

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

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CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

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CZECHOSLOVAK ARMY IN ENGLAND

Perhaps you will remember my article on the Postal System of the Czechoslovak Forces in England which originally appeared in "Stamps" and subsequently was reprinted in other magazines, including our SPECIALIST.

I believed that within reasonable time I would be able to follow up with the second chapter and also illustrate the postmarks which had been applied since then. Unfortunately the Postmaster who had supplied me with data and illustration material for the first article was transferred to active duty in the Air Corps.

Now after many months I have been able to contact his successor and consequently expect to receive in the very near future the second part of the story. From preliminary reports I judge that it will be even more interesting than the first chapter. The Czech Army now has units in the Faroes Islands and Iceland. Many new and striking postmarks have been used, among them one which recalls the Massacre of the students of Charles University, another applied on the fourth anniversary of the seizure of Czechoslovakia with the legend in Latin "Dies Furoris Teutonicus" and several others.

In his last letter which I received but shortly, the Postmaster advises me that he shipped to me a package containing an assortment of commemorative postmarks and that he will follow up with shipments whenever new cancellations are in use.

I am requested by him to ask our

members who are really interested to receive the postmarks. He does not state the price, but suggests that either the Society or I set a fair price. I am to collect for this material and from time to time send the collected amount to England. I am informed that the receipts will be used primarily for the purchase of cigarettes and similar items of comfort to be sent Czechoslovak Airmen brought down over enemy territory and who are now prisoners of war.

I hope to give further details in the June issue. In the meantime please drop me a note and let me know if you are interested to receive these commemorative postmarks.

J. W. Lowey.

NEW YORK CHAPTER

Our next meeting will be held on Monday, May 4, at 8 P. M. on the premises (store) of the United Stamp Co., 495 Lexington Av. (between 46th and 47th Sts.) Frank Voticky, the owner of the Company, has been a member of our Society since the beginning. By the way, the store is unquestionably the classiest stamp shop in New York City and we are going to meet in paradisaical surroundings. So make a note of the date and address.

J. W. L.

CHICAGO CHAPTER

The next regular meeting of the Chicago group will take place at the home of our librarian, Mrs. M. Glawe, 9640 S. Seeley Av., Sunday, May 16, 1943. As this is the last meeting of the season we hope all members will make an attempt to attend.

THE MASARYK ISSUE
1925-27
Guy Greenawalt and F. J. Kovarik
NEOTYPE

PHOTOGRAVURE PRINTING

The general arrangement of the design is the same as the 1923 Jubilees, with the same Svabinsky portrait of President Masaryk in the center. The top panel contains the same lettering but it is solid white and without shading. The line between the portrait and the top panel is white instead of colored. Two white lines instead of one separate the portrait from the side panels and four linden leaves extend upwardly and outwardly from the outer white line in each panel. The Jubilee date in the lower center panel has been replaced with the unit of value, the Haleru, in the same style of lettering as in the top panel. The bottom corner panels show the value in solid colored numerals on a white tablet surrounded by a jagged colored line set off by a white line. The colored border line surrounding the entire design has been changed to a broken colored line with alternate sections offset inwardly to give a more decorative appearance. The background shading in all the panels is in solid color and not lined as in the Jubilees. A pencil drawing by Prof. Max Svabinsky was used for this design. The printed design measures 19½ x 23 mm.

These stamps were printed from lead plates produced by photogravure, in sheets of 100 subjects from one plate forms. The 50 h and 60 h values were also printed in sheets of 200 subjects from 2 plate forms. The number of different plate forms and the number of different plates used has been estimated from known plate markings. The estimated plate forms, plates and total number of stamps issued is as follows.

40 h orange, at least 4 plate forms,
4 plates—25,200,000 stamps.
50 h light green, at least 41 plate forms,
56 plates—224,500,000 stamps.
60 h red violet, at least 11 plate forms,
15 plates—48,290,000 stamps.

