

THE CZECHO-SLOVAK SPECIALIST



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

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

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SEASON'S GREETINGS

The Officers of the Society join in wishing all the members a Merry Christmas and a very Happy and Prosperous New Year.

!!! ANNOUNCEMENT !!!

Change of Editor to take place with the next issue of the Specialist.

Due to the pressure of affairs outside of the Society it has become necessary for me to tender my resignation as Editor of the Specialist, to become effective with the appearance of this issue.

My successor will be Mr. Horechny of Newark, N. J., and he will assume Editorship with the January 1942 issue. I am certain the Specialist will benefit considerably by the change as Mr. Horechny is ably qualified and will be able to devote the time and energy so necessary in producing a paper like the Specialist.

I want to thank each and every one of the members for the contributions they have made toward making up each issue and I hope they will continue to support Mr. Horechny. I also want to extend to Mr. Horechny every wish for a successful Editorship.

Sincerely,
Peter Kreischer, Editor.

IN THIS ISSUE

- 1st Addenda to the Postage Due Article by F. J. Kovarik.
- 2nd Czecho-Slovak Army Field Posts in England, by J. W. Lowey.
- 3rd Index of Feature Articles appearing in the Specialist, Volumes, 1, 2 and 3 inclusive.

NEW MEMBERS

Greetings and salutations to the following, may they enjoy the benefits of the Society.

- 89 Joseph J. Kucera, 3 Westmoreland Place, Pasadena, Calif.
- 90 Edward Simmons, 434 East 70th Street, New York, N. Y.
- 91 Joseph Novy, 51 West 52nd Street, New York, N. Y.

NEW ISSUES

Bohemia-Moravia

Commemorating the Centenary of the famous Composer Antonin Dvorak, two stamps of medium size and showing the musician in profile have appeared some time ago, namely:

- 60h Lavender
- 1k20h Bistre brown

Each Sheet consists of 50 stamps and 50 coupons, the latter showing a Lyre and laurel branches and the dates 8-IX-1841-1941.

Commemorating the annual Prague Fair a set of four values has appeared. They are the larger size and the inscriptions, in the usual bi-lingual read "Prager Messe" in German and "Prazske Veletrhy" in Czech at the bottom. The values are:

- 30h yellow brown
- 60h deep green
- 1k20h red violet
- 2k50h ultramarine.

The two lower values show a farmer with plough drawn by a horse while the higher values show a view of an Industrial plant.

ATTENTION NEW MEMBERS

If you have any duplicate material to sell or exchange you are urged to contact our Exchange Manager for full particulars. His name and address appear in the column "Officers of the Society."

Regarding loans of literature from our Library, please contact our Librarian whose name and address also appears in the "Officers" column.

The Secretary still has a few copies of the Ekstein Catalogue, Specialized Catalogue of Czecho-Slovakia (printed in German) for sale. It is the Official catalogue of our specialists group and is complete in listings up to 1939. The price is 50 cents post-paid which is enough over actual cost to include postage and handling.

The Judiciary Board has voted to expell member L. E. Krivohlavý of Plainfield, Iowa (#76), for conduct unbecoming a member of the Society. (Article III, Sec. 7 of our constitution).

INDEX OF FEATURE ARTICLES Appearing in Volumes 1, 2 and 3 Incl.

Field Post of Czechoslovak and Allied Armies in Siberia and their Postage Stamps, by Cap't. A. Novotný as translated by Frank Kovarik.
Volume 1, Number 3 to 7 incl.

Pronunciation of the Czech.
Volume 1, Number 7.

"Hradcany" Issue of Czechoslovakia, 1918; by J. W. Lowey,
Volume 1, Number 8
Volume 2, Numbers 1 to 6 incl.

Transition Postmarks of Czechoslovakia, by J. W. Lowey,
Volume 2, Number 2

Names and Men behind Guarantee Marks, by Lowey and Kreischer,
Volume 2, Number 5.

1930 Air Post issue of Czechoslovakia and its Varieties, by Guy Greenawalt,
Volume 2, Number 7.

Stamps of the Czechoslovakia Field

Post in Russia.
Volume 2, Number 8.

