

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE
CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

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Editor Frank J. Kovarik, 2502 So. Kedzie Ave., Chicago 23, Ill.

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EDITORIAL

Within the last month the patron members were mailed their premium, a bound 1956 volume of the Czechoslovak Specialist. If any patron member failed to receive his copy, please contact the treasurer, Mr. George C. Kobylka. While we are on this subject it is appropriate to explain to the new members that we have three categories of membership: the regular member who pays \$2.00 a year membership dues, has all the rights of a full membership and receives the Society's monthly organ, The Czechoslovak Specialist ten times a year; the associate member pays \$5.00 a year, enjoys the same rights and privileges as the regular member but in addition receives the entire volume mailed flat at the end of the year; the patron member pays \$10.00 a year and gets everything the regular member gets but at the end of the year he gets in addition a bound volume of the Specialist. The reason for these three classes is not to institute a class or caste; we could not operate with a regular dues collection at \$2.00 per head. In the early years we asked for donations (don't misunderstand us, we still accept them, like mendicants) but later decided to make the upper brackets more inviting and are quite pleased with the results. If you want to help your publication we offer you this opportunity.

We hope to publish a complete membership list in the June issue. If you fail to pay your dues for 1957 by May 1st you will be considered delinquent. Everything is higher except membership in our Society and the postage rates so please send your membership fee in now. The treasurer is waiting for you. Penalty for non-payment is no Specialist and certainly you don't want such a fate!

Our active Chicago member Dr. James J. Matejka, Jr., is a candidate for the office of Director at Large of The American Philatelic Society. It has been an honor and a pleasure to the Chicago Group (which is a chapter of the A. P. S.) to second the nomination to place the good doctor on the ballot. When election time comes in the summer we recommend to all our members who are affiliated with the American Philatelic Society to cast their vote for Doc. One of our past presidents is active in the A. P. S.; it will help George A. Blizil to have a companion.

Three more Czechoslovakian collectors ask our members to exchange stamps and First Day Covers. Their addresses are: Vlad. Moravec, Liberec, Luční ul. 6; Rud. Kaiser, Liberec, Stalinova 9; St. Štětka, Jeníšov Újezd, p. Březanky, 5 května 138.

Our very active librarian often sends comments on our editorials. You recall the item about "Mail Auctions vs. Floor Auctions." Herewith is Frank's commentary: "Yes, by all means have our Show Auction strictly a Mail Auc-

tion. I agree with the writer you quote in your editorial. That floor fun mentioned didn't seem nice to me. It looked like some lots were cut and dried for someone. For instance this remark which I still remember as a classic example of auction cooperation: 'Can't go any higher, Mr. X wants it and I will not be able to stop him.' Most of our members are out of towners so lets try strictly a mail auction this time and lets not send any lots to anyone for examination. I'd like to handle this as I'd be impartial; no one would get a look and I personally haven't got the money to buy any choice stuff. Successful bidders would have to take the lots as is and payments in advance before lots are mailed out. Being a mail auction it could be run any time enough material accumulated. Anyhow, Frank, this is my idea and there must be better ones." Aye, brother, there are. What may look like collusion is really nothing bad nor harmful. If we sold all the stuff "as is" we'd really get no bids at all, especially if the lots were not returnable or if payment had to be made in advance. Every auction dealer knows that if he sends auction material for examination the purchaser will know the item he bids on is worth what he wishes to pay for it. The reason we are ready to publish these comments is to air the opinions of the members and try to reach a good understanding. Remember that there is much work connected with a show and an auction; if the boys say they had "fun on the floor" it was really the knowledge that a big job has been accomplished. There is much merit in a mail auction and those who conduct the show will not be sorry if one headache is removed from them.

Your editor has lived in the same house for more than a half century. It is an ideal place for transportation, shopping district, schools, churches, etc. but the family wanted something quiet in a suburb, not too distant from Chicago with fairly decent transportation facilities. As this goes to press our old house is as good as sold and an offer is being submitted to the owners of a piece of property about 75 feet away from the Forest Preserve. So our old dream may soon come true.

