

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

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EDITORIAL

Summer is over. Stamps are taken out of cigar and shoe boxes; covers are checked, the budget is readjusted and the collecting season is off on time. Those of us who collect countries run over by the Nazi hordes now have a breathing spell. No new issues to worry about, we search for missing items for our collections. They are not easy to get; even though the catalog does not rate them high in price; they are quite elusive. Especially those last few items issued before the fateful March 15, 1939, can not be purchased at all. We are sure we'll get many of these items when the war ends, in the meantime we while away what little time we have for stamps in remounting and rearranging our holdings to show them to fellow philatelists in meetings and exhibitions. Here is a tip, boys, the money you would ordinarily put into Czechoslovak stamps can help our country, can help bring back liberty to those now under Hitler's heel; invest in war bonds and more war bonds. You'll get a kick out of this new type of collecting.

NEW MEMBERS

127. Eddie Skupniewicz, 5316 Melrose St., Chicago 41, Ill.
128. John J. Lisy, 3674 East 140th St., Cleveland 20, Ohio.
129. William Bauer, 78 Orchard St., Garfield, N. J.
130. Anton Kratochvil, 8904 So. Highland, Cleveland, Ohio.
131. Pavel Relner, 25 Northcote Rd., Hampstead near Montreal, Que., Canada.

SALES & EXCHANGE DEPT.

Now that summer is over I hope you have more time on your hands and can make up more books for this department. This year I am very much behind, up to the present I could mail out only 6 circuits during the year 1943 and I wanted to give you one each month. So, please, co-operate and send in your duplicates; I can supply blank books at 2c each plus postage.

All of last year's circuits have been retired by now and I now can give a brief account of last year's sales:

I sent out 12 circuits (one each month) containing a total of 102 booklets and 4 lots of entires (covers and postal cards); all this had a value of \$1155.10, but the sales amounted only to \$396.28; 15%, a much lower percentage than we had in past years, but this can be explained; we carried too many stamps for which there was no market. Czechoslovakia specialized still sells 90%, while unfortunately there seems to be no market for the good old U. S. A. It is unbelievable that there is so little interest in these stamps. The revenue for the Society out of the 1942 sales amounted to \$19.81 or the equivalent of almost 20 new members!

I have just now retired 2 of this year's circuits with sales in both instances running about 60%; this is a big improvement over last year.

One of our members wants to square his account and offers for sale a mint unhinged set Cameroon B7-B9 overprinted: Oeuvres de guerre. This set is on sale for \$27.50; it now sells in New York at \$35.00 and already has brought at auction as much as \$40.00. Do you want it?—Wolfgang Fritsche.

MYSTERY?

I have come into possession of an interesting cover.

This cover was mailed from Plzen, Czechoslovakia, to Greenwich, Conn. It is franked with the 5h and 20h denominations of the first issue (Scott 2 and 4), the then current postage rate for ordinary letters from Czechoslovakia to the United States.

The stamps do not show a postmark but instead a red violet rubber stamp is applied across the two adhesives which reads: "Kancelar Cechoslovaku Americkych" (Office of Czechoslovak Americans). On the reverse side of the cover is a long, narrow rectangle rubber impression in purple with two lines. The first line is in Czech "Cteno ho" (Censored the) and the second line in English capital letters "PASSED BY THE CENSOR." In addition there is a black, double oval steel handstamp. The outer oval has the wording in French "Ouvert par l'autorite Militaire" (Opened by Military Authorities) and the inner shows the large number "157."

I have studied this cover and the circumstances which might form its background intensively but could arrive at the following two conclusions. 1) that the item was mailed not later than December, 1918, because the design of the stamp shows a clear impression which would indicate that they were from earlier printings; 2) that it did not travel to the United States via regular postal channels since no postmarks whatsoever are visible, though at that time postal matters from Czechoslovakia to the United States were regularly shipped via Le Havre, France.

In order to clear up the other facts which interest me I went to see those who, in my opinion, should have been able to give me information, such as the Czechoslovak Consular Authorities and several officials of the local Czechoslovak publications who had resided in this country prior to 1918. I found a few but unfortunately none of them makes any clear statements and if so they contradict one another.

Here are some of the questions I asked:

Q. Where was the office of the Czechoslovak Americans?

A. One places it in Washington, others at New York or Chicago. Another believes that a branch office also existed at Prague and the im-

pression on the stamps could have been affixed at either place.

