

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

Vol. XX

December 1958

No. 168

EDITORIAL

Our handbook was sent to every English philatelic periodical in the world and some truly wonderful reviews have appeared in these publications. One of our English contemporaries took issue with our "political" foreword but handled the business end of the handbook in a complimentary manner. One of our members didn't like our Theresienstadt stamp introduction and promised to write an article on same. This article will be eventually published in the American Philatelist (we hope) and later reprinted in the Specialist. If we reprinted all the reviews we'd not only be vain but we'd use space which we need so much for articles. We shall reprint only the review which appeared in STAMPS.

Which reminds us: The Czechoslovak philatelic special issue of STAMPS was sent as a complimentary copy to every member whose name appeared in the September Membership List. The two articles which appeared therein will be reprinted in our publication at a later date.

Our past president, G. A. Blizil, at present chairman of the International Relations Committee of the A. P. S. writes that the A. P. S. Award of Distinction for an exhibit at the Brno Show was won by Mr. Jan Mrnak of Praha X who showed a specialized collection of Czechoslovakia No. 10. This is the 25h Hradčany which is rich in paper, perforation, color and other varieties.

In a previous issue of the Specialist we announced we entered our publications on exhibit at the Brno Exposition. We are now proud to acquaint our members that our Society won the small silver medal in this category. George Kobyłka did a little better by receiving the large silver medal, but he didn't show his Bohemia, Moravia and Slovakia albums. Congratulations to George. Oh, yes, our handbook was exhibited.

Our effort to place Thos. G. Masaryk on the Champions of Liberty series of U. S. stamps is progressing nicely but that does not mean we can stop work. Not only we but our friends and relatives must bombard Mr. L. Rohe Walter, Special Ass't to the Postmaster General, Washington 25, D. C., with request for this stamp. The officers of your Society chose member Frank J. Rosner to preside over this committee. He is asked to enlist the help of others to act on his committee.

Last month we announced that we should enter into contract with the S. P. A. to help us dispose of our vocabulary. The deal is to sell the handbook and the vocabulary as a package project for \$7. (The original carried the price, by error, as \$6). Naturally the members can obtain like favor now but both books must be ordered and paid for. Send your orders to the treasurer, G. C. Kobyłka, 1433 Cuyler Ave., Berwyn, Ill.

Among those ready to send Russia, Netherlands, Belgium, etc., for Czechoslovakia is Mr. Jan Spagnaerts, Niel, Rupel, Belgium. Czechoslovakia for U. S., etc., Ing. Alois Jetel, Brno III, Černopolní 10, Czechoslovakia.

Next year we shall complete 20 years of our Society and its publication, Czechoslovak Specialist. Our only honorary member, Mrs. Hedy Lowey, promised to write something from the life of her late husband, who worked hard to establish the Society. Our international secretary, A. J. Hrivnak, was often on business in New York City and stopped to visit with Joseph W. Lowey, whenever he had time to spare. After his first visit he told us: "Joe is a human dynamo!" That dynamo blew apart too early. Joe would be pleased with the present Society.

This is the last month of the year and this means that 1959 dues are now due. Many members have paid dues in advance; a good practice which proves to the officers that the value of the Society is recognized. Give yourself a present for several years with a paid up membership in the C. P. S. and don't forget the Society by becoming a sustaining or patron member. We plan to start another lengthy article from the pen of Z. Kvasnička and this will be accompanied by many illustrations; so please, be generous.

Every year many members send us personal holiday greetings. We thank them and wish all of you a Holy Christmas and Philatelic New Year.

MEETING OF THE CHICAGO CHAPTER

We have noticed that our Chapter reports take up much space and, while interesting to some, are passed up by others. Though our reports will be condensed, they shall contain all the important Society doings. We should like the members' reaction to this new procedure. We recall one of our late members, Ernest Berka, who praised the editor for his brevity, but maybe added years are making ye ed garrulous.

The October meeting of the Chicago Chapter was attended by 8 members but the meeting was very lively and productive.

Kovarik gave a complete report on the Compex 58 Show and with the aid of delegate Janecka outlined plans for the 1958-59 season. It was decided that the Society rents a room in the Hotel during the next Show.

