

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE
 CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

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

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EDITORIAL

Back to work. When hostilities ceased two years ago, we looked forward to the rest we needed but which really didn't come until this year. Our rest did not consist exactly of complete relaxation but it was a change of atmosphere and this has its value. Our visits to Cleveland, St. Louis and New York brought us into closer contact with many of our members whom we knew by name but never had the pleasure of meeting personally. We needed this two months away from the Specialist to view our visits and evaluate them. We trust many of our members benefited in some way during America's vacation months; they can, at least, say that for two months they were spared the torture of reading the mad rantings of their editor.

NEW MEMBERS

- J285. Harold Knaus, Jr., 1438 Blaisdell St., Rockford, Ill.
 - 286. Carl Pitha, 40 S. Main St., Middleport, N. Y.
 - 287. Emery Cibik, 31-30 84th St., Jackson Heights, L. I., N. Y.
 - 288. Mrs. Mildred Kosar, 83-14 Pettit Ave., Elmhurst, L. I., N. Y.
 - 289. Mrs. Clara Ormay, 212 N. Maple Ave., East Orange, N. J.
 - 290. Vaclav Rejsek, 8631 19th Ave., Brooklyn 14, N. Y.
 - 291. Jan Burian, Vaclavske Nam. 41, Praha, Czechoslovakia
 - 292. Zdenek Kvasnicka, Poric 23, Praha II, Czechoslovakia
 - 293. John Boyde, 156 McEwan Ave., Windsor, Ont., Canada
 - 294. Ing. Klimes, Svehlovo Nam. 12, Min. Dopravy, Praha II, Czechoslovakia
 - 295. Ray Van Handel, 929 N. 6th St., Sheboygan, Wis.
 - J296. Georg Zoubek, Jinonicka 700, Kosire, Praha XVII, Czechoslovakia
 - 297. Joseph Napravnik, 605 S. 19th St., Salem, Oreg.
 - 298. Mrs. Chas. Hack, 2521 Pleasant Valley Blvd., Altoona, Pa.
- Members Left Out of List in the June Issue**
- 6. George F. Smyth, 325 N. Fairview Blvd., Inglewood, Calif.
 - 171. Abraham D. Herman, Advocate, P. O. Box 966, Haifa, Palestine
 - 197. Arnost Siegel, 11 Shoshonat Hacarmel, Box 2017, Haifa, Palestine
 - 215. Bohumil Berra, Wiclifova 18h, Praha II, Czechoslovakia

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

- 157. Karl Zerk, 3709 Monon St., Los Angeles 27, Calif.
- 222. David Lidman, c/o Proschowski, 210 E. 15th St., New York 3, N. Y.

I am looking for dealers or collectors who wish to purchase wholesale or retail stamps of Europe. Exchange welcome. We specialize in stamps of the German occupation 1938-1945. Ask for my price list.

Filatelie F. Trpisovsky, Praha XII, Vocolova 9, Czechoslovakia



OUR NEW YORK MEETING

In the last (June) issue of the Specialist we promised a picture of the members who attended our New York dinner meeting. All who attended are in the picture except the photographer, our very genial Lolly Horechny. (Any member desiring copies of this photo should contact Mr. L. M. Horechny, 85 Valley St., Newark, N. J.) Reading from left to right around the table are: H. H. Smith, Findlay, O.; Z. Kvasnicka, Praha; Mrs. B. Secky and R. Secky, Whitestone, N. Y.; Mrs. M. Snyder and G. H. Snyder, Elmhurst, N. Y.; Mrs. M. Kosar and C. Kosar, Elmhurst, N. Y.; E. Michaelson, Union, N. J.; Mrs. A. Stach, N. Y. C.; E. Cibik, Jackson Heights, N. Y.; F. J. Kovarik, Chicago; Mr. and Mrs. W. Glawe, Chicago; K. J. Woodbury, W. Warwick, R. I.; Mrs. H. Kaps, Lynbrook, N. Y.; V. Rejsek, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Mrs. and Dr. I. Neufeld, N. Y. C.; J. Burian, Praha; A. Stach, N. Y. C.; Dr. W. Reiner Deutsch, Bayside, N. Y.; Mrs. and Mr. W. Fritzsche, Brooklyn, N. Y.; J. F. Schattan, Astoria, N. Y.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

