

# THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE  
CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

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## EDITORIAL

We are embarking upon a new era of collecting; an era in which the government assumes the role of the stamp dealer, taking not only his legitimate profits, but profits plus. With no competition, the government monopolistic society Orbis is a real dictator and its chief, Mr. Kolman, is the Simon Legree of Czech philately. As he cracks his whip, so must philatelists dance. From there many collectors write us that their collections end with the last emissions of 1949. — In the last issue of the Specialist we promised to write no more of the decisions of Orbis; in fairness to the government, to Orbis, and to our members we publish an English pamphlet (corrected as to grammar and punctuation) published by Orbis. We ask our members to draw their own conclusions.

\* \* \*

We learn from Czechoslovakia that October 28, the National Independence Day was not celebrated this year but that its observance was postponed to Sunday, the 30th. We thought we were doing a service to Czech philately with our article in "Stamps" entitled "28 October." Perhaps the national liberation holiday will be postponed to February 25, the day when Gottwald forced the resignation of Benes and soon afterward had himself "elected" president of the former Republic.

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Two philatelic publications are being printed in Czechoslovakia—"Filatelista" in Bratislava and "Ceskoslovenska Filatelie" in Praha. The former is published in Slovak, the other in Czech. (There is very little difference between the two languages.) They have no competition and the result is tragic! "Filatelista" has a fine article published serially on the stamps of Austria and very little on Czechoslovakia. Most of the space is taken up by a listing of new issues. This, perhaps, is very welcome there. "Ceskoslovenska Filatelie" has occasional articles of interest on the stamps of the country, but even here the lack of competition is evidenced by the poor quality of the contents. Let us assume that in our country a dictatorship of a favored few were set up and only two philatelic publications were permitted to continue operations. This also would be a tragedy. The publisher, knowing that criticism is futile, would try to ingratiate himself by building up the treasury and robbing the subscribers who must perforce pay an exorbitant price for crumbs of philatelic knowledge.

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As this is written we have not yet seen the December 1949 issue of the Specialist. Hard luck has again dogged us—seven cuts which were to appear with news or articles have not yet showed up (Nov. 28). We asked the printer to omit those paragraphs which were to be illustrated. On rereading the copy for the previous issue, we fear that if the printer obeys our instructions, the December issue will be a sorry affair. If, despite our instructions, it sounds sensible, we hope and trust our readers give a rising vote of thanks to our printer,

Mr. Miller of Lawrence, Kansas.

P. S. It came through—the printer omitted everything. We shall try to make up the loss by a double-size January issue.

In the last issue of the Specialist we made an appeal to the members to send in their dues before the treasurer reminds them and to increase the amount to the limit of their pocketbooks. Permit us to remind you again that 100% of the dues goes into the Specialist. — We have been promised several highly technical articles; one author writes he is preparing an article on the Dues Stamps of Czechoslovakia. A condensed version is to be published in some magazine in the United States, preferably "Stamps"; the other, highly technical and very specialized, in the Specialist. This may mean a new process—elaboration from condensation instead of the present trend toward condensation from specialization, as is practised by the divers "digests."

No the Handbook idea is neither dead nor dormant. Every one of us is a breadwinner and we can devote only a small portion of our time to this undertaking. Your editor knows that the various collaborators are actually working on their various assignments. All are working except the editor who is kept busy correcting proposed drafts and explaining what he expects. There are at present eleven co-workers on the project. We want this work to appear as emanating from all, and this coordination is not a simple task.

At the last meeting of the Chicago group it was decided to hold a convention of the Society in Chicago June 10 and 11, 1950. In connection with this convention, it is our desire to prepare a show of Czechoslovak stamps, as well as stamps of other countries. We again want to hold an auction for the benefit of the publication fund of the Society. Last year our auction was less popular than the previous year, proof that the popularity of the stamps of Czechoslovakia was waning, even though it was stronger than ever before. This may sound strange but we must not forget that last April money was less plentiful. Since the various strikes have been settled, we are experiencing a mild business upswing. We hope this continues; it will help our hobby and our Society.

Filatelie Orbis, Praha 16, P. O. B. 21, Czechoslovakia

#### TO THE COLLECTORS OF CZECHOSLOVAKIAN STAMPS ABROAD

Dear Sirs,

The new order which is now being prepared for the issue and distribution of Czechoslovak stamps seems to be the subject of discussions among the collectors of our stamps all over the world. In order to discredit it, speculators have spread false reports, announcing that a crusade against Philately is going to start in this country.

