

The Czecho-Slovak Specialist

Official Monthly Publication of
THE CZECHO-SLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA
Editor: Tod Raper, 1553 Clifton Ave., Columbus, Ohio

Vol. 1

October, 1939

No. 6

New Issues Received From Bohemia-Moravia

During the month of September quite an amount of new stamps has appeared.

Though the various items listed below have not appeared chronologically as we mention them we believe that our way of listing will be more convenient. All items have the name Bo-

Medium size: 60 h red violet, Scott 240.

Medium size: 1 K rose, Scott 230.

Large size 1.20 K (Brno) red violet (new design.)

Large size: 1.50 K (Brno) rose red (new design.)

Large size: 2 K grey green Scott 225.



hemia-Moravia in Czech and German on top and bottom. Most of the design used are either such which were used before, or slightly reengraved and in different color from previous originals:

Medium size: 40 h blue, Scott 220.

Medium size: 50 h blue green, Scott 109.

Large size: 2.50 K steel blue, Scott 225.

A complete set of the lower values showing large Linden leaves:

5 h dark blue;

10 h dark brown;

20 h carmine rose;

(Continued on Page 5)

Officers of the Czecho-Slovak Philatelic Society of North America

President: George F. Smyth, 945
Main St., Bridgeport, Conn.

First Vice-President: Fred W. Peters, 500 Warwick Ave., Chicago, Ill.

Secretary: J. W. Lowey, 201 Marcy
Place, Bronx, N. Y.

Treasurer: Guy Greenawalt, 2301
Cathedral Ave., N.W., Washington,
D. C.

Librarian: J. M. Stephen, 37 Queens-
dale Ave., Toronto, Canada.

Editor, The Specialist: Tod Raper,
1553 Clifton Ave., Columbus, O.

EXPERT COMMITTEE

Middle-west: Frank Kovarik, 2502
South Kedzie Ave., Chicago, Ill.

South: C. J. Pearce, 2833 N. W.
Thirteenth St., Oklahoma City, Okla.

East: Mr. Lowey.

New Issue Service (Bohemia-Mor-
avia)—C. J. Pearce, 2833 N. W. 13th
St., Oklahoma City, Okla.

Advertising Rates

	One Insertion	Six Insertions	Twelve Insertions
1 Page . . .	\$6	\$5.50	\$5.00
½ Page . . .	\$4	\$3.75	\$3.50
¼ Page . . .	\$3	\$2.75	\$2.50
1/8 Page . . .	\$2	\$1.85	\$1.75
1/16 Page. \$1		.85	.75

Adlets (for members' wants, ex-
changes, sales, etc.): 1 cent per word.
Stamps accepted in payment under 25
words; over 25 words, cash, money
order, etc.

NEW MEMBERS

No. 47, I. Kessler, 4529 Park Avenue,
Montreal, Canada.

No. 48, Walter Veselsky, 2424 S. Pu-
laski Road, Chicago, Ill.

"OVERPRINTS"

With the nations of Europe engaged
in a great war it is quite natural for
stamp collectors to wonder as to the
possible consequences which the con-
flict will have upon philately, and par-

ticularly, our own organization.

We have already received several
inquiries from members as to opinions
on whether will be future issues from
Bohemia - Moravia and Slovakia,
whether will be provisional issues,
whether the proposed Czech Legion will
issues its own stamps, and other ques-
tions.

We have this belief: that it is im-
possible for any one to predict the
course of history.

Our definite belief, however, is that
(regardless of whether the war will
last only a short time or for years) is-
sues will be forthcoming from the ter-
ritory of former Czecho-Slovakia. We
do not expect an avalanche, but there
will be additions to add to our stamp
collections.

Naturally, it will take more time to
bring issues to this country. Further-
more, restricted transportation facil-
ities will be great obstacles in secur-
ing important news for publication.
Should the war last a longer time, the
various philatelic publications and
channels through which we derive
firsthand information will be either
condensed or will cease altogether for
the duration of the conflict.

Concerning the policy of our organ-
ization, we wish to go on record with
the following statement: Regardless
of the duration of the war, our organ-
ization and this publication will con-
tinue as long as there are two mem-
bers left on the membership rosters.
Czecho - Slovakia's postal history,
stretching over the past 20 years offers
a vast background into which we can
and will delve for an indefinite time.

