

# THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE  
CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

Copyright 1944, The Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of North America

Editor Frank J. Kovarik, 2502 So. Kedzie Ave., Chicago 23, Ill.

Vol. 6

January 1944

No. 1

## EDITORIAL

Have you ever made plans which you could not execute?

When we accepted the position as editor of the Czechoslovak Specialist, we made plans which were beyond the realm of our ability and which could not materialize anyway because of the limited treasury. Last year we made a plea for voluntary increase in subscription rates; forty members found it possible to help us out and we are really thankful to them. During this year the printing rates were raised twice; the cost of cuts is almost prohibitive to our Society. Even with the increase in membership and the added help from the associate and patron members, we find it difficult to go through with our plans. Your Society lives and shall live. We have the assurance of a few members that deficits will be paid but we hesitate to ask for a dole; we are sure our members will not desert us.

One other factor is a definite reason why we couldn't go through with our plans. As many of you have noticed in the past our chief contributors of articles are Russell, Lowey, Greenawalt and your editor. The increased amount of work in our own lines of endeavor takes away from us most of the spare time which we used to give to the Specialist. December, when this is written, is one of the "dog months," a month devoted entirely to work and sleep and not much of the latter; so, don't feel discouraged if the Specialist is smaller than you expected; we promise to make up for it in the near future. Have patience with us; we try to give you as much for your money as possible.

## 1943 PREMIUMS

With this issue all associate members are receiving the promised premium, the 1943 volume mailed flat, also this the January issue. If we missed any member, let him communicate with Mr. Lowey who in turn will correct me and I'll correct my mistake. The patron members must wait for their bound volume; it shall be sent to them as soon as the bookbinder gets them bound. Have patience!

## NEW MEMBER

No. 143. Jaroslav Janecka, Batawa, Ontario, Canada.

## COMMENT ON ABOVE

We have noticed that Batawa is well on our map; its population must be between 3½ and 8 million people, when we compare the number of members in our Society from there with the number of members we have in Chicago and New York. Enlist them all Mr. Meisel; we offered orchids to you not long ago but the printer's devil decided to give you orchards.

### OUR FEATURE ARTICLE

Mr. Novy, author of the article on the essays or proposed designs of United States honoring Czechoslovakia, is Czechoslovak Consul General and a member of our Society. He has kindly loaned us cuts reproduced in this issue. We understand there are other cuts which should be reproduced in our little magazine; your editor has illustrations of designs prepared of Lidice and Czechoslovakia motifs which appeared in various publications philatelic and art. If any member knows who now owns the cuts, your editor will make an effort to borrow them. We also appeal to all members to send us clippings of interest to our Society. Of course, we reserve the right to print only what we consider of sufficient interest to the majority of our members.

### SAME OLD STORY

Last month we appealed to members to send in their dues to the treasurer and also asked those members who reside in cities which employ the ZONE SYSTEM in their Post Office, to notify your officers their correct zone number. This will save us the time and money writing to all postmasters asking for the members' zone numbers. Please, cooperate. Only those who work in the Post Office can fully appreciate under what handicaps the Post Office is operating today. In the last war all Post Office employees were exempt from military service; in this war they are taken into the Armed Services primarily to operate military post offices. Again we beg you, please, cooperate. It is no effort on your part, it can save Uncle Sam much money, so necessary today in the conduct of the war.

### HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

#### PLATE NUMBER ON 1920 125h MASARYK

Most specialists do not know that a plate number can be found on this issue. The reason is that the plate number (I or II) appears 26mm below the bottom row of stamps, between stamps 95 and 96, and can be found only in the imperforate stamps, proofs or printer's waste. This plate marking is 4½mm high. The perforated stamps on sale at post offices had that part trimmed away, as bottom margins are known only 5 to 15 mm long.

