

# CONVENTION ISSUE

## THE CZECHO-SLOVAK SPECIALIST



OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE  
THE CZECHO-SLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

Vol. 2

February 1940

No. 2

### PROGRAM

Of The  
SECOND CONVENTION  
Of The

Czecho Slovak Philatelic Society of North America

CHICAGO, ILL.

Friday, Feb. 16

2:00 p.m. View exhibition of the CHIPEX at Hotel La Salle

7:00 p.m. Luncheon at Little Bohemia Restaurant followed by organization meeting.

Saturday, Feb. 17

7:00 p.m. CHIPEX Banquet (Reservations must be made one day previous)

Sunday, Feb. 18

2:00 p.m. Meeting; discussion of Czecho issues, how to bring our findings of a specialized nature before the membership through our magazine.

### TO THE STAMP COLLECTORS OF CHICAGOLAND—

If you are a collector or a specialist of the issues of Czecho-Slovakia (Bohemia-Moravia, Slovakia) we hereby invite you to join our organization, The Czecho-Slovak Philatelic Society of North America.

We have quite a few members in Chicago and vicinity and our first vice president is that excellent philatelist who is general chairman of CHIPEX, Mr. Fred Peters.

If interested, he will gladly give you any information you desire regarding our society and also supply you with an application blank.

Our members derive various benefits and advantages, some of which follow:

1. Receipt of our monthly publication, "The Czecho-Slovak Specialist," which is constantly being improved upon and brings to our members all things of philatelic interest. Original articles written by our staff of specialists are also published.

2. Access to our large, specialized library.

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### Officers of the Czecho-Slovak Philatelic Society of North America

President: George F. Smyth, 945 Main St., Bridgeport, Conn.

First Vice-President: Fred W. Peters, 5000 Warwick Ave., Chicago, Ill.

Second Vice-President: F. R. Ferryman, 505 Fifth Ave., New York City.

Secretary: J. W. Lowey, 201 Marcy Place, Bronx, N. Y.

Treasurer: Guy Greenawalt, 2301 Cathedral Ave., N.W., Washington, D. C.

Librarian: J. M. Stephen, 37 Queensdale Ave., Toronto, Canada.

Editor, The Specialist: Tod Raper, 1553 Clifton Ave., Columbus, O.

#### EXPERT COMMITTEE

Middle-west: Frank Kovarik, 2502 South Kedzie Ave., Chicago, Ill.

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

East: Mr. Lowey.

#### AUDITING COMMITTEE

W. G. Slocum, 32 Sixth Ave., Room 1561, New York City.

Frank Voticky, 52 Clark St., Brooklyn, New York.

Chairman of Rules Committee: Frank Kovarik.

Chairman of Judicial Board: Dr. W. Reiner-Deutsch.

New Issue Service (Bohemia-Moravia)—C. J. Pearce, 2833 N. W. 13th St., Oklahoma City, Okla.

#### Advertising Rates

	One Insertion	Six Insertions	Twelve Insertions
1 Page .	\$5	\$4.50	\$4.00
1/2 Page .	\$4	\$3.50	\$3.00
1/4 Page .	\$2.75	\$2.25	\$2.00
1/8 Page .	\$1	.85	.75
1/16 Page.	.85	.75	.50

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.

#### CUP DONATED

A handsome silver trophy cup has been promised to the person having the best exhibit of Czecho-Slovakia. The doner's name will be announced later.

#### To Collectors:

(Continued from Page 1)

3. Expert advice as to genuineness of stamps submitted to our Expert Committee, and any other philatelic advice requested.

4. Free exchange with other members.

As a gesture of good will and cooperation with CHIPEX the Society is showing 20 frames of Czecho-Slovak stamps. A number of members are also exhibiting individual entries. It will be no overstatement to declare that the Czecho-Slovak section of CHIPEX is the largest ever shown in any city of the United States.

Also in honor of CHIPEX the Society has issued a beautiful souvenir sheet, which may be purchased on the exposition floor.

If for some reason Mr. Peters is not present during your visit to the exposition we invite you to write to our secretary for additional information on the society. You will find his name and address elsewhere in this magazine.

Our society is holding its second annual convention in connection with CHIPEX. You are cordially invited to attend any of the society's meetings.

—Czecho-Slovak Philatelic Society of North America

#### SOUVENIR SHEETS

##### IN THIS ISSUE

With this issue is enclosed the announced Souvenir Exhibition Sheet. Your sheet is numbered on the reverse with your membership number.