We heard that the Czecho section of Cross Stamp Company's auction held in February was well attended and that the late comers were compelled to stand. We understand that many successful bidders are Europeans. Not so very long ago everything was coming this way across the Atlantic and now the trend is in reverse. Especially the first republic material is selling very well. No longer is our portion of philately the Cinderella of stamp collecting. In another part of this publication you will find a listing of prices realized on material sent out to successful bidders.

NEW YORK GROUP MEETING

This meeting was held February 15, 1957 in the Collectors Club with nine members present. Emil Michaelson showed a part of his Czecho collection which featured some very interesting items and provoked quite a discussion, namely: What is an essay? Could you give us an answer? (Editor's note: This seems to be a burning question among many stamp collectors. It is very simple to explain: If the design is different than the accepted design (unless retouched or re-engraved) it is an essay. Submitted designs when not accepted are essays. A stamp found in a different color than that announced by the Post Office Department may be a color changeling, color trial (this is most often found on paper other than that normally used for postage stamps or may also be known as a plate proof if pulled in multiples or die proof if as a single subject surrounded by much unprinted paper. The very last term to use is error of color; such errors are extremely rare.)

Our coming exhibition was the next subject of discussion. Our members will be gratified to learn that all nineteen frames for the exhibition have been

bespoken. One frame will be reserved for the Society for propaganda purposes. All New York area members are requested to reserve May 17 to attend our show at The Collectors Club, 22 East 35th St. It is our one opportunity to advertise the Czech stamp and while we plan to show other countries, Czechoslovakia will predominate. And remember there is only one frame per member. Invite your philatelic and non-philatelic friends for a look-see; the more of us there the merrier. According to present plans our editor plans to attend in person. The exhibit will be from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. after which the members may celebrate with the editor. Our group was host to many members from all over the country during FIPEX and the members enjoyed the opportunity to meet fellow members from everywhere. We are sure we'll be able to show a good time to any member attending this our first venture.

CHICAGO GROUP MEETING

This meeting was held Sunday, Feb. 17 in the home of member John Velek with the following members present: G. Havlik, J. Jiranek, C. Chesloe, J. Janecka, G. Kobyłka, M. Skrivanek, F. Zaviska and F. Kovarik. J. Matejka was judging the stamp show in Aurora and as a result could not attend.

The handbook committee had nothing concrete to offer and it continues to contact other printers.

Several suggestions were made how to raise the revenue of the Society to enable it to continue to publish the Specialist in its present form of 160 pages a year. The best suggestion was to ask all members to send a donation of stamps to our Sales Department. Mr. Fritzsche would put these into a separate circuit and this could make the round of all members desiring to buy from it. In this way only the treasury benefits, not as in the past the owner of the Hall where our donation auction takes place, neither the printer nor any other person.

It was moved, seconded and approved to send the following letter to Mr. Earl P. L. Apfelbaum, secretary of The American Philatelic Society:

Chicago, Ill.
Feb. 20, 1957

Mr. Earl P. L. Apfelbaum
Sec'y, A. P. S.
504 Finance Bldg., 1426 So. Penn Sq.
Philadelphia 2, Pa.

Dear Mr. Apfelbaum:

The Chicago Group of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society, a Chapter of the American Philatelic Society, at its meeting Sunday, February 17, 1957, decided to second the nomination of Dr. James J. Matejka, Jr., of Chicago, Ill., for the office of Director-at-Large of the American Philatelic Society.

Dr. Matejka has been active in our hobby since boyhood and in organized philately for many years. We have learned to like him for his many fine qualities, for his big and generous heart and especially for his work in promoting stamp collecting in the Chicago area. He is interested in several facets of collecting which have brought him into direct contact with a wide circle of philatelists not only in our area but across the country and beyond.

We are certain that the election of Dr. James J. Matejka, Jr., will be to the best advantage of the American Philatelic Society.

Sincerely yours,

Frank J. Kovarik, Acting President
Joseph J. Jiranek, Secretary
5032 W. 25th St., Cicero 50, Ill.