On the other hand (and we cannot
remain neutral, individually, in our
sympathies) the downfall of the Hitler
regime—which is to be expected even-
tually — will bring about the birth of
a new and free Czecho - Slovakia.
Therefore, we are very optimistic
about our future. It can be safely as-
sumed that from that day on our mem-
bership will increase swiftly.

In view of this, and though mem-
bership dues collection time is some
time off, we nevertheless wish to ap-
peal to every one to resolve to renew
his or her membership when the
proper time comes.

During a critical seven months we
have become a society of approximate-
ly fifty enthusiasts, philatelic brothers
and sisters. Let us therefore resolve
and adhere to the slogan: "We will
stick together!"—J.W.L. and T.R.

Present Society Officers Renominated by Committee

In recognition of the work of organizing and properly conducting The Czecho-Slovak Philatelic Society of North America since its inception the Nomination Committee has decided to re-nominate the entire executive board for the year of 1940.

In view of this it will therefore not be necessary to submit ballots to our membership. As a matter of record, we list the office holders:

President, George F. Smyth; Vice-President, Fred W. Peters; Secretary, J. W. Lowey; Treasurer, Guy Greenawalt; Librarian, J. M. Stephen; Editor, The Specialist, Tod Raper; Chairman of Judicial Board, Dr. William Reiner-Deutsch; Chairman of the Rules Committee, Frank Kovarik.

If any member believes that addition or different executives or governing bodies which would work for the benefit of our society should be created, please communicate with our secretary.

(Signed) Frank Kovarik,
Chairman, Nomination Committee.

Constitution Offered

With this issue, members will find a copy of our constitution, which has recently been formulated by the society's Chicago chapter.

Members are asked to read and digest this thoroughly. If changes, amendments or suggestions that will benefit the society are lacking, please send them to the secretary immediately. These will then be published in The Specialist's November issue, and then voted upon.

NEW MEMBER WELCOMED

On one of the pages of this issue we are featuring an advertisement by our dealer-member, I. Kessler, Montreal, Canada. Up to a few months ago Mr. Kessler was one of the most prominent stamp dealer of Czecho-Slovakia, with offices at Prague for the past 17 years. Though being a specialist in the stamps of Czecho-Slovakia Mr. Kessler also is very strong in classic issues of Europe.

FIELD POST Of Czecho-Slovak and Allied Armies in Siberia and Their Postage Stamps

Translated By Frank J. Kovarik
Continued from Last Month

Br. General Cecek, who can be counted one of the greatest friends of the field post, in a letter to the chief of the Postal Service, had said that he admired the task performed by the postmen who, to the very last moment stuck to their tasks without grumbling, and thereby preserved their postal honor.

Perhaps it would be interesting to mention that toward the end of 1919 a "postal service course" was conducted by Br. Kalous, where everything pertaining to postal work was studied, thus fitting the men to continue in the postal service upon their return home. The course ended with examinations at which I represented the Czech staff and Br. Zak-Marusiak was present at the Slovak examination.

Military decorations received by the field post men were:

- 1 order of "Falcon" with swords,
- 2 orders of "Falcon" for service,
- 6 crosses of St. George for courage.

- 1 gold French military medal with swords,
- 1 silver French military medal with swords, and
- 11 bronze French military medals.

(There follows another page of "pats on the back".

2. POSTAGE STAMPS OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK FIELD POST AND THE ALLIED ARMIES IN RUSSIA.

The thought that our field post ought to have its own postage stamps was brought about by recalling the first postage stamps we had: a Russian 10-kopek stamp overprinted CESSKJA POCTA (correctly spelled it should have been CESSKAJA POCTA). This stamp was issued as a result of the request of the general director of the Russian Field Post in Chelabinsk and upon approval No. 11723/Pp.-IV. of the postal authorities in Omsk and was used to frank letters addressed to members of the Czechoslovak Army at first. In 1918

our Army did not have the privilege of free franking which was later given to us upon a written request submitted by our field post department to the ministry of Posts in Omsk. The Ministry granted the request, permitting franking and in that way the 10-kopek stamp became unnecessary and no more were overprinted. Since at that time we had no time for philately, I have to thank the head of the Russian Field Post in Chelabinsk, who obtained several copies for me.

So far as I know there are not more than 30 to 50 copies of this stamp in unused state. Only about 1000 copies were overprinted; and the new issue was to come with the corrected overprint as mentioned above, but because of the franking privilege then obtained, nothing more was done about it. This stamp was thus father to the thought of having our own postage stamps. My idea met with full approval of the General Quartermaster, Lt. Col. Klecanda, who, however, acquainted me with the technical difficulties the printing of postage stamps might entail. Upon this I brought him in a few days a design of a very simple adhesive as drawn by my assistant Br. Cervenka; it was to be printed in black.

