



THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



(USPS 808300)



Official Quarterly Journal of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately,
an Incorporated Non-Profit Organization
Winner of Numerous Philatelic Literature Awards
CELEBRATING OUR DIAMOND (75TH) ANNIVERSARY

A.P.S. Unit 18

ISSN: 0526-5843

Vol. 76

SUMMER 2014

No. 3, Whole No.637

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Our Society celebrated its 75th anniversary at NOJEX 2014 in Secaucus, New Jersey, from 30 May to 1 June, with a beautiful view of New York City -- where the Society originated in 1939. The Society's Board of Directors met on 29 June; this is a summary of the Board's activities and some of the highlights of NOJEX.

The Society is currently blessed with a very energetic, competent, and committed Board of Directors who are striving to develop new resources for our members. Our Vice President, Chris Jackson, and our newest Director, Valerie Kramer, are updating the Interactive Index of *The Specialist* through 2014. Member Dr. Mark Wilson, the software programmer who originated the Society's initial *Specialist* Interactive Index DVD has continued to work with Chris and Valerie to provide this valuable resource to our members. For those of you who have not yet obtained the current DVD, you may obtain a copy by contacting Ludvik "Lou" Svoboda, the Editor of *The Specialist*. The Index currently contains all issues of *The Specialist* from 1939-2009 which are linked via the indexes of articles for that entire period.

Another effort that is close to completion is a DVD slide show and accompanying narrative that Lou Svoboda has put together as an "Overview of Czechoslovak

Continued on page 25...

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ARTICLES	AUTHOR	PAGE
1. The Great War Starts and the Bohemian Connection		
.....	Paul S. Valasek.....	3
2. Reminiscing.....	Karel Holoubek.....	6
3. The SCP Commemorates its 75 th Anniversary		
.....	Ludvik Z. Svoboda.....	8
4. How I Came to Collect Czechoslovak Stamps		
.....	Jaroslav Verner.....	18
COLUMNS		
5. Questions and Answers.....		22
6. President's Report	Richard Palaschak.....	25
7. New Issues	Ludvik Svoboda.....	28

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. However, the circuit is currently not operating because of a lack of materials from members. When this situation is remedied we will notify you in the *Specialist*.
2. A book sales division is run by Sam Horvath. A listing of philatelic books for sale appears regularly in the *Specialist*. For further information, contact Sam Horvath, S8207 - US Hwy 61, Readstown, WI 54652-7056, or email: cancelcek@mwt.net
3. A Society library is housed with Ludvik Svoboda, librarian. For inquiries on borrowing books, buying past *Specialist's* or making book donations, contact Ludvik Svoboda, 4766 S. Helena Way, Aurora, CO 80015, or email: Lousvoboda@comcast.net
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. (see address/email above).
5. THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST is the official quarterly publication of the Society. For inquiries on obtaining back issues, contributing original articles, advertising rates, and bound copies, contact Ludvik Z. Svoboda (see address/email above).
6. Our web site (www.csphilately.org) on the Internet provides Society information on Membership, History, Education, Auctions, Exhibits, Book Reviews, Contacting other members via email, and more. The site is maintained by Marisa Galitz, 8932 Groff's Mill Drive, Owings Mills, MD 21117, email: mmgalitz@gmail.com.

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

(ISSN 0526-5843)

Official Journal of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately, Inc.

A.P.S. Unit 18

Vol. 76

Summer 2014

No. 3, Whole No. 637

Published quarterly - \$25.00 per year

Membership inquiries to Secretary (address below)

Periodical paid at Shippensburg, PA 17257

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

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*All officers and board members serve the Society voluntarily and without compensation.
Society Constitution and By-Laws can be found on the website.*

THE GREAT WAR STARTS and THE BOHEMIAN CONNECTION – JUNE 1914

by Paul S. Valasek – Hallersarmy@aol.com



Souvenir postcard printed in Vienna, 1913. -- PSV collection

This year is the 100th anniversary of the beginning of World War I, the Great War, the War to End All Wars. This global struggle changed the face of the earth politically, economically, geographically and ethnically to such an extent that 100 years later, we are still feeling its effects.

On what was to be a normal summer day in the city of Sarajevo on June 28, 1914, would turn out to be a stepping stone to chaos, change, and for many death and loss of loved one. For on this day, a Serbian radical named Gavrilo Princip assassinated Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife the Duchess Sophie. This triggered governments declaring war against each other, countries arming for battle, and as they say, “the rest is history”. For many, World War I starts in 1914 and ends in 1918. This is far from the truth as stirrings of ethnic pride and the needs for independence and self governing countries were politically active decades before the war, and the fighting from 1918 continued on until 1921 and in fact, was heightened during World War II and the subsequent Cold War. Even today, border clashes and wars in the Middle East are a result of political changes made by the Treaty of Versailles.

What many do not realize is there was a Bohemian connection to this fateful day in Sarajevo. Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Habsburg Empire, was



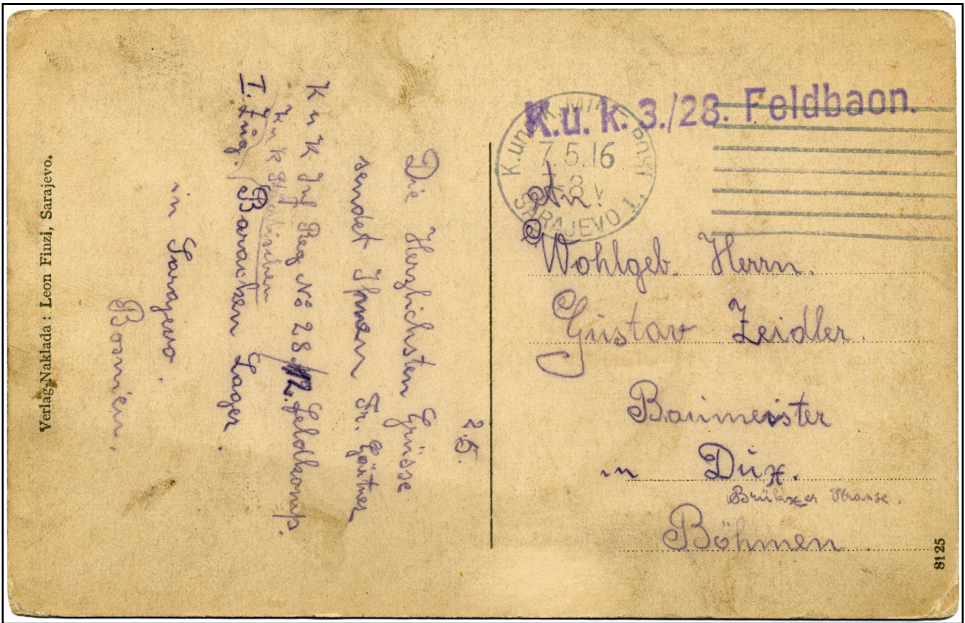
Austrian KuK Feldpost card mailed from Sarajevo, May 7, 1916.
Leon Finzi printers, Sarajevo -- PSV collection.

married to a lady of Bohemian ancestry, Sophie Chotek. She came from a lower ranking royal status than the Habsburgs, and thus, was never awarded full royal rights and privileges. She was considered a Morganatic spouse, disallowing any power as the wife of the Emperor as well as her children failing to have the power to assume the throne. She was not even allowed to ride in the same carriage during processions, or enter a ceremony by her husband's side. But on that fateful June day in Sarajevo, she sat next to her husband in the automobile which was easily within shot of the assassin.

Sophie Maria Josephine Albina Chotek von Chotkow und Wognin was born March 1, 1868 into an aristocratic Czech family of lesser nobility. So much so that throughout life, she took a distant place to other members of the Habsburg family and Austrian nobles of higher standings. Her parents were Count Bohuslaw Chotek von Chotkow und Wognin, her mother, Countess Wilhemine Kinsky von Wchinitz und Tettau.

Sophie was a lady in waiting to the Archduchess Isabella of Pressburg (Bratislava), and met Archduke Franz Ferdinand for the first time at a dance in Prague in 1888. Though many of the noble residents of the house thought the Archduke was courting one of the daughters in Archduke Friedrich's household, it was Sophie with whom the Habsburg Duke was to fall in love. Keeping their relationship a secret for two years, it was discovered by Archduchess Isabella and Sophie was immediately dismissed from service.

In 1899, Emperor Franz Josef finally accepted what was to be and allowed Franz Ferdinand to marry Sophie stipulating she was to be a wife of lower status, not even allowed to sit with her husband in the Royal Box at theaters. The



The message says "I send you hearty greetings."

