

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

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CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

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Editor Frank Kovarik, 2502 So. Kedzie Ave., Chicago, Ill.

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EDITORIAL

Another year is closing. As the year ends we realize that our life span has shortened another twelve months. What have we accomplished in the past year? As your editor for the past nine months, we believe we have given you money's worth. Hard times are ahead, as the enclosed letter from our editor shows. There are some of us who can afford to kick in with an extra buck; yes, and some of us can afford to throw in a little more. With the approbation of the board we are permitted to promise associate members the complete annual file of the Specialist mailed flat and to patron members the complete volume bound. While we agree the Society is making money in the deal, you must admit you are getting information on Czech stamps you couldn't obtain elsewhere. Give us a hand and we promise you you'll not regret it! The more money the treasurer collects, the more we can afford to spend in printing valuable information on stamps we all love to collect. Then—Don't forget UNCLE SAM! He needs your money to equip those who are fighting our battles. Spend more than you can afford for War Bonds and War Stamps. The more you spend for Bonds, the more fats you conserve, the more of your metal and rubber you throw into the scrap pile—the sooner will the war end, liberating us from the impending danger of fascism and nazism and liberating the country whose stamps we treasure far above their monetary value!

SALES AND EXCHANGE DEPARTMENT

The executive board has ordered me to enforce rule #8. Books should not be kept longer than 10 days. Any member violating this rule will be automatically dropped from the 1st. This is in the interest of the members. The circuits now are almost 9 months on their way, which is much too long and this keeps members from sending in material for sale. Members absent from home should empower someone to open the package and have the books mailed on to the next member on the route sheet. If you have no time to take care of the circuit, do not hold it but send it on to the next member. This will speed up the circulation, more stamps will be sent for entry into the circuits and everybody will be happy. Any member who has duplicates for sale, please mount them in books which I can supply at 2c each plus postage and send them to me for circulation.

Wolfgang Fritzsche,
Box 175, Valley Stream, N. Y.

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A. N. Weiner, 5056½ N. Kenmore
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NEW MEMBER

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Buy MORE War Bonds than you can AFFORD!

The Plebiscite Stamp Issues for Eastern Silesia

By Vincent Domanski, Jr.
Member #46

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Eastern Silesia, known as CIESZYN to Poles and TESCHEN to Czechs, is a region straddling the Polish-Czech frontier about halfway along the deekle edge of Northern Czechoslovakia. It is an area of about 850 square miles, with a population of 450,000.

CIESZYN is important because it is rich in coke and gas coal deposits, the best in Europe, used both by Poland and Czechoslovakia and had long been a source of controversy between the two nations. Also it is a corridor for two great trans-European rail routes linking Vienna and Budapest with Berlin and Warsaw.

As far back as the Ninth Century the kings of Poland and Bohemia clashed frequently over Cieszyn, but in 1335 A. D. the Polish crown relinquished it in favor of Bohemia. (the western end of what is or was modern Czechoslovakia), whence it passed to Austria after the Hapsburgs gained the Bohemia throne. Through the years, however, the population remained predominantly Polish, although there were substantial settlements of Germans and Czechs.

So we come to 1920—Czechoslovakia and Poland had been allies and friends in the World War, yet both claimed this region of Cieszyn. Poland's claim was racial. The inhabitants of the area were more than 65 per cent Polish. Czechoslovakia's claim was historical, the fact that Cieszyn was an integral part of the old kingdom of Bohemia, which, said the Czechs, never ceased to exist though it was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The Czech population, however, was not over 25 per cent. From the 10 percent German population came yet another demand, for an independent neutral state, a demand which stressed the economic unity of the region and the danger which would follow disruption or partition between Poland and Czechoslovakia. Three arguments all on different bases. All are plausible from their varying points of view. After the World War I, the Peace Conference at Versailles, had innumerable disputes to settle and decide. To properly settle such disputes a Council of Ambassadors was set up.

