

# 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

A few days ago we received for examination a small parcel of older United States stamps. This consisted of the 2c 1904 St. Louis, 2c 1909 Alaska Yukon, 2c Pan. Pac. perf. 12, and a few other values, all cataloguing much more than the original purchase price. Yet all this material was worth more than face. The owner folded the stamps along (or beside) the perforations, so that blocks of eight or more became just that many singles, or worse. The collection was "stored" in a small box so that very little air could ever reach the stamps; as a result they are very brittle, the perforations are breaking off; all in all, it is a sight which brings a lump to a collector's throat. Many non-collectors holding such possessions think they have a fortune and they look upon the appraiser as a highwayman, though the truth is told them of what the value of the stamps could be if they were treated properly. Yet many stamp collectors, who should know better, house their stamp collections almost as poorly. It is advisable to look at your stamps occasionally, so that just the right amount of moisture reaches the stamps and they don't fall apart after years of imprisonment in air-tight albums. We recall reading some years ago of a collector in Detroit who put his most valuable stamps into sealed envelopes and placed them into an air-tight box in a bank vault. After this collector's death the executor took out of the bank vault envelopes filled with paper dust, which once represented old philatelic classics.

## NEW MEMBER

306. Ant. Zouhar, Srbska 7/III, Brno XII, Czechoslovakia

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

161. Mrs. F. Osner, Salem, Wis.

188. Ferdinand Maresh, 15605 Invermere Ave., Cleveland 20, Ohio.

248. Allen H. Seed, Jr., 932 NW Bank Bldg., Minneapolis 2, Minn.

## NEWS and VIEWS

by the Editor

Among the many reasons why we continue to edit your Specialist, is the appreciation shown by many of the members. Member Arthur H. Moser sent us one of these orchids and we take the liberty to quote his last paragraph: "I have always enjoyed reading carefully the Czechoslovak Specialist and have found it very valuable. May I take this opportunity to express my personal thanks to you for the time and effort you spend in making the publication such an excellent one?"

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A recent "communique" from our treasurer discloses the fact that about 50 members paid their dues for 1948. That represents only about 30% of our membership. While it is true we are "rushing the season," yet we are sure

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Whatever the member considers his main interests. This would give a cue as to kindred souls and would be a guide in what may sell well in the bourse or in the circuits."

1.20 Kcs violet                      4.    Kcs blue

# HOW TO COLLECT AND EVALUATE TRIAL PRINTINGS OF CZECHOSLOVAK STAMPS

by Zdenek Kvasnicka, Praha



I have seen in the collections of our countrymen in America several collections of Czechoslovak stamps and each of these contained many trial printings and printer's waste. The pleasure in collecting this type of material stems from an effort to copy specialized collections of United States which contain essays, die and plate proofs, as also because our dealers who brought much of this material with them to America in 1938, helped propagate its collecting.

There are many trial printings of the early days of the Republic and I shall endeavor to explain them coherently so that the collector may know what has value to a collection and what is unmistakably worthless.

Essays, trial printings and printer's waste can be collected along two lines. The first is to create a specialized collection, that is: to collect everything (ex-





cept private issues) or secondly, to place it as illustrative material of a specialized Czecho collection. In this second line it is necessary to be meticulously careful that only such material which has a definite bearing on the issued stamps is incorporated into the collection.

This can be classified as:

1. Essays
2. Trial printings
3. Printer's waste.

Essays can be subdivided into two categories: a) official essays and b) private essays.

The official essays are only those essays which have been either ordered by the government or were presented to the government as a result of a competition subscribed by the Ministry of Posts and which were later printed in the likeness of stamps so the officials in charge could judge for themselves the value of such an essay for stamp purposes.

In the years 1918-23, the Czechoslovak government through its Postal Department and with the cooperation of many of its best artists tried to issue really fine stamps. In 1919, a contest was held to choose new stamps, but not one of the many designs submitted was used. Only the design of carrier pigeon by Prof. Benda, was used by that artist as a basis for his design of the newspaper stamp. The Department had most of these essays printed in the size of postage stamps in order to judge them in their final arrangement.

