

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Official Monthly Journal of the



Society for Czechoslovak Philately

Silver Bronze Award Praga 1968

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September 1974

No. 7, Whole No. 343

I ATTENDED BRNO 74

James J. Matejka, Jr., M.D., Past President SCP

It was my first philatelic exhibition in the Republic of Czechoslovakia. True, I was told about the vastness of PRAGA 68, Bratislava 60, and BRNO 46, but I was not there, and I still believe in the old adage of, "Seein' 's Believin'." However, having been in BRNO, I have the highest praise for



Dr. Matejka receiving Gold Medal and Large Piece of Crystal from Ing. Ladislav Dvořáček, President of BRNO '74. Mr. Valentin Schiebl, Vice President, looks on.

this National Stamp Show, which was held from June 8th to June 23rd. Its 4,000 frame show exhibited the stamps and the philatelic history of Czechoslovakia from pre-philatelic days to the present. Every imaginable facet of philately was covered. The 40,000 viewers spent 20,000,000 crowns for postage stamps at the three post offices set up for the show, plus admission fees and that which was spent at POFIS, the government philatelic agency. It was rumored that the government had spent about 8,000,000 crowns to stage the show. Thus, it is estimated that the show profited some 12 to 18 million crowns.

I arrived at the Prague Airport on Wednesday, June 5th and was met by a police car which took the collections that I had brought and my personal luggage around to the front of the airport to join the other cars in the caravan along with two motorcycle police in escort. With sirens ablaze, the four car caravan streaked through the streets of busy Prague at about 5 p.m., when all the people left their offices for home. I had five stamp collections from the United States which the Czechoslovak Government did not wish to see go astray. These police did a wonderful job, as each city and hamlet that we passed through on our 235 kilometer ride to Brno was alerted and the local police were on the job to clear the way as we screamed on to Brno. It was a hair raising ride to say the least since many times we would drive to the left of streetcars or on the left side of the road up over a hill. But we made the trip in fine time, and the collections were put to bed for the night in a well guarded building. The machine guns that the guards carried, I know, would be no match for any ordinary stamp thief. When I asked about stamp thievery in Czechoslovakia I was told that it doesn't exist except for an attempted theft of a full sheet of the blue Mercury newspaper stamps of Austria which was thwarted, and the property recovered.

The following morning I mounted my collection in the Court of Honor at the Stadium amid a lot of ooohs and aaahhs. I showed 16 pages of the original drawings and die proofs of Professor Karl Seizinger, who had been one of the principal engravers during the First Republic. As I mounted these items I wondered how the Professor would react when he would see these items a few days hence. I was particularly impressed at the glazers. If a sheet, while they affixed the glass, became tilted, they would cheerfully remove the glass so that it could be corrected. Guards were all about while we were mounting our material and throughout the night. As an added protection a voice was heard over the loud speakers calling to the guards to be alert and stand by their posts at all times—to watch and challenge any suspicious actions on anyone's part.

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THE CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN
Report of Convention held at Worthing, Sussex, England Saturday, 25 May '74

The exhibition was opened by the Chairman of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain, Mr. George Pearson: FRPSL. Eight members of the Society contributed material for the displays which ranged from a lettersheet from Prague to Vienna dated 1644 to modern material.

During the course of the afternoon Mr. Roy Dehn, FRPSL, gave a display of the POSTA CESKOSLOVENSKA 1919 overprints on the stamps of Austria and Hungary, and Miss Yvonne King displayed the Hradcany issue.

In the evening the members and their guests adjourned to a Chinese restaurant for an informal dinner.

—Y. K.



Mr. Roy Dehn (center) discussing P. C. 1919 overprints with Mr. George Pearson and Miss Yvonne King.

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From the Editor's Stock Book

In addition to the prizes won by our members at BRNO '74, a few other members of our SOCIETY have won philatelic honors over the summer. One of these is Alfonso G. Zulueta, Jr. (#1903) who took the Grand Award at SANDICAL-EXPO in San Diego, Calif. Last spring, former member Bill Sandrik received the Grand Award at SOJEX in Atlantic City, while SOCIETY Director George Blizil was busy handing out awards at APS-STAMPEDE '74.

Members who still wish to purchase the special Worthing Exhibition cover may now do so by sending 30c per cover (stamps accepted) with franked self addressed envelope to the Editor.

Tom Austin, Hradčany specialist and winner of the Lowey Award at the SOCIETY's 1972 show at NOJEX writes that he is preparing for a showing of his material in November in a national exhibit in his native Costa Rica. That's spreading the word on our hobby!

