

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE
CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

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Editor Frank J. Kovarik, 8748 Rockefeller Ave., Brookfield, Illinois

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EDITORIAL

Because of our plans to visit our New York group we are compelled to work on this issue of the Specialist a week sooner. Due to our relocation we have not yet seen the May Specialist (at least we need not apologize for its contents) but George Kobyłka promised to send us a copy pronto.

Some members may wonder how we fared in the four weeks since our transplanting from a busy city corner to a very quiet spot in a village. At first the dreadful silence was somewhat annoying but we have learned to like it. Our city home vibrated constantly like a reducing machine; no wonder the builder placed it on 24-inch foundation walls. Here the walls are only half the thickness but the house is steady like the Rock of Gibraltar. In the city few people noticed us; here total strangers call out "Hi" and the habit is infectious; we Hi those we meet on the street. Suburbanite members may smile at our naivete and well they may.

A member asks if it would be possible to enumerate the contents of our Society's library. When printing was cheaper we had printed a complete catalog of the titles in the library and we also had printed rules and regulations governing the sales circuit. We are sure this practice should be revived, if the treasury can take it. It could be published in one of the future issues of the Specialist and another 100 or 200 copies could be run off and sent to the librarian who welcomes the new members with this valuable and truly necessary information. Another member asks about the circuits and the sales department. It is costly to repeat information like a listing of the officers in every issue it is done at irregular intervals just like the advertising rates. We try to supply the members with as much reading matter and necessary illustrations as possible. We are sure the Specialists are retained by members in some sort of file and it should be comparatively easy to look back for this information. Your editor is frequently asked to quote ad rates and addresses of either the secretary or treasurer. Our working file of Specialists is contained in a three ring binder (not standard size); we have a listing of officers and ad rates on the last page for easy reference. For your information the officers you may want to contact more frequently are: Secretary: Melvin F. Klozar, 601 Tuxedo Ave., Cleveland 29, Ohio; treasurer: George C. Kobyłka, 1433 Cuyler Ave., Berwyn, Ill.; librarian: Frank J. Kosik, RFD #3, Box 463, Delavan, Wis.; sales manager: Wolfgang Fritzsche, Box 402, Geneva, N. Y.

In one of the recent issues we mentioned comments of two members about the auction sales we hold during our annual shows. We were sure we'd hear from more members on this rather hot subject but only one member had some-

thing to say about it and that was merely a request that all items listed should carry the Scott catalog number as most of our members mount their collections according to the American bible. Sometimes we wonder if our writings are read.

We have received news that our member Dr. James J. Matejka, Jr. won the Brisley Trophy Grand Award at the Ottawa (Canada) BYPEX for his magnificent collection of Newfoundland Air Mail stamps and covers. Two other awards went to him. At the same exhibition our Circuit and Sales Manager, Wolfgang Fritzsche and member Leo Goldman received bronze awards. Congratulations, boys!

We want to assure all members that we hope to get caught up with our mail within two weeks after our return from New York. At any rate we are not in the mess we were in a year ago. Our residence away from the city helps keep our nose to the grindstone.

CHICAGO GROUP MEETING

No meeting was held in April because the meeting day fell on Easter Sunday. All Chicago area members are urged to attend the last meeting of this season which will be held Sunday, June 16 at 2:30 P.M. in the office of member Jos. Janecka, 7306 Ogden Ave., Riverside, Ill.

NEW YORK GROUP MEETING

The group held its meeting Friday evening April 19 at the Collectors Club. The following were present: Dr. Wm. Reiner-Deutsch, N. Feiwelsohn, G. Koplowitz, L. Horechny, E. Michaelson, W. Schoenig, Mrs. Reiner-Deutsch, M. Kolman and J. Stein.

Members who promised to show their stamps at the forthcoming exhibition were assigned frames and all were instructed to be present at the Club by 6 P.M. to set up the frames. The exhibition will be open free to all visitors from 7 P.M. to 9:45 P.M. Friday, May 17, and the hall must be vacated by 10 P.M. Our editor Frank Kovarik will be present and all New York area members are urged to be present and make this first show in many years the success it justly deserves. Postcard notices of the exhibition will be sent to members and nonmembers by a committee appointed for this purpose.