Our medium collectors have often urged the introduction of necessary measures against the speculators, for as they know, the new order will be profitable both for philatelists and recognized stamp dealers, both of whom are greatly injured by smugglers of our stamps. At the beginning, every new stamp has been expensive, later declining below face value.

Having introduced the new measures in this country, we wish that you may become acquainted with them in order that you may realize that philately is not in danger. On the contrary, our new principles are the best proof that the Czechoslovak Post Office will protect the interests of the collectors of our stamps, even though its income thereby decreases.

In issuing stamps, the following principles have been adopted by our Postal Agency:

- 1) Coupons and other exceptional combinations of stamps which forced the collectors to buy more of each value, to the frequent profit of the speculators, will no longer be issued.
- 2) Our current and airmail stamps are to be changed or replaced only in case of postal need. The superfluous (especially high) values will no longer be issued.

3) Issuing of commemorative stamps will be limited in the future, being done only for important government or international events. The validity of the commemoratives will be unlimited. Our Postal Agency no longer intends to do an "easy" and painless business but is ready to offer full service for each stamp sold.

4) At the end of each year a binding Emission Program for the next year will be issued. This is the best guarantee to collectors of avoiding "surprises," which most philatelists fear.

5) The inland subscribers of the New Issue Service of the Czechoslovak Postal Agency will receive only one set of issued stamps. Our company possesses the exclusive right to sell the remaining commemorative mint stamps to the inland collectors at higher prices corresponding to the unofficial banknote quotations at the New York Exchange. The commemoratives will also be sold at some larger post offices. The postal officials will attach them to the letters, cancel them and mail to the addressee.

6) The problem has been to determine the quantity issued. If it is small, rarities are created; if it is too large, there is a danger of stamp inflation, causing the stamps to become worthless. It was therefore decided to sell commemorative stamps for 90 days only after issue. After the expiration of this period the remainders will be officially destroyed. This policy practically enables the collectors to determine the emission quantity themselves. Under these circumstances no speculative purchases will be effected and the size of the issue will correspond to the demand. Smugglers bought our stamps in large quantities in order to profit on the rates of exchange. Having stopped this possibility, all speculative purchases will be unprofitable.

We recommend that foreign dealers and collectors order commemoratives within the specified time of 90 days after issue. Orders received later will be executed at current market prices and in such quantity as will be available on the open market.

7) We sell Czechoslovak stamps to foreign customers at face value, transferred in U. S. dollars according to the official rate of exchange of the Czechoslovak National Bank. Remittances in other currencies will be transferred in U. S. dollars according to their unofficial quotation at the New York or Zurich exchanges. We are sure this policy will stop foreign exchange machinations, and the price of our stamps will be stabilized on a dollar base.

8) Our advanced philatelists collect the postage stamps of the whole world and therefore our company will accept in exchange for our stamps new issues of all countries. We ask stamp dealers who may guarantee a permanent and binding supply of new issues in quantities we want kindly to submit their respective proposals.

In exchange we also supply new issues at face value converted into U. S. dollars. The face value of the new issues you send us in return will be converted into U. S. dollars also, according to the unofficial banknote quotation at the New York or Zurich exchange. The new issues received in this way will be distributed through our New Issue Service at the official exchange rate, this being a further advantage for our collectors. The smuggling of stamps into this country will, under these circumstances, prove unprofitable.

9) Through the New Issue Service of the Czechoslovak Postal Agency the inland subscribers may order as many first day covers as they wish, as well as sets or single values of commemoratives on papers in cancelled condition, all cancelled on the first day of release by a special commemorative postmark. It will be possible, furthermore, to hand in mail unstamped and ask the postoffice to stamp it with the commemoratives. All this is carried out by the Philatelic Agency. The reason for doing this is to prevent mint stamps from appearing on the black market. All mail sent abroad by our company will bear commemorative stamps.

10) Destroying remainders of commemorative stamps after the expiration of the 90-day period will be the best guarantee for collectors of our stamps that their prices remain steady and are not subject to the influence of speculatively-held stocks.

Regarding the emission program prepared in advance up to the end of this

year, the stamps are already printed and no changes will take place. The aforementioned distributive methods relate to all postage stamps to be issued this year.

