

# THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE  
CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

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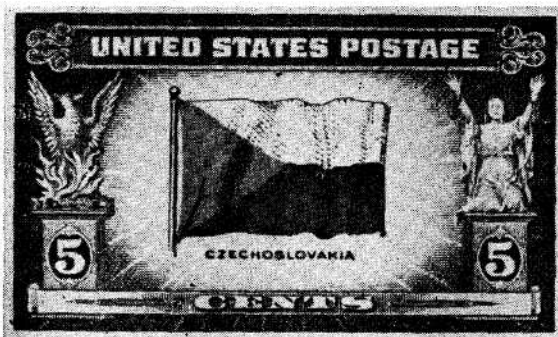
September 1943

No. 7

## THE CZECHOSLOVAK FLAG

Dr. Vladimir Palic, First Secretary of Legation at Washington

Reprinted by permission, from SPA Journal, Aug. 1943 issue



—Courtesy of "Stamps" Magazine

The Czechoslovak flag consists of a red stripe lower field, a white stripe upper field, and a blue triangle wedged between the two, and extending from the left side to the middle of the flag. The colors are taken from the Bohemian flag which is white and red, and from the old Slovak flag which is white, blue, and red.

The new Czechoslovak flag was adopted after 1918, when a special commission was set up to study different proposals for the state flag and the new Czechoslovak coat of arms. In the period of 1918 to 1920 the old Czech flag and in Slovakia the old Slovak flag were used. The parliament finally adopted a law No. 252, on March 30, 1920, which settled the question of the official flag and of the coat of arms.

The minutes of the deliberations of the commission contain the following remarks concerning the flag:

"The state flag should contain those colors which are officially recognized as state colors, i.e., the colors which are contained in the official coat of arms." The Czechoslovak constitution declared in the fifth paragraph the colors, white, blue, and red as official colors of the State.

After different proposals had been discussed, the commission in its session of January 24 decided unanimously that the blue color be placed so as to form a triangle whose base would form one side of the flag, the side near the pole and whose height would be equal to half the length of the flag. The advantages of this solution are the following:

a. The colors form an organic whole and thus they symbolize the indivisibility

- of the State.
- b. The flag by its composition is in accord with accepted principles of esthetics.
  - c. The blue triangle symbolizes the three hills in the Slovak coat of arms.

### OVERRUN NATIONS

For many months, Dame Rumor whispered into the ears of philatelists (and just plain stamp collectors) that United States stamps will again be printed by a private Bank Note Company. A query with the Post Office Department brought an emphatic denial. Despite the denial, the rumor persisted. Not only that but Dame Rumor said the series shall honor the over-run countries of Europe and Asia. Designs by artists were prepared—almost every design honoring Czechoslovakia showed a representation of Lidice, the village which suffered martyrdom of the most cruel sort. Lidice will be remembered forever as the bloody sacrifice which elevated Czechoslovakia into the sainthood of democratic nations; Lidice will be remembered by the devils of oppression as the turning point of their "successes." Men lethargic to the meaning of the struggle in Europe and Asia became cognizant of the fact that such a thing may happen even here, here in our own America. Many re-read "Mein Kampf," the credo and catechism of the devil-inspired theory of Nazism and Fascism; then began to realize that the author may be crazy but also dangerously vicious.

Then announcement was made by the Post Office Department informing stamp collectors that a series of stamps honoring countries overrun by the enemies of democracy in Europe, is to be issued. Confirmation of the rumor that this issue is to be printed by the American Bank Note Company was accompanied by a sort of an explanation that the Bureau of Printing and Engraving is so busy printing bonds and other securities that they have no time for special stamps. In spite of the rotary press, the electric eye, the electrolytic process which in-

creases the life of a plate to many times normal, the presses at the modern establishment which have printed Uncle Sam's postal adhesives since 1894 just couldn't cope with the new issue.

While we are grateful to the P. O. D. for its recognition of the ideals for which this country is at war; while for propaganda purposes we are thankful that Czechoslovakia, the country we so love to collect, is among the nations honored, we cannot but feel that a series of 12 five cent stamps is uncalled for. If each stamp was a different denomination, we are sure we'd like the series better. While in these hard times, knowing our government cannot spurn a penny, we dislike the idea of paying a heavier tax than our neighbor, just because we are crazy about stamps. Of course, we know that the objection may be that a value more frequently used would help more effectively to propagandize the country shown on that particular value; stamps of one denomination nip such an accusation in the bud. Oh, well, we have the stamps, so what? Perhaps Uncle Sam visualizes the complete destruction of our enemies in the near future; he knows we'll want to convey to our friends in these countries that our homeland saw fit to honor them while they were still subject to the very un-Christian cross, the crooked cross, the swastika; by using stamps of Czechoslovakia when writing to our former friends in Prague, Brno, Bratislava, Plzen—yes, even Liberec, Sudeten, Reichenberg. We are sure a plebiscite would show Sudetenland eager to return to a free Czechoslovakia. We know many Sudeten Germans in America who assured us that only a handful followed the Sudeten Quisling, Franck. When writing to our friends in Krakow, Warszawa, Lwow—we'll want to use