Jubilee Issue of 1928, Czechoslovakia, by Peter Kreischer.

Volume 2, No. 9; Volume 3, No. 1.
Commemorative Postmarks of Czechoslovakia and their Historical Background, by J. W. Lowey.

Volume 3, Numbers 2 to 6 incl.
Mysaryk Birthday Commemorative Issue, by Peter Kreischer.
Volume 3, Number 2.

Czechoslovak Autopost, by Norman Hill, England.
Volume 3, Number 4.

Jan Evangelista Purkyně, by W. L. Russell, Australia.
Volume 3, Number 7.

Postage Due Stamps of Czechoslovakia and Bohemia-Moravia, by Frank Kovarik.
Volume 3, Numbers 8 to 10 incl.

Czecho-Slovak Army Field Posts in England, by J. W. Lowey.
Volume 3, Number 10.

REGARDING THE CZECH FIELDPOSTS IN ENGLAND

I feel compelled to say a few explanatory words regarding my article "Czecho-Slovak Fieldposts" which appeared in the October 11th issue of "STAMPS" magazine and which is being reprinted in this issue of the Specialist.

As much as I would have preferred to see the article published first in our publication this could not be arranged for the following reasons: first, the Czecho-Slovak Military authorities in England made it a condition that the article appear first in a national stamp publication and second, we would not have been financially able to have the numerous cuts made which are necessary to illustrate the article.

A prime feature of the article is the offer of the Czech postal authorities to send the Army Postmarks to interested collectors, free of any charges. Also their Official Army

Officers of the Czecho-Slovak Philatelic Society of North America

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Sales and Exchange Mgr.: Wolfgang Fritzsche, P. O. Box 175, Valley Stream, L. I. N. Y.

Daily paper can be subscribed to at a cost of 2 shilling 6 pence per month and finally Czech soldiers in England are permitted to enter into correspondence with collectors overseas. Anyone desirous of taking advantage of any of the above mentioned features is urged to read the article first and upon receipt of a stamped and addressed envelope I will gladly furnish the address of the Czech Military authorities.

I have up to now received over 1400 inquiries from readers of 'Stamps' including many of our own members who subscribe to this publication. Several checks have come to me to be relayed to the Czech Armies and many writers have offered to send

various items to the soldiers. I especially want to commend Mrs. Dickinson of Bluefield, West Va., for her generosity. I do not mention these things to remind you that you have to send something to England. The Postmarks can be obtained free of charge and members requesting them will be considered first. However, there are quite a number of stamp collectors within the Army and if you have any duplicates, preferably U. S., they will be highly appreciated.

In closing may I add that the article in the meantime, has been reprinted in the monthly magazine of the National Alliance of Bohemian (Czech) Catholics of America.

—J. W. Lowey.

The Postage Due Stamps of Czecho-Slovakia

By Frank Kovarik

Addenda

Since starting my little treatise on the Postage Due Stamps of Czecho-Slovakia I learned a little more. For instance under "Postmasters' Provisionals" I wrote that a complete listing of these can be found in the 1942 catalogue of Hirsch. Our member A. J. Hrivnak kindly loaned me his copy wherein all these are listed. If a sufficiently large number of members request this listing, I am sure I can prevail upon Mr. Hrivnak to either translate the listing or let me do it.

I learned another thing. Many postage due stamps are hard to get simply no one collects them and dealers refuse to stock up with them. Some time ago I bought a couple of pounds of "government" mixture from a well known dealer of this type of material. About 75% of the mixture consisted of the 1928 issue

of postage dues. I kept a record of how many of each type were found in the lot I purchased. I do not use this as a final record of how scarce these stamps are, though it may help.

5 h	2 copies
10 h	27
20 h	5
30 h	10
40 h	114
50 h	115
60 h	12
1 kc	207
2 kc	33
5 kc	26
10 kc	16
20 kc	30

Because of lack of interest in these stamps, there is a lack of information. I feel sure that if we cared to learn more about these stamps, we'd be well rewarded. (Not Financially!)

THE END

DUES ! ! ! !

