

# 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.

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## EDITORIAL

The older members know that the Specialist does not appear in July and August; the more recent members should know this. It is not to economize; it is a breathing spell (?) for the editor. In the next two months he must prepare enough material for the next three or four issues. We know that several members could help out with excellent articles for the Specialist—why not lighten the editor's burden by sending these to him?

FJK

## U. S. CHANGES AN OLD SYSTEM

In order to facilitate the handling of mails for large cities, Uncle Sam asks that the Post Office Station number follow the name of the city in the address. Some years ago a request was made that the patrons add the Post Office Station name; this did not click so well and therefore the request now is to add the station number only. Henceforth your editor's address is: F. J. Kovarik, 2502 S. Kedzie Av., Chicago 23, Ill. We want to co-operate; when you are notified of this change, please inform us and we'll correct our mailing list accordingly.

## NEW MEMBERS

- No.  
118. August A. Wasserscheid, 72 Gold St., New York, N. Y.  
119. Alex Doctor, 116 Nassau St., New York, N. Y.  
120. Bedrich Pollak, Phoenix Stamp Co., 120 W. 44th St., New York, N. Y.

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Emil Burger, BBB Stamp Co., 2 Main St., Orange, Mass.

PFC. E. J. Michaelson, 716 M. P. Bn. Co. C, Peekskill, N. Y.

Bohumil Dube, 916 Poquonock Av., Windsor, Conn.

Lt. Luther L. L. Dilley, USNR, Box 103 Commandant Navy No. 128, % Fleet Post Office, San Francisco, Calif.

## CZECHOSLOVAK ARMY IN ENGLAND

In the May issue I announced that in the near future I expect to receive various commemorative postmarks which the postmaster would be sending to me. I asked members who would be interested in these covers to contact me.

I cannot suppose the majority of the membership have overlooked the announcement though the reaction seems to be unusually insignificant. Up to now only two members evinced interest; Lt. Col. Chapman and J. H. Trengove. In addition the following New York members have asked to be placed on the list: Stach, Fritzsche, Slocum, Horechny, Voticky and Secky.

I have received a note from the Army Postmaster, dated March 15th, in which he informs me that he mailed a registered consignment of Army covers and other material. Unfortunately I have not received the shipment up to this moment. Upon inquiry at the local Post Office, I was informed that delivery of registered mails from foreign countries requires more time than before because shipments must clear through the Customs Of-

fice, which at present is unable to handle these as in normal times. Unless this consignment has been lost during transport, I shall relay items to above members as soon as received by me.

J. W. Lowey.

#### NEW YORK NEWS

The Czechoslovak Consulate will stage two important exhibitions at the Czechoslovak Branch of the N. Y. Public Library in Yorkville. Unfortunately the first of these will be over by the time the members receive this issue because it is held middle of May. Documents, photographs and other material will be on display showing the role which Czechoslovak music and musicians have played in the United States. The second exhibit, which will be dedicated to Czechoslovak philately will show frames of rare and unusual material. The show will be held during the middle of June and in the last two weeks. Consul Novy, who is a member of our Society, is in charge of preparations. \*\*\* We are sorry to see the Burger Family leave New York. Mr. Burger has for some time been engaged in war work in his new residence and Mrs. Burger has now joined her husband. Those of us who have known both as very fine people will really miss them. We are informed they will continue to do business from their new residence. \*\*\* Belatedly we learn that Felix Brunner has just passed the half century mark. Congratulations and many happy returns \*\*\* Alfons Stach is a very busy man these days. His brother who has been with him several years is now engaged in war work. \*\*\* It is difficult to contact A. I. Kessler in person. Some time ago he became partner in a manufacturing concern and ever since he is splitting his time between his two offices. \*\*\* The last meeting was something that reminded us of "olden days." Most members were present and exchange and sale of material was very brisk.

#### POSTA CESKOSLOVENSKA 1919

Many years ago we read a story of one of the values overprinted POSTA CESKOSLOVENSKA 1919 which was issued to the tune of a mere thirty copies. A rich collector decided to corner the market and advised his dealers to purchase every copy of this certain stamp they can get their hands on; in a very short time he had more than fifty copies, all expertized by experts and more copies reported right along.