In this way the collectors obtained a large number of submitted essays which, at one time, were avidly collected primarily because many of the dealers catalogued them and because many appeared in auctions. These were principally the works of masters Benda, Bruner, Mudrunka and Kysela. Bruner's essay "Liberated Republic" was later used, with modifications, for the regular issue. Into this group of essays belong the drawings of prof. Max Svabinsky's "president T. G. Masaryk" in oval, not only in the small (50h) format, but also the large (1200h and 2000h). This very well executed design was so good that the department used it for three values (125h, 500h and 1000h). The two high values, (1200 and 2000h), due to changes in postal regulations, were found unnecessary and never issued. The value of these essays in our country ranges from 15 to 30 Kcs each.



The greatest misfortune to the collector are private essays. These have been printed in the establishments of Haase and Unie as well as in smaller shops by some artists who wished to present them to the department and, being refused, offered them to collectors. These are chiefly Ryjacek's printings (portraits of Masaryk, Komensky), Mudrunka's (head of girl in national costume), Kupka's, Matous' and others. Among these we find Zizka on a horse, Komensky in his study, etc. Collectors are most often fooled because these labels carry the inscription "Posta Ceskoslovenska" and it is for this reason I consider these very dangerous to the collector's pocketbook. Philatelically these items are absolutely worthless because they have nothing to do with postage stamps and the submitters used the inscription without authority. No one knows how many of these exist, who has the dies and when they may again be printed. My advice is to shun this stuff altogether.

In the later years, essays of submitted designs were photographed to the size of postage stamps and judged from this print, so that nothing really interesting reached the collectors hands. Perhaps the refusal of Czecho collectors to purchase these items had some bearing on this departmental decision.

(Next installment about trial printings.)





## THE MASARYK ISSUE

by G. Greenawalt and F. J. Kovarik

### Unwatermarked Paper

By decree #57 published in the Bulletin of the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs of May 25, 1927, it was announced that postage stamps, produced from recess engraved plates and printed originally on watermarked paper, would be printed on unwatermarked paper after June 1, 1927. The decree ordered that the stamps printed on watermarked paper should be used up.

The decision to abandon the use of the watermarked paper was arrived at for reasons of economy. It was decided that the more complicated printing from line engravings was a sufficient guarantee against counterfeiting and that the use of watermarked paper was unnecessary. The thinner unwatermarked paper was cheaper and its use resulted in a better product than was possible with the thicker watermarked paper. No changes were necessary in the plates previously used. The thinner paper had more tendency to warp and curl after the gumming operation but this difficulty was overcome by adding gum breaking rolls to the printing machines. The breaker rolls resulted in the gum line varieties listed in some catalogues.

When the use of the unwatermarked paper was begun stamps were being produced with the portrait of President Masaryk, also with the small views (20h to 2.50 kc values 1926-28) and with the large views (crown values 1926-28). Consequently, both watermarked and unwatermarked paper were used in the printing of some of these issues. Type VI of the portrait stamps was printed first with watermarked paper and later with unwatermarked paper. Type VII was printed with unwatermarked paper only. The 50h and 60h values of the portrait with the changed design were printed with both papers while the 1 Kc. value was printed with unwatermarked paper only. The large views were printed with both types of paper. Some of the small views were printed with both types of paper while others were printed with only one type or the other. The use of the watermarked paper was discontinued during this period and since then unwatermarked paper only has been used.

### New Design

By decree #67 of June 26, 1926, it was announced that after July 1, 1926 stamps of the 50 h and 60 h denominations which were being produced by photogravure (neotype) would be printed from steel engraved plates on the Stickney Rotary Press, the same as the crown values.

In order to produce these values by the newer and cheaper process of steel engraving and Rotary Press printing steel plates were needed. A new die was produced for use in the manufacture of the steel plates. The new die retained the general design used on the photogravure plates. The vignette is the same except for the background which is cross lined. The inscriptions in the top and bottom panels are in unshaded letters on a cross lined background. The linden leaves in the side panels lean outwardly, as in the photogravure issues, but the background is cross lined. The figures of value are solid unshaded numerals appearing in the corner shields on a background so closely cross lined, that, in most stamps, it appears to be solid. Solid white lines outline and separate the vignette, panels and value shields, the outer lines forming an outline for the entire design. The value shields are decorated by a wavy white line near the edge of the shields. The entire design is bordered by a solid colored frame line. The format is  $18\frac{1}{2} \times 21\frac{1}{2}$  mm.

