

# THE CZECHO-SLOVAK SPECIALIST



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

Copyright 1942, The Czecho-Slovak Philatelic Society of North America  
Editor Frank Kovarik, 2502 So. Kedzie Ave., Chicago, Ill.

Vol. 4

May, 1942

No. 5

## EDITORIAL

We have been guilty of crashing the gates of the Fourth Estate before; but the paper we edited went to every one of the twelve members of the club sponsoring the paper, one subscriber and a friend. Fourteen people received it; as far as we know, two read it (the editor and the publisher). We were personally acquainted with every recipient of the paper and when we lacked philatelic material, a few wise cracks about the members would fill the space nicely. Yes, it was like a damaged stamp in the empty album space—but it filled the space.

Then came the Crash! Could Chicago give us another Kreisler? The letter came just in time for our meeting—and it did our old heart good to listen to offers of help from the members. One of the members, whose holdings of Czechoslovak stamp material is perhaps the largest in the world offered us his collection for checking, verifying and classifying manuscripts sent us; another who has philatelic magazines published in Czechoslovakia from about 1918 to date, catalogs and pamphlets of by-gone days offered us the use of his library; knowing we are but a mediocre typist, another member promised

to type our material for the publisher; all promised to help according to their means. It was difficult to refuse the editorship under these conditions; so dear members, you have us—you may not always be satisfied with the fruit of our labor, you may sometimes accuse us (perhaps rightly) of negligence, but please remember! We are human, even if we don the crown of editor (yes, it looks like a dunce cap).

Frank J. Kovarik.

## NEW MEMBERS

We are glad to report another new member.

#103—Lt. Luther L. L. Dilley, U.S.M.  
Box 103, Navy Yard, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

We are also happy to announce the reinstatement of:

# 66—C. H. Osbourn, 60 McLaughlin Blvd., Oshawa, Ont., Canada.

## OUR CREED

Every member likes to get his paper on time and we have decided to adopt a policy whereby material for publication should be in our hands by the 15th of the month if it is to appear in the next issue.

Don't forget this is your paper. If you want changes and these changes

## 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., Bronx, N. Y.  
Treasurer: Guy Greenawalt, 3116 Circle Hill Road, Alexandria, Virginia  
Editor: Frank Kovarik, 2502 S. Kedzie Ave., Chicago, Ill.  
Librarian: Mrs. M. Glawe, 9640 S. Seeley Ave., Chicago, Illinois.  
Sales and Exchange Mgr.: Wolfgang Fritzsche, P. O. Box 175, Valley Stream, L. I. N. Y.

would not affect the treasury, suggest them and we shall do what we can to put them through. If they don't work out as was expected—we can always go back to the old system.

Perhaps you have written an article on Czechoslovak stamps. That manuscript may be in your desk drawer. Don't fear to send it in—we certainly want and need the full cooperation of every member. We may take liberties with your article—but that is a privilege every editor demands.

To give you a bigger and better publication is our aim. An income of approximately 75 dollars a year to the Society cannot give you much more than you are getting. If you know of any one interested in the stamps of Czechoslovakia, try to enroll him (or her) into the Society. If you can get us an ad, then by all means do so; that helps the treasury and takes the worry from our guardian of funds, Guy Greenawalt. All requests for information relative to ads will be gladly supplied by Guy.

In our next issue we plan to present to our members an article on the "Sudeten Surcharges and Overprints" by our secretary, J. W. Lowey. The article originally appeared in "Stamps" and Mr. Lindquist kindly consented to the reprinting of this article in our Specialist.

We would like to institute a regular department in our publication to which members may submit questions dealing with all phases of Czechoslovak philately. Do not expect a reply immediately—your answer may come via this paper so every member could take advantage of the knowledge thus presented. And please! do not ask us the value of stamps in your possession; we are not in the business.

This issue is sent by first class mail because we want 1., to check up on addresses, and 2., we are mailing membership cards to those who have not as yet received them. If any members failed to receive any of this year's issues of the Specialist, we are in a position to supply the missing numbers.

### Advertising Rates

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.