Members are urged to check their names in the membership directory published in this issue. If your listing is incorrect, please contact the Editor. If you find your name missing or if you are listed in the wrong membership category, please contact our Secretary, Ed Lisy, whom you will find listed in the directory. The directory has been placed in the centerfold for your easy removal and use throughout the year. —HH

BOOK REVIEW: *Spoje slovem i obrazem* (Communications: in words and pictures), Antonin Hudec Pub. Prague, 1973. 152 pp. 176 pictures. 23.50 Kčs.

This is a rather generalized description of the development of communications (including mail services) in present Czechoslovakia since ancient times, through the middle ages and up to the present. The author uses some 23 chapters to describe various phases and aspects of communications, noting the highly efficient system of mail communications of ancient Rome, the wild-

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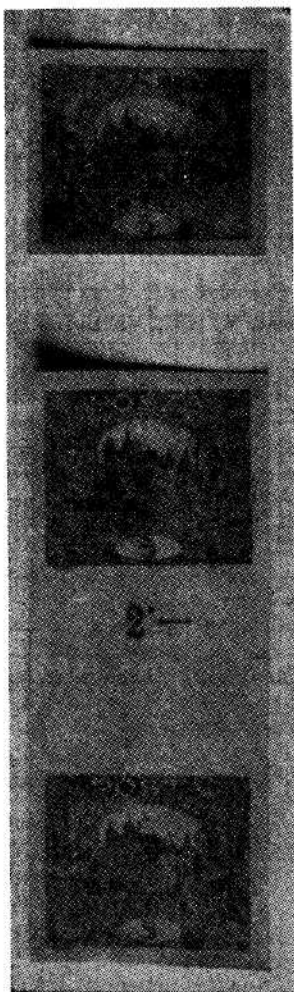
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spread mail contacts between the middle age cloisters and religious orders. He describes the system developed in Central Europe by the Thurn-Taxis family as well as the subsequent extensions of its successor the Paars family in Austria-Hungary. The details of the growing mail system, its economics, its administration and others as related to the present Czechoslovakia are extensively described. There are many old maps and pictures of various postal routes included in the book. The advent of the railroad, which on the European continent was led by Austria-Hungary, brought a veritable revolution in safer and speedier (and cheaper) mail deliveries. Thus the first railroad mail deliveries started between Prague and Vienna on April 7, 1851. The author devoted several chapters to the development of mail and other communication services in liberated Czechoslovakia both after the First and Second World Wars. The students of postal history will find this book full of useful and interesting background information. Also the newest forms of communications like radio, TV, telex, etc. are not overlooked. —L. V.



CHARLEY'S CORNER

Box 237, Willow Springs, Ill. 60480

A number of years ago we were able to purchase a rather rare item from a small New York mail order sale.

They had the item described as a gutter pair of the 5 heller Hradcany with "Gilbert" certificate attached.

Knowing that the 5 heller yellow green gutter is quite rare and since we already had 1 gutter pair we placed a top limit bid of only \$28.00 for the item. They had it described as printed on the gummed side which we thought was an error in description.

Much to our surprise we received the lot for only \$18.00 and found it to be printed on the gummed side but not the yellow green (Scott #2 variety) but the 5 heller blue green (Scott #25). Needless to say, we had just gotten a real Hradcany rarity and for the sum of \$18.00. This has to be the biggest bargain in our collection.

Here's hoping all of our readers get a real bargain some day.

Good hunting!

Ed. Note: The description of the above item might be misleading to some collectors. Please refer to Pofis '73 page 23, Novotny page 72 (bottom), or Monografie I page 97 if which lists this gutter pair as not officially issued, originating from printer's waste and illegally removed from the printing plant. Though very interesting for research purposes (to ascertain the printing plate form), Novotny lists the item at 300 Kcs. According to Novotny, this item is known only with printing on the gummed side. (R. Gray)