That was in the spring of 1919. The printing of this stamp never materialized; only a few copies as essays were printed in Chelabinsk, of which, I think, none exist.

Toward the fall of 1919 this was again considered. The first designs were prepared in September, 1919; the authors were Brs. Cila, Jar. Maly, and J. Svec. Of the designs submitted three were accepted with slight modifications. The picture on the 25-kopek stamp represents the main church of Irkutsk and in front of it an urn and a laurel branch. On the 50-kopek is a reproduction of the armored train "Orlik" (eaglet) taken from a photograph loaned for the purpose by Br. General Syrový and on the 1-ruble stamp is the figure of a Czech volunteer.

The printing of the stamps was ordered through the Department of Field Posts having received the approval of Br. Pavlu. The designs were transferred to a lithographic stone and printed from a press in the Makushina and Posochina Lithographic Works in Irkutsk, which at that time was rented to the Propaganda Council of the Czechoslovak Army. The

lithographic work was done by our volunteers under the supervision of Br. J. Koudelky. Perforating (gauge 11½) and gumming was done at the printing establishment of the Propaganda Council whose director was Br. Ladislav Pop. The printing was done on a paper brought from Japan on which were printed the pamphlets for the Czech Army. The establishment of Makushina and Posochina was located on Bolshi Street No. 19 and the printing establishment in Soldat Street No. 3.

Outside a small number of imperforate stamps which were handed to the field post office in December, 1919, the following quantities were transferred to us on Jan. 14, 1920:

10,500 stamps of the 1 rupee denomination.

11,540 stamps of the 50k denom.

12,000 stamps of the 25k denom.

The first buyer of several sets was the station master at Irkutsk, Br. Lieut. V. Weiss. Because of lack of time the balance of the stamps printed in Irkutsk was brought home and gummed and perforated 13½ in 1921 at Unie Printing in Praha. (This was the 2nd issue.)

The stamps of the Irkutsk perforation 11½ are at the present time found in very limited quantities and almost all are housed in collections. Most of these stamps were used, most of the covers destroyed and consequently even in this condition only a very few are in existence.

About 600 of these stamps (of the first issue) were overprinted PRVI JUGOSLAVENSKI PUK V SIBIRJI, perforated 11½ and imperforate, and prepared in 1920 through the Supreme Command of the Allied Armies and purchased by members of the first Yugoslav Regiment; most of them were used to frank correspondence to SHS (now Yugoslavia).

Later in 1920 about 3000 copies perforated 11½ were overprinted BALICKY DO VLASTI 50 R. (parcels home, 50r), and sold at the unoverprinted value with additional payment of 50 rubles for the Financial Committee of the Czechoslovak Army as an initial payment on packages sent home. These stamps were either attached to the parcel or to a card.

Almost at the last moment before the departure of the last contingent of the field post back home, about July, 1920, I received an order to organize a post in the train of the Czechoslovak

Red Cross and which was to head west taking mail for prisoners and those of our's who remained in Siberia. Most of these letters were from foreign lands and had a censorship cancellation of the Soviets. To enable the transportation of mail from Vladivostok, I approached the Soviet Authorities in Vladivostok with a request for effecting this through their Censor Department. The Soviet Authorities were willing that this be done providing every piece be censored by them and have a marking that such procedure had been complied with. With the approval of our staff and the Soviet Authorities, imperforate stamps of the first issue received an overprint VLAK CS. CEREVNKO KRIZE (Train of the Czechoslovak Red Cross) and immediately after censoring these stamps were attached to letters and parcels. About 350 sets were so used and about 100 of the remaining sets remained with the Soviet Commissariat for possible further mailings. After my departure all this work was entrusted to Br. Cermak who, according to a report submitted to me, reached Central Siberia with his charge and then returned to the Far East.

This in brief is the story of our stamps used in Siberia were the stamps known as "Small Lions". These were printed in Praha by a Committee of the Czechoslovak Red Cross and about 60,000 were sent to Siberia. Part of them went to the Gen-

eral Staff and a part reached the train of General Janina. As they were without a figure of value with only the date, 1919, the Field Post of the Czechoslovak and Allied Armies overprinted them with the year 1920 and in denominations of 2, 3, 5, 10, 15, 25, 35, 50 k, and 1 r. Stamps overprinted 1919, 1920, and without the year are known to have been found cancelled: POLNI POSTA CS. ARMADY NA SIBIRI. — this canceller was never used by our field post and was probably made for collectors in this country (C S R)?