Evidence of members' interest in promoting a Masaryk stamp was presented and Rosner was elected chairman of a committee to coordinate these efforts.

The Society is almost 20 years old and only recently Society stationery was printed for the editor. The original stationery was used sparingly and the officers used personal stationery for their Society correspondence. This will be corrected soon and every officer of the Society will be given a supply for his or her needs.

Several requests for corrections of the handbook reached your editor and it was decided that readers who suggest revisions submit these to Jos. J. Jiranek, 5032 W. 25th St., Cicero 50, Ill. who, with his committee, will examine the merits of each submitted advice, then publish same in the Specialist.

No meeting in Dec. due to the holidays. Next meeting, Jan. 18, 1959 at 2:30 p.m. in the home of Robert Mitchell, 3833 So. Oak Park Ave., Berwyn, Ill.

MEETING AND EXHIBITION OF THE NEW YORK CHAPTER

The October meeting was spent primarily in preparation for the next day's show at the Collectors Club. It was announced that about 40 requests were received for the souvenir labels commemorating the New York Exhibition. It is expected that this number will be doubled.

The Exhibition Committee was pleased to get a telegram of good wishes from the National President, Dr. James J. Matejka.

A program of exhibitors will be added to this report and from its contents one can see what high caliber material was submitted for general inspection. The arrangement was in charge of Dr. Reiner-Deutsch who deserves thanks of all the New York area members for the work he put into the enterprise.

A showing of the color slides presenting the highlights from the Kvasnička collection, especially the Scout stamps created much interest and favorable comment. Now that the possession of slides is no longer restricted to a few organizations, the New York Chapter possesses something truly unique and most instructive.

The Show was dismantled about 4 p.m. and a group of about 30 people met and dined at the Narodni Budova where the New York Chapter usually celebrates its important events.

Among the many members and guests present were Alfons Stach and wife, Kenneth D. Miller, former chairman of American Relief to Czechoslovakia, Louis Ruzicka, Frank Kaps, Karel J. Kalina, and Thos. G. Klein of Gimbel's Albums. A sincere thank you to all who in any way helped make this exhibition a success.

Czechoslovak Stamps Exhibition

honoring the 40th Anniversary of Czechoslovakia

October 18th, 1958

Collectors Club, 22 E. 35th St., New York, N. Y.

Frame #	Exhibit	Exhibitor
1-10	Postal History —	Dr. Wm. Reiner-Deutsch
11-15	General Issues —	L. M. Horechny
16-17	Essays & Color Proofs, Hradcany —	Thomas Buresch
18-21	Famous Men, Masaryk, Benes, etc. —	A. I. Kessler
22-24	General Issues —	Wm. V. Schoenig
25	Airmail Issues —	Fr. Stern
26-27	Worlds Fair Sheets —	A. Stach
28	Army in Exile Covers —	J. Verner
29-31	Bohemia & Moravia —	E. J. Michaelson
32-34	Slovakia —	E. J. Michaelson
35	Provisional Stamps of 1945 —	Fr. Stern
36-41	New Issues —	G. B. Koplowitz
42-43	Praga 1955 First Day Covers —	N. Feiwelsohn
44	New Issues —	G. B. Koplowitz
45	Hidden Engravers Marks —	J. Stein
46-48	Post Cards —	P. L. Flynn

Two frames devoted to the history and activities of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society.

The Czechoslovak Philatelic Society, New York Group, meets every third Friday of the month at the Collectors Club, 22 E. 35th St., New York City, from September through June. Guests always welcome.

RE-STATEMENT AND CHANGE OF ADDRESS

579. Bodlak, Vladimir, 2101 So. Oak Park Avenue, Berwyn, Ill.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

495. Fleischer, Vladimir J., Munich Radio Center, American Consulate General, A. P. O. 108, c/o Postmaster, New York, N. Y.