On the telephonic suggestion of Dr. Matejka a lively discussion was started on the question "Why have many small stamp shows in the Chicago area which show a financial loss as a rule, when we can put on one or two big shows which would have a better chance to show a profit?" A large meeting relative to this subject and attended by representatives of many stamp clubs will take place March 29 and it is hoped our group will send its representative.

Because our April meeting falls on Easter Sunday it has been decided to omit this meeting. The next meetings will be held Sunday, 2:30 p.m., May 19, 1957, in the home of Joseph Jiranek, 5032 W. 25th St., Cicero and June 16, 1957, at the office of Jos. Janecka in Riverside.

AUCTION PRICES REALIZED

The Cross Stamp Co. of New York City offered at their 318th Auction Sale interesting material of Czechoslovakia. The Scout stamps, on and off cover, gutters of all issues of Czechoslovakia as well as Slovakia aroused considerable interest. The 1919 Ceskoslovenska Posta 1919 overprint issue, especially the rare values, realized high prices partly due to bidders from European countries.

To acquaint collectors with today's prices for stamps of Czechoslovakia we publish prices realized for the more interesting items.

Cross Stamp Co. 318th Auction Sale, February 22-23, 1957

		Prices paid	
1035	★ 1918 Scout Mail, 10h(2), 20h(2), 2 sets, shades, og vf	est. 10.00	7.50
1036	★○ Scout set, mint and used, diff shades, vf	est. 10.00	7.75
1037	Cov Scout, 10h, small neat cov., back stamped, vf	est. 15.00	8.00
1038	Cov Scout 20h, Austria 169 tied to cov., vf rare	est. 25.00	7.50
1039	Cov Scout 20h, tied by spec. canc. vf	est. 15.00	8.50
1040	Cov Scout 20h, light shade, vf	est. 15.00	7.25
1041	★ 20h, Scout sorch prijezd Presidenta Masaryka, v rare, og, vf, signed (PH)	est. 30.00	21.00
1042	Cov 10h, 20h, Scout, sorch Prijezd Presidenta Masaryka, canc. Dec. 21, 1918, arriv. of the President in Prague, v rare, vf (PH)	est. 200.00	129.00
1044	★ 5h tete beche gutter, not folded, rare, og vf (2)	est. 10.00	5.75
1046	★ 5h gutter pair og vf v rare, sign. (2)	est. 75.00	46.00
1048	★ 20h tete beche gutter pair og vf (4)	est. 40.00	21.00
1049	★ 30h tete beche gutter pair v rare og vf (6)	est. 125.00	52.00
1052	cov 20h, 30h, imperf. pairs, 80h Eussite imperf, tied to regist. cov., rare, vf (45a, 47a, 74)	est. 100.00	46.00
1054	★ 30h, imperf. block of 4, v rare, og vf (47)	120.00+	51.00
1059	★ 20h tete beche gutter pair, og, vf (84a)	est. 20.00	7.50
1063	★ 50h 2 tete beche gutter prs, se-tenant as blk og vf (87a)	50.00	19.00
1065	★ 1925 1k wmkd vert. well cent og vf sign. (101A)	45.00	21.50
1066	○ 1k-5k wmkd vert. rare, f-vf (101A-D)	est. 15.00	7.25
1069	★ 1926-27 20h strip 3 impf betw v rare og vf (123)	est. 75.00	20.00
1071	★ 1927-31 30h-3k, select cops, well cent. nh og vf (126-36)	8.65+	4.00
1074	★ 1930 Masaryk, dated tabs at B, og vf (175-78)	est. 10.00	3.00
1078	★ 1919 Semi-Postals, 6h blk ovpt, slight crease, v rare, og, fine, signed (B4)	250.00	147.50
1081	★ 1k black overprint, og vf signed (B17)	15.00	8.00
1082	★ 2k dark blue, tied, signed, rare, vf (B18a)	500.00	115.00
1085	★ 10k deep violet og vf signed (B21a)	75.00	31.00
1086	★ 10h marginal copy, rare, og vf, signed (B26)	275.00	151.00
1087	★ 5h green, well cent. og vf (B33)	200.00	105.00