Because details of the design were changed in making new plates stamps printed from plates manufactured with the original die have been designated by Hirsch-Franek, Ekstein and others, as Type I while stamps printed from plates manufactured at a later time have been designated Type II.

The different values of this issue and the different printings of the values were placed in circulation at different times as they were produced. All values were valid for postage until February 28, 1937.

### Stamps Discontinued

By decree #58 of July 4, 1928, it was announced that on August 1, 1928, the 2Kc, 3Kc and 5Kc values would be taken out of circulation.

By a later decree the 1Kc value was taken out of circulation on February 28, 1937.

The records do not show how many copies were issued for each of the various types of the 1Kc, 2Kc and 3Kc values. Only total quantities for each value, all types and papers included, are known. They are as follows:

- 1Kc carmine, Types I-VII, 352,000,000 stamps
- 2Kc dark blue, Types I-II, 34,000,000 stamps
- 3Kc dark brown, Types I-III, 17,800,000 stamps
- 5Kc blue green, Type I, 7,700,000 stamps.

These figures are taken from an Ekstein catalogue which, in the opinion of most specialists in Czechoslovakia, are most accurate.



The Neotype 50 h



50 h (Type I)

### Die I.

The 50 h value was first produced from plates manufactured with the original Die I. One form was used in the printing consisting of two plates of 100 subjects each. The plates were marked 1, 1A.

Printing was commenced in June 1926 and the stamps were placed in circulation on July 20, 1926. Watermarked paper was used in the printing and all four horizontal watermark positions exist with position 5 being the scarcest. The stamps are perforated 9%. The color is green.

Ekstein lists a variety on carton paper.

### 50 h Coil Stamps

By decree #99 of October 6, 1926, it was announced that stamps of the 50 h denomination printed on the Rotary Press were also to be issued in coil form of 500 subjects for stamping and vending machines.

Plates marked 2, 2A were manufactured with the original Die I and were used in the production of the coils which were perforated 9% vertically. Printing was begun in September 1926 and the stamps were placed in circulation in October 1926. They were produced in coils of 500. A colored line between the 20th and 21st stamps marks the joint line between the plates. Watermarked paper was used and horizontal positions 5 and 7, only, are known to exist, with position 7 the scarcest.

Ekstein lists a variety on carton paper.

A total of 5,000,000 copies was issued.



50 h Coil Stamp

Die I)



50 h (Type II)

Additional plates, marked 3, 3A were manufactured for the 50 h value and they show changes in the design which indicate that a new die (Die II) was produced for their manufacture. The right whisker is pointed and not wavy as in Die I. The white lines separating the side panels from the vignette, and also the adjoining stem lines of the Linden leaves, extend to and join the white line on the bottom of the top panel and do not stop short of the latter as in Die I. The format is  $18\frac{1}{2} \times 21\frac{3}{4}$  mm.

Printing was begun in March 1927 and the stamps were placed in circulation April 15, 1927. Watermarked paper was used in the printing and all four horizontal watermark positions exist with positions 5 and 7 the scarcest. The stamps are perforated  $9\frac{1}{4}$ . The color is dark green.

Ekstein lists a variety on carton paper.

A total of 171,000,000 copies of the 50 h value (Die I and Die II printings) was issued on the watermarked paper.

Beginning in June 1927 unwatermarked paper was used in the printing of



the 50 h value. Plates marked 4, 4A and 5, 5A were manufactured with Die II and used in this printing. The stamps were placed in circulation July 10, 1927. The perforation and the color were unchanged. A total of 400,650,000 copies was issued.

#### 60 h

Plates marked I, 1A which were produced for printing the 60 h value were apparently manufactured with Die II, the only change being the numeral of value. Printing was begun in July 1926 and the stamps were placed in circulation in September 1926. Watermarked paper was used in the printing and all four horizontal watermark positions exist. Position 5 is scarcest. The stamps are perforated 9½. The color ranges from light red violet to deep red violet.

A total of 31,900,000 copies on watermarked paper was issued.

Beginning in June 1927 unwatermarked paper was used for printing the 60 h value. No new plates were manufactured however and the perforation and color were not changed. These stamps were placed in circulation September 12, 1927. A total of 82,120,000 copies on unwatermarked paper was issued.

