

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Official Monthly Journal of the  Society for Czechoslovak Philately, Inc.

Silver Award - INTERPHIL '76

A.P.S. Unit 18

S.P.A. Branch 284

Vol. XXXVIII

December 1976

No. 10, Whole No. 365

With Every Good Wish
for a
Blessed Christmas
and a
New Year
bright with
Happiness and Hope



Christmas is a time of magic, a season of music and joy. At Christmas some parts of our universe sparkle with the brilliant snow, while in other parts the inhabitants celebrate Christmas amid tropical skies. "Crossethree Ladders that Lead Us to Heaven," is an old English proverb. May those ladders lead to peace in our hearts and peace between men. In behalf of the officers, members of the board, managing editor, and editor of the Specialist I extend to you and your families, our sincere Holiday Greetings! May you all find the finest of gifts under your Christmas tree, that of good health for the coming year. Veselé Vánoce.

Jane Sterba

SILESIA

By Mrs. Joseph F. Sterba, Jr.
Chicagoland Czechoslovak Philatelic Society

(continued)

The Bohemian Period

The Silesian Princes often strove for power among themselves. Enlisting the help of the powerful Kings of Bohemia against their own brothers and cousins, they enabled the Bohemian Monarchs to revive their old claims to sovereignty. (Illustration 2). In 1335 an arbitral award rendered by Charles Roberts of Hungary assigned all of Silesia to the Bohemian Crown, in return for the renunciation by the Bohemian King of his further claims to the Polish Crown. This settlement was reaffirmed until the year 1372. The change was, however, only one of sovereignty, since the Piast Princes remained hereditary rulers of their own principalities as long as their family lines survived. Only upon the extinction of any blood line could the King of Bohemia take possession of the principality and assign it to a new ruler or head of state. Although Bohemia was part of the empire, the Piast Princes were left the status of *Principes Poloniae*. The Silesian Princes became Princes of the Empire only under Emperor Rudolph II, a ruler in the Hapsburg family.

Silesia belonged to the lands of the Bohemian Crown, but not to Bohemia. On various occasions leaders of the estates were consulted to make decisions, chiefly on questions of succession. Silesia took a line different from Bohemia, usually identical with the view of leaders in Moravia.

In the Hussite disputes Silesia took the side of the Emperor Sigmund against the Bohemian Hussites, whose asperiation it regarded as dangerous to the German national cause. It was, consequently, heavily ravaged in the Hussite Wars with the German element of the population suffering severely. The feelings in this area, among the people, were divided and filled with mixed alliance. When George of Podebrad (illustration 3) was elected by the Bohemian estates to the throne of Bohemia in 1457, most of the Silesian Princes recognized him as head of the state. The towns however, led by Breslau, resisted and because of this the Hungarian King Corvinus was able to rule Silesia and Moravia from 1460-1490. Corvinus introduced many reforms in

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Published monthly except July and August — \$7.50 per year

Second Class Postage Paid at Lawrence, Kansas 66044

Office of Publication, 821 Vermont St., Lawrence, Kansas 66044

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Melvin F. Klozar, Manager of Collection of Advertising

913 Spring Road, Elmhurst, Ill. 62106

Dick Major, Sales Agent, For Sale Through the Specialist

P. O. Box 4074, Arlington, Va. 22204

Wolfgang Fritzsche, Sales Circuit Mgr., P. O. Box 8, Canandaigua, N. Y. 14424

Postmaster: Send form 3579 to 821 Vermont St., Lawrence, Kans. 66044

Silesia and established a diet composed of representatives of the estates under the jurisdiction of the Prince-Bishop of Breslau. Upon his death, Silesia reverted to the Bohemian Crown and King Vladislav. He was a weak ruler, and the states exacted severe concessions from the subjects, which made the estates virtually independent.



Illustration 3

30 heller stamp honoring King George of Poděbrad (1458-1471) issued to publicize the National Archives Exhibition, Prague, May 15-August 15, 1958.