#### HELP!

Some time ago we asked for information; Pvt. Michaelson's mail was returned to us for better address. Now we find Pvt. Pratt's mail returned for same reason. Does any member know the whereabouts of these two?

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**"WHERE IS MY HOME?"**  
W. L. Russell

(This article is reprinted from the April 5, 1935, issue of THE AUSTRALIAN STAMP MONTHLY, with the permission of the author.)

It is just one hundred years since the Czech song: "Where Is My Home" was first heard. That was on December 21, 1834. The occasion was the premiere of the Czech play "Fidlovacka" ("Village Dance"), by J. K. Tyl; the venue was a theatre in Prague; the singer, Karel Strakaty, a popular basso of the period.

Since that time the song "Where Is My Home?" has been sung and listened to by millions of Czechs the world over, and is today the national anthem of Czechoslovakia. The words are redolent of the deep and fervent love for his native land that is inherent in the Czech, and the melody never fails to touch the softest strings of his heart, for it was written at a time of the heaviest oppression to the nation and its native tongue. The singular and captivating fervor which lifts the song out of the rut of the commonplace may, perhaps, be explained by the fact that the melody was written at a time of mental anguish on the part of the composer, Francis Skroup, whose wife was seriously ill at the time. The words of the song are from the pen of the Czech playwright, Joseph Kajetan Tyl.

The authors of "Kde Domov Muj?" could hardly have envisaged that it would eventually become the morning star of their nation's regeneration; that it would inspire their legions fighting abroad for the country's freedom; that it would be adopted as the national hymn. Neither, I suppose, did the writer of "It's a Long Way to Tipperary" anticipate that such a simple melody would become the musical symbol of a nation in arms. Such things spring from a national crisis unbidden.

"Where Is My Home?" then, is celebrating its centenary, and the occasion has been seized upon by the Postal Administration at Prague as the *raison d'être* for the issue of another stamp design, of two denominations—1Kr. (claret) and 2Kr. (blue). If the matter had rested there no one would have complained, for Czechoslovakia can hardly be ranked with the nations that habitually dig into the pockets of philatelists. But na-

tional pride has taken our Czech friends a step farther and, lo and behold, we are confronted with miniature sheets of 15 stamps (slightly smaller in format) in addition to the ordinary issue. These miniature sheets are embellished with the anthem itself above and below! Quite plainly these sheets were never intended for postal use, since they are without gum, and it looks very much like a "ramp." Even philatelists in CSR are perturbed, and fear that the issue may cause damage to the good reputation which the stamps of Czechoslovakia hold abroad.

**Description of the Stamps**

The new stamps are printed by the rotary press, on white unwatermarked paper, in sheets of 100. Both values have the same design, which symbolizes the beauty of the land and the effect of the hymn on the Czech nation. The design is the picture "Home," by the artist J. Manes. In the sky is the inscription "Kde Domov Muj?" ("Where Is My Home?") with the dates "1834-1934" top left. The format is 30½ x 17 mm., and the perforation is 9%. The design is framed with an ornamental trellis pattern on both sides, whilst the bottom features a furrow of plowed land. The top of the frame is lined and carries the word "CESKOSLOVENSKO" in shaded letters. In the lower left corner can be seen the letter "M," the signature of the artist.

The miniature sheets (format 28.4 x 17.4 mm.) are recess printed from flat plates. There are five rows of three stamps, with the words and music of the hymn at top and bottom, the whole being enclosed on three sides by a border of linden leaves. Colors are as in the ordinary issue, but the perf. is 13¼ x 13. The sheets are not gummed, and are issued in an envelope of stiff paper with an imprint "Where is My Home?". The engraving was executed by Karl Seizinger, and his "S" may be seen in the bush under the foot of the ploughman.

Readers who have a liking for commemoratives may be interested in the words of the Czech national anthem, which may be freely translated as follows:—

Where is my home? Where is my home?  
Streams are rushing through the meadows;  
Mid the rocks sigh fragrant pine groves,

Orchards decked in Spring's array,  
 Scenes of Paradise portray.  
 And this land of wond'rous beauty,  
 Is the Czech land, Home-land mine,  
 Is the Czech land, Home-land mine.

