=English,Cz=Czech,Sl=Slovak)**

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