1089	★	2h black overprint, og vf signed (B35) -----	15.00	8.00
1091	★	2h extremely rare, well cent. og vf signed (B40) ----	600.00	365.00
1094	★	30h well cent. og vf signed (B45) -----	75.00	29.00
1097	★	10k well cent. og vf signed (B57) -----	60.00	25.00
1099	★	10h on 24h well cent og vf (B60) -----	22.50	8.50
1101	★	1f well cent. og vf v rare, signed (B64) -----	275.00	140.00
1102	★	3f og vf signed (B66) -----	10.00	5.25
1103	★	60f og vf (B69) -----	10.00	4.25
1104	★	70f og vf v rare, signed (B70) -----	250.00	80.00
1105	★	10f well cent og vf (B71) -----	50.00	14.00
1106	★	15f well cent. og vf signed (B72) -----	20.00	10.00
1109	★	20f sheet corner, ext rare og vf signed (B97) -----	500.00	345.00
1110	★	1f green, black, well cent. og vf signed (B104) -----	100.00	49.00
1111	○	12f vf v rare, signed (B108) -----	500.00	235.00
1112	★	50f marg. copy cent to top, og f signed (B110) -----	40.00	16.00
1113	★	1f green, black, well cent. rare og vf signed (B111) --	100.00	52.50
1114	★	2f green, black, og vf signed (B112) -----	45.00	23.00
1115	★	5f well cent. v rare og vf signed (B113) -----	150.00	75.00
1116	★	50f marginal copy, og vf signed (B114) -----	35.00	22.00
1117	○	1f, tied, slight fold, fine (B115) -----	25.00	12.50
1118	○	2f-3f canc. vf (B116-23) -----	11.15	6.00
1124	★P	1920 Air Post, 28k, 3 impf trials on 3 diff Hradcany og f-vf est. 30.00	10.50	
1125	P	28k, 2 imperf. trial impress. (brown & green) on 200th Hradcany, og vf signed -----	20.00	6.00
1126	★	28k(2), blue & black, trial impress. on 500th Hradcany, og, vf -----	25.00	6.50
1129	P	1920-22 14K(2), 28K(3), 100h(1), 6 trial impress. of surcharge only, on waste, ng vf -----	20.00	6.25
1136	Cov	Nos. C7(4), C8(2), C9(2), 1 cov., 2 cards all first flights to Wien, Berlin, Marienbad, vf -----	20.00	5.75
1139	Cov	Nos. 7(2), C8(2), C9(2), 1 cov. 2 cards, all first flights to Beograd, Dresden, Munchen, vf -----	25.00	6.50
1140	★	100 on 200h, pair, v int freak, vf (C8) -----	30.00	8.00
1142	★	1919-20 Special Delivery, 5h gutter, not fold, rare, og vf (E2) -----	25.00	12.50
1145	★	1937 Newspaper P18+P19 se-tenant gutter pairs, not folded, v rare og vf signed -----	150.00	52.50
1148	○	BOHEMIA 5h-10k neatly canc. vf (1-19) -----	8.85	4.25
1151	★	SLOVAKIA 10k well cent, og vf signed (23) -----	40.00	14.00
1154	★	Tiso, imperf. pairs, rare og vf (110-15) ----	60.00	20.00
1156	★	Tiso, 10k imperf gutter pair v rare og vf (115) est.	90.00	27.50
1158	★	1944 Slovak Youth souv sheet imperf, very few exist (slight gum crease) og vf (B27a) -----	150.00	65.00
EASTERN SILESIA				
1165	★	1000h, black overprint og vf signed (21a) -----	40.00	14.50
1166	★	10h imperf. wide marg. v rare og vf sign. (24a)-----	125.00	35.00
1167	★	20h imperf, wide marg. og vf signed (26a) -----	125.00	37.50
1168	★	500, 1000h rare og vf signed (31-32) -----	70.00	15.50
1170	★	1919 Siberian Army Post, 25k-1r, perf. 11½ rare og vf (31-33) -----	25.00	8.00
1171	★	25k-1r wide margins og vf (31a-33a) -----	20.00	9.00
1172	★	2k-1r rare set og f-vf signed (36-45) -----	63.00	28.50

Mention this publication when answering ads. Thanks!