**JANUARY'S CHILD**

Francis W. Beedon



Czechoslovakia has joined the numerous other European countries that raise funds for charity through the issue and sale of special postage stamps. And like the popular "Pro Juventute" sets from Switzerland, these are "detem," for children.

The symbol of January among the peasants of the Middle Ages was an old man seated at a table with his glass of liquor. On the walls of the tower of the Old Town Hall in Prague (pictured on Scott A28 and A36) is a cycle of twelve paintings, each representing a month of the year. The first is called "Leden," or January, and was produced by the famous Bohemian painter, Josef Manes. Because the dampness of the tower walls seemed to be ruining the original painting, it was removed to the Prague Museum in 1880, and a copy is now in its place.

Manes changed the symbol of the New Year to that of the presentation of the New-born child to its family. The nurse stands at right center holding the naked babe before its father, who with the young mother and the attentive grandmother are seated also. The happy grandfather is brandishing his drinking mug high over his head in a gesture of welcome to the infant.

The suggestion, says a Czech scholar, is that the child typifies the eternal revival of life. A healthy and happy child is the most important symbol of the immortality of a nation.

There are three stamps in the new

series, and the entire painting is shown on the one koruna claret. The central figures, the nurse with the baby and the father, are pictured on the 50 haleru green and the 2 Kc deep blue. Each value has an added "50h detem."

The stamps are approximately 23½ mm. by 29½ mm. in size, but the 50h and 2Kc vary ¼ mm. in one or both measurements. Two plates, 1 and 1A were used, and printing is from rotary press, with perforation 12½. The engraver is the celebrated Bohumil Heinz, who has produced the engravings for many of the Czechoslovakia issues. His initials HB (with a common line -B) are to be found in the desk of the table.

At least 40 visiting journalists received presents of the new series on March 24, 1936, and many used them on correspondence of the same day. About 16,000 sheets were sold on March 29 at the Congress of Independent Czechoslovak Philatelists. But the first official day of sale was April 1. On that day also, 400 envelopes with the 1Kc. stamp printed on them were issued with the legend beneath the stamp: "First Day of Validity of Charity Stamps 1936."

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**Additions by Editor**

Mr. Russell has treated the above subject along the same lines in the Australian Stamp Monthly. Many years have passed since these stamps were issued. We can add that the stamps were demonetized December 31, 1936, and they were issued in the following quantities:

50h green .....	1,119,068
1Kc claret .....	921,098
2Kc blue .....	567,070

Cross catalog numbers .	C155, 156, 157
Scott catalog numbers .	B144, 145, 146
Ekstein catalog numbers	951, 952, 953
Stach catalog numbers	354, 355, 356

**REMAINDERS  
 OF SEMI POSTALS 1936**

In the presence of authorized witnesses the following remainders were consigned to the incinerator:

50h	1,061,732 copies
1Kc	209,702 copies
2Kc	543,730 copies

**Buy War Stamps & Bonds**

# Hebrew Postmarks of Czechoslovakia

By J. W. Lowey

Reprinted from "Covers" by permission.

