

# THE CZECHO-SLOVAK SPECIALIST



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

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Editor: Peter Kreischer, 6616 S. Marshfield Ave., Chicago, Ill.

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No. 2

## AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

The following motions were presented before the January meeting in New York and were accepted by approximately 20 members who attended. Being duly seconded by Frank Kovarik, Chairman of the Rules Committee, they are accepted as amendments to the Constitution; Article I, Section 2:

- (1) Dues must be in the hands of the Treasurer not later than February 25th. Members defaulting will be dropped immediately.
- (2) Members who have resigned or have been dropped for non-payment of dues may be reinstated again. They will, however, not receive their original membership number and, in addition to the regular dues, will pay a reinstatement fee of 50 cents.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

With this issue we are beginning to publish the long awaited article, by Mr. Lowey, on the Commemorative Postmarks of Czechoslovakia and their Historical Background. The article was recently published in the American Philatelist and since it will be profusely illustrated should prove to be of great interest and help to the student and collector of this interesting side-line of the stamps of Czechoslovakia.

## DUES ARE PAST DUE

Much has been said about dues being in arrears and elsewhere in this

issue is published an amendment to the constitution setting a definite limit as to when the dues should be paid. Unless the delinquent dues are forthcoming within the next few weeks, this issue of the Specialist will be the last for a number of the members. Send your Dollar direct to Treasurer Greenawalt, 4000 Fifth St., North, Arlington, Va., as quickly as possible, as the new membership list will appear in the March Issue of the Specialist.

## WHO ARE WE???

In order to better acquaint the members of the Society with one another I have had in mind for some time to run a sort of "Who We Are" column in each issue of the Specialist. To make this a success complete cooperation is needed by every member and I ask that each member write to me and tell me a bit about himself, what he collects, how he became interested in stamps and how long he has been collecting, what stamp clubs he is a member or officer of, and any other pertinent information, humorous or otherwise.

I am sure there are many of us who would like to correspond with one another and a brief account of each member should serve as an introduction.

Let's get the ball rolling, don't be bashful, write all you can on two sides of a letter head, I will either publish it as you have written it, if you wish, or I can edit it, as long as all the facts are presented.

Who will be the first?

Ye Editor

**TREASURER'S SUMMARY FOR  
THE YEAR 1940**

January 1940 to December 1940.

**Receipts:**

60 membership Dues .....	\$106.00
Miscellaneous .....	1.80
Advertising (approx 12 pages) .....	47.69
(This includes \$8.50 for advertising in 1939 issues but does not include approximately \$3.00 not yet collected for ads in 1940 issues.)	
Total for 1940 .....	\$155.49
Total incl. balance from 1939 .....	\$167.65

**Expenditures:**

Expenses of Secretary .....	\$24.98
Expenses of Treasurer .....	2.00
Expenses of Editor .....	16.33
Printing;	
9 issues of Specialist .....	\$72.35
3 issues at 4 pages	
4 issues at 6 pages	
2 issues at 8 pages	
Engraving .....	\$5.42
Total .....	\$121.08
Balance for 1940 .....	\$34.41
Net Balance .....	46.57

**NEW ISSUES**

Several new values in pictorial design have appeared, they are, a 5 Kr., with a view of Beching (Bechyne); 10 Kr., with a view of Prague; 20 Kr., with a view of Prague, same design as Scott's A 9 but in a different shade.

Two new values also have appeared as additions to the 1939 Postage Dues series, they are an 80 h, red and a 1 Kr 20 h, blue.

**IN MEMORIAM**

It is with sincere regret that we print the news of the death of one of our members, Mr. Joseph Janacek of Tacoma, Wash., he was 84 years old and had been collecting actively up to the time of his death. That he was a sincere Philatelist is borne out by the fact in January of 1939 he received a gold cup presented by the Mayor of Tacoma for his Exhibit in the National Stamp congress held in that city.