The Czechoslovak Post Office will issue:

On November 30 a surtax Red Cross set consisting of 2 values at

Kcs 1.50 + 0.50

Kcs 3.— + 1.—

On December 4 a commemorative set for the Labor Union Congress consisting of 2 values at

Kcs 1.— and Kcs 2.—

On December 12 a commemorative surtax set for Child Welfare consisting of 2 values at

Kcs 1.50 + 0.50

Kcs 3.— + 1.—

On December 21 a current postage stamp in the quantity of 5 million valued at Kcs 3.— with J. V. Stalin's portrait.

At the end of this year there will be published an emission program for the next year, limited according to the policy mentioned above.

We are convinced that the above measures will bring the expected recovery in our philately. No more will Czechoslovak stamps be the subject of machinations. We are sure they will become again as popular as before. The stabilized price of our stamps will protect collectors from suffering any loss, this being the reason why many a philatelist has stopped collecting our stamps. Some time ago we read a prophecy something like this:

"If countries will not limit the issuing of stamps and the increasing inclination to profit on the part of the speculators, Philately is going to be ruined."

Czechoslovakia is the first country to take the initiative in limiting issues and she is the first country to introduce measures against speculation.

We ask collectors kindly to inform us of their experiences and to offer suggestions, which will receive our best attention. We only intend to revive philately and to assist in keeping the traditional friendly relations among the philatelists of all nations and races.

We distribute free of charge all our catalogs, pricelists and circulars. Please let us know your address in order that we may send them to you regularly. We should consider it a great favor if you would do the same, this being the best way to keep us informed of the philatelic activity in your country.

We request the publishers of all philatelic magazines kindly to send us their publications and specimen copies regularly. We shall, in return, inform them of the philatelic news in this country, and in order to cover their expenses, we are ready to reciprocate by sending complete sets of our new issues which they may use for publishing purposes. We also shall try to introduce valuable philatelic magazines among our collectors.

Please note our address for all communications and orders:

FILATELIE ORBIS, PRAHA 16, P. O. B. 21

We shall very much appreciate your inquiries and orders which will always receive our best attention, May we hear from you soon?

Very truly yours

FILATELIE ORBIS

Instructions for collectors' exchange.

Here are definitive instructions regarding stamp exchange. We hope they are simple so that exchange will be encouraged and be participated in by every collector.

1) The Czechoslovak Post Office issues two-part customs labels. One is to be placed on the letter sent abroad and the other is to be enclosed in order that the collector abroad may place it on the reply.

2) In case the collector abroad begins the exchange it is necessary that he receive the customs label from his inland partner in advance. All exchanges from abroad lacking this will be returned.

3) Each exchange may contain at most 250 stamps, the total value of which must not exceed Kcs 500—this being equivalent, with respect to leading stamp catalogs—approximately 30-50 Swiss francs according to Zumstein, Frs. 2500-4000 according to Yvert, US \$12-15 according to Scott or 3-4 pounds sterling according to Gibbons.

4) It is strictly necessary to settle the value of each lot offered by one reciprocal in value, leaving no balance. Therefore we recommend that every exchange be agreed on in advance and that the stamps be sent accordingly.

5) If you have any complaint regarding a Czechoslovak stamp collector, please write us. Dishonest collectors will be excluded from the exchange, as we will always try to do our utmost in protecting the honor of Czechoslovak philately.

All exchange lots will be handled without any delay. By following our above instructions the exchange will be a pleasure to you. Finally, please accept our sincere wishes for a successful and satisfactory stamp exchange.

FILATELIE ORBITA

Stamp Exchange Controlling Dept.

Trade terms.

We supply new issues for cash or in exchange, always quoting their face value in U. S. dollars according to the official rate of exchange of the Czechoslovak National Bank. Remittances made in other currencies will be converted into U. S. dollars according to their unofficial quotation at the New York or Zurich exchange.

In exchange we also supply our new issues at face converted into U. S. dollars. The face value of the new issues you will send us in return will be converted into U. S. dollars according to the unofficial banknote quotation at the New York exchange. It is always necessary that the exchange business be agreed on in advance.

When paying in advance, please note that all payments are to be made with the Zivnostenska Bank, Prague, on our account #385/2. If you pay in banknotes or by check you may send them in a letter addressed to our company. We accept, however, only banknotes which are bought by the Czechoslovak National Bank. In case of doubt we shall give you further particulars as to which banknotes are purchased by it.