The members present decided that in all future meetings at least one half hour will be devoted to a scientific discussion on certain special aspects of the various Czechoslovak issues; paper varieties with demonstrations, explanations of the various perforation varieties, overprints and how produced, forgeries, types, etc. Each member would have plenty of time for preparation of his subject. In this way all would have an opportunity to enter into a discussion of the various phases of stamp manufacture and all could learn much.

Before the closing of the meeting member George Koplowitz showed his collection of Czechoslovakia which is housed in Koblka albums. The meeting was very interesting and all present were fired with enthusiasm. It is hoped other members residing in this area will avail themselves of the knowledge dispensed at the meetings.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

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THE WARRIOR KING OF BOHEMIA

By Joseph D. McWherter, Jr.

Reprinted with permission from Weekly Philatelic Gossip



Scott's Catalogue lists one stamp which is a symbol of all the glorious, romantic and infamous facets of the Middle-Ages. It is number B17 of Bohemia and Moravia.

The stamp is a semi-postal of 2.50 Koruny denomination, which was issued January 29, 1943. Its 1.50k surtax was for German winter wartime relief.

Designed by Langenberger, it pictures John of Luxemburg. Straight nosed, bearded, his crown topping long wavy hair, "Konig Johann" is shown in the royal color—dark blue violet.

John's Coronation as King of Bohemia was at Prague in February, 1311.

His father was Henry VII of the Holy Roman Empire. A member of the illustrious House of Luxemburg, he arranged for John's marriage to Elizabeth of the Premysl family.

The Premysl line of kings, which had ruled Bohemia since the seventh century, died out with the assassination of Wenceslaus III in 1306. Within the country, no strong contestants for the vacant throne appeared. So, as Henry VII had anticipated, John—upon his marriage to Elizabeth—asserted a claim, successfully. He became king at the age of fifteen years. The Luxemburg Dynasty, which he founded, reigned until 1437. John was followed by his son, Charles, then by his grandsons, Wenceslaus and Sigismund.

John's noble blood may have been an accident of fortune, as Goldoni says noble blood is. Certainly, both his father and his son were greater men. John did not rule his country well. He was not loved by his subjects. His sole outstanding virtue, by which he is remembered in history, was his gallant personal valor.

A king who reigned but did not govern, John spent most of his life in lands other than Bohemia. He returned to his kingdom only to collect taxes and raise revenue. The country lapsed into anarchy and revolt.

For more than thirty years, John waged wars throughout the length and breadth of Europe. Boldly, crusading in the romantic tradition of a Knight of the Teutonic Order, he campaigned against the heathen in Lithuania and Pomerania. As an ambitious, intriguing soldier, he invaded Italy, Poland and Germany in the mostly vain hope of extending his realm. Often, too, he fought merely to satisfy his lust for excitement.

The Battle of Crecy was John's finest hour, although he fought on the side of the defeated French. Here, John showed the generations to come that a brave man may fail but cannot yield.

One of the historic battles early in The Hundred Years' War, Crecy was fought on Saturday, August the 26th of 1346. It was a feat of chivalry, fiery

with consummate courage and bright with flashing valor. It was—as one historian wrote—a battle in which sturdy English bowmen, through sunny hours, made great havoc among French knights in armour.

Here at Crecy, the English longbow bended for the first time in continental warfare. Here, too, the English introduced the French to tactics they had learned, at their own great expense, in the wilds of Northern Scotland.

English men-at-arms moved to favorable positions, straddling the way from Abbeville. Their archers flanked the route.

Riding and marching in disordered groups, the French forces advanced from Abbeville, not suspecting the enemy's tactics. Suddenly confronted, each contingent of French charged piecemeal, courageously, recklessly, towards the English men-at-arms. The long-bowmen cut them down from the flanks.

Estimates of French losses that day range as high as thirty thousand dead, including eleven great princes and 1200 knights. The flower of French nobility was destroyed. The English lost only fifty men.

John's arrival on the scene was described dramatically by Jean Froissart, the famous French 14th century chronicler, as follows:

"(The King) asked, 'Where is the Lord Charles, my son?'"

"His men said, 'Sir, we cannot tell. We think he be fighting.'"

"Then John said, 'Sirs, ye are my men, my companions and friends in this journey. I require you bring me so far forward that I may strike one stroke with my sword.'"