Q. Since the cover was mailed from Plzen, and supposing the rubber stamp had been applied at Prague, how was the cover forwarded to Prague since it shows no Plzen postmark?

A. No direct answer but it was added that the office had a staff of messengers who at regular intervals travelled between Czechoslovakia and the United States who carried mails in sealed pouches.

Q. Again assuming that the cover was delivered at the New York post office, how was it relayed to Greenwich? It cannot be assumed that the New York Post Office had messengers who travelled to all parts of the country. No answer.

There are at least two men who, I am told, could clear up all points. Both are stamp collectors. One of them was in charge of the New York Office. The other is a famous Czech-American in charge of Allied counter-espionage during the first World War. Unfortunately both men are at present on missions abroad.

As matters stand I will probably have to wait until the end of the present conflict in order to obtain the enlightenment I am seeking. In the meantime I will continue to have sleepless nights unless some of our members can shed light on the matter. What I would like to know is this: Since sealed pouches of messengers are opened only at the place of destination (which in this case is Greenwich) why and where were the two censorship markings applied? The rectangle could have been applied at Prague but why and how was the French applied since the pouch supposedly traversed French territory without being opened?

Can anyone help me solve the mystery?

J. W. Lowey

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

J. W. Lowey, 201 Marcy Pl., New York 56, N. Y. (Tel. Jerome 7-6304)

Wolfgang Fritzsche, 9 Britton Street, Jersey City 6, N. J. (temporary)

Bert Zenaty, 111-37 75th Rd., Forest Hills, N. Y.

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"POSTA CESKOSLOVENSKA 1919"

Translated from the
Hirsch-Franek Handbook

by W. L. Russell

The reasons for this new issue appears to have been the tremendous profits to be made from otherwise useless stocks of Austrian and Hungarian stamps, as well as speculation (surcharge on the face value, and sale of the issue to collectors). The first overprinted issue of Czechoslovakia was, therefore, a profit-making one, but it should also be stated that philatelists were quite well aware that the issue was speculative. It will be proved in this article that the issue was postally superfluous, and destined only for philatelists.

From a number of relevant circumstances one may conclude that the overprinting of these stamps was undertaken on the advice of, and with the assistance of, philatelists in the service of the Postal Dept.; but it is impossible to produce any direct proof of this, since the philatelists who were concerned in the production of this issue are unwilling today—when they see the great harm arising therefrom—to acknowledge their direct or indirect participation. In any case, it is immaterial who filled the role of inspirator or advisor of this overprint. The fact remains that it is an official issue, which has not only greatly damaged the esteem in which Czechoslovak stamps are held overseas (Note: this was written in 1935) but in addition has brought much bitter disappointment both to collectors and speculators, and relegated the stamps of Czechoslovakia for many years to the ranks of undesired and disliked stamps in countries abroad. Overseas countries revised their catalogs and, in common with this issue, undervalued other Czech stamps, which they also defined—incorrectly—as poor quality speculation material.

The "Posta Ceskoslovenska 1919" issue owes its reputation to many things amongst which are: the lack of restraint with which so-called rarities were produced, the inexcusably great number of different stamps, the privilege system of allotment and sale, the easy possibility of forgery of the overprint, lack of suitable control of the methods of sale, and an even greater lack of sense of responsibility regarding rejected material. The market was swamped with irregular prints and

rejected prints, which was a characteristic sign of irresponsible procedure on the part of the Postal Administration in the issue of these stamps. Indefensible principles and superficiality in the matter of guarantees of genuineness have indirectly caused a flood of forgeries to appear, which have driven this issue to the climax of unpopularity.

Three circumstances readily certify to the fact that right from the beginning the overprinted stamps were not for postal necessity or use. These were (1) The exclusive sale at the Prague Philatelic Bureau. (2) The unnecessary surcharge of 50%. (3) The period of validity allotted to the stamps.

After this essential classification, let us turn to the origin and description of the overprints.

It has already been stated in the chapter on "Transition Stamps" that the validity of Austrian and Hungarian stamps in the territory of Czechoslovakia ceased on Feb. 28th, 1919. This decree was published in the official sheet of the Ministry for Posts and Telegraphs (No. 3426-VI/19), and at the same time the delivery of all such stamps to the Central Administration in Prague was ordered.