The Hapsburg Period

In 1526 the Silesian estates accepted the succession of Ferdinand Hapsburg without any objection, the surviving Piast Princes claimed that this did not affect their own rights. One of the Piast Princes aligned himself with the elector Joachim II of Brandenburg. This had no immediate practical effect and Silesia remained entirely under the Hapsburgs, who progressively reduced the internal liberties, while tending to emphasize the independence of Bohemia. The Reformation turned Silesia almost entirely Protestant and consequently, at the outbreak of the Thirty Years War in 1618, it joined with Bohemia in its struggle against the Hapsburgs. Like Bohemia it suffered cruelly in the course of the long war, being repeatedly overrun by contending armies and plundered by lawless mercenary bands. Trade and industry were brought to a standstill and a high portion of the population either lost their lives or emigrated. When peace finally was restored after the Thirty Years War, it was decreed that freedom of religion should prevail in Silesia. Only three Protestant churches had been left to the population. Joseph I of Austria was forced to restore 123 Protestant churches, making this area the most Protestant part of the Emperor's Austrian dominions. Shortly thereafter Silesia was regarded as the richest of all the Austrian provinces, while Breslau was one of the largest and richest cities of the Hapsburg Empire.

The Prussian Period

It was chiefly the wealth of this area that tempted Frederick II of Prussia to wrest Silesia from Maria Theresa on her succession to the throne in 1740. Under a treaty, established in 1742, Maria Theresa was obliged to cede to Frederick II all of Lower Silesia and Upper Silesia except the districts of Teschen, Troppau and Krnov. The balance of the land, sometimes referred

so as Austrian Silesia, was united with Moravia until 1849 when it was made into a separate crownland. The history was purely provincial. Largely German, as the wealthier classes were, the inhabitants tended to take the anti-Czech side in politics. The Teschen area developed into one of the most important mining and industrial districts in the Austrian monarchy.

Frederick's action in the seizing of a share of Silesia lacked legal and moral justification, but the seizure met with the approval of the German and Protestant Silesians because it brought them many benefits. Frederick devoted much attention to his new acquisition, which was at first placed under a special Landesminister. The old estates were abolished and a more efficient administration was introduced for Frederick's financial benefit. Great attention was paid to the economical development of the entire area, which was formally incorporated into Prussia as the Duchy of Silesia. With the increasing importance of coal, Upper Silesia was by this time purely German. In Upper Silesia, except for the western portions, the population was mixed. Most of the towns were entirely German, and the agricultural districts were populated with people of Polish extraction. A fair proportion of the miners and unskilled industrial workers were Poles who spoke a dialect which was heavily intermixed with German. This situation prevailed throughout the World War I era.

Settlement of 1919-1921

In 1919 both the Poles and Czechs laid claim to part of Prussian Silesia while Germans living in Austrian Silesia asked to be incorporated into Germany. The Czechs claimed the whole of Austrian Silesia on grounds of historic rights, while Poland claimed Upper Silesia. The Polish-Czech dispute was under consideration at the Paris Peace Conference when, in January of 1919, the Czechs forcibly occupied Teschen. In 1920 the powers ultimately laid down a frontier that divided area and town. Czechoslovak Silesia was incorporated into the Province of Moravia in the newly formed Czechoslovak Republic. The Treaty of Versailles in its original form proposed to transfer the greater part of Upper Silesia to Poland while the German area there was excluded. There were many military battles previously over this area and now there were verbal battles. Finally elections were held. The cities voted to go with Germany while the rural area wanted to join Poland. The inter-Allied Commission proved unable to agree and finally the League of Nations, in October 1921, awarded Poland nearly three-quarters of the coal producing area and two-thirds of the steel works. Again the Commission, under the League of Nations, convened to settle disputes but by then Germany had withdrawn from the League of Nations and Poland was hostile to the League.

