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THE CZECHOSLOVAK
SPECIALIST

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Official Monthly Journal of the



Society for Czechoslovak Philately, Inc.

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The Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain



Communication from

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Mr. Mirko L. Vondra,
Managing Editor,
The Czechoslovak Specialist,
United States of America.

18 February 1989

Dear Mirko,

On behalf of the production team of "CZECHOUT", I send you and your Society our sincerest congratulations on the forthcoming occasion of your Society's 50th Anniversary in May.

We wish you continued success in the forthcoming years and happy celebrations on this notable occasion.

Sincerely,



Alan Knight

ANNIVERSARY SHOW PARTICIPATION

As mentioned in previous issues, our Society is celebrating its 50th Anniversary Year by participating in two national shows : INDYPEX on Sept. 15, 16 and 17 : SEPAD on Oct. 6, 7 and 8.

The Prospectus for INDYPEX along with Exhibitor's Application appears on the last two pages of this issue. The Prospectus for SEPAD along with Exhibitor's Application appears as an insert in the centerfold.

If you plan to exhibit at either show, you must fill out the application form for the show at which you plan to exhibit and mail it to our exhibition chairman. Our chairman for INDYPEX is Jack Benchik ; our chairman for SEPAD is Edwin Lehecka. Applications mailed to anyone else will not have their exhibits entered as part of the Society's reserved section.

THE FIRST ISSUE

For your reading pleasure and nostalgia, the Society has reprinted the complete first issue of the Specialist in the following four pages. Though brief and unpretentious, volume I, number 1 was the forerunner of what is undoubtedly the longest continual philatelic periodical in the English language today.

Do not forsake your philatelic heritage ! Support your Society so that it may continue to publish this multiple prize-winning journal !

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The Czecho-Slovak Specialist

Official Publication of

THE CZECHO-SLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

Vol. 1

May, 1939

No. 1

Hope Is Seen For Philatelic Future

There are a number of collectors and specialists who have signified their interest in our organization. They have, upon receipt of our invitation, answered with more or less lengthy letters—commenting and adding various suggestions. In this group there is a percentage of collectors whom we know to be nationally known, owning large collections, who have received top awards at various exposition and who have also done literary work.

We do not profess to know the singular reasons which up to now have kept them away, though we believe to know some. For instance they might think, that since Czech-Slovakia has ceased to exist as an independent country new issues will not be forthcoming. This belief of course cannot be contradicted, at least for some time to come.

Another belief probably is that, as was the case with Austria, prices will soon go skywards and make collecting therefore, very difficult.

True, shortly after the Austria crisis stamps of the country gained tremendously in prices, but since then prices have fallen steadily and in the end, with a few exceptions, will not be very much above the pre-crisis level.

Another belief which was advanced after the annexation of Austria by Germany, was that soon Austrian stamps would disappear in this country, since there would be no supply and the existing stocks soon exhausted.

Here the guess was absolutely wrong as most everybody knows. very large holdings were stored in this country and a steady stream of refugees and foreign dealers coming from various parts of the world are

bringing Austrian stamps to the United States.

It can definitely be assumed that a parallel case will occur with the stamps of Czecho-Slovakia. Admittedly prices will go up during the first months (this process has already begun) and certain desirable items will disappear for some time. This situation will only be shortlived. During the transition period, however, there will be no dearth of items in the middle brackets. Though also here naturally prices will go up, this will not be to a marked extent. Speculators, dealers and collector dealers who have holdings of rarities and specialized items, seeing that there is surprisingly little clamor for their property at fantastic prices, will slowly come out with their possessions and it would not be surprising at all if within one year stamps which had been missing from the market entirely, will suddenly reappear in large quantities, being offered at fair prices.

In the meantime, however, just as in the case with Austria, supplies will trickle into this country, brought over by refugees and visitors.—J.W.L.

PRESIDENT'S GREETING

I would like at this time to extend a warm greeting to all collectors of Czecho-Slovak stamps. I particularly welcome those collectors who have, in the interest of their hobby, joined with us in the creation of this newly formed Society.

The Society has at the present time a small membership, but an extremely interested and active one. The great enthusiasm, moreover, which has been manifested after the little publicity which attended the the birth

of the Society clearly indicates that the present membership is only the nucleus of a great and more active one in the future.

The Society, as its program is a specialized one, will no doubt appeal more strongly to collectors of Czecho-Slovak issues, but any collector who is desirous of increasing his knowledge of philately will find a warm welcome.

GEORGE F. SMYTH,
President.

THE SECRETARY'S NOTES

As is stated in our temporary constitution it is planned to have four experts, each residing in different parts of the territory of our organization. Experts in three territories, the middle west, south and east, are already at the service of members.

For the middle-west, Frank Kovarik, 2502 South Kedzie Avenue, Chicago, Ill., will function; for the south, C. J. Pearce, 2833 N. W. Thirteenth Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; for the east, your secretary, whose address may be found elsewhere in The Specialist.

If members wish opinion and advice pertaining to genuineness, value, etc., of certain items, send them in. However, note that with each single item a fee of 10 cents in coins (no stamps accepted) is to be remitted, and also return postage. You are advised to register your property, if same is valuable, and in this case also return stamps for registration, return postage.

However, in no case can experts be made responsible for any loss or damage during transport.

Our organization is in need of one more expert, residing in the west. I ask members who reside in this section, and who have the ability to serve as experts, to get in touch with me.

Until elections in September, Mr. Kovarik is Chairman of the Expert Committee.

In connection with the announcement regarding exchange and sales advertisements I have to say the following: Concerning that group in our organization, which will wish to make transactions pertaining to items listed in Scott's Catalog, it is advisable that they advertise on the basis of Scott numbers and prices. With our speci-

alists the situation becomes an entirely different one. Specialists in most cases are looking for or wishing to exchange or sell items not listed in Scott's Catalog. Therefore, listing of their needs will require reference to catalogs printed in Czecho-Slovakia. There are several catalogs printed in Czecho-Slovakia and I know from experience that each specialist will prefer a certain one. Each has certain benefits and drawbacks. It is therefore an important question and one to be settled right now. Which catalog will be accepted by the membership as the official one, whose numbers will be referred to in transactions among members and in using the facilities of the advertisement department of our publication?

I therefore propose the EKSTEIN Catalog. Most specialists know that it is the most comprehensive one printed anywhere. Yet some are making use of other catalogs for the one reason, as they claim—that prices in Ekstein's Catalog are too high. As if prices of any catalog, be it standard or specialized, ever would be a true mirror of actual market prices. Anyway, we are not concerned about prices. What we are chiefly concerned about is, that for instance, Member X wishes to acquire a certain proof of the 500 denomination of the Masaryk Portrait of 1920. In Ekstein's catalog he will find a detailed listing of every proof which exists, its color, size, perforation, etc., etc. All other catalogs simply will state: "Various proofs of this issue exist."

I am willing to order this catalog. The price two months ago was only 30 cents, but since conditions abroad have changed, their cost will probably be higher. The price will be figured in Marks and there are now restrictions on export.

Unfortunately it has not appeared in English version up to now, but being printed in either Czech or German and being profusely illustrated, it nevertheless is of vast help to any one.

I will wait two weeks after the publication of this article. During that time please write me if you wish a catalog. Send me 50 cents, and if the catalogs are less than that sum, I will refund the difference. I expect to have copies within four weeks from the date of mailing money to the publisher.

J. W. LOWEY.

THE SPECIALIST

OVERPRINTS

By the Editor

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.

We are (up to and inclusive of March 31) 22 in number. Half to these 22, pioneers whose faith in the Czecho-Slovak stamps is broad enough to include hope; whose belief is sure that philately laughs at wars, and whose faith in their Society's officers is strong.

May these officers deserve this faith.

The Specialist will be your direct contact with the Society. It is your publication. We have hopes for its growth. Its growth is impossible unless a greater membership is built up. In this work we need your aid. Be on the look-out for prospective members; use personal solicitation.

This first issue is of a "get acquainted" nature. We have great plans for following issues of The Specialist. If you have suggestions for articles, or articles on our particular branch of the hobby, send them to the editor. What do you want to see in The Specialist?

It's your magazine. Please use it.

PHILATELY AND POLITICS

Philately and politics should not mix.

However, another democracy—the one to whose postal issues our Society is dedicated—has suffered a tragic fate.

Regardless of whether we have been born in that country, or born in

North America, we should join the entire right-thinking world in deep mourning over the tragedy of Czecho-Slovakia.

No, philately and politics should not mix, but not only for philatelic reasons, but primarily for reasons of heart—let us hope that Czecho-Slovakia will be resurrected.

CONSUL OFFERS ASSISTANCE

Horace H. Van Wart, consul for the republic of Czecho-Slovakia in Toronto, extended an offer of assistance to The Society recently in a letter received by Secretary J. W. Lowey. It reads, in part:

Konsulat Ceskoslovenske Republiky
45 Richmond St., W.
Toronto, Ontario

Mrs. J. W. Lowey,
Secretary,
Czecho-Slovak Philatelic Society
of North America.

Dear Sir:

I shall be very glad to assist the Society in every way possible, and invite any of your Ontario members to make use of the Consulate Boardroom which is still open to the public.

For the advice of your Ontario members, I beg to advise you that until we receive definite instructions from the Consul General of Canada as to the closing of this Consulate, this Consulate shall remain open as representing the Czecho-Slovak Republic.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) Horace H. Van Wart.

ADVERTISING RATES

| | One Insertion | Six Insertions | Twelve Insertions |
|------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| 1 page .. | \$6 | \$5.50 | \$5.00 |
| ½ Page . | \$4 | \$3.75 | \$3.50 |
| ¼ Page . | \$3 | \$2.75 | \$2.50 |
| 1/8 Page . | \$2 | \$1.85 | \$1.75 |
| 1/16 Page | \$1 | .85 | .75 |

Adlets (for members' wants, exchanges, sales, etc.): 1 cent per word. Stamps accepted in payment under 25 words; over 25 words, cash, money order, etc.

A MESSAGE FROM THE LIBRARIAN

By J. M. Stephen

One of the most important items in the study of the stamps of your favorite country is the possession of comprehensive and reliable information dealing in detail with perforations, gums, papers, printing and plate varieties. I have no doubt that there are a good many members of this society who have the information in their own private libraries, but on the other hand there is, in all probability, a goodly number who have been collecting the stamps of Czechoslovakia with little or no information as to what is common and what is rare, as to what are common varieties and what are scarce, the difference between forged and genuine stamps, the difference between types. It is to these collectors that the library will prove to be of great service, and it is their's for the asking.

There are two classes of stamp collectors: the simple collector of stamps and the philatelist — that is, the collector who studies his stamps. Therefore it is the prime duty of this and every other society to educate the first until he or she becomes the second, and it is with this end in view that the library of the Czechoslovakian Philatelic Society of North America will function.

If stamp collecting were as easy as the collecting of match boxes or cigarette cards there would be no need for a reference library, but coin collectors, collectors of medals, china, book, (to mention only a few), have their books of reference, for without them they would probably miss many bargains as well as risk financial loss. The stamp collector is in the same position, and especially so when collecting the postal issues of the Czechoslovak Republic, due to the fact that Scott's or Gibbon's make little or no attempt to list the various types and varieties.

To date the library contains the Hirsch-Franek handbook, several catalogues, in Czech and German text, also numerous magazine articles. It is the intention of the librarian to prepare a catalogue of literature available as soon as possible, and which may be obtained by any member upon request.

All that is required to obtain the loan of material is a written request accompanied by the library fee of 10 cents, and the understanding that postage must be paid from and to the library. To all the members of this society my services are your's for the asking, and if the answer to your problem isn't in the library, steps will be taken to get it for you.

I'm hoping to hear from every member sooner or later.

DONERS ARE THANKED

Thanks and appreciation are extended to the following individuals who have donated literature to the Society's small, but growing library. The donors, and their gifts, are:

Dr. S. Hoechstetter, Dwight, Ill.: A copy of the Tribuna catalog.

