

The Czecho-Slovak Specialist

Official Publication of

THE CZECHO-SLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

Editor: Tod Raper, 1553 Clifton Ave., Columbus, Ohio

Vol. 1

June, 1939

No. 2

New Bohemia- Moravia Issues

According to official bulletins it is now a definite fact that Bohemia and Moravia will continue to issue their own stamps, including commemoratives, semi-postals, airmails and dues. For the immediate future it is planned to have the current stamps overprinted bi-lingual (Czech and German). After the supplies on hand are exhausted, printing of stamps with entirely new designs will begin.

The first set to appear are the lower values corresponding to Scott Nos. 154-157, 180-1. All new issues to appear with the name "Bohemia and Moravia" in Czech and German. The valuation system "koruna" and "haleru" will continue with the coming issues.

In the meantime two new items have appeared in Bohemia-Moravian territory, though it should be said that the plates were finished before occupation by German authorities. Therefore, as then planned, the name of the country appears hyphenated, "Cesko-Slovensko".

Item I. Scott 212. Central design and color identical. The difference is the hyphenated name and spelling of the value, which now is 1K instead of 1Kc.

Item II. A 30 h value, printed in violet color, an addition to the present Air Mail set, Scott 513-14. This value became necessary in the additional franking from Bohemia Moravia to Greater German territory.

Since Slovakia has declared itself an autonomous state an avalanche of issues has appeared there. It consists chiefly of overprints applied to stamps of Czechoslovakia, and issu-

ance of such stamps in different color and new designs both with and without overprints. Certain items of identical design also appear both perforated and imperforate and also variously gummed. Many overprints are inverted. Overprints were made in red and blue colors.

It is therefore impossible at this time to get a clear picture. This is complicated by the fact that suddenly on April 19th all items were demonetized and are to be replaced with a definite issue.

In the following we are listing the items which have appeared since Slovakia declared its independence:

The first to appear was Scott 252 but with the color changed to blue. Then the following stamps of Czecho-Slovakia were overprinted either straight or diagonally "Slovensky stat 1939" Scott 154-57, 180-1, 208, 212, 217, 218-26, 227, 240, 252, 419-27.

At the beginning of April a new design was put out bearing the portrait of Father Hlinka with the inscription "Cesko-Slovensko" on top and "Slovenska Posta" on the bottom between the values. Besides, these stamps were overprinted diagonally "Slovensky stat" Values: 50h olive green, 1K red. Both perforated. Shortly after the design was reengraved, with the inscription on top now reading, "Slovenska Posta" and without overprints. Values: 1h ultramarine, 10h olive, 20h red-orange, 30h violet, 4.50 blue and 3K brown. All values are perforated and the 20h and 30h values are both perforated and imperforate.—J.W.L.

Advertising Rates

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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.

Officers of the Czecho-Slovak Philatelic Society of North America

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South: C. J. Pearce, 2833 N. W. Thirteenth St., Oklahoma City, Okla.

East: Mr. Lowey.

"OVERPRINTS"

By the Editor

When the Editor volunteered to work on The Specialist at the start of the C.P.S.N.A., he did so with misgivings.

"Where," he wondered, "will we get material to fill?"

Well—he takes it all back! There's more than enough to fill, and it's still coming in! Let's look ahead to future issues.

In the July issue of The Specialist

will be found the first installment of Frank J. Kovarik's translation of "Field Post of Czechoslovak and Allied Armies in Siberia, and Their Postage Stamps." This work was originally written by the former head of the Czecho-Slovak Field Post in Siberia, Capt. Anthony Novotny, later postal inspector in Praha. It was published in Brno in 1923 and the translation is from one of the original booklets.

Mr. Kovarik has in preparation an article on "Ceskoslovenska Posta 1919" and an article on the stamps used in Siberia, which he will publish later in The Specialist. Mr. Lowey also has an article ready to print, and doubtless other members have pieces planned.

This issue of The Specialist exceeds its budget of four pages, because of the heavy run of news. However, the Society is financially unable to continue printing indefinitely any publication of over four pages in size unless the membership is increased.

Certain individuals have actually offered to carry the financial burden of The Specialist alone. All thanks to them, but the printing of The Specialist is the Society's job. Neither does the Society wish 'special assessments' charged its members in addition to the regular membership dues.

The answer to our problem is: More members. To each member we send this message: Sign up a new collector during June.

