

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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APRIL 1941

No. 4

PROGRAM
of the
THIRD ANNUAL CONVENTION and BANQUET
of the
CZECHO SLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

May 17, 1941
Bohemian National Hall
321 East 73rd Street, New York

Banquet-Dinner 7 to 9 P. M. — In Hall No. 1 on the ground floor.
Convention Session and Auction In Room No. 6 on the first floor.

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY

After several weeks of intense preparation the committee in charge of the affair has finally arranged a program which undoubtedly will satisfy those who will attend the affair.

Just as in 1939 members will gather in the same place though the program this year is much enlarged. It is planned that the members, their friends and guests have dinner together at 7:00 P. M.

There should be no need to emphasize the excellent cuisine of the Bohemian National Hall to those who are acquainted with it. It is to those who have never stopped there before that this point is mentioned. The prices are moderate and within reach of everyone. The Management will reserve a sufficient amount of tables for us and in order to accommodate those who might be professionally prevented to appear on time for dinner,

dinner will be served from 7 P. M. to 9 P. M.

Mention should be made that participation at the dinner is not compulsory. Those who wish to eat elsewhere may do so but should be on hand when the business session begins at 9 P. M.

No speeches or toasts will be made during the banquet unless some of the prominent philatelists who are invited make such a request.

During the last meeting of the New York Chapter member Horechny suggested that arrangements be made to hold a donation auction after termination of the Convention proceedings and the plan was accepted. Several members already have donated material and of course additional material is welcome. May we appeal to you for help? If you have any duplicates or material to contribute, your generosity will be greatly appreciated. This does not pertain to stamps of Czechoslovakia alone but stamps or philatelic

material of any country is welcome. Mail your gifts to either Mr. L. M. Horechny, of 85 Valley Street, Newark, N. J., or Mr. Lowey. The auction will be conducted by Mr. Horechny, who is an excellent amateur-auctioneer, and able assistance will be offered by Mr. Lowey. In making your contribution please do not hesitate to send it in immediately as the lots must be prepared in advance of the sale. All proceeds from the sale will go into our treasury and a list of the donors and the prices realized will be published in the next issue of the Specialist.

In conjunction with the Convention we are issuing a souvenir sheet which will not only be striking in appearance but novel as well. Of medium size and printed in three colors on glossy paper each sheet will have one stamp of various early issues of Czechoslovakia affixed and will be cancelled with a rubber facsimile of a postmark denoting the event. The stamps used on these sheets have been donated by several New York members. The price of the sheet will be 15 cents each plus postage and can be obtained from the Secretary. Approximately 500 of the sheets will be printed and the proceeds derived from their sale will also go into the treasury. Unsold sheets will be turned over to our dealer members for further sale. Since they, of course, are entitled to a profit it is advisable to order one now.

The Secretary would appreciate receipt of a postal card from both New York and out of town members who intend to participate at the convention and especially from those who intend to have supper at the Hall. This will make arrangements much easier.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN THE AUTOPOST OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA?

If you are, then you will find the article on this phase of collecting Czechoslovakia very interesting. This issue of the Specialist contains an article on the Autopost which was written by a Mr. Norman Hill of England. Although Mr. Hill is not a member of our Society, he volunteered information on the Autopost of Czechoslovakia and hopes that it will interest many of our members. Mr. Hill is in the need of several for his collection and hopes that some member may have the particular items for

sale or trade. A glance at the check list in the text will show the items he needs.

Mr. Hill's address may be had by writing either the Secretary of your Editor.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S STAMP ARTISTS

One of Czechoslovakia's best known artists is Max Svabinsky. Born in 1873 at Kromeriz, in Moravia. His chief works are oil paintings and drawings, and served as Director of the Prague Academy of Arts. He has exhibited in Vienna, Berlin, Paris, Rome, London, America and many other countries. Has won Gold Medals in St. Louis, 1904 and Munich, 1905.

On the occasion of President Masaryk's 70th, in March 1920, two high value stamps were introduced, the 500 heller and 1000 h which bears a portrait of the President painted by M. Svabinsky.

Later portraits of the President, all from Svabinsky's originals appear on the stamps of 1923, 1925, 1927 and show him facing right, until the jubilee issue of 1928, where the President is facing left.

(To be continued)

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Czecho-Slovak "AUTOPOSTA"

(Automobile Post Office Service)

by Norman Hill

Note: The following article contains original research. Though not a collector of Czechoslovak stamp the author specializes in Autopost cancellations of all countries. Mr. Hill would be glad to hear from members possessing any on the postmarks marked with an asterisk (*) in list. He has not seen these. He has several duplicates, preferably for exchange. Those interested please write to him at: "Netherleigh," Old Wortley Rd., Roth-erham, Yorkshire, England.



