

# THE CZECHO-SLOVAK SPECIALIST



OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE  
THE CZECHO-SLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

Editor: Peter Kreisler, 6616 S. Marshfield Ave., Chicago, Ill.

Vol. 2

October, 1940

No. 7

## GREETINGS TO THE CICERO— BERWYN EXHIBITION

To Collectors visiting the Cicero-Berwyn Exhibition:

The collectors or specialists of the stamps of Czecho-Slovakia are cordially invited to join our organization, The Czecho-Slovak Philatelic Society of North America. This is a correspondence Society with over 65 members throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Quite a few of our members reside here in Chicago and vicinity. The offices of the Editor of this paper, the Library and the 1st Vice President are also located here as well as a member of our Expert Committee. Monthly meetings are held by the members here which usually result in interesting discussions, displays of various issues and studies of old and new varieties.

Benefits and Advantages which may be derived are as follows:

1—Receipt of our monthly publication, "The Czecho-Slovak Specialist" which is constantly being improved upon and besides bringing news of Philatelic interest to our members, carries original articles written by our staff of specialists.

2—Access to our Library which is steadily being enlarged and which now contains an extensive range of material.

3—Expert advice on any stamp or issue or any other Philatelic items is made available through our Expert Committee.

4—The benefits and advantages obtained by membership in this organization are unlimited. The Specialist or collector of the stamps of

Czecho-Slovakia, Bohemia-Moravia, or Slovakia has the opportunity to learn more about these stamps thru correspondence and thru the Society's publication, he also has the opportunity to trade, buy or sell or learn any or all information on varieties available.

As a gesture of good will and cooperation with the Cicero-Berwyn Exhibition the Society is showing a few frames of material made up by the Chicago members.

Further information and application blanks may be had by contacting any one of the Society's officers residing here in Chicago or by writing to the Secretary.

With an expression of good wishes,  
The Czecho-Slovak Philatelic Society of N. A.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

From our fellow member Mr. Russell in Australia comes word, "—correct Mr. Lowey's statement in the June number that Mr. Stephen is the only "foreigner" who possesses a Czech/English dictionary. I'm another "foreigner" who has one!" Well, this is all very interesting, are there any other "foreigners" or otherwise who possess a dictionary of the Czech-English language. Let's hear from them. (Ed.)

## CORRECTION

In announcing new members in the September issue of the Specialist, the membership numbers of Mr. Harry Holman and Mr. Gyula Bergl were given incorrectly. Numbers assigned are Mr. Holman #62 and Mr. Bergl #63.

## 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, 5000 Warwick Ave., Chicago, Ill.

Second Vice-President: F. R. Ferryman, 505 Fifth Ave., New York City.

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

Treasurer: Guy Greenawalt, 4000 5th Street, North, Arlington, Va.

Librarian: Mrs. M. Glawe, 9640 S. Seeley Ave., Chicago, Ill.

Editor: Peter Kreischer, 6616 S. Marshfield Ave., Chicago, Ill.

Chairman of the Judicial Board: Dr. Wm. Reiner-Deutsch, 41-31, 77th St., Jackson Hgts., L. I., N. Y.

Chairman of the Rules Committee: Mr. Frank J. Kovarik, 2502 S. Kedzie Ave., Chicago, Ill.

### EXPERT COMMITTEE

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

South: C. J. Pearce, 2333 N. W. Thirteenth St., Oklahoma City, Okla.

East: J. W. Lowey, 201 Marcy Pl., Bronx, N. Y.

### AUDITING COMMITTEE

W. G. Slocum, 32 Sixth Ave., Room 1561, New York City.

Frank Voticky, 160 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, N.Y.

### ANNOUNCEMENT

The Library of the Society is now located in Chicago, the new Librarian being Mrs. M. Glawe of 9640 S. Seeley Ave. This is a most worthy change in view of the fact that it puts the material in a more geographical center of the Society. The change, however, was effected in order to avoid any complications which may result in sending material through the Canadian Customs. This issue of the Specialist carries a list of Philatelic Literature now on hand at the Library. The terms of loaning material will continue.

