

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE
CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

Copyright 1944, The Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of North America
Editor Frank J. Kovarik, 2502 So. Kedzie Ave., Chicago 23, Ill.

Vol. 6

February 1944

No. 2

EDITORIAL

One of the finest editorials we have read in recent months is that of Mr. Lester G. Brookman, editor of the *American Philatelist*, official organ of The American Philatelic Society. We hadn't time to ask Mr. Brookman's permission to reprint it—yet, do so, believing he will not object.

"The one stamp we would most like to see issued in 1944 is an Allied Victory Stamp. This does not arise out of any desire to add a stamp to our collection as it is only a reflection of the hopes and prayers of millions of people all over the world. The terrible necessity of the bombing and shelling of great cities is not relished by our soldiers as the certainty that the innocent must thus suffer with the guilty is not pleasant for them to contemplate. To the end that such horrors may be driven as quickly as possible from the face of the globe our brave men are driving relentlessly forward into the fire of the enemy.

"No amount of effort on the part of those of us who remain at home can even approach the effort given forth by the man who is on the field of battle. The very least we can do, if we are to deserve our heritage as Americans, is to help in the war effort to the limit of our ability. One of the small but valuable things we can do, and in which we should find real pleasure in the doing, is to give stamps to our wounded heroes so that they may have some way in passing the tedious hours of convalescence.

"Please read carefully and thoughtfully....

L. G. Brookman, Acting Editor,
The American Philatelist,
121 Loeb Arcade,
Minneapolis, Minn.

Dear Sir:

I think your readers may be interested in a group here in New York which is working on plans for STAMPS FOR OUR WOUNDED in cooperation with a hospital where many of the most seriously wounded men will be out of circulation for some time.

What we chiefly need is old stamp albums, catalogs of former years, and accessories such as tweezers, watermark detectors, etc.

While there appear to be sufficient stamps on incoming mail of a number of interested but non-philatelic friends, the bulk of this mail is western hemisphere and odd lots of low value stamps of other countries would be useful.

It is not important that such stamps be other than run-of-shed, the books more than usable and of the "beginner" type, as our new faddists are not discriminating and are starting from scratch.

Having spent seven months in a hospital in the last war I realize that a god-send stamp-collecting would have been to me during those long days. It is a time killer that will be most welcome by our hospitalized soldiers who, when they are discharged, may leave their collections to their successors at the hospital, to carry on.

I do not know of any movement of this sort at present and I think it holds
(Continued on last page)

POSTA CESHOSLOVENSKA 1919

Translated from the Hirsch-Franek Handbook by W. L. Russell

(Continued from the Dec. 1943 number)

Types of Overprint

The philatelic classification for the visible differences in overprints are called "types." The origin of the overprint "Posta Ceskoslovenska 1919" has been dealt with already. The most striking differences of types employed are shown in the enlargements (See pages 176 to 194). In the overprint the second 9 of the date 1919 often appears to be cut through on its lower portion. This divergence should have been—but never has been—a protection against imitation. The cut 9 is always met with in some overprints (Type B), whilst in another it never occurs (Type E). In individual plates cliches were exchanged, quite casually, without any fixed plan. As we follow them in the sheets however, it becomes possible for us to confirm the number of printing plates used for each type of overprint.

To determine the types, as well as to define their position in the sheet, it was necessary to examine some hundreds of original sheets. At the same time, we ask you to be indulgent of the deficiencies and incompleteness of this section, which up to now has been a much neglected section of Czech philately.

A great part of the original complete sheets are not procurable now, and some stamps were never once viewed in sheet form (Airmails, amongst others), so that the study of this stamp territory has been rendered more difficult. We quote, however, only what we have actually seen, and not theories of which we ourselves have not been convinced. We shall welcome the submission of further sheet material which will aid in the research of this section.

Overprint "A"