If you will give us your bank references, we shall gladly supply new issues on credit, payable in net cash 30 days from date of invoice. Payments made after the expired time are subject to usual bank interest.

We also accept your orders for a binding, regular supply of new issues in desired quantities. These are executed on the first day of release and dispatched to you by the quickest possible means.

We are able to supply new issues cancelled on first day covers, on common covers or on papers, all these being subject to special quotation. We shall be pleased to give you detailed information on request.

Terms of delivery: Each order given to us will be carried out with utmost care and in the shortest possible time. All consignments are sent at the buyer's risk. Postage and insurance are extra.

We emphasize that we supply new issues of commemorative stamps at face value only during the 90 days from the date of issue. After the expiration of this period we can supply them only at the current market prices and in the quantities we are able to purchase in the open market.

We supply for cash or in exchange obsolete issues, single better stamps, complete sets, packet material in single bundles not made up, combinations made up or not made up, "kiloware," government "kiloware" (Quotation marks by the editor) in officially sealed sacks, and accept the same in return, irrespective of the country from which they come. We shall appreciate receiving your proposals concerning exchange and stating your wants in order that we may submit you an offer.

We also sell philatelic articles such as stockbooks, albums, approval books, hinges, etc. We are always ready to carry out larger orders according to samples sent, always strictly representing your wishes. Detailed offers and price-lists will be sent on request.

## 'Neath the Banner of the Dog's Head

A LITTLE-KNOWN CHAPTER IN THE HISTORY OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA

by W. L. Russell

Reprinted from Special Czechoslovak Edition of STAMPS, Oct. 29, 1949



Jan Sladky Kozina on stamp of Czechoslovakia, 1945.

You can make a fairly accurate estimate of any nation's character by a study of the various components of that nation. Not necessarily cross-sections of the whole, but segments of the ethnological groups of which it is composed.

In Czechoslovakia there are Czechs, Moravians, Slovaks, Silesians, and so on. These main groups, again, may be broken down into smaller groups, each of which is a study by itself. One such group were the Chods. Ever hear of them? Some people call them Boolaks, from their trick of pronouncing the word "byl" (was, or were) as "bool." In their heyday they were a proud and privileged people who called no man master, other than the king they served. Today they are almost forgotten. Philatelically, however, they are remembered for one of their leaders, Jan Sladky Kozina, who appears on a design which was issued in November 1945. Earlier, a special commemorative cancellation was struck for the town of Domazlice, reading "Days of the Chods." This was on July 6, 1936.

Who were these Chods — or "Chodovaks," as they called themselves? They were free guards, appointed by the early Czech Kings, and subject to no man but the king. Whenever visiting Chod territory, the king was always invited to sit 'neath the Chod banner, on which was a dog's head. On these visits, the Chods honored the king by presenting him with a barrel of honey, which served as his "passport" over their borders. They appear to have been very jealous of their territory, for they allowed no man to buy land and settle in it. They did no subject-service, and were free to hunt in the forest and shoot game therein, a most unusual privilege in the middle ages. They paid no taxes. They conducted their own barter system. They were even allowed to move and marry without let or hindrance, and to hold meetings.

These were privileges which could not be bought; they had to be earned, and earned they were, by hard service and prowess in the early wars. Such service was recognized and the grants bestowed by John of Luxembourg, Charles II, Wenceslas IV, George of Podebrad, Vladislav of Yagellon, and other early Czech kings.

Their own court of justice was held every fourth Sunday in their castle at Domazlice, where lived the "heytmán" and sworn clerk, their highest officers. In this castle was deposited their banner, the seals and privileges conferred by

successive kings, and there, too, in time of war, were housed the women, children, and sick men.

Originally, the Chods were appointed by a Czech king to Sumava (in the Bohmerwald) to be border guards. It was their task to defend the frontier, and they made a pretty good job of it.

The last time the Chods did their service was in the fatal year of 1620. This was at the beginning of the Thirty Years' War, which began with the catastrophic defeat of the Bohemian nobility on the famous White Mountain outside Prague.