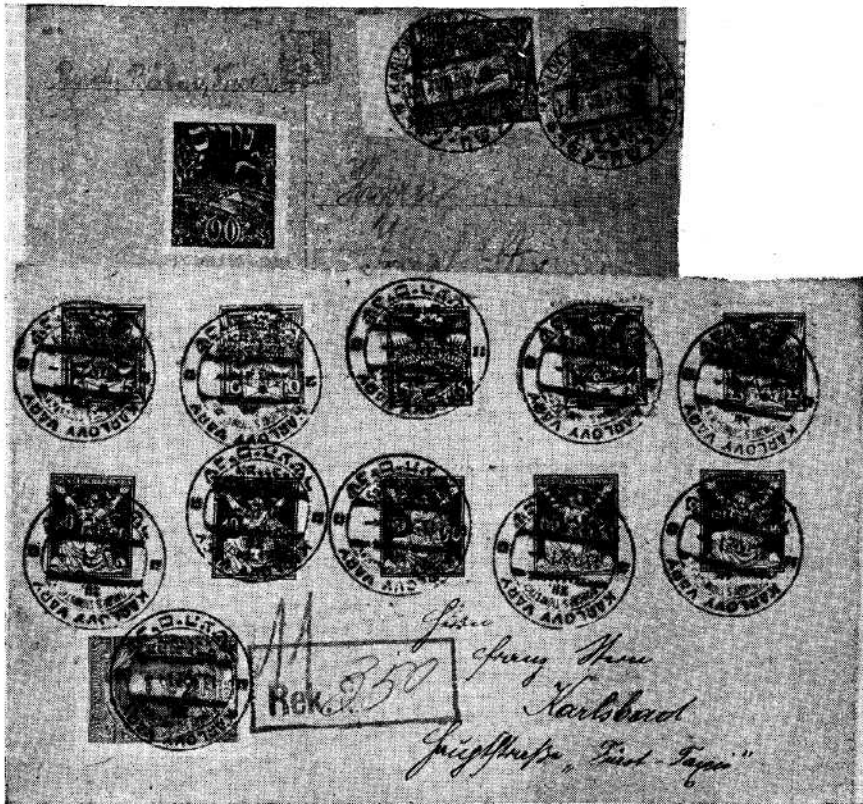
I vividly remember my visit with a philatelic friend while in Philadelphia in 1921. With justified pride he showed and explained to me his specialized collection of Czechoslovakia. Czechoslovakia then was a young country and had not yet issued many stamps. Yet my friend owned certain specialized material which I was then seeing for the first time, such as Designs, black and colored proofs, entire sheets of printers waste and other property which in later years gained tremendous popularity among specialists of Czechoslovak postal issues.

My greatest surprise, however, came in the course of going through his covers. On one of the very last pages of the album there was an entire, the like I hardly would have expected to see. Of large size it was franked with the entire set of the "Liberty" issue then in use, the stamps themselves

neatly and symmetrically spaced apart. On each stamp was the hand applied bilingual Czech-Hebrew postmark commemorating the 12th Zionist Congress, the first such event held on Czechoslovak territory.

Shortly after my return to New York I suddenly made the decision that I would specialize in Czechoslovak commemorative postmarks and today I am happy to say that I have never regretted this step. During the following years I have added a great many covers with the most interesting postmarks to my collection.

Many countries, especially those of Europe, have for years applied commemorative cancellations to mails. Some have made a real art of it and I do not hesitate to put Czechoslovakia in this class. During the years of independence from 1918 to 1938 the country made prodigious use of



its past and present history by incorporating legends, mottoes and illustrations into its postal cancellations. These vary in size, shape and color. In several instances postmarks are bicolored or even multi colored. Altogether about 750 different commemorative cancels were applied.

It is interesting to note that large percentage of these postmarks are bilingual. This is due to the fact that Czechoslovakia had several language minorities within its borders and when ever an event was commemorated in territory in which two languages are spoken (Czech and the other) both are found in the post mark.

Among the commemorative postmarks with bilingual inscriptions are the Czech-Hebrew cancellations which were applied in honor of Jewish contemporary events. Of course they were in use only in the community in which the event took place. Some were held in small places in which only one post office was located, others in cities. In the latter case the postmarks were applied at a certain suburban post office or sometimes in special post offices which were installed on the premises on which the respective affair took place.

The duration of the events exceeds in no case more than three days and when it is considered that some took place in small towns in which latter case only a few hundred items were mailed it is obvious that some of the postmarks are rather scarce.

The majority of the cancellations are found on plain covers or post cards. However in a few instances either the sponsors of the event or the government itself supplied special stationery. These are very colorful, some showing striking emblems, labels, rubber impression and other embellishments.

