

THE CZECHO-SLOVAK SPECIALIST



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

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NEW ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY

Several new items have been added to the growing list of material available to the members. First of these is the 1941 edition of the Stach Specialized Catalogue of the stamps of Czechoslovakia, Eastern Silesia and Siberia. This addition is printed in the English language and should be of great assistance to many of our members whether they specialize or not. Another noteworthy addition is the "Specialist" in bound form. Both volumes 1 and 2 are bound separately and the newer members are urged to avail themselves of the opportunity to go over the earlier issues of the Specialist.

Catalogue:

6c Stach Specialized Catalogue, 1941.

Specialist:

SP 1, Vol. 1—May 1939 to Dec., 1939.

SP 2, Vol. 2—Jan. 1940 to Dec. 1940.

A fee of ten cents per loan is charged and postage is to be paid by the borrower. The address of the Librarian is:

Mrs. Mildred Glawe

9640 S. Seeley, Ave., Chicago.

NEW YORK CHAPTER NEWS

At the last meeting of the New York Chapter, member Theodore Vavrinek was elected Chapter Chairman. In consequence he will hereafter arrange the meetings and notify members in the New York area about the dates.

Alfons Stach has moved to 99 Nassau Street where he now occupies the large space formerly held by

Paul Bluss, the well known auctioneer. Mr. Stach informs us that in addition to his regular activities he will conduct Monthly auctions. Members will soon receive his first auction catalogue.

NEW ISSUES ? ?

The protectorate has honored the 100th Anniversary of Antonin Dvorak by issuing two values bearing his portrait. Though we are informed about this on authority, we have not seen the stamps as yet. Perhaps some member has and if such is the case the Editor would appreciate a description of them.

HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONS TAKE NOTE ! ! !

A new contender for the heavyweight championship has arrived! Announcement has been made by member Bohumil Dub of Hartford, Conn., that he is the proud father of a husky young fellow, born I believe October 3rd. Weight, 10 pounds plus. Congrats, Mr. and Mrs. Dub and may he be a heavyweight champ, it may be a better profession than being President.

Your Editor has received a very worth while suggestion for the improvement of the Specialist. I certainly am happy about it too because I really was beginning to believe that the paper was flawless. That was wholly due to the fact that no one ever wrote to me and called me down about this or that or even told me what could be improved on. The suggestion offered was that

hereafter all pages be numbered continuously throughout each volume and at the end of each volume, an index of all feature articles be made up and included in the specialist. I don't believe it will really be necessary to number the pages as two volumes and better than one half of the third have passed without

page numbers and also our issues never exceed more than six pages, but I will make up an index to cover the first three volumes, listing the features and giving the volume number and whole number that each feature appeared in. Further suggestions or comment on this suggestion will be welcome.

Editor.

The Postage Due Stamps of Czecho-Slovakia

By Frank Kovarik

Overprints on Allegory Issue, Liberated Republic Type

Of these stamps the 100h was the only stamp which retained its nominal value and received only the overprint "DOPLATIT" printed diagonally reading upward from lower left to upper right. The balance of the stamps besides the overprint had their value changed and the surcharge was placed over the old value. They were as follows:

40 on 185h dark orange	
50 in 25h red	
50 on 150h red	
60 on 25h light brown	
60 on 185h dark orange	
100h dark brown	
100 on 25h light brown	
Jan. 17, 1927	7,250,000 copies
Oct. 24, 1927	2,700,000 copies
Jan. 17, 1927	3,930,000 copies
Oct. 24, 1927	1,100,000 copies
Jan. 17, 1927	3,050,000 copies
Jan. 10, 1927	6,360,000 copies
Oct. 24, 1927	3,600,000 copies

The 40/185, 60/185, 50/150 and 100h were announced January 15, 1927, the balance were announced September 18, 1927.

The control marks on the surcharged stamps were removed by the Post Office Department; the control marks of the 100h remained on the sheet. The overprint on these stamps was violet with a metallic sheen of light or dark shade. These stamps were perforated comb 14; stamps 50/150 and 100h are known with line perforation 13½, but these are very scarce.