Munich and the Post-World War II Era

The result of the Munich Conference, held September 1938, again brought on another change in this area. The greater part of Czechoslovak Silesia was ceded to Germany. Portions went to Poland, as Poland had raised her never forgotten claim on the Polish inhabited parts of Czechoslovak Silesia. The Munich agreement brought a very short period of peace to the world. The year 1939 brought the Germans into Poland and under German domination, Silesia was once more divided into Lower Silesia, with its capital at Breslau, and Upper Silesia, with its capital at Kattowitz, including parts of the provinces of Kielce and Cracow. Much of the German war industry was transferred there when the factories located in Western Germany were put out of action by Allied bombing. Silesia was overrun by the Russian armies at the

end of the war, followed by the Potsdam decision in 1945, which restored the 1921 frontiers, again entrusting Poland with the administration of the whole of German Silesia as far as the Neisse River.

The whole country was intensively Polonized and its German inhabitants expelled. In June, 1950, Polish Silesia was divided into three provinces, named after their capitols, Wroclaw, Opole and Katowice (renamed Stalinogrod in 1952). Upper Silesian industry was further developed chiefly for the benefit of Soviet Russia while the remnant of German Lower Silesia was incorporated in the Land of Saxony.

This is the present status of this highly disputed area. You can visualize the effects history has had on this land and the people living there. The events are so interlocking, details so overlapping and depending on whose version or history you are studying, it becomes very difficult to differentiate in many events. The majority of the names of the people and places appear in Czech, German and Polish while at brief periods of time roots were interwoven with Hungarian history. Stamp collectors collecting Czechoslovakia, Germany, and Poland have a challenging objective in collecting philatelic material from this territorial area.

I am not trying to present myself as an expert in history. I am only presenting facts that I have acquired thru the study of history as the German historians saw it. I feel sure that if I would read a history of this area, written by a Czech, Polish, or Austrian historian, I would have a different viewpoint. I hope you have enjoyed reading this resume on Silesia as much as I have enjoyed researching this area.

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From the President's Stock Book

Henry Hahn, 2936 Rosemoor Lane, Fairfax, VA 22030

A number of members have contacted me concerning the glaring error in historic fact contained in the text of the "Souvenir Card" issued by the Chicagoland Czechoslovak Philatelic Society and pictured on the front page of the November SPECIALIST.

The text reads in part ". . . the Society wishes to call attention to the Declaration of Independence of the newly formed Republic of Czechoslovakia, October 26, 1918, at Independence Hall, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania . . ."

The date and location are, of course, incorrect. The Czechoslovaks declared their independence earlier by several actions, the latest being the so-called "Washington Declaration"—a document, according to Masaryk, which was "calculated to remind the Americans of their own Declaration of Independence." Signed by T. G. Masaryk on October 18th, 1918, in Washington, D. C. and transmitted to President Wilson that day, this Declaration was simultaneously "given" in Paris over the names of T. G. Masaryk, M. R. Štefanik and E. Beneš.

The originators of the "Souvenir Card" appear to have confused Czechoslovakia's "Declaration of Independence" with the "Declaration of the Mid-European Nations," in which numerous nations declared their common aims. The signers of this document were representatives of already independent nations, including Poles, Rumanians, etc. T. G. Masaryk presided at the Philadelphia meetings and is said to be one of the principal authors of the above mentioned Declaration. However, by no stretch of the imagination may this Declaration be construed as Czechoslovakia's Declaration of Independence.

The "Souvenir Card," as pointed out in the SPECIALIST story, was issued by the Chicagoland Czechoslovak Philatelic Society—an organization totally independent of our organization, the SOCIETY FOR CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELY. We, of course, can not explain this error nor can we be held responsible for it—except possibly for not catching it prior to publication of the story. To be sure, we DID alert the originators of the card immediately upon receipt of a complimentary copy which, however, was AFTER the November issue went to press.

