

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE
CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

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Editor Frank Kovarik, 2502 So. Kedzie Ave., Chicago, Ill.

Vol. 5

April, 1943

No. 4

EDITORIAL

Much has been written of the therapeutic value of stamp collecting. We know of physicians who heartily endorse stamp collecting as a boon to their patients. No single element which can affect individuals not only in countries but hemispheres, can produce the havoc war produces. Especially modern (?) war, with its bombings of cities, its indiscriminate killings of civilians, incarcerations of supposedly guilty citizens in concentration camps. Such a war tends to stretch the nerves to the breaking point and unfortunately many fall victims to its horrors in a mental way.

Those of us who are all out to help our government fight this war to a victorious finish complain we haven't time for stamps. This is as bad an excuse as a church-goer can have for not going to church. We do not only work and sleep and eat; we are looking around for means to kill the extra spare time we may have. While we must read the papers and listen to the radio to know how our war progresses we can and must find a little time to give our nerves the rest they need. There is no better way than turning to our album; even if we do not add stamps to our collection or mount some of the material we had at home for years, we can look at stamps and we assure you your stamps will bring memories of days long gone. We owe it to ourselves as well as to our government to keep not only physically fit, but mentally awake. America does not ask us oldsters to die for her welfare, but insists we live for her good. Let us

now promise ourselves to go to our album pages at times; if for no other reason than to forget what our brothers, sons, nephews who are actively engaged in war, would like to forget. While at our daily tasks in helping win the war, we must think of war; let us forget it in time of leisure. By giving our minds an occasional rest we are doing a service to ourselves and our country.

NEW MEMBERS

116. Francis W. Beedon, 2171 Denmark St., Muskegon, Mich.
117. Joseph Hejl, 2336 Brook Manor Drive, Birmingham, Ala.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Dr. Otto R. Pozdena, 34-39 84th St., Jackson Heights, L. I., N. Y.

DUES!

Our appeal of last month brought in many answers; there are however, a few more stragglers. We sincerely hope they mail their dues to the treasurer immediately; next issue will contain a complete membership list and only those who have paid their 1943 dues on time can expect to have their name on the roster. Soooo, do it now! For your convenience, this is the treasurer's address: Mr. Guy Greenawalt, 4506 Monument Avenue, Richmond, Va.

STACH CATALOG 1941

We have received from the firm of Alfons Stach, 99 Nassau St., New York, N. Y. the "Stach's 1941 Specialized Catalogue of the stamps of Czechoslovakia, Eastern Silesia and Siberia." This catalog was compiled by our secretary, Mr. J. W. Lowey; this alone gives the catalog the prestige a specialized catalog must have. It gives very thorough information on the various issues and is an indispensable guide to the specialist. It is impossible to obtain specialized catalogs from Europe such as the Ekstein catalog which was always a favorite in this country among the Czech specialists and the Stach catalog fills the void very nicely and we feel confident it will displace some of the old favorites after the war. This should not seem strange; Mr. Stach has learned what the American wants and does his best to cater to the American. The catalog as such is the price-list of the firm Alfons Stach, but many dealers who sell stamps of Czechoslovakia when offering items to their patrons use this catalog as an informative basis. We note the price is 35 cents; very reasonable for the information which can be gleaned from it. Mr. Stach is congratulated on this valuable work.

A NEW RULE BY THE JUDICIARY BOARD

The Judiciary Board of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of North America has in its session of March 3th, 1943, ammended the rule regarding reinstatement of former members as follows:

"Hereafter when a former member applies for reinstatement, all back dues shall be paid or a minimum fee of 50 cents be charged, as determined by the Judiciary Board."

W. G. Slocum
Lolly M. Horechny
Alfons Stach
J. W. Lowey

SALES AND EXCHANGE DEPT.

During 1943 I have sent out again 12 circuits of a total value of \$1,184.10. These circuits consist of 103 booklets and 2 containers with entires and covers. How much has been sold cannot be determined as yet, since most of the circuits are still circulating.

Don't forget to speed up the circulation!

If you have duplicates please make them up and send them on to me; I always can use new books. If some of your old books have been returned, find out which stamps have been sold and put similar stamps in circulation once more, provided you have such. It may be the case that someone else wants them, they may have been taken from your books at the beginning of the route and those who had the books at the end might have wanted them too. Do not mount in your books common stamps, by no means common Czech stamps, since everyone has them. Good sellers still are the Czech varieties and better grade stamps in good condition and at fair prices.

Should you receive a circuit, even if you find nothing in it for your collection please drop me a penny postal card and let me know that you have had it; I am always anxious to know where all the circuits are at any time. Some members just send the circuit to the next on the list without reporting to me and if the next one does it too I am wondering why that particular circuit is not moving anymore or I may even worry, thinking it might have been lost. So please cooperate and always report to me.

Wolfgang Fritzsche.

