

THE CZECHO-SLOVAK SPECIALIST



OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE
THE CZECHO-SLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

Vol. 2

January 1940

No. 1

Chipex Prepares Hearty Welcome For Society Members at Convention

A personal invitation to all members of the Society to attend the Chipex, Chicagoland philatelic exhibition and bourse, has been extended by Fred W. Peters, the Society's first vice president and chairman of the mammoth Chicago show. The place is the Hotel La Salle, and the date, February 16, 17 and 18.

At the same time Mr. Peters asks that all members who are intending to exhibit personally, or reserve bourse space, should write him as soon as possible.

Special attention will be paid by the Chipex committee to all members of The Society who are attending the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society's convention, which will be held in conjunction with the big exhibition. Special rooms for meetings are being arranged, and many plans are being made to make the visitors' program a full and interesting one.

As announced last month The Society's exhibition will be 20 frames. They will be given a prominent spot in the show, which will consist of about 600 frames and which (with the bourse) will take up practically the entire mezzanine floor of the La Salle.

Last month it was promised that the souvenir exhibition sheet, which will be one of the features of the Society's participation in Chipex, at Chicago, Feb. 16, 17 and 18, would be ready in January.

However, due to various changes in the design and the necessity of hav-

ing cuts made, it was impossible to have them ready on time. With the February issue each member will receive one of these sheets, printed on special paper and limited to the organization's actual membership.

The Central Federation of Stamp Clubs of Chicago will also produce an attractive seal, which has been termed one of the most beautiful that has been seen in this line. The seals will be sold for five cents apiece and may be obtained by writing to Chipex, Room 430, 230 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill.

DEADLINE ON DUES NEARS, TREAS. GREENAWALT SAYS

Mrs. Mildred Glawe, member No. 18, of Chicago, receives credit for being the first member of The Society to pay the 1940 dues. Mrs. Glawe's dues arrived at Treasurer Greenawalt's home on New Year's Day.

To those who have neglected sending their remittances to Mr. Greenawalt, remember that Jan. 31 is the "deadline." As announced last month, dues are \$2, and for all members who joined between June 30, 1939 and Dec. 31, 1939, \$1. Associate members' dues are \$2.

Mr. Greenawalt's address is: 2301 Cathedral Ave., N. W., Washington, D. C.

Officers of the Czecho-Slovak Philatelic Society of North America

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

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Editor, The Specialist: Tod Raper,
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EXPERT COMMITTEE

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W. G. Slocum, 32 Sixth Ave., Room
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New Issue Service (Bohemian-Mor-
avia)—C. J. Pearce, 2833 N. W. 13th
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Advertising Rates

	One	Six	Twelve
Insertion	Insertions	Insertions	Insertions
1 Page .	\$5	\$4.50	\$4.00
1/2 Page .	\$4	\$3.50	\$3.00
1/4 Page .	\$2.75	\$2.25	\$2.00
1/8 Page .	\$1	.85	.75
1/16 Page.	.85	.75	.50

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

NEW MEMBERS

No. 54 Frank Stern, 7017 34th Av.,
Jackson Heights, N. Y.

No. 55 Felix Brunner, 166 West 87
St., New York, N. Y.

No. 56 Ernest Berka, c/o J. W.
Lowey, 201 Marcy Place,
Bronx, N. Y.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

No. 49 Emil Burger, 210 West 49th
St., New York, N. Y.

SOCIETY ADDS WELL-KNOWN COLLECTORS AS MEMBERS

Felix Brunner, who has just joined
The Society, is a well known dealer-
collector from former Czechoslovakia,
with offices at Prague.

He is a specialist of the 1919 over-
prints and is owner of a collection of
early Austrian postmarks which is
one of the finest in the world. Mr.
Brunner has received large gold med-
als at the WIPA and PEXIP exhibi-
tions. At last year's Praga he was
asked to show his collection in the
Court of Honor, and was awarded
with a gold medal and a valuable tro-
phy donated by the Czechoslovakia
Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs.

Ernest Berka, The Society's newest
member, is also of Prague and has
taken temporary residence in this
country, due to the war. He should
be well-known to the majority of our
specialist-members by reputation
since he not only owns what is ack-
nowledged to be the largest and finest
collection of Czechoslovak issues, but
also because of the dominating com-
mercial position he held in Czechoslo-
vakia, being the president of one of
the largest industrial organizations of
Bohemia.