J. W. Lowey, Bronx, N. Y.: The Hirsch-Franek handbook; magazine article, "Specialized Czechoslovakia."

Anonymous: Cross Stamp Co., Specialized Catalog; numerous magazine articles.

"ADLETS" ARE OFFERED

Attention of members is directed to a coming feature of The Specialist, in the form of "Adlets," intended for the publishing of members' philatelic wants, exchanges and stamps for sale. "Adlets" may be printed for one cent a word, with no restrictions placed on their length. Remittances must be sent with the Adlet, and copy must be in the Editor's hands on the 15th of the month preceding publication date.

Officers of the Czecho-Slovak Philatelic Society of North America

President: George F. Smyth, 945 Main St., Bridgeport, Conn.

Secretary: J. W. Lowey, 201 Marcy Place, Bronx, N. Y.

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

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

Editor, The Specialist: Tod Raper, 1553 Clifton Ave., Columbus, O.

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE SOCIETY

Compiled by Charles Chesloe and Mirko Vondra

I. THE FIRST TWENTY-FIVE YEARS

May 1989 starts the 51st year of the Society (S.C.P.). Born in 1939, the Society has one thing in common with Lloyds of London. The world's biggest insurer was founded in a coffee shop in London in 1689. Just 250 years later, the Society was founded in a coffee shop on First Avenue in mid-Manhattan. It was at a private meeting between Joseph Lowey and Joseph Stein following a session of the Masaryk Club. Both men were philatelists of the same ethnic background and interests. When Lowey expounded his ideas of organizing a philatelic club devoted exclusively to Czechoslovak philately, Stein reacted with enthusiasm. By March of 1939, the Society was formally established. Both men were domiciled New Yorkers and both recognized that the bulk of Czechoslovak collectors resided in the Chicago area. Lowey made the necessary contacts in the midwest while Stein concentrated on the greater New York area. As their work became coordinated, Lowey decided on naming the organization the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of North America. It started out with thirty members.

In April 1939, Lowey contacted Tod Raper who was willing to edit a monthly journal and in May, the first issue of the Czechoslovak Specialist was published. It is reprinted here complete in its original form.

Not only did Lowey work incessantly to build the Society; he was the Specialist's feature writer. The Society took on the Lowey personality - a determination to grow, survive and become an important voice in the world of philately.

The Society held its first convention in September 1939 at Bohemian National Hall in New York. Half its entire membership of 46 was in attendance. At the meeting, Lowey proposed the following slate of officers:

President - George F. Smith
 Secretary - Joseph W. Lowey
 Treasurer - Guy Greenawalt
 Librarian - J. M. Stephen
 Editor - Tod Raper

The slate was unanimously approved. Of the 46 members then on the roster, the following four are still active members today:

Member # 17 - C. J. Pearce
 Member # 26 - Wolfgang Fritzsche
 Member # 34 - Lolly Horechny
 Member # 38 - Paul Sturman

The second convention and exhibition was held in Chicago on February 16, 17 and 18, 1940, at the Hotel LaSalle. Rooms were advertised for 6 dollars a night and up to four persons in a room. By then, the membership list had grown to 60.

Later that year, Lowey visited Arthur Kessler who had emigrated to Canada from Prague and settled in Montreal before moving on to New York. In the June 1940 Specialist, Lowey described his first meeting with the famous Czech stamp dealer and noted some of his holdings, including a cover of the block of four of the 30h imperf (Scott #47a), a cover with the 50/50 error (Scott #52a), proof overprints of Scott's B137-139 and B140-143 - the Olympic and Sokol issues - and parcel clippings of the Weippert forgeries (Scott #8, 9 and 38).

By the end of that year, there were two so-called branches of the Society. The Chicago group met alternately at various members' homes. The New York group at first met at Lowey's home and then at the offices of Alfons Stach, Arthur Kessler and Frank Votický. These men along with Felix Brunner comprised the finest of the Czechoslovak dealers before the Nazi invasion.

The Society's third convention again took place at Bohemian National Hall in New York on May 17, 1941. It consisted of a banquet meeting, an auction and a general meeting. Dr. William Reiner-Deutsch was then president.

Meanwhile the editorship of the Specialist passed from Tod Raper to Peter Kreischer and then to Lolly Horechny. Finally in April 1942, Lowey took it over himself on a temporary basis until a full-time editor could be found. He did not have to search far or wait long. Frank J. Korafik assumed the editorship soon thereafter and held the post longer than anyone else in the Society - almost twenty years!

The Society held its fourth convention in Washington D.C. in conjunction with the issuance of the U.S. 5-cent Overrun Countries stamp on July 14, 1943. Frank Votický of the United Stamp Co. showed his famous plate block collection with all known rarities comprising 150 pages.

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Arthur Kessler showed some 100 pages of specialized Hradčany, first airmails on cover and Siberia. Alfons Stach showed proofs and essays and Joseph Lowey exhibited 100 large sheets of Czechoslovak military history.

At this point, World War II and particularly America's participation in it intervened in Society affairs. Many of its members either joined the military or became involved in some way in the war effort. Dr. Reiner-Deutech was called into the Armed Forces and Rudolph Secký replaced him as president. An ardent collector of some renown in Czechoslovak circles, Secký possessed such items as the 1 kč. gutter pair, the 3.50 kčs. Křivoklat gutter pair and a block of four of the 1.50 kč. with a triple overprint of the 1937 B.I.T. issue. As for Dr. Reiner-Deutsch, he had a very fine Siberia collection including gutter pairs of four stamps of the 50 kp. + 25 kp. and the 1 R + 1 R Siberia issues. However, credit for the greatest collection of Czechoslovak material at that time belonged to Ernest Berka who resided in Chicago after leaving Prague just before the Nazi invasion. This collection was described at length in one of the earlier "Charley's Corner" columns in the Specialist. Berka died in February 1944 at the age of 70.

In 1945, the Cleveland chapter was formed as the third branch of the Society. Embodying mostly members from the Garfield-Perry Club, it submitted the name of Karel Zahradniček for president and he was elected to succeed Secký. Many astute philatelists came from the Cleveland area, one of them being George Bližil. In later years, Bližil was to become a driving force with the American Philatelic Society. His collection of covers of Czechoslovak Fieldpost in France and England during World War II along with his Sudetenland covers is almost legendary. In addition to Bližil, Melvin Klozár and Charles Mathiaska were also collectors of stature from Cleveland.

At the International Exhibition held in New York in 1947 (CIPEX), both the Cleveland and Chicago branches turned out in respectable numbers. The membership count then stood at 185 - a phenomenal rise in only eight years of the Society's existence. Again the Society hosted a banquet meeting at Bohemian National Hall - this time on May 22, 1947. Among the philatelic dignitaries present were Zdenek Kvasnička and J. Burian from Prague. It is believed in some circles that this meeting brought together the greatest assemblage of Czechoslovakia philatelists in the Society's history.

Zahradniček remained president until 1948, when he was succeeded by George Bližil. That year the Society participated in two shows. In March, many members attended the Garfield-Perry show in Cleveland. This was followed a month later by the Chicago show which included a fine auction and exhibits at Sokol Hall in the Olympic Building in Cicero. Lasting but one day, the show housed 61 frames, with Charles Waldman and Frank Kovařík taking top honors.

The most serious setback the Society suffered came in 1949 when its founder, Joseph Lowey, passed away. Ten years later, his widow, Hedy Lowey, wrote one of the most moving letters ever to appear in the Specialist. For the benefit of those who do not have a copy of the January 1959 issue, this letter is being reprinted here in its entirety:

"It is now 10 years since the founder and first secretary of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society passed on, and it is 20 years since our Society was born and has since grown to a big and fine organization. Words cannot express how proud I am the way you boys have carried on after the way your predecessor started the ball rolling. You have accomplished miracles.

"I am familiar only with the names of some of the pioneers like Frank Kovarik (my dear old friend), Wolfgang Fritzsche, Lolly Horechny, Dr. Reiner-Deutsch, A. J. Hrivnak, Guy Greenawald, and of course some others. They performed wonders and made the organization a great success. The Secretaryship is now in the hands of a very able, honest and devoted man, our friend Joseph Jiranek. I know that Joseph W. Lowey would be equally proud to see how that seed he planted 20 years ago grew up in dignity and respect and became known all over the continent. His labors bear fruit.

"Also I have to mention my sincere indebtedness to the Society for honoring my membership and from the bottom of my heart thank you for the splendid work you are all doing around this fine organization. I hope and pray that it stays strong and enjoys a long life.

"I know through experience what Czechoslovak stamp collecting can mean; education, knowledge, history, learning, wonderful philatelic fellowship and of course that spells and personifies J. W. LOWEY".

- Hedy Lowey

The death of its founder did not deter the Society from its growth and progress. Lowey had set the wheels in motion. Others picked up the reins and kept the wheels turning. As editor of the Specialist, Frank Kovařík pounded away at some of the lethargy that had set in following Lowey's death. He chastised members for their lack of interest in the oncoming convention and auction scheduled for Chicago in June 1950. As a result of his proddings, the members finally responded.

The auction proved a success and the exhibits comprised 100 frames of excellent material with Lolly Horechny taking the grand award.

On July 7, 1950, a noted dealer and collector of early Austria passed away in New York. Felix Brunner had assembled the largest and most valuable collection of Austrian postmarks comprising the first five issues. What made it particularly unique were the cancels which bore the names of only towns and cities within what is now Czechoslovakia. About three years prior to his death, Brunner sold his large stock of "Pošta Československá 1919" to Arthur Kessler for what was then a very high price. It included such items as the blocks of four of all the rarities that are listed in Monografie II.

In 1950 the presidency moved west when John Knollmueller of Salt Lake City was elected to head the Society. He in turn was succeeded in 1953 by W. D. Bryant of Pasadena, Calif. During this time there was considerable movement of Czechoslovak philatelic material and many important collections reached the auction block. These included collections by Dr. Pozdena, Willy Krauss, Rudolph Nový and Harvey Spilka. Dealers like Kessler (Cross Stamp Co.), F. Votický (United Stamp So., later Tribune Stamp Co.) and Alfons Stach were always offering attractive material to collectors of Czechoslovakia. These dealers have not been replaced in current times. W. D. Bryant remained president until 1955 when James Adler replaced him. Adler still lives at the same address on Nashville Street in St. Louis.

FIPEX 56 was the site of the Society's participation in the U.S. International Exhibition in New York City. It was perhaps the last reunion of the early bulwarks of our Society - Janečka, Kobyłka, Kovařík, Matejka and Velek from the West, and Dr. Reiner-Deutsch, Stein, Flynn, Koplowitz, Fritzsche, Beck, Horechny, Ružička, Schoenig, Woodburg and, of course, Mrs. Lowey, from the East. Dinner at Bohemian National Hall honored Frank Kovařík and was attended by 81 guests. It was the biggest Society affair ever held to date.

Dr. James J. Matejka became president of the Society in 1958. Known to his friends as "Doc", he was responsible for an upsurge in Czechoslovak collecting and its philatelic redound. He was always promoting the heritage he so richly cherished. His dynamic personality brought to the Chicagoland branch virtual control of the Society. John Velek was central vice-president. Joseph Jiránek was national secretary and A. J. Hrivnak was international secretary. George Kobyłka was named treasurer and Frank Kovařík remained editor of the Specialist. In addition, there was Frank Kosik as librarian and Ray Van Handel as councillor central.

In March of that year the Society had a regional meeting in conjunction with the Garfield-Perry show in Cleveland. Besides the members of the Cleveland branch, Matejka, Kovařík and Fritzsche were present. In that year, too, the Chicagoland branch became part of COMPEX thanks to the combined efforts of Matejka and Don Reeves, its co-organizers. As a combined philatelic show, COMPEX was staged for years at the Hotel LaSalle and always on Memorial Day weekend.

While at the Society's helm, Matejka exerted considerable influence in pushing for issuance of the T. G. Masaryk Champion of Liberty stamp. He urged all members to write their senators and congressmen to campaign for such a stamp and he himself personally visited the then Postmaster-General Arthur Summerfield as well as the Assistant Postmaster-General to make his plea.