The Chods had made breaches on the vulnerable parts of Bavarian territory, and were then ordered by Frederick of the Palatinate to swear allegiance to his military banner. On the fortieth day after the execution of Bohemian nobles on the square in the Old Town, Prague, the Chods were ceded by Charles Liechtenstein, on behalf of the Emperor, for 7,500 florins to the Imperial Councillor at the Court of Vienna.

This was Wolf Wilhelm Laminger, baron of Albenreuth, who was one of the Imperial commissioners and dictators of the horrible tragedy on June 21, 1621. Nine years later the Chods were sold to the same Laminger, with full hereditary rights, for the sum of 56,000 florins.

Von Laminger didn't admit the privileges enjoyed hitherto by the Chods. He deprived them of their liberties and treated them as serfs, and so the last and greatest fight of the Chods began. It lasted sixty years, and was the subject of litigation at the Viennese Court. At length Von Laminger's heir (his son Maximilian) won the lawsuit, the judgment being that once and for all the Chod's requests were refused, their privileges abolished, and they were ordered—under penalty of severe punishment—to be perpetually silent. This was in 1668. In actual fact the silence was maintained unbroken in Chod territory until 1695, when they themselves broke it.

During the peasant revolt in 1680, Von Laminger ordered the head of the Chods to bring him all the royal privileges, which were housed in the castle of Domazlice. From these he cut the seals and burned the parchments. He then proceeded to make the Chods pay for the right to work their own land. Naturally, they rebelled, and he called in the militia. The village was surrounded, and the Chods assembled in old wooden barns under their banner.

Suddenly there was the sound of a sharp whistle. The gates were swiftly opened and the armed Chods broke through the surrounding mounted troops. Many died. Some escaped to Bavaria. The leaders who were captured were either imprisoned or executed. Jan Sladky Kozina, who was one of their prominent leaders, was hanged. As he stepped on to the gallows he called the Lamingers to "God's Ordeal," and it is a curious fact that the tyrant died exactly a year after the execution. The story of Jan Sladky Kozina is dramatically told in Alois Jirasek's book "Dogsheads." His monument, designed by Hosek, is shown on two stamps which were issued in November 1945.

The organization of an Aero-Postal Stationery Society has been proposed by several of the adherents to this new and fascinating branch of aero-philately. At the recent American Air Mail Society Convention, several collectors of air letter sheets and other stationery informally selected Geo. D. Kingdom to act as organizing secretary. The general purpose of the Society will be for the mutual welfare of all members in the accumulation and dissemination of data concerning Aero-Postal Stationery. Many other tangible benefits and objectives have been suggested but will be submitted later to the membership for approval. The Charter Membership fee is \$2.00, and the annual dues will be determined by the various services which each member desires. Charter membership applications will be accepted until January 1, 1950. All interested persons, should write, Geo. D. Kingdom, P. O. Box 37, Conneaut, Ohio.

#### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

- 253. James Nemecek, 22654 Chardon Rd., Euclid 17, Ohio.
- 335. Elizabeth E. Penn, 7855 St. Clair Ave., No. Hollywood, Calif.
- 350. W. D. Knox, 2436 Freeland Ave., San Angelo, Texas.
- 366. Gerald P. Glanton, Gen. Delivery, Tacoma, Wash.

## CHECK LIST

(Editor's note: to coworkers on the Czechoslovak Handbook. Kindly follow this style in preparing your manuscript.)

## Thirtieth Anniversary of the Czechoslovak Republic



Oct. 28, 1948. Issued to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Republic. Designed by Vaclav Sivko and engraved by J. A. Svengsbir. Printed on unwatermarked paper from the rotary press in sheets of 100 stamps and 12 ornamental coupons. Perforated line 12½. Quantity issued: Demonetized

Czecho cat.	Scott cat.	Value	Color, etc.
485	361	1.50K	blue
			a) with coupon
486	362	3. K	red
			a) with coupon

First day cover

## President Klement Gottwald



Oct. 28, 1948. To replace the regular issue (portraits of 1945) the P. O. D. issued three values with a portrait of pres. K. Gottwald. From a photograph by K. Hajek, designed and engraved by Jindra Schmidt. Printed from 50 and 100 subject plates by photogravure process on white, unwatermarked paper and perforated 12½. Quantity issue: demonetized

487	363	1.50K	brown
488	364	3. K	carmine lake
501	364a	3. K	carmine rose (Feb. 25, 1949)
489	365	5. K	blue