Parade Of New Issues

Historical Anniversaries of Cities and Structural Monuments



The Ministry of Communications issued 23 February, 1957, a series of six commemorative postage stamps with the following values and designs:

- a) 30h Kolín, 700 years as a city, color blue
- b) 30h Banská Štiavnica, 150th anniversary of the founding of the College of Forestry, color violet
- c) 60h Uherské Hradiště, 700 years as a city, color red
- d) 60h Karlův Most (Charles Bridge) in Praha, 600th anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone, color brown
- e) 60h Karlštejn, 600th anniversary of the founding of the castle, color green
- f) 1.25Kcs Moravská Třebová, 700 years as a city, color gray.

Designs for a, d and e is the work of the Academician painter Jan Cyril Vondrouš; designs for c and f is the work of academician painter Jarmila Lapenská-Kolářová; design f is a revised work of Bedřich Housa and design b is the creation of Jiří Švengsbír who is also responsible for its engraving.

The engraving was entrusted to the following artists: Jaroslav Goldschmied a and e; Ladislav Jirka c and d and Bedřich Housa f.

The stamps are recess printed at the Post Printing Office in Praha in sheets of 50 subjects. The dimension of the stamp design is 41mm by 23mm.

Validity for postage from February 23, 1957 until recall.

Two First Day covers were issued for this series designed by Bedřich Housa and the engraving was entrusted to the designer and to Jaroslav Goldschmied.

Postage Stamps Commemorating Cultural Personages



Ministry of Communications will commemorate by the issuance of stamps anniversaries of the following cultural representatives:



New Album Releases

OLYMPIC GAMES—1st through 15th

(1956 Games ready in January)

\$3.00 plus 35c postage

CZECHO. Suppl. No. 4

55c plus 15c postage

POLAND—1944-1955

\$7.00 plus 50c postage

EASTERN SILESIA

(Complete — 18 pages)

\$1.65 plus 15c postage

POLISH AIR-MAILS

(Complete to 1955 — 13 pages)

\$1.20 plus 15c postage

IN STOCK

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

1st Republic, 1918-1939 (115 pages)

\$9.00 plus 45c postage

Bohemia & Moravia, 1939-1945

(38 pages)

\$3.50 plus 25c postage

Slovakia, 1939-1945 (35 pages)

\$3.25 plus 25c postage

2nd Republic, 1945-1953 (73 pages)

\$6.25 plus 35c postage

Supplement No. 1 (1953-54) \$1.29

Supplement No. 2 (1954) 45c

Supplement No. 3 (1955) 85c

IN PREPARATION

GEN. GOUVERNEMENT

and

SUPPLEMENT No. 1 (1956)

(Ready next March)

POLAND — 1918-1939



Glassine Interleaving pages, 100 1.00



ALSO PAGES PRINTED TO ORDER
WITH NAME OF YOUR SPECIAL-
TY OR COUNTRY — \$3.00 per 100

(Blank Pages to match with each Section, 3c each.)

G. C. KOBYLKA

1433 South Cuyler Avenue

Berwyn, Illinois



- 1) 15h Ivan Olbracht, writer, 75th anniversary of birth (January 6, 1882-December 30, 1952)
- 2) 20h Karel Toman, poet, 80th anniversary of birth (February 25, 1887-June 12, 1946)
- 3) 30h František Xaver Šalda, author and literary critic, 20th anniversary of death (December 22, 1867-April 4, 1937)
- 4) 1.60 Kcs Terezia Vansová, Slovakian author, centenary of birth (April 18, 1857-October 11, 1942)

Design of all these stamps was made by the national artist, Dr. Max Švabinský and the engraving by Jindra Schmidt. These stamps were printed by the rotary steel engraved process by the Post Printing Office in Praha in sheets of 50 subjects. The dimension of the stamp design measures 23mm x 30mm. The colors of the stamps is in this order: red, green, brown and blue.