1. Lowey, Mrs. Hedy, c/o Santa Barbara Hotel, Miami Beach, Florida.

SECRETARY'S COMMENT

MEMBERSHIP:

Additions of new members and re-instatements of former members is progressing fairly well. The New York Branch at its recent show reported great interest in the stamps of Czechoslovakia and several of the visitors received the recruiting literature that our Society had there. A great many of our members are sending in their dues for two or three years in advance which indicates that they feel the membership in our Society has a long term advantage. This eliminates the task of remembering every year if you had sent in the dues.

COMPEX 1959:

There will be a COMPEX 1959 held in Chicago. We as a Society participated in the first COMPEX, received much welcome publicity, a very wonderful \$250.00 gross profit to the Society treasury, and the groundwork for 23 new members to our rolls. Hopes are the next COMPEX will be bigger and better than the first.

The wonderful co-operation of our members from all over the United States and Czechoslovakia made our participation a philatelic as well as a financial success with the wealth of wonderful Czechoslovak specialties that were shown. We must do better in 1959, if for no other reason that this shall mark the CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY'S TWENTY YEARS.

The purchase by the writer of the collection of our Founder, the late J. W. Lowey, would make a court of honor of the pages of his very beautiful collection a timely tribute to a fine gentleman and philatelist. It was presented at the Chicago Branch to allot five or six frames for this purpose. It is hoped that we shall be able to get a photograph of our late founder to be shown with his collection.

STUDY GROUPS:

One of the key projects, which keeps the German Philatelic Society members really surging ahead in philatelic knowledge, is the establishment and implementation of STUDY GROUPS. These transcend all regional limits and permits any fellow who really feels the bite of the SPECIALIST BUG to get into philatelic research.

Czechoslovakia is one country which has so many avenues of specialization which offer to the collector just about any fare.

Let us use this writer as a guinea pig. What Study group would I like to join?

1. Hradčany Castle Issue Specialization?
2. Hradčany Castle Transitional Postmarks?
3. Masarykana, all material of stamps issued by Czechoslovakia, proofs and essays?
4. Czechoslovak Army Field Post in Siberia, 1917-1920?
5. Czechoslovak Army Field Post in France, 1914-1918?
6. Czechoslovak Army Field Post in Italy, 1914-1918?
7. Czechoslovak Army Field Post in Britain and France, 1939-1945?
8. Czechoslovak Army Field Post during the Munich Crisis 1938-1939?
9. Czechoslovak Army Field Post during the battles in Slovakia, 1919?
10. Official Essays of Czechoslovakia?
11. Official Trial Printings and Proofs of Czechoslovakia?
12. Unofficial Essays?
13. "Pošta Československa, 1919" Semi-Postal Issue?
14. First Flights and Flight Covers of Czechoslovakia?
15. Eastern Silesia, Plebiscite issues?
16. Bohemia and Moravia Protectorate Issues?
17. Slovakia Issues?
18. Provisional Issues of Czechoslovakia 1918-1919?



16th MAIL SALE

This time we sell two collections, both specialized. One comes from Germany (originally AUSSIG), and one from Vienna.

Suggested bids:

1.	68 cards or covers Austrian cancellations before 1918, all on Czech territory -----	8.00
2.	Mixed frankings (8) cards, covers -----	3.00
3.	52 picture postcards with stamps, all from Czech towns -----	3.00
4.	1918 Scout stamps, * -----	3.00
5.	Same, used -----	3.00
6.	SROBAR, 9 values, mint and used -----	4.00
7.	BUDEJOVICE, set up to 10K -----	5.00
8.	JEHLICZKA, 5K in block -----	3.00
9.	HRADCANY, 156 covers, nice lot -----	6.00
10.	“ complete set up to 1000h * (no expensive values) -----	2.00
11.	“ lot of perfs. * (36) -----	3.00
12.	“ Unofficial perfs. * lot of 15 -----	2.00
13.	“ 10, 20h, 3Ch very fine copies IMPERF -----	16.00
14.	“ 4 complete sheets -----	8.00
15.	“ lot of bundles, 2200 copies -----	10.00
16.	“ waste prints, 29 diff. -----	3.00
17.	PCSTA 1919 10K superb copy (light color) -----	15.00
18.	“ airmails complete -----	60.00
19.	“ postage dues (Maria Theresa, etc.) -----	20.00
20.	“ fine coll. of 62 stamps -----	8.00
21.	“ 7 diff. inverts -----	6.00
22.	“ errors, like double prints, mis-prints (6) -----	4.00
23.	“ covers (8) -----	4.00
24.	“ 10K Hungary, rare stamp, signed -----	50.00
25.	MASARYK 1920, 125h Ultramarine * -----	2.00
26.	“ same, imperf -----	2.00
27.	“ Congress complete -----	4.00
28.	Slet complete * -----	4.00
29.	“ complete set VERTICAL watermark -----	3.00
30.	TYRS block of four superb -----	6.00
31.	Special delivery stamps, also on wh. paper -----	5.00
32.	BOH. MORAVIA coll. complete -----	6.00
33.	“ very specialized in book -----	12.00
34.	108 covers -----	10.00
35.	IIIrd Republic, 122 covers, very nice lot -----	8.00