52. Birthday of Pres. Gottwald



Nov. 23, 1948. Issued to commemorate the 52nd birthday of Gottwald. The 20. K was issued from sheets of 100 stamps and 12 ornamental coupons. Printed from steel engraved plates on white, unwatermarked paper and perforated 12¼. The 30.K sheet was designed by K. Svolinsky. Printed in single sheets, 66x98 mm from flat press on white unwatermarked paper and imperforate. Both stamps engraved by J. Schmidt. Quantities issued: 20.K

30.K		Demonetized	
490	366	20. K	violet gray
			a) with coupon
491	367	30. K	red
			Type I—with dots between words
			Type II—with commas between words
			Varieties:
			a) without dividing line end of second row
			b) retouch of above
			c) retouch of dots to commas
			d) colored spot in pole below standard

First day cover

Fifth Anniversary of the Czecho-Soviet Pact



Dec. 11, 1948. Designed by B. Nemeč and engraved by J. Schmidt. Printed on white, unwatermarked paper in sheets of 100 stamps and 12 ornamental coupon subjects. Perforated 12½. Coupon engraved by Bohdan Roule. Quantity issued:

492	369	3. K	carmine red a) with coupon
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Demonetized

First day cover

Child Welfare 1948

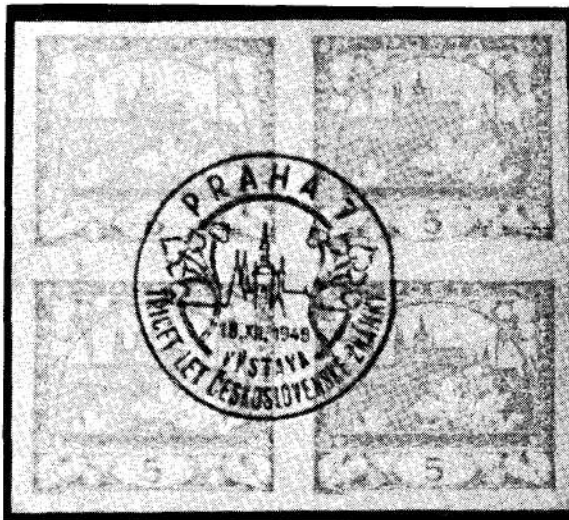


Dec. 18, 1948. Designed by K. Svolinsky and engraved by: L. Jirka (1.50); J. Mracek (2.) and J. Svengsbir (3.). Printed from steel engraved plates on white, unwatermarked paper in sheets of 100 stamps and 12 ornamental coupons. Perforated 12½. Quantities issued: Demonetized

493	B163	1.50+1.K	violet a) with coupon
494	B164	2.+1.K	blue a) with coupon
495	B165	3.+1.K	red a) with coupon

First day cover

Thirtieth Anniversary of First Czechoslovak Postage Stamp



Dec. 18, 1948. Designed from original of Alfons Mucha and engraved by J. Schmidt. Steel engraved flat plates in single sheet unwatermarked and measuring 70x90mm. Imperforate. Quantity issued:  
Demonetized

January 1950

498	368	10. K	violet blue
			Type I long line below dates
			Type II shorter line
			Type III very short line

## First day cover

With this sheet the P. O. D. reprinted the first Czechoslovak sheet from the original plate (5h) in sheets of 100 subjects. Imperforate and ungummed. Had no franking value. Quantity issued: Demonetized  
 N. 3 5h yellow green

## V. I. Lenin Issue



Jan. 23, 1949. Issued to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the death of V. I. Lenin. Designed by K. Svolinsky, engraved by J. Schmidt. Rotary press printed in sheets of 100 stamp and 12 ornamental coupon subjects. White, unwatermarked paper. Perforated 12½. Quantities issued:

Demonetized			
497	370	1.50K	brown violet
			a) with coupon
498	371	5. K	blue
			a) with coupon