It is signed Fr. Gartner, Kuk Infantry Regiment 28, 12 Field Company, 1st Platoon, Kuk City Barracks Compound in Sarajevo Bosnia. The cancel is the civilian PO Sarajevo 1. The unit cache is Kuk Infantry Regiment 28, 3 Field Battalion. As each Kuk battalion had four companies, the 3rd battalion would include field companies 9-12.

[This courtesy of Tom Cossaboom.]

marriage took place July 1, 1900 at Reichstadt, now Zákupy, in Bohemia. The wedding was shunned by nearly all of the Habsburgs including the Emperor and Franz Ferdinand's brothers. Only Franz Ferdinand's stepmother and her two daughters attended.

Married for 14 years, the Archduke and Duchess were continually reminded of her lower status by most of the Austrian Courts and other Imperial families of Europe. They had four children over that time frame. Princess Sophie von Hohenberg (1901-1990), Maximilian, Duke of Hohenberg (1902-1962), Prince Ernst von Hohenberg (1904-1954), and a stillborn son in 1908.

Invited to review troops and military sights in Sarajevo, Archduke Franz Ferdinand was allowed to bring his wife for the trip as this was not an Imperial visit. In the morning of June 28th, a first failed attempt at bombing the Imperial car failed and the Archduke and Duchess continued with their schedule. Since some of the visiting Austrians were seriously injured in this first attempt, Franz Ferdinand insisted on visiting them in the hospital. As the motorcade made a fatal mistake and turned down the wrong street, the opportunity presented itself for a second attempt at the lives of the Habsburg couple. This attempt was successful as the gunman found himself only five feet from his targets seated in an open touring car.

Both Franz Ferdinand and Sophie were shot and died within an hour of the assassination. Their bodies were shipped to Trieste and then on to Vienna for

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

burial. As Sophie was still considered a lower Royal, she was not allowed to be interred at the Imperial Habsburg Crypt. As a result of this, both Franz Ferdinand and Sophie were interred at the Hohenberg Crypt in her castle at Arstetten, though her tomb was deliberately set eighteen inches lower than his and less regally decorated. This discrepancy has since been corrected and currently, her tomb is the same height as Archduke Franz Ferdinand's.

Franz Ferdinand took over Konopište Castle outside of Prague and over a period of many years, show wild game in the reserves. So proficient and fanatical was his hunting that game was brought in just for the sake of shooting it. All of the heads and antlers and some pelts were saved and are currently hanging at Konopište throughout the castle, each mounted with the date of the kill listed on the mount.

Some scenes were shot at Konopište for a chapter in the television series *Young Indiana Jones* and more recently for the movie, *The Illusionist* which somewhat uses the Habsburg family for part of the story.



The stamp honoring the Archduke and Duchess was printed in 1917 as one stamp in a set of three, to raise funds to help build a memorial church in Sarajevo. The premium on the stamp was an additional 2h and the set exists as perforate and imperforate.

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REMINISCING by Karel Holoubek trans. by Lucie Harris

This year -- not just as postal historians -- we are reminiscing about a number of things that happened many decades ago and that influenced many people and families. We have to start with what occurred more than a hundred years ago. This is of course talking about the pink postcards of the field post -- the emergence of the Legions. When we shift just a few years later, there appear with great celebrity the revived phenomenon with the name of Overprint. And for the first time we meet up with the mandates of the catalog publishers, who specify what is private, what is official, what is a rarity, and so on. For us -- actually for our fathers, all the more so our grandfathers -- this was a very prominent era. But let's skip forward several decades and we are again in a very eventful time period.

Early in September 1944 units of the Soviet Union entered the eastern part of the Czechoslovak Republic, and by the end of October this whole former area of the republic -- Carpathian Ruthenia -- was liberated. This is the first anniversary that we have to commemorate this year. This part of our republic was occupied at that time by Hungary. That is why the Hungarian post was operating there, and of course they were using Hungarian stamps.

Therefore, the Czechoslovak government in exile established -- and after negotiations with Moscow -- dispatched a mission to restore Czechoslovak civilian operations in the liberated territory. The mission was led by the prewar deputy František Němec with the title of minister plenipotentiary. The mission was specified to be based in Chust. They started operating there on October 24, 1944. On November 11, 1944, they issued a regulation on the overprinting and then use of thus modified existing stamps. And again this is ignored by the catalogs. Also beginning now is the nationalization of postal cancels, registry labels, and similar items. Thus, another anniversary.

However, at the same time as the Czechoslovak mission, there began a separatist movement in Carpathian Ruthenia pursuing separation from Czechoslovakia and connecting this part of the republic to the Soviet Union. This movement was based in Užhorod. During the last census in Carpathian Ruthenia, citizens of Ukrainian nationality did not predominate, rather most of them were Rusins. They did not like the separatist movement, but did not have the support of Soviet authorities, so they lost their freedom. Thus, a sad anniversary.

In view of the situation that had set in, the deputy Němec delegation did not have any choice but to emigrate to Košice. However, they were not received well there, rather the situation basically wound down. The Slovakian national council decided to issue their own stamps labeled "ČESKOSLOVENSKO". This was in the time when not only the rest of Slovakia but also the Czech lands were not yet liberated, and the government in exile was still far away and did not have a minister of the post. Nobody authorized this, there was no one else to do it. The Czechoslovak government in exile specified that their organization, the František Němec delegation, do this.

The Slovak national council continued this partisan activity and issued additional stamps, in today's catalogs they are documented as the first Czechoslovakian stamps. Not until May did the exile government arrive in liberated Prague, and the Czechoslovak Ministry of Posts began to function officially. Only after the ministry published in their bulletin Věstník about the issuance of these stamps could they be added to catalogs. In the Czech lands the same revolutionary institutions as those in Slovakia issued their own revolutionary overprints on the stamps of the Protectorate. These however are not recognized.

So we have something about which to reminisce, something to reflect on, and something to argue about how we will name it all and label it in the catalogs.

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THE SOCIETY FOR CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELY
COMMEMORATES ITS 75th ANNIVERSARY

by Ludvik Z. Svoboda

(Continued from the Winter 2014 Specialist issue)

Then in 1963, a man who served the Society with such distinction that a member-assistance fund (called the Reiner-Deutsch Fund) was established to honor him, wrote the following twenty-five year synopsis of Society activities:

“I am quite pleased at this occasion because I enjoy looking back to the very interesting times I had in those early days with the members of the fledgling Society. I believe this little story in combination with that of Frank Kovarik next month on the *Specialist* will cover as thoroughly as possible everything that has happened to this group of men and women interested in a specialty and a country which had the most glorious beginning after the first world war.

Joseph W. Lowey was a commercial artist, a hard worker though a sufferer from severe sinusitis. I must mention the latter because I have never met a man with a severe sinusitis so full of energy as our Mr. Lowey was. He dreamt of a Czechoslovak Philatelic Society and though he had his doubts in the beginning and even more a little later, he forged ahead with great force. He began sounding out collectors of our specialty around the middle of 1938. He began a long time before Munich but went on in spite of the loss of the Sudeten area in October 1938, in the hope that this would make no difference. The hyphen in Czecho-Slovakia did not bother him. He communicated with people in Chicago, primarily Frank Kovarik, who, according to one of his letters to me “probably has the biggest Czecho collection in the Country”. Kovarik did go ahead because naturally the idea appealed to him too to have a Czechoslovak Philatelic Society. In New York a Masaryk Club was organized in March 1938 with the able direction of Joseph Stein and Lowey contacted members of that club whom he had learned were stamp collectors. So he got hold of me very early in the game and I helped him with a number of suggestions. I will reprint Lowey’s circular letter to collectors because it contains much valuable information.

CZECHO-SLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY
OF NORTH AMERICA
J.W. Lowey, Secretary
201 Marcy Place, Bronx, N.Y.

March 1939

Dear Fellow Collector:

You have expressed the desire to affiliate yourself with our new organization. Thank you for the interest, and may our further relations be pleasant.

Although it was planned originally to elect officers immediately after the formation of the Society, your organizing committee believes that this would retard organization materially. As it is our wish to get the society organized completely and functioning as soon as possible, we ask that your committee be allowed to serve

as officers until September 1939, when a general election by the membership can be held.

Since ours is a national organization covering the vast territory of the United States and Canada, very few members of the new Society know other members. Nominated officers would be unknown to the members and therefore their qualities would also be unknown. By September, however, new acquaintances will be made and it will be easy to ascertain who among the membership has the qualifications of officers. If your temporary committee is found to be lacking, a vote will show the will of the membership.

If this plan does not meet with your approval, please forward your protest immediately. It will receive our earnest consideration, as this is the time to settle any internal differences that may arise.