One of the greatest rarities of Czechoslovak stamps occurs in this group. Somehow a sheet or possibly more sheets of the 50h red stamp was inadvertently overprinted 50h and as the shade of the 150h is identical the error was not noticed. The few copies known to exist are all used and bear the cancellation Praha 14. As is usually the case with rarities of this sort, counterfeit overprints on the genuine 50h stamp are known, as well as an attempt to color the numeral "1" of "150" in the color of the stamp. There is not much to fear from the latter attempt at forgery because it cannot be done cleverly enough to avoid detection.

Overprints on Allegory Issue, Commerce and Science Type

The overprint on these stamps consisted of the word "DOPLATIT" at a slight angle reading upward, three wavy lines over the old figures of value and the new figure of value to the right and bottom of the stamp. The following have been issued:

30 on 100h blue green	
40 on 200h red violet	
40 on 300h rose	
50 on 500h green	
60 on 400h gray brown	
100 on 600h violet	
July 15, 1926	3,930,000 copies
July 15, 1926	3,740,000 copies
April 1, 1926	986,000 copies
April 1, 1926	8,200,000 copies
April 1, 1926	4,770,000 copies
April 1, 1926	8,010,000 copies

Officers of the Czecho-Slovak Philatelic Society of North America

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These were all of the first issue of stamps, printed on white paper. The issue of the four higher values was announced March 19, 1926 and the other two June 18, 1926.

The color of the overprint is a dark violet with a metallic sheen. The control marks on sheets of the 500h and the 600h was obliterated by a 9mm bar in the color of the overprint. On some of the 500h three heavy lines were so employed. Sheets of the 100h to the 400h had no control marks, therefore the bottom margins are left blank.

The perforations on these stamps are line 13 $\frac{3}{4}$; only a very small quantity of 500 and 600h were issued with a comb perforation 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ x 13 $\frac{1}{2}$.

This part of the issue is replete with errors, such as incomplete registration of overprints due to foreign substance covering stamp at time of overprinting and one sheet was found in Slovakia of 40h on 200h where the last right row was issued without overprint so that a pair may be had of one stamp with and the other without overprint.

Essays

Many years after the stamps made their appearance a quantity of essays appeared on the market, all on stamps of the Hradecany issues. There are several types known, as well as proofs of overprint on stamps which were never so issued.

There also appeared on the market a fairly large quantity of printers' waste consisting of variously shifted overprints, etc. While these are interesting and comparatively scarce, being what they are, they should not carry the fancy prices attributed to them.

Postage Due Stamps of 1928

The postage due stamps of 1928 were designed by Joseph Vlcek. They are in the shape of horizontal rectangles measuring 26 x 22 mm and all are of one design: in the center is a colored oval shield into which is placed a colorless numeral of value while in the lower part of the frame is the currency, either in hellers or crowns. On a lined background appears at the top a legend "CESKO-SLOVENSKA" and at the bottom "DOPLATNE". The rest of the space is filled in with nationally symbolic ornaments.

According to the postal bulletin No. 9 of January 13, 1928 the values

appeared:

5 h Carmine red	..	July 17, 1928.
10 h Carmine red	....	Feb. 2, 1928.
20 h Carminé red	....	Mar. 29, 1928.
30 h Carmine red	....	Mar. 29, 1928.
40 h Carmine red	....	Feb. 1, 1928.
50 h Carmine red	....	Feb. 1, 1928.
60 h Carmine red	....	Feb. 1, 1928.
1 Kc Ultramarine	....	Feb. 1, 1928.
2 Kc Ultramarine	....	Feb. 1, 1928.
5 Kc Ultramarine	..	Mar. 29, 1928.
10 Kc Ultramarine	..	Mar. 29, 1928.
20 Kc Ultramarine	..	Mar. 29, 1928.

These stamps were printed by the Czech Graphic Union of Prague on flat beds from zinc plates, made photochemically by repeated photographing of same subject except for the interchange of numerals of value or designation of currency.

The printing form almost always consisted of two plates of the same value, although it is known that sometimes stamps of dissimilar values were printed at one operation.

If we saw complete sheets of these stamps we'd see they were printed to consist of 100 subjects, 10 x 10. On the horizontal selvage at top and bottom appear lined bars, either complete or broken and in various widths printed in the color of the stamp. Besides the 91st stamp in the label appears the year of the plate; whereas beside the 100th stamp it is the number of the plate of that year.

The following plates were used:

Plate Nos.