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stamps honoring Poland. Likewise, when writing to our friends in Sandweiler or Larochette (where we were stationed with the Army of Occupation after the war "to make the world safe for democracy"), we'll want to use stamps honoring Luxembourg. So, perhaps, these stamps will be the emissaries of friendship, messengers which assure these peoples that Uncle Sam didn't forget them.

Now let us look at the make-up of these stamps.

Two processes of printing have been employed in the manufacture of these stamps. The frames are engraved; the vignette has been produced by the lithographic process. The frame has been printed in sheets of 200 subjects of what the government terms the "special delivery size"; a horizontal rectangle measuring 0.84 by 1.44 inches in dimensions and issued in 50 stamps to the sheet (meaning a Post Office pane). The paper used was white and unwatermarked. There are no stamps with straight edges. Enough space is found between panes to produce almost identical margins all around.

The stamp honoring Poland was issued simultaneously in Washington, D. C. and Chicago, Illinois. It was thought that stamps honoring the other overrun countries may also be issued in other cities besides Washington. Even before the Poland stamp was issued, the stamp editor of the Chicago Sun, Mr. David Lidman, called your editor to help in getting a first day cancellation from Lidice, Ill. This small community was to celebrate its first anniversary; however, it is serviced from the post office at Joliet, Illinois. This was an admirable excuse tendered by the Postmaster General; no post office, no first day from Lidice. It also killed chances for stamps honoring other countries to have an additional first day besides Washington, an arrangement we should be thankful for—if we collect first day covers.

The first stamp of this series honored Poland. As mentioned above these stamps were printed from 200 subject plates. The top left and top right panes featured an inverted "T" printed over stamp #3, in red and blue superimposed one over the other; the word "Poland" appeared above stamp #5, this printed in black. The two lower panes also carried the word "Poland" above stamp #5, but the inverted "T" above stamp #3 did not appear; in-

stead a normal "T" is found below stamp #48. This "T" was a control marking to prevent inverted centers (or inverted frames as some prefer to call them), such as occurred on U. S. stamps in 1869, 1901 and the 24c air mail stamp of 1918. The stamp honoring Czechoslovakia and sold at the Philatelic Agency at Washington as also in other parts of the country, did bear the inverted "T" of the top panes; no bottom panes were seen. This matter had to be looked into and a question addressed to the philatelic agent, Mr. Bell, brought the following reply:

"—reporting that on your recent order for Czechoslovakia stamps no sheet was received showing the "T" shaped registry mark in the lower panes.

"In this connection please be advised that this characteristic appears only in the upper position of the Czechoslovakia stamp. You are further informed that the Norway issue was printed from the lower position only, and the remaining stamps of the series will rotate. In other words the Luxembourg issue will be in the upper position, Netherlands, lower, etc.

"It is hoped the above explanation will clarify the matter for you.

Very truly yours,

James M. Bell

Philatelic Agent."

This reply should be sufficient explanation and we need not look for the bottom "T" on the Czechoslovakia stamp.

It may take some time before we have an accurate account of the varieties appearing on the stamp honoring Czechoslovakia. We take the liberty of copying the following from the weekly "STAMPS."

"Collectors will continue to find varieties of various kinds in the lithographed flags of the Axis-captive nations series, and sheets of the Czechoslovakia subject, recently issued, will show some interesting features. Sheets from a top pane which I have examined show two stamps, numbers 14 and 15, in the third horizontal row with a marked accent affixed to the 'K' in 'Czechoslovakia.' In the same sheet, the identical varieties are found in the same positions in the eighth row, stamps numbers 39 and 40. This repetition of varieties of this kind in the same sheet is frequently customary in lithographed printing.

"I am interested in observing just

what color all will finally settle upon in naming of the shade of the frame designs in this series. In earlier notes here I called the frame a gray blue. Blue is the color internationally adopted by the members of the Universal Postal Union for the 5c stamp (or its equivalent in franking value). Scott's in their chronicle of the Poland stamp designated the frame as blue violet, but in their recent chronicle of the Czechoslovakia stamp (in the same shade), switched to violet blue. The Post Office Department in their official release describe it as purple."