"They said they would do his commandment, and to the intent that they should not lose him in the press, they tied all their reins of their bridles each to other and set the king before to accomplish his desire, and so they went on their enemies. . ."

"(John) was so far forward that he strake a stroke with his sword, yea, and more than four, and fought valiantly and so did his company. And they adventured themselves so forward that they were all slain. And the next day they were found in the place about the king, and all their horses tied each to other."

Probably, the Englishman who dispatched John of Luxemburg never knew he had killed a king—a king who had been blind for six years.

The Age of Chivalry has gone. One of atoms and cold-wars has succeeded. Nothing of that old, brave, windmill-tilting era is left now but a golden-hued, majestic image. Perhaps, however, this image exists only in the mind's eye of the philatelist musing over his album. There, imagination never dies.

DR. FRANTIŠEK L. RIEGER (1818-1903)

A co-worker of Palacký, he was a political leader of the nation in his time as well as a statesman and a fluent speaker. He was the first lawyer to speak in Czech at the reception of his doctorate at the University. His mottoes were—"In work and knowledge is our salvation" and "We will not give in". With Palacký, whose daughter he married, he made a good fight for national rights. He also headed the movement for the establishment of the National Theater.

The stamp of 1948 commemorates Kroměříž as the capital of Austria during the troubled days of 1848-49. The Diet met there instead of Vienna, which was politically too hot for it.

NEW MEMBERS

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G. C. KOBYLKA

1433 South Cuyler Avenue

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HUNGARIAN POSTMARKS OF SLOVAKIAN TERRITORY 1938-1939

By A. J. Stoyel

With the Munich Agreement in October 1938 between Hitler, Mussolini, and Chamberlain, the "break-up" of Czecho-Slovakia began and the three claims

- (a) Sudetenland Territory by Hitler
- (b) Teschen Area by Poland
- (c) Slovakian Border territory claimed by Hungary

reduced the Czecho-Slovakian State to an unbalanced area which was to fall further into the clutches of the German War Machine in March 1939.

The Sudetenland occupation by the German authorities has been given full publicity in the philatelic press throughout the world, and material—postal and philatelic—has been readily available. However, the similar "grab" by the Hungarians did not receive this "boost" and material is exceedingly difficult to secure.

The writer has compiled a list of towns taken over by the Hungarians in October and November 1938, and this may prove of interest to readers. Difficulty has been experienced by the complete transformation of the names of the Post Offices and therefore both Czech and Magyar names are given where known.

Philatelic Dealers have interested themselves in the Sudetenland occupation postmarks, supplemented, of course, by the great German interest and demand.

These influences have not been felt in the Magyar territory "grabs" and material is in short supply.

Hungary was awarded territory on the southern border of Slovakia as a result of the "Munich" agreement. Commemorative postmarks were made available in the main towns (those starred) and ordinary Hungarian postmarks came into being within a very short time. See appendix "A."

As a "supplement" to this 1938 period, with the upheaval of March 1939 when Bohemia and Moravia became occupied by the Germans, and Slovakia became a protected State, the Carpatho-Ukraine territory which has hoped for self Government, was occupied by the Hungarian Army, and this resulted in Hungarian postmarks being used in this section. A small list is attached under appendix "B".

It is hoped that these lists will be of use and interest to others whilst the writer will be pleased to hear of additions that may be known to readers.

APPENDIX "A"

Czech	Hungarian
Batovo	
*Berehovo	Beregszasz
Ceklis	
Cop	
Feledince	Feled
Filakovo	Fulek
Galanta	Galanta
Chlumec Kralovsky	Kiraly Kelmeicz
Jasov	
Jelsava	
Kapusany Velke	Nagy Kapos
*Komarno	Komaron
*Kosice	Kassa
*Levice	Leva
*Lucenec	Losonc
Moldava nad Bodvou	Szepsi

*Mukacevo	Munkacs
Parkan	Parkany
Plesivic	Pelsoc
*Roznava	Rozsnyo
*Sahy	Ipolysag
Sala	Vagsellye
*Sobota Rimavska	Rimaszombat
Streda na Bodrokom	Bodrog Szerdahely
Tornala	Tornalja
Turna	
*Zamky Nove	Ersekujvar
Uzhorod	Ungvar