## First day cover

## February 1948 Commemorative



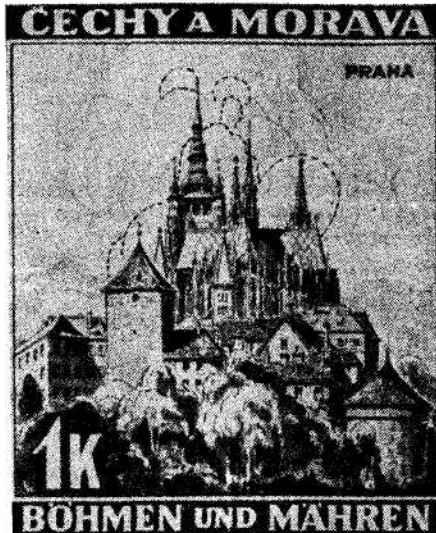
Feb. 25, 1949. Issued to commemorate the first anniversary of the communist putsch. 10.K stamp similar in design to 490 with the addition of the legend "Unor 1948" (February 1948). Printed from steel engraved plates of 100 stamps and 12 ornamental coupons on white, unwatermarked paper and perforated 12½. The 3.K stamp was designed by B. Nemeč from a photograph showing Gottwald in the square. Printed in Bratislava by photogravure process, on white unwatermarked paper and perforated 12½. Quantities issued:

Demonetized			
499	372	3. K	brown red
			a) thick paper
500	373	10. K	green
			a) with coupon

## First day cover

## A SECRET MARKING ON A POSTAGE STAMP

F. Novotny



As we look at the Hradčany, we do not find a spot which fails to remind us of some historic occasion of days long gone. History itself constructed the Praha Castle. From it spread the light whose rays kept alive the nation; interwoven are many pages of glorious history. We haven't a poet, an author or a painter who hadn't somehow incorporated into his work the Hradčany and its buildings. The Praha Castle is a symbol of the nation and that is the reason why Alfons Mucha, author of Czechoslovakia's first postage stamp, chose the Hradčany with these words:

"Every nation has its Palladium to which it offers its fate. Ever since childhood days I saw in the glorious forms of the church of St. Vitus the material incorporation of this symbol. For this reason I could choose no other design for the country's first postage stamps."

Since the issue of the Hradčany stamps of 1918, there wasn't a day in the free Republic that a picture of the Praha Castle has not adorned some Czechoslovak stamp. Even the Germanic occupants didn't dare remove this design but did order that the inscription "Bohmen und Mahren" be at the top and "Cechy a Morava" at the foot of the design. Our illustration shows the original design with the Czech and German texts reversed. The design was the work of Academic painter J. C. Vondrouš, who was born in Chotusice near Caslav and at the age of 9 years immigrated with his parents to New York. There he studied under world famous artists. In 1920 he returned to Praha.

During the occupation he saw the crucifixion of the nation which at that time, more than ever before, turned its eyes to St. Vaclav, the patron of Czech lands. This created in him the thought to show on a postage stamp, that the nation is under a higher protection and that the German occupation is merely transitory.

In the design of the clouds he showed St. Vaclav on a horse so cleverly that even the German censor failed to detect it. He pointed this out to the engraver who divulged the secret to the author of these lines. Our reproduction shows the outline of St. Vaclav on his horse incorporated into the clouds above the St. Vitus Cathedral in the Hradčany. The author included even the standard which is always shown in every picture and sculpture of the Saint.

In the oceans of postage stamps ever issued this is a unique example for it represents a truly secret mark.

### PARADE OF NEW ISSUES

The Czechoslovak Post Office will issue on December 4, 1949, commemorative stamps for the "Trade Union Congress" (Vseodborovy Sjezd). The designs for the stamps are the work of the graphic artist Jan Kotik. The stamps will be issued in the following values and colors: 1.Kcs green and 2.Kcs sepia. They are engraved by Ladislav Jirka and J. Mracek, respectively. The stamps are upright rectangles in the large format and printed on the rotary press in sheets of 70 and 35 subjects. They will be valid for postage always.

On December 18, 1949, two values of semi-postal stamps will be issued for the benefit of the Czechoslovak Red Cross. They were designed by the academic artist Theodora Novak and engraved by Bohumil Housa. The following values and colors will be employed: 1.50Kcs+50h carmine red and 3.Kcs+1.Kcs lake. The lower value is in a horizontal rectangle and the other is a vertical rectangle. Stamps are of the large format and printed from rotary press plates of 70 and 35 subjects.



On the same day will be issued two semipostal stamps for Child Welfare. These were designed by academic artist Rudolf Svab and engraved by Jindra Schmidt. The values and colors are: 1.50Kcs+50h green and 3.Kcs+1.Kcs dark red. They are vertical rectangles and printed from rotary press plates, large format, of 70 and 35 subjects.