ALFONS STACH

P. O. Box 387

Lenox, Massachusetts



19. Provisional Issues of Czechoslovakia 1945?
20. Sudeten Crisis Propaganda Postmarks, 1938-1939?
21. New York Worlds Fair Sheets, Czechoslovak Participation 1939-1940?
22. American City postmarks with similar names to cities in Czechoslovakia?
23. Forerunner stampless covers of Czech and Slovak towns?
24. Forerunner Austrian and Hungarian postmarks of towns in the later Czechoslovak Republic?
25. Topicals: Castles on Stamps, Churches, religion on stamps, etc.
26. Postal Stationery—Forerunners of the Austro-Hungarian Empire imprinted for use in the Bohemia Provinces?
27. Postal Stationery—Provisional overprints and regular Empire Stationery used after October 28, 1918?
28. Postal Stationery—First Republic, 1919-1939?
29. Postal Stationery—Second Republic, 1945- ?
30. Postal Stationery—Bohemia and Moravia Protectorate, 1939-1945?
31. Postal Stationery—Slovakia, 1939-1945?
32. Czechoslovak Revenue Stamps?
33. Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia Revenue Stamps?
34. Slovakia Revenue Stamps?
35. Czechoslovak Postmarks of various periods?
36. Postal History of Czechoslovakia?

I sincerely hope that the above listing shall not offend anyone who may be interested in other specialties. This list could be made almost endless.

Examine the above listing with the idea is there any subject there that you would like to study and learn more about? Is there a subject that has for some time intrigued you, pulled your nose, so to speak, and you felt that you on your own would be overwhelmed?

Individual research is very rewarding but it lacks the companionship that collective effort can produce. One fellow sees one subject in one prospective, the addition of one more or better a third or fourth permits a much broader view of the subject and adds much to the depth of the subject.

Of course this phase of our activities is one that must be initiated by various members; we are very fortunate to have in our midst men who have gone a long way in acquainting themselves with the various specialties and the sources of information. These experts would of course form the initial nucleus of the study group to which other members could flock and begin a really wonderful surge forward of Czechoslovak Philately which would in time serve as a wonderful source of manuscript material for our future handbooks.

This suggestion at this time is food for thought, mull it over and if you have any ideas about this write to me. I am sure that here is one of the pleasures of philately that we as a Society have not as yet tapped and we may be missing something.

—Joseph J. Jiranek

NEW MEMBERS

639. Krejci, Charles E., 260 - 25th Ave. S. W., Cedar Rapids, Iowa.
640. Pecina, Godfrey, 839 Jersey Ave., Elizabeth 2, New Jersey
641. Sister M. Lucy, O.S.B., Our Lady of Grace Convent, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove, Indiana.
642. Urban, Frantisek, Cihelna, Pardubice, Czechoslovakia
643. Cork, John T., 5136 So. Sacramento Ave., Chicago 32, Ill.
644. Chodacek, Karel J., 1121 New Hampshire Ave., N. W., Apt. 601, Washington, D. C.
645. Edelstein, O., P. O. Box 4, Dalton, Ga.

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The Swabian Builder of Bohemia

by Joseph D. McWherter, Jr.

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There is more than one curious sidelight on the stamp the World War II German Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia issued the 29th of January 1943.

