

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE
CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

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Editor Frank J. Kovarik, 8748 Rockefeller Ave., Brookfield, Illinois

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EDITORIAL

We are sure our members were as happy as we when they saw that imposing list of new members as also the re-instatement of two who dropped out before, one thru error on the part of your editor. We were also pleased that in spite of the summer season the handbook is selling and we hope to put on a drive which will sell enough to warrant preparation for the next section. While on this subject we thank the many members who loaned \$10 and received their copy, who were willing to keep the balance in the treasury either as payment for dues or as a gift. We hope to sell the handbook in sufficient quantities to pay off those who loaned larger sums and who really contributed more than half the total outlay.

Your editor had to change his plans and as a result was unable to attend the Mound City Stamp Club exhibition in St. Louis. He was ably represented by our president, Dr. James J. Matejka, Jr. The president and editor plan to attend the SPA convention and exhibition in Montreal.

All members have received a submitted design of the Thomas G. Masaryk, Champion of Liberty Stamp and were asked last month to write to the Committee for Stamp Designs, c/o Mr. H. L. Lindquist, 153 Waverly Place, New York 14, N. Y., that this stamp be adopted. So far the United States issued the Magsaysay, Bolivar and Kossuth stamps of this series and the San Martin is pending. The only time Czechoslovakia was honored by our government was when the Overrun Nations stamps came out during the war, though, unofficially, stamps honoring Lidice were contemplated. Masaryk's background is not only Czech; he taught at the University of London, lectured at the University of Chicago and married an American.

We had so much material last month we had to add on another four pages; unless the treasury is very healthy either the November or December issue will be cut down to 12 pages. We'd like to give our members 20 pages, even more, every month but financially this is impossible.

New York Section Meeting—Friday Oct. 17, at 7:30 p.m. in Collectors Club.
Chicago Section Meeting—Sunday, Oct. 19, at 2:30 p.m. in home of F. J. Kovarik, 8748 Rockefeller, Brookfield, Ill.

NEW MEMBERS

634. Clifford Amyx, 321 Dudley Road, Lexington, Ky. (Re-instatement)
635. O. J. Katz, P. O. Box 8059, Johannesburg, Union of South Africa.

SECRETARY'S COMMENTS

First, I want to thank all the members who have written to me, with names of potential members, requesting application blanks and sent in money for membership for their friends. Such co-operation really does make my job so much easier.

The Czechoslovak Philatelic Society Library

The wisdom of the Society's founders to the great need of a Society Library cannot be appreciated more than it is today. The last war took a great toll not only of existing philatelic literature in Czechoslovakia, but also a great many of the publishers of fine Czechoslovak philatelic literature, catalogues and handbooks which were eliminated by the Nazis. These situations have tremendously enhanced the research value of old literature.

The plans of our Society to assemble and publish handbooks about the various phases of Czechoslovak philately shall in great measure depend upon the information housed in our library. In the last two years here in the Chicago area, we have been very fortunate to have saved from the garbage cans many wonderful old Czechoslovak periodicals. Our librarian, Mr. Kosik, has assembled these donations and a great deal of wonderful original information from them, that had and will serve as a basis for many of the articles in our Specialist.

Mrs. Lowey, wife of the founder of our Society, has recently been kind enough to forward all of the Czechoslovak philatelic literature which belonged to her late husband, to the Society library. Other members who may have any material that pertains to the stamps of Czechoslovakia, which they no longer need, could do a great service to our Society by forwarding the material to our librarian. The material shall serve a dual purpose in helping our individual members who seek specific specialized material and also the various editors who shall be working upon manuscripts for articles or for handbooks.

The Czechoslovak Philatelic Society Mail Auction

In addition to his other duties, Mr. Kosik, our librarian, has been charged with the responsibility of assembling, itemizing and conducting a Society mail auction this fall. Donated material from our members is being sent to him, he shall catalogue this material, set it up and the listing shall be published in the Specialist. Through his good offices and the co-operation of all our members all the profits derived from this sale shall be forwarded to our treasury. It is our treasury that dictates the size of our Specialist, the number of illustration cuts contained in it plus the scope of the activities we can sponsor for our members. Lately the fine interest in the sale of our various types of literature and the profit from COMPEX have laid the foundation of a more stable and progressive Society.

Your donations to our auction shall have immediate good effect upon our Society; first the profits shall add to our treasury and the desirable purchases made by our members shall add to their collections. So please go over some of your duplicates and if there is some material that you feel would be of interest to other specialists in our Society, send it to our Librarian.

The donation of literature shall add greatly to the reservoir of information that we can draw upon individually and collectively as a Society. Let us remember we can get from our hobby and Society just what we are willing to put into it, so let us be real greedy.