**SALES AND EXCHANGE DEPT.**

Circuit No. 2 went on the road February 5th. It will take a different route than Circuit No. 1 and it will also be possible that some members will receive No. 2 before they have had No. 1. So don't think No. 1 missed you, it will come yet.

We have up to now 20 members participating, this is more than I expected at first. In order to speed up the circuits I will have to form different groups in which they will circulate.

Anyone making up new books can also include Hungary, Australasia and Sudeten cancellations.

Wolfgang Fritzsche  
P. O. Box #175  
Valley Stream, L. I. N. Y.

**NEW MEMBERS**

- #75—Mark G. Snow, 773 Union Commerce Bldg., Cleveland, Ohio
- #76—L. E. Krivohlavy, Plainfield, Iowa
- #77—J. Leo Chapman, 321 Greydon Drive, West Palm Beach, Fla.
- #78—Arthur H. Moser, 652 Bellevue St., Knoxville, Tenn.
- #79—Joseph H. Trengrove, 78 E. Central Ave., Wharton, N. J.
- #80—Emery A. Bauer, 32 Menand Road, Albany, N. Y.
- #81—Dr. Oscar Gregor, 233 W. 83rd St., New York, N. Y.
- #82—O. M. Tishlarich, 230 W. River-view Ave., Bellevue, Pittsburgh, Pa.

**LIBRARY**

**NEW ADDITIONS**

- 4 c Cross catalogue of Czechoslovakian Stamps. English text, 1937 Edition.
- 18 a Czechoslovakia Counterfeits by F. S. Poteet
- 19 a Czechoslovakia Tabs and Gutter by Frances W. Beedon
- 20 a Czechoslovak Issue of Stamps Magazine, Issue of December 7, 1940.
- 21 a Czechoslovakia, Commemorative Postmarks and their Historical Background, by J. W. Lowey.

Members are urged to make use of these new additions to the Library.

M. Glawe, Librarian

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

President: Dr. Wm. Reiner-Deutsch, 41-31 77 St., Jackson Hgts., L.I. N.Y.  
Secretary: J. W. Lowey, 201 Marcy Pl., New York, N. Y.  
Treasurer: Guy Greenawalt, 4000 Fifth St., North., Arlington, Va.  
Editor: Peter Kreischer, 6616 S. Marshfield Ave., Chicago, Illinois.  
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## COMMEMORATIVE POSTMARKS OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND THEIR HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

by J. W. Lowey, A.P.S. 15442

"O, Homeland mine, O, Homeland mine,  
Streams are rushing through the meadows;  
'Mid thy rocks sigh fragrant pine groves.  
Orchards 'decked in Spring's array,  
Scenes of Paradise portray.  
And this land of wondrous beauty,  
Is the Czech land, Homeland mine,  
Is the Czech land, Homeland mine."  
(Czech National Anthem)

Many countries, especially those of Europe, have for many years applied commemorative cancellations to mails. Some have made a real art of it and we do not hesitate to put Czechoslovakia\* into this class.

During the years of its Independence from 1918 to 1938 the country made prodigious use of its past and present history by incorporating legends, mottoes and illustrations into its postal cancellations. These vary in size, shape and color. In several instances postmarks are bicolored or even multi-colored.

We do not know which country can claim to have introduced the use of commemorative postmarks. Fact is however, that as early as 1918 a well known Czech philatelist approached the postal authorities suggesting a change in the rather monotonous schedule of plain postmarks and advocating the use of special ones whenever an event would call for such a procedure.

The Postmaster General was favorably impressed with the idea. He not only foresaw increased revenue for the Government, since this would encourage the collecting of these postmarks, but he also considered the idea from the ethical standpoint. Commemorative cancellations, it seemed to him, would be a graphic illustration of past and present national events and thereby a constant reminder and teacher of the history of the country not only to adult but especially to Junior collectors.

\* Up to the seizure of the country in 1938 the name Czechoslovakia appeared on its stamps and postmarks unhyphenated. Since this article deals with the postmarks of that period the name also is spelled in that manner. (After 1938 the country's name was spelled Czecho-Slovakia.—Author.)