#### Die III



1 Kc.

By order #101 of October 17, 1927 a 1 Kc value was announced with the same design as the 50 h and 60 h values. While the design is the same on this stamp a separate die (Die III) was apparently prepared for the manufacture of the plates for this value. The shade lines on the face of the portrait are deeper and more uniform. The cross lines forming the background of the vignette are deeper and give a more nearly solid appearance to the background. Some of the vertical background lines along the outside edge of the right side panel are missing and others are incomplete and indistinct. The background in the value shields is very clearly cross lined and the decorative white line near the edge of the shields is straight and not wavy as in the previous values. The format is 19x22 mm.

The plates prepared for this value were marked 13, 13A; 14, 14A; 15, 15A and 16, 16A. Unwatermarked paper was used in the printing. The printing was commenced in May 1927 and the stamps were placed in circulation in October 1927. The stamps are perforated 9½. The color is carmine red.

A total of 410,330,000 copies was issued.

(The End)

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Frant. Trpisovsky, PRAHA XII, Vocelova 9, Czechoslovakia, is ready to sell or exchange all stamps of Europe. Specializing in Czechoslovakia and Slovakia. Correspondence in Czech, English and French.

**A LISTING OF COMMEMORATIVE POSTMARKS USED IN  
CZECHOSLOVAKIA DURING THE YEAR 1946**

(Continued from last issue)

82. Karlovy Vary 1	b	Filmovy Festival Film Festival	1-15/8/
83. Mariánské Lázně 1		do	
84. Mnichovice	b	Sjezd I. a II. Odboje Convention of 1st and 2nd Revolutions	3-4/8/
85. Liptovský Svätý Mikuláš	bl	Oslavy 25. výročia objavy Demanovských jaskýň 25th ann. of discovery of deman caves	2-3/8/
86. Brno	b	IV. celostátní sjezd československých filatelistu 4th national convention of Cz. Philatelists	4/8/
87. Uherské Hradiště 2	b	Den Zlechovských hrdinů Day of Zlechov heroes	11/8/
88. Praha a, b, c	b	Congressus studiosorum orbis terrarum	13-31/8/
89. Liberec 1	b	Narodopisné dny Literary days	15-18/8/
90. Mariánské Lázně 1	b	Ukončení 12. vzdělávacího kursu učitelů a profesorů Closing of 12th cultural course for teachers and professors	16/8/
91. Český Krumlov	b	Den česko-francouzské vzájemnosti Day of Czech-French Unity	18/8/
92. Loučen	b	Slavnosti slovanského sbratření Celebrations of Slavic brotherhood	18/8/
93. Brno 1	b	25. jubilejní sjezd ESC 25th jubilee convention of ESC	31/8-10/9/
94. Praha 1	b	Národní soutěž čs. pošty National competition of Cz. posts	4/9/
95. Bratislava 1	o	Druhé výročí Slovenského národného povstania 2nd ann. of Slovak national uprising	29/8/
96. Bratislava 2		do	
97. Banská Bystrica		do	
98. Nove Zamky 1		do	
99. Klášter Teplá	b	Prohlášení Blahoslaveného Hroznatého patronem politických vězňů Proclamation of Blessed Hroznata as patron of political prisoners	8/9/
100. Liberec	b	Výstava "Budujeme osvobozené kraje" Exhibition "Reconstruction of liberated country"	8/9/
101. Praha	b	Pražské mariánské poutní oslavy v Loretu Marist pilgrimage celebrations in Loretto	12&15/9/
102. Prerov 1	b	1896-1946—Jubilejní oslavy čs. strany lidové Jubilee celebrations of Czech Peoples' Party	14-15/9/
103. Český Krumlov	b	50 let Národní jednoty posumavské 50 years of National Sumava Unity	15/9/
104. Praha 82	b	Letecký den Aviation Day	15/9/
105. Praha		do	
106. Lanškroun	b	1246-1946—700 let založení města 700th ann. of founding of the city	15, 22, 28, 29/9/
107. Praha	b	PVV	16-22/9/
108. Komárno	g	I. Sjezd československých kolonistů 1st convention of Czech colonists	13-15/9/
109. Karlovy Vary 1	b	Odhalení pamětní desky Karlu Marxovi Unveiling Karl Marx memorial tablet	22/9/
110. Stará Boleslav	b	900 let kostela sv. Václava 900 years of Church of St. Václav	27-29/9/
111. Kolín 1	b	Dny brannosti Preparedness days	28-29/9/
112. Písecký	b	Jiríkovy dny Jirik days	28-29/9/
113. Moravská Třebová	b	Výstava poštovních známek Postage stamp exhibition	28/9-1/10/
114. Praha 1	b	Slavnosti zahájení velké opery 5. května Festive opening of Grand Opera	1/10/