Joseph J. Jiranek, Secretary

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COMPEX BREAKS ALL RECORDS IN CHICAGOLAND PHILATELY

COMPEX—The Combined Philatelic Exhibition of Chicagoland—broke all records during its three days, May 30, 31 and June 1. Both as an artistic and box-office success, the show exceeded the hopes and expectations of the eleven Chicagoland philatelic organizations who were the sponsors.

The show occupied the entire 19th floor of the Hotel La Salle, comprising the Grand Ballroom as well as the Century Room as well as the connecting foyer. On display were 1106 frames of stamps, by far the largest philatelic exhibition ever staged in the Middle West, and the Hotel authorities clocked the attendance at 15,868 for the three days of the show.

"COMPEX" was unique in that it was not a single show but actually eleven simultaneous shows staged under the same roof by the eleven participating clubs. Joined together only for administrative purposes, each club set up its own rules for exhibition, competition and judging. There was no competition between various clubs, but one interesting development observed was that each of the clubs attempted to display its best collections in order to avoid unfavorable comparison with the displays of the other clubs.

In addition to the official display of the United States Post Office Department, a collection worth well over one million dollars, the following foreign governments officially exhibited their postal exhibits: Finland, Ghana, Greece, Lebanon, Liberia, Luxembourg, Monaco, Poland, Rumania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Arab Republic, the U.S.S.R. and as a late comer, Czechoslovakia and Hungary. Two of the world's most outstanding stamp manufacturers, Thomas de la Rue, Ltd., of England, and Courvoisier-Helio, of Switzerland, also sent outstanding displays of their work. The past and the future of philately were symbolized by the display of a Pony Express saddle complete with mochilla flown to COMPEX by Trans World Airlines from the Wells Fargo Bank Museum of San Francisco, California, and a rocket used in the transportation of mails.

Present at the banquet and various affairs of COMPEX were His Excellency the Cultural Attaché of the Rumanian Embassy, Mr. Zelenac; the Consul-General of Germany; Hon. William Janes, Consul of Libreria; The Consuls-General of Switzerland and Sweden. Mr. L. Rohe Walter represented the U. S. Post Office Department and delivered the principal address both at the ceremonies for the first day of the International Geophysical Year stamp and at the banquet. Also present were Mr. Ervine Metzl, designer of the I.G.Y. stamp, who spoke on how he developed the design and Dr. Hugh Odishaw, Executive Director, U. S. National Committee for the I.G.Y., National Academy of Sciences, who spoke on how the research is being carried out throughout the world and the true meaning of the International Geophysical Year.

The Grand Award winners of the participating clubs of COMPEX were distributed at the banquet and are as follows:

Austin Philatelic Club—Paul Rohloff—Inland Waterway Markings
Chicago Precancel Club—non-competitive
China Stamp Society (Chicago Unit)—non-competitive
Czechoslovak Philatelic Society—Frank Benes—Eastern Silesia
Elmhurst Philatelic Society—Lawrence Pawley—Mexico
Germany Philatelic Society (Chicago Chapter)—Bernard Hennig—Danzig
Jack Knight Airmail Society—J. Wotherspoon (Scotland)—Gt. Brit. flights
North Shore Philatelic Society—to be announced at a later date
Philometer Society of Chicago—J. Rikk, U. S. Classic Experiments
Roosevelt Philatelic Society—Clark Baker—Swiss Postal History
Scandinavian Collectors Club—non-competitive

The Post Office Department created a special COMPEX STATION cancellation at the show premises where 137,000 copies of the I.G.Y. stamp were sold alone, and where first day covers were processed with the special first

day handstamp. In addition about two and a half million or more first day covers were processed at the Chicago Post Office with a special machine cancellation. Most of the covers processed at COMPEX STATION bore the special official COMPEX cachet, as well as special cachets for the first and last day of COMPEX.

Another outstanding feature of COMPEX was the Official Program and Directory. This book ran to 184 pages, the largest such production of a philatelic exhibition of less than international proportions. In addition to listing the exhibits, the books contained a directory of all the members of the 11 participating clubs as well as fourteen original articles of lasting philatelic interest. A few copies of this book, which is of permanent reference and library importance, are still available from COMPEX, (Price \$1.25 postpaid—address COMPEX, Hotel LaSalle, Chicago 2, Illinois.)