Up to the end of April 1919 about 7½ million Crown's worth of Austrian and about 1 million Crown's worth of Hungarian stamps were withdrawn. After separating damaged pieces (some Post Offices, in the delivery, had stuck small blocks and singles with the whole of their gummed surfaces on to paper) the sheets were sorted and then provided with the three-line overprint POSTA CESKOSLOVENSKA 1919, and offered for sale at the Collectors' Counter of the Post Office, Prague 1, and at the Central Administration Offices. The decree of the Ministry for Posts and Telegraphs of the 5th Dec. 1919 in reference to this reads:

"No. 10214-VI/1919. Sale of Austrian and Hungarian stamps with Overprint. From 12th Dec. 1919, at the Collectors' Counters Nos. 33 and 34, in the Hall of the G. P. O. 1, Prague, old Austrian and Hungarian stamps of the last issues (which were returned to the Postal Administration as remainders after 1st March 1919) will be offered for sale. These stamps are provided with the overprint "Posta Ceskoslovenska 1919." A 50% surcharge will be added to

their face value. The stamps will be sold in large or small assortments, as far as stocks permit, and some values both singly and in sheets. All the stamps—Postage, Express, Airmail, Newspaper and Postage Dues—will be valid as postage at their original face value, up to the 31st Dec. 1919 inclusive, and during this period may be used to frank all postal sendings intended for Inland Postage in the Republic of Czechoslovakia. The sale of the stamps will also be continued after the expiry of their validity, until stocks are completely exhausted."

This terse decree is interesting in more than one respect. First of all, neither in it nor elsewhere was it stated which stamps were to be issued with the overprint. In the decree it is only indicated that overprinted old Austrian and Hungarian stamps will be offered for sale, but does not quote which values are concerned. (Incidentally, observe that the phrase "Old Austrian" could include the classical stamps of Austria, which the decree, naturally, did not mean.) As is further evident from the Official Order, on the one hand some values were sold individually, or in whatever quantities were desired at the Philatelic Counter; on the other hand stamp sets were issued which comprised some "rare" values in single pieces, and a great number of such values as existed in disproportionately high quantities.

The decree mentions nothing of the allotment of the stamps which the Central Administration in Prague undertook (principally to dealers) and in connection with which individual values representative of the whole of the overprinted material was represented. Neither does it mention the so-called "Ministerial" series, which comprised almost all values, and which were given out to privileged individuals. Some of the values which were overprinted only in small quantities were, of course, not included in any distribution. They were reserved for isolated personages only, or got out (rarely?) by mistake. As may be conceived, this sort of distribution evoked great dissatisfaction amongst philatelists, because a lot of values could only be acquired at second hand, and at greatly increased prices.

The stamps were sold with a surcharge of 50%. That meant that it was impossible to buy some values

singly (1, 3, 5, 15, 25h) since their selling prices amounted to fractions of haleru (1½, 4½, 7½, 22½, 37½h). Another circumstance arising from the large number of stamps in the issue was that unsuitable values were overprinted, such as 6, 12, and 14h, 2.50, and so on, whilst some other values were represented by a large number of designs (for example, the 2h value was represented by 9 stamps, and the 10h by 11). In the decree the reason for the surcharge was not stated, nor was it stated for whose benefit it was collected.

The original validity of the overprinted stamps (up to Dec. 31st, 1919) was extended to 31st Jan. 1920 by a decree of the 29th Dec. 1919 (No. 55679 VI. 1919). Nevertheless, there were still considerable stocks of individual values some years later. Also, the Collectors' Counter had, during the sale of the stocks, the job of selling some values only on condition that, at the same time, a specified number of other values were taken (i.e., the Austrian Postage stamps 15, 20, and 80h, Hungarian Reaper 15h, etc.) and discontinued the sale of the remaining stocks of these stamps for the first time in April 1929—nine years later! The further circumstance that the decree in the very beginning spoke of the continuity of sale after the expiry of their validity, speaks volumes regarding the superfluity of this issue, and of its true object:

What Was Overprinted

All stocks of Austrian and Hungarian stamps which had been seized by the Czech Post Offices were overprinted. Amongst them were found some stamps which were already obsolete in Austria and Hungary on Oct. 28th 1918 (Austria: Triangular Express, 10h Newspaper of 1910, Postage Dues with large figures of 1910, "Turul" stamps of Hungary, Hungarian War Stamps and Postage Dues with black figures.) Even stamps which had never been in use in Czech territories appeared (Austrian Airmails) and some which were issued in Austria or Hungary after the 28th Oct. 1918 (the 4K and 10K Austria on granite paper, 10 and 20f Hungary with inscription "Magyar Posta.")