Library Material Now Available To Members.

(Library Fee: Ten cents per loan, all postage to be paid by the borrower)

#### Magazine Articles

1a—The Hradcany Issue of 1918.

2a—Illustrated Check List of Uncatalogued Varieties.

4a—An Aero-Philatelic Survey

5a—Czechoslovakia and Her Stamps.

7a—History of the 1918 Provisional Overprints.

8a—By Post Across Czechoslovakia.

10a—Collecting Czechoslovak Cancellations.

11a—Postal Statistics for 1928 and 1931.

13a—List of Philatelic Societies in Czechoslovakia

15a—The 20th Anniversary Miniature Sheet.

17a—List of Post Offices in Sudetenland.

#### Catalogues

1c—1936, 1937 and 1939 Ekstein, German text.

2c—Tribuna, 1937, 1938 and 1939, Czech text, with Supplement.

3c—Revue, 1937, Czech text.

5c—Stach, 1937, Czech text.

#### Bound Volumes

1v—Hirsch-Frank Monography—Czech Text, (2)

#### Hand Books

2h—Postal Cancellations of Czechoslovakia, by Peller, Czech text.

Corrections and additions to this list will appear in the Specialist from time to time.

M. G. Librarian

### ANNOUNCEMENT

In this issue of the Specialist begins the long awaited article on the Stamps of the Czechoslovak Army Field Post in Russia, and if the comment in the mail I receive from the members means anything this article should be of great interest to many, if not all the members. (Ed.)

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Frank O. Voticky, 160 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, N.Y.

### VISIT THE 2nd CHICAGO STAPEX

sponsored by the  
Beverly Hills Philatelic Society  
of Chicago, Ill.

November 22, 23 and 24, 1940

at the  
Ridge Park Field House  
92nd and Longwood Drive, Chicago  
Admission Free

**THE 1930 AIR POST ISSUE OF  
CZECHOSLOVAKIA  
AND ITS VARIETIES**

By Guy Greenawalt

Czecho-Slovak Philatelic Society of N.A.

The first definite set of air post stamps comprising eight values was issued Dec. 16, 1930. Four etchings were prepared by Karl Seizinger, using photographs as models. The 50h and 1Kc shows a monoplane flying over the Krkonose or Bohemian Mountains. The 2Kc, 3Kc and 4Kc and 5Kc show similar views of a biplane flying over the Tatra Mountains while the 10Kc and 20Kc shows a monoplane flying over a Panorama of Hradcany. The signature letter S is found on each view. On the 50h it is found above the second K of CESHOSLOVENSKO about 2mm. from the frame line.

The stamps were printed on a thin white paper from engraved plates by the Graficke Unie in Prague. Originally, only one plate was prepared for each value, except the 3Kc for which two plates were made. All plates bore the number 1. Subsequently, new plates were made for some values. They were also marked number 1 except the 3Kc which was marked number 2. The 50h and 2Kc stamps printed from the new plates appeared Jan. 16, 1939 and the new 4Kc was issued February 6, 1940. The new plates can be distinguished by differences in size of format. The printings were, in general, darker in color. In reprinting the above values the older dies were retouched which resulted in new types. On April 22, 1939, the last stamp to be issued by Czechoslovakia was the 30h air post with a hyphen between CESHKO and SLOVENSKO.

Values and types existing are as follows:

50h green, type I— 17¼ x 21mm.

type II— 17¼ x 21¼mm. On this type the engraved lines are deepened, especially at the right of the label containing the word Ceshkoslovenska.

1Kc red, type I— 17¼ x 21 mm.

type II— 17¼ x 21½mm.

2Kc green, type I— 21½ x 31½mm.

The vertical lines above the left figure of value are fine. type II— 22 x 30¼mm. The vertical lines above the left

figure of value are deepened. 3Kc violet, type I— 21½ x 31½mm.

The figure 3 is thick and leans to the right. The end of the mountain along the lower left frame line above the 3 is lightly shaded.

type II— frame size the same as type I. The figure 3 is thin and straight. The mountain is heavier with fine shade lines.

type III— 31¼ x 22½mm. (Plate #2) The 3 is thick and straight and the end of the mountain is heavier with thick shade lines. The entire frame line is also heavier.