APPENDIX "B"

Czech	Hungarian
Chust	Huszt
Jasina	Korösmezo
Perecin	Perecseny
Rachovo	Raho
Sevlus	Nagyszöllös
Volove	Ökormező

JAN AMOS KOMENSKÝ

was reputedly born at Uherský Brod, Moravia in 1592. He died in Amsterdam in 1670. Komenský is the father of modern pedagogical theory and practice and advocate of equal rights for women in education, which he practiced until the Habsburgs abolished it. A respected teacher of many nations, he went into exile rather than renounce his belief. He devoted his life to the idea of peace of the world at a time, when only brute strength was respected. In our own unsettled time, we should be particularly interested in his message to the Conference of Ambassadors at Breda, Holland in 1677. He titled it "Angelus Pacis" (Angel of Peace) in which among other thoughts from which we could now profit, advocated a League of Nations. However, like his predecessor on this subject, Jiří z Poděbrad, he was not listened to.

In that time of poor communications his renown was spread all over Europe as a scholar and thinker. He even was offered the presidency of Harvard in the United States. In his "Bequest" is a significant passage which president Masaryk quoted in his message to the National Assembly in 1918. "I also believe before God that after the passing of storm of wrath brought down upon our heads by our sins, the rule over our own possessions shall be restored to thee, O Czech people."

The 300th anniversary of his birth was celebrated publicly all over the world except in his own home—where it was forbidden.

A 40h stamp was issued in 1936 and for the occasion of his 360th birthday in 1952 two large stamps were issued.

KAREL HYNEK MACHA

He was a young, poor poet, who nevertheless enriched the Czech poetry; an unhappy lover—of whose poem "Máj"—lovers of all nations whisper the first line—"Twas the first of May—the time for love." He died in 1836 at Litoměřice at the age of 26 years.

Two stamps were issued in 1936, honoring the 100th anniversary of his death, showing his statue on Petřín near Praha.

Czechoslovakia Coat of Arms Issue of 1929-31

By Frank J. Kosik

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The Czechoslovak stamps showing the coat-of-arms were authorized by Order No. 10, Journal of the Ministry of Post and Telegraph, Number 13, issue of March 22, 1929, to replace the 1926-27 castle views as a result of the lowering of postal rates.

The 20h, 25h, 30h, and 40h values were issued on August 10, 1929; the 20h coil value, on November 2, 1929. The 5h and 10h values were authorized for printing by Order No. 6, Journal of the Ministry of Post and Telegraph No. 6, issue of January 24, 1931. The two last-named values were issued February 2, 1931.

The 40h value was taken out of circulation February 28, 1937, by Order No. 8 of the Journal, issue of February 2, 1937. The rest of the values were demonetized on September 30, 1939.

The quantity of each value printed and plate numbers used are as follows: 5h—54, 680, 000 Plate 1-1A; 10h—99,210,000, Plate 1-1A; 20h—911,010,000, Plate 1-1A, 3-3A; 20 h (coil)—17,132,000, Plate 2-2A; 25h—19,170,000, Plate 1-1A; 30h—389,690, 000, Plate 2-2A, 1-1A; 40h—72,040,000, Plate 1-1A, 2-2A.

The design was reproduced from the official state print of the emblem of Czechoslovakia, copied into line engraving by Karl Seizinger, famous stamp engraver, whose biography appeared in STAMPS of November 12, 1955.

The right and left borders of the design have a vertical vine of linden leaves, the national symbol. The perforation is line: 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ mm. Printing was done on a Stickney rotary press by the Czech Graphical Union (Unie) in Prague. The printing cylinder carried two curved plates, each plate having 100 impressions of the design. This was the standard number on plates known as the "small format." Plate numbers used for each value are the foregoing listing. The plate numbrs can be found in the lower left corner of each plate, just under the left numeral of value of the left lower corner stamp.

Following is a listing of all known varieties of each value. Readers knowing of any other varieties besides those listed are invited to report same to this writer for further listing: Frank J. Kosik, Rt. No. 3, Delavan, Wisc.

5h blue, steel blue, dark ultramarine; bluish paper, transparent paper, and parchment paper.

10h brown-olive, yellowish olive, brown, gray-brown, olive, light brown olive; transparent paper, and parchment paper.