Therefore, I propose that the following temporary officers of the Czecho-Slovak Philatelic Society of North America be appointed to serve until September 1, 1939:

President: George F. Smyth, 945 Main Street, Bridgeport, Connecticut

Secretary: J.W. Lowey, 201 Marcy Place, Bronx, New York

Treasurer: Guy Greenawalt, 2301 Cathedral Ave., N. W., Washington, D.C.

Librarian: J. M. Stephen, 37 Queensdale Ave., Toronto, Canada

Editor: Tod Raper, 1553 Clifton Avenue, Columbus, Ohio

Remaining officials, such as vice presidents, accountants, members of the rules and expert committees and judicial board will be either named or nominated and elected in September.

I can assure you that the above temporary officers will fulfill their duties in the next six months to the best of their abilities and intentions, and will bend their every effort for the best benefits of the organization.

Enclosed find an application blank and a temporary constitution which will be in force until September. In a short time I will appoint a committee to receive suggestions for re-drafting and re-phrasing the constitution.

In closing, may I be permitted to say that the response to our publicity has surpassed all expectations. I received over 50 pledges from many states and Canada; approximately the same amount of inquiries, and since some of our publicity has come too late for February editions and therefore will appear in March editions of various stamp magazines, I expect many more applications. I therefore express my sincere opinion in saying that the Czecho-Slovak Philatelic Society of North America will be a truly worthwhile philatelic organization.

Sincerely yours,
J.W. Lowey

In my first letter to Mr. Lowey before we had met, I mentioned my service as an officer in 1918-19. In his reply he said: "I have been interested to hear that you served in the Czechoslovak Army. I myself 'served' but mine was the Austrian Army during the world war. Permit me to introduce myself: Joseph Lowey, Oberleutnant d. R., k.u.k. Infanterie Regiment No. 28, drafted in 1915. Never went to the front but for 3 years supervisor of a Unit in the Ammunition Plant at Woellersdorf and short time before the Armistice transferred in the same capacity to Waffenfabrik at Steyr." I must first translate some of this. He was First Lieutenant in the 28th Infantry Regiment Reserve. Let me remark here that he

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

had done very well indeed because not many soldiers reached his rank who were drafted in 1915 unless they had received a field promotion. In response I told him that I also had been ordered to active duty when Charles of Habsburg attempted a comeback in Hungary. I added that I still had my traveling orders from Praha to Bratislava and my military book of reserve service. In January 1924 I left Czechoslovakia for the U.S.A. and I am the only one that I know of who requested and received release from Czechoslovak citizenship when becoming a citizen of U.S.A. I believe our members will be interested in these few personal glimpses.

On May first 1939 Lowey reported that the Society already had thirty members. The first issue of the Specialist was out already and that definitely helped with the securing of members. He asked Kovarik to formulate a Constitution which Kovarik mailed to him in October. . . . I gave the draft which was written by pen, to Smyth, asking him to read it as soon as he would get home, have it typewritten by his secretary and then to send it on to Tod by airmail. So was the first more detailed Constitution born. In this same letter Joe wrote "I would like to propose for 2nd Vice President, member Ferryman. Though he is a dealer I would like to put him up purposely He has a vast amount of customers, in fact many of our members are his customers and he told me about them before I invited him to join. I did not ask Ferryman yet whether he would accept, but will do so tomorrow and I am pretty sure that he will accept." This little story is mentioned for historical significance Joe stated that he must ask Ferryman first before putting his name up for office. I sincerely believe it is of primary importance to ask members who are not in a particular office whether they would be willing to accept a nomination Maybe this will serve as a hint to the future presidents of this society to properly instruct the Nominating Committee they appoint.

Some further quotes from a letter of Lowey, "It would take long to give you a report of my organizational work. However I have used all means to get to the Czech collectors of this hemisphere. Just because you mention the Czech paper in Pittsburgh, I must say I have a better source for rounding up members there and vicinity, member V. Losa, D.D., publisher of a catholic paper. In response to my membership drive starting in March (unfortunately coinciding with the political crisis) I received about 200 inquiries from all parts of the U.S. and Canada. I am sure that many more would have joined than did, but believing that there will be no more Czech issues, they probably decided not to join. Also yesterday member Kovarik, in cooperation with Czech leaders of the Berwyn Club, has held a meeting with 30 invited Czech specialists and I am sure that there will be results." Further he said "We now have 50 members."

I could give many more details on the beginnings of our organization but that would make it simply impossible to review twenty-five years of the society. [But] Lowey, Fred Peters, Reiner-Deutsch, Kovarik, Smyth, L. Ruzicka, Greenawalt, Kreischer, Horechny, Secky and Fritzsche, these were the early active workers of our Society.

William Reiner-Deutsch

I would like to add here some personal observations about this period of the Society's founding and its early years.

1938 – 1941 TimelineCSPSNA ActivitiesMovements Towards War

	Sep 1938	Munich Agreement -- Sudetenland given to Germany
	Oct	
	Nov	
	Dec	
	Jan 1939	
	Feb	
CSPSNA born in New York	Mar	Remainder of Czechoslovakia usurped by Germany
New York World's Fair opens	Apr	
New York Chapter founded	May	
1st CSPSNA convention NY	Jun	
Chicago Chapter founded	Jul	
	Aug	German/Russian Non-aggression Pact
	Sep	
	Oct	Germany invades Poland; Russia invades Poland
	Nov	
	Dec	
	Jan 1940	
2nd CSPSNA convention Chicago	Feb	
	Mar	
	Apr	Germany invades Norway, Denmark
	May	Germany invades France, Belgium, Netherlands; Italy declares war on
	Jun	Great Britain, France; Dunkirk evacuation of BEF
	Jul	
	Aug	
	Sep	Germany, Italy, Japan -- Tripartite
Czechoslovak Bazaar in NY	Oct	Pact; Italy invades Egypt
	Nov	Hungary, Slovakia, Romania join
	Dec	Tripartite Pact
	Jan 1941	
	Feb	
	Mar	
	Apr	Germany invades Yugoslavia, Greece
3rd CSPSNA Convention NY	May	
	Jun	Germany invades Russia
	Jul	
	Aug	
	Sep	
	Oct	
	Nov	
	Dec	Japanese attack Pearl Harbor, Thailand, Malaysia, Philippines

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

I find it truly amazing that the founders and officers of the Society (whose names have appeared numerous times in the previous portion of this recounting) were able to keep their focus on the founding of the Society and the recruitment of members while the whole world was coming apart around them. Remember, the very same month -- March 1939 -- that the first organizational meeting for the establishment of the Society took place in a coffee house in New York, the German Nazi forces were moving in to take over the remainder of Bohemia and Moravia and turn it into a protectorate.

Just take a minute or two to review the items that are shown on the accompanying timeline of the September 1938 -- December 1941 period. You will quickly see that none of the news was good, rather the world was rapidly moving towards fighting in three or four continents and almost all of its oceans. While the United States was not yet in the fighting, its companies and industries had been rapidly revving up their operations and production of war-associated materials and products to assist its friends and allies. This is reflected in the several instances where articles in the *Specialist* tell of recent Society officers having to resign their positions because they have been called-up in the Reserves or are now being tasked to work 50-60 hours in a week. Nevertheless, the formation and recruitment efforts went on -- worldwide.

That the Society leaders were well aware of what was going on and its effects on their activities is again clearly seen through their articles and announcements in the *Specialist*. They are constantly referring to the difficulty or outright inability to get new issues from Bohemia & Moravia -- even though they also say that most collectors refuse to collect the stamps. Among some of the more notable comments are (BUT, when reading these, try to put yourself into the frame of mind of the writer -- who does not have our hindsight, knowing the outcome of the terrible conflicts then going on, when the enemy was winning every battle, and seemingly taking over the world):

-- "With a heavy heart and increasing indignation we have watched, in the last few weeks, the stamping of the iron shoes of Hitler and Mussolini. Perhaps by the time you read this, a general European war may be raging. Worst of all, Czecho-Slovakia -- to whose stamp issues this Society has dedicated itself -- has been smothered by the Nazi horde.

Perhaps no worse time could have been selected for the formation of a philatelic society specializing in Czecho-Slovak issues. But to the eternal credit of a few hard-working and enthusiastic men, and to that germ of philatelic ardor that laughs at iron shoes and dictators, the Society has been born."

-- "Our definite belief, however, is that (regardless of whether the war will last only a short time or for years) issues will be forthcoming from the territory of former Czecho-Slovakia. We do not expect an avalanche, but there will be additions to add to our stamp collections.

Naturally, it will take more time to bring issues to this country. Furthermore, restricted transportation facilities will be great obstacles in securing important news for publication. Should the war last a longer time, the various philatelic publications and channels through which we derive firsthand information will be either condensed or will cease altogether for the duration of the conflict.

