

The Czecho-Slovak Specialist

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THE CZECHO-SLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

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Hope Is Seen For Philatelic Future

There are a number of collectors and specialists who have signified their interest in our organization. They have, upon receipt of our invitation, answered with more or less lengthy letters—commenting and adding various suggestions. In this group there is a percentage of collectors whom we know to be nationally known, owning large collections, who have received top awards at various exposition and who have also done literary work.

We do not profess to know the singular reasons which up to now have kept them away, though we believe to know some. For instance they might think, that since Czech-Slovakia has ceased to exist as an independent country new issues will not be forthcoming. This belief of course cannot be contradicted, at least for some time to come.

Another belief probably is that, as was the case with Austria, prices will soon go skywards and make collecting therefore, very difficult.

True, shortly after the Austria crisis stamps of the country gained tremendously in prices, but since then prices have fallen steadily and in the end, with a few exceptions, will not be very much above the pre-crisis level.

Another belief which was advanced after the annexation of Austria by Germany, was that soon Austrian stamps would disappear in this country, since there would be no supply and the existing stocks soon exhausted.

Here the guess was absolutely wrong as most everybody knows. very large holdings were stored in this country and a steady stream of refugees and foreign dealers coming from various parts of the world are

bringing Austrian stamps to the United States.

It can definitely be assumed that a parallel case will occur with the stamps of Czecho-Slovakia. Admittedly prices will go up during the first months (this process has already begun) and certain desirable items will disappear for some time. This situation will only be shortlived. During the transition period, however, there will be no dearth of items in the middle brackets. Though also here naturally prices will go up, this will not be to a marked extent. Speculators, dealers and collector dealers who have holdings of rarities and specialized items, seeing that there is surprisingly little clamor for their property at fantastic prices, will slowly come out with their possessions and it would not be surprising at all if within one year stamps which had been missing from the market entirely, will suddenly reappear in large quantities, being offered at fair prices.

In the meantime, however, just as in the case with Austria, supplies will trickle into this country, brought over by refugees and visitors.—J.W.L.

PRESIDENT'S GREETING

I would like at this time to extend a warm greeting to all collectors of Czecho-Slovak stamps. I particularly welcome those collectors who have, in the interest of their hobby, joined with us in the creation of this newly formed Society.

The Society has at the present time a small membership, but an extremely interested and active one. The great enthusiasm, moreover, which has been manifested after the little publicity which attended the the birth

of the Society clearly indicates that the present membership is only the nucleus of a great and more active one in the future.

The Society, as its program is a specialized one, will no doubt appeal more strongly to collectors of Czecho-Slovak issues, but any collector who is desirous of increasing his knowledge of philately will find a warm welcome.

GEORGE F. SMYTH,
President.

THE SECRETARY'S NOTES

As is stated in our temporary constitution it is planned to have four experts, each residing in different parts of the territory of our organization. Experts in three territories, the middle west, south and east, are already at the service of members.

For the middle-west, Frank Kovarik, 2502 South Kedzie Avenue, Chicago, Ill., will function; for the south, C. J. Pearce, 2333 N. W. Thirteenth Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; for the east, your secretary, whose address may be found elsewhere in *The Specialist*.

If members wish opinion and advice pertaining to genuineness, value, etc., of certain items, send them in. However, note that with each single item a fee of 10 cents in coins (no stamps accepted) is to be remitted, and also return postage. You are advised to register your property, if same is valuable, and in this case also return stamps for registration, return postage.

However, in no case can experts be made responsible for any loss or damage during transport.

Our organization is in need of one more expert, residing in the west. I ask members who reside in this section, and who have the ability to serve as experts, to get in touch with me.

Until elections in September, Mr. Kovarik is Chairman of the Expert Committee.

In connection with the announcement regarding exchange and sales advertisements I have to say the following: Concerning that group in our organization, which will wish to make transactions pertaining to items listed in Scott's Catalog, it is advisable that they advertise on the basis of Scott numbers and prices. With our speci-

alists the situation becomes an entirely different one. Specialists in most cases are looking for or wishing to exchange or sell items not listed in Scott's Catalog. Therefore, listing of their needs will require reference to catalogs printed in Czecho-Slovakia. There are several catalogs printed in Czecho-Slovakia and I know from experience that each specialist will prefer a certain one. Each has certain benefits and drawbacks. It is therefore an important question and one to be settled right now. Which catalog will be accepted by the membership as the official one, whose numbers will be referred to in transactions among members and in using the facilities of the advertisement department of our publication?

I therefore propose the EKSTEIN Catalog. Most specialists know that it is the most comprehensive one printed anywhere. Yet some are making use of other catalogs for the one reason, as they claim—that prices in Ekstein's Catalog are too high. As if prices of any catalog, be it standard or specialized, ever would be a true mirror of actual market prices. Anyway, we are not concerned about prices. What we are chiefly concerned about is, that for instance, Member X wishes to acquire a certain proof of the 500 denomination of the Masaryk Portrait of 1920. In Ekstein's catalog he will find a detailed listing of every proof which exists, its color, size, perforation, etc., etc. All other catalogs simply will state: "Various proofs of this issue exist."

I am willing to order this catalog. The price two months ago was only 30 cents, but since conditions abroad have changed, their cost will probably be higher. The price will be figured in Marks and there are now restrictions on export.

Unfortunately it has not appeared in English version up to now, but being printed in either Czech or German and being profusely illustrated, it nevertheless is of vast help to any one.

I will wait two weeks after the publication of this article. During that time please write me if you wish a catalog. Send me 50 cents, and if the catalogs are less than that sum, I will refund the difference. I expect to have copies within four weeks from the date of mailing money to the publisher.