20h red-orange, dark orange, brick red, rose; offset, thick paper, transparent paper, parchment paper.

20h coil, light red, red-orange, red; offset, and start or end of coil strip.

25h blue-green, light green, dark green, bright green; transparent paper, and parchment paper.

30h violet, bright violet, red violet; offset, perforated through center, offset, perforated through center, transparent paper, and parchment paper.

40h (Type I) brown-olive, light brown, red-brown; transparent paper.

40h (Type II) brown, dark brown; transparent paper, and parchment paper.

The 40h, Type I, has solid background behind HALERU. The 40h, Type II, has the background engraved with diagonal hatched lines. All values exist without rotary line in glue; double perforations on top, owing to sheets being torn apart on the bottom perforation of the top plate instead of being cut apart conventionally. All values also come in colored paper, i.e., the paper

is tinted with the color of ink used, due to excessive wetness of paper in the printing process.

Any information or questions on this issue will be gladly answered personally or through the columns of THE SPECIALIST.

KAREL HAVLÍČEK BOROVSÝ

Foremost among the Czech journalists of the 1848 revolutionary time was the publisher of *Národní Noviny* in Praha, even after the bombardment of the city by count Windischgrätz. By means of his paper he taught the people the intricacies of politics and duties of citizenship. This paper was regularly confiscated, sometimes entirely suppressed for months. Seeing the impossibility of publishing in Praha, he went to Kutná Hora, founding a new paper "Slovan" May 8, 1850. This newspaper also was persecuted so that he had to suspend publication August 15, 1851. This was the time when all liberties, freedom of press and assembly were abolished and the courts were held behind closed doors. As a result of an article in the last number of *Slovan*, he was again arrested and tried before a jury. Defending himself brilliantly, he was unanimously acquitted. In 1851, after some street fighting in Praha, during the session of Congress of Slavs, he was arrested and deported to Brix in Tyrol. Under continuous police supervision and harassment he contracted tuberculosis, of which he died in 1856 at Praha, shortly after his repatriation. At the funeral, atop of his casket, as a tender sympathy for the Martyr of Brix, Božena Němcová laid a "Crown of Thorns". His motto was "My colors are red and white, my heritage honesty and strength."

A 1.20K stamp was issued in 1946 with a coupon showing his birthplace.

PLZEŇ

The hub of rail transportation in western Bohemia, location of the second greatest steelworks in Europe and the world-renowned brewery—the oldest known co-operative business. The brewery was founded in 1839 and began to brew beer in 1842. The Škoda works made almost anything from steel but production is now diverted into Russian military channels.

A 50h green stamp, showing the Škoda works was issued in 1932.

This stamp also exists with ornamental gutters.

LIDICE

Although the terrible fate of this mining village near Kladno was not the first such incident in history, it was the first in modern times to be called to the attention of the world, which took it as a declaration of extermination, not of a small village, but of the whole nation, which in its thousand years of history always stood for freedom. Whether we think of the Husite Wars or the Rebellion of the 17th century, the Czechs were, in the words of Arnošt Denise "The creditors of Europe" and so recognized by the world in both World Wars.

The murder on June 10, 1942 of 170 men, the terrible suffering of their wives and deportation of the children, total eradication of all buildings including the church and the cemetery had a terrible impact on the civilized world.

In memoriam, three stamps were issued in 1942 and two on June 10, 1952.

The Hradcany Plate Set-up

By Frank J. Kosik

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The stamps of the Hradcany issue were printed in sheets of 400, but sometimes two different values were included, and even two different types. It is here that we find the so-called "gutter between stamps" variety, often improperly termed "tete-beche." In those early days the 400-subject sheets were sometimes divided into panes of 200 instead of the customary 100, and sent to post offices that way.

The following listing contains all printing set-ups known to date of the Hradcany. To make the position clear, the term tete-beche will be used where applicable. All others are normal in respect to each other unless otherwise noted.

These plate set-ups are known from original copies and printers' waste (see the article *Printers' Waste from the First Issue of Czechoslovakia*, by John Velek, STAMPS, Vol. 93, No. 7, pages 248-9).