Another year has about closed for the Society which brings to our minds that dues will have to be paid again. According to the Constitution, dues are payable on or before the first of

January of each year and they must be in the hands of the Treasurer not later than February 25th. So while it is fresh in your minds, mail your buck in to Guy Greenawalt. "Mail early to avoid the Christmas rush." (With apologies to Uncle Sam.)

CZECHO-SLOVAK ARMY FIELD POSTS

(Reprinted from STAMPS Magazine)

By J. W. Lowey

Readers will perhaps remember my article in the December 7, 1940, issue of STAMPS concerning the amazing chapter of World War I when Czecho-Slovak Legions fought as volunteers with the Russian army. As related in that story, owing to the Bolshevik revolution and subsequent liberation of German prisoners on Russian soil, the Czecho-Slovak forces were obliged to fight their way over a stretch of thousands of miles of hostile territory towards their homeland. In spite of terrific handicaps, they established their own postal headquarters and several sub post office stations, which were scattered over the vast steppes of Siberia. From 1918 to 1920, until the last Czecho-Slovak soldier had been safely evacuated from Soviet soil, they maintained an almost miraculous delivery of postal matter, using whatever transport facilities were available.

Now after more than two decades history repeats itself with the fighting Czechs and Slovaks as volunteers in the armies of the Allies. Scattered with the armies of the Allies in many parts of the war areas are large contingents of Czecho-Slovaks who, during the past three years, have been able to escape from their German-occupied homeland, and from other countries occupied by the Germans after the fall of Czecho-Slovakia. Particularly, when the low countries were invaded by Hitler's army, finally driving into France, there was a large compact Czecho-Slovak army stationed in northern France. Here they fought alongside the French and British until their positions could no longer be held. Finally, they were evacuated to Great Britain from the French port of Sete.

At that time vague rumors came to me that the Czechoslovak Army during its stay in France had maintained its own Field Post Offices, using their own postmarks. After many months of inquiry and correspondence I was able to contact the proper authorities, and I now have the facts, which earlier seemed unbelievable. Of course, the story is far from comprehensive. For military and other obvious reasons many details, such as



Seal Used
by the Army



Fig. No. 1



Fig. No. 2



Fig. No. 3

names, places, figures, etc., can not be divulged at this time.

As to the French postal phase, very little is known. The only proof of a then existing Field Post service can be found in the three postmarks illustrated as Figures 1, 2 and 3.

Today the Czechoslovak Army is an integral part of the army of Great Britain. They actively participate in all defense actions and as we know from official British reports the Air Unit, especially, gives an excellent account of itself.

The army publishes its own daily newspaper. It is a large-sized multi-graphed sheet varying from 4 to 12 pages. Printed mostly in Czech, it now and then appears in bi-lingual form—Czech-English. Frequently it is illustrated with sketches and many issues are strikingly historic in their importance. It can be subscribed to by civilians. The monthly subscription fee is 2/6 plus postage.

Space will not permit me to be all-inclusive in this article, but as it is the first of a series which I plan to assemble, readers will undoubtedly have an opportunity to go further into the subject with me at a later date.

I am indebted to Captain V. P., and to the editor of the army publication, Lieut. S, who have supplied me with much data and illustrative material. I am also grateful to First Lieut. O. V., head of the Czechoslovak Field Post Offices in England for a large amount of information. In fact, I am going to let him tell the story himself in the following translation of his letter to me:

"... Shortly after our army was entrenched in France our field post offices also were installed, using regular and commemorative postmarks on all outgoing mails. Though letters also arrived addressed to our boys it can be assumed that the majority were lost due to the break down of the French army and the subsequent chaos. A surprise, however, awaited us on our arrival in England. Some mail had been salvaged and relayed by various routes and sent ahead of our convoys so that we received it anyway, at least part of it.

"In due time we established postal headquarters. The men having charge of this department are all experienced, their task being made easier since the British authorities have supplied us with all necessary facilities. We are continually busy, not only with

outgoing mail but ever increasing quantities of letters sent to our soldiers from all parts of the globe. Of course the majority of these communications come from the United States and Canada where our army men have family members or more or less distant relatives and friends.