The Post Offices had no stocks of Airmails, which were only used for the Airline Vienna-Cracow-Lemberg, and it is taken for granted that these stamps were included in the issue

purely for speculative purposes. The same can be said of the Austrian 4K and 10K stamps on granite paper, although in this case it is possible that they were delivered up by officials who had exchanged them, and the small number of overprinted pieces seems to point to this. This explanation appears most probable in the case of the 2 Hungarian stamps inscribed "Magyar Posta" which first appeared in Hungary in April 1919, and in the way of normal exchange could have arrived in Slovakia from Budapest.

In no official decree is it clearly stated what was to be overprinted. In order to avoid difficulties and the expression of dissatisfaction by collectors, the united Collectors and Dealers of Prague requested the Minister for Posts and Telegraphs in Jan. 1920 to make a public announcement. The request asked for an accurate statement of the stamps issued, their quantities, a communication about the destruction of stamps which had been returned in small quantities, and also for a further extension of the postal validity of the issue. From the detailed answer—which is interesting not only because of its overbearing and irritable tone, but also because of the indefensibility of its standpoint—we quote some details:

"...The Minister for Posts and Telegraphs has refrained from making a public announcement of the individual values on account of the large quantity of overprinted stamps and the quantities issued was not divulged partly on account of the disproportionate numbers, and partly because some values at hand were very meagre. The matter of speculation is as at the commencement, since the majority of the stamps has not arrived in firm hands yet. Offices other than the Prague Collectors' Counter will not be given a share, in order to save a great deal of work which would be necessary to provide a useful assortment of stamps with varying issue quantities. There were no official unissued stamps, since all values — whether sold at the Collectors' Counter or at the Central Administration—belong to the official issue. In connection therewith, if stamps issued by the State are abundant and obviously only for collectors, the onus is either on the collector to decide which stamps to ardently collect and

which to regard as superfluous, or is on the dealer, who finds in them a rich source of profit...."

We don't intend to criticise in detail the Ministerial "explanation" of that time, for time has fully justified the "cold shoulder" attitude of philatelists.

Philatelically we value the overprinted stamps apart and consider as issued only those which were sold at the Collector's Counter or in the Central Administration. In doing so, of course, we do not conform to a later private publication (Monograph on the Stamps overprinted "Posta Ceskoslovenska 1919" by Jar. Leseticky, published by B. Subrt, 1920) which unsuccessfully attempted to give information about, and vindicate the honor of, this issue from the philatelic point of view.

In sorting up the overprinted material prior to the sale, it was found that only an insignificant number of some values were overprinted. To avoid the embarrassment of allotment, therefore, these were separated from those to be sold, just as were those that were damaged in the Overprinting, or in other ways bearing technical blemishes.

Therefore, we regard as "issued" only the 118 overprinted values (65 Austrian and 53 Hungarian) which constitute the so-called series. Not included are stamps with different perf or watermarks, also the so-called types of Austrian Kronen values which vary in measurement of the design, i.e., the smaller height (30x25 mm) and narrower width (29x25 mm). We also regard as NOT ISSUED the values (approximately 30) which later appeared on the philatelic market; although they belong in the category of these stamps, they should have been destroyed.

Stamps Issued

Although all the stamps issued with the overprint functioned as Postage stamps, and had validity in the whole of Czechoslovakia, one is accustomed to find them quoted in the catalogs according to their original status (Postage, Express, Airmail, Newspaper, or Postage Due) and their territorial sphere of activity (Austria or Hungary). For purposes of clarity we are retaining this arrangement, and now list all the stamps issued with the overprint.