At our meeting May 22, 1947, it was decided to hold an election of officers this fall. It was also decided that statements including dues be sent all members with the September issue. The final decision was this: With the September issue of the Specialist all members will receive a ballot which, properly marked, shall be enclosed in a small envelope marked "BALLOT" and with dues for the year 1948, shall be sent to the treasurer. For your convenience an envelope addressed to the treasurer is also enclosed. The treasurer will hold these ballots unopened until November 1, 1947, when they are to be forwarded to the chairman of the nominating committee, which committee then acts as election committee, counts the ballots and publishes the results in the January issue of the Specialist.

Herewith are presented the candidates for offices as chosen by the nominating committee: for president, John Knollmueller, George A. Blizil (Vote for one); for vice-president: Dr. Irvin Neufeld, Emil J. Michaelson, William A. Bryant (vote for two; one with most votes is first vice-president); for national secretary: John Velek; for international secretary: August J. Hrivnak; for treasurer: Guy Greenawalt; for librarian: Mrs. M. Glawe; for editor: F. J. Kovarik; for judicial committee: W. Glawe, P. Kreischer, E. Zaloudek, G. Kobylka, A. N. Weiner (vote for five.)

The nominating committee also recommends to the editor that in the future the membership list be published in alphabetical instead of numerical order.

For the nominating committee: Dr. Wm. Reiner Deutsch,

Wolfgang Fritzsche, Lolly M. Horechny

New York, July 2, 1947

NEWS and VIEWS

by the editor

We promised less promotional material in the future issues of the Specialist, but every member must help in this by paying his (her) 1948 dues promptly. The cost of printing is still rising and we cannot hold delinquent members on the books for five or six months as in the past.

* * *

Dr. Hoechstetter writes to ask "would it be possible to devote one issue of the Specialist to Slovakia. I know how most of us feel about these stamps, but they do form a part of the philatelic story of Czechoslovakia, in the same way our Confederate States issues form a part of the postal history of the U. S." We are sure we'll be in a position to oblige the doctor soon; not "with a sketchy few lines" but with something really worth while.

* * *

Nemo's notes on Czechoslovakian town cancels on pre-1918 issues of Austria and Hungary, discovered a real enthusiast, Mr. W. A. Payne-Seddon. This, too, promises to be the nucleus of a better study of this subject and members interested are requested to communicate with the editor.

* * *

With the picture showing our 1947 dinner-meeting we find a list of the members attending. When in New York, during one of the visits we paid Joe Lowey, we received autographs of the members present at our first meeting in 1939. We present the list to the members; names preceded with an asterisk also attended the 1947 meeting: T. Raper, P. Sturman, G. F. Smyth, E. Fiala, C. Cizek, W. Sudds, *W. Reiner Deutsch, G. Greenawalt, *L. M. Horechny, M. Zemany, *V. Rejsek, F. O. Vinson, *A. Stach, W. Klemm, C. Neumann, J. W. Lowey, H. Lowey and *F. J. Kovarik.

* * *

A communication from our international secretary, Mr. A. J. Hrivnak acquaints us with the news that a charity organization in Brno offers sealed clippings of postage stamps from the files of the P. O. D. of Czechoslovakia and these consist of the stamps of the first republic, the protectorate as well as the recent issues. It appears that this organization is the sole agent handling these and any member interested in same may find it advantageous to contact Mr. A. J. Hrivnak, 174 Addison Rd., Riverside, Ill. for further particulars.

* * *

With this issue we mail to our members "New issue lists" of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Agency. We haven't enough to go around so of the three lists on hand we send one third to one group of members, another third to the second group and the last third to the remaining group. Those really interested in having a complete file of these bulletins may send a 3c stamped and addressed envelope to the editor; it will help if you let him know which of the three bulletins you received (St. Albert, Lidice and Youth Congress) and the other two will be mailed to you.