## THE HRADCANY ISSUES

by Frank Kovarik

(Continued from last issue)

### Proofs and Printers Waste

Without a doubt there is no collection of stamps of any other country where color trials, proofs, printers waste and such material can be had as readily as on the Hradcany and on the following issue (Allegory). There is a reason for this. The collectors of the new country were anxious to show stamps of their own land, a philatelic impossibility as this was the first issue (not including special delivery, newspaper and postage due stamps). Among the higher officials of the Post Office Department in Prague was a well known student of stamps, Mr. Lesaticky. Through his efforts all the junk of the Printing Works was given to the Czech Philatelists Club and the collectors filled their volumes with actual waste, proofs of various papers, proofs in various colors including black, die proofs, reproduction of artists designs, etc, etc. They tried to use it in exchange with collectors outside their own country, but alas, too many of these shied the material and today we are actually paying money for material we could have had gratis. Yet, there is wisdom in collecting this waste—we have thereby learned how the stamps were printed. A tete beche of one value appears only in printers waste; not likely found and corrected, thus saving us money trying to buy it. It was this printers waste that prompted Mr. Novotny's article on the gutter between stamps. In my collection is a strip of this printers waste showing conclusively that the 10h was printed with the 5h and that the 3h was printed with the 2h newspaper stamps. Even if the actual stamps showing these combinations are not found, this printers waste gives the clue on how these stamps were printed.

Of color trials there are many and today they are more or less hard to get. A check list of these perhaps will be compiled at a later date so that specialists should know what to seek.

While on this subject it is proper to note "Specimen" stamps which were sent to the Universal Postal Union in Bern, Switzerland. In Czech the word Specimen is "Vzorec"; this overprint was stereotyped on all Hradcany stamps except the 30h red violet

and the 25h ultramarine. All stamps so overprinted which were not sent to Bern were then turned over to the Philatelists Club.

#### Printing

Those of us who come in daily contact with stamps of the United States and know how they are produced, find it rather difficult to understand how the the Hradcany adhesives were printed. A rather vague idea is given in the fine work on Czech stamps by Hirsch and Franek. Plates of the first and third drawings were prepared by taking the central design minus the value in the oval, then the figure of the value was inserted. The design was photographed and brought down to the actual size of the stamp. A strip of ten stamps was then reproduced by photographic process, ten of these strips put together and again photographed to make 100 subjects. From this negative the plate was prepared by etching on zinc plates.

The 30h of the 4th drawing was prepared in this manner known as the galvanic process. This can be readily seen in vertical strips because the distance between these strips is not uniform.

On the 200h a tete beche copy is known on a vertical strip of four used on a parcel on May 13, 1919. Undoubtedly this error was soon found and corrected.

On the 100h a tete beche is known but only on printers waste. This too, must have been detected and corrected.

Control marks appear on the bottom of each sheet, however, one plate each of the 200 and 500h denominations was printed without these control marks.

#### Perforations

While this article deals with only the imperforate issues we know from a perusal of the Scott Catalogue that three values are rather scarce in imperforate condition. These are the 10h green, 20h rose and 30h red violet (Nos. 43, 45 and 47).

These stamps were issued when the government was perforating all its stamps and these left the printing establishment by mistake in imperforate state. The 10h value was reported to have been found at Brno, Opava and Kosice; the 20h at Brno and Opava and the 30h in Jansky Lazne. Of the three the 30h value is the most scarce. If we look at a block

of four of any of these issues we see that the distance between stamps was very great and therefore care should be exercised in purchasing these stamps. If they haven't side walk margins then it is, most likely, a case of clipped perforations. These can be quite readily recognized. The worst part is that all three stamps have also been counterfeited and it is rather difficult for the layman to recognize them. An expert should have little trouble separating the chaff from the wheat; by taking a cheap perforated stamp and comparing same with the imperforate, a specialist can note differences.

#### Counterfeits

Counterfeits to defraud the government have been found on the 25h, 100h, 200h and 300h stamps. As they have been detected soon, genuinely used copies are scarce and bring very high prices.

#### Finale

We have not gone very deeply into a study of this issue in this article, but from what we have written every collector can see that this is perhaps the most interesting issue of Czechoslovakia.

#### I AM A SPECIALIST!

Many years ago I read the small book "The Specialist" by Chick Sales and must admit I liked it very much. I bought three copies of that booklet—but nary a one is in my library. I suppose some friends of mine who are avid book collectors now hold them as squatter's right. They had the books so long, how dared I to claim them?