On Austrian Stamps

POSTAGE STAMPS

- of October 1916 (Crown)
 - 3h Violet
 - 5h Yellow Green
 - 6h Orange
 - 10h Dark Carmine
 - 12h Green Blue
- of April 1917 (Emperor Karl)
 - 15h Brown Red
 - 20h Light Green
 - 20h Blue Green (Aug. 1918)
 - 25h Blue
 - 30h Violet
- of October 1916 (Coat of Arms)
 - 40h Olive
 - 50h Dark Green
 - 60h Light and Dark Blue
 - 80h Red Brown
 - 90h Red Violet
- of September 1918 (Coat of Arms)
 - 1K Red on Yellow
- of October 1916 (Coat of Arms)
 - 2K Dark Blue (both formats)
 - 3K Dark Carmine (both formats)
 - 4K Dark Olive (only 25x30 format)
 - 10K Dark Violet (only 25x30 format)
- of June 1917 (Coat of Arms)
 - 2K Light Blue (both formats)
 - 3K Light Carmine (both formats)
 - 4K Light Green (both formats)
 - 10K Light Violet (both formats)
- of October 1918 (Coat of Arms)
 - 2K Light Blue—Granite paper
 - 3K Light Red—Granite paper
- of March 1919 (Coat of Arms)
 - 4K Light Green—Granite paper
 - 10K Violet—Granite paper

EXPRESS STAMPS

- of October 1916 (Triangular, Yellow paper)
 - 2h Brown Red
 - 5h Green
- of May 1917 (Rectangular, Yellow paper perf 11½ or 12½)
 - 2h Brown Red
 - 5h Green

AIRMAILS

- of March 1918
 - 1.50 on 2K Pale Violet
 - 2.50 on 3K Dark Yellow
 - 4K Light Grey

NEWSPAPER STAMPS

- of October 1916 (Mercury looking to left)
 - 2h Brown
 - 4h Green
 - 6h Light or Dark Blue
 - 10h Orange
 - 30h Red Violet
- of March 1919 (Mercury looking to the right)
 - 10h Light Red

POSTAGE DUES

- of March 1910 (Large Numerals)
 - 2h Carmine Red
 - 4h Carmine Red
 - 6h Carmine Red
 - 14h Carmine Red
 - 25h Carmine Red
 - 30h Carmine Red
 - 50h Carmine Red
- of October 1916 (small numerals)
 - 5h Carmine
 - 10h Carmine
 - 15h Carmine
 - 20h Carmine
 - 25h Carmine
 - 30h Carmine
 - 40h Carmine
 - 50h Carmine
 - 1K Blue
 - 5K Blue
 - 10K Blue

PROVISIONAL POSTAGE DUES

- of October 1916 (Karl VI, Maria Theresa)
 - 1K Black Grey (with overprint PORTO)
 - 15h on 2h Violet (with overprint 15 PORTO 15)
- of March 1917 (Francis Josef)
 - 10h on 24h Dark Blue
 - 15h on 36h Violet
 - 20h on 54h Orange
 - 50h on 42h Dark Brown

On Hungarian Stamps

POSTAGE STAMPS

- of 1908 and 1913-16 (Turul, Wmk c or d)
 - 1f Grey
 - 2f Yellow
 - 3f Orange
 - 6f Olive Green
 - 50f Red-Violet on Blue
 - 60f Olive Green on Rose
 - 70f Brown with Green burelage
- of December 1916 (War issue)
 - 10f Red (Hussar)
 - 15f Light Violet (Infantryman)
 - 40f Light Red (Turul)
- of 1916 (Reaper, white figures on colored ground)
 - 10f Red
 - 15f Violet
- of 1916 (Reaper, colored figures on white ground)
 - 2f Yellow Brown
 - 3f Red Violet
 - 5f Green
 - 6f Green Blue
 - 10f Red
 - 15f Violet
 - 20f Brown
 - 25f Blue
 - 35f Red Brown

40f Olive Green
of December 1917 (Parliament, Wmk E)

Center of stamp in lighter shade:

50f Red Violet
75f Light Blue
80f Green
1K Brown Carmine
2K Olive Brown
3K Dark Violet
5K Dark Brown
10K Red Brown
of April 1918 (Karl)
10f Light Red
20f Dark Brown
25f Light Blue

of April 1918 (Zita)

40f Olive Green
50f Light Violet
of April 1919 (Reaper — MAGYAR POSTA)
10f Red
20f Brown

EXPRESS STAMPS

of June 1916 (Surgos)
2f Olive and Red

NEWSPAPER STAMPS

of 1908 and 1913 (with Wmk C or D)
2f Brown Yellow, Yellow Orange or Red Orange

POSTAGE DUES

of 1903, 1909, 1914 (Wmk A, B, C, E)

1f Green
2f Green
5f Green
12f Green
50f Green

of February 1915-1918 (Red figures, Wmk E)

1f Green
2f Green
5f Green
6f Green
10f Green
12f Green
15f Green
20f Green
30f Green

The Hungarian "Turul" and Postage Due stamps are not quoted separately, because it has not yet been established which stamps were issued with the overprint, and which emerged later from Printers' Waste, and were not actually issued.