To those of you expressing outrage concerning this souvenir, let me say: Errare humanum est. After all, our Chicagoland friends, many of whom are also members of our SOCIETY, surely meant well—and that's what really counts.

On another non-philatelic note—this time musical—the New York/New Jersey Branches are contemplating an outing to Carnegie Hall on Sunday evening, January 9th to hear the U. S. premiere of Smetana's Opera "Dalibor." For more information contact Mirko L. Vondra, 143 Stanmore Place, Westfield, N. J. 07090 or the Opera Orchestra of N. Y., Inc., 630 Third Ave., New York, N. Y. 10017.

Bibliography

- 1) Masaryk: The Making of a State.
- 2) Jesina C. (Ed): The Birth of Czechoslovakia.

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The Issues, Surcharges, Cancellations and Vignettes of the Sudetenland (1880-1970)

By Roger Richet, SCP — Translated by Anne Vondra

Note: The original French edition of the book contains some 300 illustrations which greatly enhance the enjoyment and understanding of this unillustrated, serialized translation. Serious students of this topic are urged to purchase the original, paper bound French edition from the SOCIETY. Please see advertisement appearing frequently in the SPECIALIST.

(Continued)

The Camp at Terezin was set up as a "blind" for the members of the International Commissions of the Red Cross to make them think that interned persons were being treated with the greatest humanity and with all sorts of kindnesses there, when, in reality, it was the antichamber of death. There was a deluxe suite for long stays by such noted people as Chancellor Schusnig of Austria, Leon Blum, Paul Reynaud, etc.; for them there was to be no gas chamber.

To give credence to this set-up a stamp was even issued in 1943 and distributed free to the prisoners to provide the postage for parcels sent to them. The stamps were meant to be sent to relatives and friends of the inmates for mailing packages back to them through the auspices of the Red Cross. Any package which lacked this stamp was withheld from the would-be recipient.

Each prisoner was supposed to receive two stamps per month for his packages, just the same postal arrangement as for the men of the Wehrmacht, who received two "Zulassungsmarken" (military stamps) per month (Type of Eagle, brown, vert no. 2). The cancellation often consisted of two lines drawn with an indelible pencil, but also, very often, it was an ugly black mark in thick ink, very large and irregular.

As the stamps were affixed to packages, cancelled covers in good condition without wrinkles and folds are extremely hard to find. One can find these stamps cancelled on letters, but as this had been done merely as a favor, they must be considered nonphilatelic. The Theresienstadt stamps were meant only for postage on parcels destined for the inmates.

In practice, few prisoners ever received the two stamps assigned to them regularly. Instead, they constituted a mark of favoritism or some sort of gratuity. In any case, delivery of the parcels depended very much on the caprice of the guards. Very few of the stamps reached their rightful recipients and undelivered packages had their wrappings immediately destroyed.

(Picture)

The above picture spares us the necessity of writing out a description of this stamp, produced by lithography in green-black, perforations 10½, rectangular, 24x31 mm., and is very fine workmanship.

There is no indication of a value on this stamp. There was no need for one because the same stamp was to be used for any package, since all packages had to be of regulation weight according to camp authorities. Regulation weight was set at 1.5 kg per stamp but a package weighing 3 Kg could be sent for two stamps. This explains the existence of vertical pairs of cancelled Theresienstadt stamps, but, of course, they are very rare.

The cancelled stamps and those on a bit of wrapping from a parcel are very rare collectors' items.

A proof of this stamp in clear grey-black on lightly sized and gummed pure white paper is known. Three sheets of four stamps without gum or perforations, 17 cm x 13 cm, numbered in red at the bottom were printed in black, in red-brown and in dark green. These now very rare sheets were given at the time to SS officers of the camp as philatelic souvenirs, as well as to Swiss and Swedish representatives of the International Red Cross. There seems to have been no more than 1,000 printed as that is as high as the numbering goes. A few of the sheets fell into Allied hands when Theresienstadt was liberated on May 8, 1945 and have come down to us. The rest seem to be irretrievably lost.