#### EXHIBITION OF CZECHOSLOVAK STAMPS IN LONDON

An exhibition of Czechoslovak stamps, postmarks and cancellations of the Czechoslovak Field Post will open November 8, 1943, in the Czechoslovak House, 18 Grosvenor Place, S. W. 1. The president of the Czechoslovak government, Ambassador Dr. Lobkowicz and president of the Czechoslovak State Council, Congressman Maxa, are honorary members of the Exhibition Committee; British Ambassador to the Czechoslovak Government, B. P. P. Nichols, Sir John Wilson, Bart., curator of His Majesty's personal collection, Sir W. Lindsay Everard, M. P., and many others are also on the committee. Opening ceremonies begin promptly at 11:30 a.m., Nov. 8.

After many months of hard work the exhibition committee succeeded in amassing together almost every stamp of the Czechoslovak state, beginning with the Siberian issues. All the variations of the printing, types, perforations and watermarks will be shown. Trial printings, accepted and rejected designs of Czechoslovak stamps and other material will be arranged in such a way to give a clear picture of the graphic progress during 20 years and to express the artistic arrangement and presentation of the Czechoslovak stamp.

In another group will be shown commemorative postmarks issued by the Post Office Department to celebrate various undertakings of a local or national significance or for propaganda purposes to acquaint tourists and others of well known places in the Republic. Some of the postmarks are multicolored.

The Czechoslovak Field Post is preparing its own material. All the postmarks and cancellations used by the Czechoslovak Field Post in France and Great Britain will be on exhibition as well as the original drawings of same, various philatelic sheets and diagram maps.

With the opening of the exhibition a special miniature sheet of five stamps was issued by the committee. On the first stamp we find the busts of Masaryk, Benes and Stefanik. This is the first bi-colored stamp issued by Czechoslovak-

1a. (There seems to be something wrong here; the stamps cannot be considered government emissions, so this cannot be the first "bi-colored stamp."—Ed.) The next four stamps represent scenes from four principal parts of the Republic. They consist of motifs already used on Czechoslovak stamps, namely: 1K in the design of Scott A23, 2K design A24, 3K design A72 and 5K design A10 of Bohemia and Moravia. The portrait stamp is a 10K denomination.

The total number issued of this sheet is 25000 copies and its price is 5 shillings. The entire clear profit from the Exhibition and the sale of the sheets will be turned over to the Czechoslovak Red Cross in London. The clear profit will in all probabilities be quite high because there is a genuine interest in the sheets and almost the entire issue has been subscribed. Every visitor to the Exhibition will have an opportunity to purchase one sheet with every admission ticket. Members of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society (in Great Britain) may order these from the secretary at 20 Compton Avenue, Luton, Beds., to the limit of five sheets.

Originally according to Reuter's dispatch from London it seemed these stamps would be printed in London and held until the close of the war when they would be released in Czechoslovakia for postal purposes. But, the above appeared in the magazine "Czechoslovak" published in London, issued November 5, 1943, and is authentic. Thus the issue is merely a souvenir sheet of an exhibition, but to specialists of Czechoslovakia is an item of great interest. We shall endeavor to borrow an illustration of this sheet, it is very interesting.

#### **POSTAGE STAMPS CANNOT BE SENT TO THE UNITED KINGDOM UNLESS THE ADDRESSEE HAS AN IMPORT LICENSE**

Practically all stamp collectors and dealers in the United States now know that they cannot send stamps to any foreign country, except Canada, without first obtaining a philatelic export permit from the Office of Censorship, Philatelic Control Unit—252 Seventh Avenue, New York, N. Y.

It is also necessary, however, that the person to whom the stamps are being sent has applied for, and been granted, a license by the Board of Trade, London, England, if the addressee is located in the United Kingdom of Great Britain (England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland).

This rule applies whether the stamps are sent as a gift, or as a commercial transaction; and this fact is emphasized at the present time for apparently there has been some mis-information on this subject, and as a consequence, many people who have sent the stamps in good faith are disappointed by having them returned with the notice that they cannot be delivered to the addressee.

So, before sending any stamps to any person residing in England, or any part of the United Kingdom, one must be certain that the person to whom they are being sent has been granted an import license by the Board of Trade in London.

There are no exceptions to this rule, and much disappointment may be avoided by stamp collectors and dealers if they comply strictly with this regulation.