I have in my collection the following Czech-Hebrew postmarks:

- 1) Applied at Karlovy Vary, September 13, 1921  
Color: Black  
Legend: "12th Zionist Congress"  
(Illustrated herewith)
- 2) Applied at Karlovy Vary, August 17th, 1923  
Color: Black  
Legend: "13th Zionist Congress"  
(Illustrated herewith)
- 3) Applied at Prague, August 12th, 1930  
Color: Black  
Legend: "4th World's Congress of

the Union of Zionist Revisionists"

- 4) Applied at Bohumin, June 26th, 1932  
Color: Black  
Legend: "Athletic Games of the Maccabees"
- 5) Applied at Prague, September 4th, 1933  
Color: Black  
Legend: "18th Zionist Congress"
- 6) Applied at Zilina, July 5th, 1937  
Color: Blue  
Legend: "3rd Annual Athletic Games of the Maccabees"
- 7) Applied at Marianske Lazne, August 26th, 1937  
Color: Green  
Legend: "Third World Congress of 'Agudas Jisroel' "

#### DID YOU KNOW THAT

In 1923 the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs used the slogan "Buy Jubilee Stamps" in their cancelling devices and that these are almost as scarce as the Jubilees? Had the collectors of that day heeded such sound advice, we wouldn't have to pay so much for the 1923 issue today. There would be enough to go around and we wouldn't have the extra overprints (Olympics and VIII All Sokol Meet) to worry about.

#### NOTES

The last meeting of the Chicago Chapter was held at the home of M. "Gus" Hrivnak in Riverside. Gus' home is a large rambling house so peculiar to the Chicago suburbs—but his library (he calls it a den) is so well stocked with material of interest to the collector of Czechoslovak stamps, we just couldn't refuse the temptation and took home with us several monographs which we intend to study during the summer dog-days. We are hoping that Gus is pensioned soon, he could help much. He had constant contact with the big-wigs of Czecho philately; we never had the nerve to ask if he saved the correspondence of Leseticky, Sula, Domin, Kaplanek, Hirsch, and a host of others. If he did, we promise to do a little sabotage and bring some to the attention of the readers of this modest organ.

**Buy War Bonds & Stamps**

## THE MASARYK ISSUE

1925-27

Guy Greenawalt and F. J. Kovarik

### Line Engraved Steel Plate Printings Types I to VII

The 1, 2, 3 and 5 Kc values, which were first issued March 7, 1925, were printed from line engraved steel plates. Due to changes in the methods of printing, the design on the 1, 2, and 3Kc values was changed as new plates were developed. The 5 Kc value was deemed satisfactory for the limited number of copies required and only one set of 5 Kc plates was manufactured. The large quantities of the smaller values, required by the Postal Department, caused the printers to experiment in an effort to develop faster and more satisfactory quantity production methods. Some of the steps taken to improve the method of printing resulted in the production of new plates wherein changes were made in the design. A study has been made of the plates which were used and changes of design have been carefully noted. The various types which resulted from the manufacture of new plates with changes in the design have been numbered in chronological order of their issue. The story of the development of the various types is the story of the development of the printing processes.

I. In December 1923, the 1, 2, 3, and 5 Kc values were printed from line engraved steel plates (the same as the 1923 Jubilees). These were issued on March 7, 1925 and are distinguished by their larger size.

The manufacture of galvano plates was found to be too slow and unreliable. The plates were subject to excessive wear due to the chemical reaction of the ink and the pressure of the presses. They were particularly unsatisfactory when used to produce large quantities of the lower values. With a view to speeding up production and also discouraging counterfeiting, the Postal Department decided upon the use of the American made Stickney Rotary Press with line engraving on hardened steel plates. A Stickney press was obtained and installed in the Czech Graphic Union in Prague in the early part of 1925.

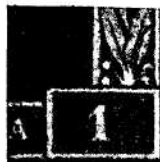
In order to use the Stickney press it was necessary to use a special machine for preparing the matrix and the steel plates for the printing rollers, an oven for hardening the steel plates,

a gumming machine, a special perforator and a machine for coiling the stamps, all of which were obtained. Some of the mechanisms could be used with the older printing machinery so that it was not necessary to accomplish the transition to the Stickney Press in one step. It was accomplished in stages.