A second printing, or to be more exact, counterfeit copies were made of these sheets in 1958 either from the original plates or else with exact copies of the plates, so that the two printings look exactly alike, except for the quality of the paper.

The 1943 issue was lithographed on slightly glossy white paper, while that of 1958 was done on greyish, porous paper.

For a final note: some imperforate sheets of the green-black Theresienstadt stamp were discovered by released prisoners of the camp in 1945 and placed on the market; this was the last official printing of the stamp.

The stamps we have just described were required on all parcels coming in for the prisoners; ordinary letters and postcards had to be sent by regular mail.

I should like to call attention to the affecting souvenir cover which was privately produced on May 5, 1948 at Terezin to commemorate the third anniversary of the Liberation of the Theresienstadt camp by Allied troops on May 6, 1945.

This envelope, which we regret we cannot reproduce here because of its size (11x22 cm.), pictures on the left a monument made up of three steps rising above a basin in which the eternal flame glows and which bear this inscription carved into them: "In memoriam Zemřeli / Abychom Mohli Svobodné žít," which is translated: In memoriam, that through their death Liberty may live."

The brevity of the souvenir-cancellation for that day does not cause it to be any less moving: "Third Solemnization of National Mourning."

An official First Day Cover was issued by Czechoslovakia on September 30, 1968, to recall the Munich edict, and the Terezin Concentration Camp Annex where forty thousand Jewish children, separated from their parents, died; the issue consisted of three stamps, showing pictures drawn by these children who were in line for extermination.

It was, in fact, in an annex of the Camp at Theresienstadt, called by the Germans "Kleine Festung" (Little Fortress), that Jewish children, snatched from their parents and taken far away, were penned up, before being sent off to the extermination camps.

This annex was in the postal district of Bauschowitz a.d. Eger (Bohusovice nad Obri), which, along with Theresienstadt, was in the Protectorate of Bohemia-Moravia not far from the Sudeten frontier.

Before closing this chapter on the special issue of Theresienstadt (Terezin), we should mention the local stamp issued in this town in 1909-1910 for the benefit of the German Family fund of this place.

(Picture)

It was a 2 heller stamp, reproduced above, which was issued in two colors, dark blue and red, with the red being far rarer than the blue. The two

stamps were printed on very thin, fragile paper by lithography of excellent quality in size 33x20 mm, perforated 10¼.

These two first local stamps of Theresienstadt are practically unknown in our day.

CHAPTER VII

Pro-Sudeten German Propaganda Seals

The special philatelic history of the Sudetenland, which really begins in 1938, is preceded by a very long period from 1880 to 1938 of German propaganda for the benefit of the Sudetens.

It is a good idea to go over this very interesting period which has never been examined anywhere before. We owe this valuable documentation for the most part to one of our best colleagues, M. l'Ingénieur M.-P. Daulard, now at Strasbourg, who is the great French specialist in German philately and in related philatelic issues. To him we offer our sincere thanks.

The "Wehrschatzmarken" of the Sudetenland

Beyond the frontiers of the German Empire there were many associations of German nationals who professed a general pan-German political allegiance. Even within the Empire like-minded associations supported the actions of foreign groups. Sometimes these organizations were clearly political, as in the case of the Deutschbund, or religious, as in the case of the Bund der Christlichen Deutschen in Galizien.

All of these associations were ardent nationalists whose avowed purpose was to represent German ethnic minorities. Their chief means of support and of propaganda were newspapers and information bulletins which they published, the sale of calendars for each German household, and the issuance of special seals to be used along with regular postage stamps on mail. The sale of these seals provided funds directly to the treasury of the organization, which always referred to this as a "welfare" funds and the name "Wehrschatzmarken" was given to the seals, representing them as "stamps for the welfare fund."

