

THE CZECHO-SLOVAK SPECIALIST



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

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Vol. 4

February, 1942

No. 2

EDITORIAL

About three years ago, shortly after our society had been founded, the few members of the New York chapter held their first meeting. Among the various topics, the possible growth of the organization was also discussed. The writer was very enthusiastic as to the future. However, I was cut short by a member who has been my personal friend for many years. He said: "Joe, if we ever reach a membership roster of 50 I will be satisfied, and I believe that also your "dream" will thereby have been realized." I distinctly remember my answer, which was: "Oh no.—my dream is more beautiful,—I vision a membership roster of one hundred, possibly more." Looking around I noticed faint smiles on some of the faces surrounding me. In the tobacco haze hovering about the table these smiles became distorted and seemed to me manifestations of mockery, pity and incredulity. They were the kind of smiles one sees when a story teller spins his yarn about the proverbial size of the fish he has caught and is astonished to be rewarded only by the stony stares showing the synical benevolence of his audience.

Vividly do I recollect this evening, some three years ago. Three years which encompass more stupendous and terrifying drama than all the span of time in human history preceeding it. And while I hammer away with clumsy fingers at my innocent typewriter, trying to blabber philatelic history within the world drama which now engulfs us I feel the warmth of embers on my back, which

were put into the fire place by a thoughtful secretary in order that my frail carcass might withstand the zero blasts which this cold winter night is throwing against my window making it rattle. For a moment my thoughts wander away, far away to the battlefields of Russia. My vision beholds the spectacle of columns of freezing and dying Nazi soldiers. Do I feel any sorrow or pity for them? Hardly! On the contrary, I feel the more that die the sooner again we will receive stamps printed by a liberated Czechoslovak government.

Do I get heartless under the impact of events to say these words,—and how did all this long forgotten softness and melancholy of bygone student days suddenly take hold of me? No, I haven't had a drink today! Then, where am I? What do I want to say with all this twisting of high falooting phrases anyway? Oh yes, I got it! I once had a dream about a society of one hundred members, and that dream seems to have come true. Congratulations, Mr. Lowey, and let me shake your own hands!

But to get back to earth and be serious. A few days ago I sent our latest member his card (to be exact her card, because the member is a lady) and that little buff card shows the number ...100!!! I can see the face of my old friend Kovarik out there in the "Windy City," holding this Specialist in his well manicured fingers and rejoice because there is a new member in his flock. Well, congrats, Frank, Chicago is our first milestone. Onward, Christian Soldiers...

Unfortunately, there is an anti-

climax. The pill is only partly pure sugar. It also contains some saccharine. Here is what I mean. Though we have passed the "100" we are not actually one hundred members because, unfortunately, we have lost a few during the past year. However, indications are that in the near future, we will nevertheless reach and pass the figure.

I have a preliminary report from our treasurer, which shows that membership dues are coming in at a steady pace. Still, more gratifying is the event that several members have entered the associate group. Viva La Sociedad!

To those who might have overlooked the reminder in the January issue, may I again ask you to send your dues in before the end of this month. Or, better still, write out your check now lest you forget again and mail it to our treasurer.

J. W. Lowey.

For reasons explained in the editorial, we welcome with special elation our new member
No. 100—Miss Marie P. Craig, 2242 So. Kedzie Ave., Chicago, Ill.

NEW YORK CHAPTER

Though the attendance at the meetings is the best that can be expected a discussion arose at the last "get together" on January 7th as to how to make it possible for members living in Long Island and New Jersey to attend. A suggestion was made that we try to find a locale which is more favorably situated and within easier reach for all. After a short discussion, Alfons Stach, suddenly arose in all his magnificence and offered us the use of his large auction room. Needless to say that the proposition was instantly accepted. In consequence, all our future meetings will be held there. The next one will take place on Monday, February 2nd. The address is 99

Nassau St., first floor.

Since the place can easily be reached by all Subway, Elevated and Surface lines it is expected that some of those who up to now have persistently stayed away will now regularly attend meetings. At the first "get together" in our new "home" the secretary will show his collection "Military History of Czechoslovakia (Bohemia) Depicted Through It's Postal Issues at Home and Abroad." The collection has been enlarged lately by additions consisting of cards, covers and souvenir sheets of the Czechoslovak Army in England.