#### **SKETCHES FOR U. S. STAMPS HONORING CZECHOSLOVAKIA** by Jos. Novy

Through the first fifty years of their existence the postage stamps of all countries were extremely monotonous in their designs in spite of some very fine workmanship of engravers. All postal authorities continued through decades to issue stamps with portraits of the ruling persons with coat of arms, simple allegories and figures of the denomination. The same designs were in several cases in use even for twenty or more years. No wonder that an issue like the "Columbians" of the United States was a sensation and as we all know, a success in every respect.

The postage stamp, being one of the most important and most frequently used visiting cards of a nation, is supposed to reflect the level, feelings and doings of a nation. Artists and people of good judgment meet in their endeavor to improve the designs of the stamps in spite of various obstacles. Their effort is hampered especially by reasons of technical expediency and economy, not to mention the different opinions about art and importance of the subject.

In the present historical struggle the U. S. Government realized that even

the postage stamp can help in the war effort and decided to pay tribute to the allies and to the invaded countries by special stamps. Noted artists were invited to a collaboration and consequently many remarkable and valuable sketches of stamps were presented.

Collectors of Czechoslovak stamps are especially interested in the sketches for a proposed 3 cent stamp of Lidice, although this stamp did not appear—probably because of the preparation of the overrun countries series. The issuance of the three cent Lidice stamp was planned for August 14th, 1942, the first anniversary of the Atlantic Charter. Not less than 62 designs of a Lidice stamp were submitted in July 1942 by the American artists grouped around the well-known Paul F. Berdanier upon an invitation of the Office of Facts and Figures (OWI). Of these the magazine "American Artist" published in its March 1943 issue a set of W. A. Dwigg's designs as well as sketches of Hugo Steiner-Prag and Rockwell Kent. Due to the courtesy of the "American Artist," we are able to bring reproductions of these two remarkable sketches which show a happy



solution of the artistic aim in the limited space of a stamp. Hugo Steiner-Prag who was famous in Europe for his book illustrations, escaped a few years ago from occupied Czechoslovakia and his art has also found an understanding in this country. Nicolas Sanabria Jr. proposed the issuance of a special air stamp of 6c honoring Czechoslovakia. His design shows Lidice and was published in the Magazine "Stamps" on July 25th, 1942.

About the same time the Post Office Department invited Mr. Berdanier and his colleagues to prepare two designs: "United Nations" and "Four Freedoms." Gordon Aymar, Paul Berdanier, Leon Helguera, Paul Manship, Hugo Steiner-Prag and E. A. Wilson prepared fifteen designs. From those sketches the one cent stamp "Four Freedoms" designed by Paul Manship and the two cent stamp "United Nations" designed by Leon Helguera (born in Mexico) were accepted.

Early this year a group of nearly the same artists with Paul F. Berdanier as chairman collaborated with OWI and submitted to the Post Office Department 23 sketches in connection with the prepared United States series honoring the countries occupied by the enemy. Some of these sketches were reproduced in the Sunday Stamp Section of the New York Times on May 16th, 1943. Three of these 23 sketches are devoted to Czechoslovakia. They were designed by Gordon Aymar, Paul F. Berdanier with George Kanelous and by Hugo Steiner-Prag.

Unfortunately various technical difficulties made it impossible to print entirely different stamps for each of the twelve occupied countries. Finally the Post Office Department decided that one basic design was to be used, in which the flag of each country would be incorporated. The second in this series was the United States Stamp "Czechoslovakia" issued on July 12th, 1943.

### Officers of the Czecho-Slovak Philatelic Society of North America

President: Rudolph Secky, 1339 145th Pl., Whitestone, N. Y.  
 Secretary: J. W. Lowey, 201 Marcy Place, New York 56, N. Y.  
 Treasurer: Guy Greenawalt, 4506 Monument Ave., Richmond 21, Va.  
 Editor: Frank Kovarik, 2502 S. Kedzie Ave., Chicago 23, Ill.  
 Librarian: Mrs. M. Glawe, 9640 S. Seelev Ave., Chicago 43, Ill.  
 Sales and Exchange Mgr.: Wolfgang Fritzsche, P. O. Box 175, Valley Stream, L. I. N. Y.