Concerning the policy of our organization, we wish to go on record with the following statement: Regardless of the duration of the war, our organization and

this publication will continue as long as there are two members left on the membership roles. Czecho-Slovakia's postal history, stretching over the past 20 years offers a vast background into which we can and will delve for an indefinite time.

On the other hand (and we cannot remain neutral, individually, in our sympathies) the downfall of the Hitler regime -- which is to be expected eventually -- will bring about the birth of a new and free Czecho-Slovakia. Therefore, we are very optimistic about our future. It can be safely assumed that from that day on our membership will increase swiftly."

-- "Many of us feel, in one way or another, the effect the present conflict in Europe has upon Philately. The mails have been very irregular and as a result news of the Philatelic world in Europe is more or less scarce. Publication of many Philatelic magazines has been suspended with for the duration of the war at least. . . . Gradually, as a result of the war, philatelic news has been diminishing until presently every source of information has seemed to have dried up."

-- "The year 1940 has gone down in history as one year in which World shaking events have taken place. Boundaries have been changed and governments and kingdoms have fallen. Philatelically, some countries have ceased to be stamp issuing countries and what effect these events have had upon the stamp collecting fraternities is difficult to comprehend."

-- "Vividly do I recall [the] evening, some three years ago. Three years which encompass more stupendous and terrifying drama than all the span of time in human history preceding it. And while I hammer away with clumsy fingers at my innocent typewriter, trying to blabber philatelic history within the world drama which now engulfs us . . . my thoughts wander away, far away to the battlefields of Russia. My vision beholds the spectacle of columns of freezing and dying Nazi soldiers. Do I feel any sorrow or pity for them? Hardly! On the contrary, I feel the more that die the sooner again we will receive the stamps printed by a liberated Czechoslovak government."

Finally, let us turn back to the timeline and discuss a few of the activities found on the CSPSNA side of the ledger which were used by the Society in its recruitment efforts.

Right near the top we see the New York World's Fair (April 30, 1939 -- October 24, 1940). In the middle 1930's, a group of New York businessmen decided to create an international exposition to help lift the city and the nation out of the depression. It was based on the future, and its slogan was "Dawn of a New Day" -- the visitors were there to look at "The World of Tomorrow". Many businesses and organizations had exhibits which showed their wares and ideas for the future (television was first really shown to the public here). The "symbols" of the Fair were the futuristic constructs Trylon and Perisphere (Figure 1 shows the US commemorative stamp -- Scott 853 -- that depicts these two).

Many countries (24) also participated by having pavilions which showcased their wares, talents, and social character. As a result of the Nazi complete take-over of Czechoslovakia on March 15, 1939, the funding support for the unfinished Czechoslovak pavilion ceased and the Nazi government ordered the process halted and the unfinished building sold. But New York's Mayor Fiorello La Guardia declined to recognize the Nazi Government and instead formed a

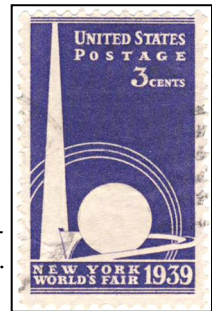


Fig 1:
US Scott 853



Fig 2: Scott 239 with the World's Fair overprint in black (note that this one is a variety, the word "World's" has the right arm of the W incomplete)



Fig 3: Scott 251 with the World's Fair overprint in black (note that this one is a variety also, the word "-Slovak" of the lower Czecho-Slovak actually reads "-Sbovak")

committee to collect funds to finish and operate the Czechoslovak Pavilion. Private citizens and institutions donated generously. Nevertheless, it never opened as an exhibit center, but only as a shell to remind the public of what happened to a small thriving democracy that was allowed to be devoured by one demented man's obsession to rule the world.

Meanwhile, in the effort to raise funds, philatelists came up with the idea of getting funds through the sale of overprinted Czechoslovak souvenir sheets; the plan was then sanctioned by the Czechoslovak Government-in-Exile, London. The primary sheets that were used were the Bratislava Stamp Exhibition souvenir sheet of 1937 (Scott 239)(Fig. 2) and the Prague International Stamp Exhibition souvenir sheet of 1938 (Scott 251)(Fig. 3) -- although other sheets in lesser quantities were also overprinted. The sheets for the first World's Fair issues were donated by Alfons Stach and Alois Brunner, two stamp dealers in New York, both immigrants from Czechoslovakia. While the majority of overprints were in black, different colors such as green, red, blue, gold, and silver were also used. Overprints were prepared in both years of the Fair, and there are some varieties known.

The sheets were very actively publicized for sale by the Society and especially in the *Specialist*. They sold for \$.75 each.

Despite all that was going on around them the members and officers of the Society found time to actively pursue new members. From the original 20-30 members, the Society had grown by the end of 1941 to almost 100 members.

Many different methods were used to get the additional members. First and possibly foremost, the dues were reduced from the original \$2 per year to \$1. Many of the services that our members enjoy today were begun right from the beginning of the Society -- book sales, expertization service, a lending library, new issue service, and inexpensive ads for members. A number of local chapters were originated with regular meetings to allow for members to exchange information and to sell excess philatelic materials. Chapters were established in New York, Chicago, and Cleveland.

In addition, annual conventions and banquets were begun right from the start of the Society. The first one was held in New York at the Bohemian National Hall, 17-18 June 1939. As with other conventions, there was a business meeting followed by a typical Czech dinner at the Hall. Subsequent conventions of the CSPSNA (Czecho-Slovak Philatelic Society of North America) were held in Chicago (the Chicago Philatelic Exhibition , Feb 16-18, 1940), a

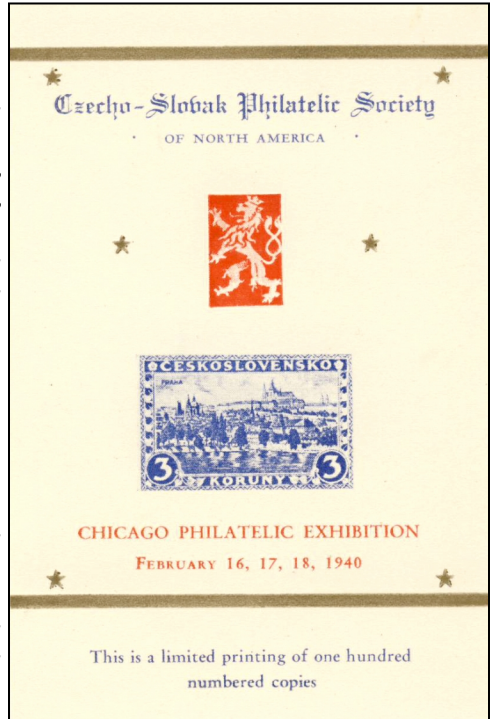


Fig 4: Entrance ticket to the 2nd convention with the gold stars and borders for members



Fig 5: Entrance ticket to the 2nd convention with the red stars and borders for purchase by non-members.

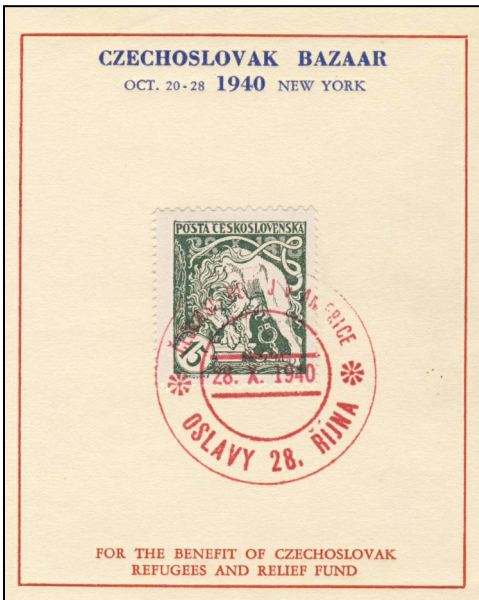


Fig 6: Entrance ticket to the Czechoslovak Bazaar with commemorative cancel

money and membership raiser at the Czechoslovak Bazaar in New York (October 20-28, 1940), and the third again at New York (May 17, 1941). The Society issued souvenir card/entrance tickets to these beginning with the second one. In Figure 4 we see the ticket to the second convention given out to Society members -- it has the gold stars and edging, and on the reverse is imprinted the membership number of the recipient (this one is numbered 1). Figure 5 shows the ticket for the same convention, but this one was purchased by non-member attendees, it has the red stars and edging, and is not numbered on the back. It is interesting in another way, however, the stamp image is upside-down, could this be a "rare variety"? Figure 6 shows the ticket for the Bazaar with the commemorative cancel for the founding date of the Republic. Finally in Figures 7a and 7b, we have the ticket for the third convention bearing a commemorative cancel on the first Hradčany stamp; and its reverse showing that it was for member #1 (J.W. Lowey), along with the signatures of 22 members. You should be able to pick out the names of several of the founding members and officers.