Some final notes on COMPEX. The Honorable William G. Stratton, Governor of Illinois, officially proclaimed the week of COMPEX to be known as Illinois Stamp Collectors Week. Franklin J. Bruns, Jr., Director of the Division of Philately and Carl A. Schroeder, Postmaster of the City of Chicago were present at all of the functions and activities of COMPEX. Ernest Kehr, International Secretary of COMPEX was toastmaster at the I.G.Y. ceremonies as well as at the Banquet. Each of these functions had an attendance of over two hundred. Dr. Charles D. Sneller of Peoria, Illinois, outdid himself in his display of photographs of Philatelic Personalities. He was awarded a silver bowl for his endeavors. Dr. James J. Matejka, Jr., president of COMPEX, received the Man-of-the-Year award from the Jack Knight Air Mail Society from its last recipient, Ben Reeves, the Honorary Chairman. At a complete surprise to all a silver cup was presented to Dr. Matejka by Mr. Kehr in connection with his recent award in Argentina at EFICON, for his brilliant display of Alaskan Postal History. All in all, COMPEX will be never forgotten to those who have seen it, as the finest show the Middle West has ever seen and the best show in America since FIPEX.

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21. 33 Austrian postcards with Czech cancellations	3.00
22. 44 picture postcards showing Czech towns	4.00
23. 1918 emergency newspapers, * and used	6.00
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24. 1h complete sheet USED with all plates and flaws	2.00
25. 3h complete sheet * with plates and flaws	3.00
26. 3h tete beche pair	2.00
27. 42 Hradcany waste prints	5.00
28. Legionnaire stamps, 46 better perf in blocks	5.00
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30. POSTA 1919, 10 K light violet, superb	18.00
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37. 125 h ultramarine both imperf and perf	4.00
38. 1928, complete issue (4) *	1.00
39. same used	1.00
40. 1925 Congress complete *	4.00
41. set complete *	4.00
42. 1925 1K vertical watermark *	22.00
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44. 3K vertical watermark *	2.00
45. 5K vertical watermark * and used	1.00
46. Complete set vertical watermarks used	3.00

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49.	AIRS, first set, superb *	5.00
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54.	5h to 2000h complete set *	6.00
55.	400h ORANGE in color of 250h	3.00
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58.	1928 5h to 20K * set	1.00
59.	S.O. Eastern Silesia set up to 1000h Hradcany and postage dues up to 1000h	4.00
60.	500h and 1000h MASARYK, vf Scott \$70	15.00
61.	Vf collection on album pages incl Masaryk & some better	21.00
62.	PLATE BLOX: vf nice lot of ALL BLOX of 4 with plates, 58 diff.	14.00
63.	Slovakia, plate blox, 26 different	7.00
64.	FAVOR SHEETS, sold in Praha on diff. occasions, collection 26 dif	12.00
65.	STAMPS WITH COUPONS, 28 some used and *	3.00
66.	6 different gutter pairs	3.00
67.	11 different miniature sheets	3.00
68.	Collection of 36 different N. Y. World's Fair sheets	28.00
69.	50h Benes autographed by the president EDUARD BENES, sold at the fair for \$15	8.00
70.	3 sheets used, actually on covers at the fair with U. S. stamps	3.00
71.	Czech fieldposts in England, two nice covers	2.00
72.	Czech fieldposts in England, four nice covers	4.00
73.	4 French stamps used, "ARMEE tschechoslovaque en FRANCE," very rare	10.00
74.	SUDETEN, 22 covers used during the Sudeten crisis	5.00
75.	20 different Sudeten stamps * and used	8.00
76.	Airmail set from 50h to 20K complete * overprint with the swastika (Sanabria \$500)	6.00
77.	Bohemia Moravia, cover collection consisting of 112 covers used during the occupation	12.00
78.	Specialized collection with sheets, covers, proofs, reprints, vf on album pages	26.00
79.	SECOND REPUBLIC Scott #307 to 309 VERTICAL GUTTERS *	7.00
80.	Same HORIZONTAL GUTTERS *	7.00
81.	THIRD REPUBLIC 202 different stamps, used, mostly picture stamps, also a sheet	7.50
82.	35 different first day covers	4.00
83.	Unused stamps, face value KC 345	6.00
84.	800 used stamps in sheets	6.00
85.	covers and Second Rep., total 220 covers (some commons)	5.00

The sooner we get the bids in the better we can take care of them.

Books close on October 31, 1958

ALFONS STACH

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Hradcany Perforations

OFFICIAL AND SEMI-OFFICIAL

By Frank J. Kosik

When the first stamps were issued in late 1918, the absence of perforation was a source of difficulty, both to the public and the post offices, so that several Post Offices arranged to have these stamps privately perforated or rouletted (See Stamps Vol. 97 No. 3 Hradcany Stamps Perforations by Z. Kvasnicka). These perforations were mostly $11\frac{1}{2}$ or $13\frac{3}{4}$, though sometimes 10, $10\frac{1}{2}$, $12\frac{1}{4}$, or 15 gauge was used. The latter is from the Post Office in Tetschen. The roulette was line, hole or zig-zag of various types, line roulette 1 mm. being from the Post Office of Praha 17. Perforations prepared to the order of the Post Offices will be described for the purposes of this article as "Semi-Official Perforations."