* * *

With this issue we present a new feature. Many of our European members expressed a desire for news of United States stamps. We had a trial printing ordered; if it meets with the approval of members we promise to continue this service, either as this (planographed) or printed with the Specialist.

ESSAYS AND PROOFS

F. J. Kovarik

Some months ago we attended a stamp exhibition and were astonished at the ignorance of some dealers on the subject of essays, proofs, errors and printer's waste. We tried to teach some of the dealers what we know, our knowledge was not only doubted but frowns accompanied their refusal to listen. During the CIPEX we learned more on this subject; much more than many of our friends believe is possible. Unlike the doubting dealers, we listened

avidly to the knowledge imparted to us and pass it on to our readers. Not only that, but we have been assured by a good friend of a lengthy article on this subject; this in turn may be the basis of a more or less thorough study and possibly a check list of all known essays, proofs, color trials and printer's waste. Those who have been collecting this type of material (and there are many in America), will be grateful for this information.

The collecting of U. S. Proofs gained a new impetus after the publication of the Brazer Essay Catalog; there is real scarcity of many essay and proof items and it is fortunate that collectors of these are not many, otherwise the prices would be even higher than they are now. This may have had an effect on many collectors of Czechoslovak stamps, who desired to increase their collections by adding essays and proofs, which tie in nicely with their stamps. The first issues of Czechoslovakia allowed for a thorough specialization; the Czech government later acceded to the wishes of philatelists and donated its printer's waste to the collectors and large collections of this material were built. The material is still quite plentiful and large holdings are still in dealers' hands, especially in Praha. This donated (or presentation) material included proofs, both die and plate, color trials and printer's waste, commonly called "makulature" (maculates, the opposite of immaculates). This printer's waste is often called "proofs," "proofs" are often labeled "errors of color" and last, but not worst, the so called "essays," in many cases, are nothing less than "labels," as far removed from stamps as trading stamps or poster stamps are removed from postal paper.

We do not wish to say that all this material is not worthy of collecting; what we want to prove is that it is, at present, overpriced. If we remember that proofs in multiple (often, if superimposed one over the other of the same value, called "Double impressions" or "triple impressions" depending on the number of times the sheet went to press) are more common than just proofs; that plates of almost every denomination and service (postage dues, newspaper, special delivery, etc.) were printed from on the same sheet of paper, then we can fathom the almost unlimited field this collecting presents. These are the true "printer's waste." Proofs of almost everything in the Hradcany, Allegory, first issue of Dues, Special Delivery, Newspaper, and first Charity issues exist in black, the issued colors, as well as other colors. Many of these are truly beautiful; like the U. S. proofs, they are the first impressions from the plates and are as flawless as can be expected. With die proofs of some of these stamps there exist essays of submitted designs; we must learn to differentiate between designs actually presented to the Ministry of Posts as possible subjects for new stamps and labels, designed and printed privately a such, even though they bear the legend "Ceskoslovensko," shields without values or sheets with completed values, sometimes even the word "Posta" (later forbidden to be so printed because the word "posta" means "postage"). Very many items which we have innocently exhibited as "essays" fall into the category of "labels" and have nothing to do with philately except as some designs on first day covers may have an affiliation with the issued stamp. We have been as disappointed in our new-found knowledge as many readers will be disgusted with what they are learning now. Never mind; while these labels are worthless as an investment, they are pretty and can give us pleasure if they cannot give us assurance that some day we'll get our money back or be able to send junior through college on what we hoped to gain from them.

Caveat Emptor!

Let us remember that an essay is a design actually submitted to the government.

That a die proof is an impression of the die used in making a plate.

That a plate proof is an impression of the entire plate, either in black or the accepted color.

That a color trial is a die or plate impression in color other than that used for the stamp.

That printer's waste is any multiple impression (in a few instances a single impression may be termed printer's waste. Of that, later.)