Through these means the Society grew.

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- Various articles, *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, May 1939 - Dec. 1941.
- "The New York World's Fair Overprints 1939-1940", George V. Havlik, *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, Oct. 1960, pp. 116-9.
- *The Issues of Czechoslovakia for the 1939-1940 New York World's Fair*, Monography and Comprehensive Catalog, Eckart H. Dissen, E=MC² Publishers, Amsterdam, 1998.

[To be continued]

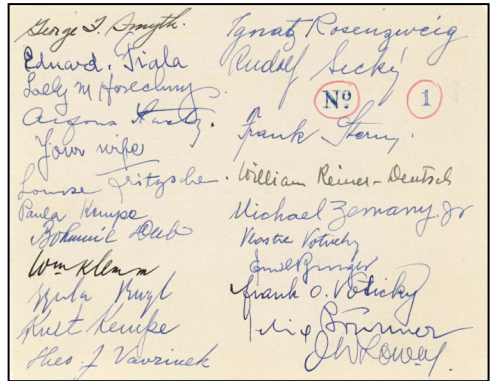


Fig 7a. Entrance ticket to the 3rd convention with commemorative cancel

Fig 7b. Back of Entrance ticket showing No. 1 and signatures of members and officers

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HOW I CAME TO COLLECT CZECHOSLOVAK STAMPS

by Jaroslav Verner

[Ed. Note: Hopefully, this is the first of many articles to come, describing how a member discovered the pleasure of collecting Czechoslovak stamps. So I am encouraging members to send me their stories for possible inclusion in the Specialist. Don't forget to include some color illustrations (scanned 300 dpi .jpeg images are ideal). Every story is different.]

As it was for so many boys of my generation it was my father who introduced me to stamp collecting. It happened when I was 8, was sick and bored, that he showed me his "collection" which consisted of a number of envelopes stuffed with used stamps he had removed from his mail or received from friends and family who had acquired them the same way. This was during the Great Depression and spending money on buying stamps which were not to be used on mail was, at least for him, unimaginable.

I quickly became fascinated by the contents of these envelopes, tried to sort them by country, color, value, design until they were in order -- at least to me. Duplicates were very desirable since they could be traded with the kids at school who had also discovered stamps. Our normal "exchange rate" was one stamp for another stamp unless, of course, you could convince your trading partner that your stamp was much more valuable because it was bigger, of an unusual shape, or from an exotic place -- which usually meant from a country of which neither of us had yet heard. This activity led to quite a few good geography "lessons".

Slowly my collection grew, became a bit more sophisticated and resemble what today we would recognize as a stamp collection. Part of this process was to recognize that I could not collect the entire world and so I began to restrict by collecting to a few countries, Czechoslovakia and the United States among them. I began to follow announcements of new issues in the papers and each time a new stamp came out I walked the couple of miles to our post office where one of the clerks always had a copy of the stamp set aside for me.

With the coming of World War II, my father's mail became quite fascinating. He corresponded with Czechs in different parts of the world, especially with members of the Czechoslovak forces in Great Britain and North Africa. The arrival of such a letter was always an event: not only was it colorful and exotic, but it usually contained information from soldiers in the thick of things -- or so I imagined. Such mail was the genesis of my interest in Czechoslovak military mail.

The War ended and then came high school. While I still collected in a desultory sort of way, time was short. Sports and girls as well as new intellectual challenges pushed stamps into the background. It wasn't until after college, marriage, and Korea, that my interest in collecting received a serious boost. After my first year in graduate school, Lois and I took the money that she had put aside from our "separation allowance" and sailed for Europe to bicycle during the Summer of 1957. One month of the four we were in Europe was spent in Czechoslovakia. Our focus was on family. My father had been able to return to Czechoslovakia for the first



Fig 1: Censored letter dtd, 3/15/1943 from Lt. John Frana, Czechoslovak Forces London to my father. Field Post cancel marks the 4th anniversary of German occupation of Czechoslovakia. Patriotic labels at bottom right and left were produced and distributed by the Czechoslovak military to publicize their cause. The blue symbol at left represents Czechoslovaks protecting the torch of freedom.

time since he had left in 1921. His last week there was our first and we spent it together visiting the villages where he and my mother had grown up and meeting our relatives. It was quite an emotional journey. Except for some of the new issues I bought at the philatelic window of the Prague Main Post Office, philately played little role in this part of the trip.

However, as luck would have it, just before leaving Prague, just off Václavské Náměstí, on Krakovská I believe it was, we stumbled across what turned out to be the last private philatelic shop in Czechoslovakia -- all the rest had been nationalized. We went into the shop, looked around and I tried to remember what I might usefully add to my then rather dormant collection. All I could think of was that I did not have the first overprinted series of Bohemia & Moravia. This was not a particularly appropriate request because at that time the trade in stamps of Bohemia & Moravia was forbidden. The dealer advised me of this fact to explain not having the set in the shop, adding rather conspiratorially, he would be able to help me if I could return the next day. We did.

True to his word, our new stamp dealer friend had the full series of the overprinted stamps ready for me. Charging me way too much for it, we were both

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

satisfied since we felt we had pulled off something of an anti-Communist coup. There was one other visitor in the shop at the time, obviously a regular customer, who asked the dealer to introduce us. Otomar Exner, the Czech collector, collected U.S. stamps and offered to exchange Czechoslovak for U.S. stamps. I agreed, and gave him my New York address and suggested he write me there. No further thought was given to the exchange for the rest of the Summer.

A registered letter was waiting for me when we returned to New York. Exner, writing in that beautiful script of his, explained that the exchange would have to take place through an official exchange office in Prague which would keep track of the value of the stamps we send each other. To do this we had to use one of the Western catalogs which covered both countries to establish value of each stamps and, at the end of the year, the several hundred koruna worth of stamps that had been exchanged during the year would have to balance so neither philatelist would be "exploited" by the other. It was a clumsy, time consuming, and expensive system, but the correspondence which accompanied the exchange gave a new dimension to my philatelic activities. It also led to other such exchanges with collectors like Vilén Ošťádal, Jaroslav Krácik and others.

Not long after our return, I noticed an ad in the Sunday Times of the *New York Times* for an auction of Czechoslovak stamps at the Cross Stamp Company. An auction? Of stamps? Never heard of such a thing. Could be interesting. So I marked the date and decided to attend. As I recall Cross Stamps was located on



Fig 2: Cover I purchased at the Cross Stamp auction was addressed to the Postal Check Office in Prague and bears the 500 and 1000 halíř 1920 T.G. Masaryk stamps.

5th Avenue. When I walked into the room where the auction was being held, I found a half dozen men staring at me. I was certainly 30 years younger than any of the other attendees. It was an interesting experience, but given the fact that I had almost no money I was not a very active participant. I did manage to buy one cover which still has a place of honor in my classic Czechoslovak collection. [Fig 2]

The appearance of a young collector at the auction obviously caused surprise and raised questions. When I went up to pay and collect my lot, Joe Stein, one of the founders of our Society, asked who was handling the payment and transfer of lots, who I was, what I collected and so on -- in short, what was I doing there. Before our conversation was over, he had invited me to attend the meeting of the New York Section of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society which was holding its monthly meeting the following week at the Collectors Club of New York. I did in fact attend the meeting and met the chairman of the local group, Dr. William Reiner-Deutsch, Arthur Kessler, owner of Cross Stamp Company and leading expert on Czechoslovak stamps, Lolly Horechny and several other long-time members of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society. Of course, by the time I left that meeting I was signed up for membership in the Society.

Meeting Otomar in Prague was very fortuitous. It revived my interest in Czechoslovak philately and opened the human dimension into my collecting activities. Joining the Society that evening at the Collectors Club was even more important to my growth as a philatelist. Several of the older members took me under their wing, showed me their collections and study material, and introduced me to many of the other aspects of Czechoslovak philately. They encouraged me to begin exhibiting and to consider writing about my philatelic interests. [Fig 3].

A couple of years later, the next time I had the occasion to travel to Europe, Dr. Reiner-Deutsch and Arthur Kessler gave me letters of introduction to Jan Mrňák, Zdeněk Kvasníčka, and several of their other philatelic contacts in Czechoslovakia.