To this Council of Ambassadors, representatives of Poland and Czechoslovakia came to present their cases, with regard to each country's claim over Cieszyn. The Council of Ambassadors at Paris was not, as we know, composed of Solomons. It rejected the German autonomy proposal and ordered a plebiscite. Thus an agreement was entered into by the parties concerned and the decision was to await the results of a plebiscite to be held July 28, 1920. On Feb. 15, 1920, the duly appointed commission to administer and conduct the plebiscite arrived in the city of Cieszyn and with the co-operation of the Czechs and Poles commenced their work. This plebiscite commission was also known as the "Oesterreichisch-Schlesien Kommizsion." Both the Polish and Czechoslovakian governments complied with the requests of the commission to furnish postage stamps for this region. Each government had its current stamps in use at that time surcharged with the required letters S and C, initials of "Silesia Orientale" and with the year date, 1920. Disorders reigned in the months which followed. There were two large strikes, first by the Czech miners, then by the Polish miners, both of which were quelled. Each nation sent troops into the area, and soon it was divided by barbed wire, sentries, and custom stations. The Czechs, however, took advantage of Poland's pre-occupation with the Soviet Union in the war of 1920, which brought the Bolsheviks almost to the very gates of Warsaw, to seize Cieszyn for themselves. Bad feelings were generated by this action of Czechoslovakia. Two kindred and neighbor nations, which badly needed each other's friendship and support, parted and remained aloof from each other. Then the Council of Ambassadors at Paris abandoned the idea of further conducting the scheduled plebiscite to take place July 28, 1920. Instead it approved the partition of Cieszyn. The dividing line ran through the middle, even cutting the town of Cieszyn so that, while the town proper went to Poland, the Oderberg-Jablunkov railway went to Czechoslo-

TYPE 4. Without sun. Shaded foliage in foreground.

SURCHARGED in BLACK

20 60 Haleru Orange
21 1000 Haleru Violet

SURCHARGED in RED

22 60 Haleru Orange
23 80 Haleru Olive Green
a. inverted surcharge
24 300 Haleru Green
a. inverted surcharge

SURCHARGED in BLUE

25 60 Haleru Orange
26 1000 Haleru Violet

TYPE 5. Lettering thinner. No foliage in foreground. Positions of buildings changed.

SURCHARGED in BLACK

27 5 Haleru Blue Green
a. inverted surcharge
28 10 Haleru Red
a. inverted surcharge
29 25 Haleru Violet
a. inverted surcharge
30 50 Haleru Blue
a. inverted surcharge
31 500 Haleru Red Brown
a. inverted surcharge

SURCHARGED in RED

32 50 Haleru Blue
33 75 Haleru Slate gray
a. inverted surcharge
34 120 Haleru Dark gray
a. light gray
35 500 Haleru Red Brown

SURCHARGED in BLUE

36 500 Haleru Red Brown

The 500 and 1000 Haleru denominations, with the portrait of President Thomas C. Masaryk, were overprinted in red and purple, respectively, for use but not issued to the public, having arrived too late.

SURCHARGED in RED

SO

19 20

37 500 Haleru Slate, grayish

SURCHARGED in PURPLE

38 1000 Haleru Dark brown, br'nish

STAMPS OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA

(1918-1920) Perforated and Unwatermarked

TYPE 1. White lettering on colored background.

Perforated 11½ and 14 and Black Surcharge

39 5 Haleru Yellow Green

TYPE 2. Lettering colored on white background.

Perforated 11½ and 14 and Red Surcharge.

40 200 Haleru Ultramarine

TYPE 3. Lettering Czechoslovakia through center design, etc.

Perforated 13½ and Black Surcharge
41 Haleru Brown

Perforated 13½ and Red Surcharge

42 1 Haleru Brown
43 50 Haleru Violet

TYPE 4. Without Sun. Shaded foliage in foreground.

Perforated 11½ and Blue Surcharge
44 50 Haleru Orange
Perforated 11½ and Red Surcharge
45 60 Haleru Orange.

TYPE 5. Lettering thinner. No foliage in foreground. Positions of buildings changed.

SURCHARGED in BLACK

Perforated 11½

46 5 Haleru Blue Green
a. perf. 14 or 13½
47 10 Haleru Yellow green
a. perf. 14 or 13½
48 15 Haleru Red
a. Perforated 14 or 13½
b. Compound perforated 13½x11½
49 20 Haleru Rose carmine
(only perf. 13½)

50 25 Haleru Violet
51 30 Haleru Red Violet

SURCHARGED in BLUE

Perforated 11½

52 30 Haleru Red Violet

SURCHARGED in RED

Perforated 11½

53 50 Haleru Blue

SPECIAL DELIVERY STAMPS OF 1920 OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Imperforate and Yellow Paper

SO

SURCHARGE

19 20

SURCHARGED in BLUE

54 2 Haleru Red Violet
55 5 Haleru Yellow Green

SURCHARGED in BLACK

56 2 Haleru Red Violet
57 5 Haleru Yellow Green

These above come perforated and are thus of private origin not officially made. Surcharges on white paper are reported to be counterfeits.

