

# THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE  
CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

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Editor Frank J. Kovarik, 2502 So. Kedzie Ave., Chicago 23, Ill.

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## EDITORIAL

A very important message about the 1944 dues appears in this issue. It is a hint that the year 1943 is fading away, that 1944 is just around the corner. We now have about 100 members; with the increase in cost of printing; with a possible increase in the cost of mailing; we need more members and a few more associate members. In the near future we must get some cuts made for some of the articles which are ready except for the illustrations. If we put out an average of six pages each month in 1944 as we did in 1943, we need more than the \$147 collected in 1943. May I, as your editor, plead for your magazine? As Al Smith would say: Let us look at the record. If you are satisfied with our efforts — then please, lend a helping hand.

We urge all members to write advising what type of articles they prefer. After all, we are your editor to serve you and not to play up ourself.

We ask all members when mailing their dues to the treasurer to kindly add to their address their zone number. This war is costing much money; we should do everything asked of us to save our government as much money as possible. You'd be surprised how much can be saved by adding the zone number to your address. With the large percentage of efficient post office clerks in the armed services of their country, you are guaranteed better service if your correspondents know and use your zone number.

Last but not least. Continue to buy war bonds and war stamps. When the war is over you'll have a real satisfaction in the knowledge that you did all you could to keep 'em flying—

keep 'em fighting—keep 'em shooting  
—keep 'em rolling.

F. J. K.

## NEW MEMBERS

141. Mrs. Olga Strnad, 1118 W. 16th St., Davenport, Iowa.
142. Ernest E. Weaver, Jr., Bldg. 13, Apt. 2C, Meadowbrook Village, Plainfield, N. J.

"POSTA CESKO-LOVENSKA 1919"  
Translated from Hirsch-Franek  
Handbook

By W. L. Russell

(continued from October 1943 number)

## The Production of the Overprints

On all values the overprint "Posta Ceskoslovenska 1919" is in 3 lines and slopes from lower left to upper right corners, in varying degrees of slope. Only on the triangular Express stamps is the overprint horizontal.

The overprint was typographed in one of the largest of Prague's printing houses—that of A. Haase, and was done as follows: each kind of overprint was first type-set by hand, and then 2 or 3 matrices were taken, from which the requisite number of cliches were cast. The number of cliches corresponded to the number of overprints in the printing plate and was therefore always 100, with the exception of the plates for the Express stamps.

Since one comes across small, but typical, variations in the same kind of overprints, it can be taken for granted that the matrices, in the majority of cases, were made from 2 or 3 different fonts of type, which varied in some details. Sometimes, perhaps, when more than one matrix was made

from the same setting, fresh characteristics are noted, due to altered position of type sets. It can also be assumed that the hand-composition of one kind of overprint, when finished with, was partly used for another series. This supposition is confirmed by some small, but constantly recurring typographical peculiarities which are common to the different kinds of overprints. The printing plate was made up from individual loose stereotyped clichés, set up together, all of which were cast type-high.

The different formats of the stamps, and the fact that some stamps already had previous overprints on them, required the employment of various sorts of overprints which varied in slope, size and position of the letters, space between lines, etc. For the production of the individual overprints, clichés were made up from portions of 2 or 3 sets of type, as has already been stated, and thus in the creation of a plate various types of overprint are found in one and the same sheet of stamps.

We wish to emphasize that earlier, the various overprints were wrongly designated as "types," while no one in the Czech Stamp Journals devoted any attention to the actual "types," although specialists of front rank have to rely upon all studies of all "typicalities." We shall describe now in detail and for the first time the differences between the types and the composition of the plates in the light of our experiences.

Kind of O/P	Kind of Stamp	Height of O/P	Length of O/P	Height of letters	Degree of slope
A	Austrian Postage .....	18.5	27.5	4mm	55°
B	Triangular Express .....	10.5	20.5	2.6mm	0°
	Airmails and Prov. Dues .....	10.5	20.5	2.6mm	28° *)
C	Oblong Express and Parliament	16	27.5	4mm	24° 25° 22°
D	Aust. Newspapers and Dues of Heller value .....	15.7	24	3mm	45° 42° 41°
E	Austrian Dues 1-10k. ....	17.5	27.5	4mm	55°
F	Hung. Postage, Express & News.	15.7	24	3mm	55°
G	Hungarian Dues .....	16	24	3mm	35°

\*) On the 1h Karel VI the degree of slope is 43°

The color of the overprint, in the majority of the values, is BLACK but on the Austrian 6h and 1k, and the Austrian Express Stamp of 2h, it is BLUE (light to dark). Where these three stamps appear with BLACK overprints, they are exceptions, or proof-prints, whose origin is due to philatelic "assistance." The BLACK shade of the overprints is for the most part a deep, lustreless black, dark black, or tinged with grey and some-

times with brown. On the rectangular Express 5h, in addition to the Black, a green-black overprint sometimes appears as a rarity. Occasionally penetration of the oil color to the back of the stamp occurs, especially on the Austrian 2 to 10k stamps.