There were two important periods when these seals were issued:

1. Before the First World War (1914-1918): Pan-Germanism was the dominating factor, even while respect was shown for the governing power of the particular country—in this case, the Austro-Hungarian Empire. During this period the issues were very numerous, elaborate, and in color. Altogether they make a very attractive collection. After the war started they became fewer and fewer until they finally disappeared. They were sometimes issued in several groups at one time.

2. After 1918: The old associations were outlawed. They started re-appearing furtively under the guise of sporting groups, patterned after the Czech Sokols. Their para-military nature caused these to be forbidden, in their turn. So issues produced by them were rare, hardly ever in series, and usually to commemorate some sporting event. They were less striking and their symbols soon were inspired by Nazi emblems. They disappeared about 1935 to make way for the seals of the SDP, the Sudeten German political party.

It is amusing to note as a sidelight that all the Pan-German organizations which had issued the "Schatzmarken" of the Sudetens were suppressed by Himmler on the day following the occupation of Bohemia and Moravia, March 16, 1939.

The use of the "Schatzmarken" was always the same, whether sold as mint copies to philatelists for their collections or used on letters in addition to postage stamps. In the case of the latter, the postmark was sometimes

impressed on the "Schatzmarken," although such an item is hard to find. More often, they were used to seal up the envelope on the back, as gummed envelopes were not then the rule. Covers with these seals on them are collector's items for the specialist and sell for very high prices.

"Schatzmarken" were also used on invitations or announcements delivered directly to the addressees by members of the organization which had issued them. In this use they served the purpose of special delivery stamps, a widespread means of delivering mail in that area before the war. Use of this type was rare, however. The cancellation was applied in black or violet ink by rubber handstamp.

One last detail--the series were often printed in multicolor on whole sheets with the result that there were numerous tête-bêches and other kinds of combinations which made good collections, just like some of the issues of the German Post Office.

Among the issues directed particularly to the Sudetens and to Bohemia-Moravia two principal groups emerge:

1. Issues of the German Offices of Bohemia and of Moravia, non-political organizations which filled an official role under the Austro-Hungarian monarchy:

a) DEUTSCHER VOLKSRAT FÜR BÖHMEN (Office of the German people of Bohemia), an organization officially recognized by the administration which had its headquarters at Treibnitz b/ Lobositz and was set up in 1905.

b) DEUTSCHER VOLKSRAT FÜR MAHREN (Office of the German people of Moravia), with headquarters at Brünn (Brno).

2. The Pan-German clubs:

a) BUND DER DEUTSCHEN IN BÖHMEN (German Club of Bohemia) which produced 11 issues between 1904 and 1911. Headquarters were at Prague. Founded in 1894.

b) BUND DER DEUTSCHEN SÜDMAHRENS (German Club of Southern Moravia), founded in 1899, headquarters at Znaim, originator of four issues between 1909 and 1911.

c) BUND DER DEUTSCHEN NORDMAHRENS (German Club of Northern Bohemia) which produced 12 issues, between 1908 and 1911, headquarters at Olmutz, founded in 1886.

d) DEUTSCH VÖLKISCHER WEHRSCHATZ SÜDMAHRENS (National Union for Southern Moravia), headquarters at Znaim (Znojno).

e) DEUTSCHER SCHULVEREIN (Union of German Schools), headquarters in Vienna, founded in 1880. General issues for all the Germans of Austria-Hungary, with special issues for Treibnitz (1908), Prachatitz (1908), Neu Pleskau b. Brünn, Pettau, Turnau, Schumburg, etc.

f) NORDMARK (Northern Border Country), German Union in Austrian Silesia for the struggle against the Czechs and the Poles. Headquarters at Troppau (Opava), unifying several thousand adherents and hundreds of local clubs by means of a monthly newspaper.