II. In April 1925 new plates for the 1 Kc stamp were made. These were flat steel plates. They were hardened in the Stickney oven and were used on the old Hummel presses. The kind of paper and ink required for the hardened steel plates was determined by experimenting with these plates. The 3 Kc and the 2 Kc values were produced using the same arrangements in May 1925 and August 1925, respectively.

These printings are distinguished by the smaller format. It was necessary to reduce the size of the original design in order to adapt it to the Stickney press which requires curved plates of a definite size.



III. In July 1925, for some unknown reason, new flat plates were made for the 1 Kc value in which the design was changed (left shoulder of coat merely lined instead of cross lined). New flat plates were also produced at the same time for the 3 Kc in which the design was changed. In the case of the 3 Kc the flat plate method of printing was considered more satisfactory because it was not necessary to produce large quantities and the product of the Rotary Press, which was already in operation (see Type IV), did not show the fine workmanship considered desirable for the higher values.

A common characteristic of all flat plate printings is line perforation 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ .

IV. In May 1925, manufacture of the 1 Kc on the Stickney Rotary Press

using hardened steel plates curved into the roll began. The die used was the same as used for the April 1925 flat plates (Type II). The rotary printing is about ½ mm. wider and higher than the flat plate printing. It is less sharp in appearance. A rough perforation gauged 9¼ is known on the rotary printing. Unevenness in the size of the stamps was probably caused by uneven paper shrinkage. Toning was caused by uneven application of ink or faulty wiping of the plates and also because the original dies was not sufficiently adjusted to the requirements of the press.



V. On December 16, 1925, a new dies was finished for the 1 Kc which modified the original die, particularly in the frame design. The upper background and the three bottom shields have cross lines. The lettering is without shade lines. These changes developed from the experience gained in the first printing on the rotary press.



VI. In the spring of 1926 a new die was made for the 1 Kc in which most of the lines were deepened, thus reducing the fineness but increasing the distinctness.

A large supply of stamps was printed from this die. The later printings were on unwatermarked paper.

VII. Early in 1927 a new die was again produced. The lines were further deepened and the right side whiskers shortened. These changes destroyed the essential fineness of the design and the plates were used only a short time. Unwatermarked paper was used in the printings.

(To be continued)

#### THE ARRAS 1K COUNTERFEIT

When Mr. Kreisler was editor of the Specialist, an article on the Arras issue from the pen of Mr. Russell contained this note from the editor as a Postscript:

The forgery of the 1Kc stamp of this issue appears to be printed by the photogravure process or what may be termed surface printing. The color is very nearly the correct color, being just a shade darker red. It is believed to have been printed across the border and whether more copies exist, used or unused is at the present time not known. This copy has been postally used and bears an incomplete cancellation; one who is familiar with the country may be able to decipher the markings. The town reads "ERACHOVICE" possibly the "R" is a "P", the date appears to be 28. VIII '13, the "8" in "28" is broken as are the three "I's" in VIII so that they look like :::. Has any one seen similar copies of this forgery which may have been cancelled the same way or in other towns?

On going through older magazines in search of short notes on the stamps of Czechoslovakia we were surprised to see this very stamp illustrated in the Filatelisticka Revue Vol. VII, page 30. Here is the translation:

In Svoboda's last auction we note the current 1Kc Arras forgery, cancelled at the post office of NEPLACHOVICE. When we first heard of the counterfeits we were sure no postally used copies could be found and therefore this auction item surprised us very much. We wrote to the Postmaster of Neplachovice if anyone handed in this stamp for "favor cancellation" and received the following reply:

"To the Filatelisticka Revue in Prague. We are sending you a facsimile of our cancellation and assure you none of the postal employees of this office was asked to cancel the item in question nor did we know that a forgery received service from our office. P. O. Neplachovice. Signature illegible. Stamp of the office."

No definite conclusion can be arrived at from the contents of this letter. It is altogether possible that a collector who had the forgery succeeded in getting his forgery postally used. It is necessary to wait if other similar copies show up. We ask our readers to go through their duplicates of used 1Kc Arras and should they come across anything that looks doubtful, to acquaint the editor.

And so—we are as much in the dark as before except that we know the name of the post office where this copy was cancelled.