VERTICAL GUTTER PAIRS: 1h, 3h, 5h light-green, 5h blue-green, 10h red, 20h green, 20h red, 25h violet, 25h blue, 30h light-violet, 40h, 50h violet, 60h, 75h, 100h, 120h, 200h, 400h.

TETE-BECHE GUTTER PAIRS—VERTICAL: 3h, 5h light-green, 10h red, 20h green, 25h blue, 30h olive, 500 x 30h (reading down) newspaper.

HORIZONTAL GUTTER PAIRS: 5h light-green, 3hx2 newspaper, 10h x5h light green, 5h light greenx10h red, 5h light-greenx400h, 5h blue-greenx120h, 15hx5h blue-green, 15hx10h green, 20h redx10h green, 60hx3h (inverted), 25h violetx15h, 25h bluex15h, 25h bluex20h green, 20h greenx30h olive, 80hx100h, 200hx100h.

MIXED HORIZONTAL GUTTER PAIRS: 5h blue-greenx10h (reading up) newspaper, 30h light violetx2h (reading up) newspaper, 50h violetx6h (reading up) newspaper, 50h violetx2h (reading up) newspaper, 75hx20h (reading up) newspaper, 75hx2h (reading up) newspaper, 200hx25h (reading up) postage due, 300hx500h (reading up) postage due, 400hx1000h (reading up) postage due, 500hx30h (reading up) newspaper.

On the 200h value a tete-beche copy is known on a vertical strip of four used on a parcel on May 13, 1919. The last known whereabouts of this strip is in the United States. It would be interesting to know the present owner of this rarity. Of the 100h, a tete-beche is known, but only on printers' waste.

This writer would appreciate any additions from readers of STAMPS to the foregoing listing, and wishes to thank all those who have written concerning the Hradcany notes by me which have previously appeared in this magazine. Special thanks is due Frank J. Kovarik, editor of *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, for technical material; and to John Velek, Hradcany expert, for inspiration.

The address of the writer is Rt. #3, Delavan, Wisconsin.

JAN EVANGELISTA PURKYNE

This world renowned biologist, who despite official disapproval, lectured in Czech at the Praha University, developed physiology and other fields of zoology. Working under very unfavorable conditions, up to 1830 without a compound microscope, his researches in cytology, microscopic anatomy, neurology, the physiology of vision and ear, and biochemistry, he laid a foundation for all the subjects he studied in these fields. In Praha he founded the Physiological Institute.

Two stamps commemorating his 150th birthday were issued in 1937.

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FRANTIŠEK PALACKÝ
(1798-1876)

was born in Moravia in 1798 of Husite parents. Historiographer and author of the well known "History of the Czech Nation in Bohemia and Moravia." It is a most complete history from ancient times to 1526, written after enormous amounts of research in old, hidden records in many castles and archives. He began to issue it in 1848, coincidentally with his "Description of Czech Kingdom", which is similar to the Pavel Stránský's "Res Publica Bohemiae" published in 1634 in London. Palacký fought without fear for the political rights of his nation, not only against Austria, but Germany as well. He was given the appellation "Father of his people". At first he favored a federal state in which the Czech would have equal rights with all other nations in the Empire. The events during the ensuing years changed his mind and a complete independence was his goal. An apothegm of his at that time, a form of prophecy, is "Before Austria was—we were—and when Austria no longer exists we shall still be." Palacký died before the full effect of his fight was noticeable, but the after effects showed in 1918 when all his works were sold in Praha. His funeral was one of the most splendid ever given to a mortal on his last journey. He was entombed in the family vault in Lobkovice.

In 1948 a stamp commemorating the Kroměříž meeting of the Austrian Diet was issued showing the portraits of Palacký and Rieger, his co-worker.

ČESKÝ RAJ

It is located in northeast Bohemia near the town of Turnov, in a region very similar to the Bryce National Park in United States, the sandstone layers being eroded in many fantastic shapes. In the midst of this stands the chateau of Hrubá Skála. Nearby is the castle of Trosky, consisting of two castles, built on two adjoining volcanic rocks, rising to some 180 ft. above the surrounding level. They are joined by a great wall. The name of the taller one is "Panna" (Maid), the lower "Baba" (Old woman). Žižka tried to take it in 1439 without success. A story has it that stone arrows were made within these environs in olden times. Karel LV aided it in founding the semi-precious stone industry, which exists to this day.