The Germans of the Sudetenland, when Czech independence was declared on October 28, 1918, joined together in "sporting" associations which rapidly turned into para-military organizations. (The "bunds" we have listed above had been declared illegal.) There are many kinds of seals issued by these associations to commemorate important occasions. One of the most interesting of these is that of the aerial sports school of Asch, which was incorporated into the NSFK (National Socialist Air Corps) when Asch was occupied in October, 1938.

(To be continued)



The Closed Book

A chapter completed,
A page turned,
A life well-lived,
A rest well-earned.

Emil J. Michaelson of Union, New Jersey, passed away in St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Elizabeth, New Jersey, on October 28, 1976, after being stricken with a massive heart attack, which occurred two weeks prior to his death.

Emil had been a long-time member of our Society and it seems co-incidental that his membership No. was 67 and at the time of his death, his age was also 67. He was a regular and active member of our New Jersey branch ever since the branch was organized six years ago. He was a regular exhibitor and winner of numerous awards at various philatelic exhibitions and served as Exhibitor Chairman for Nojex-72.

Mr. Michaelson worked in the accounting department of the Hatfield Wire Company, Hillside for 27 years, retiring six months ago. He was a World War II veteran and a member of the Connecticut Farms Post 35.

Surviving Emil are his 90-year-old father and three brothers. Funeral services were held at Haeberle and Barth Colonial Funeral Home, Union, New Jersey. The members of our New Jersey branch paid their last respects to their fellow-collector and friend with personal viewing, a floral tribute and with almost all members accompanying Emil on his last journey to his final resting place.

On behalf of the officers and members of our Society, our sincere sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Emil J. Michaelson. —J.S.

Editor's Gazette

By Jane Sterba, 6624 Windsor Ave., Berwyn, Ill. 60409

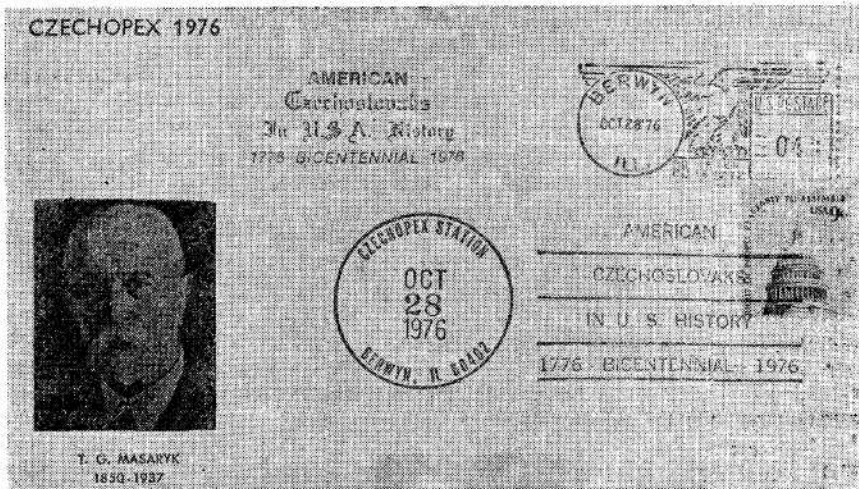
Thanksgiving has past. Upon its heels, rushing to greet us, are the Christmas holidays and the New Year. Some of us will set aside our hobby philately, for the next few weeks attempting to prepare for the holiday season. Shopping, wrapping gifts, preparing for guests or trips to family gatherings will be uppermost in our minds and may cause you to set aside this Specialist together with your annual dues envelope. This dues envelope is the only invoice or statement that will be sent to you. Further notices must be mailed as first class mail by our Society secretary, Mr. Edward Lisy. Please help us to keep all unnecessary expenses down. Postage is expensive and there is a possibility of an increase in postal rate. Why not give yourself a Christmas gift? Forward your dues to the treasurer, Mr. Henry Samek, Jr. USE THE DUES ENVELOPE WHICH IS ENCLOSED HERE WITH FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE.