Stamps will be valid for postage from January 15, 1957 until recalled.

Design of the First Day Cover is from prof. Švabinský, the engraving detail designed by Jindra Schmidt and Jaroslav Goldschmied.

EMERGENCY POSTAGE DUES OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK TRANSITION PERIOD

Zdeňek Kvasnička

(Continued from January issue)

5. Austrian, Hungarian and Czechoslovakian regular, special delivery and newspaper stamps handstamped with D, DOPLATIT, DOPLATNÉ or DOPLATEK.
 - AŠ 1.—Czech. 15.
 - BRNENEC—Czech. 5, 10, 20, 25, 30.
 - ČÁSLAV—Aust. spec. del. 5 hal.
Czech. spec. del. 5, 10 hal.
 - DOLNÍ BEŘKOVICE—Aust. 5, 10, 15, 20, 30, 40.
Czech. 5, 10, 20, 25.
 - DUCHOV—Czech. 5.
Aust. spec. del. 2 hal.
 - CHÝŠE—Czech. 5.
 - KRÁL VINOHRADY—Aust. 15, 20, 40, newspaper 30, (D in a frame)
Czech. 5.
 - KUSCHWARDA—Czech 5.
(KUNŽVART)
 - NECHANICE—Czech. 15, 25, (Scott B 124).
 - NĚMETPRONA—Czech. 20.
(NEMECKÉ PRAVNO)
 - PÍSEK—Aust. 5, 10, 15, 20, 30.
Czech. 5, 10.
 - PLUMLOV—Aust. spec. del. 2, 3, 5 hal.
 - PRAHA 8—Aust. 3, 12, 15, 20, 25, 30, 40.
Czech. 3, 5, 10, 25 (DOPLATIT with an asterisk)
Aust. 15, 20, 25, 30, 40
Czech. 5, 10, (DOPLATIT without an asterisk)
 - PŘÍBRAM—Aust. 20.
Czech. 5, 10.
 - ÚPICE—Czech. 40, 100 ("P")
 - VALAŠSKÉ MEZIRŮČÍ—Czech. 5, 10.
 - VRANÉ n. Vlt.—Aust. 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 40, spec. del. 5 hal.
Czech. 5, 10, 20, 25, 30, 40, perforated 5, 10, 20, all stamped DOPLATIT, 40 hal. also with a "D".
 - ZBRASLAVICE—Czech. 5, 10.
 - ZEIDER—Czech. 15.

- ŽABOVŘESKY—Aust. 20.
 REICHSTADT—Aust. 5.
 (ZÁKUPY u č. LÍPY) Czech. 5.
 The KONICE postoffice used a handstamp FRANCO to designate as postage dues the current Czechoslovakian stamps 5, 10, 20, 25, 40.
 6. Austrian, Hungarian and Czechoslovakian postage dues bisected.
 ÁRVANAGYFALU—Czech. 20.
 (VELKÁ VES ORAVSKÁ)
 BIKÁS (BUJAKOVO)—Czech. 10, 20.
 BLEISWEDEL (BLÍZVEDLY)—Aust. 10.
 BECHOVICE—Czech. 20.
 BLOTTENDORF—Czech. 20.
 (POLEVSKO)
 BRÉZNICE—Aust. 40.
 DAŠICE, ČECHY—Czech. 20.
 DITTERSBAACH—Aust. 15, 15/15, violet, (Scott J61).
 (JETŘICHOVICE)
 FLEISSEN—Czech. 20.
 GALŠEČ (SEČOVCE)—Czech. 20, 30.
 GABLONZ a.d.N.—Czech. 20.
 (JABLONEC n.N.)
 HOŘICE—Czech. 10, 20.
 HLINÍK—Czech. 10.
 CHOCEŇ—Aust. spec. del. 2 hal.
 CHRUDIM—Czech. 10.
 JAROMERICE—Czech. 10.
 KAPLICE—Aust. 10.
 KLUKY—Czech. 20.
 LIBEREC 1.—Czech. 10.
 MALÁ SKÁLA—Czech. 20.
 MODŘANY—Czech. 20.
 MUNKÁČZ (MUKAČEVO)—Czech. 20.
 NÉMETPRÓNA—Czech. 20.
 (NEM PRAVNO)
 NIEDER LEITEHDORF—Aust. 10.
 (DOLNÍ LITVÍNOV)
 OBERNITZ b. BRUX—Czech. 20.
 (OBRNICE)
 OLOVÍ2—Aust. 40.
 POPELÍN—Czech. 20.
 PRAHA 1.—Aust. 40.
 PRAHA 18—Aust. 40.
 PRESCHEN (PREŠTANY)—Aust. 20, quartered to 5 hal.
 PRIVIGYE (PRIVIDZA)—Czech. 10, 20.
 PŘÍŠIMANY—Czech. 10, 30.
 RÁJEC in Slovakia—Czech. 10.
 RAPICE—Aust. 40.
 RONŠPERK—Czech. 10.
 SEDLČANY—Czech. 10.
 SLATINA n. U.—Czech. 20.
 SOLNICE—Aust. 10.
 STARČ—Czech. 20.
 TISZOLEC (TISOVEC)—Czech. 20.
 TREBIŠOV—Czech. 20.
 ÚSTÍ n. O.—Czech. 20.
 ZEIDLER—Aust. 10.
 ZLATÁ OLEŠNICE—Czech. 10.
 ŽIVOTICE—u.O.—Czech. 20.