First and perhaps least strange is the fact that probably not one stamp collector in ten thousand had ever heard of the man it honored.

This subject was, never-the-less, once world famous. As a mere youth (back in the 14th century), he was chosen by Charles IV to take over the drafting board and tools of a renowned architect, and soon proved himself a genius.

One of every twelve stamps the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia issued paid homage to his creations.

This man was Peter Parler.

He was born about 1333, the gifted son of an honored Swabian family of architects living in the then free Imperial City of Schwabisch-Gmund. Little has been written in English about the family. The accounts in various German reference books are vague and conflicting. This lack of firm fact about them may account, in part, for the hocus-pocus about Peter, the Nazi administration seemingly tried to foist on the Protectorate's people with this stamp.

The Parlers, all authorities agree, had a great influence on Southern German Gothic architecture. They are credited with introducing corner hooks and cathedrals with halls. They are believed to have built, or worked on, the churches at Gmund and Freiburg, and may have helped with Saint Sebald's at Nuremberg and many others.

Heinrich Parler was the head of the family and founder of the Parler school of architecture. He had (according to one authority) three sons—Peter, Johann and young Heinrich—who followed his footsteps, as well as two grandsons—Wenceslaus and John (sons of Peter). As far as has been learned however, Peter was the only Parler ever pictured on a postal adhesive.

The one featuring him is listed in Scott's Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue as B16 of Bohemia and Moravia.

A charity issue, or semi-postal, it was of 1.20 Koruny in value with 80 haleru surtax. It remained valid for postal use less than six months, being demonetized (according to Mueller's "Deutschland-Spezialkatalog") on June 30th of the year of issue.

This carmine colored sticker was a photogravure, perforated 13½. It was one of a set of three which, besides Peter, pictured his patron, the Emperor Charles IV and Charles' father—John of Luxemburg. All three subjects were doubtlessly selected to emphasize the long standing cultural and historical ties between the Protectorate and the Reich.

The designer of these stamps (B15-B17) was Langenberger. As were the other two in the set, the one of Peter was a drawing of a sculptured bust of the subject. Peter was shown in old age.

Langenberger's superiors must have insisted that he glamorize Parler, however. The Swabian was made to look like a typical Italian artist-scientist of the Renaissance Period. As pictured on the stamp, he had an intelligent broad brow and high forehead. His face was pious, calm and thoughtful with lean, almost hollow, cheeks and carefully groomed beard. His skin was smooth. His eyes were closed in repose and contemplation.

Another oddity about this stamp is that this design portrayed a false picture of Parler.

The original sculpture on which the stamp's design must have been based is more than 600 years old. It is in the suite of secular hierarchy in the tri-

forum of Saint Vitus' Cathedral in Prague. As depicted in the original bust, Parler had open, protruding eyes. He had a wide, nearly full, face. His features and expression were dullish. Here, Parler was pictured in middle age. Today, this sculpture shows the ravages of the ages. Parler's popped-out eyes are scrapped and scratched. Part of the beard and chin are broken off. There is a gash in the forehead and the bulb of the nose is shattered.

This bust was fashioned by Parler, himself.

A third interesting sidelight is that Peter Parler's self-created bust and German Wartime Winter Relief (the recipient of the stamp's 80 haleru surtax) can have at best only a far-fetched connection.

It is probable this stamp was intended to point-up the Protectorate's architectural dependence on the Reich. Parler, a German, contributed his skill to beautifying Bohemia, the stamp perhaps implied. Therefore, from the Nazi point of view, it was logical that the Bohemians were culturally indebted to Germany. Also, this must have been a hint that the Czech should help repay their alleged debt by donating the stamp's surtax to a German social welfare organization—Wartime Winter Relief or "Winterhilfs-werk."

Using Peter as a symbol of Bohemia and Moravia's cultural dependence on Germany was, however, of questionable historical accuracy.

There is no doubt but that Bohemia owed a big debt to Peter, personally. No less than fourteen stamps issued by the Protectorate featured works which were at least in part his creations.