With each individual series will be issued an engraved commemorative first day envelope, authored by the respective designers and the engraving was done by Bohdan Roule and J. A. Svengsbir.

For the Ministry,  
Hruban v. r.



Herewith is an illustration of a label which a member purchased some time ago. He asked us the status of this "stamp"; we could not supply him with the desired information. Members who know what this is are asked to communicate with the editor. Thank you.

### NEW MEMBERS

401. Wm. A. Pfisterer, 584 Academy St., New York 34, N. Y.
402. Henry Prokupek, Sr., 3434 W. 45th St., Cleveland 2, Ohio.
403. Frank J. Rosner, 2754 S. Keeler Ave., Chicago 23, Ill.
404. Wm. V. Schoenig, 7920-60 Lane, Glendale, L. I., N. Y.
405. Alexander McInnes, Radcliff, Overton Crescent, Johnstone, Renfrewshire, Scotland.

### ORBIS AGAIN

In the last few issues of the Specialist we wrote about the monopolistic government agency which dictates to the philatelic proletariat. In fairness to all we devoted space to the translation of its bulletin #1. We now have before us bulletins #6 and #7. To translate these would require at least the doubling of the size of our modest publication, so we will limit ourselves to reporting the highlights from these bulletins and translations only when the material warrants such action. Bulletin #6 devotes most of its space to vindication of the actions of Orbis "for the good of the collector." They summarize the results of their action in these headings:

1. Removal of coupons and gutters.
2. Stamps will have a continuous validity.
3. Guaranteed New Issue program.
4. Guarantee that every issue will be financially available to every one.
5. Foreign new issues for official price.
6. Just distribution of all stamps.
7. Advantageous sale of commemorative stamps on open market.
8. Stabilized value of Czecho stamps throughout the world.
9. End of workless gains at the expense of the collectors.
10. End of dealer machinations at the expense of the workers.

In the same bulletin they announce that the Praha Sample Fair issue can be purchased in unlimited quantities for 45.Kcs and the Day of the Miners can be had for 70.Kcs.

In bulletin #7 a mystery is solved! In it we learn that the Ministry of Foreign Trade issued a declaration June 25, 1949, that all mail containing stamps shall be held up pending revision of the exchange rules. When the new rules go into effect, all mail will be opened and Orbis will act as judge of value for import and export tax duty as well as check if the collectors are making true declarations of their exchanges. It is the "hope" of Orbis that the Ministry of Finance will soon permit exchange of stamps and release all stamps held by the customs office.

In the opinion of the editor, the only worth while change created by Orbis (but not yet OKed by the Ministry of Finance) is the new ruling that stamps will have constant validity for postage purposes. This will help collectors who may damage a stamp to use it in the mails, thus salvaging a fraction of the cost.

### ANOTHER SPECIAL ISSUE FOR THE CZECHOSLOVAK PHIL. SOCIETY

Reprinted from Special Czechoslovak Edition of STAMPS, Oct. 29, 1949

In honor of Czechoslovakia's Independence Day, October 28, the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of North America has prepared another series of special articles to mark that event in this issue of STAMPS, dated October 29, 1949.

It was on October 28, 1918, following the capitulation of Austria-Hungary to the Allies on October 27-28, that the National Committee at Prague proclaimed the independence of the Czechoslovak State, consisting of all or parts of Bohemia, Moravia, Ruthenia, Silesia, and Slovakia. The day has been well commemorated in Czechoslovakia's stamps, as will be found in the interesting article by Frank J. Kovarik in this issue of STAMPS, entitled "October 28."

We know that our readers will enjoy the material on Czechoslovak philately in this issue as they have indicated so clearly in their letters to the editor concerning the special Czechoslovak issues of STAMPS in the past. There is a wonderful opportunity for those interested in the stamps of Czechoslovakia to improve their knowledge by joining the Society and enjoying the privileges of that membership.

Information on the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of North America may be obtained from Frank J. Kovarik, 2302 S. Kedzie Ave., Chicago 23, Ill., and we hope any of our readers who are interested in the stamps of Czechoslovakia will avail themselves of the opportunity to become more familiar with their specialty through association with this group. —H. L. Lindquist

For 100-500 stamps, all different, of your country I shall send the same number of Czechoslovakia. Otto Koren, ul. Narodneho povstania 4, Bratislava, Czechoslovakia.



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