To be sure the Society resources have also been important in my learning and study of Czechoslovak philately. Society exhibitions, meetings, social gatherings and dinners, all have provided many rich and memo-

orable experiences for both Lois and me. But the most important and long lasting "benefit" I have received from Society membership is friendships which have proved to be so rich and lasting.



Fig 3: Results of my first exhibiting attempt.

Questions and Answers

1. From Mark Corrinet:

Question: These are reportedly Czechoslovakia #43a, 45a, 47a IMPERFORATED (Fig. 1). I am not really worried about the edges. They look wide enough to represent legitimate imperforated examples, but the color of the paper gives me concern.



Fig. 1

I wrote the dealer and they indicate the paper was more yellow than white. All Scott says is that these were not officially issued. No mention of the paper type. So do these come on yellowish paper or does that make them printer's proofs and not the regular copies which I presume are on white paper?

Answer #1: You are correct, the margins look good. BUT, the paper is not good, it should be white, not the yellowish or tanish that you have here. I believe that these are so-called Švanda forgeries (the word literally means "making fun of") that were named after the person who originally started putting them out to cheat collectors. A row (very similar in appearance to your row) appears in the latest Czech POFIS catalog, and warns collectors to look out for them. They warn that not only the paper color is off, but also some of the details of the stamp design (although generally very well copied) are a little bit off.

In my opinion, these are not the genuine stamps.

Lou Svoboda

Answer #2: Lou is absolutely correct. These items are not genuine stamps. I believe a close examination of the design would show a number of variations from the originals.

Stamps of the Hradčany issue (some call them castle) were all printed on white paper. It is true various types of paper were tested during preparation process or used during production as printer's waste. Many values of the Hradčany issue can be found on various colored (grey, brownish, blue, red, or green, for instance) soft paper, usually with multiple strikes, and are of little value. Printers used such soft paper to clean plates of excess ink creating printer's waste as a normal part of the

printing process. During the early period of Czechoslovak stamp production security at the printery was very loose and quite a bit of this waste “walked” ending up in collector’s hands.

Jerry Verner

Answer #3: Printer’s waste stamps that “walked” were called “chimney stamps” in Czechoslovakia. Printing shops had good door security, but bundles of waste were pulled to the roof through cold chimneys.

Sam Horvath

Answer #4: I would also say that the color on the 10h and 30h looks washed out.

Tom Cossaboom

2. From Steve Friedenthal:

Question: Do you have any idea what route this cover [Figure 2a/2b] took in going from Praha 10 to Shanghai in the 1930’s? Is there anything written on this in the literature?



Fig. 2a

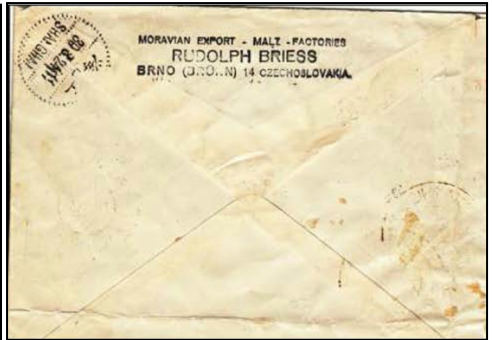


Fig. 2b

I think I have found an answer to the route to Shanghai mystery. See Figure 3a/3b. It goes from Brno to Shanghai through Italy. This would likely than be the same route as the cover I have but from Prague. Any thoughts?



Fig. 3a

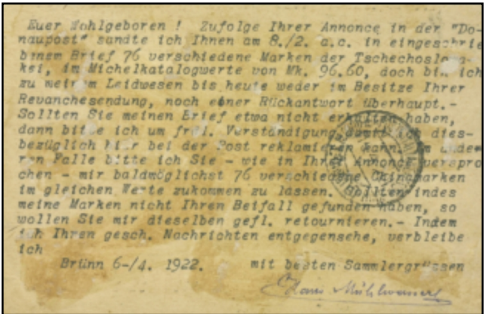


Fig. 3b

3. From Ludvik Svoboda:

Question: In an article from *Zpravodaj 3-4, 2011*, it wonders how two types of the 400h Hradčany could be joined pairs when the two types are from different printing plates, #1 and #2?

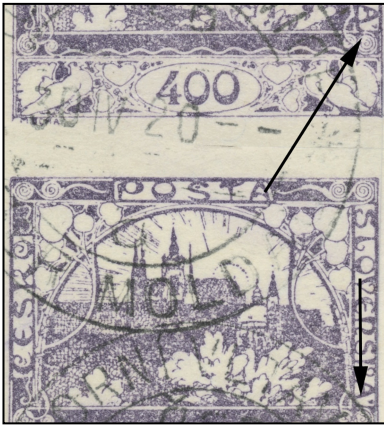


Fig. 4

Examination of the repairs to Plate I bear this out -- the repairs resemble free-hand pen strokes.

However, the repair was faulty. Certain stamps, namely positions 1, 5, 10, 18 and 83 on Plate I were only partially -- if at all -- repaired. This gave rise to the “impossible” occurrence of paired types. An example illustration (Fig. 4) shows positions 83/93. The arrow on the upper stamps (position 83) points to the gap, while the arrow on the lower stamp (position 93) points at the panel’s repaired frame.

This particular problem also illuminates a problem with Types in the Hradčany issue. Many so-called types show evidence of being done randomly and by hand so that instances of the same “type” differ from one another. The so-called spiral, frame, bar, and arch types all suffer from this problem. They are not considered plate flaws because they arose from human intervention, but they are very unlike the types of the 1923 Agriculture and Science issue or the 1928 Postage Due issue. In these latter two issues, the typed stamps arose because different templates were used.

Hope this information helps.

Mark Wilson

President's Report (continued from front page)

Philately". The DVD and narrative were previewed during NOJEX and were extremely well received. When complete, it will be available to members for their use at their local stamp club. Copies will also be provided to the American Philatelic Society for their loan library. The DVD is intended to generate interest in the many and varied areas of philately that involved Czechoslovakia throughout the years.

The Society Library, the largest and most complete collection of philatelic material outside of the Czech and Slovak Republics, is available on loan to our members in most cases for just the cost of postage. Our website manager, Marisa Galitz, and our Librarian, Lou Svoboda, are cooperating to get an updated electronic version of a Library Catalog of holdings onto the Society website. For those without internet access, the Catalog will be available in a hard copy by submitting a request to our Librarian.

Though our Society, much as other philatelic organizations, has seen membership decrease over the past decade, we have continued to add new members. As of mid-May we had 213 members, which includes 25 members who have availed themselves of the new reduced rate electronic only membership. I'm also pleased to report that the Society's finances are rock solid so we are seeking your ideas to use these resources to benefit our members' philatelic pursuits. Your suggestions are welcome.

As always, we are seeking members who are willing to share their time and effort to enhance our Society. Elsewhere in this issue there is a plea for a member to assume the function of Book Sales Manager. This is a valuable benefit but, if it is to continue, we need someone to step forward and volunteer for this position. We also have a continual need for articles for *The Specialist*. Each of our Directors has committed to write an article during this next year. Which areas of Czechoslovak philately are of most interest to you? What topics would you enjoy seeing in *The Specialist*? We want *The Specialist* to be both interesting and informative to our members, but we need your input to focus our efforts. We also welcome articles written by you that reflect your personal collecting interests. In order for our Society to flourish, we need an active membership . . . please do your part!

For future planning, the next annual convention of our Society will be at MILCOPEX 2015 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. While the specific dates for the show haven't been announced yet, it shall be held during the month of September. Look for details in the next issue of *The Specialist*. The following year, 2016, we will return to Denver, Colorado, to participate in the Rocky Mountain Stamp Show during the month of May. In 2017 we expect to return to an East Coast venue for our convention; we're exploring our participation in several shows.