4Kc blue, type I— 21½ x 31½ mm.

type II— 22 x 30¼mm.

5Kc brown, 21½ x 31½mm.

10Kc ultramarine, 21¼ x 32mm.

20Kc violet, 21¼ x 32 mm.

All the above have been perforated 13¼.

The following perforation varieties exist and have been used in the post;

Perf. 12¼; 50h type 2; 1Kc type 2; 4Kc type I and the 20Kc. The 1 and 2Kc of these are scarcest.

The 1Kc type II exists perforated 12¼x13¼, the 2Kc type 1 perf 13¼x12¼.

All values type I and also the 3Kc type II exist imperforate. These were not regularly issued. A sheet, or possibly more, of each value was appropriated before the sheets were perforated, by someone who had access to the printing plant and sold to dealers in Prague. The 50h, 1Kc, 2Kc, 4Kc type II and the 3Kc type III are not known imperforate. Whether these should be called regular imperforates or essays or color proofs has been the subject of some debate. However, none of them were ever used in the post.

Imperforate proofs on un gummed pink or rose paper of all values type I and the 3Kc type II exist.

Printing varieties, flaws, creases and freaks are scarce. The following varieties have been reported; double perforations on the 2Kc (perf. 13¼ x 12½), 4Kc, 5Kc and 20Kc; part imperforate varieties of the 3Kc (t. III), 10Kc and 20Kc; the 5Kc with horizontal crease; and the 4Kc and 20Kc with large color spots.

The following publications were used in preparing this article; Ceshkoslovenske Znamky by Hirsch-Franek and Wilhelm Ekstein's catalogues.

## STAMPS OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK FIELD POST IN RUSSIA

### Introduction

Many years ago I received from a friend a large number of Siberian essays of the Praha issue. Not finding them catalogued, I used them as seals on the backs of letters and one of them happened to be noticed by the recipient (a stamp collector) who desired information on the seal. I wrote to Praha but could not receive sufficient information, and after a time dropped the subject.

Some ten years ago a friend of mine offered me the set overprinted in divers values in green and told me he bought them from Sekula. Shortly after that the Sekula Company appeared in the philatelic press as a firm selling many spurious items. Again I forgot about the stamps until quite by accident I acquired a cover mailed in Siberia by a Czech legionnaire. I then wrote to every collector in Czechoslovakia I came in contact with and was surprised at the divergence of information I received. I tried to piece all this material together, but had indifferent success, when upon going through my philatelic library I found a booklet by Novotny, chief of the Czechoslovak Field Post and published shortly upon his arrival in Czechoslovakia from Siberia. After several collectors had asked for information on the Siberian Posts, I decided to translate Mr. Novotny's booklet. His philatelic knowledge was very poor and I tried again to complete the article with some authentic remarks of my own finding. At long last the article was translated and sent to Mr. Francis W. Beedon for corrections.

While this was in Mr. Beedon's hands I happened to obtain a book on the stamp issues of Czechoslovakia written by Messrs. Hirsch and Franek. The last chapters were devoted to the stamps of the Czechoslovak armies in Siberia and I heaved a sigh of relief! Men in Praha, close to the fountainhead of knowledge of these issues, were almost as much in the dark as I concerning them.

I then decided to translate this article and publish it simultaneously with Mr. Novotny's article and so give our English-speaking collectors who are interested in the stamps of Siberia as clear a picture as possible

of these issues. I do not profess to be a specialist in these issues, perhaps the material I have is all bogus; but what history there is, is interesting, and in my humble estimation, worthy of record.

I thank many of my friends for the help accorded me in this work, and though incomplete, I trust my readers will accept it "as is," (in the words of our auctioneers), and perhaps later, a more complete picture can be presented.