Quantities of individual values issued, in which collectors are interested most of all, are not given regarding this issue, because they were never officially communicated and it is practically established that no accurate statement regarding the var-

ious values—either before the overprint or after—was made. In the official "Review of Stamps issued by the Postal Administration of the Czechoslovakian Republic," which appeared as a result of the Order of the Minister for Posts and Telegraphs of July 16th 1921 (No. 48,403/XIII-21) we read in the introduction the following interesting sentence:

"The old Austrian and Hungarian stamps with the Overprint POSTA CESHOSLOVENSKA 1919 are not included in this Review, because the overprinting of these stamps was not conducted by the department entrusted by the State with inspection of stamp-printing."

In this way the writer compiling the "Review" evades a difficult obstacle, that of the impossibility of quoting exact quantities for this issue, as was done with previous and subsequent issues.

The observation, which is supported by other internal explanations, shows quite clearly that the quantities issued of this series are unknown, and do not permit even of reconstruction. Of course, the remarks quoted do not prove the whole edition to be inferior. At most, one can draw the conclusion that the later Postal functionaries would accept no responsibility for the immediate past.

In Leseticky's Monograph (mentioned earlier), besides essential data, issue-quantities were indeed quoted, and expressed as authentic. Yet a nominal philatelic control could prove by the small quantities of some values the complete unreliability of the figures quoted, so that the data in the Monograph in this respect cannot be considered as accurate.

The greater part of the stamp varieties are known overprinted. Some stamps, however, were issued overprinted without the knowledge of the Postal Administration; for example 4k on Granite paper (about 8 copies), 10k on granite paper (about 14 copies), and 20f Reaper with inscription MAGYAR POSTA. The existence of the latter stamp was discovered when 100 copies in two half sheets were sold at the Post as normal 20f Reaper stamps, and it was seen that they did not have the regular inscription MAGYAR KIR. POSTA. As this was issued without the knowledge of the Postal Administration it can correctly be classed as a Printing Error.

In this chapter we are dealing with

the overprint only, and consider it outside our scope to list the various kinds of papers, color-shades, perfs, various defects, and similar detail. We call attention only to the striking differences in shade (light and dark) of the 60h Austrian Newspaper stamp, and 2f Hungarian Newspaper stamp, the shades of the green borders of the Hungarian Postage Dues and finally the thick paper of the Austrian Postage 3, 10, 20, 40, 50 and 80h, and the different watermarks of the Hungarian stamps.

Amongst stamps delivered up by the Post Offices for overprint, was found and overprinted the 2h Austrian Newspaper stamp with private perf 11½, and the Hungarian "Reaper," white figures, privately punctured G St. vertically in the centre of the stamp. Although the Newspaper stamp with private perf was only in part of the overprinted issue, it cannot be valued higher, because in consequence of the demand for this particular stamp, a greater quantity was subsequently privately perfed.

The 10f Reaper with private puncture is always lower in value than the same stamp unpunctured.

The 4 blank fields (so-called "Coupons") on the sheets of the Triangular Express stamps, always received the overprint, whilst the analogous "fields" (always carrying a St. An-

drew's cross) on the sheets of the rectangular stamps were not, as a rule, overprinted, and only exist overprinted in a small part of the issue. Again, the selvedge of different stamps sometimes received the overprint, as a result of displacement of the sheets in the press. These belong to Overprint imperfections, as do overprints on surrounding corners, off-centre prints, inverted overprints, off-sets, etc., of which more later.

CORRECTION

Omitted from list of members in the Armed Forces:

Sgt. R. R. Langer, U. S. Army.

(Due to postal and censor regulations, we are asked not to print addresses of our members serving with the Armed Forces.)

APPRECIATION

Appreciation is expressed to member Zahradnicek of Cleveland for his fine work in recruiting new members in his city. We should all follow Mr. Zahradnicek's good example.

Likewise thanks to member Bryant of So. Pasadena for the interesting cover mailed to us which was cancelled during the ceremonies connected with the launching of the S. S. Masaryk on August 12th, 1943, at Terminal Island, Calif. The cover was franked with the stamp commemorating Czechoslovakia; this tied up very nicely with the event.

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