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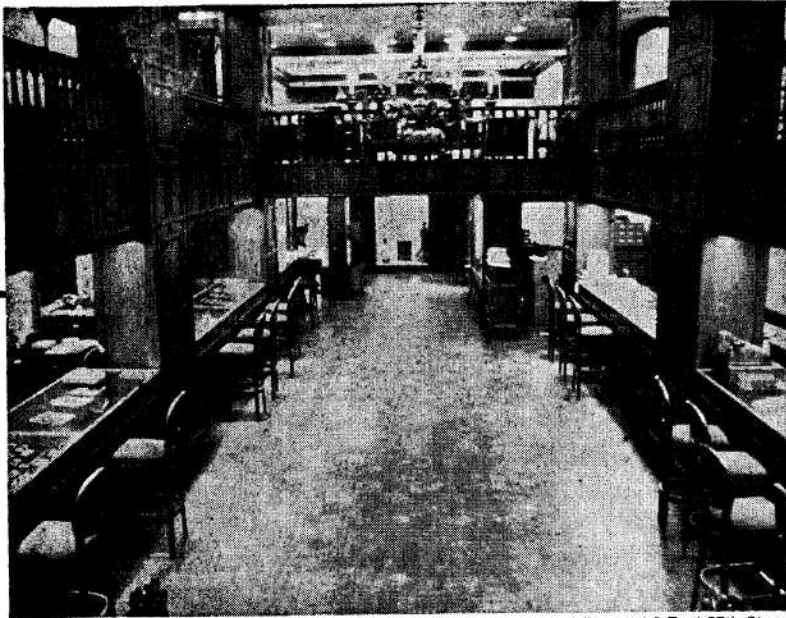
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840 Kleskovic, Peter Z., 27 Jay St., Succasunna, N. J. 07876
206 Klozar, M. F., 913 Spring Road, Elmhurst, Ill. 62106
227 Kobylka, George, Box 159, Berwyn, Ill. 60402
972 Kolb, Frederick, 715 22nd Ave., San Francisco, Calif. 94121
1028 Kolecz, Fred J., 25 W. 657 Prairie Ave., Wheaton, Ill. 60187
288 Kosar, Mrs. Mildred F., 207 Whitekirk Dr., Wilmington, Del. 19808
515 Kosik, Frank J., Route 4, Box 471, Delavan, Wisc. 53115
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1005 Kovar, James O., 1256 So. Haase Ave., Westchester, Ill. 60158
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540 Krejci, Otakar M., 8702 Ridge Road, Bethesda, Md. 20034
Krejci, Vera, 8702 Ridge Road, Bethesda, Md. 20034
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All stamps mint, unless otherwise stated.

The prices below represent MINIMUM bids. (AUSRUFPREIS)

1.	II. REVOLUTIONARY OVERPRINT, compl. VF, signed	\$65.00
2.	HRADCANY, tete-beche gutter, VF, 1a, M 1KZ, 2 Hal.	3.50
3.	10h, imp. printed on gummed side; 43a, M25. VF	8.00
4.	10h, tete-beche gutter, VF, 5a, 3KZ	25.00
5.	20h, imp. LUUS, 45a, M27 (Scott \$65)	26.00
6.	same, ESSAY in dark orange, R. VF	9.00
7.	same, ESSAY in brown, R., VF	9.00
8.	same, ESSAY in red violet, R., VF	9.00
9.	same, ESSAY in olive, R., VF	9.00
10.	same, ESSAY in blue, ART paper (Kreidepapier), R., VF	12.00
11.	25h, violet, perf. 11½:10¾, block of 4, VF, 46a, M28E	8.00
12.	same, ESSAY in olive, VF, R	9.00
13.	25 blue, tete-beche, top stamp gum crease, otherwise VF, 5a, 5KZ	40.00
14.	30h viol., imp., LUXUS, 47a, M29a, sign. (Scott 85.00)	28.00
15.	same, DARK violet, LUXUS, 47e, M29b, signed (Scott 85.00)	28.00
16.	same, ESSAY in olive, VF, R	10.00
17.	60h orange, perf. 13¾:13½, block of 4, VF, R	50.00
18.	same, used F	10.00
19.	75h, ESSAY in green, 33 var, 31 var, VF, R	9.00
20.	same, ESSAY in yellow, VF	9.00
21.	300h, ESSAY in grass green, 38 var. M22 var., VF, R	9.00
22.	same, ESSAY in blackish blue green, VF	9.00
23.	same, ESSAY in dark olive, VF	9.00
24.	same, ESSAY in orange, THICK PAPER, R, VF	10.00
25.	500h, ESSAY, art paper, double print, VF, 39, M33 var	10.00
26.	1000, ESSAY, thick art paper, var. 40, M23, VF	10.00
27.	1-1000h, 14 val. ministerial perf. 11½, F-VF	20.00
28.	ESSAY, 10, 20, 25, black on art paper, VF	8.00
29.	ESSAY, 3, 5, 120, black on brownish paper, VF	6.00
30.	VZOREC, 1-1000h, imp. 22 values, R, VF	45.00
31.	same, 10h, imp. green, 43a var, M25 var, VF, R	15.00
32.	same, 20h, imp. carmine, 45a var, M 27 var, VF, R	15.00
33.	same, 25h viol, imp. INVERTED overprint, var 29, var M28, R, VF	15.00
34.	same, 50h, blue, INVERTED overprint, var. 31, var M 30, VF, R	15.00
35.	same, PERF. 10½, RR COMPLETE, 5 val: 25, 25, 75, 120, 1000, VF	35.00
36.	same, perf. 13¾, 4 val: 50 blue, 60, 100, 500, VF	12.00
37.	same, perf. 13¾:13½, 5 val: 15, 60, 80, 300, 1000, VF R	20.00
38.	1919, 20h, light green, type II, B8, M 64b, VF	18.00
39.	1K, BLACK overprint, type I, B17, M 50b, VF	18.00