Matejka was reelected president for three consecutive terms - a total of six years. But the highlight of his presidency was clearly the realization of his dream to have the likeness of Masaryk adorn a U.S. stamp. On March 6, 1960, this realization was celebrated during a reception at the Willard Hotel in Washington, D.C. 700 persons attended from all walks of life, but mostly of Czechoslovak ancestry. It was a monumental accomplishment due in great part to the efforts of Matejka and a handful of hard-working Society members. Joseph Janecka made an oversize stamp facsimile out of sheet metal which had a prominent place at the ceremonies. The large stamp now rests at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington.

In the meantime, following Lowey's demise, the New York chapter met first at the Masaryk Club, then at the offices of the United Stamp Co. and finally at the Collectors Club. At about the same time, the Society as a whole began participating at national shows throughout the country - a practice that has continued to this day.

In 1957, Lolly Horechny, at the request of the president, James Adler, headed up a committee consisting of Dr. Reiner-Deutsch, Joseph Stein and himself which drew up the Society's



An assemblage of SCP heavyweights photographed at a Chicago Stamp Show in Stefanik Hall in the Spring of 1954.
Standing left to right : Paul Marušík, Miles Skřivánek, Dr. James J. Matejka, Frank Zavisla, Peter Kreisicher (former Specialist editor),
John Velek, Joseph J. Jiránek, Joseph J. Janečka & Frank Rosner. Seated left to right : George Kobyłka, Frank J. Kovařík, James
Adler (then Society President), H. J. Hrivniak and Roman Reinowski.

Constitution and revised its By-laws. Horechny also designed a Participation Certificate as a token of recognition to every member who exhibited at a participating show.

While shows and conventions were then a main attraction of the Society's activities, other functions pointed up the vibrancy and diversity that marked our organization's impact on Czechoslovak philately. One of these was the Sales and Exchange Division that Wolfgang Fritzsche organized. In his lengthy commentary published in the December 1963 Specialist, Dr. Reiner-Deutsch had this to say: "The circuits were conducted by chapter member Fritzsche since the inception of the Society. Aside from the aid he had been giving to members for the securing and disposition of philatelic material, he most definitely has been a constant supplier of funds for the running of the Society, needed mainly for the publication of its Specialist. The everlasting gratitude of our membership is due to Wolfgang who has so faithfully carried on this work"

Those words appeared 25 years ago in the Specialist and they apply today as much as they did then. Fritzsche has been a staunch bulwark without whom the Society would never have been where it is today.

As is true with many philatelic organizations, the Society's finances have always been a major problem and have either limited or curtailed many of its ambitious undertakings. In its beginnings, the Society charged membership dues of two dollars a year, but had to cut them back to one dollar because it was adversely affecting its growth. Even in those post-depression pre-inflation days, that was hardly enough to sustain a monthly publication. But there were a few devoted members whose financial standing permitted them to "underwrite" the Specialist as well as some of the Society's other functions. It is this kind of unselfish support that enabled the Society to survive several financial crises right up to the present.

Again in his article of December 1963, Dr. Reiner-Deutsch offered the following commentary: "The office of a secretary, if faithfully carried on, is a serious one and very time-consuming. Actually it is one of the most important jobs in an organization. A secretary can make or break a Society. We had only a few secretaries (up to 1963) and John Velek was on the job for the longest period. Joseph J. Jiranek initiated a very thorough and ambitious program for secretary. Though he was a young man, he had the time to do the job as planned by him. . . . He was succeeded by Frank J. Kosik who was able to manage the library of the Society for a number of years and to act as a most efficient information center"

The library is an interesting adjunct of our Society. Established by Lowey in 1940, it was first headed by J. M. Stephen before Kosik took it over in 1958. There is not sufficient information available to tell us how the library grew in the first 25 years of its existence. Actually it was not until Jay Carrigan took it over in 1973 that the Rules and Regulations for loaning material were published along with a list of its contents. (See October 1973 Specialist).

Prior to 1964, the library concerned itself mainly with serving as a clearing house for philatelic information and as a publisher of Society-authored pamphlets and books. Its first undertaking was the publication of an English-Czech; Czech-English philatelic dictionary. Unfortunately it was not a successful endeavor. Several attempts since then to solicit knowledgeable members to revise or rewrite the dictionary have gone to naught. In 1958, the library through our Society published a Handbook on Bohemia-Moravia and Slovakia. Compiled by George Kobylka and George Bližil with assistance from Frank Kovařík, Richardson Spofford, Joseph Jiranek and C. H. Osbourn, the book was an immediate success. Finally John Velek's "Hradčany - The First Issue of Czechoslovakia" written for the benefit of the Society and its library, was eventually incorporated into volume 10 of Billig's Specialized Catalog.

II. THE NEXT TWENTY-FIVE YEARS

On October 10, 1964, the Society celebrated its 25th anniversary with a gala exhibition and banquet at NOJEX in Newark, N.J. The gold medal winners were Jaroslav Verner for his Siberia exhibit and C. J. Pearce for his Agriculture and Science Issue. The Society boasted 260 members on its published Roster.

That year, Lolly Horechny replaced Dr. Matejka as Society President. Throughout the country there were some fine auction sales of excellent Czechoslovak material by some of the nation's leading stamp dealers. Probably much of the material belonged to Egon Berka, the son of Ernest

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Berka who, in his day, had one of the largest Czechoslovakia collections ever assembled.

The following year, the Specialist began to publish in serialized form the translation by Henry Hahn and Jaroslav Verner of the PADELKY HANDBOOK. At the same time Mrs. Henry Stollnitz with assistance from her member husband, compiled a 25 year Index of the Specialist which was published under separate cover. A few years later the translated PADELKY HANDBOOK was issued in book form also and is still available today.

During the week starting May 21, 1966, the Society participated at the International Exhibition known as SIPEX in Washington D. C. It held its dinner at the Shoreham Hotel with Lolly Horechny presiding over an enthusiastic gathering that included such dignitaries as Ladislav Dvořáček and Zdenek Prokop of Prague.

Joseph Janečka replaced Horechny as president in 1968. That year many Society members journeyed to see the International Exhibition at PRAGA 68. George Blížil gave Ladislav Dvořáček a special award on behalf of the American Philatelic Society. A photo of that event appeared in the September 1968 Specialist. Society members distinguished themselves with their exhibits : Zdenek Kvasnička won the Grand Prix National. George Blížil made the Court of Honor. J. J. Verner captured two small Golds. C. J. Pearce and Reiner-Deutsch each got a Silver. Wolfgang Fritzsche received a Silver-Orange for his Catapult Flights and Joseph Vondrák a Bronze for his Austrian Newspaper issues.

Janečka was reelected President for a second term in an election in which more than 120 members cast their votes. That represents over 40 percent of the entire membership - a record that has not been duplicated since.

In the meantime, a new branch had been organized for the Washington D. C. area members by Henry Hahn. Meeting on the average of once a month, usually at his home, the members bought, sold and traded stamps and received material from their Sales and Exchange Circuit which Fritzsche conducted from its very inception. Occasionally they would feature a speaker on related philatelic subjects.

The New York chapter became the New York-New Jersey chapter with meetings usually held at the home of Mirko Vondra. New faces were surfacing at both branches. One of those was



Edward and Emily Lisy
on their 50th wedding anniversary in March 1985.

Edward Lisy of Rutherford, N.J. Within a year after becoming a member, he was elected national secretary and held that post until 1986. During those 16 years he worked hard and diligently in keeping the Society functional, intact and solvent. One of its unsung heroes, Lisy kept up a steady stream of correspondence soliciting new members, extolling delinquent members to pay their dues and imploring faltering members to remain in the fold. His letters could fill ten volumes of a literary epic. He never won any medals and it is doubtful if he ever exhibited in open competition. But he earned something much more precious than that. His tireless and unselfish work on behalf of the Society gained him the respect

and gratitude of all members who knew him and watched him perform. Like Joseph Stein, he asked for nothing but gave everything for a Society he loved. Though no longer active, he still supports the SCP.

It was during this period that Matejka and Reiner-Deutsch clashed over the publication of the translated PADELKY HANDBOOK. Because of the feud's potential effect on the Society, Reiner-Deutsch called a top-level meeting of the New York Chapter. That unusual meeting took place in November 1970 at the home of Joseph Stein on Ocean Parkway in Brooklyn, N. Y. Present were Reiner-Deutsch, Stein and a few other key members. They invited a relatively inactive and

unknown member, Mirko Vondra, into their midst and urged him to run for the presidency as a compromise candidate. He did and the following year he was elected president with his term commencing in January 1972.

Prior to that election and while Janečka was still president, the Society participated at the SEPAD show in Philadelphia during October 16 to 18, 1970. It was a very successful event in which 18 members of our Society exhibited a total of 48 frames. Henry Hahn received a SEPAD Gold and a Society Grand Award. C. J. Pearce won a SEPAD Silver and a Society Gold. William Sandrik captured a SEPAD Silver and a Society Silver. Fritzsche got a SEPAD Bronze and a Society Bronze and Chesloe came home with a SEPAD Silver for his Eastern Silesia. The Society convention was attended by 46 persons.

When Vondra became president, there was general discussion among members of his advisory committee that the Society Constitution and By-Laws needed revision. In fact, the May 1972 Specialist contained a series of proposed amendments. Though there was no vote taken on them, it further kindled the idea of change and the need to modernize the Society. The advisory committee also recommended that the Society library be housed at the new headquarters of the American Philatelic Society in State College, Pa. as part of the American Philatelic Research Library. That summer a meeting took place in State College, Pa. between Vondra and Jesse Boehret, then assistant executive secretary of A.P.S. at which the groundwork for such a possible transfer was laid. Though the transfer never materialized, it made the membership-at-large more aware than ever that the Society library was something real and substantial. The first comprehensive listing of the library's contents along with its rules and regulations was published in the October 1973 Specialist.

On October 27 to 29, 1972, the Society participated at the NOJEX show in Cranford, N. J. which, coincidentally, was also Czechoslovak Independence Day. The convention heard Dr. John Lexa, then Secretary-General of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences in America, lecture on the meaning of Czechoslovakia's Independence Day. The exhibition had its share of winners with Ladislav Fischmeister capturing the Society Grand Award for his showing of Hradčany, Švabinsky's Masaryk and Flight Covers. William Sandrik won the Gold and Chesloe the Silver for his Die Proofs and Die Essays. In addition, the President's advisory committee met in a special session and approved a change in the Society's name from the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of North America to the Society for Czechoslovak Philately. It also sanctioned the incorporation of the new Society under the laws of the District of Columbia. Last but not least, it formulated and adopted a new set of Bylaws to replace the old Constitution. These Bylaws were the product of a joint effort on the part of Vondra and Hahn with considerable assistance from the Society's hard-working secretary, Edward Lisy. They were formally published in the March 1973 Specialist.

John Velek of Chicago, listed as member no. 11, a giant among Czechoslovak philatelists, an officer and director of the Society for many years, and prolific research writer of the First Issue of Czechoslovakia, died on April 24, 1973. With his passing, an era in the Society's history came to an end.

The Society's next participation was at NAPEX in Washington D.C. on Sept. 14 to 16, 1973. There were many "firsts" at this show. For the first time, a member won the triple crown. Henry Hahn received a NAPEX Gold, the Society Grand Award and a special ARTIA award consisting of a large crystal vase. For the first time, there was a special Lowey Memorial Award (given to Otakar Kutvirt for his in-depth color analysis of the 25h Hradčany) and a special President's Award (given to Joseph Stein for his Secret Engraver Markings).

At about the same time, the Society initiated an expertization service by establishing a committee of experts headed by Dr. L. V. Fischmeister. An application for expertization along with the rules and regulations of the Service and a schedule of fees was published in the January 1973 Specialist.

Later that year, Vondra was reelected President and the Society's streamlining efforts continued.