While these perforations were of postal origin and served postal needs, there are other kinds which have to be dealt with.

(1) OFFICIAL TRIAL PERFORATIONS, made at the Unie Printing Plant viz. $11\frac{1}{2}$ and $13\frac{3}{4}$. These were not put on sale at the Post Offices and copies on the market, offered at high prices, are due to pilferage from the printery.

(2) PRIVATE PERFORATIONS. These were done privately to order of large firms, to facilitate the handling of the stamps, serving the same purpose as the semi-official perforations.

(3) FORGED PERFORATIONS. These were produced by unscrupulous people as soon as a philatelic demand sprung up for "Hradčany" stamps in perforated condition, as it was easy to secure unused imperforate sheets, or to convert the common used stamps into rare perforations. Many of the forgeries are distinguishable by being clean-cut instead of ragged, while cancellations will sometimes prove the fraud.

A full list of the various official and semi-official perforations and roulettes is here given:

- (a) IMPERFORATED.
- (b) ZIG-ZAG ROULETTES: 8 Zig-Zags in 2 Cm. Length.
- (c) LINE ROULETTES—1 MM.: Length of lines.
- (d) LINE ROULETTES—2 MM.: Length of lines.
- (e) LINE ROULETTES—3 MM.: Length of lines.
Line Roulettes used in Praha 17, Teplitz-Schonau, Marienbad, etc.
- (f) HOLE ROULETTES: 9 Holes per 2 cm.
- (g) HOLE ROULETTES: 10 Holes per 2 cm.
- (h) HOLE ROULETTES: 12 to 13 Holes per 2 cm.
- (i) HOLE ROULETTES: 15 Holes per 2 Cm.
- (j) NEEDLE ROULETTES, LARGE IRREGULAR: 9 to 13 per 2 cm.—Performed with a sewing machine.
- (k) NEEDLE ROULETTES, NARROW IRREGULAR: 15 per 2 cm.—Performed with a sewing machine.
- (l) COMB PERFORATION $11\frac{1}{2}$: $11\frac{1}{2}$, $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$, $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$.
- (m) COMB PERFORATION $12\frac{1}{4}$: 12, $12 \times 12\frac{1}{4}$, $12\frac{1}{4} \times 12$.
- (n) COMB PERFORATION $13\frac{3}{4}$: $13\frac{3}{4}$, $13\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$, $13\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$.
- (o) COMB PERFORATION $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{4}$: $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{4}$, $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12$, $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12$.
- (p) LINE PERFORATION 10: $10\frac{1}{4}$, $10 \times 10\frac{1}{4}$, $10\frac{1}{4} \times 10$.
- (q) LINE PERFORATION $10\frac{1}{2}$: $10\frac{1}{2}$, $10\frac{1}{2} \times 10\frac{1}{2}$, $10\frac{1}{2} \times 10$.
- (r) LINE PERFORATION $11\frac{1}{2}$: $11\frac{1}{2}$, $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$, $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$.
- (s) LINE PERFORATION $12\frac{1}{4}$: 12, $12 \times 12\frac{1}{4}$, $12\frac{1}{4} \times 12$.
- (t) LINE PERFORATION $13\frac{3}{4}$: $13\frac{3}{4}$, $13\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$, $13\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$.
- (u) LINE PERFORATION 15: $15\frac{1}{4} \times 15$, $15\frac{1}{4}$, $15 \times 15\frac{1}{4}$. (Tetschen PO)

- (v) LINE PERFORATION $11\frac{1}{2} \times 10\frac{3}{4}$: $11\frac{1}{2} \times 10\frac{3}{4}$, $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11$, $11\frac{3}{4} \times 10\frac{1}{2}$, $11\frac{3}{4} \times 10\frac{3}{4}$, $11\frac{3}{4} \times 11$.
 (y) LINE PERFORATION $13\frac{3}{4} \times 10\frac{3}{4}$: $13\frac{3}{4} \times 10\frac{1}{2}$, $13\frac{3}{4} \times 11$, $13\frac{1}{2} \times 10\frac{3}{4}$, $13\frac{1}{2} \times 10\frac{1}{2}$, $13\frac{1}{2} \times 11$.
 (z) LINE PERFORATION $13\frac{3}{4} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$: $13\frac{3}{4} \times 11\frac{3}{4}$, $13\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$, $13\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{3}{4}$.

The different values may be now dealt with in detail: The letters indicating the unofficial perforations, etc. correspond with those in the foregoing table.