A 3K stamp showing both castles was issued in 1936.

BRATISLAVA (PREŠBURK, POZSONY)

The city is a Czechoslovak port on the river Danube, with docks extending almost a mile along the banks of the river. In 907 the Magyars, recent arrivals from Asia, decisively defeated the Czechs and Germans near Bratislava, ended the mighty Moravian Kingdom and enslaved the Slovaks for almost 1000 years. That was in the words of F. Palacký "the greatest misfortune that has befallen the Slavic world for many centuries." However, the Magyars got their come-uppance, when the Turks occupied Buda in 1543 in their drive north and west, forcing the Magyar government and the Primas (bishop) to flee to Bratislava, making it their capital. The Jan Amos Komenský University was established there in 1465 and the Trnava Law School was moved there in 1784. It is the center of Slovak industry and an important railway center. Above the city on a steep rock stands the Děvín castle, now in ruins. Dating back to the 14th century, it was burned out in 1811.

A 10K stamp was issued showing the river Danube, city and the castle. Same stamp was overprinted for the occasion of Slovak Diet meeting. In 1952 a 1.50K stamp with about the same view was issued. 1946 10K and 20K airmail stamps showing plane in flight above Bratislava were also issued.

THE INSIDE STRAIGHT

By Harry Weiss

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This is your philatelic life with apologies to T.V. Another in our series. Of Czech parentage, you were born in Chicago on October 27, 1916. We are told you made philatelic signs even before you could talk. Your first words were "Goo" and your parents predicted you would be a stamp collector! Then came school days as you grew up. At the Robert Burns Elementary School in Chicago you made the eight grades in a hurry and you have been making the grade ever since. Then there were those years at the Chicago Farragut Junior High School. Then followed a few years at the Harrison Technical High School. You thought a medical education would be next—it was! You attended Loyola University pre-medical training. It was a big day in your life when you graduated from Loyola University School of Medicine. That was in 1939 and they told you that you were one of the top three in ratings the day you graduated.

Then you met a girl, her name was Marie Agnes Murphy. A good combination, Czech and Irish. Came June of 1943 and marriage to Marie, a swell pal. She makes most of the conventions with you and is a wonderful hostess. But before getting married you recalled there was a war on! You were a First Lieutenant of the U.S. Army Medical Corps. From 1940 to 1942 we believe are the years. As the sick and the wounded came in, you received plenty of experience and praise for your fine medical record.

But your parents reminded you that the first words you spoke were "Goo." That made you have the fundamentals of a stamp collector as most collectors want this goo on their mint stamps. Checking on your membership in stamp organizations, local and national, we find you listed in twenty clubs and societies. Your parents were correct, we could have missed many more facts when our scouts collected the facts for us.

We have known you for years. Let's see, you started collecting stamps in 1928. You are known for your specialized collection seen at many shows which we visit in the course of a year. Your specialties are Austria, Czechoslovakia, Air Post stamps of the world and your most valued choice are the air mails of Newfoundland and C1 and C2 of Japan. Your newest acquisitions are the postmarks of Alaska and flown Rocket covers.

Offices held by you include the Presidency (past) of the Austin Philatelic Club of Chicago. You are now president of the Jack Knight Air Mail Society and hold the same office in the Rocket Mail Society. Among your many awards were those at Fipex where you received three medals for your exhibits.

How thorough are we as a detective? You were the Mysterious Mr. X in the John Fox auction, the Lieb sale of February 26th, just past. Your bid got the rare De Pinedo air mail block of four, with the small "7" on the number four stamp showing "1927." Mr. Fox did not tell us either, we had to dig that up too.

We recall among the many awards won by you the Newfoundland airs brought home the Gold Medal at St. Louis last year at the American Philatelic Society exhibition. We recall the way you pitched in and worked at many of these shows. Speaking of the A.P.S., we predict you will be a director of that organization when the August convention rolls around in Tampa, Florida.

Despite all your philatelic activity, your medical practice keeps you plenty busy. Add to that you are the hotel physician. A job in itself. And just who is the person whose philatelic life we have related? Go to the La Salle Hotel in Chicago and ask for the house physician. They will send you to the door where it says "House Physician, Dr. J. J. Matejka." That is your philatelic life, Dr. James J. Matejka.