#### Species of Overprints

As already-mentioned, one overprint could not be adopted for all kinds of stamps, and it was necessary to modify it according to the size of the stamp. For the overprint of all the Austrian and Hungarian stamps which were so treated, three type sizes have been used (ACE, DFG, B) from which 7 different overprints are composed. These 7 are illustrated on page 174 of the Handbook, and were used as follows:

- A. On Austrian Postage stamps.
- B. On Austrian Triangular Express, Airmails and Provisional Postage Dues.
- C. On Rectangular Express and Hungarian Parliament stamps.
- D. On Austrian Newspaper stamps, and heller values of the Postage Dues.
- E. On Austrian Postage Dues of the Kroner Values.
- F. On Hungarian Postage Stamps (except Parliament), Newspaper and Express Stamps.
- G. On Hungarian Postage Dues.

In the following plan we show the characteristics of the individual overprints, i.e., size, degree of slope, etc. The letters, of course, refer to the different overprints:—

The entire height of the 3-line overprint is measured WITH the accent on the s; the height of the LETTERS is WITHOUT this accent and without the accent over A. For length of overprint the length of the word CESKO-SLOVENSKA is taken. The degree of the slope is measured from the horizontal plane of the stamp, and here any small deviations must be attributed to not feeding the sheet in properly. If the sheet is not fed cor-

rectly into the machine the angle will be different from that intended for a particular species. A case in point is the 5f (Type F overprint) where a few sheets appeared with the angle of 45° instead of 55°. In the chapter on "stamps not issued" we shall refer to inverted and reversed prints.

In most cases the overprint on the stamp is placed in the middle of the picture; but on the Airmails and Prov. Postage dues the overprint is placed where it is least likely to interfere with the previous overprint, such as "FLUGPOST" or "PORTO" and the value.

For the triangular Express Stamps, where the stamps are placed in tete-beche position, the printing is arranged in the same way, tete-beche, each alternate stamp being reversed. On these stamps the overprint is horizontal.

(To be continued)

### An Open Letter to the Unconquerable CZECHOSLOVAKS

By Joseph Auslander

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The Saturday Evening Post, copyright  
1943 by The Curtis Publishing Co.

This is not a letter that starts,  
"Dear So-and-So,"  
And ends,  
"Faithfully yours," Ah, no,  
Brave hearts  
And gallant friends,  
This is a letter that a man  
Heavy with words makes;  
In my case, an ordinary American,  
Whose hand shakes  
Because knowing the tremendous truth  
The words choke up in his mouth.  
My mind goes back to Munich,  
Goes back to the beginning—  
The little Caesar, hand upraised,  
hand in tunic,  
Gaping and glaring and grinning  
Under his mustache; the cheers,  
The "Sieg Heils" dinning  
Drunken music in his ears;  
My mind goes back  
To the cowardly bivouac  
Under the umbrella, under  
The alpine parasol where you were  
torn asunder  
To appease the Nazi appetite for  
plunder.  
You were the blood-bright spur  
To prick the languid conscience of  
this age;  
You were the cage  
Wherein the Executioner,  
That arch-sadist,

Of all mad dogs the maddest,  
Might practice the refinements of his  
rage;  
The laboratory, soundproof, leisurely,  
clinical,  
Where, quite begloved, bespatted, mon-  
ocled and cynical,  
The fiend could vent  
In hideous experiment  
His hate of God and man, of saint  
and sage.  
Hangmen die too;  
Bullets from nowhere through the  
spine  
Make hangmen whine,  
Turn hangmen's faces blue;  
If they have long enough to remember,  
They may recall  
The name of one Jan Opletal,  
Young medical student at Prague,  
His death from wounds in the night,  
His funeral,  
The seventeenth of November;  
The streets churning with Czech and  
Slovak youth; the sudden brawl,  
Deliberately provoked; the foremost  
fall,  
Shot down by storm troopers; they  
lurch, they sprawl;  
A few crawl  
Away to die like any beaten dog.  
This is only the curtain raiser; the  
epilogue  
Follows; the student hostels are sur-  
rounded,  
Boys and girls riddled by Schmeissers,  
tortured, abused, pounded  
Into submission; eyes gouged out, ear-  
lobes torn off, hounded  
From horror to horror . . . Turn  
your face to the wall,  
Hangman; death will soon enfold in  
fog  
The sickening sound, the smell, the  
sight  
Of this blood-soaked Walpurgis Night.  
But never, hangman, never from your  
face  
Shall death or time or blood erase  
That massacre of youth,  
Nor any self-dug death pits hide one  
trace  
Of their fierce love of truth;  
Break the head  
Of every stubborn hostage; shoot him  
dead  
Until the earth runs red;  
Others will stand in his stead.  
You sow the dragon's tooth,  
Burn a hundred Lidices to the ground,  
New Lidices will spring up; the des-  
olate space  
Charred, choked with ashes,  
And dead birds all around  
Will consecrate a holy place