SAVE YOUR ENVELOPE

The January issue of The Specialist
was franked to members with the
little-used 1½ cent lengthwise coils.
In the future these stamps will be
used whenever possible.

APPLICATION REJECTED

For the protection of stamp dealers
in Hollywood and California, The
Specialist wishes to announce that the
dealer who last month was announc-
ed as having his membership applica-
tion turned down by The Society, was
Milo Barry. Mr. Barry has been black-
listed by the American Stamp Deal-
ers' Association.

Adlets

WANTED TO BUY: Copy of
the Hirsh-Franek Handbook, the
"Czechoslovak Stamps." Write
John Velek, Box 66, Riverdale, Ill.

THE "HRADCANY" ISSUE OF CZECHO-SLOVAKIA OF 1918

By J. W. LOWEY

Reprinted from The American Philatelist, Vol. 52, Nos. 6, 7.)

(Continued from last month)

In casually glancing at the stamps of the first issue we are just seeing what looks like a large complex of houses and towers, known as "Hradcany Castle," seat of powerful Bohemian Kings of Middle ages, the view framed by various ornaments which seem to have been put there by the designer in order to fill up spaces. However these various ornaments have a distinctive meaning and are known and dear to every Czecho-Slovak.

In order to obtain an explanation let us listen to an interview given by Alfons Mucha to the historian Jaroslav Orlicky, a few months after the stamp had been issued.

Said Alfons Mucha:

"Why I decided upon Hradcany Castle as the symbol for our first postal issue?"

"Now, every nation has a palladium of its own embodying the past and future history. Ever since my boyhood I felt and saw in the architectural lines of the St. Vitus Cathedral, built close to the Castle a powerful interpretation of our national symbol. I could therefore not choose any other subject for my design than the Hradcany Castle and surrounding architecture of Middle Ages."

Pointing to one of several sketches and designs on a table in front of the two men, Mucha continued:

"Do you see the small leaves in the upper corners? These are Slavic symbols. We Czechs, Moravians, Silesians and Slovaks have survived centuries of oppression. The small budding leaves are the eternal expression of our ever blooming and awakening national life. The somewhat larger central leaf may be symbolical of Bohemia, being learned upon by the smaller leaves, representing the four other provinces of our country."

"Notice the two little roosters in the lower corners. They express and pronounce the coming of a new day,—the hope for a glorious future of our nation."

"The small hearts, grouped around the value oval are the expression of

our love for peace among ourselves and towards other nations.

"As to the central motif, the cathedral of St. Vitus,—was not its founder, St. Vitus, Bishop of the Slav tribes which lived along the banks of our large river Labe centuries ago?"

As to the sketches, leading up to the final design we behold: (Editor's note: As it is impossible at this time to obtain the original sketches for reproduction, we can only refer you to back numbers of the American Philatelist, Vol. 52, Nos. 6, 7 and 8)

Figure 3: The contours of the Cathedral of St. Vitus. Above the inscription "Posta." The ornaments have not yet been worked out in detail but in the lower left hand corner there already appears one of the little roosters.

Figure 4: A detailed study of the main tower of the cathedral. This sketch, or better said the almost finished detail was not very much improved before the final incorporation into the design.

Figure 5: Cupola of St. Nicholas church, situated near the St. Vitus cathedral and in the finished design found on the right side of the cathedral rising above the foliage.

Figure 6: Parts of the border ornaments and rough sketch of the entire design.

Students of detail were fairly amazed, when the set appeared, noticing a rising sun behind the cathedral. Though the rays of the sun are not noticeable very well in every instance, they can be seen clearly on items which show a stronger impression of the plate. The thing that baffled those who knew the geographical position of the design, was, that the sun was rising behind the cathedral instead of descending, since the scenery depicted is the western part of the horizon. Mucha wishing to symbolize the dawn of a new day for the republic simply made use of "artistic liberty" and placed the sun in the opposite direction.

In the re-engravings beginning with Type III the sun was omitted from the design.

MINT CZECHOSLOVAKIA MINT

I FILL WANT LISTS FOR COLLECTORS WHO SPECIALIZE IN THIS COUNTRY

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