COMPLEX 74 took place at Chicago's LaSalle Hotel on Memorial Day weekend as usual. 21 exhibits totalling 117 frames comprised one of the finest displays of Czechoslovak rarities seen outside an international show. It was the first time the Society's exhibits were open to youth members. The Grand Award known as the Frank Kovařík Award went to Dr. Matejka for his

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

collection of pre-stamp covers and other rarities. The Reserve Grand Award went to Chesloe. Vaclav Vanik copped the Gold and C.J. Pearce again got his Silver.

The translated version of the Padelky Handbook turned out to be such a success that a second translation of a less voluminous work was published by the Society. Roger Richet's "Issues, Surcharges, Cancellations and Vignettes of the Sudetenland" was translated from the original French edition by Anne Vondra.

The Society's next convention and show took place at NOJEX in Cranford, N. J. on October 24 to 26, 1975. Society exhibit winners consisted of Otakar Kutvirt who received the Society's Gold, Vondra who received the Silver and Dominick Riccio who was awarded a Bronze. At the convention, the Society's latest election results were made known and Henry Hahn, who had succeeded Bill Schoenig as editor and remained editor during the entire four-year tenure of Vondra's presidency, was now elected President. He appointed Richard Gray as his new editor. Unfortunately, Gray resigned as editor four months later and Hahn assumed the editorship along with the presidency until Jane Sterba took over as editor in Sept. 1976.

In his departing message as President, Vondra reviewed a brief chapter in the Society's history with these words published in the December 1975 Specialist :

"Amidst a great deal of bewilderment, I officially took office as President of the Society on January 1, 1972. The problem then was not one of advancement and expansion, but rather of survival. I remember calling a meeting of what was then the Council at the home of Joseph Stein who resided in Brooklyn. We were all treading very softly and gingerly on ground that seemed to be mined with booby traps. Not that there were any, but that we all felt one might explode any minute. Little progress was made but at least there were no retreats and no further setbacks.

"The Society was almost broke and the membership was down to less than 200. An urgent appeal for donations was published and the response was most gratifying. It helped restore some confidence within the Council itself and the ball began to roll. At the next Council meeting, Ed Lisy and I were appointed as a committee to draft a set of Bylaws to replace a Constitution which had not been too effective. The Society's name was changed to the Society for Czechoslovak Philately, Inc. and it was incorporated under the laws of the District of Columbia. The Bylaws were adopted and a Board of Directors replaced the old Council. Henry Hahn was re-appointed Editor of the Specialist and Jay Carrigan was re-appointed Librarian. The first election under the new Bylaws was held and all the existing officers were re-elected. In addition, Charles Chesloe was elected Vice-President and Jane Sterba was appointed Assistant Secretary. In 1974, the Society participated in COMPEX and shortly thereafter, the Chicagoland Czechoslovak Philatelic Group voted to reenter the Society as a branch. A definite sign of recovery !

"In 1975, the Board was finally in a position to vote separate budgets for the Specialist and the Library. The Library was updated, expanded and catalogued through the tireless and unselfish efforts of Jay Carrigan, the quiet one. Meanwhile, Henry Hahn as Editor not only brought new life to and interest in the Specialist, but helped immensely in restoring the financial stability of the Society by acquiring new advertisers, launching innovative projects and constantly finding new sources of income to meet the Society's needs. At this time the paid membership stands at about 320, the treasury is in the black despite increased expenditures, and the Society has participated in at least one major show for each of the last four years."

As previously noted, Henry Hahn became editor of the Specialist in September 1972 following the editorships of Jack Benchik and Bill Schoenig. During that time, he emphasized specialization, introduced new features and solicited material from a broader base of authors. With the resignation of his successor, Richard Gray, only four months later, Hahn resumed acting as editor until September 1976 when Jane Sterba assumed that role. Upon becoming president of the Society, Hahn authored the book "Stamps With a Portrait of T. G. Masaryk". Among his numerous published articles was a study on Theresienstadt and several translations of major articles by Czech authors. The most significant of these is Jiří Nekvasil's "Austro-Hungarian Naval Forces During the First World War" which was reprinted serially in the Specialist after first appearing in the Postal History Journal. Original articles by Hahn included "Some Examples of Censor Markings from Austrian POW's Interned in Russia During WW I" published in February 1979

and "Theresienstadt Parcel Post" published during Dominick Ricco's editorship in September 1979.

Olech Wyslowsky was a commercial artist who resided in East Orange, N. J. His interest in Czechoslovak philately was more on the social side than as a collector's hobby. But during his short term as a member, he contributed immensely to the New York chapter and to the Society as a whole by his artwork. Many of the Society's exhibition programs had their frontispiece designed by him. He made posters, cachets and, in 1976, offered several alternative designs for a new Specialist masthead. (see January 1976 issue). But the membership rejected a new masthead. So, to this day, the masthead adopted in January 1959, continues in effect. It is the third masthead to be used, the second having been adopted in September 1942.

INTERPHIL 76 was a one-week international philatelic exhibition held in Philadelphia starting May 29, 1976. Toward the close of that week, the Society held a seminar, an auction, a reception and a banquet on June 5 and 6. The speakers included Riccio on the subject of Stamps of the Carpatho-Ukraine, Verner on Siberian Covers, Hedborn on 1918 Revolutionary Overprints and Hahn on the First and Second Airmail Issues. An auction conducted by Václav Vanik proved a huge success. The Society's new Board of Directors met and planned the Society's program for the next two years. The SCP's lounge table featured a special INTERPHIL cachet designed by Wyslowsky which went on sale with numerous books, periodicals and back issues of the Specialist. Finally at the banquet, awards were announced by an international jury headed by Ladislav Dvořáček. Max Mahr won the Large Gold for his 1919 Overprint Rarities. Henry Hahn received a Silver for his Between the Two Wars Issues. Jerry Verner gained a Large Silver for his Hradčany exhibit. C. J. Pearce got a Silver for his showing of the Agriculture and Science Issue and Mrs. Kay Goodman was presented a Bronze for her Czechoslovak Fieldpost in Siberia.

Meanwhile the Chicagoland branch issued a special souvenir card in conjunction with its participation at COMPEX 76.

In August, the SCP also participated at HAFNIA 76. This international exhibition was held in Copenhagen, Denmark and comprised a total of 4,500 frames encompassing 54 countries. The following SCP members won awards: Max Marhr received the Prix D'Honneur, Gosta Hedborn a Gold Medal, V. B. Flindt a Vermeil, Mrs. Kay Goodman a Silver, P. H. Jensen a Silver and Preben Larsen a Silver.

The Society's involvement with BALPEX 77 was the first in a series of participations with shows sponsored by the Baltimore Philatelic Society. There were several reasons for this. First, the BALPEX show were very well organized and its staff was very accommodating to the SCP. Besides, its show held annually on Labor Day weekends in Cockeysville, Md., was an ideal location for both the N. Y. - N. J. branch as well as the Washington D. C. branch.

If the N. Y. chapter could boast of the artistic exploits of Olech Wyslowsky, then Chicagoland had available the combined talents of George Kobyłka, printer and publisher, and Joseph Janečka, sheet-metal artist. Kobyłka's K-Line Publishing Co. has a long history of compiling and printing a comprehensive stamp album for Czechoslovakia with a never-ending stream of supplements. And Janečka's replica of the Masaryk "Champions of Liberty" stamp which is currently housed at the Smithsonian Institute was followed by the creation of many plaques and awards for presentation at stamp shows, exhibitions and other special philatelic occasions.

On June 14, 1978, the SCP saluted Canada-Czechoslovakia Cooperation Day by issuing a specially cancelled cachet envelope in conjunction with U. S. Flag Day. That artistic cachet was designed and printed by Kobyłka and cancelled at CAPEX 78 by the Canadian Postal Service. The Society's participation in the International Stamp exhibition in Toronto was generally a success. Besides the special cachet, the Specialist, under the editorship of Jane Sterba, won a Silver Medal as a "philatelic periodical". But not many Society members entered their exhibits and those who did produced no winners.

Soon thereafter, Jane Sterba was elected SCP president, thereby relinquishing her post as editor to Dominick Riccio, one of the new faces on the Society scene.

For ten days starting on September 8, 1978, Prague was host to the greatest international philatelic show ever held up to this time. Fučík Palace, the site of PRAGA 78, exhibited 9,000 frames containing a total of 1,200,000 stamps. More than a quarter million people poured through the gates and thus, from the standpoint of size, it was greater than PRAGA 88 which followed ten years later. The Society scored admirably as 26 of its members entered a total of 40

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

exhibits and received 35 medals. Of these, the top winners were Max Mahr (National Grand Prize) for his Czechoslovakia Rarities, Dr. Matejka for his Artwork of K. Seizinger, Chesloe for his Proofs and Essays of Seizinger and Heinz, Verner for his Siberian Legion Post, Hahn for his Masaryk Issues and Dr. Fischmeister for his Semi-Postal Errors and Varieties.

The year 1979 was marked by the Society's involvement with SOJEX 79 during April 6, 7 and 8 in Atlantic City, N. J. At the time of this writing, no records were available to indicate which exhibitors were winners. What we do know is that J. J. Janěcka was the recipient of a fine silver tray for the Best Title Page in his "Music Sheets of Czechoslovakia" display. In addition, Edward Sabol was presented with a special award for this extraordinary service to Czechoslovak philately.

The Society Bylaws, containing a few minor revisions, were reprinted in the March 1979 Specialist for the first time since they were initially published in the March 1973 issue. Elections to the Board of Directors and the Board's election of officers resulted in the naming of Henry Hahn as president. Despite that, Hahn continued active as a member of the Editorial Staff then headed by Richard Major. Acting primarily as literary editor, Hahn's major effort that year was a book at first published serially in the Specialist titled "A Historic Perspective of Postal Services in Telč and Vicinity". This book was translated into Czech by the well-known Czech postal historian, Jaroslav Ježek, and exhibited at PRAGA 88 in the Jury class. Numerous original papers and translations, notably those of Miroslav Vostatek in the World War II period, were published. After his election to a third term as president beginning in 1982, Hahn continued to serve on the Editorial Staff providing numerous translations and original articles, the most significant of which was co-authored by Frank Kaps and entitled "Further Discoveries in the Usage of Pošta 1919 Overprint F, Altered Plate 1e". Upon conclusion of his term as president in December 1983, Hahn continued his active role on the Editorial Staff doing considerable translating as well as original writing.

It was at the start of Hahn's second term as president that Harlan Miller, official printer of the Specialist for over 40 years, relinquished his post by request. Working out of his home in Lawrence, Kansas, Miller produced the most consistently readable and attractive format for the most affordable price the journal had ever had. After his departure, the Specialist ran through a series of experimental printings before Hahn finally settled on Joseph Larkin of College Park, Md. Larkin held that post until June 1980, after which our current printer, Lee Weit of Ephrata, Pa., added a new dimension to the publication with his computerized printing.

BALPEX 80 was the big event for the SCP that year. Lasting three days commencing on August 30, BALPEX 80 honored 60 years of Czechoslovak Airmails. The SCP issued a souvenir cover showing a reproduction of the overprint used in preparing the first Airmail issue of Czechoslovakia in 1920. The following members received BALPEX awards in the open class: The Gold went to J. J. Verner for his Siberian Legions, F. W. Hefer for his Czechoslovakian Airmails - 1930 and Frank Steiner for his Mail From Concentration Camps. The Vermeil was awarded to C. J. Pearce for his Special Delivery Stamps, T. M. Austin for A Study of the Second Plate of Hradčany and F. W. Hefer for Provisional Issues of Czechoslovakia. The Silver was won by J. L. Klein for Czechoslovakia Airmails 1920 - 1980. The Silver-Bronze went to R. Green for Pre-stamp Postmarks of Moravia and Silesia, M. L. Vondra for his Hradčany Issue and A. McMillan for Occupied Sudetenland.

Although the expertizing of stamps had been offered by various members of the Society on an informal basis for many years, a full and complete expertization service was finally announced in the April 1981 Specialist. Headed by Edwin Lehecka, the committee published a series of Articles Governing the Examination of Czechoslovak Stamps and Philatelic Material and the Rules Under Which Such Material Would be Expertized. This committee is currently functional and still operating under Lehecka's direction.

