

# THE CZECHO-SLOVAK SPECIALIST



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

Vol. 2

September, 1940

No. 6

## EDITORIAL

I have asked the Editor for this space so that I might address the members personally.

You will recall the editorial in the preceding issue of the Specialist in which a proposal to lower the dues was outlined and that your opinion was asked for.

The officers sent an affirmative answer promptly and a favorable agreement was reached at the meeting held recently here in New York. However, the response of the membership at large was not as it should have been. It is not to be denied that most of the members are busy individuals though I believe that a response to the proposal would have taken a very little of their time.

Certainly officers are elected to administer the affairs of the Society and the way its affairs are carried out depend a lot upon the cooperation of the membership at large. It should be remembered that Society matters require constant concentration and alertness on the part of a few officers. They give much of their time and energy to a mutual cause. It takes, for instance, much effort to locate and persuade collectors to become members of our organization. Likewise it is no easy task to assemble material for this organ so that you might be informed, encouraged and guided about your hobby.

And now in my second appeal to you I hope for better cooperation than in the first instance. In the very near future we are going to

elect officers for the year 1941. The candidates and technical points will be brought to your attention in an early issue of the Specialist. When the announcement is made and your ballot is received will you cooperate by submitting your ballot to the party as designated thereon? I trust that you will.

J. W. Lowey

## NEW MEMBERS

An account of the meeting held in New York recently is included in this issue and as a result of this session we have four new members to report. We welcome the following gentlemen into the Society and hope that they may enjoy and take benefit of the advantages offered.

- 60 Harry Holman, 25-75, 33rd Street, Astoria, L. I., N. Y.
- 61 Gyula Bergl, 536 W. 113th Street, New York, N. Y.
- 64 Bert Zenaty, 76 Kelvin Street, Forest Hills, N. Y.
- 65 Adolph Kulisek, 44-06, 25th Ave., Astoria, L. I., N. Y.
- 66 C. H. Osbourn, 60 McLaughlin Blvd., Oshawa, Ont., Canada.

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

- 49 Emil Burger, 126 W. 49th Street, New York, N. Y.
- 27 Dr. Wm. Reiner-Deutsch, 41-31, 77th St., Jackson Hgts., L.I., N.Y.
- 10 Antoinetta Vedra, 615 N. Lincoln Ave., Bay City, Mich.
- 20 Peter Kreischer, 6616 S. Marshfield Ave., Chicago, Ill.

**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, 4000 5th Street, North, Arlington, Va.  
Librarian: J. M. Stephen, 37 Queensdale Ave., Toronto, Canada.  
Editor: Peter Kreischer, 6616 S. Marshfield Ave., Chicago, Ill.  
Chairman of the Judicial Board: Dr. Wm. Reiner-Deutsch, 41-31, 77th St. Jackson Hgts., L. I., N. Y.  
Chairman of the Rules Committee: Mr. Frank J. Kovarik, 2502 S. Kedzie Ave., Chicago, Ill.

**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: J. W. Lowey, 201 Marcy Pl. Bronx, N. Y.

**AUDITING COMMITTEE**

W. G. Slocum, 32 Sixth Ave., Room 1561, New York City.  
Frank Voticky, 52 Clark St., Brooklyn, New York.

**SCOTT CATALOGUE**

While this issue of the Specialist goes to press the new Scott catalogue will have been published. We have seen the advance sheets some time ago and in glancing through them we find that the publishers have created havoc with the prices of various countries. Dissatisfaction over this is voiced by thousands of collectors in meetings and publications. As a matter of fact, some real properties which have held their own over a period of years have suddenly been slashed in price to such an extent that in several instances 50% of the former value has been cut. In the magazine "STAMPS" the publishers of the catalogue justify these downward price adjustments with the fact that refugees from Europe have, during the last two years, brought thousands of sets of certain issues to this country which made price slashes paramount.

To us this seems an incorrect interpretation of a reason to make such sudden drastic changes. For a conscientious compiler of values the apparent reason to fix prices should be the original quantity of an issue. Here is an example that may mystify the average collector but not those who are familiar with the circumstances; Siberia Nos. 36 to 45 have been slashed from 60c for each item to 25c. It should be added that the former price

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

for the period May 1939 to including August 25th 1940.