Frank J. Kovarik

### STAMPS OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK ARMY FIELD POST IN RUSSIA

The Czechoslovak volunteers who formed their own legions in Russia to battle against Austria, were originally (after deserting the Austrian army), members of the Imperial Russian Army and consequently enjoyed free franking privileges. After the Bolshevist success in 1917 the Russian Army collapsed and the Czechoslovak Legions reorganized as an independent army. When it was definitely decided that the Czech Army would not be transferred to France, a decision was reached during a meeting in Celjabinsk in the summer of 1918 to organize a Czechoslovak Army Field Post. On July 10, 1918, Lieut. Ant. Novotny was asked to draw plans for a field post, and on August 11, 1918, he was named as head of the service. On Sept. 18, 1918, the first railway mail train left Celjabinsk over Samara and Ufa to Syrzan. The Czechoslovak Post also became a field post of all the allied armies in Siberia (United States, England, France, Poland, Jugoslavia, Roumania, Italy, China, and Lithuania).

Among the hardships of this new service it is necessary to remember the scarcity of material and of an effective personnel, the wide area and the distances. At first the distance measured 4000 Km., and after a union was effected with the eastern army, Oct. 28, 1918, a distance of 7000 Km., a two-weeks trip on the Celjabinsk-Vladivostok line. All of these inconveniences were met and conquered, so that even the civil population took advantage of the postal service be-

caused the Russian Postal Service functioned very poorly.

In spite of the fact that the postal service was free and no postage stamps were necessary, three issues of stamps are known and we shall discuss them in this paper. If the first postage stamp (the overprinted Russian 10-kopek stamp issued in 1918), was the result of a need, not so much can be said for the other two issues, one of which was issued in Russia, the other in Praha. The reason for the Irkutsk issue may have been psychological if not practical; the issue from Praha, showing the Czech lion, was purely philatelic. At best these issues have but a semi-official status.

Although the time between the issue of these stamps is rather short, many of the details are not known and will possibly remain a mystery. Those responsible for the Irkutsk issue (not philatelists) and the Praha issue (philatelist J. Rossler-Orovsky) either paid little attention to supplying details about these stamps or purposely kept them to themselves. It is strange that the many treatments of these subjects by Novotny and Rossler, the men directly responsible for both issues, must be taken with considerable optimistic credulity.

The articles published by Novotny upon his return (and before he became a stamp collector) can be accepted with confidence even if they show certain mistakes, imperfections, or omissions. This authentic honesty is not found in his later articles, which were published with a view of selling some of the material brought back from Siberia. Perhaps the most weighty fact is that Mr. Novotny still retains possession of the material necessary to print the Praha issues, and this accounts for the large numbers of reprints of this stamp. These reprints can be recognized and show marked contrasts to the originals, in spite of Novotny's manifold explanations.

The fact that many legionnaires heard of the stamps only after their return home can be explained both territorially (vast distances between stations and troops) and the fact that the field post was disbanded and returned before all of the troops were evacuated from Siberia. The remainders came to Czechoslovakia with the field post.

#### Cesskja Posta (Cheshskja Pochta)

In our introduction we mentioned the postal conditions in Russia in the fall of 1918. While the Russian civil and military posts were very incompatible, the Czechoslovak Field Post functioned under all conditions exceptionally well. This was one reason why many of the civil inhabitants used this service. Since at that time no definite arrangement was made with the Russian Postoffice it was necessary to prepay all letters at the rate of ten kopeks. To keep a correct record of mail used by the Czechs, the chief of the Field Postal Service in Celjabinsk after an agreement with the Czechoslovak Field Post, suggested the issuance of a 10-kopek stamp with the overprint "Czech Post." This was also to eliminate confusion resulting from poorly addressed material intended for Czechs. The idea was accepted by the Russian Postal authorities in Omsk and so in October, 1918, the Russian stamp of 1909, value 10-kopeks, blue, was overprinted "Cesskja Pochta" in Russian characters.

The overprint was applied diagonally (from lower left to upper right) in two lines. The text was misspelled ("Cesskja" instead of "Cesskaja"). No record was kept but it is the opinion of most that only about 1000 of these stamps were overprinted. They were used for perhaps one week and were taken out of circulation, when a corrected overprint was to be employed. In the meantime however, the authorities at Omsk gave permission for free mail to the troops of the Czech armies in Russia.