Fig. 1
Normal handstamp
34½ mm.

In October 1934 the French Postal Authorities introduced into Europe the first of a series of "Post Offices on Wheels," an innovation which was soon rapidly to spread to many parts of the world. These Automobile Post Offices were provided in order to cater for increased postal and telegraphic facilities at festivals, sports meetings, shows, race meetings, etc., where local post offices would be likely to be temporarily overburdened by the additional pressure.

The Automobile Post Office was introduced into Czecho-Slovakia on the occasion of the Motor Show at Prague, from October 16th to 24th, 1937. Apart from its novelty it was an immediate and lasting success from the purely utilitarian aspect, and further such offices were in contemplation when Germany proclaimed the Protectorate on March 15th, 1939. Whether these additional Post Offices were commissioned, I do not know. Perhaps some readers can say?

The Postal Authorities provided a

special handstamp for cancelling mail posted at the Autoposta and sold two postcards bearing imprinted 50 haleru stamps of President Masaryk and different views of the Autoposta. In addition a colored pamphlet was distributed, giving details of the service available through the Autoposta. The first edition of this pamphlet was produced on October 16th, 1937, and an amended second edition in March 1938.

The postmark was applied in orange ink. Shades of ink vary from lemon orange to near vermilion, such shades being only accidental. At each place of call the name of the community was shown in the postmark. This handstamp consisted of two pieces, a fixed centre depicting the Autoposta and a changeable outer ring to give the local denomination. Eight cancellations (with index letters "a" to "h") were supplied to the Autoposta, but only in the larger cities were all index letters in use. The minimum use was from "a" to "d".

Slight variations in the size of the ward Autoposta occur as between the eight available handstamps.

The complete list of engagements of the Autoposta prior to the establishment of the Protectorate is as follows:

1937

- Oct. 16-24, Motor Show, Prague
- Oct. 26, Pardubice
- Oct. 27-28, Brno (Brunn)
- Oct. 30-Nov. 2, Philatelic Exhibition, Bratislava
- *Nov. 21, Prague
- Dec. 4-5, Kutna Hora

1938

- Feb. 3-5, Jilemnice
- Feb. 11-20, Hockey Championship, Prague
- *Feb. 26-27, Prague
- Mar. 6, Prague
- Mar. 10, Hradec Kralove
- Mar. 11-13, Olomouc
- *Mar. 16-20, Sample Fair, Prague
- Apr. 2-4 Usti (Aussig)
- *Apr. 24, Prague
- *Apr. 30-May 1, Zlin
- *May 2, Brno (Brunn)
- *May 21-22, Crveny Kostelec
- *May 22-29, Agricultural Exhibition, Prague

June 5-July 6, Prague, Sokol Meeting and "Praga" International Philatelic Exhibition.

- *July 9, Ceske Budejovice
- *July 10, Borovany-Trocnov
- July 16-17, Plzen (Pilsen)
- July 18, Kosice (Kassa)
- *July 30-31, Nachod, Regional Exhibition
- Aug. 13-20, Sample Fair, Liberec (Reichenberg)
- *Aug. 28, Hronov
- Sept. 3-4, Brno (Brunn)
- *Sept. 4, Kolin
- Sept. 5, Brno (Brunn)
- *Sept. 6-10, Prague, Sample Fair
- Sept. 11, Stara Boleslav

1939

- Jan. 18, Bratislava, Opening of Slovak Parliament
- Mar. 12, Prague, Sample Fair

After the establishment of the Protectorate, only two mailings with the normal handstamp of the Autoposta reached me, namely:

1939

- May 13-21, Prague, Agricultural Exhibition
- June 3, Plzen (Pilsen)

NEW MEMBER

We are happy to present Mr. John L. Havers, #85, 8 Horns Row, Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

Welcome Mr. Havers.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Members will please note that the address of our treasurer, Mr. Greenawalt has been changed to:

3116 Circle Hill Road,
Alexandria, Virginia.

The address of Mr. George N. Pearce has been changed to:

Box 3035, St. Petersburg, Florida.

Through an oversight the name of Mr. Kessler was omitted from the membership listing. Please add to the list:

#47—Mr. Arthur I. Kessler,
551 Fifth Ave., New York, N. Y.

Members are asked to note the change in name and address.