(Note: The original submitted by treasurer Greenawalt covers 3 typewritten pages. Due to lack of space we have condensed same as follows:)

**RECEIPTS:**

Memberships .....	\$193.00
Advertisements .....	41.95
Expertizing .....	.75
Donation .....	.50
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>\$236.20</b>
Receipts .....	236.20
Expenditures .....	177.46
<b>Balance</b> .....	<b>58.74</b>

**Expenditures:**

Printers Bill .....	\$ 88.75
Organizing Expenses of Secretary .....	28.33
Postage Expenses of Secretary & Editor .....	46.81
Membership Central Federation of S. C. ....	1.00
Checking Charges of Treasurer .....	3.00
Mimeos .....	4.15
Cut for Specialist .....	5.42
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>177.46</b>

Not included in the statement are outstanding Advertisement bills for the past 3 months and Fees collected by the Librarian.

Examined and found correct for above period September 9th, 1940.

W. G. Slocum  
F. O. Voticky, Auditors

had been standing for over a decade and now instead of lowering should have been adjusted upwards. This for the simple reason that the original issue had been very small and we doubt that at present there are more than 25 genuine sets obtainable in this country.

Mr. Hugh Clark, the Editor of the catalogue depends upon the advice of a handful of "experts." From personal contact we know that in many cases they are misinformed. In any event this group is too small to be the authors of the "Bible of Philately" in which hundreds of thousands are to believe. The correct way for Mr. Clark would be to consult the various specialist organizations. With the exception of a few of his pet countries Mr. Clark has persistently refused to lend an ear to those championing the neglected ones. We might ask the biblical question, "Quo Vadis, Mr. Clark?"

#### NEW YORK CHAPTER

The last meeting which was held on September 9 at the White Star Candy Shop, 100 2nd Ave., was a thorough success. With the exception of two, the entire New York contingent was present. Also several guests made their appearance. Four of these joined the Society. Among the points brought up for discussion was the editorial in the last issue. Members present were all in favor of reducing the dues to \$1.00 after January 1941. The secretary read the financial report of the treasurer, which was examined by the auditors and found correct.

Alfons Stach announced that his specialized catalogue would appear in October and Wolfgang Fritzsche made a very interesting proposal, details of which are published in this issue.

After the official business those present extracted exchange material from their brief cases and it was almost 1 a.m. when two dozen happy-dizzy collectors disbanded.

The next meeting will be held at the same place on Monday October 7th. Those concerned please make a note of the date. Special reminders of this meeting will not be sent out. There will be a showing of selected pages of early issues by one of the members. Perhaps a fellow collector

of yours would be interested in the meeting. If such is the case, bring him along and urge him to join the Society.

#### CHICAGO CHAPTER

The Chicago Chapter met at the home of Mrs. Glawe on September 15 and several points of interest were discussed. The matter of reducing the dues next year was agreed to by all those present.

It was also decided to enter an exhibit in the Cicero-Berwyn Exhibition, November 9 and 10th. The entry will consist of material by several of the Chicago members and also facts about the Society which will give the organization considerable publicity. This entry will be made in the name of the Society and all expenses will be borne by the members here in Chicago.

Mr. Kovarik announced his appointment as Chairman of the Nominating committee and selected as his assistants Mr. Velek and Mr. Peters.

The next meeting will be held in November, the date to be announced in a later issue.

#### COMING FEATURE ARTICLES

As soon as the present article on the Hradcany issues is concluded we are going to publish an article written by Frank Kovarik who will be remembered as the translator of the "Fieldpost of the Czechoslovak Armies" written by F. Novotny. Whereas Novotny's article dealt with the technical phases of the postal system of Siberia the coming article will deal with the issues themselves. Following this article one written by the secretary will appear. This article is now being prepared for publication in the "American Philatelist" under the title "Commemorative Postmarks of Czechoslovakia and their Historical Background." This should prove to be very interesting since it will be extensively illustrated.

Encourage your friends to become members of this Society. They will appreciate knowing about it.

## A PROPOSAL FOR AN EXCHANGE AND SALES PLAN

From our member Wolfgang Fritzsche we have received the following communication which we not only find interesting but possible of great benefit to the members. Those interested in his proposition please write to him, his address is P.O.B. #175, Valley Stream, L.I., N. Y. Here is his proposition:

"In order to give our members a chance to build up their collections, fill out empty spaces etc. I suggest to start an exchange and sales circuit amongst the members of our club. Since we are only a small organization yet I suggest to combine the sales and exchange circuits in one by using NET prices throughout, this makes it possible to use the exchange books also for sales and the sales books also for the exchanges. If a member wants to sell only he sends in his approval books and after they they have been retired from the circuit he will receive the money realized from his sales in cash. If a member wants to buy only he receives the circuit books, keeps what he needs and pays for the stamps taken in cash. Members who want to exchange only send in their books (with net prices) first and will get an advance credit of 25% of the amount

sent in to give them a start and the rest will be credited to them after the books have been retired from the circuit. If an exchange member overdraws his account or cannot find stamps for the amount credited to him he has with this system always a chance to straighten out the account with cash. On all transactions we would have to charge a certain amount commission, the percentage of which we would have to agree upon yet, part of it would go to the exchange manager for his time and the rest would go in our treasury, a clear profit to the club. I have run similar exchanges with very good success in Europe (Saxony) and would be willing to take over the exchange for our club if the members are in favor of one. This would also be a good inducement for new members. Since we have many dealers in our club there is a chance to get good material for the exchange circuit should the members not be able to furnish enough books. If we would get about 15 members to participate and if we would be able to send out 1 circuit of 10 books a month, I believe we would meet with good success. What do you think about it?"

Wolfgang Fritzsche  
P.O.B. #175  
Valley Stream, L. I., N. Y.  
Member #26

## 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)

### Counterfeits

Stamps were counterfeited for two purposes. In the first case counterfeits were actually used for franking purposes either by the counterfeiters themselves or by persons who had bought such. Hereby the government had been defrauded.

In the second case which however only pertain to the rarities of the issue, these were sold by the counterfeiter or their distributors to dealers or through dealers to collectors. In this instance the public is being defrauded.

The latter mode was practiced more

widely, because at the time of these happenings there existed the law, which would be applied to penalize the counterfeiters or their accomplices but punishment did not apply in cases where citizens became the victims.

Only two instances of defrauding the government are known. Strangely the discovery never was made by government authorities, but by a collector-expert, who brought this to the attention of the postmaster general. However this happened years after the issue already had been withdrawn and for this reason and partly for the small quantity of counterfeits used,

the perpetrators were never apprehended, their identity not even being known today. The facts are these: several strips cut from parcels, which had been mailed from Weipert, a town lying in the Sudeten section of Bohemia, which today belongs to Germany, were with stamps of the 100 and 200 haleru values of Type II and the 300 denominations of Type IV. They were fairly accurate images of the originals and would easily pass by the man with only a superficial knowledge. However what betrayed their appearance was their smaller size. The measurements of a genuine item are 26, 3x22.4mm. whereas the counterfeits are found to be 25.6x21.3 mm.

We now come to the counterfeits which are sold to collectors.

First to be mentioned are the 10, 20 and 30 haleru values of Type V, imperforate. Since all three are rarities it is therefore obvious that here was a lucrative field for counterfeiters. Cases have been reported and are even reported today, where collectors have acquired these items, only to find a simple case of trimmed perforations. The collector who wishes to be absolutely sure as to genuineness will either see to it that the dealer separate his stamp from a block of imperforates or, if his means permit, will buy a pair or a block of four. But here is the rub. There exist almost perfect counterfeits, in imperforate state. To expertize these it is necessary to magnify the stamps to large proportions in order to see the exact details of the design and compare such with the officially perforated ones, which can be acquired cheaply and are known to have never been counterfeited. If this is done the difference will be noted in the shape of the value, the lettering and shading of the design.

Another item which has been counterfeited with the purpose of defrauding the public, is the 25 haleru value of Type I. The reason why this stamp has been faked is a paradox one and probably never will be solved. A genuine copy can be bought for almost nothing and even large sales of the counterfeits could not have been very lucrative for the distributors. The fake was discovered as soon as it made its appearance. Its chief characteristics are the unusually wide margins between the single items and the lettering instead of being white on colored background appears in the reverse. One more instance should be men-

tioned, though it has been touched upon in the section Color. It concerns the 60 haleru value of Type IV. Since only a few sheets were printed in lemon color, these stamps are rarities. However if the common shade, which is orange, is put into the sunlight for a length of time, it will bleach and acquire a lemon shade, though at the same time the general appearance of the stamp will acquire a faded appearance. Therefore if acquiring a mint copy of this stamp, which looks like the lemon shade it is advisable to make twice sure, that the stamp is showing a clear lemon color.

This process of actually exposing entire sheets of certain cheaper denominations to sunlight or submitted to chemical treatment has been made. Mention should be made of the 1 haleru value of Type III, which if exposed to sunlight for a few hours will turn into a slate gray. Such "rarities" can however be spotted instantly by the man who knows which colors were used for the various denominations.