"Quite often letters come to headquarters from persons who emigrated to the United States. They contain inquiries as to whether a certain relative is, among our boys. Or, if such is not the case whether some other soldier can be found who hails from the same community from which the writer has emigrated to the States. It then often happens that such a one is found and a spirited correspondence develops between our man and the correspondent overseas.

"I should also mention that frequently gift parcels arrive; usually this happens preceding holiday. Last Christmas we had high tide and there was hardly one of our boys of whom someone somewhere had not thought.

"You will want to know why our boys like to write letters and remain in contact with their correspondents? As you know it is impossible for our soldiers to write to their loved ones in Czechoslovakia. Neither can they hope to receive mail from them. Such correspondence would certainly fall into the hands of the Gestapo. Likewise, the use of the International Red Cross is out of the question, because Mr. Hitler, who considers himself sole master of Czechoslovakia, has proclaimed us as traitors since we oppose him with arms. Many of us still were in the homeland when the warning was published that those of us who should fight against him with the Allied armies would upon capture not be considered as prisoners but as traitors and as such executed on the spot. We know of many cases where our families have been persecuted because they did not inform the authorities of our flight. Since then our property was confiscated. Yet, this has not prevented thousands of us from gladly sacrificing all earthly possessions to escape. Proudly we wear on our shoulder stripes the inscription "Czechoslovakia" which proclaims that we will never bow to Nazi rule and rather die in battle than be made prisoners.

"Here in England we have found our second home. The British as well

as those that write to us from distant lands cheer us on and tell us that we are not forgotten. I wish that just for once you could be with us and see our boys behave when they receive a letter, franked with strange stamps. Their eyes light up. They study the stamps and postmarks. Maps are consulted to find the particular place from which the letter was sent and surprise is expressed as to how many distant parts of the universe Czechoslovaks have been scattered. A similar sensation of course, is the arrival of a gift package. Most contain cigarettes, chocolate, candies, jelly preserves, books and newspapers. The recipient is overwhelmed by the thought that perhaps the parcel comes from his own mother who somehow has been able to get it to him. It often happens that in his joy, as was the custom at home in our military barracks, the soldier distributes the contents among his fellow soldiers while he retires to a corner to read the accompanying letter, only finding that an unknown hand had written it.

"The hospitality of our British hosts, too, should be mentioned. Our soldiers are often invited into homes and there spend pleasant holidays and furloughs.

"Our English has greatly improved since we landed here about a year ago. This has been accomplished in many instances through correspondence with the fair sex who show much friendliness to our boys. Youth must be served even in war times. Of late many letters are addressed to our 'General Delivery' Department, the color and shape of the envelope indicating blossoming romances which in several instances have already led to engagements.

"Ours at present is the only existing Czechoslovak Post Office in the world. The entire organization and handling of matters is in efficient hands and often admiration is expressed by British Postal Authorities with whom we work in perfect harmony on all problems.

"At one time we planned to issue our own stamps to be used on outgoing mail. To undertake this step would have required sanction by higher British authorities. Since they, however, at present are occupied with more pressing problems the idea had to be postponed, though it has not been abandoned. Therefore,

for the present we continue to use regular British cancelling devices. From time to time, in addition, we use commemorative postmarks which are designed by our own men in collaboration with our archives. Now and then we issue commemorative or souvenir sheets. If we are able to obtain a supply of stamps of former Czechoslovakia such are pasted upon the sheets and the commemorative postmark of the day applied. If Czechoslovak stamps are not available, we use British stamps. These sheets are enjoying great popularity not only among stamp collectors of this country but elsewhere as well.

"We receive regularly requests from collectors of this country to apply the commemorative cancellation to an enclosed franked envelope so that they might bring their collection of our postmarks up to date.

"Up to now we have used seven different commemorative cancellations, namely:

"July 26th, 1940. Honoring the first visit of President Benes to his army. The motif shows the park gate of castle Ch. then our army camp. The same postmark was used on September 28th, commemorating the anniversary of St. Venceslas. Colors used were blue or red. Figure 4.



Fig. No. 4
(Continued next month)

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