"J. W. Lowey, of New York, reports copies of the new Czechoslovakia issue which shows a small dot of white in the blue of the flag with a blob of ink in the center of the white spot. It appears in a different position on two stamps he has."

We are not sure whether these varieties are constant; we hope to correlate all available information at a later date and publish it for the benefit of our members who have evinced so much interest in this stamp, which may or may not fit into our specialized collections of Czechoslovakia.



—Courtesy of "Stamps" Magazine  
President Roosevelt receiving a sheet of the new stamp honoring Czechoslovakia from Postmaster General Frank Walker in the presence of Vladimír Hruban, Czechoslovak Ambassador to the United States.

#### ROOSEVELT HANDS STAMPS TO CZECHOSLOVAK AMBASSADOR

On July 12, 1943, Ambassador Hruban visited the White House and President Roosevelt presented to him the first sheet of the new American stamps honoring Czechoslovakia. They were placed on sale in Washington as

of this date. Ambassador Hruban then presented to President Roosevelt, the first day cover, No. 1, with the stamp and Washington cancellation as of July 12th. All proceeds of the sale of this first day cover are to go to United Czechoslovak Relief. President Roosevelt extended his thanks for this courtesy and expressed his happiness

that he would have this cover in his stamp collection. Ambassador Hurban then read President Benes' message on the occasion of the distribution of these stamps, which is as follows:

"I am very grateful indeed to the President of the United States and the Postmaster General for issuing a commemorative postage stamp in honor of the Czechoslovak Republic. It will be a visible symbol of Czechoslovakia's struggle for her sacred right, circulating in millions of copies. We Czechoslovaks like especially the rays of freedom and hope with which the artist has surrounded our beloved flag. During the first World War the strongest rays of hope shone from the United States towards Czechoslovakia. The same is happening today. The help and sympathy of the great American democracy is a source of strength and endurance to the people at home and to us, who all over the world are fighting for the cause of the United Nations. I am firmly convinced that the day is approaching when free Americans of Czechoslovak extraction will be able to write a letter to free Czechoslovakia adorned by this stamp. I repeat that we have been deeply moved by this generous thought.

(signed) Dr. Eduard Benes"

Postmaster General Frank C. Walker, Assistant Postmaster Roy North and Secretary of the Czechoslovak Embassy Dr. Vlad. Palic attended the ceremonies of the presentation of these stamps.

#### CZECHOSLOVAKIA STAMP FIRST DAY SALES

The amount of first day sales and cancellations of the 5 cent Czechoslovakia stamp, July 12, 1943, at Washington, D. C., are announced as follows:

Total stamps sold, 617,801—\$30,890.05  
Covers cancelled, 145,112.

#### FIRST DAY COVERS SENT TO MEMBERS

Each member received a first day cover from Washington which was sponsored by Czechoslovak authorities and receipts for these are turned over to the United Czechoslovak Relief.

In the opinion of some of our members this was a mistake. While they agree the motive and purpose is worthy of each member's support yet

they look upon the whole thing as just another "unsolicited approval." While Mr. Lowey was delegated by the Czechoslovak Committee to collect for these covers, we want our members to know Joe did not like the idea either, but it was too late. We trust our members pardon the committee; their desire to help the fund is the only justification for this act.

#### EXHIBITION OF CZECHOSLOVAK STAMPS IN NEW YORK

This exhibition was open to the general public July 14, and was the last act of a series of demonstrations which started when the 5c stamp honoring Czechoslovakia was issued two days previous from Washington, D. C. Visitors were granted the privilege of purchasing a first day cover featuring this stamp. An ordinary cover sold for 25c; a cover autographed by Vladimir Hurban, Ambassador to the United States from the Czechoslovak government, sold for 1 dollar. Proceeds went to the United Czechoslovak Relief Committee.

The exhibition was opened by Mr. Novy, Czechoslovak Consul of New York (Mr. Novy is a member of our Society) and Mr. J. W. Lowey, secretary of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of North America. A musical program featuring Czech music opened the exhibition; Mr. Novy spoke of the value a United States stamp featuring the flag of Czechoslovakia may have in acquainting Americans with what the Czechs in the old country are suffering in the name of democracy. Mr. Lowey's address presented a historical picture of the development of Czech philately beginning with the trek of the Czech Legions across Siberia to Vladivostok; all through they maintained such a fine postal system that the Allies entrusted the mails to them. Then the stamps of the new government in Praha, from the time of the Hradcany issue until the overprint which was a manifestation of the enslavement of the 20 year old republic to the whims and caprices of a paperhanger yclept Adolf Schickelgruber, alias Adolf Hitler. (Lord, may Hitler's murderous reign soon come to an end!) Mr. Lowey's talk was well illustrated with unique items from his personal collection.