All stamps cancelled by the Field Post in Siberia are cancelled by one of these devices:

1. Polni Posta Cs. Vojsko Na Rusi. Post horn (round die.)
2. Polni Posta, Poste Militaire. Post horn. Ceskoslovenske vojske na Rusi—round die.
3. Polni Posta. Ceskoslovenske Vojske na Rusi. "President Grant" XXXV. (round die).
4. Sprava polni posty cs. vojsk na Rusi — used very seldom (round die).
5. Ceskoslovenske vojsko na Rusi. Polni posta. Cis. Used last at post office in Nizni Udinsk (rare) (horizontal rectangle.)

I have written very briefly all I know about the stamps of the field post. If it isn't written technically, remember please, that I am not and never was a philatelist. To begin to collect in Siberia was impossible.

TWO CATALOGS HERE

The new editions of the "Tribuna" and "Sberatel" catalogs have just come into our hands. As noted in our previous issues prices without exception have gone up heavily. Though we have no direct information we believe that for obvious reasons the Ekstein catalog will not make its appearance this year.

NEW ISSUES

(Continued from Page 1)

25 h dark green;

30 h wine red;

It should be noted that the set of lower values is printed on somewhat better paper than usual and that the comb perforation in all cases is perfect.

We are informed that additional high values of above views have been issued but up to going to press have not received these. Also newly designed dues have appeared but have not reached us up to now.—J.W.L.

Members' Adlets

Need the following items (Ekstein Numbers): 6,—32 E,—37 B imperf.—612 ultram. imperf. and perf.—650 colored proof, 677 colored proof. Siberian Lions complete sets of second and third issues.

Offer the following: Various colored proofs, Die Proofs and Proof Waste; furthermore some 1918 and 1920 Tete Beches, Block of Four 807-810, Plate Numbers 1 and 1 A Singles 923-926.

Either exchange on basis Ekstein or will buy or sell at reasonable prices.

J. W. Lowey, 201 Marcy Place,
Bronx, N. Y.

MINT CZECHOSLOVAKIA MINT

All items mint unless otherwise stated. Every stamp sold by me is guaranteed to be genuine and in perfect condition. All rarities signed by leading experts.

My Specialty: Czechoslovakia and "Rare items of Europe 19th Century." Practically everything in stock. Want lists will receive my prompt personal attention. Any item willingly sent on approval against cash deposit or references.

Every collector interested in Czechoslovakia should get in touch with me and take advantage to fill up his blanks at low prices.

Early order advisable because some of the items offered are from my private collection and only once in stock.

(New Scott Nos.)

UNUSUALS

43A	.90
45A	5.00
47A	8.00
71A	.75
73A	1.00
82A	.35
83A	.70
84A	2.50
86A	6.00
101A	12.00
101B	19.00
101C	24.00
101D	.80
102	7.00
119-122	4.00
P6A	.05
P9	.15
P10A	.25
E4	1.20
E5	.35
E6	5.00
B18A	140.00
B19A	40.00
B21A	11.00
RARE OVERPRINTS	
B21	11.00
B26	60.00
B33	45.00
B40	125.00
B45	12.00
B46	37.50
B54	11.00
B57	11.00
B59	4.00
B60	5.00
B62	6.00
B90	35.00
B114	14.00
B115	7.00

AIR POST STAMPS

C1-3	8.00
C1-3 Block of 4	40.00
C1-3 really flown on cover extremely scarce	50.00
C4-C6	12.00
C4-C6 Block of 4	60.00
C4-6 really flown on cover, very scarce	65.00
C7-9	1.60
C7-9 inverted surch	40.00
B37-39	65.00

COMMEMORATIVES

B133-136	3.00
B133-136 Block of 4	16.00
B133-136 used on cover	3.00
B137-139	8.00
B137-139 used on cover	7.50
B140-143	9.00
B140-143 used on cover	8.75
B144-146 Block of 4	1.60
B147-149 Block of 4	1.60
J15-J57. compl set	5.00
31-32 Eastern Silesia	8.00
J52A used, Czechoslovakia's rarest stamp, unknown, unused, price on request.	

Terms: Cash with order. If for any reason you are not satisfied your money will be immediately refunded without question.

I. KESSLER

4529 Park Avenue

Montreal, Canada