The first plates were not marked. Most of the later plates were distinctly marked, usually under the 91st stamp. The plate markings used were of the following types:

1. A fraction, which indicated the date of finishing one plate form. For example, on the 40 h plates; 9/12, 2/10, 12/10 (since the printing was

begun a year before the stamps were issued the year is 1924).

2. The date with the year (always 1925). At this time each form was made up of two plates which were distinguished by the letters A and B. For example, on the 50 h plates: A20/11 25, B20/11 25.

3. Consecutive numbers and the date distinguish plates made after early 1926. For example, the 50 h 2 plate form was marked: 1 A 1 26, 1 B 1 26; 15 A V/26, 15 B V/26, while the 1 plate form was marked: 5.1.26, 17 4 26.

On the 40 h plate markings of type 1 only, have been found. On the 50 h and 60 h, plate markings are scarce and it is probable that not all are known.

The color used on the various printings varied considerably. The 40 h is known in orange and light orange. The 50 h varies from light to dark green and olive green. The 60 h appears in light, dark and greyish violet. The colors are easily affected by light, warm water and chemicals, even benzine. The colors peel off in flakes and after a benzine bath the stamps have the appearance of having been scraped.

The paper is smooth, porous, white or yellowish and varies from thick to thin. An exception is a rough glossy paper listed by some as parchment.

Printing imperfections comprise large and small, white or colored spots, weak prints, entire or partial offsets. On some stamps there appear individual fine lines in the color of the stamp which usually run vertically the length of the plate. These lines occurred where a nick in the edge of the knife which removed excess ink from the plate allowed a fine streak of excess color to come through and remain on the plate. Imperfections appear on the margins of some stamps due to poor covering when copying. These are sometimes mistaken for cracked plates.

The watermark is vertical, normally, and all three values are found with positions 1 to 4. The 40 h is known with a horizontal watermark, positions 5, 6, and 8. Most copies are used and cancelled "Caslav" with the date 11 V 1925. Apparently, these were printed accidentally and on only a few sheets which reached the market in a normal manner, so that they are true rarities. The 50 h has been reported on unwatermarked paper but only a few used copies have been found and these were not found until

1933. Copies are frequently found with only a trace of the watermark. It is possible that the watermarking roll was lifted partially or wholly from contact with the paper, during the process of manufacture, so that, a small quantity of very lightly watermarked, or true unwatermarked paper, was produced and later used in the printing of these stamps. A careful examination using modern methods and equipment will probably establish the true status of the reported unwatermarked copies.

At first these stamps were perforated 13%. About the end of 1925 they were also comb perforated 13% x 12½. The comb perforations were produced by two machines. The horizontal rows of perforations either overlap one hole over the marginal vertical rows or they extend only to them so that the vertical margins show no horizontal perforations. Some sheets were perforated using very small holes but the gauge remained 13%.

Unfinished or imperfect specimens rarely reached the general public. Only a few perforation freaks due to folds in the paper at the corners and missing perforation rows either top or bottom have been reported.

Proofs in rough yellow or rose paper exist.

The 40 h value was valid for postage until July 31, 1928. The 50 h and 60 h values were valid until February 28, 1937.

(To be continued)

THANK YOU

So many of our members responded to our last appeal to pay dues that we are very satisfied. We promise a six page Specialist to the end of the year (except, of course, in July and August), full of interesting articles on Czechoslovak philately. We further promise that if you get more members we are ready to give you eight pages—10 pages—and more. Remember almost all the money collected goes into the paper, the more money we get, the bigger and better the paper.

CORRECTION

In last month's issue of the Specialist the article on the Masaryk stamps lost one line of the manuscript. The last paragraph on page 3 should read: On March 7, 1925, they shall be cancelled at all government post offices of 1/1 classes when handed over for that purpose and insofar as it is possible with the local cancelling device and daily cancellers in red ink. These offices shall clean one canceller or more, etc.....

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