The Butcher of Bohemia

by Joseph D. McWherter, Jr.

Reprinted with permission from the Weekly Philatelic Gossip



This is the story behind the stamp known as Scott's B20 of Bohemia and Moravia. It is a story of menace, murder, massacre and mystery. So horrible it is almost unbelievable, this is a real-life "who-dun-it."

The stamp is a semi-postal of 60 haleru denomination, with a 440 haleru surtax. Pictured in the design is the deathmask of Reinhard Heydrich. Its black color symbolizes death as well as Heydrich's corps, the Nazi German SS Police.

SS Obergruppenführer Heydrich died of violence on June 4, 1942. The truth about his death may never be known, for there were at least two versions of it: The Nazi German Administration's and the Czechoslovak Government's.

At the time, the Nazi were in power in Bohemia and Moravia. They had appointed Heydrich the "Protector of Bohemia and Moravia." His murderers, they said, were traitors and were found and shot.

The Czechoslovak Government was in exile in London. It said the identity of Heydrich's killers remained a mystery. The assassins were patriots, in the Czechoslovak version, and Heydrich was "The Butcher of Bohemia."

Heydrich earned the title "Butcher of Bohemia" in the eight months which elapsed between his appointment as Protector and his death.

Even before coming to Prague, he had had a long and vicious record as a German Political Police Officer. He helped establish the notorious Dachau Concentration Camp in 1933. He took part in the "Blood Purges" of 1934. Known as the "Hangman of Europe" because of his ruthlessness in many Nazi occupied countries, he was the deputy chief of the secret police under Himmler. He succeeded Baron Constantin von Neurath as Protector of Bohemia and Moravia.

Von Neurath was replaced, the Czechoslovak Government believed, because the Germans considered he had failed to bring the people of the Protectorate into full sympathy with the Nazi war aims by his "old-fashioned and lenient methods."

Heydrich did not make Neurath's mistake. The new Protectorate decreed a state of civil emergency the same day he set up offices in Hradcany Castle, September 28 (St. Wenceslaus Day), 1941.

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The emergency amounted to martial law and applied to most of the Protectorate. It lasted more than three months.

Harsh summary courts, sitting even on Sundays, handed 1100 prisoners over to the brutal Gestapo and inflicted death sentences on nearly 400 others.

From London, the Czechoslovak Government declared that many of those executed had had nothing to do with any active or even passive resistance. Many had had no hand in sabotage of any kind. Some were hanged merely for listening to foreign broadcasts. Others were killed for illegally hoarding food or supplies, or for transgressing against the Jewish regulations.

"The terror Heydrich imposed on the Protectorate itself pressed the weapon into the hands of the unknown patriots who made the attack (on Heydrich)," said the exiled government.