Five Society members exhibited competitively during NOJEX 2014. In addition to the NOJEX Show Awards, several of our members were recognized by national philatelic societies for their exhibits. The NOJEX Awards are:

Gold Medal

Jay T. Carrigan: *Carpatho-Ukraine 1944-1945*

Vermeil Medals

Jaroslav J. Verner: *Czechoslovak Legions in France, Italy, and Slovakia*

Jay T. Carrigan: *Local Emergency Measures in Eastern Hungary 1944-45*

Silver Medals

Richard P. Livingston: *Czechoslovakia Under Nazi Rule from 1938 to 1945*

Ludvik Z. Svoboda: *Czechoslovakia's Hradcany 1918-1920*

Richard G. Palaschak: *The First Commemorative Issues of Czechoslovakia*

The following national awards were earned by our members:

Mucha Award -- Jay T. Carrigan

Society for Czechoslovak Philately award for the best Czechoslovak exhibit

Gold Award of Honor -- Jay T. Carrigan

American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors award for excellence in presentation

Posthorn Medal -- Jaroslav J. Verner

Postal History Society award for the best postal history exhibit

Military Postal History Society Award -- Jaroslav J. Verner

For the best military exhibit

Auxiliary Markings Club Award -- Jaroslav J. Verner

For the best exhibit with auxiliary markings

Novice Award -- Ludvik Z. Svoboda

American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors award for the best exhibit by a first time exhibitor at a World Series of Philately Show

Sterling Achievement Medal -- Ludvik Z. Svoboda

Women Exhibitors society award to serve as encouragement to a promising exhibit that shows merit in philatelic knowledge, material, or treatment

The Society awards its own exhibit medals at each show during a Sunday breakfast awards ceremony. Three Society members are appointed by the president to evaluate all Czechoslovak related exhibits. The awards for NOJEX 2014 are:

Gold -- Jay T. Carrigan

Silver -- Richard G. Palaschak

Bronze -- Ludvik Z. Svoboda

Our Society also had member Dominick J. Riccio serving as a judge on the Show Jury. As a judge, Mr. Riccio couldn't exhibit competitively but he did show a wonderful non-competitive exhibit for the Court of Honor: *The Postal History of Carpatho-Ukraine 1795-1945*.

A very special "thank you" to all of these members for exhibiting at NOJEX during our celebration of 75 years as a philatelic society. Exhibiting not only informs others about the many varied aspects of Czechoslovak philately, but it also

disciplines one's own collecting and forces an increased personal knowledge of the exhibit subject. This year we had one new exhibitor and two members who exhibited for the second time. Because we can always use more exhibits from our members, I've appointed Richard Livingston to be the Society's Exhibit Coordinator. As such he will actively encourage exhibits for our annual Society conventions and also provide information and assistance to get members started in exhibiting their specific interests. The American Philatelic Society has greatly expanded the types of materials and topics that qualify for an exhibit so there are many more opportunities available for our members to exhibit.

We currently have a very dynamic Society. If it is to continue as such, we need you to be involved in some way to advance our collective interests. If you have ideas for new benefits for our members, for increasing membership, for articles, or if you want to be involved in directing the Society by serving as Director, please don't hesitate to contact me to discuss them.

Rich Palaschak, President

VOLUNTEER NEEDED TO BE BOOK SALES MANAGER

Our Society needs one of its members to assume the responsibilities of Society Book Sales Manager. Sam Horvath, after many years of supporting the Society as the Book Sales Manger is no longer able to continue in that position.

This function is vital to the continuing flow of up to date philatelic information to our Society's members. Please give serious consideration to volunteering for this Society position.

If you are interested in learning more about the responsibilities of the Book Sales Manager, please contact me at rjpalas@gmail.com or by phone 703-968-8714. Richard G. Palaschak, President

COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH THE CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

Check out our sister organization, the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain, at their website: www.cpsgb.org.uk, and through their Membership Secretary, Yvonne Gren at mail@dygren.plus.com.

Their publication *Czechout* and our *Specialist* have little duplication in content. In addition, under a new agreement the two societies have arranged for payment of your CPSGB dues to our SCP Treasurer, Marisa Galitz, without having to worry about foreign currency or sending it to the UK. So why not have more fun, become a member of both societies! CPSGB Dues are US\$10 for digital, US\$40 for printed copies by airmail or US\$35 for printed copies by surface. Payment can be made via Paypal to sales@csphilately.org or by check to SCP, c/o Marisa Galitz, 8932 Groffs Mill Drive, Owings Mills, MD 21117

New Issues

CZECH REPUBLIC
by Ludvik Svoboda



Fig. 1

1. On May 28, 2014, the Ministry on Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic issued a self-adhesive stamp booklet with non-denominated definitive stamps with imprinted letter “A” for the “For Children” series with a motive of “Ju and Hele” (Fig. 1). On the stamps are depicted the sitting puppets Ju and Hele and the flying puppet Muf in the background. This year’s stamp in the “For Children” series commemorates Stanislav Holy (1943 - 1998), Czech painter, graphic artist, illustrator, and mainly puppets Ju and Hele. Beginning in 1960, he focused on comics, with the character of Mr. Pip as the main hero. Holy is best known for Czech Television’s Studio Kamarád (Friendship Studio) dedicated to children, which he enlivened by both the main puppets Ju and Hele, Hary Soumen (Harr Showman), Muf Supermuf, Tryskomys (Jetmouse), Samsula and others. The design for the series was freely inspired by the US Sesame Street. In 1978 his book *Procházky Pana Pipa* (Mr. Pip’s Trips) won the annual Most Beautiful Book award of the Ministry of Culture. The graphic arrangement was by Stanislav Holy, while the

stamp and booklet were graphically arranged by his son, MgA. Matej Holy. The stamp was produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset in self-adhesive stamp booklets of 10 pieces. A FDC in multicolored offset depicts puppets Ju and Hele in a TV set.



Fig. 2

2. On June 11, 2014, the Ministry issued a set of two commemorative stamps in the Historical Vehicles series. The stamps were produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset by recess print from flat plates of printing sheets of 50 pieces (25 pieces of each stamp).

-- 25 Kč: Z4 Automobile (Zbrojovka Brno)(Fig. 2).

The Z-4 automobile -- from the manufacturer Zbrojovka Brno -- was made in 1936. It had a two-stroke

water-cooled four-cylinder engine with a volume of 980 ccm with an output of 25 hp and a maximum speed of 100 km/h and an average consumption of 8 liters per 100 km. The 810 kg convertible had a three-speed transmission and front-wheel drive. It had a ladder-type frame, and all wheels were independently suspended by leaf springs and hydraulic lever shock absorbers. Drums brakes were located on all wheels. The two-door closed Zetka body was made of parts from sheet steel screws attached to a wooden frame. The floor of the car was also made of wooden planks. The spare wheel was located on a huge mount behind the car and into the trunk with access from inside the car after removing the rear seat backrest. The Z-4 automobile was first introduced in April 1933 at the Prague Motor Show. The Zetka with its front-wheel drive soon became a popular model. It also had racing successes -- in 1934 it was the winner of the Czechoslovak 1000 mile Prague--Brno--Bratislava Race with an average speed of 92 km/h. The Zetka also celebrated social achievements. In Prague there was a Z-club for owners of Zetkas, one of its members was the famous comedian and actor Vlasta Burian (the yellow car in the picture is the automobile from Vlasta Burian's collection that has survived to the present day.) The stamp was designed by Václav Zapadlík and engraved by Jaroslav Tvrdoň. A FDC in black shows the automobile Z4 with the administration building of the Zbrojovka Brno arms factory in the background (Fig. 3).

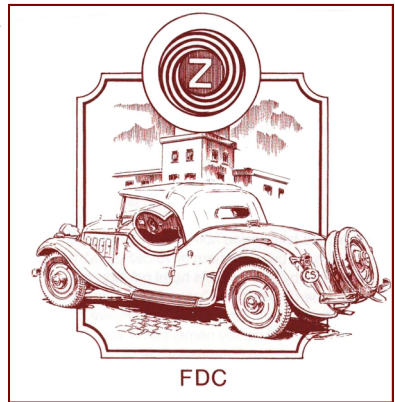


Fig. 3

-- 25 Kč: Passenger Paddle Steamboat, The Franz Josef I (Fig. 4). The largest and most prominent of the six paddle steamers built in Prague was the passenger (saloon) steamer, the Franz Josef I. A new acquisition, the third large-scale ship of the Prague Steamboat Company (PPS) was inspired by a notable increase in the interest of passengers on the Prague--Zbraslav--Štěchovice line after 1880. In



Fig. 4

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

mid-1886, there was a competition which was entered by several shipbuilding companies. The Prague company eventually won the competition and delivered a modern steamboat with a full capacity of 800 people for 55,000 guildens. The large capacity required of the paddle steamboat led the shipyard to come up with a new design. The steamboat, with regard to the turning basin of the Vltava river in Prague at that time, could not be too long, but at the same time it had to have a low draft (0.72 meters). It was therefore necessary to increase the displacement of the ship using a fairly full bow. However, that required more powerful machinery. Therefore the steamboat got -- for the first time in the history of the Vltava--Elbe passenger transportation -- a horizontal steam engine with an output of 120 horsepower. In addition to the richly



Fig. 5

furnished lounges with wallpaper and blinds, it also had small upper deck accessible to passengers in the space between the paddle wheels. That was much earlier than with the ships of the Dresden steam navigation company, whose steamboat with the upper deck called the "*Oberdeckdampf*" (upper-deck steamboat), sailed up the river in 1896, a full nine years later. Interestingly, despite the use of the upper deck, the steamboat did not have a steering system on the bridge, its directional control, the same as with other Prague paddle steamboats, was a manual helm from the stem. The newly built steamboat was initially deployed on the route from Prague to Zbraslav, which was then the most crowded line of PPS. Hundreds of people from Prague used the steamboats for trips to Chuchle (then far from Prague), Modřany and to the summer resort Zbraslav. For example, in 1889, the paddle steamboat performed 136 trips to Zbraslav, 86 to Štěchovice, and 65 to Davle. The steamboat was also used for sightseeing tours with prominent guests, such as the one on June 10, 1920, in which the first Czechoslovak president T.G. Masaryk participated. The steamboat sunk under tragic circumstances, but was raised up and repaired. After 1918, it also changed its name twice to Zbraslav (in 1918) and Praha (in 1929). The stamp was designed by Pavel Sivko and engraved by Jaroslav Tvrdoň. A FDC in brown shows a detail of the Passenger Paddle Steamboat the Franz Josef I (Fig. 5).