TYPE I

- 3 Hal. Red Violet—Semi-Official Perforations and Roulettes: b, d, e, g, h, j, k, n, r, u, v.
 5 Hal. Yellow Green—Official Perforations: Line $11\frac{1}{2}$, $11\frac{1}{2} \times 10\frac{3}{4}$.
 Semi-Official Perforations and Roulettes: d, b, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, n, q, t, u, v.
 5 Hal. Olive Green—Official Perforations: Line $11\frac{1}{2}$, $11\frac{1}{2} \times 10\frac{3}{4}$.
 Semi-Official Perforations and Roulettes: d.
 10 Hal. Red—Official Perforations: Line $11\frac{1}{2}$.
 Semi-Official Perforations and Roulettes: b, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, n, p, q, t, u, v.
 10 Hal. Rose—Official Perforations: Line $11\frac{1}{2}$.
 Semi-Official Perforations and Roulettes: d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, n, p, q, t, u, v.
 20 Hal. Blue Green—Official Perforations: Line $11\frac{1}{2}$ and Comb $13\frac{3}{4}$.
 Semi-Official Perforations and Roulettes: c, d, f, g, h, j, k, q, t, u, v.
 25 Hal. Blue—Official Perforations: Line $11\frac{1}{2}$ and Comb $13\frac{3}{4}$.
 Semi-Official Perforations and Roulettes:
 25 Hal. Ultramarine—Copies in bright ultramarine similar to the 200 Hal. were never issued by the Postoffice.
 Semi-Official Perforations and Roulettes: r, t.
 30 Hal. Olive Yellow—Official Perforations: Prepared but never issued—Comb $13\frac{3}{4}$.
 Semi-Official Perforations and Roulettes: c, d, e, f, g, h, j, q, r, u, v.
 30 Hal. Olive Bistre—Official Perforations: Prepared but never issued—Comb $13\frac{3}{4}$.
 Semi-Official Perforations and Roulettes: d, e, r, u.
 40 Hal. Brick Red—Official Perforations: Prepared but never issued—Line $13\frac{3}{4}$.
 Semi-Official Perforations and Roulettes: c, d, g, h, r, u.

TYPE II

- 100 Hal. Brown—Official Perforations: Never Issued.
 Semi-Official Perforations and Roulettes: c, d, h, i, p, q, r, u, v.
 200 Hal. Ultramarine—Official Perforations: Comb $13\frac{3}{4}$.
 Semi-Official Perforations and Roulettes: d, h, i, r, u.
 400 Hal. Violet—Official Perforations: Prepared but never issued Line $10\frac{1}{2}$, Line $11\frac{1}{2}$ and Comb $13\frac{3}{4}$.
 Semi-Official Perforations and Roulettes: c, d, e, g, h.

TYPE III

- 1 Hal. Brown—Official Perforations: Line $13\frac{3}{4}$.
 Semi-Official Perforations and Roulettes: d, e, q, r.
 1 Hal. Gray Brown—Official Perforations: Line $13\frac{3}{4}$.
 Semi-Official Perforations and Roulettes: d, q, r.

- 50 Hal. Red Violet—Official Perforations: Prepared but not issued Comb. 13¾ and Comb. 11½ x 12¼.
Semi-Official Perforations and Roulettes: c, d, e, h, i, j, k, r, u, t.

TYPE IV

- 60 Hal. Orange Yellow—Official Perforations: Line 11½, Comb 11½, Comb 13¾.
Semi-Official Perforations and Roulettes: d, e, g, h, u.
60 Hal. Yellow—Official Perforations: Line 11½, 12¼ x 11½ Comb, and Line 13¾.
80 Hal. Olive—Official Perforations: Prepared but not issued 10½ line and Comb 13¾.
Semi-Official Perforations and Roulettes: c, d, e, g, h, i, r, t, u.
300 Hal. Green—Official Perforations: Prepared but not issued Line 11½ and Comb 13¾.
Semi-Official Perforations and Roulettes: d, e, u.
1000 Hal. Violet—Official Perforations: Prepared but not issued Line 10½, 11½, 13¾ and Comb 13¾.
Semi-Official Perforations and Roulettes: d.