Two assassins ambushed Heydrich in his car in the Prague suburb of Liben on May 27, 1942, according to the official German news agency. The driver had slowed for a steep hair-pin curve in the mountains between Heydrich's country home and his Hradcany Castle office.

Clutching a raincoat grimly over his arm, one assailant leaped to the running-board. He whipped an automatic from the coat and snapped the trigger. His gun misfired.

In that tense instant, the second assailant threw a hand-grenade into the vehicle, as the first jumped to safety.

Heydrich died a week later.

Vindictively, the Hitler Administration unleashed a new and more awful wave of terror.

Firing squads killed nearly 1300 in five weeks' time. Thousands of anguished Czechs were arrested during savage round-ups. They were dragged mercilessly from their homes or swooped up from the streets. A Czechoslovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs report said many of them were never heard from again.

"The height of the terror was marked by two acts so barbarous in their vengeance as to be unprecedented even by German standards," said the Czechoslovak Ministry.

"Early in June the village of Lidice near Kladno (population 483, by German reports) was razed to the ground." All of the men were executed. The women were thrust into concentration camps. Ninety-two children were torn from their mothers' arms and, stated one authority, sent to SS lebensborn homes to become wards of the Nazi State. Ten days later, the hamlet of Ležáky, which was near Chrudim and had a population of about 60 persons, was also razed.

In exculpation, the Nazi made this statement:

"In the course of the search for the murderers of S. S. Obergruppenfuhrer Heydrich unmistakable indications were discovered that the population of the Commune of Lidice near Kladno had afforded support and help to the set of culprits in question."

A similar statement was made for Ležáky. It came a few days after the Prague Radio's broadcast that Heydrich's assailants had been discovered. The station reported on June 18th the murderers had been found hiding in the Czech Orthodox Church in Prague, near the Vitava River, and had been shot.

"All of them," the radio assured its listeners, "were Czech nationals dropped by British aircraft in order to commit the assault on Heydrich."

The dreaded SS Chief Himmler, himself, on June 22nd released a special news bulletin from Berlin proclaiming that the assassins were parachutists from the Czech Army in Britain. One, he said, was 29 year old Corporal Jan Kubliš. The other was a Slovak, Staff Sergeant Josef Gabčík.

Many people accepted Himmler's assertion that Kubliš and Gabčík were the killers, but some did not.

The Czechoslovak exiled Government emphasized in 1943 that the Nazi could not afford to let the murderers of Himmler's deputy go officially un-avenged.

For the sake of the prestige of the SS, two men—whether guilty or not—had to be publicly accused and executed.

It was not logical, the exiles explained, to raze Lidice (25 km west of Prague) and Ležáky (85 km east of Prague) for harboring the culprits, if the men found right in Prague were the actual assassins.

Through the years since the assassination, the press has reported, periodically, new opinions and various sidelights on the case, but there may never be a general agreement on the identity of the killers.

Philatelists must agree, however, that Scott's B20 of Bohemia and Moravia is truly a "Stamp of Death."

The Post Office Department returned the Specialist sent to member 499 Alfred F. Chaloupka, Sinton, Tex. with the brief notation "deceased." To the members of the family of our late member the Society sends sincerest expressions of sympathy.



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2.	BUDEJOVICE, set up to 10K used	5.00
3.	I Prague issue complete up to 1K *	7.00
4.	II Prague issue complete up to 1K *	7.00
5.	SROBAR 5 values *	4.00
6.	FATHER JEHLICZKA 5K block of four IMPERF	3.00
7.	FATHER JEHLICZKA 5K block of four PERF	3.00
8.	FATHER JEHLICZKA 4 values (on Hungarian stamps) compl set, very rare. signed LESETICKY	14.00
9.	SCOUT 10h and 20h *	2.00
10.	SCOUT used	2.00
11.	22 labels from old Sokol Congresses	3.00
12.	CZECH ARMY IN RUSSIA! 3kop with overprint, CESKAJA POSTA very rare * signed	22.00
13.	25kop, 50kop 1Rubl complete set *	1.00
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