The regular issue is printed on wove paper and is not numbered. These sheets sell for 5 cents and copies can be ordered from the secretary.

Visitors of the CHIPEX will be able to purchase sheets on the exposition floor.

Wholesale orders will be filled by F. R. Ferryman, 505 Fifth Avenue, New York City, in which case a substantial discount is granted.

#### Adlets

WANTED TO BUY: Copy of the Hirsh - Franek Handbook, the "Czechoslovak Stamps." Write John Velek, Box 66, Riverside, Ill.

## Transition Postmarks of Czecho-Slovakia

by J. J. Lowey

Doubtless there are among our members a number who collect transition cancellations, be it on cover, on cutouts or even just on stamps.

To a specialist, regardless of how extensively he has branched out, the study of transition postmarks is unquestionably the most fascinating group of specialization, at the same time however the most difficult one.

In order to enlighten those of our members to whom the word transition postmarks might be a mystery, we shall give the following explanations.

First it should be realized that before the establishment of Czechoslovakia in 1918 its various provinces were part of the then Anstro-Hungarian Monarchy. Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia were under direct domination of Austria, whose stamps were used exclusively. Slovakia and the Carpatho Ukraine, being a province of Hungary, used Hungarian stamps.

In the Austrian provinces, prior to the establishment of the Czechoslovak republic cancellations varied according to population. In such communities, where german population predominated german language postmarks only were used. In predominantly czech communities the postmark was of bilingual character, namely, the place of the post office first was spelled in german and then in Czech.

In Slovakia all postal cancellations were of Hungarian character only. This of course also pertained to the Carpatho Ukraine.

As soon as the Czechoslovak government begun to function it installed the Czechoslovak Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs. The newly created postal authorities were faced with a tremendous task, part of which was to be the substitution of the old Anstro-Hungarian cancelling devices by

(Continued on Page 4)

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## Chicago Exhibition Souvenir Sheet

for the Czecho-Slovak Philatelic Society's  
Convention

A beautiful 3 colored, red, blue and gold, small Exhibition Memento has been printed as follows:

1500 copies on white paper.

100 numbered copies on cardboard.

These numbered copies have been given to the Czecho-Slovak Philatelic Society's membership, one to each member

**Price 5c each (\$1.00 for 25)**

Cardboard copies **50c each** (only 32 available  
a few proofs, errors on request.

**F. R. FERRYMAN**

**505-5 Ave.**

**New York, N.Y.**

### TRANSITION

(Continued from Page 3)

new ones in several thousand of post offices.

The system of using bilingual obliteration, as had been practiced under the Austrian regime was now reversed. Namely, in those communities of Botemia, Moravia and Silesia, with a mixed Czech and German population, regardless whether czech or german population predominated, now the czech name of the post office appeared first and then the german one. In those sections in which Czechs were in the majority Czech language postmarks were applied exclusively.

In Slovakia, the names of the post offices were spelled in the Slovak language only. In the small territory of the Carpatho Ukraine, a bilingual postmark was used, namely Slovak and Ruthenian, the latter language being of Russian origin and using a similar alphabet.

This process of converting old Austro-Hungarian postmarks, in conformity with a new order, and, which is called "Nationalization of Postmarks" was an unusually difficult problem for the Czecho-Slovak government, not only due to technical difficulties in replacing thousands and thousands of cancelling appliances, but also due to the fact that postmasters, especially in small or out of the way postoffices, with predominantly German population, deliberately sabotaged the new order of things and continued to use the old Austro-Hungarian killers. The Ministry of Posts finally solved the problem in such a way, that it confiscated the old devices and substituted them with new ones.

This process of nationalization of postmarks took approximately three years and this period it is which has been named the "Transition of Postmarks."

For lack of space it would be impossible to write a detailed story of the transition period. However, those interested, we refer to the books "Studie Razitek Rakousko-Uherskych v Ceskoslovenske Republice" by Dr. J. Peller and "Handbuch der Teschechoslowakischen Poststempel" by Fr. Leitenberger, both books being in the able hands of our Librarian. The only handicap for our American members might be that they are

### EARLY COVERS FOR SALE

I have on hand a large quantity of early covers with transition and commemorative postmarks. Among these are also a number which have been cancelled bilingually czech-hebrew, honoring the Zionist Congresses held at Karlsbad in 1921 and 1923. These items are not my property, but belong to a non-member refugee, whom I am trying to help. Prices range from 10 cents up to \$1.50. If interested, please write to me.