KARLŮV TÝN (KARLŠTEJN)

is a most beautiful as well as the best known of the Castles of Bohemia. This gem of medieval architecture was founded by the last Přemyslide King and Roman Emperor Karel IV in 1348 giving it the name. Built on a steep hill not far from the river Berounka, in the midst of five other hills, which were covered with virgin forests. It was to be a repository of everything valuable and dear to the Czech nation. The Crowns of the Kingdom and Empire and their jewels, archives and holy relics were kept here. It was also to serve as a place of retirement for spiritual and physical recuperation of the rulers. For these reasons the location was carefully picked out in the royal forests. June 10-1348, Karel IV accompanied by the Archbishop Arnošt of Pardubice, with a large and colorful retinue, arrived there to lay the properly consecrated corner stone. The history of the Castle is interminably blended with history of the country. Some 600,000 visitors come to call each year. Since 1918 the castle is the property of the State.

In 1926 a set of stamps with the well known view of Karlův Týn was issued, values 20h, 1.20K, 1.50K and 2.50K. It is a pity that the stamps are of small size.

In 1939, during the German occupation the same engraving was used for a 50h value, with Czech and German name.

KUTNÁ HORA

Second only to Praha in importance, having a royal palace, where the Czech Kings spent much of their time. The silver mines, from which all the silver for the minting of Praha Gosh came, also produced considerable copper. The Bohemian Diet met in the Palace for almost 200 years for their conferences. Some of the most important battles of Czech history were fought in the vicinity. The most prominent structure in town is the church of St. Barbara founded in 1390 and built up during the years into the most magnificent gothic work in Bohemia. We must not forget the Charnel House, in the ancient Cistercian Abbey nearby, wholly decorated with human bones, the neighboring battlefields furnishing an ample supply. Formed in festoons, candelabras, pyramids and tunnels it presents a very gruesome spectacle.

In 1936 a 1.60k stamp showing the St. Barbara church was issued. For the 700th Anniversary of Czech mining, 3 stamps were issued, one showing two miners in their ancient dress, with the church of St. Barbara in the background. This was in 1949.

NITRA

is the cradle of Christianity in Czechoslovakia. It is said that the Apostles Cyril and Methodius were sent by the Emperor Michael III to preach at Nitra. Remains of the Roman Rotunda, dating from the 12th century and several other churches are here, but most important is the cathedral inside of Nitra castle. Mathias Čáp, while ruler of Slovakia struck his own coinage at Nitra.

Two stamps showing the cathedral and the castle were issued in 1933.

TATRY

which usually means High Tatry, is the highest and most picturesque part of the Carpathians, where many of the Slovak rivers have their beginning. It is a favorite spot for vacations in the summer and skiing in the winter for all Czechoslovakia.

Stamps, showing the beauty of Tatry are the 2.50k of 1928, 4K of 1926 and 50h on Praha sheet of 1937.

BRNO

Brno is the capital and cultural and industrial center of Moravia. It has a Czech university, named for Pres. Masaryk with an ever increasing number of students. Fortress Špilberk towering above the city, for years used as a prison for political prisoners, is now a military barrack. Our stamp does not show the interesting town hall, built in 1511, but only the cathedral of St. Peter and Paul, begun in 1502, which suffered to some extent from purists in its rebuilding, but altogether was improved by the addition of very tall towers.

In 1928 a 2K and in 1929 a 3K stamp were issued. For the 1946 State Stamp Exposition in Brno, a souvenir sheet was issued, showing the old town hall tower, built in Renaissance style with covered galleries around the top, dating back to 1577.

STEFAN MOYSES

was born in 1797, son of a farm laborer on a Hungarian estate. Seeing the miserable condition of the Slovaks, he decided to dedicate himself to the improvement of their status. Too young to be ordained priest on his graduation from the Ostřihom Theological Seminary, he taught in a school for a year. In time he became the bishop of Banská Bystrica founded and was the first president of Slovenská Matica, which was dedicated to the renaissance of the Slovak language. In his fight for the betterment of condition of his people, he was quite successful, but the continuous harassment of the Magyar officialdom undermined his health and he died in 1869.

In commemoration of the 150th anniversary of his birth, two stamps were issued in 1947.



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