CRUCIFIXION POSTMARK

We are on the spot. You will remember the Crucifixion Postmark which was illustrated and described in one of our last issues. Some time ago we received a letter from a Dealer in London who writes as follows: "The illustrated postmark is a portion only of a special machine applied illustrated postmark, details of which will be clear to you from the enclosed envelope..." The entire cancellation measures 6½ inches and shows from left to right: First the Crucifixion Scene, next is the circular postmark of Prague, followed by a somewhat larger figure of Saint Mary with the Hold Christ and next to it the inscription "Navstivte Vystavu Stare Umeni Na Slovensku" (Visit the Exposition of Antique Art of Slovakia). The date of the Postmark is July 15th, 1937.

The latest commemorative postmark of the Czechoslovak Army in England has been received. Same was applied on October 28th, 1941. Its color is rose-carmine. Of circular design, it has the inscription Czechoslovak Fieldpost. The middle is being cut in half by a sword also showing on its sides the date 28.X.1918-1941 and, in addition, small linden

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leaves. Also a commemorative folder was issued whose four sides are printed upon and illustrated. The front cover shows a group of Czechoslovak soldiers in the attire of the Legions of 1917-1918 which fought in France, Italy and Russia. Below the inscription "For Liberty." On the left inside leaf is the facsimile of a proclamation to the army which reads: "Hundreds of Thousands of Czechoslovak soldiers and its Allied Armies will grasp hands on the new victorious 28th of October which will be the Day of our final liberation and which will guarantee our Independence for all times. Signed: "Dr. Edward Benes." The opposite side has the Bachmac, Vouziers and Doss Alto stamps affixed and canceled with above postmark. On the reverse side is the following statement: "1111 copies issued by the Czechoslovak Military Records Department, somewhere in England, to commemorate the National Anniversary of Liberation, October 28th, 1941. Illustrated by B. B. The number of this copy is 567".

SALES & EXCHANGE DEPARTMENT

This department passed its first year of existence and has done very well so far. During the past year, 1941, there were sent in circulation twelve circuits containing a total of 118 booklets with an original value of \$901.62. Eight of those circuits have made the rounds and have been retired from circulation. The sales from those eight total \$230.10, which is 40.35% of the original value. Several booklets sold out completely, while others were too high. From those eight circuits the Society received \$11.53 in commissions. Twenty-three of our members take part in those sales and exchange activities. Three sell only, eight buy only, while the remaining twelve exchange (buy and sell).

And now some reminders:—Do not keep the circuits too long, always remember that there are others waiting for the books too. This is the only and most neglected rule. So please make a resolution for 1942 to speed up the circuits.

If someone should at one time or another not find anything to take from the books, drop me a penny postal card and inform me that you

have had the circuit but have not taken anything. This way I am always informed where the books are and how much has been taken out.

Last fall I sent out a call to prepare booklets for circulation during the winter months. If you have some more duplicates please mount them in booklets and send them in. There is always need for exchange material. Should you not have any booklets, write me, I can supply them at 2c each plus postage. Get busy now and give us your duplicates.

The "Trading with the enemy act" only forbids the sale of enemy stamps and stamps originating from enemy occupied countries which were issued after December 7, 1941. This means the Czechoslovak issues can be handled. As a matter of fact, anything which has been up for sale so far still can be sold and exchanged.

One of our members has a very large stock of nineteenth century stamps which he will put in circulation with our sales and exchange department. If you have not done so yet, please let me know what countries you want to have. They all are beautiful classics and the prices are very moderate. They are old South American, old German and Italian States, etc.

Has anyone miniature sheets, covers and entires for sale? Let me know what you have and I will put it in our circuits in special bags.

Is there any old or new member who wishes to participate in our exchanges? Please write to me for details and the rules.

Happy New Year.

Your Exchange Manager,
Wolfgang Fritzsche,
P. O. B. #175,
Valley Stream, L. I., N. Y.

The April issue of the Specialist will contain a revised membership list.

MEMBERS ADLET

FOR SALE—Upper strip from 1 K, and lower strip from 2K. music sheets with full borders, border on lower strip slightly damaged. Best offer takes. George F. Smyth, 129 Church Street, New Haven, Conn.

POSTAL ODDITIES

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