TYPE V

- 5 Hal. Blue Green—Official Perforations: 11½ x 10¾, 11½, 12¼, 13¾, 11½ x 10¾, 11½, 12¼, 13¾, 11½ x 12¼, 13¾ x 10¾, 13¾ x 11½, all Line, Comb. 11½, 12¼, 13¾.
5 Hal. Stone Green—Official Perforations: Line 11½, 13¾, Comb. 11½ x 12¼, 13¾, 11½ x 12¼.
5 Hal. Grass Green—Official Perforations: Line 13¾, and Comb 11½ x 12¼, 13¾, 11½ x 12¼.
10 Hal. Red—Official Perforations: Line 13¾, Comb 11½ x 12¼, 13¾, 11½ x 12¼.
10 Hal. Red—Official Trial Proofs: Prepared but not issued Line 11½.
15 Hal. Brick Red—Official Perforations: Line 10½, 11½, 12¼, 13¾, 11½ x 10¾, 11½ x 12¼, 13¾ x 10¾, 13¾ x 11½.
Semi-Official Perforations and Roulettes: c, d, e, f, g, h, i.
Official Perforations Prepared but not issued: 11½ x 13¾.
15 Hal. Vermilion—Official Perforations: Line 13¾, Comb 11½ x 12¼, 13¾, 11½ x 12¼.
15 Hal. Carmine—Official Perforations: Issued Line 13¾, Comb 11½, Comb. 13¾.
20 Hal. Red—Official Perforations: Issued: Line and Comb. 13¾, Unissued Line and Comb. 11½.
25 Hal. Purple—Official Perforations: Line 11½, 12¼, 13¾, 11½ x 10¾, 11½ x 12¼, 13¾ x 10¾, 13¾ x 11½, Comb 11½, 12¼, 13¾.
25 Hal. Deep Purple—Official Perforations: Comb. 11½ x 12¼.
Semi-Official Perforations and Roulettes: c, d, e, g, h, i, j, k, q, u.
Official Perforations Prepared and not issued: 11½ x 13¾.
25 Hal. Bright Purple—Official Perforations: Line 11½, 12¼, 13¾, 11½ x 10¾, 11½ x 12¼, 13¾ x 10¾, 13¾ x 11½, Comb. 11½ x 12¼, 11½ x 12¼, 13¾.
25 Hal. Brown Purple—Official Perforations: Line 11½, 13¾, Comb 11½, 13¾.
30 Hal. Red Violet—Official Perforations: Issued: Comb 11½, 12¼, 11½ x 12¼, Unissued: Line 11½, 13¾.
50 Hal. Blue—Semi-Official Perforations and Roulettes: a, n, r, t.

75 Hal. Dark Green—Semi-Official Perforations and Roulettes: c, d, h, i, k, r.

120 Hal. Gray—Official Perforations: Line $11\frac{1}{2}$, Prepared but not issued
Line and Comb $13\frac{3}{4}$.

Semi-Official Perforations and Roulettes: d, e, g, h.

500 Hal. Red Brown—Official Perforations: Prepared but never issued: Line
 $11\frac{1}{2}$, $13\frac{3}{4}$ and Comb. $13\frac{3}{4}$.

Perforations which are not mentioned in this very detailed list are of absolutely private character. It is, in fact quite easy to produce perforations of a gauge, unknown till now. Quite a few used and unused are still around. In this respect the possibilities are unlimited. All the varieties that are listed in this article were not produced for collectors, but for facilitating the separation of the imperforate stamps for postal clerks and the public, or if they have not been sold at the post offices, they are at least of official origin, produced at the "Unie" Printery at that time the provisional state printing office.

The information in this article is authentic. The only certain proof of genuine perforations was originally gained from the stamps stuck to postal documents which were sold by the government in large quantities and which served to prove which perforations are semi-official and which private and whence they came. Information so gained was the basis of Z. Kvasnicka's article Hradčany Perforations in Stamps Vol. 97, No. 3.

Various catalogues and works on Hradčany were consulted in forming this article; the base being notes supplied by Dr. Victor Weinert in Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal 8/24. Further information and comments appreciated by the compiler.

Most collectors will be satisfied to have the official perforations in their collection. For these I give the following list of perforated Hradčany stamps which were officially issued at the post offices of the republic, without regard to shades or difference between line and comb perforations:

- (1) PERFORATION $11\frac{1}{2}$ —5 H. Yellow Green, 20 H. Blue Green, 25 H. Blue, 60 H. Orange, 5 H. Blue Green, 10 H. Yellow Green, 15 H. Vermilion, 25 H. Violet, 30 H. Red Violet, and 120 H. Black.
- (2) PERFORATION $13\frac{3}{4}$ —20 H. Blue Green, 25 H. Blue, 200 H. Ultramarine, 1 H. Brown, 5 H. Blue Green, 10 H. Yellow Green, 15 H. Vermilion, 20 H. Carmine, 25 H. Violet.
- (3) COMPOUND PERFORATION $13\frac{3}{4} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ (or $11\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$): 5 H. Blue Green, 15 H. Vermilion, and 25 H. Violet.

All other perforations are of "Semi-Official" or private origin, or are official trial perforations never actually issued at the post offices. Naturally they interest specialists only. Since the set exists with official as well as unofficial perforations $11\frac{1}{2}$ and $13\frac{3}{4}$, it is almost impossible to distinguish between them, especially in unused condition. Compound perforations on the contrary, are almost always of official origin. Without exception all kinds of roulettes are of semi-official origin.