The following members exhibited: F. O. Voticky, about 150 large pages of his famous plate block collection, containing all known rarities. A. I.



Kessler, about 100 pages showing specialized Hradcany issue, first airmails on cover and Siberia including the rare parcel post stamps, Alfons Stach, selected pages of designs and proofs. J. Lowey, about 100 large sheets from his collection "Military Postal History of Czechoslovakia." The Czechoslovak Consulate, several beautiful and in the homeland specially built frames containing large blocks and full sheets of various pictorial issues.

The Exhibition was jointly sponsored by the Czechoslovak Information Office and the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of North America.

On the evening of the opening, of the exhibit and the commemorative ceremonies in New York, Consul Hanc was the featured guest of Walter Kanner "The Stamp Man" during his regular weekly broadcast.

Truly, the stamp honoring Czechoslovakia, was brought out with plenty of ceremony. If any member can furnish us with more technical information, we'll gladly publish it.

#### NEW MEMBERS

121. Joseph Strnad, 4343a S. Comp-ton Ave., St. Louis, Mo.
122. Dr. Irvin Neufeld, 229 E. 79th St., New York, N. Y.
123. Archy S. Myers, 7024 Georgian Rd., Philadelphia 38, Pa.
124. F. S. Meisel, Batawa, Ont., Can.
125. Geo. Baltheiser, 78-11 Roosevelt Ave., Jackson Heights, N. Y.

#### Re-instated

126. Frank J. Kaps, 434 Scranton Ave., Lynbrook, L. I., N. Y.

#### CORRECTION

Omitted through error from roster:

61. R. J. Zoudlik, 24-21 Steinway St., Astoria, L. I., N. Y.

#### OUR SERVICE STARS

Your editor tried to keep the members informed of changes of address of our members now in the service of their country. It is almost impossible to keep a correct list—we therefore shall list only the civilian address of the members. The editor promises to send the Specialist not only to the civilian address but also the latest address (military) in his files. We

know of the following members who are serving their country:

- Lt. Col. J. Leo Chapman
- Maj. Wm. Reiner-Deutsch
- Lt. Luther L. L. Dilley
- Lt. R. J. Zoudlik
- P. F. C. Emil J. Michaelson
- P. F. C. Alfred N. Weiner
- Pvt. R. Spofford

If other members are now in the armed forces of the United Nations we'd like to hear from them. Please keep us informed of every change of address; it doesn't cost you a penny and saves us much time and a little money. Time now is very precious.

#### NEW YORK CHAPTER

The opening meeting of the fall season will be held on September 13, 1943, on the premises of the United Stamp Co., 495 Lexington Ave., (opposite Grand Central Palace). Members will please note the date, since they will not be specially notified. There are some important points on the agenda and full attendance is required.

#### CHICAGO CHAPTER

The first regular fall meeting of the Chicago Chapter will take place Sunday, Sept. 12, 1943, at the home of F. J. Kovarik. Nothing special to discuss—just an old-fashioned get-together—this time without members Spofford and Weiner who are now doing their bit for us who are too old to fight.

#### CZECHOSLOVAK FIELD POST IN ENGLAND

On July 24th, the secretary received a letter from the Chief Postmaster of the Czech Army stating that the 3 shipments mailed (and mentioned in a previous issue of the Specialist) have been returned by the British authorities with the explanation that bulk shipments of philatelic material is not permitted outside the British Isles. Wanting to compensate members who are interested in the Army postmark he requested the secretary to send him a list of the respective members. This list has been mailed to the Postmaster and it is possible that some material is either on the way or has already been received by these members.

# Thomas Garigue Masaryk

by J. W. Lowey

Reprinted with permission from "Covers," May, 1943

If we look at the various portraits of President Masaryk on the stamps of Czechoslovakia we realize that we here are looking at a man whose face spells kindness and high intellect.

It would be impossible within the scope of this article to tell the complete story of this truly great man who gave his all working for the liberation of his native land,—who succeeded and then, unopposed, was elected and re-elected by his people for the term of life.

Not only was he deeply revered by his own people—during his travels of 1914-18 campaigning in Allied countries, including the United States, for the cause of Czechoslovakia, he became known and honored by Millions all over the world as a man of loftiest ideals. Today he is measured by historians as one of the very few immortals of the 20th Century

It is perhaps kindness of fate that Masaryk, after having served his country for almost 20 years as President, and after he had made that country a democratic paradise that he was spared to see the tragic end of the country he had built. In 1937, one year before Hitler's armies overrun Czechoslovakia, Masaryk died. His last words to the men at his bedside before he passed into coma were: "I feel that I will leave you soon but from above I will watch you and see how you do

things which I started,—I vision a great future for Czechoslovakia. God Bless all of you."