40.	3K, light carmine, type II, B19, M 56, VF -----	17.00
41.	PC 1919, 4K, type I and II, B20, M 57, 2 val., VF -----	6.00
42.	4K, INVERTED overprint, VF -----	10.00
43.	10K light viol., type II, VF sign. (Scott 150.00) B21, M58 -----	80.00
44.	Porto 15, OFFSET, B49, M83 var., VF -----	3.50
45.	Porto 50h, B54, M 88, type I, VF, RR (Scott \$225) Signed ---	120.00
46.	3 fil, B66, M106, VF signed, type IV (Scott 22.50) -----	10.00
47.	60 fil, B69, M 109, VF, signed, type II (Scott \$25) -----	11.00
48.	3K, type II, B88, M 135, VF -----	12.00
49.	40 fil. INVERTED overprint, B94, M 141, VF, signed -----	4.00
50.	50 fil, F-VF, signed (Scott \$20) -----	9.00
51.	2 and 3 fil, INVERTED overprint, B73/-4, M120-1, VF, 2 val --	5.00
52.	1 fil, BLACK NUM., B104, M 145 var, type I, WZ y, crown (Scott \$200) signed -----	120.00
53.	5 fil, BLACK NUM., B112, M147, ty IV, WZ z, cross (Sc. \$350) sig	150.00
54.	50 fil, BLACK NUM., B107, M149, type I, WZ y, crown, sign. VF	50.00
55.	Masaryk, ESSAY, black on thick art paper, 125h, 61, M161, VF --	19.00
56.	40h, type I, 71, M173 I, VF (nine leaves) -----	4.00
57.	ESSAY, black on art paper, 40, 50, 60, 185, 250, VF Allegorie, 5 val	10.00
58.	Red Cross, IMP 40 & 60, VF, B130-1 IMPERF., M 196-7, 2 val ----	10.00
59.	125h, ESSAY overp. leaves in red, VF, B132, M198 -----	10.00
60.	Husita, ESSAY 90 & 80 gutter in olive, RR, VF, signed -----	20.00
61.	ESSAY in 11 dif. colors, VF, 90 hal. -----	20.00
62.	Legionaires, B124-9, M34-9, 3 covers (1express & 2 fake overp.) --	3.00
63.	1928, 142-51, M267-76, complete blocks of 4 with plate no., VF --	10.00
64.	4Kc, 165, M291, plate block of 4, VF -----	4.00
65.	4Kc, 166, M292, plate block of 4, VF, Scott \$16 plus -----	8.00
66.	5Kc, 167, M293, plate block of 4, VF, Scott \$24 plus -----	10.00
67.	Orlik, 4Kc WITH UPPER COUPON, VF, 185, M 312 -----	15.00
68.	same, WITH LOWER COUPON, VF -----	15.00
69.	KDM, 1934, 200-1 b, M330-1x, VF -----	13.00
70.	same, upper strip of 3, with complete upper part of sheet, 2 sh. --	45.00
71.	same, lower strip of 3, with compl. part of sheet, 2 sh, VF -----	45.00
72.	1962, Exh. sheet of 4 (5 Kc), NH, 1080, M 1314, VF -----	18.00
73.	AIR MAIL, IMP, compl., VF, signed, C1-3, M192-4 (Scott \$38) ----	15.00
74.	28K/25, ESSAY, black overprint, signed, VF -----	6.00
75.	2 Kc, 13 3/4 : 13 1/2, VF, C12 b, 305 D -----	3.50
76.	1 Kc, perf. 12 1/4, F, C11a, M 304 B -----	7.00
77.	4 Kc, mint and used, 12 1/4, VF, C14a, M 307 B, 2 val. -----	4.00
78.	C36-9, M678-81, compl. SHEETS of 10, R, VF, one thinning in selv. 25.00	
79.	NEWSPAPER 5hal, VERTICAL GUTTER, P 13, M365, RR, VF, sig 120.00	
80.	SIBERIA, 10 kop, CESSKJA POSTA, 1, 1 A, VF, signed, RR --	280.00
81.	SO 1920, Masaryk 500 & 1000, VF, signed, 31-2, M 26, 7 -----	33.00