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The Fabulous Bridge of Bohemia

By Joseph D. McWherter, Jr.

(Reprinted from WEEKLY PHILATELIC GOSSIP)

There is a story behind every stamp. But there are no other stamp yarns quite like those of the Bohemian and Moravian set picturing Prague's Charles Bridge. Legends of martyrdom and marital discord, heroism and terror, and the indomitable spirit of a race of people are behind these stamps.

Gray and weather-beaten, Charles Bridge spans the often swollen and turbulent Vltava River. It connects Mala Strana (small town) with Stare mesto (old town). Based on sixteen rough-hued stone arches, it is 1650 feet long. Its site has been a principal crossing of the river for more than a thousand years.

Storms and floods destroyed countless wooden bridges here in the early ages. Then, in 1167, Queen Judith built a sturdy stone structure which withstood the brunt of savage waters almost eighty years before collapsing.

Finally, determined to improve his country's communications permanently, Emperor Charles IV began the present bridge shown on the stamps. Construction started in the 1350's and work continued grimly for over 150 years. Ornamentations took additional centuries to complete. No other bridge was forced across the river at Prague until 1841.

Scott's Catalogue captions the design of the stamps simply as "Prague." The picture shows, however, the west end of Charles Bridge with Mala Strana in the background.

German catalogues title the scene more appropriately "Prag, Karlsbrücke."

Engraved, perforated 12½, the stamps are the regular issue of 1939-40, listed in The Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue as numbers 38 to 41 of Bohemia and Moravia. The green colored 5 Koruny is #38. The light ultramarine 10K is #39. Numbers 40 and 41 are the 20K denomination in yellow-brown and sepia, respectively. All of course have the same design.

The vaulted gate and rugged bridge towers depicted in the design are called, naturally enough, the Mala Strana Gate and Towers. The smaller tower dates from the 13th century and is a hardy remnant of Queen Judith's bridge. The larger was erected in the middle of the 15th century.

The sole ornamentation on the bridge was, originally, a large wooden crucifix. This was replaced by one of stone in 1648. An engraved inscription states, in Hebrew, the new crucifix was built at the expense of a Jew who bore the cost for having mocked the Cross.

A few of the famous statues lining the bridge are pictured on the stamps. There are thirty figures, or groups of figures, in all—one atop each bridge piling. Two are of bronze, the rest of stone. These were first set up during the early 1700's, but many were replaced later. Inscriptions on the socles of each name the princely and pious donors. The best known of the statues are St. Luitgard and St. Ivo by Braun; St. Francis Borgia, St. Ignatius of Loyola and St. Francis Xavier by the Prokov Brothers. That of St. Luitgard is said to be one of the finest existing examples of Baroque sculpture.

Because for five hundred years, the bridge was the only structure crossing from one section of Prague to another, it has been called the nucleus of the city's life. It was the channel of all communications. It was also the center of battle or of maneuver during many of the ruthless wars waged in the city.

Not included in the stamp's design is the Old Town Tower at the eastern approach to the bridge. Begun in the 14th century, it is greater in size and ornamentation than either of those at Mala Strana. It, even more than the

rest of Charles Bridge, has been a focal point of Prague's stern history. The Emperor Charles IV laid its cornerstone with his own hands, and it was completed in the reign of his son, Wenceslaus IV.

This Wenceslaus was not Saint Wenceslaus, the Good King of the present day Christmas song. This Wenceslaus was a scoundrel. He was an alcoholic. He abhorred his queen. Worse still, he was given to fiery, uncontrollable bursts of temper.

Hating his wife violently, he sought a reason—any pretext—to execute her. As a last resort, according to one account, he approached John of Nepomuk (later St. John of Nepomuk).

Saint John was then the vicar general of the Archbishop of Prague, and was the queen's confessor. Wenceslaus demanded of him the sins to which his wife confessed, but Saint John refused to violate the sanctity of the confession. Even when the king imprisoned and tortured him, Saint John remained steadfast.

Infuriated, Wenceslaus had the churchman beaten, dragged to Charles Bridge, and hurled into the Vltava.

Saint John's body was not carried down the swiftly moving river immediately says the account. Instead, it floated on the breast of the current while five stars formed around its head.

Each year now, on May 16th, thousands of pilgrims from all over Central Europe journey here to assemble around a marble marker near the middle of the bridge, honoring Saint John of Nepomuk.

The great shell-scarred Old Town Tower was, in 1648, the barrier of resistance in one of the final battles of the Thirty Years War. The victorious Swedes having invaded Bohemia, advanced on Prague, and as a result of treachery occupied Mala Strana. Stubborn Bohemian students pushed their way to the tower. Securing it, they staved off the attack on the larger portion of Prague for four bitter weeks, until the Swedes withdrew.