It is not known how receipts for these stamps were to be divided between the Russian and Czechoslovak posts. The small number of these stamps issued and the smaller number saved (mostly in unused condition) is the reason why so little is known about the stamp. Although this stamp really belongs in a collection of Russia, it is much sought by specialists of Czechoslovakia and is highly prized as a memento of the trek across Siberia.

There are rumors that other Russian stamps were similarly overprinted, but until a cover is found franked with them, they must be considered unauthentic.

The overprint on the Russian 10-kopek stamp of 1909 was applied in

Celjabinsk. It is believed that a stereo was made from type. Some of the stamps seen show very poor workmanship because the overprint registered incompletely.

The color of the overprint is dull black. A very small number is claimed to exist with a red overprint, but the authors have not seen a copy and doubt the existence of such.

Cancellations may have either a Russian town cancellation or the cancellation used by the Czechoslovak Field Post.

#### Pictorial (Irkutsk) Issue (Silhouettes)

The organizer of the Czechoslovak Field Post, A. Novotny, wrote that in January, 1919, and again in May, 1919, production of special postage stamps was discussed. When Gen. Klecanda was influenced to favor an issue of "charity" stamps, designs were immediately prepared. The order for the issue of these stamps was given by the representative of the Czechoslovak Government, Boh. Pavlu.

Volunteers prepared several designs. Of these the following were approved:

25-Kopek. The Cathedral of Irkutsk, with an urn and a laurel branch in the foreground.

50-Kopek. Armored train "Falcon" from a small photograph. The author of these two stamps was Jaroslav Maly.

1-ruble. A Czechoslovak volunteer from a drawing by Cila.

The least pleasing of these stamps is the 50-kopek; the best of the three is the silhouette featuring a volunteer. It is from this stamp that the issue derived its name among specialists as the "Silhouette Issue".... though the other two can hardly be called that.

These stamps were not necessary because postal matter of the volunteers was accepted free. And since the funds obtained from the sale of these stamps was turned over to the "Invalid Fund" of the Czechoslovak Legionnaires, they may be termed charity stamps. At the same time they advertised the desire of the Czech soldier for independence.

In December, 1919, these stamps were sold at post offices of the field post, gummed but imperforate: 25-kopek carmine, 50-kopek green, 1-ruble red brown.

On January 14, 1920 the same

stamps were issued perforated  $11\frac{1}{2}$  in the following quantities: 25-kopek, 35,520; 50-kopek, 34,800; 1-ruble, 20,790.

The sale of these stamps in Siberia was very small because most of the soldiers did not know of their existence. Then also, many soldiers bought the stamps but enclosed them in the envelope, fearing (perhaps rightfully), that the stamps and perhaps the entire letters might be stolen for the sake of the stamps.

It has been said that a part of the imperforate issue was perforated  $13\frac{1}{4}$  in March, 1921, in Vladivostok, but no authentic records are available and therefore the exact status of these cannot be determined.

A large number of the imperforate and ungummed remainders were sent to Praha by the last transport "President Grant". In Praha these stamps were gummed at the Unie Printing Works, perforated  $13\frac{1}{4}$ , and then sold. They can at best be called "unissued stamps."

These stamps were ordered by the Department of Field Posts from the Information Bureau which had rented the printing establishment of Makusin and Posochin in Irkutsk, where they were lithographed.

The designs were reduced in size photographically and reproduced on an aluminum plate six times and from this transferred to a lithographic stone. There were two stones, one for a combined printing of the 25-K and 50-K stamps—the other for the 1-r stamp printed in two sheets.

Horizontal pairs of the 50-k and 25-k with gutter between and 1-r and 1-r vertical pairs with gutter are scarce.

Plate markings. Several times, on all four corners in all values we find a marking shaped like a half-moon.

After the printing of the stamps the stones were washed so that an additional printing is impossible.

We have mentioned that the stamps were reproduced six times and therefore we have six types of each stamp. (If sufficient interest is shown, we may someday show the differences of these types.)