CZECHOSLOVAKIAN POSTAGE DUE STAMPS OF 1920 IMPERF.

Surcharge SO
1920

SURCHARGED in BLUE

58 5 Haleru Deep Bistre
59 10 Haleru Deep Bistre
60 15 Haleru Deep Bistre
61 20 Haleru Deep Bistre
62 25 Haleru Deep Bistre
63 30 Haleru Deep Bistre
64 40 Haleru Deep Bistre
65 50 Haleru Deep Bistre

SURCHARGED in RED

66 100 Haleru Dark Brown
67 500 Haleru Sea Green
68 1000 Haleru Purple

vakia, along with the valuable coal mines. Although Poland accepted that settlement, many Poles had not forgotten nor forgiven the "rape," as they called it, of Cieszyn and vowed they never would be content. They kept their vow. One of the conditions of the dreadful Munich pact and agreement was the return of Cieszyn to Poland by Hitler. This was done on Oct. 2, 1938, which was the next day after the first German advance into Czechoslovakia. Thus, shamefully, Poland took advantage of a crisis to seize it all. Czech sentiment ran high. Since that time it has smoldered and once again we hope that, in the peace to follow this horrible World War II, a really fair and true adjustment of this region will be decided on for all times and peoples. Chief concern to the philatelist is the postal administration in this region, for no doubt it was during this short period that many interesting and scarce postage stamps came into existence. Standard catalogues list these stamps as true plebiscite varieties, which raises the question if they really were such. Since the plebiscite was never held, you can choose for yourself if they should. I myself classify these stamps as provisionals of Cieszyn.

These stamps issued and overprinted for Cieszyn were in two series: those on Polish stamps and the others on Czechoslovakian stamps. Stamps of Poland current in 1920 were surcharged at Warsaw, by the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs on ten different denominations: 5, 10, 15, 25 and 50 fennigi, the overprint in black in two lines, and the 1, 1½, 2, 2½, and 5 Korona, overprinted also in black but in one line. At the Postal Printing Works of Czechoslovakia at Prague, the overprinting was done on a larger scale. Many denominations of current postage stamps were overprinted in different ways and in three colors—black, blue and red. It is likewise noted that the Czechs furnished the commission their special delivery stamps of two separate denominations, 2 and 5 haleru, overprinted in black and blue; postage due stamps, eleven denominations with black overprint. Both these series were put on sale at all the post offices in the region under the supervision of the Plebiscite Commission on May 15, 1920, and remained until Aug. 5, 1920, after which date these stamps were dis-

continued and became demonetized. The actual number of stamps overprinted by both governments was never revealed. However, it is estimated that the numbers were very small, varying from a few hundred to not more than 50,000 of any denomination. There were no postal cards or revenue stamps issued. All perforated copies of all imperforated issues not listed below are of private origin and have no value. Many counterfeits exist and my warning is that you should be careful from whom you purchase these stamps.

FIRST SERIES

Stamps of Czechoslovakia (1918-1920) Imperforate and Unwatermarked

TYPE 1. White lettering on colored background.

SO
1920

SURCHARGE 1920 in BLACK

- | | | |
|----|-----------|-----------------------|
| 1 | 3 Haleru | Red Violet |
| | | a. double surcharge |
| | | b. inverted surcharge |
| 2 | 5 Haleru | Yellow green |
| 3 | 10 Haleru | Rose |
| 4 | 20 Haleru | Blue Green |
| | | a. inverted surcharge |
| 5 | 25 Haleru | Blue |
| | | a. inverted surcharge |
| | | b. gray blue |
| | | c. ultramarine |
| 6 | 40 Haleru | Orange |
| | | SURCHARGED in BLUE |
| 7 | 25 Haleru | Blue |
| 8 | 40 Haleru | Orange |
| | | SURCHARGED in RED |
| 9 | 25 Haleru | Ultramarine |
| 10 | 30 Haleru | Bistre |
| | | a. inverted surcharge |

TYPE 2. Lettering colored on white background.