J. W. LOWEY.

OVERPRINTS

By the Editor

WITH a heavy heart and increasing indignation we have watched, in the last few weeks, the stamping of the iron shoes of Hitler and Mussolini. Perhaps by the time you read this, a general European war may be raging. Worst of all, Czecho-Slovakia—to whose stamp issues this Society has dedicated itself—has been smothered by the Nazi horde.

Perhaps no worse time could have been selected for the formation of a philatelic society specializing in Czecho-Slovak issues. But to the eternal credit of a few hard-working and enthusiastic men, and to that germ of philatelic ardor that laughs at iron shoes and dictators, the Society has been born.

We are (up to and inclusive of March 31) 22 in number. Hail to these 22 pioneers whose faith in the Czecho-Slovak stamps is broad enough to include hope; whose belief is sure that philately laughs at wars, and whose faith in their Society's officers is strong.

May these officers deserve this faith.

The Specialist will be your direct contact with the Society. It is your publication. We have hopes for its growth. Its growth is impossible unless a greater membership is built up. In this work we need your aid. Be on the look-out for prospective members; use personal solicitation.

This first issue is of a "get acquainted" nature. We have great plans for following issues of The Specialist. If you have suggestions for articles, or articles on our particular branch of the hobby, send them to the editor. What do you want to see in The Specialist?

It's your magazine. Please use it.

PHILATELY AND POLITICS

Philately and politics should not mix.

However, another democracy—the one to whose postal issues our Society is dedicated—has suffered a tragic fate.

Regardless of whether we have been born in that country, or born in

North America, we should join the entire right-thinking world in deep mourning over the tragedy of Czecho-Slovakia.

No, philately and politics should not mix, but not only for philatelic reasons, but primarily for reasons of heart—let us hope that Czecho-Slovakia will be resurrected.

CONSUL OFFERS ASSISTANCE

Horace H. Van Wart, consul for the republic of Czecho-Slovakia in Toronto, extended an offer of assistance to The Society recently in a letter received by Secretary J. W. Lowey. It reads, in part:

Konsulat Ceskoslovenske Republiky
45 Richmond St., W.
Toronto, Ontario

Mrs. J. W. Lowey,
Secretary,
Czecho-Slovak Philatelic Society
of North America.

Dear Sir:

I shall be very glad to assist the Society in every way possible, and invite any of your Ontario members to make use of the Consulate Boardroom which is still open to the public.

For the advice of your Ontario members, I beg to advise you that until we receive definite instructions from the Consul General of Canada as to the closing of this Consulate, this Consulate shall remain open as representing the Czecho-Slovak Republic.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) Horace H. Van Wart.

ADVERTISING RATES

	One Insertion	Six Insertions	Twelve Insertions
1 page ..	\$6	\$5.50	\$5.00
½ Page .	\$4	\$3.75	\$3.50
¼ Page .	\$3	\$2.75	\$2.50
1/8 Page .	\$2	\$1.85	\$1.75
1/16 Page	\$1	.85	.75

Adlets (for members' wants, exchanges, sales, etc.): 1 cent per word. Stamps accepted in payment under 25 words; over 25 words, cash, money order, etc.

A MESSAGE FROM THE LIBRARIAN

By J. M. Stephen

One of the most important items in the study of the stamps of your favorite country is the possession of comprehensive and reliable information dealing in detail with perforations, gums, papers, printing and plate varieties. I have no doubt that there are a good many members of this society who have the information in their own private libraries, but on the other hand there is, in all probability, a goodly number who have been collecting the stamps of Czechoslovakia with little or no information as to what is common and what is rare, as to what are common varieties and what are scarce, the difference between forged and genuine stamps, the difference between types. It is to these collectors that the library will prove to be of great service, and it is their's for the asking.

There are two classes of stamp collectors; the simple collector of stamps and the philatelist — that is, the collector who studies his stamps. Therefore it is the prime duty of this and every other society to educate the first until he or she becomes the second, and it is with this end in view that the library of the Czechoslovakian Philatelic Society of North America will function.

If stamp collecting were as easy as the collecting of match boxes or cigarette cards there would be no need for a reference library, but coin collectors, collectors of medals, china, book, (to mention only a few), have their books of reference, for without them they would probably miss many bargains as well as risk financial loss. The stamp collector is in the same position, and especially so when collecting the postal issues of the Czechoslovak Republic, due to the fact that Scott's or Gibbon's make little or no attempt to list the various types and varieties.

To date the library contains the Hirsch-Franek handbook, several catalogues, in Czech and German text, also numerous magazine articles. It is the intention of the librarian to prepare a catalogue of literature available as soon as possible, and which may be obtained by any member upon request.

All that is required to obtain the loan of material is a written request accompanied by the library fee of 10 cents, and the understanding that postage must be paid from and to the library. To all the members of this society my services are your's for the asking, and if the answer to your problem isn't in the library, steps will be taken to get it for you.

I'm hoping to hear from every member sooner or later.

DONERS ARE THANKED

Thanks and appreciation are extended to the following individuals who have donated literature to the Society's small, but growing library. The donors, and their gifts, are:

Dr. S. Hoechstetter, Dwight, Ill.: A copy of the Tribuna catalog.

J. W. Lowey, Bronx, N. Y.: The Hirsch-Franek handbook; magazine article, "Specialized Czechoslovakia."

Anonymous: Cross Stamp Co., Specialized Catalog; numerous magazine articles.

"ADLETS" ARE OFFERED

Attention of members is directed to a coming feature of The Specialist, in the form of "Adlets," intended for the publishing of members' philatelic wants, exchanges and stamps for sale. "Adlets" may be printed for one cent a word, with no restrictions placed on their length. Remittances must be sent with the Adlet, and copy must be in the Editor's hands on the 15th of the month preceding publication date.

Officers of the Czecho-Slovak Philatelic Society of North America

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