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(continued from page 102)

The show opened on Saturday the 3rd of June at 10 a.m. amid much fanfare. A parade down Lenin Street in front of the Stadium was led by a high school band, followed by a military band and by a girl majorette rhythm group. Then followed various horsemen dressed in the uniforms of postmen of years gone by. Two mail coaches were then brought into view while newspapermen's cameras and TV cameras found much to photograph. A dedication ceremony in the Stadium and another on the steps of the entrances to same were attended by yours truly. It seemed that since I was the only American in the official party, they wanted me to be seen. I was happy to oblige, since the crowds made it difficult to see what was going on, had I not been asked up front. Opening addresses were made by the head of the Russian Delegation, Anatoly Yar-Kravchenko, the mayor of Brno, and the Prime Minister of the Czechoslovak Republic, Dr. Ludomir Strougal, who was the sponsor of the exhibition.

I speak of the Stadium as the main exhibit hall. However, there was another hall known as the Dum Umeni which held the postal history section of the show. These two halls were accessible by a free bus that traveled between each hall every half hour. There were postal stations at both halls and at a motor bus known as the Autopošta which was located at the center of town. The obliterations at the Stadium were number 1, 2, and 3, while at the Dum Umeni the obliterator had the numbers 1 and 2. The Autopošta had only one obliterator. During the show there were still extra cancellations to be had as for the "Day of Aerophilately," "Day of Czechoslovak Stamps," "Day of Philatelic Artists," "The Youth Congress Day," "Day of the Specialists," "Day of Czechoslovak Philatelic Organizations," and the "IV Continental Auto Tour." Thus, if one wanted all of these cancellations for their collection one would have to go to each station post office in each building each day. Each of these postal stations sold Czechoslovak commemorative stamps—even the Autopošta. At the Dum Umeni a POFIS agency from Bratislava sold other Czechoslovak stamps and supplies, while at the Stadium a POFIS Agency from Brno and Prague sold their wares. Each did a spirited business. Perhaps the most spirited business was that at the cloak rooms in each hall. All hats, coats, umbrellas, canes and cases (either underarm or brief cases) had to be checked, and no one was allowed with anything in their hands. Guards made sure that this rule was kept at all times. No smoking throughout the exhibition area was allowed. Ample space was had for those who wished to prepare their covers or to rest and write. There was adequate space for refreshments including beer and wine.

There wasn't a day or an evening that went by that there wasn't some special event to which I was invited. One of the most outstanding evenings was at the Beseda House, a beautiful old building devoted to Czechoslovak culture before the turn of the century when the Germans living there and the Czechoslovaks vied for the preservations of their cultural heritage. Upon entering the building ones shoes were cleaned off so that the parqueted floors would not be scratched. A girl page would escort one to the proper seat at the table in the Great Hall at which time one could partake of beer, wine and good food. A word might be said about these girl pages. They were all young and chosen for their ability to converse in a language other than Czechoslovak. Thus some spoke Russian, French, German or English. Italian and Spanish was also available. Each girl wore an attractive dress, the print for which was made particularly for the show. These dress-uniforms were worn at all times, so that when you saw one of these girls you could ask for infor-

mation regardless of where you found them. I recall one evening having a dinner party of my own at a Hunting Lodge overlooking Brno, when one of the girls spotted me and even remembered my name.

Official government exhibits always seem about the same in any International or National exhibition. Except for the official exhibits of North Viet Nam, Cuba and North Korea, which I had never seen before, such was the case. Some countries had gone to the trouble to dress up their regular stamps with beautiful annotations. Such was the case of the Soviet Union. Their flare for fine presentation of their stamps was really breathtaking. All in all there were fourteen countries exhibiting in the official class.