Used on Austrian postage stamps of 3 heller to 10 kroner. For the low values up to 1k the blocks in the plates are nearer together than in those used for the 2k-10k values, because the higher values are of larger format. The reason that on all postage stamps two distinct styles of letters can be recognized is because the stereotypes were made from two hand settings. On the illustration (page 176) the two characteristics are seen. Beside the mutual spacing and positioning of the words *Posta Ceskoslovenska*, and 1919, it is mainly "supersign" over the s which in Type I is crowded on to the s, but in Type II is distant from it 0.3mm. Besides these two main differences, there are numerous other small variations from the original, due to incomplete impressions from the stereotypes, so that they possess only minor significance. After carefully examining many sheets of stamps, we have found that the 2 types of overprints are mixed in some sheets (i.e. they change irregularly to no fixed rule, whilst in other sheets they remain unchanged throughout the sheet. This leads us to the conclusion that the Austrian stamps were overprinted with 5 different plates (or 5 varieties of assembled stereotypes) as well as with repaired plates. Under the heading NEW Plates we mean plates where the series of types differ entirely from previous plates, whilst on the other hand "repaired plates" are plates which differ in series from the previous one, in position of various stereotypes. We would remind you again that a PLATE is composed, not from a single casting, but from individual cliches, which are assembled in one plate or form. It may have happened that sometime during printing one or other of the Stereos got damaged and was exchanged for a new one, which happened to be cast from another matrix. It is frequently found that corresponding types are in different positions in the plates. As all plates could not be set up for printing at one and the same time, it may be assumed that types have been exchanged from other plates.

PLATE I—This plate was used for overprinting the Austrian 3h stamps. The table (page 177) shows in what routine the two Types fall. To give a better view, the scheme of sheets is divided into quarters. The overprints in this plate are 54 of Type I and 46 of Type II.

PLATE I—REPAIRED. We meet Plate I again, with a slight alteration. The 15h was overprinted with this plate, with the exception that the blocks at the end of the 6th and 7th rows (i.e. the 60th and 70th stamps) were changed to Type I. Otherwise the plate was unaltered. However, in a large number of sheets of the 15h, the overprints on the 3rd, 13th, 23rd, 33rd, and 43rd stamps are damaged. These are undoubtedly plate damages or scratches. This explains why we have retained Plate I for the 3h on the one hand, and on the other hand shows

the origin of the repaired plate.

PLATE II—If we wished to make things more complicated we could refer to this plate as "repeated corrections." After the 15h stamps had been overprinted, the top half of this plate was replaced with many new stereos. Perhaps the top half was **entirely replaced**. We refer, therefore, to this plate as a new one, and with it the 5h, 25h, and 50h values were overprinted. The overprints on this plate are 55 of Type I and 45 of Type II.

PLATE III—For the overprint of the 6, 10, 12, 30, 40, 60h and 1k values, a further plate was set up (which is explained in the chart on page 178). It is obvious that for such a huge quantity of stamps, several plates had to be set up, as the stereos are of soft metal. In this plate are 55 of Type I and 45 of Type II.

PLATE IV—For the same reason as announced regarding Plate III, another plate was made for stamps of 20, 25, 40, 60, 80, and 90h values. Portions of the 25h stamps were overprinted with Plate II, and another portion of the 40h and 60h stamps overprinted with Plate III. It is quite possible that besides these three values, other values in this group may have been overprinted with different plates, but as we only describe definitely what we have proved, we can only assume this. It is interesting to know that the stamp sheets of the 20, 25, and 40h values which are overprinted with THIS plate, had protective edges and control figures on top and bottom, whereas the sheets of the 25 and 40h values overprinted with other plates did NOT have these protective edges.

The greater number of stamp sheets were without these edges, being originally printed from flat plates. In addition to flat printing, rotary printing was employed in Austria from 1917 onwards, and some of the 15, 20, 25, 40 and 80h values have been produced by this method. Such plates are curved, and the sheets always possess protective edges, with control figures under each column of stamps. On this plate are 47 of Type I and 53 of Type II.

PLATE V—On account of the larger size of the 2, 3, 4, and 10k stamps, it was necessary to set up a complete new plate. Only the spacing between the individual stereos is altered, the actual overprints, both types, being the same size as in previous plates.

The original stamps had been printed from flat copper plates, partly on thick and partly on this porous paper. Owing to the dampening of the paper before printing, and printing the sheets both lengthwise and broadside, shrinkage caused two different formats of the stamps when dried (long and narrow, short and wide).

The 10k Dark Violet exists in "long Narrow" size only. We could not obtain a complete sheet of the 10k value, but we have reasons which permit us to conclude that one plate only was sufficient for the overprint of this value. None of this value was overprinted in the original full sheet size, as the Post Offices had been supplied only with half and quarter sheets. In this plate (V) are 48 of Type I and 52 of Type II. In all the plates used for overprints of Class "A," types I and II were almost equally represented in number, so that there is no reason to value one type higher than the other.