SURCHARGED in BLACK

- | | | |
|----|------------|-----------------------|
| 11 | 100 Haleru | Brown |
| | | a. inverted surcharge |
| 12 | 200 Haleru | Ultramarine |
| | | a. inverted surcharge |
| 13 | 400 Haleru | Purple |
| | | SURCHARGED in RED |
| 14 | 200 Haleru | Ultramarine |
| 15 | 400 Haleru | Purple |

TYPE 3. Lettering Czechoslovakia through center design. Sun behind Cathedral. Colorless foliage in foreground.

SURCHARGED in BLACK

- | | | |
|----|-----------|-----------------------|
| 16 | 1 Haleru | Brown |
| | | a. double surcharge |
| | | b. inverted surcharge |
| 17 | 50 Haleru | Violet |
| | | a. inverted surcharge |
| | | SURCHARGED in RED |
| 18 | 1 Haleru | Brown |
| 19 | 50 Haleru | Violet |

**CZECHOSLOVAKIAN NEWSPAPER
STAMPS OF 1920 IMPERFORATED**

		surcharged	SO 1920
		SURCHARGED in BLACK	
69	2 Haleru	Gray Green	a. inverted surcharge
70	6 Haleru	Red	
71	10 Haleru	Dull Violet	
72	20 Haleru	Blue	
73	30 Haleru	Gray Brown	

Both the postage due and newspaper stamps also have been privately perforated which are not listed as official perforations.

Once in the sheet will be found a new type of the numeral "2" and likewise, on careful observation, varieties of broken numerals and letters, such as opened "O" and flattened top of the large letter "O," broken "9," and missing serifs on the numeral "1."

SECOND SERIES

**STAMPS OF POLAND OF 1919—PERFORATED, UNWATERMARKED PAPER
SURCHARGED in BLACK**

FIRST PRINTING

Overprint in two lines, 9½ mm. spacing between letters S and O and the distance between the letters SO and the year date 1920, 2½ or 3 mm.

- P. 1 5 Fennige OLIVE GREEN, Perforated 10, clean cut, thin hard paper
a. Olive Green, Perforated 11½, clean cut, thin hard paper
b. Olive Green, Perforated 11½, rough cut, thin hard paper
c. Olive Green, Perforated 11½, rough cut, thick hard paper
d. Olive Green, Perf. 10x11½, rough cut, thin hard paper
e. Olive Green, Error Y instead of F.
- P. 2 10 Fennige Lilac Brown, Perforated 10, clean cut, thin hard paper
a. Lilac Brown, Perforated 11½, clean cut, thin hard paper
b. Lilac Brown, Perforated 11½, rough cut, thin hard paper
c. Lilac Brown, Perf. 11½x10
- P. 3 15 Fennige Red or Light Red, Perf. 11½, clean cut, thin hard paper
a. Red or Light Red, Perf. 11½, rough cut, thin hard paper
- P. 4 25 Fennige Olive or Dull Olive, Perf. 11½, clean cut, thin hard paper
a. Olive or Dull Olive, Perf. 11½, rough cut, thin hard paper
b. Olive or Dull Olive, Perf. 11½, clean cut, thick hard paper
- P. 5 50 Fennige Green, Olive, Blue or Dark, Perf. 11½, clean, thin H. paper
a. Green, Olive, Blue or Dark, Perf. 11½, rough, thin H. paper
b. Green, Olive, Blue or Dk., Perf. 11½, rough, thick H. paper
- Overprint being in one line, the spacing being 6 mm. between the letter S and O.
- P. 6 1 Kronen Deep Green, Perforated 11½, clean cut, white wove paper
a. Deep Green, Perf. 10x11½, rough cut, white wove paper
b. Deep Green, Perf. 11½x10, rough cut, white wove paper
- P. 7 1½ Kronen Brown, Perforated 10, clean cut, white wove paper
a. Brown, Perforated 10x11½, rough cut, white wove paper
b. Brown, Perforated 11½x10, rough cut, white wove paper
- P. 8 2 Kronen Dark Blue, Perforated 10, clean cut, white wove paper
a. Dark Blue, Perforated 11½, clean cut, white wove paper
b. Dark Blue, Perf. 11½x10, clean cut, white wove paper
c. Dark Blue, Perforated 10x11½, both rough and clean cut white wove paper
- P. 9 2½ Kronen Violet, Perforated 10, clean cut, white wove paper
a. Violet, Perforated 10x11½, clean cut, white wove paper
b. Violet, Perforated 10x11½, rough cut, white wove paper
- P. 10 5 Kronen Slate Blue, Perforated 10, clean cut, white wove paper
a. Slate Blue, Perf. 10x11½, clean cut, white wove paper
b. Slate Blue, Perf. 11½x10, clean cut, white wove paper
c. Slate Blue, Perf. 10x11½, rough cut, white wove paper
d. Slate Blue, Perf. 11½x10, rough cut, white wove paper

