

THE CZECHO-SLOVAK SPECIALIST



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

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JAN EVANGELISTA PURKYNE

By W. L. Russell

Upon examining the stamp issued in honor of Purkyne there doesn't seem to be any connection between the design used and the detection of crime. It is a fact, nevertheless, that the famous scientist and Natural Historian, whose head appears on this stamp of Czechoslovakia, was the first man to explore the territory of fingerprints. His research in this field (a very minor part of his life's work) formed the basis of the Bertillon method now adopted in nearly every part of the world as part of the detection of crime.

Purkyne was born on December 17, 1787, in Libochowitz, near Leitmeritz, in Bohemia. He studied in Prague, first philosophy and then Medicine and Natural History. Through his scientific activities he came into contact with Goethe, whom he highly esteemed. On the recommendation of the latter he was appointed Professor of Physiology and Pathology at Breslau University. In 1839 he there founded the first Physiological Institute. Although a Czech, it was Purkyne who was the founder of experimental Physiology and of Microscopic Anatomy in Germany. Amongst his discoveries were the excretory ducts of the perspiration glands, and the embryological evolution of the bones, cartilage and teeth. Incidentally, he is said to be the first scientist to project his preparations with the help of a magic lantern.

In 1850 Purkyne went to Prague as Professor of Physiology. Besides his

Natural History activities, he was one of the promoters of the National Czech movement and fought strenuously for Czech freedom from the might of Austria. His literary efforts included the editing of the Czech Review of Natural History, "Ziva" (Life), and the translation of portion of Schiller's poems into Czech. Purkyne died in Prague on July 28, 1869.

Upon the occasion of the 150th anniversary of Purkyne's birth, Czechoslovakia honored his memory by issuing two stamps. Both values show the bust of the savant, taken from a plaque by the sculptor Professor O. Spaniel. The engraving is the work of Bohumil Heinz, and the stamps, which appeared on September 2, 1937, were valid for postage until the end of the year 1937. Perf. 12½. The stamps were printed in sheets of 100, and in the T-shaped format which is peculiar to so many issues of Czechoslovakia; i.e., sixteen stamps in the top row, and then six rows of fourteen stamps, with "coupons" down each side.

The "coupons" in this issue were not left blank, however, but carry the inscription "Jan Evangelista Purkyne 1787-1937," and the staff of Aesculapius. As with the "Arras" issue, it is possible to collect blocks of "three" of this stamp—that is, three stamps and one coupon, from both the top right and top left hand corners of the sheet. Or, if you prefer singles, with the coupon at left, right and below the stamp.

NEW YORK MEETING PLACE CHANGED

Due to the fact that the White Star Candy Shop is undergoing alterations our first meeting of the Fall season will be held at the Bohemian National Hall at 321 East 73rd Street, New York. This meeting will be held on Monday, September 8th in the same room where we held our last Convention, namely Room 6 on the first floor.

The Secretary would like to appeal, not only to the members in New York but also to all members residing within reasonable distance of the City to come and attend the meeting.

THIS AND THAT, HERE AND THERE

Of unusual interest is a copy of a Society publication we received from Shanghai, China, recently. The Russian Philatelic Society of China has produced this 6th Anniversary issue in a large size of about 80 pages and is really beautifully executed. It is printed in English and is dedicated to the issues of China and the former territories of that country. The members and officers of the Society number about 100 and consist mostly of Russian nationality. Our curiosity was aroused as to how and why we should receive a copy of this publication but a rapid perusal disclosed that the Editor had honored us by reprinting the article "Names and Men behind Guarantee Marks" which was published in our Specialist some time ago.

SPECIAL NEW ISSUES

From our fellow member John Velek comes the announcement that he became the proud father of Twin Girls on last July 25th. May I take the liberty, in behalf of the Society to extend to Mr. Velek, heartiest congratulations and to Mrs. Velek, and the little ladies, Best wishes, joy and happiness always.



We are exceedingly obliged to our fellow member, Wm. Russell of Melbourne, Australia for the privilege of reproducing this Postmark. An explanation added by Mr. Russell follows: "As you can see it is the figure of Christ crucified, and was used after Munich. As a matter of fact I heard a good sermon preached by my son-in-law (who is a Methodist padre serving with the Air Force) on this postmark. He stressed the point that, just as the Czechs used the cancellation to symbolize their crucifixion, so they intended to convey the fact that they would rise again." Mr. Russell would like to know if any one can supply information as to the date the cancel was first used, where and for how long. If any member can supply this or other information will they please communicate with the Editor?

SOUVENIR SHEET SALE

Report on Souvenir sheet issued in conjunction with the Convention of May 17, 1941:

Expenditures:

Printing, 500 sheets	\$3.00
Cancelling stamp	3.57
Czecho stamps	1.00
Total	\$7.57

Receipts:

Sold to Society members, etc.	\$2.60
Sold to Dealer members	12.00
Total	\$14.60

Total profit forwarded to the

Treasurer of the Society	\$7.03
Signed, Guy Greenawalt, Treas.	

Officers of the Czecho-Slovak Philatelic Society of North America

President: Dr. Wm. Reiner-Deutsch, 41-31 77 St., Jackson Hgts., L.I. N.Y.
Secretary: J. W. Lowey, 201 Marcy Pl., New York, N. Y.
Treasurer: Guy Greenawalt, 3116 Circle Hill Road, Alexandria, Virginia
Editor: Peter Kreisler, 6616 S. Marshfield Ave., Chicago, Illinois.
Librarian: Mrs. M. Glawe, 9640 S. Seeley Ave., Chicago, Illinois.