Help Win the War
BUY MORE BONDS

Officers of the Czecho-Slovak Philatelic Society of North America

President: Rudolph Secky, 1330 145th Pl., Whitestone, N. Y.
Secretary: J. W. Lowey, 201 Marcy Pl., Bronx, N. Y.
Treasurer: Guy Greenawalt, 4506 Monument Ave., Richmond, 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.

THE MASARYK ISSUE
1925-27

Guy Greenawalt and F. J. Kcvarik

The Masaryk stamps which followed the 1925 Jubilees and used the same general design were produced as regular postage issues and not as commemoratives. The Svabinsky portrait of President Masaryk used in producing the Jubilees was retained but the designation of value was changed. Heretofore the values on all Czechoslovakian stamps were designated in Haleru (for example, 125, 500, 1000 haleru). Since many of the countries around Czechoslovakia had suffered from inflation which caused the issuance of stamps bearing astronomical nominal values, it was feared that the use of the Haleru values involving the higher numbers might give the wrong impression of Czechoslovakian currency. To avoid the use of high numbers the values were designated in Koruna or Koruny (crown or crowns). This unit of value was substituted for the date in the Jubilee design.

While these stamps were designed as regular issues and were not intended as commemoratives they were issued March 7, 1925, which was the 75th birthday of the President.

The Post Office Department announced the issue by Decree No. 16 of February 17, 1925, as follows:

"On March 7, 1925, on the anniversary of the birth of our President there will be issued in more detailed design postage stamps: 40, 50, 60 h. 1, 2, 3, and 5 Kc. all with a portrait of President Masaryk. The sale shall commence March 8, and earlier sale is forbidden. They are to be sold without surcharge. Stamps 40 h bronze brown, 50 h grass green, and 60 h red violet, size 23 x 19 mm., are made from engraved metal (neotype) (galvano-plasty); 1 Kc carmine red, 2 Kc steel blue, 3 Kc nut brown, and 5 Kc moss green, size 23 x 19½ mm. steel engraved. They are watermarked and perforated 13¼.

"On March 7, 1925 they shall be cancelled at all government post offices and post offices of 1/1 classes when handed over for that purpose, and insofar as it is possible with the local cancelling canceller, or more, if necessary. Main post offices in postal directorships (Praha I, Pardubice I, Brno I, Opava I, Bratislava I, and Kosice I) shall receive, besides, a special (commemorative) canceller

for the cancellation of parcels, as well as loose stamps, in red color (for collecting purposes) and that only for March 7, 1925. These commemorative cancellers must be returned by these offices, immediately March 8, 1925, to the postal Museum in Praha."

The announcement recognized the interest of the philatelists by providing for the commemorative cancellation. The department was aware of the profit to be derived from cancelling for collectors a large number of stamps which would not require any actual postal service.

The decree announced the use of watermarked paper and steel engraving. As pointed out in the discussion of watermarked paper this constituted an effort on the part of the Post Office Department to discourage counterfeiting by the use of more distinctive paper and more exacting methods of printing.

By the middle of 1927 the use of the watermarked paper was deemed unnecessary and some of the stamps printed after that time were on unwatermarked paper.

The Czech Graphic Union in Prague was not properly equipped nor sufficiently experienced in printing from engraved metal plates. Many difficulties in printing resulted. The flat plates of soft metal, used at first, wore fast and had to be replaced frequently. After some experimentation the use of true steel engraving and the Stickney Rotary Press was decided upon. The purchase of the Stickney press was intrusted to the Graphic Union early in 1925. The transition from flat plates to rotaries could not be accomplished in one step. The change was made in several stages. The demands on the printer for stamps were constant and large quantities of the commonly used values were required. For commercial reasons all the experimental and transitional products of the presses had to be put into circulation. This resulted in the many types which have made this issue of particular interest to collectors.

It must be remembered that collectors were not immediately aware of the various changes in types nor of all the possible watermark positions. Consequently some types and watermark positions were not discovered until all stocks in the post offices and stamp shops were used or sold out. For this reason some

types and some watermark positions, which are relatively common in used condition, are extremely scarce in mint condition. The vertical watermarks, particularly, escaped the attention of the collectors until they were sold out.

Since the various types were due to experimentation and improvement in the process of printing they will be dealt with in chronological order relative to their printing.

The Jack Knight Air Mail Society will hold its 1943 Exhibition on April 11 in the Olympic Building at 6200 West Cermak Road in Cicero, Illinois. Among the features of the show this year will be the world's greatest display of Air Mail labels, a well rounded out Air Mail stamp and cover display, and a special showing of Philatelic Literature in which the Czechoslovak Specialist will be displayed. All members of the C. P. S. of N. A. are invited to visit this Exhibition.

ILLNESS

We are informed that our member E. Simons is ill. And we wish to assure him we hope for his speedy recovery. We are sure that during his period of convalescence his Czech stamps will help him very much.

FOR DEFENSE



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Will fill want lists or send on approval.

References, please!

JOHN H. BEERMAN

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