SECOND PRINTING

Overprint in two lines, 8½mm spacing between letters S and O and the distance between the letters SO and year date 1920, 2 mm.

SURCHARGED in BLACK

- P. 11 5 Fennige Olive Green, Perforated 10, clean cut, thin hard paper
a. Olive Green, Perforated 11½, clean cut, thin hard paper
b. Olive Green, Imperforate, thin hard paper
- P. 12 10 Fennige Lilac Brown, Perforated 10, clean cut, thin hard paper
a. Lilac Brown, Perforated 11½, clean cut, thin hard paper
- P. 13 15 Fennige Red, Perforated 10, clean cut, white wove paper
a. Red, Perforated 11½, clean cut, white wove paper
b. Red, Perforated 11½, rough cut, white wove paper
c. Scarlet, Perforated 11½, clean cut, thick white wove paper
d. Scarlet, Perforated 11½, clean cut, grey paper (rare)

- P. 14 25 Fennige Olive, Perforated 11½, clean cut, white wove paper
a. Olive, Perforated 11½, rough cut, white wove paper
- P. 15 56 Fennige Dark Green, Perforated 10, clean cut, white wove paper
b. Dark Green, Perforated 11½, rough cut, white wove paper
- Overprint in one line only, the spacing 5¼mm between the Letter S and O
- P. 16 1 Kronen Dark Green, Perforated 10, clean cut, white wove paper
a. Dark Green, Perf. 10x11½, clean cut, white wove paper
b. Dark Green, Perforated 11½, clean cut, white wove paper
c. Dark Green, Perf. 11½x10, clean cut, white wove paper
- P. 17 1½ Kronen Brown, Perforated 10, clean cut, white wove paper
a. Brown, Perforated 10x11½, clean cut, white wove paper
b. Brown, Perforated 10x11½, rough cut, white wove paper
c. Brown, Perforated 11½, clean cut, white wove paper
- P. 18 2 Kronen Dark Blue, Perforated 11½, clean cut, white wove paper
a. Dark Blue, Perforated 11½, rough cut, white wove paper
b. Dark Blue, Perforated 11½, rough cut, ribbed paper
- P. 19 2½ Kronen Violet, Perforated 11½, clean cut, white wove paper
a. Violet, Perforated 11½, rough cut, white wove paper
b. Violet, Perforated 11½, rough cut, ribbed paper
- P. 20 5 Kronen Slate Blue, Perforated 10, clean cut, white wove paper
a. Slate Blue, Perf. 10x11½, clean cut, white wove paper
b. Slate Blue, Perforated 11½, clean cut, white wove paper

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ENTHUSIASM

We have received from our Canadian member, Mr. C. H. Osbourn, a literal translation from the German of Frederick Leitenberger, a treatise on the cancellations used in Czecho-slovakia. Mr. Osbourn suggests that he may write a series of articles on cancellations if a sufficient number of members is inclined to be interested in this phase of Czechoslovak philately. This series of articles can be not only of interest but of great philatelic value as well. We are confident our members will write to the editor expressing a desire for this series. Of course, articles on stamps shall continue to appear as in the

past. Those members who desire to borrow the manuscript should get in touch with the librarian, Mrs. M. Glawe, 9640 S. Seeley Ave., Chicago, Ill.

AUSTRIA CZECHOSLOVAKIA GERMANY HUNGARY POLAND BALKAN and BALTIC STATES

Always of general interest.

Will fill want lists or send on approval.

References, please!

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