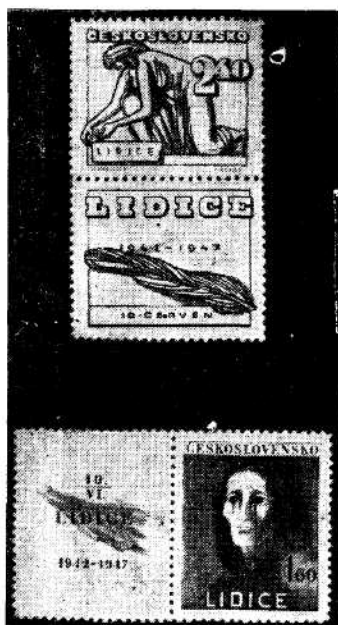
All the above can tie in neatly with your stamps because they are, actually, primary impressions from dies or plates.

Essays are designs submitted to the Ministry of Posts and either modified or rejected as designs. Quite often these essays appear on the same sheet as die proofs. These, too, tie in an interesting manner with the collection, providing we know the name of the artist and the circumstance which prompted the author to prepare and submit them to the proper authorities.

All the rest of the material is classed as labels and, if shown with the collection, must bear direct affinity to the accepted designs. These have been designed and printed privately; as with everything of this sort no strict control can be exercised, dies and plates may still be in existence; there can be no talk of "errors of color" because any color can do for private labels; lack of, or multiple perforations, may be easily manufactured for the trade; creases, double impressions, tete-beches, etc., are made for the suckers.

We earnestly recommend to our members that they exercise great care when buying this type of material; that they obtain from their dealer a statement of the true status of such items; if a dealer misrepresents an item, consciously or otherwise, he should be required to refund to his customer the sum in full.

As can be expected, this is an enormous subject and cannot be glossed over by a superficial article such as this. We fear it may cause much correspondence to us from our readers and we now beg them to hold off for a while. After the article promised earlier in this note has been published, we shall invite correspondence on the subject; with our combined efforts, we should be able to correlate all knowledge of the subject and thus produce a true picture of essays, proofs and labels, a subject so misunderstood by collectors of Czechoslovak stamps in America.



Courtesy of
Chicago Daily Svornost

On June 10th 1942 the Nazis destroyed the village of LIDICE, near Kladno in Bohemia. They shot all the men, sent the women to concentration camps and carried the children away to Germany. 82 of these children were probably murdered in gas chambers and only 17 of them, who had been selected to be brought up as Germans, survived. So far 16 of these children have been found again.

By this outrage, directed against an innocent community, the Germans wanted to avenge themselves for the removal of the notorious Heydrich and to punish the Czechs for their negative attitude towards Nazism. They wanted to frighten the whole of the Czech nation into a more yielding attitude and expected that this deed would symbolically show the German power and strength and serve as a warning to the other enslaved nations. They also wanted to show to their own people how ruthless and powerful their regime could be.

But the crime of LIDICE produced the very opposite result. The unprecedented cruelty of these ravings that did not know any restraint, a cruelty, for which there was no analogy in history, was the cause, that the whole democratic world became aware of the fate of the small Czech village and its innocent inhabitants and joined forces to fight violence and oppression.

LIDICE became the symbol of the union of all democratic forces in the world in their fight against Nazism and Fascism. Even now, when the war has ended in victory, the holy ground of LIDICE, stained by the blood of innocents, will still remain a symbol of the union of all democratic forces.

By the law Nr. 87 of September 13th 1946 the Czechoslovak Government decreed the formation of the Society for the Rebuilding of LIDICE; and so LIDICE will be rebuilt.

LIDICE SHALL LIVE AGAIN!

Already a short time after the tragedy of 1942 this slogan could be heard all over the democratic world, which accepted it as a pledge that finds its fulfilment now by the Two Years Plan of the Republic.

The Czechoslovak Ministry of Post will issue on the day of the fifth anniversary of the tragedy of LIDICE a set of stamps in honour of the innocent martyrs of Lidice, out of whose sufferings also arose our liberty.

The motives and the designs of these stamps have been proposed by professor Svolinsky (1,20 and 1,60 Kcs) and professor Kaplicky (2,40 Kcs).