#### Unissued Stamps

Under this heading we place essays, trial printings, and stamps returned to Praha where they were gummed and perforated.

Essays of designs volunteered for the Irkutsk issue have appeared on the market relatively late and in large numbers, so that we feel justified in expressing an opinion that they are only reproductions of submitted designs. Five designs (50-K, a soldier doing guard duty; 1-r, a military train; 1-r, two soldiers at a camp fire; 1-r, a scout; 1-r, volunteer with rifle and bayonet) are printed together on one sheet in the same color, either green, blue, violet, red or brown. The philatelic value of these essays is very insignificant.

Trial printings. The issued stamps were printed in green, carmine, and orange (one sheet each of 25-k and 50-k) and perforated 11½. These were all destroyed.

Any perforation other than 11½ must be classified as "not so issued."

#### Overprints

On this Irkutsk issue we find several types of overprints and we mention these but casually. We have very few authentic reports on them and immediately after the return of the stamps to Praha these overprints were not heard of. Only after several years passed did these items come on the market and they appear in different colors, overprints inverted, etc., a word to the wise should be sufficient. Up to the present these overprints are known only on unused copies.

#### The Praha Issue

In August, 1919, a "Charity Committee in Czechia" was organized in Praha, to make a collection and send gifts to the Czechoslovak soldiers in Vladivostok. On the suggestion of J. Rossler-Orovsky this committee issued a special commemorative stamp as designed by Lieut. Rybak, a legionnaire recently returned from Siberia, and a large issue (200,000 subjects), together with printing material for an eventual reissue, was sent to Russia in two shipments: one half via England and Canada, the other through Trieste and Japan. The first shipment reached Vladivostok in November, 1919, considerably damaged by dampness and cold; the second shipment arrived in comparatively good condition in the beginning of 1920.

The design of the stamp represents the Czech Lion in an elliptical oval

framed by a legend "Posta Ceskoslovenske Armady Sibirske" (Siberian Czechoslovak Army Post); the outer part of the stamp is filled with designs of modern and medieval implements of war, with a Hussite charlie and bible above the post horn and the date "1919" below. In the corners are found linden leaves and berries. The appearance of the stamp reminds us of the early issues of Russia. The design measures 20 x 25mm. No values are mentioned.

These stamps were sold at 25 kopeks each; the proceeds to be used for charitable purposes. The color of the stamps was: a blue frame with the center in brick red.

Because the majority of the stamps reached Vladivostok in 1920, the year 1919 was covered by an overprint reading "1920."

This overprint was applied in black ink, either dull or shiny. Although it has been claimed this overprint was applied to the stamps in Russia, it seems most likely it was applied in Praha and sent with the second shipment.

(Continued next month)

### NEW ISSUES

#### Bohemia-Moravia

Some time ago an addition to the present set of views appeared. The stamp is of the smaller format and shows the picture of the Castle Pernstyn (Pernstein) and is printed in dull blue. The value is 80 haleru.

### Advertising Rates

	One Insertion	Six Insertions	Twelve Insertions
1 Page . . .	\$3.00	\$2.75	\$2.50
½ Page . . .	1.50	1.35	1.25
¼ Page . . .	1.00	.85	.75
⅛ Page . . .	.75	.65	.50
1/16 Page . . .	.50	.40	.30

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

EXCHANGE years' subscription Kawchief Stamp Monthly for 2 precancelled commemoratives (no presidentials or Bicents). Lawrence, Kan.

# Czecho-Slovakia

EVERYTHING IN  
RARITIES... PROOFS... ERRORS... ETC:

...

Complete Stock of all Classic and Rare  
Stamps of Europe

...

All Modern Sets

...

All New Issues

...

## New York World's Fair Souvenir Sheets

1939 Issue, Black Overprint ..... 75c

1940 Issue, Black Overprint ..... 75c

...

ILLUSTRATED SPECIALIZED 1941 CATALOGUE  
OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA WILL APPEAR IN DECEMBER

...

## Alfons Stach

116 Nassau Street  
New York, N. Y.