Illustrations

PLATE I—OVERPRINT "A"

1 1 2 2 1		1 2 2 1 2
2 1 1 1 2		1 1 2 1 1
2 1 2 2 1		2 2 1 1 1
2 2 2 1 1		2 1 1 1 2
1 2 2 2 2		1 1 1 2 2
2 1 1 1 2		1 1 2 2 2
2 2 2 2 2		1 1 2 1 2
2 1 1 2 1		1 1 1 2 1
2 1 1 1 1		1 1 1 1 2
1 2 2 2 2		1 1 1 1 2

PLATE III—OVERPRINT "A"

2 1 2 1 1		1 1 1 1 1
2 2 2 2 1		1 2 1 1 1
1 2 2 2 2		1 2 1 2 1
1 1 1 2 1		2 2 1 2 1
2 1 2 2 1		1 2 2 1 2
2 2 1 2 1		1 1 1 1 1
1 2 2 1 2		2 2 1 1 1
2 2 2 2 2		1 1 2 2 1
1 1 2 1 1		2 1 2 2 1
1 1 1 1 2		1 1 2 1 2

PLATE II—OVERPRINT "A"

1 1 1 2 1		2 1 2 1 2
1 1 2 2 2		1 2 1 1 1
2 2 2 2 1		1 2 2 2 2
2 2 1 1 1		2 2 1 1 1
1 2 1 2 2		1 1 1 2 2

The lower half of this plate is the same as the corrected plate I

PLATE IV—OVERPRINT "A"

2 2 2 2 1	2 2 2 2 2
1 1 1 2 2	2 1 2 1 1
2 1 1 2 1	2 1 2 2 2
2 2 1 2 1	2 1 1 1 2
2 2 2 1 2	2 2 1 1 2
2 1 2 2 1	2 1 1 1 2
1 1 1 1 2	1 1 1 1 2
2 1 2 1 1	1 1 2 2 1
2 1 2 2 2	1 2 2 1 1
1 2 2 1 2	1 1 2 1 2

PLATE V—OVERPRINT "A"

1 1 2 1 2	2 2 1 1 1
2 2 2 1 2	1 2 1 1 2
1 2 1 2 2	2 1 1 1 2
2 2 1 1 2	2 2 1 2 2
2 1 1 1 2	1 2 2 1 2
1 1 1 2 2	2 2 2 1 1
1 2 1 1 1	1 1 1 1 1
2 1 2 1 2	2 2 2 2 2
1 1 2 1 2	1 1 2 2 2
2 1 2 1 2	2 2 1 2 1

(To be continued)

(Continued from first page)

possibilities for those where other hospitals are located. However if you make an appeal on our behalf through your pages, you may rest assured that the material will be placed where it will do the most good and bring the greatest satisfaction.

Any donations should be sent to:

Arthur Adam Kron, Secretary,
Stamps-for-our-Wounded Committee,
% Gotham Advertising Company
2 West 46th St.
New York, N. Y.

Thank you for your worthy assistance in this cause.

Sincerely, Hugh McKay."

Need we add any more?

DUES ARE DUE FOR 1944

In spite of requests in previous issues there is still a number of members who failed to pay their 1944 dues. Each request from the treasurer to the delinquent costs at least three cents, a small item to be sure, but when deducted from a dollar bill, means exactly 3% reduction in money spent on the magazine. This space could be utilized for something better than a notice to pay dues; it could be an interesting short story on some phase of specialization of Czechoslovak stamps. Please cooperate with the treasurer by sending in your dues for 1944 NOW!

WAR POSTER STAMPS

An attractive set of poster stamps has been issued for the Czechoslovak War Charities fund to provide comforts for soldiers and flyers of the fighting Czechoslovaks. The object of this fund is to give these men the sense of being a part of a United Nations community which is not indifferent to their welfare. The poster stamps cost \$1.00 per hundred. Send remittances and requests for the poster stamps to Czechoslovak National Alliance in Canada, Room 701, 45 Richmond St., West, Toronto, Canada.

NEW MEMBERS

- 144. Charles Cerny, 5167 Theodore Ave., Maple Heights Post Office, Bedford, Ohio.
- 145. Ladimer F. Ocasek, 15511 Eldamere Ave., Cleveland 20, Ohio.

(These new members have been brought in by member Zahradnicek who, with Meisel of Canada have done more for the good of our society than the rest of us put together. More power to them and may they continue!)

NEW ADVERTISING RATES

Full page \$5.00; 1/2 page \$3.00; 1/4 page \$1.75; 1/8 page \$1.00
Members and dealer members get a 20% discount.

COLLECTION OF 247 USED BLOCKS OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Catalog as singles at over \$70.

Will exchange for anything I can use in my Czech collection.

Will exchange flown airmail cover with complete set C7 to C9 for mint block C7.

Will pay cash for any amount of No. 154-155 mint. Can use up to 300 copies.

C. J. PEARCE

2833 N. W. 13th St.

Oklahoma City, Okla.