Yes, yes—I know I started to tell you I am a specialist. Funny thing, this specialization; it comes, develops like a fungus growth and you can't get rid of it. You strive to be a plain collector; but blocks, shades, varieties of all sorts, cancellations, unusual items, unissued material find their way into your plain ordinary collection and then—you show it to a friend. Your friend gasps! Why, that item, Joe—where did you get it? You got it from Stach for two bits but you shyly wink your right eye and reply—Well, it wasn't given to me. Your friend is a connoisseur—he knowingly nods his head a few times and says: Gee, I didn't know you specialize! Neither did you, but modestly you acquiesce and then as

though it were a big secret you say: For several years—but you haven't seen anything yet! You open an envelope containing several pounds of "unpicked" government mixture. It consists mostly of 1928 postage dues—hundreds of 1K, 10K, 50h values. You wanted to soak the junk but suddenly as you are showing it to your friend you have a brainstorm "Sorting it for Postmarks". Now you are started. You pull out another envelope full of covers. You got most of them from friends—some you bought at the last bourse at a nickel per, and then a bomb strikes! Your friend asks: Say, Joe, what is your most expensive stamp? Even a Scott catalog has a chance to play you dirt. So—you go to another envelope that is filled with printers waste, proofs in black and such like material which 15 years ago was classed as trash but now does command a price of sorts. You come across a trial color overprint first issue air mail; at Ferryman's auction you paid a buck for it and often wondered if it was worth the buck (you usually bid so low, you never get a blessed thing). You produce it by not touching it with your hands. You pick it up with tweezers and place it upon a clean piece of white paper. A halo seems to appear around that innocent looking paper! Your friend picks up the catalog—thumbs to Czechoslovakia—Air Mail Section—it isn't there! A Rarity! You neither agree nor disagree.

Now your friend has the catalog in his hands. He goes down the price list—the two right columns because he knows nothing of the stamps—then stops at Hradcany imperf 10, 20, 30h 2nd issue! Especially the 30h.—Come in blocks? You say—no, even the big shots miss those in either blocks or pairs—but I got nice singles! Margins aren't bad—lucky your friend doesn't examine them too closely—those tall tale perf marks are there! But not on the 10h—oh no! you have the whole bottom tab with control numbers and no perf in sight. You bought it from Kessler, when he was in Canada—and you are sorry you didn't get the other two—but then—the wife, the kids.—we'll, they want to eat. Funny, isn't it?

The same is true of the imperfs of the first Masaryks and of the allegories. Your watermark positions are but spasmodically represented—

but then, when the watermarked paper is discontinued, you have easy sailing until—ye gods! you reach the semi-postals. Whoever thought up that overprint "Posta Ceskoslovenska 1919" should have committed suicide.

Gosh, it's hard even to get fakes and 50 percent of every ordinary collector's holdings are fakes. Why, Brunner could say something about that junk of mine! Now we are coming to my pride and joy—those blocks of 3. My friend, looks at them and I, a just-born specialist, start explaining that the sheet consists of 100 subjects—this size would produce exactly 112 stamps to the sheet—if margins were same size all around only 98 valid-for-postage adhesives could be printed. What a headache to the clerk who sell the stamps or the inspector who checks up on him! And so, wise as the Czechs are, they devised this arrangement, later printing various legends on blank spaces—collectors bought more stamps, then dealers sold more—and everybody was happy! Finally we reached the saddest part of the collection—stamps overprinted Bohmen and Mahren; stamps of Bohemia and Moravia; stamps of the wayward Slovakia; the solitary stamp of autonomous Carpatho-Ukrainia with a 3 day validity. Like an avalanche the blood suckers descended upon the little country as bigger sister nations helplessly looked on! A day of reckoning must come! Again we'll show Czechoslovakia—one nation, people of various idioms to be true, but one people just the same. No, my dear fellow member, this is not propaganda—this is a prophecy!

When we come in our collection to stamps commemorating Bachnac (a plea to Russia); Vouziers (a plea to France); Dos Altos (a plea to Italy); we wonder why something wasn't done then. If the Allies stopped Hitler, Mussolini would not be with Hitler; we would not have to remember Pearl Harbor! Oh, yes, I am a specialist—no, I don't want those Bohemia and Moravia labels, those Slovak pictures—give me United States War Savings Stamps and Bonds!

---

**Buy War Bonds & Stamps!**

---