Drenched with the blood that flames  
and flashes  
Wherever Czechoslovaks and freedom's  
dream are found.

**CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONAL  
INFORMATION TO  
"A MODERN CLASSIC"**

We are indebted to Mr. Novy for new information on the 40th stamp of the first issue which was the subject of an article with the above heading some time ago. For over forty years Mr. Novy has been a member of the Czech Philatelic Club of Prague, and was a resident of Prague at the time the Hradcany stamps were issued. Mr. Novy states that the printers waste was not made to order, but that

the president of the Czech Philatelic Club distributed to members material which already existed, but which would otherwise have been destroyed.

Beside that material listed in the article, Mr. Novy has the following printers waste in blocks:

Double impression, one is 1mm to the right and down.

Double impression, one is 2mm to the right.

Single impression overprinted with 50h violet, 2mm to right and down.

Triple impression slightly shifted with triple impression of 3h, bright violet, one is 1mm to right.

A checklist of printers waste showing the relative scarcity of the different combinations as distributed by the Collectors Club of Prague. Courtesy of Rudolph Novy. Values in Crowns.

Value	On Brownish Paper						On White Paper					
	One impression		Two		Multiple		One imp.		Two		Multiple	
	Block	Sing.	Block	Sing.	Block	Sing.	Block	Sing.	Block	Sing.	Block	Sing.
1h ..	....	1.00	1.20	.30	.80	.20	....	....	12.00	3.00	....	....
3h ..	1.20	.30	.80	.20	.48	.12	10.00	2.00	4.00	1.00	2.00	.50
5h ..	5.00	.60	1.60	.40	1.20	.30	....	....	8.00	2.00	6.00	1.50
10h ..	.60	.16	.40	.10	.30	.08	10.00	2.00	4.00	1.00	2.00	.50
20h ..	.80	.20	.60	.16	.40	.10	....	....	4.00	1.00	2.00	.50
25h ..	....	2.00	4.00	1.00	2.00	.50	....	2.00	4.00	1.00	2.00	.50
30h ..	1.60	.40	1.20	.30	.80	.20	....	....	....	....	....	....
40h ..	....	....	2.40	.60	1.60	.40	....	....	....	....	....	....
50h ..	3.20	.80	2.00	.50	1.20	.30	....	....	24.00	6.00	....	....
80h ..	6.00	1.50	3.20	.80	1.60	.40	....	....	....	....	....	....
100h ..	4.00	1.00	2.00	.50	1.20	.30	....	....	6.00	1.50	....	....
200h ..	....	2.40	4.00	1.00	2.40	.60	24.00	6.00	10.00	2.50	....	....
300h ..	24.00	6.00	10.00	2.50	4.80	1.20	....	....	....	....	....	....
400h ..	24.00	6.00	10.00	2.50	4.80	1.20	....	....	....	....	....	....
<b>SPECIAL DELIVERY</b>												
2h ..	2.40	.60	1.20	.30	.40	.10	....	....	....	....	....	....
5h ..	6.00	1.50	2.00	.50	1.60	.40	....	....	....	....	....	....
<b>NEWSPAPER</b>												
2h ..	.80	.20	.60	.16	.40	.10	....	2.00	3.20	.80	2.00	.50
10h ..	4.00	1.00	2.00	.50	1.00	.24	....	....	....	....	....	....
<b>DUES</b>												
5h ..	4.00	.50	1.20	.30	.80	.20	....	....	....	....	....	....
10h ..	3.00	.40	.80	.20	.60	.16	....	....	10.00	2.50	8.00	2.00
15h ..	....	1.20	3.20	.80	1.00	.26	....	....	....	....	....	....
20h ..	....	.80	1.60	.40	.80	.20	....	....	....	....	....	....
25h ..	5.00	1.20	3.20	.80	2.00	.50	....	....	16.00	4.00	....	....
30h ..	5.00	1.20	3.20	.80	2.00	.50	....	....	....	....	....	....
40h ..	6.00	1.50	4.00	1.00	2.00	.50	....	....	....	....	....	....
50h ..	....	1.50	4.00	1.00	2.00	.50	....	....	....	....	....	....
100h ..	8.00	1.50	4.00	1.00	2.00	.50	....	....	40.00	10.00	....	....
500h ..	....	4.00	6.00	1.50	2.40	.60	....	....	....	....	....	....
1000h ..	30.00	6.00	10.00	2.50	6.00	1.50	....	....	40.00	10.00	....	....