On May 1, 1981, the Society participated at COMPEX 81 with the Chicagoland branch hosting the event. On May 2, the Board of Directors held its meeting followed by the convention or general meeting at which Chesloe conducted a mini-auction. On May 3, the banquet took place and the exhibit winners were announced. J. L. Klein received the SCP's Grand Award for his exhibit of Stampless 19th Century Covers postmarked on what was later to be Czechoslovak territory. C. J. Pearce of Oklahoma came in third for his remarkable showing of the Allegory Issues.

SEPAD 82 in Philadelphia was the Society's next sharing of philatelic activities and honors. Held During the October 8, 1982 weekend, SEPAD unveiled the Society's big guns and produced a

respectable array of winners. Gold Medals were captured by J. L. Klein and J. J. Verner. Special awards by the SCP went to Verner (first place), to J. L. Klein (second place) and to D. J. Riccio (third place). A "first" for the SCP was a joint general meeting in which three national Societies participated : the Austrian, the Hungarian and our own. The SCP's lounge table featured the sale of a two-cover set - one cachet depicting the 10 h blue Scout stamp while the other pictured the 20 h stamp, both embossed. The postmark "Pošta Skautů - SEPAD 1982" was designed to simulate the original postmark used in 1918.

The joint meeting of the three philatelic Societies proved such a success, it was repeated again during the SCP's participation at BALPEX 83. Held as usual on Labor Day weekend in Cockeysville, Md., it produced a Grand Award winner in the person of F. W. Hefer for his ten-frame showing of Czechoslovakia 1918-1938. J. L. Klein gained the Gold Medal for his Pošta 1919 Overprints and J. J. Verner for his Czechoslovak Fieldpost in France, Italy and Slovakia. In addition, Thomas Austin, C. J. Pearce, D. Riccio and R. Major all received Vermeil Awards while J. T. Carrigan and Ian Batty won Silvers.

Dominick Riccio was elected president commencing January 1984. That year, ESPANA 84 took place in Madrid from April 27 to May 6. Though the SCP did not participate, several members exhibited. One of them, Gosta Hedbom, received a Gold and Honorary Award for his specialized showing of Czechoslovakia.

Next came SEPAD 84. The Society's involvement was highlighted by the visit of Jan Karasek to the show on September 21. Acknowledged as a leading expert on Czechoslovakia, Ing. Karasek gave an illuminating lecture on forgeries and counterfeits at our convention. As for the Exhibits, D. Riccio led the way by capturing the triple crown - the Grand Award, SEPAD's Gold and the SCP First Prize - for his comprehensive showing of Carpatho-Ukraine.

NAPEX 85 hosted the Society not at its usual location in North Jersey, but in Arlington, Va. on June 7 through 9. Four SCP members received Gold Awards : J. L. Klein for his Seizinger Designs and Proofs, F. W. Hefer for his Czechoslovakian Airmails, T. M. Austin for his First Issue of Czechoslovakia and R. M. Major for his Marine Fieldpost of the Austro-Hungarian Navy. A Vermeil went to Karel Fischer for his First Issue of Košice 1945 and a Silver to C. J. Pearce for his Red Cross of Czechoslovakia. Hefer, Klein and Austin also won SCP awards in that order.

Following the general election, the Board of Directors chose Mirko Vondra as president, thus making him the third president to be elected for a third term. Frank Julsen was then editor, but following his resignation, Vondra appointed Gerald van Zanten of New Zealand to succeed him.

It was again time for the U. S. to play host to an international philatelic exhibition. That event occurred on May 22 to June 1, 1986 in Chicago. The Society presented a formidable profile of member participation, programming and exhibiting. Both Ladislav Dvořáček as FIP president and Jan Karasek as commissioner of experts were present as jurist and keynote speaker respectively. As is customary, our members distinguished themselves with their exhibits. The following scored highest : F. W. Hefer received a Large Gold for his Czechoslovakia Rarities ; C. Chesloe, L. Fischmeister and J. L. Klein won Golds ; H. Hahn got a Large Vermeil ; Joseph Vondrak and Max Mahr earned Vermeils ; and J. T. Carrigan got a Silver. The Society's lounge table, shared with the Ukrainian Society, was the focal point of sales and exchange activities. A cocktail party and banquet brought the lavish festivities to a joyous ending.

The Specialist, which had suffered from a lack of literary contributions for several years, was again experiencing hunger pangs. Vondra and Van Zanten conferred on the crisis and decided on a two-pronged campaign. Writing in the February 1987 issue, Vondra assessed the situation, noting that during 1986, 54 articles had been written of which eleven were by Henry Hahn. Twelve members contributed the remaining 43 articles. To alter these lopsided statistics, Vondra appealed to all members to make it a point for each one to write one article a year on a philatelic subject dearest to their hearts. In the meantime, he appointed Jack Benchik to serve on the Editorial Staff and set up a Slovak Study Group which would research philatelic subjects dealing with Slovakia and write articles about them. The first part of the plan began to bear fruit. While this was developing, Van Zanten began an outpouring of his own articles and also communicating with all those who at one time or another had contributed writings of their own, seeking their assistance for more such articles.

CAPEX 87 saw the Society again participate at Canada's International Exhibition in Toronto. The show lasted a week starting June 13, 1987. A sales booth was shared by the SCP and the

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Ukrainian Society. An SCP dinner was held in a downtown Czech restaurant at which Ladislav Dvořáček gave an enlightening talk on what could be expected at the forthcoming PRAGA 88 show. As for CAPEX itself, there were no entries in the open class by Society members and hence no awards.

Again the Labor Day weekend that year was shared by the Society's participation at BALPEX 87. Frank Kohn won the Grand Award for his unique exhibit of Historic Prague Mail. Bram Klein received the BALPEX Gold, the SCP Silver and the APS Medal of Excellence for his showing of the Allegory Issues: Varieties, Proofs and Essays. C. J. Pearce captured the BALPEX Vermeil and the SCP Bronze for his Legion Issues. C. Chesloe was awarded a BALPEX Silver for each of two exhibits, - Sudetenland Territory and Carpatho-Ukraine Cancellations. E. Lehecka also received a Silver for his 1920 Legionnaire Issue. A significant Board meeting took place which culminated in Vondra's willingness to take over the editorship of the Specialist commencing in January 1988. Vondra then named Van Zanten as assistant editor so he could concentrate his efforts on writing and soliciting articles from others. A further decision by the Board approved the translating of the Allegory chapter of Monografie II to be published serially in the Specialist. This monumental task was undertaken by Vladimír Králiček of New Zealand. The first installment appeared in the October 1987 issue and is still continuing.

At a Board meeting held in Chicago in December 1987, Charles Chesloe was elected president and Jack Benchik as vice-president. PRAGA 88 was the big event on everyone's mind. Preparations went into full swing.

Taking place at the Fučík Palace for one week commencing August 26, 1988 the fourth international exhibition to take place in that city was indeed a success from every standpoint including the Society's. The Grand Priz National was won by F. W. Hefer. J. L. Klein received a Gold and Jan Karasek a Large Silver for his showing of Czechoslovakia Airmails. In addition, J. J. Verner won two Golds, C. Chesloe got a Large Vermeil and a Large Silver, L. Fischmeister copped two Large Vermeils, D. Ricco and J. Vondrak each gained a Large Silver and C. J. Pearce a Silver. The Specialist under the former editorship of Van Zanten received a Silver Bronze as a philatelic publication. A remarkable feature of the show was the presence of our former president and editor, Henry Hahn, as apprentice judge and, more importantly, as U. S. Commissioner to PRAGA 88. It was a fitting conclusion to the Society's fifty years of stamp exhibiting to have its last showing of that period in the city of its heritage where it all began.

III. THE FUTURE

What does the future hold in store for our Society? In its most optimistic assessment, the SCP will continue to grow and flourish for the next fifty years. But the realities of the times point to a spiral of rising inflationary costs and waning philatelic interests on the part of the younger generation. Today's people have a love affair with the physical. Contact sports like football, basketball and baseball are big business and the public supports it at the turnstiles. Health spas and fitness centers thrive like no philatelic exhibitions ever did. Preoccupation with a hard body is becoming the product of a soft mind. Flashy sports cars are a fad in the fast lane while philately is taking a hard ride in the rumble seat of a Model T.

If these are the trends, then a Society like ours will be hard pressed to survive. An ideal hypothetical conversation between two of its older members might go something like this:

Member A - "And what will become of you and your collection when you die?"

Member B - "My collection will be auctioned off and the proceeds will go to the Society. My body is willed to science and my soul will ascend to GODEX 98 (or whatever year I die in) where it will forever share in the possession and enjoyment of the world's greatest rarities!"

Member A - "And who will replace you here when you die?"

Member B - "That question is based on a false premise. No one will replace me because as a member of the SCP, I am irreplaceable. But since someone must be found to carry on where others leave off, new blood is the only thing that will keep the Society going. Unless young collectors are willing to step in place of those who are transported to Philatelic Heaven, there will be no second fifty years."

Member A - "Thank you for your sobering thoughts. I'm not sure I have the time to step in anybody's shoes, but I will at least fill out the Nominating Ballot and mail it in tomorrow."

JUDGING AT FIP INTERNATIONAL SHOWS UNDERGOING SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

By Henry Hahn

There are those philatelists who are content to collect their countries or topicals and show them to friends and relatives. There are those who belong to local clubs and occasionally exhibit their collections at local shows. There are also those who submit their better material for exhibit at regional shows and if they capture an award, they move on to national shows. And finally there are those whose exhibits consistently win at national level and who eventually qualify for international competition.

Winning a bronze medal at an international show may be a distinct honor to one collector and a great disappointment to another. But even to those who do not consider a lesser award to be a stepping stone to a Large Silver or a Large Gold, the fascination of knowing that there is always someone who fared better deserves an explanation. More importantly, knowing beforehand rather than after the fact what makes an exhibit the best in its class can make the difference and provide the impetus for total victory.

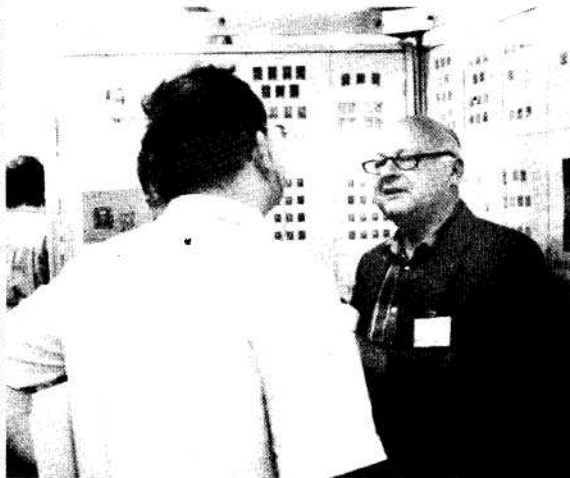
Henry Hahn went to PRAGA 88 as an apprentice judge. Having the curiosity and acumen to learn all there is to know about judging at the highest level of international competition, he listened, read, studied and took notes. From all this, he has compiled one of the most comprehensive articles yet on judging under FIP rules. Because of its length, the article is being presented in two parts. The second part will appear in next month's issue.

PART I

Much has been said, though relatively little has been published, that might aid the international exhibitor in meeting some of the new requirements and criteria adopted in FIP international judging. I particularly refer to the most recent interpretation of the General Regulations and Special Regulations by the most prominent international judges.

The helpful "Judges Critique" common to U. S. shows, where exhibitors are able to ask penetrating questions and often receive specific suggestions leading to improvement of their exhibits does not take place at international shows. Where U. S. and local judges are held accountable, at least through peer exposure during the open critique, international judges are not required and generally do not convey much to the exhibitor that could provide guidance for improvement. Hence, the next best thing for any international exhibitor or future exhibitor to do is to acquaint himself with the rules and criteria and more particularly with views of at least some of the FIP judges on how the largely subjective criteria are assigned numerical values. A good knowledge of these may well avoid the disappointments encountered in such recent shows as FINLANDIA '88 and PRAGA '88.