The Secretary.

written either in Czech or German and thereby inaccessible. However both volumes are profusely illustrated and by this somewhat self explanatory.

To a student of the transition period most interest will be diverted to the old Austrian postmarks. These are of all shapes and sizes. Sometimes a certain community having used three different characters of cancellation, such as large and small single or double circles, boxes, lines, oval, etc.

As to the old Hungarian cancellations the problem is more simplified. Though much more elaborate than the Austrian, by virtue of a double circle, which, besides the name of the post office, also contains various ornaments like crowns, stars, scrolls and key letters, they nevertheless are easier to classify, due to the consistency of general size and shape.

If a sufficient number of votes will be forthcoming, I would be willing to publish serially in the Specialist a translation of either two books mentioned above and, perhaps also give the necessary illustrations.

Also, if members own covers, cut-outs or stamps with cancellations, which character they would like to ascertain, I will gladly give all information known to me. I have made a fairly extensive study of transition postmarks and have tried to continue where others left off. For this reason I am certain that not all available material has been uncovered yet. Perhaps you have something that is worthwhile.

But remember to enclose return postage when sending items to me. If you believe that your property is valuable, register it and also enclose return registration postage.

# **Czecho-Slovakia**

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## THE "HRADCANY" ISSUE OF CZECHO-SLOVAKIA OF 1918

By J. W. LOWEY

Reprinted from *The American Philatelist*, Vol. 52, Nos. 6, 7.)

(Continued from last month)

### PRINTING

First it should be realized, that the printing itself as all other circumstances connected with the issuance of the stamps was a novel experience for the new government. When, at the conclusion of the world war in 1918, Czecho-Slovakia declared its independence from Austria-Hungary, the new republic had to print and issue its own stamps. Up to this time the stamps of Austria had been in use, and had been printed by the government printing plant in Vienna.

The task which faced the newly formed Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs, which was to take charge of the issuance of postal matters, was, for many reasons a difficult one. Among other vital questions a competent staff had to be assembled and installed within a short space of time, but primarily the lack of a suitable plant for printing purposes was the paramount concern. The only firm with sufficient facilities was the "Graficka Unie," which, though modernly equipped and having an expert staff of lithographers, printers and mechanical equipment, was at that time engaged in the printing of books, pamphlets, posters, etc. and every unit now had to enter an entirely different field,—the printing of postage stamps. Late in October 1918 the concern began the printing of the first issue.

If we consider the inexperience of the staff in its new scope, the inadequacy of machinery, the lack of standard inks, paper, gum, etc., etc., then we will understand the various faults of the finished product.

The entire issue, including all re-engravings, was printed from flatbed presses and with the exception of the 30 haleru value Type V, this was done with zinc, copper and brass plates. Since plates of this material often require replacement with new ones, this may account for the reason that the original design had been re-engraved several times, using the various changes submitted by Alfons Mucha.

Even today it can not be stated def-

initely how many plates were used for each denomination. The official bulletin of the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs does not give a detailed information on this subject.

Printing arrangement was identical on the following point: sheets consisted of 400 stamps, four panes of 100 stamps each, each pane 10 x 10 stamps. However there is a difference in the arrangement of the two upper panes in relation to the two lower panes. Quantities were printed in such a way that the two upper panes were reversed in their relation to the two lower panes, resulting in gutter tete beches, that is, the control numbers under each bottom stamp of the two upper panes were facing the control numbers of the two lower panes in reverse.

An equal quantity was printed in the regular way, so that the control numbers do not face each other.

There exist, however strips and parts of panes which prove that stamps of different denominations and color were printed together on one sheet, or that even stamps of the Hradcany issue and the Newspaper stamps of that era (Scott 401-409) were produced in this way. In such combinations either the two left panes consisted of one value differing from the one of the two right panes or that the two upper panes were of different values or designs than the two lower ones.

Mention should also be made here that of the 100 and 200 values of Type II strips and blocks exist showing regular vertical tete beches. Though never intended to be printed in such a way, they nevertheless exist and have also been found in used condition. It is claimed that here is a case of proofs which were misappropriated by dishonest employees of the printing plant. Others, and there are several reliable students in this group, claim that the tete beches are the result of a mistake by the men handling the plate. It is assumed that, as in the case of the 30 haleru value of Type V, which

was printed from 100 single cuts bound into one plate, it may have happened that the person handling the plate had accidentally reversed single cuts or entire rows, thereby producing the tete beche.