**"CZECHOSLOVAK TAG DAY"  
Used in Toronto, Canada, Cancellor**

A special post office cancelling device bearing the legend "Czechoslovak Tag Day, November 13" was used in Toronto from November 5 to November 12. The Federal Government at Ottawa helped considerably a movement which was deserving of this add-

ed publicity. It is quite obvious that this bit of news caused excitement among the philatelists. It is the first time that Czechoslovakia obtained postal recognition in the Dominion. This success of the Czechs is another proof of their growing popularity in Canada. We ought to know; we have quite a number of members in the Ottawa Province.



## 1944 DUES!

### PAY YOUR DUES NOW!

• Membership dues must be paid by all members whose membership number is between 1 and 132 inclusive.

Annual dues for 1944 are:

Junior member .....	\$ .50
Member .....	1.00
Associate member .....	2.00
Patron member .....	5.00

Junior member receives the Czechoslovak Specialist but has no voting privileges. Only those less than 18 years old are accepted as junior members. A member receives the C. S. and is entitled to vote and assume conduct of the Society. An associate member receives as premium the complete volume mailed flat at the end of the calendar year in which he paid his dues. A patron member receives a bound volume of the C. S. when the bound volumes are received from the bookbinder.

The size and number of issues of the Specialist for 1944 will depend upon how many members continue their support of the Society and its aims. The Associate and Patron memberships provide an opportunity for members to better support the work of the Society. The 1943 membership roll lists 4 Patron and 36 Associate members. The Treasurer received approximately \$147 in 1943 dues payments. Of this amount approximately \$120 was used for printing and mailing the 1943 Specialist, consisting of 10 issues, with a total of 60 pages. The cost of printing has recently increased and an increase in the postal rates appears probable. To support the work of the Society and enable the Editor to continue the publication of a worthwhile Specialist a substantial increase in Patron and Associate Members is necessary.

Make remittance payable to and send your dues directly to the Treasurer Guy Greenawalt, 4506 Monument Ave., Richmond 21, Va.



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WE OFFER THE FOLLOWING TWO ITEMS  
WHICH WERE RELEASED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE

## 25th Anniversary of the Independence of CZECHOSLOVAKIA

A strikingly beautiful Souvenir Sheet, 8¼x10½ inches, printed on white carton paper with red and blue borders and showing on top the American Shield and Eagle. On each side of the shield are the year dates 1918 - 1943 and below the date October 28th. In the center of the sheet is a block of four of the Czechoslovakia stamp issued by the United States and cancelled at the New York Main Post Office on the Anniversary date. Below the stamps is the following inscription "Commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the Republic of Czechoslovakia."

Each sheet comes with a folder showing the Coat of Arms of Czechoslovakia on the front page, date and years and the identical lettering as on the sheet. On the back page is the following inscription "This folder contains a commemorative sheet of which 150 were issued and numbered."

The entire issue consists of 150 sheets and folders which are identically numbered from 1 to 150. Of these 50 were autographed by the Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Jan Masaryk.

Autographed Sheet .....	\$10.00*
Without Autograph .....	5.00

ALSO:

Souvenir card 5½x3½ inches, with red borders and blue inscription "The United States honors the Overrun Countries of Europe, Czechoslovakia 1918 October 28th 1943." The Czechoslovak stamp is affixed in the center and cancelled in Washington on the Anniversary date. 150 of these cards were released, each showing the number on the reverse.

Price 50 Cents

### UNITED STAMP COMPANY

495 Lexington Avenue  
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

\*Each autographed sheet has the large Coat of Arms embossed above the signature of Minister Jan Masaryk. Net proceeds from the sale of these sheets will be turned over to The United Czechoslovak Relief.

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