The almost purely subjective nature of judging practiced by international judges was challenged over 10 years ago, when Ing. Ladislav Dvořáček of the CSSR, then FIP Vice President, published his "Draft Principles for Evaluating Exhibition Items at World and International Exhibitions



Apprentice Judge Henry Hahn discussing exhibit with Pavel Pitterman, jury chairman for the Czech National Class at PRAGA 88.



SCORING SHEET
BEWERTUNGSBOGEN
FEUILLE D'ÉVALUATION

LARGE GOLD (LG) 95- SILVERBRONZE (SB) 65-69
GOLD (G) 90-94 BRONZE (B) 60-64
LARGE VERMEIL (LV) 85-89 DIPLOMA (D) -59
VERMEIL (V) 80-84 SPECIAL PRICE (SP)
LARGE SILVER (LS) 75-79 FELICITATION (F)
SILVER (S) 70-74 GRAND PRIX (GP)

| | |
|---|------|
| TRADITIONAL TRADITIONELLE TRADITIONELLE | |
| TREATMENT AND IMPORTANCE () | 0-30 |
| KNOWLEDGE AND RESEARCH () | 0-35 |
| CONDITION AND RARITY () | 0-30 |
| PRESENTATION () | 0-5 |

| CATALOGUE NO. KATALOG NR. CATALOGUE | EXHIBIT EXPONAT PARTICIPATION | TREATMENT AND IMPORTANCE BEARBEITUNG UND BEDEUTUNG TRAITEMENT ET IMPORTANCE | KNOWLEDGE AND RESEARCH KENNTNISSE UND FORSCHUNG CONNAISSANCE ET RECHERCHE | CONDITION AND RARITY BESCHAFFEN- UND SELTENSHEIT ETAT ET RARETE | PRESENTATION GESTALTUNG PRESENTATION | TOTAL TOTAL TOTAL | MEDAL MEDAILLE MEDAILLE | SP-F-GP |
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| | | (10) 0-30 (20) | (25) 0-35 (10) | (15) 0-30 (15) | 0-5 | | | |
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Organized under the Patronage of FIP, or with FIP Support" in the PRAGA '78 Catalogue. The criteria put forth by Ing. Dvořáček soon found their way into Czech and some other national judging rules, and when Ing. Dvořáček became FIP President in 1980, he asked the FIP Board to initiate action that led to the changes that have only recently taken place. These include not only judging rules but other new FIP statutes, regulations, etc., most of which were approved by the 54th FIP Congress in Rome in 1985, with "optional effect" by the end of 1987 and "compulsory effect" as of January 1, 1989.

The new judging rules and criteria apply individually to all of the defined classes of philately. The usefulness and viability of these were "tested" at shows held under FIP patronage in 1986 and 1987. The first live test came at FINLANDIA '88, with fuller and obligatory application taking place at PRAGA '88. There is little doubt that judging in DELHI, PHILEXFRANCE and SOFIA this year will take place strictly in accordance with the new rules and their current interpretation. What then does the majority of U. S. exhibitors know of these rules and their interpretation?

The basis is defined in Appendix B of the General Regulations of FIP for the evaluation of competitive exhibits, particularly in Article 4, which defines the bases for evaluating exhibits by three "double attributes":

(a) TREATMENT AND IMPORTANCE OF THE EXHIBIT (b) KNOWLEDGE AND RESEARCH (c) QUALITY AND RARITY, and only secondarily, PRESENTATION.

The interpretation and weight emphasis of the above "double attributes" were the subject of a comprehensive jury seminar held during PRAGA '88 for jury members just prior to the start of judging.

The scoring sheet used in judging is illustrated in Figure 1.

There was some question concerning point count assignment within each "double attribute", and the jury was finally instructed to modify the form by crossing off the breakdown within the double attributes as indicated in Figure 1.

Treatment and importance as attributes must be viewed somewhat differently in the context of specific philatelic topics and present the severest problem. Consequently, written interpretations of this "double attribute" were previously prepared by several prominent judges, each discussing it from the standpoint of his own philatelic area.

These include :

- Traditional Philately - by D. N. Jatia
- Postal History - by Paul H. Jensen
- Entries - by Jacques Stibbe
- Aerophilately - by F. Lemos da Silveira
- Astrophilately - by Teddy Dahinden
- Maximaphilately - by Joseph Wolff
- Youth Philately - by Heinrich Mannhart
- Philatelic Literature - by Charles J. Peterson

While it is true that what follows are interpretations and personal views of the above in the international judging community, these individuals and their views are not likely to change in the foreseeable future. Some liberty has been taken in summarizing their views in the interest of brevity and use of the American idiom. Because of limited space, only the first three of these philatelic topics are discussed in Part I of this article. The remaining five topics appear in Part II which will be published in the next issue of the Specialist.

TRADITIONAL PHILATELY

Mr. D. N. Jatia agrees that dividing of the old single criterion judging into 7 disciplines complicates the hobby but at the same time makes it even more exciting and interesting, and leads to a more balanced evaluation avoiding the variation of approaches among individual jury members.

The 20 points assigned to importance are further divided between "philatelic importance" and "time element", where philatelic importance may relate to historical importance of a country or a particular group of stamps. The time element is considered less important. Philatelic importance is not related to location of a country. However, to be philatelically important, a country must have enough philatelic history and there must be material to back it up. "Money" is not to be evaluated, though it may "play its own part". An example of a philatelically unimportant entity is the Maldive Islands, while a small but philatelically important entity is Hong Kong.

As for the time element, Mr. Jatia believes that where the classical period (1850's) was formerly the key period, the 1900's now stand on the same footing and the immediate period up to World War

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

II has just started gaining acceptability. According to the new regulations, traditional philately is now divided into three classes, i.e.,

- a. First period to 1900
- b. Second intermediate period, 1900 - WW II
- c. WWII and later

Mr. Jatic feels that this will make exhibiting more affordable and it is essential to assign equal philatelic importance to all three periods.

POSTAL HISTORY

Mr. Jensen believes that the interpretation of "Treatment and Importance" in Postal History is sufficiently outlined in the FIP Guidelines. The total point count assigned to this attribute is 35 points*, of which "Treatment" accounts for 20 and "Importance" for 15 points. One must first assess importance and then consider how well the exhibitor has executed his ambitions.

The FIP guidelines state that the importance of an exhibit will be gauged in relation to the general postal history of the country, area or subject shown and to philately in general.

Mr. Jensen draws an analogy between point count for importance and a golf handicap, which



In the jury room: Henry deliberating with Pitterman and Gourin.

in turn is established solely by what is promised, i.e., the title page and without regard to what is actually contained in the exhibit.

To get 13-15 points, one should set one's scope on the postal history of an entire country, and the time period should cover both the pre-adhesive period and early use of adhesives. Alternatively, a large area of one important country or even an important capital city might suffice. One might also scope the exhibit to cover postal relations between two or more countries during an important period from a Postal History point of view. Another exhibit may be based on postage rates, inland and exterior, in an important period or a period of major postal changes over a wide area. Development of special services in

more than one country, military mail and field posts over a longer period, development of post marks and postal markings over a considerable period or even disinfected mail in a wide geographical area and covering a long period may bring the aforementioned point count in the "importance" category.

A less important exhibit garnering 9-12 "importance" points would constitute a shorter period of a country's postal development, or cover only a portion of a country. It might also include postal relations between countries in relatively less important periods or over limited time periods. Development of certain postal services, as postage due, registration or development of railway mail services in a single country might qualify. Postage rates covering inland rates only or rates during limited periods fall within the intermediate point count scope. Further examples include Military Mail in shorter periods, even single campaigns if important. Postmarks of a single type or a limited period, postal usage of a single stamp issue, disinfected mail from a limited area or time period, concentration camp mail, POW mail, disaster mail from limited areas, censorship and mail routes of smaller areas or between two countries represent additional postal history exhibits of intermediate scope.

Exhibits receiving 8 or less points include short periods, small and unimportant parts of a single country, particularly "home town" exhibits. Other examples of limited scope include local mail of single cities, special services of large cities, postmarks of one single type or a newer type such as slogans, and machine cancellations of Great Britain, single ring postmarks of Norway, etc.

Postal censorship during a limited period, military mail during brief periods, single mail routes in one country, mail automation, short military campaigns or campaigns of modest importance and

very specialized mail services are further examples of areas generally falling into the under 8 point category.

Mr. Jensen feels that a more detailed list will be made on the basis of work done by different juries during the next 2-3 year period. He emphasizes that "Importance" will be the basic yardstick in evaluating postal history exhibits.

"Treatment" is the term encompassing development, completeness and correctness of the material shown. A subject rated low in Importance may still rate high in "Treatment". For example, the postal history of a small, unimportant town may rate only 1 or 2 points in Importance, yet receive the full 20 points for a full, comprehensive and correct treatment. Such an exhibit may also receive high points for knowledge, research, quality, and presentation. However, its low importance point count would most likely limit the award to a Large Silver.

Originality in approach to a postal history theme is also evaluated under the "Treatment" attribute. Development, as part of treatment, is based on the plan and/or introduction, which in turn is related to the balance and harmony of the exhibit. In developing the exhibit plan, one must consider the material available—but strive to emphasize periods of strength and interest.

Completeness as part of the "Treatment" attribute is evaluated in relationship to the exhibitor's plan outlined in the title page. To determine the degree of completeness, the judge will look for rare and interesting material which is present (or lacking) i.e., whether the plan is supported by the showing of proper philatelic material.

Frame space allotment is also considered. An excess of maps, pictures, proclamations, and other collateral material is thought of as "padding" to cover lack of philatelic material. On the other hand, contemporary rate tables and other postally related documents that are indeed relevant are not penalized.

Presentation of unused stamps, postal stationery, essays, and proofs is to be avoided except in rare instances such as communications to post offices regarding a stamp issue or copies of stamps prepared to pay a certain rate but never issued. Technical aspects of stamp production generally are not postal history. If there is doubt whether an exhibit is Postal History or a Traditional exhibit, it is generally better to classify it as Traditional. Juries will often transfer exhibits if they feel the exhibits will be better in a class other than the one in which it is submitted.

Items not directly relevant to the plan must be avoided—even if rare and interesting. Even relevant material should not be duplicated—no matter how rare. An exception to this would be showing three out of five recorded postmarks, perhaps going to different destinations. If possible, avoid objects coming from the same correspondence or addressed to the same address.

The points given for "Treatment" are based on how well developed the exhibit is and how complete it is in relationship to the scope, and how relevant the objects are. The jury penalizes for faked or repaired material, unless such material is properly marked and relevant.

A maximum of 20 points is given for the "Treatment" attribute.

POSTAL ENTRIES

Mr. Jacques Stibbe does not separate the "Importance" and "Treatment" attributes numerically, but rather combines them for the assigned 35 points*.

In philatelic importance, he recognizes "International Importance", i.e., "difficult" countries (only a few entires available) or "difficult times" (e.g., occupations and military campaigns), and "national importance", i.e., issues little known internationally but prized in the country of origin. He finds it hard to set a value on these.

The "Importance" criterion is the only one which permits penalizing, under the point system, for a subject that is too easy to treat or too common, or which is not worthy of placement in an international show.

In "Treatment", Mr. Stibbe relies heavily on the exhibitor's detailed plan clearly presented in the title page. He frequently finds the title pages incomplete, too vague or poorly translated. Treatment of a subject, as defined, must be complete, correct, and well-balanced. An ideal treatment might comprise a study of printings, shades, varieties, trials, specimens (if any) or every possible use of entires (express, registered, boat mail, etc.). The more expansive the subject, the less detail is to be expected due to lack of space. However, for a limited subject, a most complete treatment is to be expected.