His magnificent Saint Vitus' Cathedral is depicted on Scott's Nos. 30, 52, 60, 88 and 89. Saint Barbara's Cathedral at Kutna Hora is the subject of Scott's Nos. 13, 29 and 33A. Charles' Bridge is shown on Scott's Nos. 38, 39, 40 and 41. The busts of Charles IV and of Peter, himself, which are among the finest sculptures to come from his cathedral workshop, are pictured in Scott's B15 and B16. It is likely too that the bust of King John, featured in Scott's B17, is also a Parler work of art.

Besides these glorified in stamps, this brilliant architect and sculptor from Swabia also built the Church at Kolin, and is reputed to have designed the Church of the Monastery at Karlov.

Many other buildings in Bohemia and Central Europe show the Parler touch and may have been the work of a pupil. The greatest was the Cathedral at Ulm.

One of the most beautiful Gothic churches in all of Germany, this Ulm Cathedral was designed by Ulrich of Ensinger who was a known pupil of Parler's. In this church, Ulrich built corbels like one Parler had used half a century earlier in Saint Vitus' vestry.

Other noted structures attributed to Parler pupils include the Krumlov Church, Teynkirke and a part of the Caroline University in Prague.

In the year Boccaccio first published his lusty "Decameron" (1352-3), the youthful Peter Parler replaced the French architect, Matthais of Arras, as the master builder of Saint Vitus' Cathedral.

Not long after his appointment, Peter gained fame when he created a new type of corbel—the type later used in the Ulm Cathedral. This innovation was designed for Saint Vitus' vestry and soon became a characteristic feature of Czech architecture. It differed from former corbels because it attached externally to the wall rather than bedding into it. However, cathedral choirs were Peter's primary interest.

He completed the console of the choir pier (behind the high altar) in Saint Vitus' about 1370 and finished the noble choir itself in 1386. He continued at the cathedral and on his other projects throughout Bohemia—including the choir at Saint Barbara's—almost until his death at Prague on July 13, 1399.

There is no question, then, that Parler personally made great contributions to Bohemian culture. But it is not universally accepted that Peter's

contributions to Bohemian architecture were German in nature.

To be sure, one authority did say that Parler's works showed their German inspiration. But another insisted that the Swabian (as distinct from German) had brought the Northern French form of classical cathedral to Prague, rather than the German Gothic form. Still a third maintained that Parler eventually adopted the native Czech architecture, modifying it somewhat by his own personally conceived court style.

Consequently, a final oddity is that contrary to Nazi claims, the Reich probably owed a cultural debt to Bohemia and Moravia, rather than vice versa. At least, there are definite indications that Bohemia contributed to German Gothic architecture. The Ulm Cathedral, for example. But there is no undisputed evidence that Parler brought German architecture to Bohemia.

Certainly, the Protectorate's people did not acknowledge a cultural debt to the Reich arising from Parler's works. That is, they didn't acknowledge it properly according to supposed Nazi hopes. This is indicated by the fact that, while hardly considered scarce or rare, USED copies of Peter's stamp are not exactly flooding the market today.

Peter Parler passed to his reward long ago. The Nazi Administration departed more recently. But the strange side lights on the story behind the stamp picturing the Swabian genius remain to fascinate philatelists.

Like the foibles, riddles and little oddities behind so many postal adhesives of the Protectorate, these enrich the hobby. Adding a pleasant zest and variety, they help make a collection of stamps of Bohemia and Moravia one of the most entertaining (and enlightening!) in philately.

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PARADE OF NEW ISSUES

Commemorative stamps "Cultural Personalities"



To commemorate the anniversaries of some outstanding Czechoslovak cultural personalities, the Czechoslovak Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications will issue, on 20th August, 1958, four commemorative stamps, the values, colors and designs of which are as follows:

30h, red, Julius Fučík (1903-1943), the 15th anniversary of his execution by the Nazis (on 8th of September)

45h, violet, Gustáv Karol Zechenter (1824-1908), the Slovak writer, the 50th anniversary of his death

60h, blue, Karel Čapek (1890-1938), the 20th anniversary of his death

1.40 Kčs, black, Svatopluk Čech (1846-1908), the 50th anniversary of his death

The designs of all the stamps are by Professor Dr. h. c. Max Švabinský; the engravings were executed by Jindra Schmidt.