115. Nitra	bl	Filatelistická Vystava Philatelic Exhibition	28/9-1/10/
116. Bratislava 1	r	Krajinská konferencia Cs. O. L. I a II. zahraničného odboja Local conference of 1st and 2nd revolution	28-29/9/
117. Povazska Bstrica	bl	Oslavy povisenia na mesto Celebrations of elevation to a city	13/10/
118. Pardubice 1	b	Pamatce umucenych a popravenych postovnich zamestnancu Memorial to tortured and executed postal employees	26-27/10/
119. Klenci nad Cerchovem	b	Obnova Baarova pomniku na Vyhledech Restoration of Baar's monument on Vyhledy	24/10/
120. Praha 31	b	Sjezd cs. remesla Convention of Cz. trades	24-27/10/
121. Pardubice 1	b	Velka Pardubicka Steeplechase Grand Pardubice Steeplechase	20/10/
122. Praha 1	b	Celostatni sjezd reemigrantu National convention of re-emigrants	26-27/10/
123. Praha 1	b	Celostatni manifestacni sjezd Narodni fronty zen Convention of Women's National front	26-8/10/
124. Praha 77	b	pocta strasnickemu vysilaci 415m Homage to Strasnice partisan radio station	27-28/10/
125. Hodonin 1	b	Otevreni skoly-Odhaleni pametni desky obetem okupace School opening—Unveiling memorial tablet to victims of occupation	28/10/
126. Praha 1	b	I. Sjezd svazu narodni revoluce 1st convention of National Revolutionary Alliance	26-28/10/
127. Prostějov 1	b	Odhaleni pomniku T. G. Masaryka Unveiling of monument to T. G. Masaryk	27-29/10/
128. Praha 1	r	Dva roky prace—dva stupne k blahobytu Two years of work—two steps to prosperity	28/10/
129. Praha 10 Hrad		do	
130. Praha 29 Nardni shromazdeni		do	
131. Plzen 1		do	
132. Tabor 1		do	
133. Usti nad Labem 1		do	
134. Pardubice 1		do	
135. Brno 1		do	
136. Olomouc 1		do	
137. Opava 1		do	
138. Praha 1	b	Odha'eni pamatniku obeti nacismu zamestnancu hlavni posty Unveiling memorial plaque to P. O. victims of nazi persecution	1/11/
139. Praha 7 letecka posta	b	I. let Praha-Bucuresti 1st flight Praha-Bucarest	1/11/
140. Dolny Kubin	bl	25. vyroci smrti P. O. Hviezdoslava 25th ann. of death of P. O. Hviezdoslav	8/11/
141. Kosice 1	bl	Marato slobody-XVI. Slovensky maratón Liberty Marathon—16th Slovak Marathon	28/10/
142. Praha 7 letecka Posta	b	I. let Praha-Oslo 1st flight Praha-Oslo	6/11/
143. Jemnice	b	50 let drahy Moravske Budejovice-Jemnice 50 years of Mor. Budejovice-Jemnice R. R.	9-10/11/
144. Praha 1	b	Mezinarodni studentsky den International student day	15-18/11/
145. Habersbirk	b	Odha'eni pomniku umucenym hrdinam Unveiling monument to tortured heroes	17/11/
146. Hodonin 1	b	Polozeni zakladniho kamene okresni verejne nemocnice Laying of cornerstone to county hospital	17/11/
147. Praha 10 Hrad	b	Tyge Brahe—400. vyroci narozeni 400th an. of birth of Tygo Brahe	13-14/12/

(b—black; bl—blue; r—red; o—orange; v—violet; g—green.)

WANTED TO BUY OR BORROW for plating purposes: Czechoslovakia #4 or Eastern Silesia #5, the 20h blue green in blocks of four or larger. JOHN VELEK, 2229 Kimball Ave., Chicago 47, Ill.

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