5 h	1928—1.
10 h	1928—1, 2; 1932—1.
20 h	1928—1, 2.
30 h	1928—1, 2.; 1931—1, 2; 1933—1, 2.
40 h	1928—1, 2; 1929—1, 2; 1932—1, 2;
50 h	1928—1, 2.; 1931—1, 2; 1934—1, 2.
60 h	1928—1, 2 left; 1928—1, 2, right; 1930—1, 2; 1931—1, 2; 1932—1, 2, 3; 1937—1, 2.
1 Kc	1928—1, 2, 3, 4; 1929—1, 2, 3, 4; 1931—1, 2, 3, 4; 1932—1, 2; 1933—1, 2; 1934—1, 2; 1935—1, 2; 1936—1, 2.; 1937—1, 2; 1938—1, 2.
2 Kc	1928—1, 2, 3; 1932—1; 1933—1.
5 Kc	1928—1; 1933—1; 1938—1.
10 Kc	1928—1; 1933—1.
20 Kc	1928—1; 1933—1.

These stamps were printed without the numbering control figures at bottom as on the first issue.

This was a very well printed issue. Imperfections are very few. The

color of the stamps shows practically no shades; the gum is colorless and the paper is white and unmarked. The perforations are comb $13\frac{1}{4} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$. Even here the imperfections which were found occasionally in the previous issues, such as shifted comb or double perforations are almost unknown.

The quantities issued are as yet unknown to the author. It is difficult to judge the scarcity of some of these stamps. However, the fact that only one plate was made for the 5h and that in genuinely used condition this stamp is harder to find than any other value would show that this stamp may be the best in the lot.

Through some underhanded methods color trials of some of these stamps have found their way into the hands of some collectors as also proofs printed in black.

Issue of Bohemia and Moravia

(Shortly after this issue made its appearance the war broke out and it became difficult to obtain information concerning these stamps. This, in its entirety, is a translation from "Narodm' Sberatel" December 16, 1939.)

If we were to discuss the normal stamps, that is all 12 values, as we did in the previous issues, we could be finished soon. This time we are assured of work as well as wages. The stamps in themselves are not a surprise because every collector knew that whereas all stamps were being changed that the postage dues must come in their turn.

Let us, however, take a good look at the stamp. According to the bulletin of the Ministry of Posts we learn that the author is the Artist, Alois Shumann, and the design of the stamp is made up of a decided national motif. The drawing for all stamps is identical. It seems the design was prepared for a larger stamp. The printing of the stamps is flawless, the paper is white and the gum is even and colorless. The arrangement of the plate is entirely new. It is therefore imperative that we discuss this at greater length.

Sheets consist of 100 subjects divided into two post office panes of 50 subjects each. The division between the panes consists of a vacant space or gutter the size of one stamp, or a strip of 10 vacant spaces from

top to bottom. This then is the "gutter between" type.

In the lower part of the sheet are 4 plate numbers, always two and two alike. In the lower values, to the 1 ks, sheets were issued with plate number 1 1 A and 2 A. In the higher values only 1A and 1. The new type of plate marking has an advantage over the old inasmuch as the year appears beside each plate number instead of the number being in the left corner and the year date in the right corner.

These stamps are comb perforated $13\frac{1}{4}$. We have noticed that on some sheets the comb ends on the left side and in others on the right side; this may prove that two sheets were perforated at one time. Another surmise here would be that two plates were printed from in one form, then cut into sheets of 100 subjects each. The plates would be placed into the bed in tete beche form. Only thus we see how these perforations can end left and right. Of course, there is the possibility that even more plates were printed from at one time due to the similarity of color.

It was originally decided to sell complete sheets of 100 subjects. At the request of the Federation of Stamp Clubs it was then decided to sell to stamp collectors, the two bottom rows containing the gutter strips and all plate numbers for 803 Crowns a set. The guillotine cut into the 8th row of stamps thus spoiling it but selling the upper seven pairs with gutter between to stamp collectors the government was certainly repaid.

The Editor deprecates this type of plate arrangement because it creates possibilities for stamp speculators and may disgust the collector who is not in a position to purchase stamps in duplicate or quadruplicate or larger.

Only a few more copies of "Narodm' Sberatel" came to this country after the issue from which this translation is taken. The Editor promised more information in a later publication, but, we poor Americans are compelled to await this Apres la Guerre. May that be soon!

Aware that only a few members or collectors care for the postage dues, I tackled this thankless job anyway and if only one member is satisfied, I think I have done my Bit.

(To be continued)