

THE COLLECTORS TRADE FAIR IN THE GOLDEN CITY OF PRAGUE

The historical capital city of the Czech Republic is attracting more and more foreign visitors. Many of them come to important events, such as the international Collectors trade fair which is devoted mainly to philately, postcards and numismatics, and also to telephone cards, minerals, precious stones and other collectable items. The trade fair with its subtitle 'An East – West Meeting of Collectors' has become the largest collectors' event in central and eastern Europe and is held under the patronage of the Union of Czech Philatelists, the Czech Post Office and the Czech Numismatic Society.

This year's eighth annual trade fair will be held in Výstaviště in Prague 7 from 16th until 18th September. More than two hundred postal authorities, mints, dealers and collectors from 40 countries will be exhibiting at it. Last year the trade fair attracted more than 12 000 visitors. The fair is open to the public on Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m., on Sunday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. The entrance fee is 60 CZK (2 Euros), entry is free of charge for women. Tickets will also be valid for the Antikvariát Praha (Prague Antiquarian Bookshops) trade fair being held at the same time.

In philately, in addition to the Czech Post and all the leading Czech dealers, visitors can also expect postal authorities from Italy, Switzerland, North Korea, San Marino, Cyprus, Russia, Portugal, Slovakia, Australia, Ireland, the UN and other countries. Dealers from Germany, Bulgaria, Great Britain, Poland, Argentina, Lithuania, Switzerland, Slovenia, Croatia, Belarus, Turkey, Austria, Slovakia, Holland, and Romania will also be exhibiting. Special cancellations, postcards or R-labels will be available at a number of postal services' stands. Saturday at the trade fair is declared WWF Day and Sunday is traditionally United Nations Day.

In numismatics there will be exhibits by mints from Great Britain, Hungary, the Chinese People's Republic, Slovakia, Finland, Norway, Austria, Australia, Canada, Holland, Spain, Romania, the Czech Republic, France, Singapore, Germany, South Africa, Switzerland and Cameroon. As well as Czech dealers, dealers from France, Germany, Poland, Lithuania, Bulgaria, Greece, Russia, Belarus, Romania, Austria, Slovakia, Holland and other countries will be offering their merchandise at the fair.

Dealers in minerals and precious stones from the Czech Republic, Germany, India, Russia, Poland and Zambia will have exhibition stands.

Telephone cards will be offered at the Prague trade fair not only by Czech exhibitors but also by exhibitors from Poland, Bulgaria, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Japan, Russia, Belarus, Slovakia, Romania, Croatia, Turkey, France and the Chinese People's Republic. The Chinese company, China Satcom, has issued 400 copies of a telephone card for the exhibition.

As far as other collectable items are concerned, visitors are sure to be interested in the exhibits of old postcards, sugar packets, model cars, Kinder egg figures, and badges, as well as film posters at the Canadian company Cineimages' stand.

In all areas of collection visitors to the Collectors trade fair will be able to use the free expert and advisory service. You can find details about the trade fair, including a list of exhibitors, at the internet address <http://www.sberatel.info>.

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