I have the sad news to report to you that our sales circuit manager, Mr. Wolfgang Fritzsche, suffered a heart attack on October 21st, and has been

confined in the intensive care unit at the hospital. I am sure that you all will understand any delays that might occur in our sales circuit during Mr. Fritzsche's period of convalescence. We all wish you a speedy recovery.



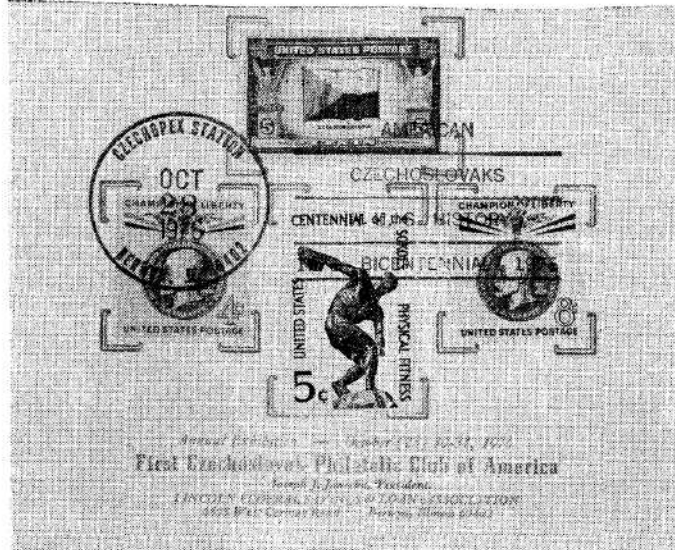
The City of Berwyn and Town of Cicero, situated west of Chicago, Illinois, have been making postal history. A large majority of the population of these two communities is comprised of citizens with a Czech, Moravian or Slovak ethnic background. Berwyn and Cicero have become accustomed to jokes about their ethnic background and laugh themselves about them and their hobby of Houby (mushrooms) hunting. Cermak Road, the main thoroughfare of the area, is referred to as "The Bohemian billion-dollar mile of savings and loans." An Annual Houby Festival and parade has been celebrated for the past seven years. Mr. Steve Ducaj—Postmaster of Berwyn—reported almost 150,000 pieces of mail were sent to 46 states and 10 foreign countries from the Berwyn Post Office this year, all cancelled with the special Houby cancellation and also a tribute to our nation's Bicentennial.



The First Czechoslovak Philatelic Club of America paid tribute to the United States Bicentennial by having as their theme for Czechopex-76, "American Czechoslovaks in U.S.A. History." Czechopex-76 was celebrated October 28th, 29th and 30th. Three cachet envelopes were prepared honoring T. G. Masaryk, first President of Czechoslovakia who served as a professor at the University of Chicago, Augustine Herrman (1605-1686), Surveyor of the State of Maryland, and Anton J. Cermak (1873-1933), who was born in Bohemia, immigrated to Chicago where in later years he became mayor. The set of 3 envelopes have a meter cancellation, together with a special hand cancellation. The two cancellations were also affixed to a souvenir card prepared for this event. The set of 3 envelopes are \$1.00 while the souvenir card is \$1.50. It will be necessary to forward a large, self-addressed stamped envelope for mailing purposes. A self-addressed, stamped envelope (7x5 in.) must accompany your order for the souvenir card. Order from your editor, Jane Sterba. Send money orders and personal checks payable to the First Czechoslovak Philatelic Club of America. Send NO cash, please.



Joseph J. Janecka, Past President of our Society and President of the First Czechoslovak Philatelic Club of America awarded the President's Award to Mr. Edward J. Sabol a member of our Society. Congratulations Mr. Sabol! We hope to see this outstanding collection of "Postage Due Stamps of Czechoslovakia" entered for competition at Balpex-77, which will be Labor Day weekend—Baltimore, Maryland.



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