The two criteria, "Importance" and "Treatment" are sometimes in conflict, which is why Mr. Stibbe considers it a good idea to combine them for point assignment purposes.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

THE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP LIST (May 1, 1989)

The first Roster of Society members was published in September 1939 which was the fifth issue of the Specialist. It listed 46 members in chronological order. Member number one was Joseph Lowey, its founder. Member number two was Tod Raper, the editor of the Specialist. Member number three was J. M. Stephen, its librarian. Member number four was Guy Greenawalt, the treasurer. It is a factual oddity that Joseph Stein who helped Lowey organize the Society was not on the list.

The second Roster appeared five years later in the June 1944 issue. This time there were 150 members and Stein was still not one of them. Again the list was in chronological order, that is, the order in which the members joined.

The third Roster came exactly ten years after the Society was formed. The May 1949 Specialist listed its members in alphabetical order for the first time and Stein finally appeared as member number 330.

The last Roster was published in the November 1986 Specialist and contained a total of 335 members. It was arranged by categories - honorary, patron and regular members - and then alphabetically by each category.

Prior to 1986, the Roster appeared once each year starting in 1974 (though it was printed at longer intervals before then) - always alphabetically with but only one exception. In January, a geographical listing was printed to give a better overview where the greatest concentration of members was located.

At a recent meeting of the Board of Directors, the question was raised as to which arrangement is most useful and appealing from a membership reference standpoint. Because the Specialist was just in the process of acquiring a new printer, it was left up to the editor to make appropriate arrangements with him. Inasmuch as the printer had the list in chronological order on his computer and since the Roster originally appeared in that order in 1939 and again in 1944, your editor felt that after 50 years, we could again return to the original format. Hence the 1989 Anniversary Roster is presented here in member number sequence. If any member finds his name misspelled or his address listed incorrectly or some other error, please notify the editor promptly.

As for future listings, your editor invites commentaries from the membership at large. Do you prefer an alphabetical listing, a chronological listing or a geographical one?

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- 1510 JOHN R. GILGIS, P.O. BOX G, FAYVILLE, MA 01745-0907
- *1511 PETER H. KARAS, 41 HIGH PARK AVENUE, TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA
M6P 2R5
- 1512 ROBERT KARAS, 41 HIGH PARK AVENUE, , CANADA M6P 2R5
- 1513 MICHAEL W. BOWLING, 1334 NORMANDY ROAD, DUNCAN, OK 73533
- 1514 KARL ZERK, 3703 MONON ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90027
- *1515 PHILLIPS B. FREER, APARTADO POSTAL 646, OAXACA, OAX., 68000 MEXICO
- 1516 JAMES NEGUS, KITWALLS, KITWALLS LANE, LYMINGTON, HANTS,
ENGLAND S041 ORJ
- *1517 WILLIAM D.K. WILSON, 29308 52ND AVE. EAST, GRAHAM, WA 98338
- 1518 J. RICHTER, POD HAJOM 1086/43, DUBNICA N/V, CZECHOSLOVAKIA 018 41
- 1519 JIRI GYRA, VYSEHRADSKA 116, VODOCHODY, CZECHOSLOVAKIA 250 69
- 1520 TOMAS MOROVICS, U STADIONU 957, KURIM, CSSR 664 34
- 1521 VOJTECH OLEJNIK, 4343 WINTERGREEN, TROY, MI 48098
- 1522 PAVEL BARAN, LUCNI 307/12, , CZECHOSLOVAKIA
- 1523 BUDD HAGEN, P.O. BOX # 68, HENDERSON, MN 56044
- 1524 DENNIS J. RICH, 131 DUNNLEA ROAD, FAIRFIELD, CT 06430-2814
- 1525 WALTER I. SHRAKE, P.O. BOX # 203, SAVANNA, IL 61074
- 1526 ELIZABETH R. SHERIDAN, 11 EMARITA WAY, STUART, FL 34996
- 1527 ALAN J. KNIGHT, 25 WEYMOUTH CRESENT, S. HUMBERSIDE, ENG. DN17 ITU

- 1528 CHARLES HANCE, RFD #1, BOX 139, DEER ISLE, ME 04627
- 1529 MILOSLAV VLCEK, POSTOVNI PRIHRADKA 13, , CZECHOSLOVAKIA
- 1530 ZDENEK TEXTL, NA ZAVADILCE 783, , CZECHOSLOVAKIA
- 1531 JAROSLAV BERANEK, SMETANOVO NAMESTI 1049, , CZECHOSLOVAKIA
- 1532 ANNA KOLONICNA, KLAPY 170, 411 16, CZECHOSLOVAKIA
- *1533 GEORGE J. NOZICKA, 4974 SENTIAL DRIVE, BETHESDA, M.D. 20816
- 1534 DANNY DEMETRIADE, P.O. BOX 10182, DETROIT, MI 48210
- 1535 DR. SHELDON DUNHAM, P.O. BOX 4, UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND, VA 23173
- 1536 HUGVES SHOONER, 4114 HAMPTON, MONTREAL, CAN. H4A 2K9
- 1537 M. A. SYLVESTRE, 1455 LEPAGE AVENUE, OTTAWA ONTARIO, CAN. K12 8C8
- 1538 ING. ZDENEK TEXTL, NA ZAVADILCE, JAROMER, CZECHOSLOVAKIA 783 551

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LEGEND AND NOTICE

Those members having one asterisk (*) in front of their name are patron members. Those having two asterisks (**) in front of their name are honorary members. All others are regular members. Members whose names are preceded by a black dot (•) have been dropped from the roster for non-payment of dues as of April 30 and will receive no further issues of the Specialist unless they pay their dues in full plus a 3 dollar reinstatement fee.

A SOKOL POTPOURRI

The Sokol movement, a gymnastic veil for nationalistic expression during the era of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, has been the source of many articles and lectures since its inception. Its history has been traced through many philatelic items from commemorative stamps and special cancellations to covers, postal stationary, essays and favor sheets. The Specialist itself has devoted two extensive articles to its development and its role in philately - both written by Jiří Nekvasil and both translated by your current editor. (see April 1970 issue, page 56 and Oct. 1971 issue, page 81). The first of these articles contains the following interesting observations:

"On Feb. 14, 1865, an American Sokol unit was organized in St. Louis, Mo. which, after a hundred years, has reached a membership in excess of 250,000 and is one of the most solid and active physical training groups anywhere. Today there are even Sokol organizations in Canada, Australia and elsewhere.

"The initial Sokol meets were manifestations of its intentions and expressions of hope in a free nation. The first meet in 1882 was closely linked with the name of Dr. Miroslav Tyrš. He planned it, organized it and directed it. A small local island on the River Vltava sufficed for the first meet. A total of 720 gymnasts participated, in addition to Sokol athletes from Zagreb and Ljubljana."

More than twenty years before Jiří Nekvasil wrote those two articles, there appeared an interesting assessment of the Sokol Meets and their impact on philately in the *CASOPIS ČESKÝCH FILATELISTŮ* (Journal of Czech Philatelist) on Oct. 9, 1948. In it, Zdenek Kvasnička gave a somewhat emotional overview of these meets in the light of unfolding political events. Though the article itself is no longer timely, it gives some insight into what philately expected of the Sokol and what were some of the hopes and aspirations of topical collectors in those days. More importantly, it was followed directly by a detailed compilation by Antonin Hoza of all Sokol-related material that the Postal Authorities could produce for collectors in that period of time that saw the phenomenal rise of the Sokol as a viable patriotic force.

These two articles by Kvasnička and Hoza respectively have been translated specially for the Fiftieth Anniversary Issue by Vladimír Králíček and edited for this issue by M. L. Vondra.

THE ALL SOKOL MEET - A POSTAL HISTORY

By Zdenek Kvasnička

Translated by Vladimír Králíček

In 1882 when the first Sokol Meet was held there was no propaganda material for the hundreds of thousands of spectators. Yet in that year the foundation stone was firmly laid down for the Sokol thought process. What the Sokol Meets mean to Czechoslovakia today are best appreciated during these times of world economic and political unrest. They serve as our indicators for peace, cooperation and advancement. They are the true path to the fulfillment of Tyrš' legacy for equality and brotherhood. Sokol thinking and the All-Sokol rallies are a national trademark and are known the world over. They are a magnificent display of the moral and physical strength of its founding nation.

The Sokol idea is a purely Slavic concept and it has always had a strong response from Slavic nations. The welcome it gave to the Russian Sokol, to Yugoslavian brothers and to the youth from Bulgaria was in the nature of a national manifestation which nurtured mutual love and respect in the darkest of hours. Even as this article goes to press, the representatives of all Slavic nations are arriving in free Czechoslovakia so they can view the start of a new set of Sokol wings - the eleventh All-Sokol Meet.

Thousand of mementos wind their way into the whole world to remind people of the days that were the happiest for our nation. Even philatelists were given souvenirs in the form of special





stamps, cards and cancellations. The first (1882) to the fifth (1907) Meets left us with no official postal souvenirs. But it is not without keen interest that in 1887 Sokol Praha issued a set of correspondence cards and Sokol Smichov, with the cooperation of its brethren members of our Club, introduced labels which emphasized the equal status of the Czech language. These rare Sokol postal souvenirs are described in the subsequent article. At the sixth Meet in 1912, two special cancellations were used with the text: "Šestý Slet Sokolů Praha - Prag" (Sixth Sokol Meet,

Praha - PRAG). Cancellations had code letters "a,b". The Sixth Meet was the last one in the former Austrian Empire.

The Seventh Meet that followed became the impressive manifestation of its nation's unrestrained strength and determination. The Sokol movement had the lion's share in the battle for nationalism. Toward the end of the Empire when it became necessary to construct a dam against Austrian oppression, it was built by Sokol red shirts. The movement stood at the cradle of the Republic. When it was threatened during its first few days, Sokol units were established to voluntarily defend their hard-earned freedom. Postal souvenirs of these struggles have been preserved in the form of Sokol unit cancellations. Thus the Seventh Meet supplied our collectors with a set of both hand and machine cancellations on the first stamps of the Republic.

For the succeeding Eighth Meet, the Postal Administration was already well prepared and gave us, in addition to special and machine cancellations, a correspondence card and the first issue of special Sokol stamps. Bearing the portrait of President Masaryk from 1923, the stamps were overprinted with a relief cancel and are now some of the rarer items in Czechoslovak philately.

The Ninth Meet held in 1932 attained the peak of publicity and enthusiasm and brought us a whole line of stamps, correspondence cards as well as machine and hand cancellations. The 100th anniversary of the birth of Dr. Tyrš was celebrated at that time and, of course, the stamps showed his portrait. For use on mail to adjacent nations, four picture postcards with printed 1.20 Kčs. stamps and seven picture postcards for domestic use were issued. They were all beautifully designed and pleasing to the eye.

For the Tenth Meet in 1938, postal authorities issued a set of three stamps with a portrait of Jindřich Fügner, who was Tyrš' inseparable companion. The design was by Professor Švabinský and it was obviously a very successful one. For the winter games, two stamps were issued with a picture of a hawk settling on the branch of a tree in the snow-covered Tatras. These stamps were the product of academic painter, Cyril Boudy. The stamps issued were augmented by a series of picture postcards. There were eight of them for the games and eight more for the rally. They were complemented suitably by a set of cancellations.

The postal authorities are preparing for the Eleventh All-Sokol Meet by drawing on the experience of a number of outstanding experts. For, though the Tenth Meet was a memorable one, the Eleventh is planned to be even better. Philatelists in Czechoslovakia, imbued with love for their homeland and the ideals of their Sokol, hope for the fulfillment of those plans.

COLLECTING "SOKOL"

By Antonin Hoza

Translated by Vladimír Králíček

Members and supporters of our Sokol brotherhood have available an assortment of material to compile a varied collection. Such a collection can be divided into four sections:

1. Sokol stamps issued for the various Meets with a Sokol theme.
2. Special hand and machine cancellations for the All-Sokol Meets, for regional and district rallies, for Sokol celebrations, exhibitions and the like.
3. Postal stationary, covers, correspondence cards of Sokol Praha, labels of Sokol Smichov II and correspondence cards issued by the Postal Administration beginning with the

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Seventh Meet.