Three decades before, this same tower had been the scene of one of the first horrors of that war.

To vent dissatisfaction with Catholic King Matthias' policies, indignant Protestant partisans, in 1618, threw two royal councilors from the windows of Hradčany Castle. Historically cited as the "second Defenestration of Prague," this was the overt act of the war. It led directly to the Battle of White Mountain. Imperial forces, there, under Count Tilly annihilated the Bohemian army, and Bohemia lost its independence to Rudolph II—Matthias' successor.

Rudolph's terrible fury was not satisfied with the battle's bloody massacre. In revenge for the insults suffered by the representatives of his royal predecessor, he executed 27 surviving Bohemian leaders in the Old Town Square.

As an awful warning against insurrection, he displayed to public view on the Old Town Bridge Tower, the gory severed heads of twelve of those killed.

These grisly reminders hung there for ten years.

Tribulations of the Czech people have been many during the last centuries. Foreign tyrants have ruled them almost continuously since the time patriot's heads hung high on the Charles Bridge Tower. Often there has been strife, Machiavellian occupation and terrorism. But the foreigners who have imprisoned their bodies have never captured their souls. In terrible times, the Czechs suffered, and hoped, and endured.

A new and more vicious foreigner had just invaded the land when the 5, 10 and 20 Koruny stamps picturing Charles Bridge were issued. The scene in the design, however, is a pleasant one, characteristic of the invincible spirit of the people.

Philosophically awaiting the inevitable coming terror of the German, Nazi regime, townfolks are shown strolling calmly across the bridge, Tran-

quail, too, are the magnificent arched gateway and richly embellished bridge towers which are represented basking in delightful summer morning sunlight. The majestic bronze and stone statues of the Saints pose at rest. The steeple and cupola of the Cathedral of Saint Nickolas stand serenely behind the towers. Quiescent and sedate is the massive outline of Hradcany on the hill.

In Prague, as the scene shows, life goes on.

The stories behind the stamps of Bohemia and Moravia are fascinating. But one of the richest rewards of collecting and studying them is an appreciation of the piety and patience of the Czechs, and of their quiet heroism and admirable optimism.

TYN CHURCH OF THE VIRGIN MARY

In the month of March of the year 888, the Czech chieftains again met at Vyšehrad and unanimously agreed to send to Velehrad for their Prince, who, even before the messengers arrived at Velehrad, promised to God, before King Svatopluk and his bishop, that, should he be seated as a Prince of Czechs, he would become a good Christian and would build a church for the glory of the Virgin Mary. The messengers, on entering the hall, were received by him with grace. Upon hearing their petition and accepting the invitation, he proceeded with great pleasure to get ready for the trip to Bohemia. He begged King Svatopluk to permit his bishop to come with him, so that he could instruct his wife Ludmila in the Christian faith and baptize her in the name of the Holy Trinity.

After bidding King Svatopluk farewell, he arrived at Vyšehrad, where he was greeted by the people with great pleasure. On the third day after his arrival in Praha from Moravia, Bořivoj proceeded from Vyšehrad to the Court at Ohrada (where Prince Křesomysl built a residence, facing the morning sun, for himself and future princes) and before the Great Gate of this Court, which some called Merry Court, others, Secret Court, because it was surrounded by a high fence, caused a church to be founded to the glory of the Virgin Mary, just as he promised in Velehrad.

In the year 891 the Church of Virgin Mary at the Merry Court was finished and on the day of the Ascension consecrated by the bishop Crka of Velehrad, in the presence of Prince Bořivoj, his wife Ludmila, their sons, servants and many newly made Christians.

SVATÝ VÁCLAV (Good King Wenceslas)

In 1929 the martyrdom of St. Václav was honored on the 1000th anniversary. In his brief reign he solidified the Czech tribes into a closely knit political unity and effected protective alliances. In 935 he founded a church which in 1344 was used by Karel IV as a foundation for the cathedral of St. Vitus. For his noble achievements he was canonized and the English immortalized him with a Christmas carol. Václav was far in advance of his time, removing gallows from public places, regarding their presence as degrading to his people. He prohibited torture to extract confessions. But in his own family there was continuous strife, which culminated in his death, when his brother Boleslav, desirous of the throne, lured him to a church festival at Stará Boleslav and there killed him at the door, Sept. 18, 929. It was during the reign of the son of this Boleslav, that St. Vojtěch became the bishop of Praha.

For the anniversary a set of 5 stamps was issued:

The 50h and 60h show St. Václav on a horse, engraved from a drawing of M. Aleš, the 2K shows him laying the corner stone of a church, and the 3 & 5K show the murder according to a painting by J. Mánes.

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