To prospective members we say: Join now. This is the last complimentary copy of The Specialist that you will receive, although we wish we could afford to keep sending them to you. Join with us now, and find real enjoyment with others who collect, study and appreciate this particular branch of the most interesting hobby of them all!

NOW

**IS THE
TIME**

TO GET A NEW MEMBER!

NEWSY HARVEST IS GLEANED FROM THE SOCIETY ACTIVITIES

Fred W. Peters, Chicago, has consented to serve as First Vice-President of the Society until the September elections. Fred is past president of the Chicago Philatelic Society, executive member of the Central Federation of Stamp Clubs of that city, and for a number of years in the limelight of Chicago philatelic activity....From A. J. Hrivnak, Riverside, Ill., member of our Society and of the Cicero-Berwyn Club, has come an invitation in behalf of the Chicago organization. It is proposed we hold our 1940 convention in Chicago as guest of the Cicero-Berwyn Club, and participate in the exposition which will be held in conjunction with the Centennial Celebration of the Central Federation of Stamp Clubs. Our members are invited to participate in the exhibition, which will be of large proportions. More from Mr. Hrivnak on this later. ...Our organization was honored with a detailed article in "Filatelisticka Revue," Bohemia-Moravia's foremost philatelic magazine. Its readers were asked to support the Society with news of interest pertaining to Czech issues and philatelic occurrences.... Bohumil Seger, Plzen, Skretova 33, Bohemia, wishes to exchange Czech stamps with U. S. issues. Those interested will please contact him, but since he is unknown to the Society, it is advised to ask him to make the first shipment. He speaks English....Edwin Hirsch, for 20 years editor of the "Tribuna Filatelistu," top-notch philatelic publication of Prague, has been replaced by J. Franek, formerly the associate editor. Could this change, we wonder, be attributed to the fact that Mr. Hirsch had no Aryan grandmother?....German philatelic journals now quite often contain research articles concerning Czech stamps. Members subscribing to such periodicals are asked to inform the Editor when such interesting articles appear. If possible, we ask that such magazines be loaned or donated to the Librarian. (Has Wolfgang Fritzsche any such magazines he could spare? They would be welcome.)....J.W.L.

Try an exchange ad here!

VETERAN COLLECTOR JOINS

The C. P. S. N. A. is honored with the membership of one of the oldest—and still most active—stamp collectors in the United States, Joseph Janacek, Member No. 32, of Tacoma, Wash., who is 83 years old.

Early in January of this year, Mr. Janacek received a gold cup presented by the mayor of Tacoma for his exhibition in the National Stamp congress held in that city. Mr. Janacek collects U. S., South America and Czechoslovakia.

The Society wishes him many more years of collecting and more happy prizewinning.

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September Crisis Brings Flood of Counterfeits

Since the Sudeten crisis of last September an ever increasing number of counterfeits and fakes is being reported from the former territory of Czech-Slovakia. This is only natural and was to be expected in view of the scarcity of better material in the homeland and to a large extent attributable to the fact that up to date no drastic laws have been formulated which would punish counterfeiters. This absence of law gives the "wolves of philately" a free hand.

Practically most of the better items have, during the last months, appeared in counterfeit form and it should be stated that the majority of the counterfeits are almost perfect reproductions of the originals. In certain cases they will require utmost expert knowledge to detect fakes from genuine items. Up to now the following issues have been reported counterfeit in more or less large quantities: Scott 43a, 45a, 47a. Only microphotography and comparison with genuine items will show differences. All tete beches of Type I, II and III of the group 65 to 73, 82 to 86, 93 Types II and III are believed to be counterfeited. 200a and 201a. Two counterfeits exist of 200a and 201a. The first "issue" appeared some months ago, showing a somewhat crude perforation. About two months ago new counterfeits appeared, in which case perforation is identical with genuine one.

With 779-781 the crooks used a very clever scheme. They simply bought a genuine set of 775-778 and faked the overprint upon the first 3 values, thereby making a double "profit", since they not only marketed the counterfeit set but still retained the genuine item 778 which they sold at market value.

To our knowledge these counterfeits, with the exception of Nos. 200a, 201a, have not yet been reported seen in this country but may suddenly appear in some of our larger cities. We therefore advise our members to be on their guard.