(Continued next month)

## MARKET PRICES IN BOHEMIA-MORAVIA

We have received the revised edition of the 1940 catalog, published by the "Narodni Sberatel," Bohemia-Moravia's leading stamp magazine.

The prices therein quoted seem utterly fantastic, when one compares them with those of a few months ago. However, according to conditions prevailing in the protectorate the prices seem justified. Better material has disappeared from the market there and is probably hoarded by dealers and collectors alike. And great quantities of stamps have (before the crisis of last March) been shipped to England, France and also to the United States.

Though in this country we are not yet pinched with a scarcity of the

general issues, it is the specialized items which also in this country are more and more difficult to obtain. In the following are prices which were picked at random from the catalog and which today are paid in Bohemia-Moravia. (In translating prices into American exchange we still figure at the pre-crisis rate of 3 to 4 cents per Czech Koruna.)

Scott No.	
47a	\$ 30.00
86a	16.00
102	20.00
B133/36	13.00
B137/39	35.00
B141/43	35.00
200/1a	140.00
C1/3	25.00
C4/6	50.00

### ATTENTION; VISITORS!

All out-of-town members and guests are requested to notify Frank J. Kovarik, 2502 South Kedzie Ave., Chicago, or Fred Peters, 5000 Warwick Av., Chicago, of their plans.

Accommodations at the Hotel LaSalle are as cheap as \$6 for four persons in room. For reservations write either to the hotel or to Mr. Peters.

## Czecho-Slovakia

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## I FILL WANT LISTS FOR COLLECTORS WHO SPECIALIZE IN THIS COUNTRY

All sets mint and complete unless otherwise stated. I have in stock all sets with coupons, with ornamented coupons, and also all se-tenant gutter pairs.

(All numbers are by Scott's 1940 catalog.) (Prices are in U.S.A. currency)

1-10 .....	.75	B130-32 .....	.75
23-40 .....	2.95	B133-36 .....	3.00
62-63 .....	1.40	Same used .....	2.50
65-81 .....	3.50	B137-39 .....	8.50
82-90 .....	1.50	Same used .....	7.00
91-93 .....	1.75	B140-43 .....	9.00
98-101 .....	5.50	Same used .....	8.00
101a-101d .....	55.00	B144-46 .....	.50
109-111 .....	1.65	B147-49 .....	.40
119-22 .....	4.50	B150-51 .....	.18
137-40 .....	3.50	B152 Souv. Sheet .....	.55
144-53 .....	2.25		
Same used with special cancel .....	1.50	<b>Air Post Stamps</b>	
158-162 .....	1.85	C1-3 .....	7.00
Same used with special cancel .....	1.00	C4-6 well centered .....	11.00
166-68 .....	2.65	C7-9 .....	1.60
175-78 .....	2.85	C10-17 used .....	1.00
Same used .....	1.50	<b>Special Delivery</b>	
Same mint with tabs .....	4.50	E4-6 .....	6.50
Same used with tabs .....	3.75		
183 .....	1.75	<b>Postage Due Stamp</b>	
184-86 .....	1.55	J1-14 .....	3.50
187-90 .....	4.50	J15-19 .....	.75
192-93 .....	1.00	J28-57 .....	3.50
195-98 .....	1.15	J58-69 .....	1.75
200-01 .....	.45	<b>Newspaper Stamps</b>	
200a-01a Sheet .....	32.00	P1-26 .....	1.00
202-05 .....	.75	<b>Eastern Silesia</b>	
206-07 .....	.40	31-32 .....	12.00
209-11 .....	.40		
Same in se-tenant pairs with gutter .....	1.20	<b>BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA</b>	
218-23 se-tenant prs. with gut. .....	2.00	30-45 used .....	1.75
230-31 .....	.35	46-61 .....	2.75
Same se-tenant prs with gut. .....	1.30	Same used .....	2.75
232-33 .....	.15	62-64 .....	4.00
234-35 .....	.18	Same used .....	4.00
236-38 .....	.25	65-85 .....	14.00
241-43 .....	.42	Same used .....	9.00
246-48 .....	.20	85 mint .....	7.00
<b>Semi-Postal Stamps</b>		Same used .....	4.50
B37-39 .....	65.00	86-104 .....	2.50
		105-22 .....	.80

**TERMS:** Cash with order. If not satisfied money will be immediately refunded. Postage extra on all orders under \$3.00. All offers subject unsold.

(Please do not send Postal Money Orders)

My Reference: A. P. S. No. 14266

## I. KESSLER

4529 Park Ave

Montreal, Canada