## The End

I owe and express gratitude to the following sources: To Mr. Alfons Mucha for his cooperation in lending his original sketches and design, reproduced with this article (Editor's note: The sketches appeared in the original article) to Messrs. Erwin Hirsch and Jaroslav Franek, from whose monumental work "The Stamps of Czecho-Slovakia" I have drawn upon statistics and mechanical details; to Mr. Frantisek Novotny, Editor of the Filatelisticka Revue, for his help in acquiring certain illustration material.

## Advertising Rates

	One Insertion	Six Insertions	Twelve Insertions
1 Page . . .	\$3.00	\$2.75	\$2.50
½ Page . . .	1.50	1.35	1.25
¼ Page . . .	1.00	.85	.75
⅛ Page . . .	.75	.65	.50
1/16 Page . . .	.50	.40	.30

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.

## CZECHOSLOVAKIA FOR THE SPECIALIST

**MINT** All items offered are in finest condition and mint. Numbers **MINT** in brackets refer to the Scott catalog. All expensive stamps are signed by leading experts. Prices are in United States Dollars and Cents.

### REVOLUTIONARY ISSUES (REVOLUCNI VYDANI)

First Prague Issue (I prazske revolucni vydani) 21 values Complete \$20.00  
Second Prague Issue (II prazske revolucni vydani) 21 values Complete \$20.00  
Mares Issue (Znamky Hlubocke) 42 values Complete \$30.00  
Mares Issue, Inverted Surcharge, (pretisky prevracene) 42 values cpl. \$28.00  
Srobar Issue (Srobarava vydani) 30 values Complete \$35.00  
Skalice issue (Skalice vydani) 14 values Complete \$18.00  
Skout Issue (Skautske znamky) — USED — 2 values Complete .60  
Skout Issue Overprinted "Prijezd presidenta Masaryka" 2 values cpl. \$60.00

### HRADCANY ISSUE

25 h. (5b) Ultramarine \$2.50  
10 h. (43a) Green, imperforate 1.00  
20 h. (45a) Rose, imperforate 5.50  
30 h. (47a) Light Violet, imperf. 8.00  
30 h. (47a) Dark Violet, imperf. 8.50

### PIGEON ISSUE (HOLUBICE)

5h. (82a) Violet, Tete Beche Pair .40  
5h. (82a) Violet, Tete Beche Pair, with gutter .45  
10h. (83a) Olive, Tete Beche Pair .70  
10h. (83a) Olive, Tete Beche Pair, with gutter .80  
20h. (84a) Orange, Tete Beche Pair 3.00  
20h. (84a) Orange, Tete Beche Pair, with gutter 4.50

### FREEDOM ISSUE (Osvobozena Republika)

40h (71a) Brown, Tete Beche Pair .80  
40h (71a) Brown, Tete Beche Pair, with gutter 1.00  
50h (86a) Green, Tete Beche Pair 7.00  
50h (86a) Green, Tete Beche Pair, with gutter 11.00  
60h (73a) Blue, Tete Beche Pair 1.20  
60h (73a) Blue, Tete Beche Pair, with gutter 1.80

### 1923 JUBILEE ISSUE (Jubilijne 1923)

Complete Set (B133-136) All values in watermark position 5 ...\$4.00  
Complete Set (B133-136) All values in watermark position 6 ... 8.00  
Complete Set (B133-136) All values in watermark position 7 ... 4.00  
Complete Set (B133-136) All values in watermark position 8 ... 6.00

The complete collection (4 sets) in all four existing watermark positions 20.00

### 1935 INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC CONGRESS Issue (Olympijsky Kongres)

Complete Set (B137-139) All values in watermark position 5 ...\$8.50  
Complete Set (B137-139) All values in watermark position 6 ...10.50  
Complete Set (B137-139) All values in watermark position 7 ...10.50  
Complete Set (B137-139) All values in watermark position 8 ...21.00

The complete collection (4 sets) in all four existing watermark positions 47.00

### 1926 SOKOL CONGRESS ISSUE (VIII Vsesokolsky Slet)

Complete Set (B140-143) All values in the watermark position 5 .. 10.00  
Complete Set (B140-143) All values in the watermark position 6 .. 22.00  
Complete Set (B140-143) All values in the watermark position 7 .. 10.00  
Complete Set (B140-143) All values in the watermark position 8 .. 22.00

The complete collection (4 sets) in all four existing watermark positions 60.00

I also have the Jubilee 1923 Issue, The Olympic and Sokol Issues used, on cards and letters with Special Cancellations.

Want lists of collectors specializing in Czechoslovakia will be appreciated and filled at reasonable prices.

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

POSTAL MONEY ORDERS must be payable at New York City.

**I. KESSLER** Montreal, Canada 4529 Park Avenue