The values 1,20 and 1,60, printed in black, the value 2,40 in red; rotary steel engraving; size 23x30 mm.

On behalf of ministry of Posts, Dr. Mericka



Courtesy of
Chicago Daily Svornost

by a bright circle representing the sun—the symbol of youth—bearing the initials of the World Federation of Democratic Youth/Federation Mondiale de la Jeunesse Democratique. On each side of the circle there is a flower forming a graphic complement of the design, softening the transition from the dark to the brighter planes. The values (Kcs 1,20 and 4,—) are printed in the left hand top corner of the stamps. The inscription on the darker strip at the top of the stamps refers to the date of the Festival (20.VII-17.VIII).

The engraving was done by Jindra Schmidt.

3. The stamps are of medium size forming a horizontal rectangle and are printed by rotary press printing in sheets of 100 and 50 stamps and they have a rotary perforation. The stamps will be released on the 20th July 1947.

—Post Office Dept. Praha

SOME THINGS I WANT TO KNOW

by W. L. Russell

A healthy curiosity about the various stamps in one's collection is usually regarded as one of the things that marks the difference between a philatelist and a mere collector. And we, who study the stamps of Czechoslovakia, have plenty of scope for exercising our inquisitiveness. Not always successfully, though, or else this article wouldn't have been written!

There may be others who want the same information that I do, and therefore this is an open invitation to anyone who knows the answers to send them to the editor of the "Specialist" for publication.

Let's take one rather intriguing puzzle. You recall the 50th Stefanik, issued on May 13th 1935? When it first appeared, the 91st stamp on Plate 1 had a colored line running down from the peak of the General's kepi to the S of Stefanik. This was later corrected, and one supposes that a fresh cliché was substituted for the damaged 91st stamp. But—and here's the puzzle—why then does the plate-number "1", in the sheets with the corrected stamp, appear with only SIX horizontal lines upon it, when the same plate-number had originally

TEN lines? No—I'm not confusing it with plate 1A. I have both the original and the corrected stamp, with plate-number "1," and the original "1" has ten lines and the corrected stamp shows the "1" with only six. Who's got the answer to that one?

Let's take another poser. You've read Frank Kovarik's excellent article in "Philately" on the stamps of the Sea Scouts. In it he says; "At one time it was said that only some 20,000 of each value were printed." There may have been more, but the chances are that there weren't many more, since the order was placed with the printer only a week before the revolution, and each stamp had to be died out separately. They were only in use from November 7 to 25, 1918. Why, then, are there three distinct shades of each value? Since the printer got his order around October 20th, 1918 and deliveries had been made prior to November 7, it is logical to assume that he wouldn't have mixed more than one lot of ink for each value. Were the other shades mixed later, after the issue was withdrawn? If so, should they be regarded as reprints or not? That's something else to chew over!

My next query is more in the nature of an observation. In the Linden Leaf design, both of the Protectorate and of the Second Republic, one finds a curious quirk on the part of either the designer or the engraver. In the values printed by photogravure the buds are depicted as berries. In the recess-printings these buds have burst into blossoms. Only a little thing—but why?

In the "May" miniature sheet, showing St. George and the dragon, there are two types. In type II the word KVETEN is 2mm further from the frame of the stamp than in type I. Were the three units on the sheet engraved separately and assembled? Could be. Because if an engraving of the words PRAVDA VITEZI (at top) and KVETEN (at bottom) were made and the die of the stamp from the sheet inserted between, any variation between KVETEN and the baseline would be reflected in a corresponding variation between PRAVDA VITEZI and the top of the stamp. Such variation doesn't exist. We can take it for granted that the stamp itself is the same engraving as that of the full sheet, minus the date at the bottom. So we get back to the query—why are there two types and how did they occur?

Take the KOSICE issues. As you know, there are four types of each value. Do all four types occur in the same sheet? If so, does anyone know the positions of each type? Or were the transfers to the litho stone made four separate times for the whole sheet?

Well, there you are. These are some of the things to which it would be interesting to have the answers. Maybe someone can supply them!

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