The stamps were printed by the Post Printing Office in Prague by the rotary recess print in sheets of 50 stamps. Dimensions of all are 23x30 mm.

Validity for internal and international postal use is from 20th August, 1958, until further notice.

The design of the First Day Cover was also executed by the Professor Dr. h. c. Max Švabinský. The engraving, after the line drawing by Jindra Schmidt, was executed by Jaroslav Goldschmied.

Commemorative stamps the "National Stamps Exhibition, Brno, 1958"



On the occasion of the "National Stamps Exhibition, Brno, 1958," the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications in Prague will issue four commemorative stamps with views of the city of Brno. The following buildings or parts of the town are depicted on the stamps, the values and colors of which are as follows:

30h, violet blue, Children's Hospital

60h, red, New Town Hall

1 Kčs, brown, Red Army Square, in foreground St. Thomas' Church

1.60 Kčs, dark green, a general view of Brno.

The designs of all the stamps were executed by Professor Eduard Milén, the line drawings and the engravings are by Jindra Schmidt.

The stamps were printed by the Post Printing Office in Prague by the rotary recess print in sheets of 50 stamps (values 30h, 60h and 1 Kčs) and by the flat recess print in sheets of 4 stamps (the 1.60 Kčs). Dimensions are 40x23 mm for the 30h, 60h and 1 Kčs and 49x30 mm for the 1.60 Kčs.

Validity for internal and international postal use is from 6th September 1958, until further notice.

At the same time, two First Day Covers will be issued, designed by Professor Eduard Milén and engraved by Jaroslav Goldschmied.

The stamp of the value of 1.60 Kčs will be available only with the Exhibition entrance ticket, which costs 1.50 Kčs, i.e. for the total price of 3.10 Kčs for one stamp.

Issue of new postage stamps with Mushroom Motifs



The Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications in Prague will issue, on October 6th, 1958, a series of 5 stamps with the following Mushroom Motifs:

30h, *Lepiota procera*

40h, *Boletus edulis*

60h, *Krombholzia rufescens*

1.40 Kčs, *Amanita muscaria*

1.60 Kčs, *Armillariella mellea*

The designs of all the stamps are by Professor Karel Svolinský; the engravings were executed by Ladislav Jirka. The stamps were printed by the Post Printing Office in Prague by multicolor flat recess print sheets of 10 stamps. Dimensions of all the stamp pictures are 23x30 mm.

Validity for internal and international postal use is from October 6, 1958 until further notice.

Two First Day Covers, designed by Professor Karel Svolinský and engraved by Jaroslav Goldschmied will be issued at the same time.

The Judas Of Lidice

By Sidney Z. Eller

From the London Daily Mail

Fifteen years ago the mighty police machine of the Nazi Reich was halted in its tracks for six hours—by seven brave men in a cellar.

At the end of May, 1942, one of the mainsprings of that machine, Reinhard Heydrich, was assassinated in Prague. He had been sent to govern the Protectorate of Bohemia-Moravia and now baffled by the swiftness and secrecy of the plot—his own police saw their reputation for efficiency at stake and the iron Nazi grip on the occupied territories in danger of being loosened.

Furious, staccato orders came in a stream from the Fuehrer's headquarters. **The culprits must be caught at any price. Retribution must be immediate and exemplary.**

Obediently the Gestapo went into top gear. Some 60,000 extra police were poured into the Protectorate. Twenty million Czech crowns were offered to informers.

Brute Force

Little was known about the assassination. The two men who had shot Heydrich as he drove along the Berlin-Prague road had disappeared without trace. Such scraps of information as could be picked up suggested that they were parachutists of the expatriate Czech army acting in league with the resistance movement.

Now they had gone underground and a vast operation was launched to squeeze them out by brute force—and unparalleled ferocity—from the sullen mass of the Czech population who must be concealing them.

First came a systematic series of mass executions. Several complete families were executed every day with much macabre publicity, on the grounds that they had "approved the plot against the Reich."

But nobody spoke. After a fortnight the slaughter was stepped up—and the name Lidice was inscribed on the tablets of history in letters of blood.