3. On June 11, 2014, the Ministry issued a commemorative souvenir sheet with two different 29 Kč stamps and three coupons for the issue Victims of World War I (Fig. 6). The stamps and coupons depict war motifs. The First World War (or WW I, and before 1939 known as the Great War or as the World War) was a global military conflict which lasted from 1914 to 1918. WW I hit Europe, Africa, and Asia and took place in the world's oceans. The immediate pretext for the war was the successful assassination of the archduke and heir to the throne Franz Ferdinand d'Este. Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia in retaliation, causing a chain reaction leading to WW I. Within one month, Europe found itself in a conflict. The war broke out between the two coalitions: the Allied Powers and the Central



Fig. 6



Fig. 7



Fig. 8

military helmets and hats (Fig. 7) while the second depicts portraits of war heroes with a two-headed eagle in the background and a lion in the front (Fig. 8).

Stationery

4. On April 30, 2014, the Ministry issued a commemorative postal card with an imprinted letter-denominated “A” stamp for the Railway Post (Fig. 9). The imprinted A-stamp depicts a postal railway car, while the postal card depicts a moving vintage train “František Ferdinand d’Este” containing a postal railway car. The postal card is issued to commemorate the beginning of a cycle of museum exhibitions for “The Great War 1914 - 2014”, with this event for “The Postal System of the Great War”. On June 27, 2014, a vintage train containing a saloon car of Franz

Powers. At the outbreak of war, the Allied Powers were the United Kingdom (which participated in the war as a result of the German invasion of Belgium), France and Czarist Russia. The Allied Powers were also joined by other countries, Italy in 1915 and the USA in 1917. The Central Powers were Germany and Austria-Hungary in 1914, joined later by the Ottoman Empire and Bulgaria in 1915. By the end of the war only Spain, Switzerland, the Netherlands and the Scandinavian countries remained neutral. The battles of WW I took place on several fronts in Europe. On the Western Front, the fighting took place in the trenches (trench warfare). Over 60 million soldiers were mobilized from 1914 to 1918. The war ended with the victory of the Allies and the surrender of the defeated Central Powers. The world celebrates November 11, 1918 as the end of WW I -- at 11 a.m. there was a ceasefire on all fronts (11.11. at 11 a.m.), signed on the same day at 5:05 a.m. by the German Corps of Generals in the company wagon of the Supreme Commander of the Allied troops, the French Marshal Foch in Compiègne. The formal ending of the war occurred with the Treaty of Versailles in 1919. The souvenir sheet was designed by Jan Maget, engraved by Václav Fajt, and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset. Two FDC’s in black-green were issued, one depicts



Fig. 9

Ferdinand Archduke of Austria-Este, successor to the Austro-Hungarian throne, will start from the Prague-Dejvice railway station to mark the occasion. The extraordinary train will arrive at the Brno main railway station on June 28th. A reconstruction of the assassination of the successor to the throne and his wife Sophie at Sarajevo will be staged in Brno. One of the accompanying events will be the special transportation of mail by the railway post. Philatelists may prepare their ordinary letters in advance and send them in an envelope to arrive by June 20, 2014 at the latest, to the address: Postal Museum, Nové Mlýny 2, 110 00 Prague 1, CZECH REPUBLIC. They may also deliver them in person at the same address by the same date. *[Don't forget to affix the proper Czech Republic postage for mailing a letter to a foreign country, i.e., a Z-denominated stamp.]* The postal card was designed by Jirí Bouda and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by full-colored offset.

5. On May 28, 2014, the Ministry issued the 21st set of 8 picture postal cards with an imprinted letter-denominated “A” stamp showing “Coat of Arms” by Bedřich Housa, with the postal cards having motifs of Historical Postal Buildings 2014. The cards were produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by multicolored offset.

-- Praha 9 -- Bechovice, Českbrodská 1 (A217/2014): The Neoclassical building of the postal station in Bechovice arose in the last quarter of the 18th century on the foundation of the former Bechovice fortress. The post office remained there until 1970.

-- Praha 1 -- Malá Strana, Maltézské Náměstí 480/8 (A218/2014): From 1622 - 1743, the headquarters of the Chief Postal Office for Bohemia were located in a town house raised on the place of a former malt house built in 1539-42.

-- Jablonné v Podjestedí, Zdislavy z Lemberka 335 (A219/2014): In 1754-1898, the postal station in Jablonné v Podjestedí was located in the former Baroque chateau built by Jan Jáchym Pachta of Rájov around 1700.

-- Kovalovice 109, Brno-Countryside District (A220/2014): The Neoclassical building of the postal station in Pozorice (currently in the cadastre of the municipality of Kovalovice) was likely built in 1785-90 and served this purpose until 1879. During the Battle of Austerlitz, it hosted the staff of the French and the Russian armies.

-- Karlovy Vary, Slovenská 509 (A221/2014): The building was commissioned in 1791 by the last hereditary postmaster in Karlovy Vary, Josef Korb von Weidenheim, as a relay station for the exchange of horses, teams of post horses and stagecoaches. It was used by the postal service until 1801.

-- Klenci pod Cerchovem 4, Okres Domazlice (A222/2014): The postal station in Klenci pod Cerchovem was likely erected as early as the second half of the 16th century, although the first reference in writing dates back to 1609. Its significance was further enhanced by the fact that the local postmaster often acted as the local customs officer.

-- Litomysl, Smetanovo Náměstí 15 (A223/2014): Unfortunately, the Baroque building of the old post office in Litomysl by an anonymous author was not preserved. The post office was established in this charming town in East Bohemia as early as 1754.

-- The "Post Office" Pub in Kolín, Rorejcova 656 (A224/2014): The Empire-style single-story building with two wings from 1845. Postmaster Karel Knirsch moved the postal station here soon after the building had been completed.

6. On June 11, 2014, the Ministry issued a commemorative postal card with an imprinted letter-denominated "A" stamp for the Motorcycle Post (Fig. 10). The definitive imprinted A-stamp depicts a postal motorcycle. On the left-hand side of the postal card is shown a Laurin & Klement postal motorcycle, same as on the stamp. The postal card is issued to commemorate the extraordinary transportation of mail by Motorcycle Post on the route from the Postal Museum in Vyšší Brod to the Exhibition Grounds in Prague-Letňany (the venue of the Collector Fair) on September 5, 2014. This is an event accompanying the exhibition "Single Track Post" held in the Postal Museum in Vyšší Brod from June 21 to September 14, 2014. In the morning on Friday, September 5, a vintage motorcycle will start from Vyšší Brod to carry mail, provided with the affixed Post Office in Vyšší Brod date stamp and cachet "Transported by the Vyšší Brod-Prague Motorcycle Post", to the Exhibition Grounds in Prague-Letňany with scheduled arrival in the afternoon. Upon arrival, the postal card will again be postmarked using the incoming date stamp of the local post office. Philatelists who want to use the Motorcycle Post service may prepare their ordinary letters in advance and send them in an envelope by August 31 at the latest, solely to the address: Postal Museum, Klášter 136, 382 73 Vyšší Brod. The postal card and its imprinted stamp were designed by Václav Zapadlík and produced by the Post Printing House in Prague by full-colored offset.

Motocyklová pošta
Vyšší Brod – Praha
5. 9. 2014

Poštovní motocykl **Laurin & Klement**
Akce k výstavě Poštovního muzea Vyšší Brod „Pošta jednou stopou“

Česká pošta

ČESKÁ REPUBLIKA A

V. Zapsedík 2014

Fig. 10

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Amount of Space	One Issue	Two Issues	Four Issues
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THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

-- May 31, 1999 (see Jul/Aug 99, p1-3; Sep/Oct 99, p38)

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