Another very interesting matter is reported by the Secretary. For some months now remnants of the former Army of Czechoslovakia stationed in Great Britain have been formed into various specialized units and publish their own daily paper under the bilingual title 'Nase Noviny—Our News' and which serves as the Official Organ of the Czechoslovak Army in England. In addition they have their own independent Postal service which uses special cancellations which are applied to outgoing mail. These postmarks are of course tied to stamps but we are able to reproduce here one which we believe to have been used by the Air Force Unit. Other postmarks exist which belong to various units and are somewhat larger than the one shown here. They are either circular or in the shape of a military cross with outer ornaments and all bear the Czech-English inscription "Czechoslovak Army Post Office." Designs seen are those with the Coat of Arms of Czechoslovakia, a medieval fortress and a battleship or a tank. The last named is rather indistinct in that a crocodile is superimposed upon it.

The Secretary has contacted various official sources both in this country and in England in an effort to learn more about these postmarks. As soon as the facts are learned an article will be prepared which will be published in the Specialist and perhaps a National magazine.

REPORT OF THE SALES AND EXCHANGE DEPT

Inasmuch as two groups of Sales books have finally made the circuit and have been retired I believe this to be an opportune time to report a

few facts about the success of this venture.

The time consumed in making the rounds of 20 members was 7 months which is a very long time and it is hoped that in the future each member will examine books as quickly as possible and forward them on to the next on the list. Sales were good considering that we did not know what each member collects or is particularly interested in.

Circuit number 1 had 9 books with a total value of \$104.00 however, right after the start one book was withdrawn by the owner reducing the circuit to 8 books with a value of only \$63.00. Sales realized amounted to \$46.49 of which 5% commission, or \$2.33 was turned into the treasury.

Circuit number 2 had 10 books with a total value of \$74.11, here also 2 books were withdrawn right after the start which reduced the circuit to 8 books valued at \$63.00. Sales in this group amounted to \$23.64 of which \$1.18 went to the treasurer.

Even though the sales amounted to only 44.7% in circuit 1 and 32% in circuit 2 it must be said that the results were good. Czechoslovak specialties were always completely sold out, U. S. A. sold fairly well, So. America sold 33% while regular stamps of Czecho or the U. S. plate numbers did not sell at all.

I want to remind the members again not to keep the books too long and to send me their report sheet of items taken, if you did not take any items then just drop me a penny postal letting me know that you have had the books and to whom you sent them next. In this way I will always know where to find the books and remember to make an entry of the amount taken from each book. This entry must be made on the back page of each book from which items were taken.

If you have duplicates please mount them in books and send them in for circulation. I have blank books on hand at 2c each plus postage. Since it takes 6 to 7 months for a circuit to make the rounds it is wise that you send in your material immediately so that they will be in the hands of the members when cooler weather comes. Remember I can always use books for circulation and especially Czech varieties.

Your Sales and Exchange Manager
Wolfgang Fritzsche

From member C. J. Pearce of Oklahoma City comes the following suggestion which is offered for your consideration:

"This is in the form of a Donation Circuit to be formed in our Sales Department. Mr. Pearce feels that most members have a few duplicate stamps of small value, which, if donated to the Society, could be mounted in small booklets, on loose leaf sheets and circulate among the members by Mr. Fritzsche or by himself. All proceeds derived from this material to be turned over to the treasurer of the Society. If this plan proves favorable, Mr. Pearce will be happy to furnish the books and mail sheets to all members interested in order to eliminate any expense to the Society.

Any comment regarding this matter should be addressed to either Mr. Pearce or your Editor.

"WHO ARE WE"

Our request for brief Biographies, Philatelic or otherwise, have brought some response. This one which follows is one from our good member Mr. Russell from away "Down Under" in Australia.

Russell, William Leslie, 13 Park Crescent, Moonee Ponds (a suburb of Melbourne,) Victoria, Australia, and your sole representative "down under." Age 49. Advertising Manager of Myer Emporium Ltd., Melbourne. Married, but still allowed to play a little golf and do a lot of reading. Stamps are hobby No. 1. Became interested in Czechoslovakia in 1923, when a correspondent sent me the 5h Hradschin with dot in oval! Later found there was such a thing as Ekstein Catalogue—and that set me off. Up to the outbreak of the war had a number of interesting correspondents in CSR and hope that they are still alive. Received the Silver Medal for my Czech collection at VICVI Exhibition in Melbourne's Centennial year (1934). Also collect Commonwealth of Australia and Fiji. Member and past President of Victorian Philatelic Society. Also member of the Tasmanian Philatelic Society. Haven't been in the U. S. A. since 1921, worse luck! Coming some day.

CHANGE OF ADDRESSES

Mr. Felix Brunner, to 175-06 Devonshire Rd., Jamaica, L. I., N. Y.
Mr. Wm. Klemm, to 87-40 Elmhurst Avenue, Elmhurst, L. I., N. Y.

NEW ISSUES

Several new issues have been reported recently in various philatelic publications and are listed herewith.

Two stamps were supposed to have been issued last December 20, 1940, to commemorate the Centenary of the Postage Stamp, they are a 50h dark green, of the Linden Leaves design and a 2 Kc, olive green, showing a view of the Pardubice Castle. Other values are:

- 5 Kc. blue green, Laintz Bridge at Beching
- 6 Kc. lilac, Market Square and Samson Statue at Budejovice
- 8 Kc. dull green, Kromeriz Cathedral
- 10 Kc. blue, Waldstein Palace, Prague
- 20 Kc. sepia, Tower Gate at the end of the Charles Bridge, Prague

Air Post:

- 5 Kc. purple, Eagle and Plane

Semi Postal, issued for the German Red Cross:

- 60h+40h blue, wounded soldier and nurse
- 1.20k+80h deep plum, wounded soldier and nurse

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