The little village, accused of harbouring the fugitives, was deliberately and with Teutonic thoroughness wiped off the map. All the menfolk and boys over 15—more than 190 in all—were shot. All the women and children were removed to a concentration camp. (Few survived). All the buildings were burned or blown up, the streets ploughed into the dust.

Still nobody spoke, and the slaughter went on. On June 13, the Nazis issued an ultimatum: unless the assassins had been handed over by June 18, the whole Czech nation would be in danger of suffering the fate of Lidice.

At last, the nerve of one man broke.

He was Karel Curda. Czech army corporal and comrade of the two wanted men—Sergeants Jan Kubis and Josef Gabcik. He had sheltered during the reign of terror in his mother's home in South Bohemia. There, hidden in the roof, he had read every day the growing lists of the executed, the mounting threats of the furious Nazis.

His Price

On June 16 Curda went to Prague. At Gestapo headquarters astonished policemen listened to his story. He told them that he had been parachuted into Czecho-Slovakia on a secret mission. He told them the names of the two men they sought and the places where parachutists were harboured—including the main hide-out in Prague, the flat of a resistance worker.

And, having set out on the dark path of betrayal, Curda went the whole way: he claimed the 20 million crowns reward.

At dawn the flat was invaded by Gestapo men. The housewife who

opened the door committed suicide as she was being arrested, and her husband was soon under torture. He died without speaking, but his 21-year-old son was broken in the Gestapo's chamber of horror; he knew where the wanted men were, and the information was twisted out of him.

In the Orthodox Church of St. Cyril and St. Methodius in Ressel-street, one of Prague's busiest thoroughfares. Kubis, Gabcik and five other men had taken refuge in the basement. The priest-in-charge was a member of the underground movement, and he had hidden the fugitives in a large crypt which had only one entrance.

This entrance was concealed by a large stone in the floor of the nave, and nobody was likely to discover it unless he knew which stone to lift.

A down-draught of air ventilated the crypt from a little window in the outer wall of the church some six feet above street level. Thus the hide-out was practically impregnable—but at the same time, as the seven hunted men well knew, it could also be a death-trap.

Three of them therefore kept guard in the upper part of the church and these three, on the night of June 17-18, were the first to die.

At 4 a.m. on June 18, the last day of the Gestapo's ultimatum, several hundred S.S. men, suitably armed and cat-quiet, surrounded the building. As they entered they were met by a burst of fire from the three men in the choir. The fire was returned ten-fold, and there developed a furious gun-battle.

No surrender

All three men were mortally wounded and each, it is believed, ended his life by his own hand—with a bullet through the head.

One of them was Jan Kubis, who had assassinated Heydrich.

The remaining four, trapped in the crypt, refused to surrender. Every means was used to persuade them to change their minds, but they managed to keep up a murderous fire from their little window, so that even tear gas failed to dislodge them.

The Germans considered blowing up the whole church but, after six hours of hard shooting, another solution was found. A fire-fighting unit succeeded in pushing a fire hose into the little window and keeping it there while water at full pressure flooded the crypt.

That was the end. The four men, whose bodies were found when the crypt was opened, had died like their comrades, from a bullet in the head.

Among them was Josef Gabcik who, with Jan Kubis, had three weeks earlier started the avalanche of horror.

The informant Karel Curda identified his former comrades one by one. He played the Judas to the bitter end—and it was, for him, a bitter end.

He did not get the full reward offered—only a quarter of it—but he remained in the service of the Gestapo, changed his name, and tried to live as a German.

In 1945 he was arrested, sentenced to death in the Czecho-Slovak law courts, and duly executed.

KOŠICE

is the best known for the church of St. Alžběta (St. Elizabeth), founded at the beginning of the 13th century and finished in 1382. A restoration of 1880 added a steep roof of colored tile, giving the building a striking note of color. Adjoining, but separate, is the Chapel of St. Michael erected about 1265. On the opposite side is a detached tower erected in 1628. Mathias Čáp was defeated at Košice by the Hungarian king Karl-Albert, but stayed independent until his death in 1318. His memory is still treasured by the mountain people as their "King."

A 50h stamp was issued in 1938 showing the church.

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