Their best protection when buying the above mentioned item is to re-

quest the seller to either affix his signature or rubber stamp on the reverse side of each item or set, and to ask for a written statement that items are to be returned if found to be counterfeits. This procedure should also be applied wherever other rarities are acquired.

In case of doubt, the Society's expert committee should be asked for an opinion on the genuineness of stamps. The three experts stand ready and willing to serve in this capacity.—
J.W.L.

DONATION IS RECEIVED

The Librarian acknowledges with sincere appreciation the donation of \$5, from Dr. William Reiner-Duetsch, for the purpose of purchasing material for the Society's growing library. The donation will be used to purchase either handbooks or magazines, which will be listed in the next issue of The Specialist.

Material may be obtained from the library on the basis of a library fee of 10 cents. All postage must be paid to and from the library by the borrower of the book.

MRS. LOWEY IN HOSPITAL

The Society sends its sincere sympathies to Secretary Lowey, who received two blows of ill luck recently. Mrs. Lowey underwent a serious operation May 16, and on the same day Mr. Lowey was also operated on for a serious infection on his left thumb.

Mrs. Lowey was reported as being out of danger, and Mr. Lowey's operation was also reported as successful. He will, however, be incapacitated for more than two weeks, and will not be able to answer mail in that time.

To the two patients the Society sends its deep regrets, with hopes for a speedy recovery.

CALL GOES OUT FOR VOLUNTEER WORKERS

I have finally realized that it will not be possible, for several reasons, to handle certain departments in our organization, which I voluntarily took up at the Society's birth.

One of these departments concerns the reporting of general news and new issues from the territory of Slovakia. Never having had any first-rate connection there, I would not be able to supply our membership with accurate news.

The second department, though not yet existing, concerns the furnishing of new issue stamps to Society members. The reason is obvious: our members would be saving money if such a service is established.

The Society needs, urgently: A member who can supply the Editor with news and comment from Slovakia, and who could perhaps arrange a supply service on new issues; a member who can supply new issues from the territory of Bohemia-Moravia to our membership. I will continue to bring news and comment on new issues from Bohemia-Moravia.

Any members wishing to assume the duties of the above two departments are urged to write either the Secretary or the Editor, explaining his plan. — The Secretary.

CHICAGO MEMBERS STAGE INFORMAL GET-TOGETHER

On Sunday, April 30, Frank Kovarik staged an informal gathering at his home at which seven Society members were present, plus an impressive number of guest collectors.

The purpose of the meeting was, primarily, to open a campaign to secure new Society members from Chicago and vicinity, and to also evolve ideas and plans which would benefit the organization. Further get-togethers are planned, each time at the house of different members.

To Mr. Kovarik, and these members Mrs. Mildred Glawe, Fred W. Peters, A. J. Hrivnak, John Velek, Peter Kreischer and James A. Plotz, the Society's sincere appreciation and thanks.

CONVENTION DATE IS SET FOR JUNE 17

Having received suggestions from many sources as to arranging an informal convention this summer, to be held in New York, the Secretary sent inquiries to the membership as to the possible attendance. Ten men signified their willingness.

It should be said that, though our organization is a young one, there are already a number of points which should be discussed personally by as many executives and members as is possible to assemble.

Discussing the convention plan with several members it was finally decided to arrange the gathering for Saturday, June 17. The meeting, which will be informal, will be held at the Bohemian National Hall, 321 East 73 St., (between First and Second Avenues), New York City.

At 6:30 p.m., supper will be served in the House restaurant, which is located on the street level. Cooking in this establishment is excellent, with moderate prices, and the meeting room has been put at our disposition in return for the members having supper there. The meeting will be held at 8 p.m.

Although it is premature to give a list of all members who will be present, it is understood that several in other cities are trying to arrange their vacations (and World's Fair visit) to coincide with the date. These, however, have signified their intentions of being definitely present:

N. A. Bogdan, Charles Cizek, F. R. Ferryman, Guy Greenawalt, Frank Kovarik, J. W. Lowey, Dr. O. R. Pozdena, Dr. William Reiner-Deutsch, George F. Smyth, Alfons Stach, Michael Zeman, Jr., and Dr. Charles H. Evans.

IN MEMORIAM

It is with real regret that we print the news of the passing of one of our members, Reverend D. Losa, D.D., of Pittsburgh, who died recently. He was 71 years old, the publisher of the Christian News, and a sincere philatelist.

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