4. Cards and letters of the fieldpost in Slovakia during 1918-1919 with cancellations of the Sokol military units as well as covers of the Scouts Postal Service addressed to Sokol units and functionaries.

Of these, the special Sokol cancellations are the most numerous. I therefore list them as follows :

- 1912 Praha - VIth All-Sokol Meet
- 1919 Znojmo, Sokol Meet
- 1920 Praha, VIIth All-Sokol Meet
- 1921 Liberec, Sokol Rally
- 1926 Praha, VIIIth All-Sokol Meet
- 1929 Orlová, Sokol Regional Tešín Meet
- 1931 Kopřivnice, Sokol Regional Meet
- 1932 Praha, IXth All-Sokol Meet
- Praha 14 Exhibition
- 1934 Kolín 1., 50th anniversary of the Sokol Tyrš Foundation
- Opava 1., Sokol Regional Meet
- Vimperk, Sokol Meet
- Ústí nad Labem, Sokol Regional Meet
- 1935 Mor. Ostrava 9, Sokol Day of the Ostrava District
- Tábor, Sokol Regional Meet - blue
- Semily, Sokol Jubilee Rally, Krkonoše District
- 1936 Liberec 1., 50 years of Sokol
- Orlova, Sokol Rally
- Chrát u Chrudimě, 50 years of Sokol,
- 1886-1936
- Turč. Sv. Martin, visit of čOS
- Trenčín, visit of čOS
- Spišská Nová Ves, visit of čOS
- Prešov, visit of čOS
- Košice 1., visit of čOS
- Úžhorod 1., visit of čOS to Carpatho-Ukraine
- 1937 Mistek, 50 years of Sokol, 1887 - 1937
- Blansko, Sokol District Rally
- Vysoké Mýto, Sokol Rally of the East Bohemian Pippich District
- 1938 Sokol Winter games Tatranská Polianka, Nový Smokovec, Tatranská Lomnica, Strbské Pleso, Starý Smokovec
- Praha 1 - Rally Information Service
- Uherský Brod - Sokol Rally of the Komenský District
- Praha - Xth All-Sokol Meet
- Dobříš - IIIrd Rally of the Sokol Praha District Scheiner IV. Central schools games for the Xth All-Sokol Xth Meet
- Praha 14 - Exhibition for the Xth All-Sokol Meet
- Praha 36 - Sokol Slavic evening in Žizkov
- 1945 Vysoké Mýto - Sokol Meeting
- Brno 1. - Tyrš' games
- Praha 1. - Tyrš' games
- 1947 Č. Budějovice - Sokol rally of the Hus District
- Klatovy - Sokol Rally of the Šumava District
- Zatec - Sokol Rally of the Sladkov District
- Praha 1. - Pre-Rally physical culture celebration by Czech schools
- Praha - Autopost
- Chrudim 1. - Sokol Rally of the East Bohemian Pippich District
- Frydek 3. - Sokol Rally of the Karlovy District
- Karlovy Vary 1. - Sokol Rally of the Karlovy District
- Ústí nad. Labem - Sokol Rally of the Krušnohorské-Kukaňovy District



- Svoboda Nadx Upou - Sokol rally of the Krkonoše District
 Praha 8 - Arranged Marathon for the XIth All-Sokol Meet
 1948 Tatran, Lomnice, Starý Smokovec, Tatr. Poljanka, Nový Smokovec, Štrbské
 Pleso - Winter games
 Rokytnice n. j.: - Skiing Championships of Adult čOS
 Praha 1. - Rally Headquarters
 Frýdek 1. - Sokol Rally of the Těšín-Cápek District
 Duchcov - Sokol Rally of the Krušnohorské District
 Turnov 1. - Sokol Rally of the Ještěd District
 Praha - XIth All-Sokol Meet

In addition to these special cancellations, a set of sixteen pictorial postcards was issued for internal use bearing the 1.50 kčs. (1.60) printed stamp of President Beneš. There were two printings of the set: The first is in light brown, the stamp is less marked and the left half is dark, the paper is smudged with printing color and the heading and line are weakly printed. The second is in dark brown - almost the same color as the cards for foreign usage of the 3 kčs. (3.10). The stamp is clear along the left half, paper is clean and yellow-brown in color with the heading and line in bold print. There are pronounced differences in the two printings.

Printing I.

1. Group leader to right of the dividing line
- 2a. Spot under "2" is retouched
- 2b. Armchair rest is white
3. Flagpole is nearer the dividing line
4. Partial flagpole
5. As above in no. 3
6. As above in no. 3
7. First pupils line up away from the dividing line
8. Inner wheel closer to the dividing line
- 9a. First line up consists of 2 1/2 "May" circles; second line 3 1/2 "May" circles
- 9b. Small curve in the lower right corner
- 10.
- 11a. Right rope nearer the dividing line
- 11b. Back rope in the upper right corner
12. "May" circle tight by the upper border
- 13a. Three chimneys in the upper right corner
- 13b. Two hands not present at the dividing line
14. First flagbearer closer to the dividing line
15. Part of the cross near the dividing line
16. The lamp is not present in the lower right border

Printing II.

1. Group leader to right of the dividing line
- 2a. Under the fig. "2" is a spot, as with card 3.- (3.10)
- 2b. Armchair rest is black
3. Flagpole is farther from the dividing line
4. Flagpole is complete
5. Same as in no. 3
6. Same as in no. 3
7. First line of pupils nearer the dividing line
8. Inner wheel is further away from the dividing line
- 9a. First line up consists of 3 1/2 "May" circles; second line 4 1/2 "May" circles
- 9b. Long curve in the lower right corner
- 10.
- 11a. Right rope is away from the dividing line
- 11b. Back rope in the upper right corner is retouched
12. "May" circle lower in the upper border
- 13a. Five chimneys in the right upper corner
- 13b. Two hands present at the dividing line

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

14. First flagbearer further away from the dividing line
15. Cross by the dividing line is complete
16. Lamp is present in the lower right corner

For foreign use, eight pictorial postcards were issued with a printed value of 3 kčs. (3.10) of which five are repeats of the first printing of the 1.50 kčs. (1.60). New themes were used for cards 5, 7 and 8. Following are some differences between these cards and the ones for domestic use :

- 1a. Spot in upper left corner, as with no. 2 (printing II)
- 1b. Pupils' white trousers are not visible.
2. Tree is further away from the dividing line than with no. 16 (I and II).
3. First flagbearer on the right has a complete leg while on no. 14 (I and II) only part of the leg is visible.
4. As with no. 13 (II).
5. Does not occur with printing I and II
- 6a. Right rope is closer to the dividing line than on no. 11 (I).
- 6b. Rope in the upper right corner is retouched, as with 11 (II).
7. & 8. Does not occur with printing I and II.

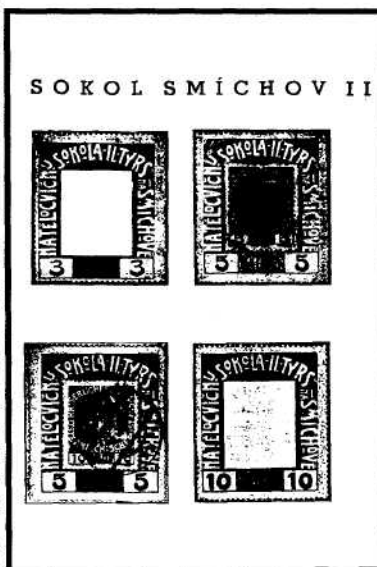
There was only one printing done for use abroad.

In compiling these lists, I examined the two uniform borders which form the upper horizontal line and the dividing line on the right. As far as the individual cards in each printing are concerned, there are far too many differences between them to be listed, nor are they critical for distinguishing between the printings themselves. We recommend using the pictorial correspondence cards inasmuch as they are sold at the same price as the ordinary ones.

As noted earlier, Sokol Praha and Sokol Smichov II issued their own publicity material.

In 1887, Sokol Praha issued some of the first picture cards in Austria that carried bilingual inscriptions. One was the Czech language text "Korespondenční Listek" with the inevitable German language text in small print because the Czech patriots did not wish to use the German-Czech cards. With these cards they "helped" Austrian postal authorities advance their cause of nationalism and propagate the equality of the Czech language as can be noted in the upper right corner of the address side. On the reverse side is a picture of Sokol Praha flagbearer Vanáče, busts of Dr. Tyrš, Jindřich Fügner and Dr. Grégra, a statue of a Sokol athlete, Prague's coat of arms, coat of arms of the Czech crown lands and of the lands which formerly belonged to it and pictures of Karlstejn, Kokořín and Říp (cards 1, 2 and 3). Austrian officialdom had prohibited their usage and the cards were excluded from service by handwritten notation. I still have a card from Klatov dated Nov. 17, 1887 with the following in blue pencil: "Not allowed return Klattau verte". On the other side beneath the picture appear in clear framed print the words "For the benefit of the Sokol Praha Jubilee Fund."

Sokol Smichov II used a slightly different approach. It countered the Austrian Jubilee stamps of 1908 with a series of labels which were produced in similar colors and bore the inscription "For the gymnasium of Sokol II Tyrš in Smichov, 3 heller" (5 and 10 heller). The effect of this was that it weakened the impact of the Austrian Jubilee stamps. Thanks to publicity in German newspapers and the vehement intervention by German deputies in Vienna's Parliament, the labels sold out very quickly. At the outset, the post offices accepted mail with the Sokol labels which for a limited time aided in a small but deserving way the work of the Sokol in awakening and strengthening the Czech movement. But as time passed, the labels were outlawed. Very few postally-used covers or letters with these labels have been preserved, so naturally they are very rare.



NOMINATING BALLOT

On page 15 of the April issue appeared a ballot to be filled out by each member for nominations of candidates to the Board of Directors. Every member in good standing (those being dropped from the Membership Roster for non-payment of dues are excluded) is expected to cast his nominating ballot.

Those Board members whose terms of office are due to expire the end of this year are : Jay T. Carrigan, Henry Hahn, Frank Julsen, Ludvík Svoboda and Mirko Vondra. They are eligible for reelection and therefore may be nominated at the member's option.

Those Board members whose terms of office do not expire until the end of 1991 are : Jack Benchik, Charles Chesloe, Edwin Lehecka and Jane Sterba. Do NOT nominate any of them because they are currently in office and your ballot would only be wasted by doing so.

Since only three ballots have been completed and received by either President Chesloe or Secretary Sterba to date, the deadline for nominations is extended to May 31. If no further ballots are received by then, the Society may cease to function by the end of this year.

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MAY 1989

INDYPEX 1989 PROSPECTUS

SEPTEMBER 15-16-17, 1989
CONVENTION CENTER 500 BALLROOM
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Indiana Postal History Society Annual Meeting American Philatelic
Society Table

EXHIBITORS:

1. Any collector may enter an exhibit. All material in the exhibit must be property of the exhibitor.
2. Joint exhibits may be entered only by immediate family members in the same household.
3. Junior exhibitors must be under age 21 on the day the show opens.
4. Exhibitor's names are not printed in the program, but are mentioned at the banquet, on the awards list, and in post-show publicity. To remain anonymous, please advise.

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1. There is a minimum of 3 frames and a maximum of 10 frames per adult exhibit. The junior minimum is 1 frame.
2. A frame contains 16 pages (regular 8 1/2 X 11 size) mounted 4 rows of 4, or 12 Scott or other oversize pages. INDYPEX has the aluminum AMERIPEX type frames.
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1. A jury of A.P.S. accredited judges and apprentices will be appointed.
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3. The Grand Award recipient must compete in the A.P.S.'s "Champion of Champions" World Series of Philately. The Indiana Stamp Club will provide the STAmPshOw entry fee.
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THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

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5. Mailed exhibits must arrive by September 6.
6. Return will be by US First Class Mail insured for \$500 unless otherwise directed.
7. The Exhibit Directors will administer the exhibition; they may accept, modify, or reject entries, and will supervise mounting and removal of exhibits.

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Jim Adams, Debbie Nicoll, Wilma Wallace, Bob Zeigler -- Exhibit Directors

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SEPTEMBER 15-16-17, 1989

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