At regular intervals of five years the postal authorities of Czechoslovakia issued a set of stamps with the portrait of Masaryk and in each case on the first day of the issue, which usually coincided with his birthday on March 7th, and for a few days thereafter, applied commemorative postmarks honoring its first citizen.

The first of these was used in 1925 on his 75th birthday in the form of a small double circle showing on top the name of the post office, on the bottom the date "1850-1925" and in between two cross bars "7.III.1925." Color red.

On March 7th, 1930, on the 80th birthday, a somewhat larger double circle cancellation was applied which is similar to the first one with the difference that the initials of the President "TGM" were incorporated below the date bar. Color red.

On Masaryk's 85th Anniversary the Post Office Praha-Hrad (the President's Residence) used a striking machine cancellation. In the middle is the date postmark. On the left side of this is a reproduction of the presidential residence and on the right side the presidential emblem with the inscription "Pravda Vitezi" (Truth Prevails) and below "\*1850\* T. G. Masaryk \*1935\*." On the very first day



the postmark was in gold, the following days red ink was used.

On September 14th, 1937, President Masaryk died at his summer home at Lany where he had resided since 1935, in which year he retired from public office upon the advice of his physicians. Two days later all major post offices of the country applied a black, special mourning cancellation to all mails. The same consists of a heavy outer circle and a thinner inner circle. On top is the name of the post office, each side franked by crosses. The lower part has the inscription "Smutek Ceskoslovenska" (Czechoslovakia Mourns). In between the two cross bars is the date. Above the upper bar are the President's initials "TGM" and below the lower bar the date of his passing. (See Cover).

After the fall of Czechoslovakia in 1938 many of its former soldiers and citizens were able by various means and routes to escape from the homeland. A large part was able to reach France where they fought as volunteers. After the collapse of the French Army they were evacuated partly with the British from Dunkirk, the bulk, however, on ships of various Allied and neutral nations via Sete in the south of France.

Today the Czechoslovak Army in England, though it is an integral part of the British military force, has, among other things of its own, also a separate postal department with offices "somewhere in England." It uses a bilingual, rectangular postmark.

During the first months mails with this postmark had, in addition, the regular British postmark but shortly the Czechoslovak Army was granted individual status by British authorities and since then only the Czechoslovak obliteration is required.

On certain days, such as Independence Day, Seizure of Czechoslovakia and others the Army honors its homeland with special postmarks. Neither has it forgotten its President Masaryk. Every year on the Anniversary of his death a special, large size postmark (each year with a different design) is used.

## A FUTURE PROGRAM

Mr. Lowey has written a lengthy article which will be fully illustrated and serially published by the "American Philatelist," official organ of the American Philatelic Society, early this winter under the title "Military Postal History of Czechoslovakia." As soon as arrangements can be made the article will be reprinted in the Specialist including all illustrations.

## CZECH COMMUNITIES IN THE U. S. A.

In one of the earliest issues of the Specialist we brought the information about American Post Offices which were named after cities and towns in Czechoslovakia. Since then our membership has grown and among the new members there may be some who go for philatelic "sidelines." To them we suggest that they prepare an envelope addressed to themselves, mail it to Postmasters of these towns and thus obtain a collection of postmarks of U. S. towns with Czech flavor. Mailed with the recently issued stamp honoring Czechoslovakia as one of the overrun nations—it will have a charm entirely its own, even if financially worthless.

The postmasters to contact are:

Karlin, Mich., Karlin, Mo. Prague, Nebr., Prague, Okla., New Prague, Minn., Bohemia, N. Y., Moravia, N. Y., Moravia, Ia., New Hradec, N. Dak., Tabor, So. Dak., Libuse, La., Pilsen, Kans., Slovan, Pa., Pisek, No. Dak., Beroun, Minn., Kolin, La. Kolin, Mont., Carlsbad, Tex., Carlsbad, N. Mex., Carlsbad, Calif.

Do you know any more? In Chicago a sub-station (zone 8) is named Pilsen Station. Try contacting the superintendent, Pilsen Sta., Chicago 8, Ill. A machine cancellation from there is really nice—if it turns out as good as the one in your editor's collection.

## PERSONALS

Guy Greenawalt is the father of another daughter. Congratulations.

Joe Lowey's daughter, Judith, suffered a fractured skull. Latest reports show she has returned from the hospital and is well on the road to recovery.

**Help Win the War**  
**BUY MORE BONDS**