Postmaster General Alois Tucny

During the term of Postmaster General Alois Tucny, who himself was an active stamp collector, the application of commemorative postmarks achieved a level of quality and quantity which is remarkable. In 1934 he created within the Postal Department a special office. Here artists and historians drew and composed illustrations and classical mottoes which were to be incorporated into commemorative cancellations.

An original idea of this staff are the Commemorative Sheets (not to be confused with so-called Favor Sheets). Printed at very special events, such as the issuance of a new presidential stamp or the annual set of charity stamps, at the Government Printing Plant, these usually showed an illustration or ornaments and inscriptions. Space was provided to affix a stamp or stamps which then were cancelled with the postmark commemorating the event to which the sheet was dedicated (Figure 18).

The issuance of these sheets was previously announced in the Bulletin of the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs. Philatelic magazines likewise reprinted these announcements, whereby collectors were given a chance to acquire the sheets for a nominal fee. It should be said that not every interested collector was able to secure one, due to the sometimes limited issue. However, sale was accomplished in a democratic manner whereby the rule "First come, first served" was applied.

After having bought the blank sheet the purchaser stepped to a window of the Philatelic agency in the same building and purchased the stamp or stamps which he then affixed to the sheet. Having done this he stepped into the cancellation department and had the stamps cleanly obliterated either by hand or machine.

Most of the commemorative stamps issued in Czechoslovakia, similar to United States First Day Covers, are cancelled in the community of origin, the difference being that the cancellations contain the inscription commemorating the event, which is missing on United States First Day Covers. Sometimes the cancellation is continued for several more days. The first day postmark, however, is the rarer one.

#### MASARYK'S BIRTHDAY COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE

by Peter Kreisler

On March 7, 1935 a set of four stamps were issued to commemorate the 85th birthday of the first President of the Czechoslovak Republic. The stamps, printed in both the large and small format, bear a portrait of President Masaryk and according to the Postal Bulletin (C 12.324/VII February 20, 1935) the following data is given.

The denominations, color and quantities issued are as follows:

50 h green on yellow . . . .	20,670,000
1 k carmine on yellow . . . .	20,170,000
2 k blue on yellow . . . . .	2,520,000
3 k brown on yellow . . . .	1,795,000

The stamps were printed from engraved plates on the rotary press, on an unwatermarked yellow paper, in sheets in 100 subjects. For technical reasons the two higher values are arranged differently in that the top row of each value consists of 16 stamps and the next 6 rows only 14 stamps, a blank label adjoining each row to the left and right hands.

The format is an upright rectangle. The printed area of the 50 h and 1 kc stamps measures 17 x 23 mm. while the 2 kc and 3 kc measure 23 x 30 3/4 mm. All stamps were perforated 9 3/4.

Two photographs were used in designing this issue. The photograph on the two lower values represents the President as Commander-in-Chief of the Czechoslovak Army while on the higher values he is shown in civilian clothes. Design and engraving by Bohumil Heinz.

The vignette is an oval, lightly shaded, with a laurel wreath ornamenting the lower part. The top of the stamp, on a colored background, bears the inscription "CESKOSLOVENSKA" in uncolored capitals and below it the Commemorative dates appear, "1850" to the left and "1935" to the right. In the lower corners are shields containing the value and between these, on a white ribbon, is a reproduction of the signature of the President.

Plate numbers for the two lower values are 1 and 1 A. The two higher values also bear the numbers 1 and 1 A which, with the date 7. III. 1935, appear on both sides of the sheet instead of the bottom. As described above the sheets of the two higher values appeared with blank labels at each side, however the blank label of the last row contained the Plate number and the date.

Special cancellations were authorized and used March 7 at Hodonin, birthplace of the President, at Louny, his country seat and Praha Hrad 10, postal station in the Capitol. The first two cancellations were in red, the latter in gold. In many other offices the regular cancelling devices were used but the color was red instead of the customary black.

## WE BUY CZECHOSLOVAKIA

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sets, singles.

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