What I had said earlier did not relate to the finest official exhibition of Czechoslovak material that I have ever seen, namely that of the Postal Museum and that of the Ministry of Posts of Czechoslovakia. These exhibits were the center of all attractions. Here the only inverted overprint of the 1919 POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ on the 4K. granite paper could be seen along with the regular granite paper issue of the 4K and the 10K. Stamps that ran into three or four figures each and could be seen in imperforate sheets of 100 or 400! Some of the plate set-up could be studied in detail from these sheets. A special exhibit of the old stamp obliterations was present as well as a portion of the international awards the Republic received for their stamps or presentations were also present. The full sheet of the blue newspaper stamps of Austria was also exhibited. The manner in which the Postal Ministry exhibited their stamps in the third dimension was a thing to marvel. The curator of the Postal Museum and her staff were always close by to answer questions. The postal minister, Rudolf Fischer, was always present and extremely proud of his country's philatelic achievements.

The competitive mention comprised most of the show. It was divided into various sections so that it was easy to find various categories of exhibits. The finest collections of Czechoslovakia were here to compete for prizes and to get ready for the next international PRAGA in 1978. I was particularly interested in the philatelic presentation and annotation. It was by and large clear, concise. Most of the collections were hand-lettered, with small diagrams to explain the stamp illustrated. It seems that thematic collections are on the rise in Czechoslovakia since there were so many of them in the show. Many novel ideas were used to illustrate collections. In the thematic section I noted a number of stamps or covers from the Protectorate and from Slovakia. This did startle me a bit since the laws specifically prohibit the exhibition of this material in Czechoslovakia.

I particularly enjoyed the "Day of Engravers and Artists." This was on Friday, June 21st. Seventeen of Czechoslovakia's finest engravers and artists were present. These included Professor Karl Seizinger of Haarlem, Netherlands who came all of that distance to be with us. He appeared well and chipper for his 86 years. He is an "old friend" since I had met him at his home in Haarlem during the AMPHILEX exhibition in Amsterdam in 1967. This artist engraved most of the stamps that were issued during the First Republic. Each of the artists would gladly give their autograph when asked. Interesting lectures on stamp design took place this day as well. All of these events were amply covered by TV, radio and the press.

The Awards Banquet which is called the "Palmares," took place at the Beseda the very same evening. A lovely dinner was served with the usual fine wine and beer. I judge that some 800 people attended this affair, to which a 27 piece orchestra representing Radio Brno, played some of the finest international music. I enjoyed the medley Sonny Boy that they played particularly well. A rock group also played.

The time of reckoning was at hand. Amid all of the fanfare and all of the speeches made by the officials, the following members of our society received their rewards:

- Dr. James J. Matejka, Jr., Chicago, Illinois
Seizinger Die Proofs
Court of Honor Gold Medal; large etching in crystal of St. Vitus Cathedral
- Jaroslav J. Verner, Washington, D. C.
Specialized collection of CSSR—Gold Medal set of 6 glasses.
- Charles Chesloe, Willow Springs, Ill.
Specialized collection of CSSR—Gold Medal, set of 6 crystal glasses.
- Clarence J. Pearce, Coalgate, Okla.
The Allegories of CSSR—Large Silver medal.
- George A. Blizil, Hollywood, Florida
Prague postmarks—Large Silver bronze medal
- Jane Sterba, Berwyn, Ill.
The Lions Club on stamps—Large bronze medal
- Joseph Vondrak, Chicago, Illinois
Czechoslovak town cancels on stamps of Austria—Large bronze medal
- Otakar Kutvirt, U. S. A.
Specialized study of the 25 heller Hradcany stamp—Large bronze medal

The show lasted two more days. Annotations as to the prizes were attached to each of the exhibits. This was of particular displeasure to the guards since they felt that the winning collections were now made known and might become primary targets for thieves. To be sure, the gold medal collections were studied and re-studied by the viewers. If one would stop and talk about any of these collections a crowd would gather quickly to hear comments about the stamps on display.

The closing hour was 6 p.m. on Sunday June 23rd. The following day I was allowed to personally take down the collections which I was responsible for and pack them. Customs officials were present to seal the boxes in which the collections were housed with the prizes they received. At noon that day, a caravan of police cars and motorcycle police gathered at the Hotel Continental, the headquarters of the show, and took us back to Prague, where the collections were stored under armed guard until all of us left for home on Thursday, June 27th. We ran the gauntlet once again in Prague with sirens screaming, blue lights ablaze and a 50 mile an hour drive through the nation's capital, only this time I was driving one of the cars which I had rented. I know now what trials and tribulations an ambulance driver must have, since keeping directly in back of the car in front was not a relaxing situation. But I would have never missed this for all of the hops and beer in Czechoslovakia!

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