Bargains in Czechoslovakian Stamps

All stamps MINT unless otherwise Stated!

All numbers Scotts

106	\$.40
110 .....	.30
119 .....	.50
119-122 used .....	.75
131-134 .....	.70
137-140	3.00
142-151	1.65
152-157 .....	.32
159-163	1.65
164 .....	.20
175-178	2.45
183 used .....	.25
194 .....	.12
195-197 .....	.45
195-198 used .....	.14
200-201 .....	.38
202-205 .....	.75
202-205 used .....	.12
206-207 .....	.35
208-210 .....	.18
209-211 used .....	.14
213-214 .....	.12
215-217 .....	.10
218-226	1.25
228-229 .....	.15
230-231 used .....	.12
232-233 .....	.12
234-235 .....	.16
236-238 .....	.20
240 .....	.07
241-242 .....	.12
243-245 .....	.12
253-254 .....	.18

Semi-Postal Stamps

B144-146 .....	.35
B147-149 .....	.32
B150-151 .....	.13
B150-151 used .....	.12
B152 .....	.50
B15350

Air Mail Stamps

C10-17	1.45
C10-17 used	1.20

Special Delivery Stamps

E1-323
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Postage Due Stamps

P17-2514
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Bohemia-Moravia

20-2735
P1-1015

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COMMEMORATIVE POSTMARKS OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND THEIR HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

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

Continued from last issue.

Figure 8.

Applied at Karlovy Vary. Color: Black. Czech-Hebrew legend:

Translation: 12th Zionist Congress.

Figure 9.

Applied at Prague. Color: Black.

Czech-Hebrew legend: "IV. Svetovy Sjezd Unie Sionistu Revisionistu"

Translation: 4th World's Congress of the Union of Zionist Revisionists.

Figure 10.

Applied at Prague. Color: Black.

Czech-Hebrew legend:

Translation: 18th Zionist Congress.

Figure 11.

Applied at Mariánské Lázně (Marienbad). Color: Green.

Legend: (Czech-Hebrew) "III Svetovy Kongres 'Agudas Jisroel'"

Translation: Third World Congress of 'Agudas Jisroel'.

Jan Zizka z Trocnova

On June 30th, 1924, Czechoslovakia commemorated the 500th Death Anniversary of one of its greatest warriors, John Zizka of Trocnov (Fig. 13). In order to know his significance we have to mention other contemporary figures who were instrumental in his struggle against intolerance. In 1403 the Englishman Wycliffe had been a teacher of theology at the University of Prague. Having fallen into disgrace with his superiors due to teachings of Catholic reform he was ousted and succeeded by Jan Z Husinec, known to history as John Hus. A searcher himself, he took up the defense of Wycliffe and continued his teachings of reform. It should be added that he not only was a great philosopher but a genius as well in other endeavors. Like Leonardo da Vinci he spent part of his time with the construction of mechanical devices some of whose models in later centuries were perfected for practical use. He

also gave to the Czechs the first dictionary of their language, which has never been changed up to this day.

In consequence of continuing to embarrass his papal superiors at Avignon, then seat of the Popes, due to his reformatory teachings, he was ordered to appear before a papal council. Refusing at first, he finally consented, being persuaded by Emperor Sigismund, who promised him protection. Such, however, never materialized; on the contrary. At the succeeding trial held at Constance, in which Emperor Sigismund personally appeared as prosecutor, Hus was pronounced by the Council a heretic and sentenced to be immediately burned at the stake.

As soon as his martyr death became known in Bohemia the nation revolted against the Catholic Church and the Emperor. Jan Zizka became the leader of this uprising, forming a tremendous army of followers which he equipped. His legions, known as "God's Warriors" he led against the armies of Emperor Sigismund, marching from victory to victory, finally forcing the Papal authorities and the Emperor to recognize Hus' reforms for the Kingdom of Bohemia.

In 1921 the postal authorities prepared the issuance of a set of two stamps, each showing the portrait of Hus and Zizka. Essays had been printed of Scott 74, which in that catalogue is named a "Calixtine Hussite" but is in reality the portrait of Hus himself as a young priest, painted by Alfons Mucha. The Essay of Zizka (Figure 13) for some unknown reason was not approved and in consequence the stamps were never issued.

Figure 12.

Applied at Trocnov. Color: Rose carmine.

Figure 13.

Zizka Essay.

To be continued

Officers of the Czecho-Slovak Philatelic Society of North America

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Treasurer: Guy Greenawalt, 3116 Circle Hill Road, Alexandria, Virginia

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17



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19

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