

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE
CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

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Vol. 6.

January 1945

No. 1

EDITORIAL

Sometime in 1930, we decided that the information on stamps which may be found in our library is absolutely worthless unless we can refer to it and do so with comparative ease. We immediately "fell to" and have kept at this work religiously until about a year and a half ago when the war has caused us so much additional work that labor of this type was of necessity relegated to "the post-war work program." We did keep a fairly complete index of material found in the Czechoslovak Specialist and offer it to the members as a CUMULATIVE INDEX of articles of worth-while interest on our particular phase of stamp collecting. Several articles are still unfinished as this issue goes to press and these are: Posta Ceskoslovenska 1919, a translation from the Hirsch-Franek Handbook by W. L. Russell; Military Postal History of Czechoslovakia by J. W. Lowey and the Masaryk Issue 1925-27 by G. Greenawalt and F. J. Kovarik. Many of the theories advanced in the Hirsch Franek articles are of as controversial character as the Premieres Gravures of the United States, many statements have been proven false and we have the assurance of several specialists in this line that they will supplement this series of articles by their own knowledge of these stamps as well as the opinions of other leading authorities on this issue. We all know that the series of stories made into one perfect whole by our secretary, into a really fine Military Postal History of Czechoslovakia is a novel way to treat the various issues of stamps and the many commemorative postmarks dealing with this subject. As far as the last article mentioned is concerned, we have a good reason for postponing it; we are sure that when the final chapters appear in the Specialist, the members will agree it was worth waiting.

PAY YOUR 1945 DUES NOW!

On the last page of this issue you will find our annual plea: PAY YOUR 1945 DUES NOW! We are sure that the members will give the same generous support to the officers they have given in the past. After all, our society was not organized for profit but for service. The duty of your president is to see to it that the organization functions without a hitch; the secretary keeps the outside world informed of what we are doing (at the same time doing other propaganda work for the society); the treasurer collects and disburses the finances and keeps the editor informed how far he can go; the librarian has custody of the small but very good library; the sales and exchange manager tends to the circuits of stamps entrusted to him and the editor is obliged to present to the members through the medium of the printed page information on philately dealing with the stamps and postmarks of Czechoslovakia. We are sure we have done our part; you do yours. If you can afford it, become an associate or patron member; if not, then at least help the society by retaining active membership. We need all of you if we want to do the work we are anxious to do.

**CUMULATIVE INDEX OF FEATURE ARTICLES IN THE CZECHOSLOVAK
SPECIALIST VOLUMES 1 TO 6 INCLUSIVE**

(Note: Where articles have appeared in more than one issue, an asterisk * appears with the first issue and is not mentioned again.)

TITLE	AUTHOR	YEAR NO.
History of 1918 Provisional Overprints		1942 Mar.
Hradcany Issue *	J. W. Lowey	1939 Dec.
Hradcany Issues*	F. J. Kovarik	1942 Apr.
A Modern Classic *	J. Velek	1942 Oct.
Corrections and Additions to a Modern Classic	J. Velek	1943 Dec.
Posta Ceskoslovenska 1919 * translated by	Hirsch-Franek W. L. Russell	1943 Oct.
Masaryk Issue 1920	F. J. Kovarik	1942 Mar.
Plate number on Masaryk 125h 1920		1944 Jan.
Jubilee Issue 1923 -	G. Greenawalt F. J. Kovarik	1943 Mar.
Olympic Congress Issue of 1925	do.	1943 Mar.
Sokol Meet 1926	do.	1943 Mar.
Masaryk Issues of 1925-27 *	do.	1943 Apr.
Jubilee Issue of 1928 *	A. Hrivnak P. Kreischer	1940 Dec.
Jubilee Issue of 1928	G. Greenawalt F. J. Kovarik	1944 Mar.
Bedrich Smetana	do.	1943 Nov.
Antonin Dvorak	do.	1943 Nov.
The Legion Stamp (1934)	W. L. Russell	1943 Jan.
Where is My Home?	do.	1943 June
Arras Commemorative	do.	1941 May
Ss. Cyril and Methodius	F. J. Kovarik	1943 Feb.
January's Child	F. W. Beedon	1943 June
Little Entente Issue	F. J. Kovarik	1943 Mar.
Jan Evangelista Purkyne	W. L. Russell	1941 Sept.
Praga Exhibition Sheet		1944 Apr.
1930 Air Post Issue	G. Greenawalt	1940 Oct.
Postage Dues	F. J. Kovarik	1941 Oct.
Army Field Posts	J. W. Lowey	1941 Dec.
Sudeten Surcharges and Overprints	do.	1942 June
Field Posts of Cz. Armies in Siberia and their stamps * translated by	A. Novotny F. J. Kovarik	1939 July
Stamps of Cz. Field Posts in Russia	F. J. Kovarik	1940 Oct.
The Plebiscite Issues of Eastern Silesia	V. Domanski	1942 Dec.
The Story of a One Day Stamp	W. L. Russell	1944 Sept.
Military Postal History of Czechoslovakia *	J. W. Lowey	1944 Sept.
Transition Postmarks of Czechoslovakia	do.	1940 Feb.
Commemorative Postmarks of Cz and their Historical Background *	do.	1941 Feb.
Czechoslovak Autoposta	N. Hill	1941 Apr.
Hebrew Postmarks	J. W. Lowey	1943 June
T. G. Masaryk (postmarks)	do.	1943 Sept.
Cz Postmarks of Austrian and Hungarian Origin	C. H. Osbourn	1944 May
Names and Men behind Guarantee Marks	P. Kreischer J. W. Lowey	1940 July
Artists and Designs	J. W. Lowey	1942 Sept.
Cz Watermarks	G. Greenawalt F. J. Kovarik	1943 Feb.
The Cz Flag	V. Palic	1943 Sept.
Sketches for U. S. Stamps honoring Cz	J. Novy	1944 Jan.
Souvenir Poster Sheet (London 1943)		1944 Jan.

(As can be surmised by the specialist, this index is arranged chronologically

Military Postal History of Czechoslovakia

By J. W. LOWEY, A. P. S.

(Continued from last issue)

On October 14, at Hradec Kralove. Color of double circle, blue. Inscriptions, rose carmine. Legend, "Military Maneuvers and Exhibition of the Armies of the Little Entente."

On October 16, at Pardubice, a multi-colored postmark in red, blue, and gold, with the inscription, "Competition of Cavalry Units of the Little Entente."

Other Postmarks

During sectional Army maneuvers near the town of Nymburk that post office applied a purple circle postmark on September 13, 1936, with the inscription "Army Maneuvers."

On September 22nd 1936 President Benes visited his own regiment at Zilina, and on that day the Zilina post office commemorated his visit with a blue double circle postmark and rose carmine lettering, reading "Prezident republiky u Svojho P. Pl. 41 Dr. Ed. Benesa." (The president of the Republic Dr. Ed Benes with his 41st Inf. Regiment).

On October 21st 1938 President Benes presented a battle flag to the Engineer's Regiment No 6 at Bratislava, and the main post office of the city applied a brick-red double circle cancellation to mail with the legend, "Navsteva Prezidenta Republiky Venovanie Praporu Zenijnemu Pluku 6" (Visit of the President of the Republic and Flag Presentation to Engineer's Regiment No. 6).

CZECHOSLOVAK-GERMAN WAR CRISIS 1938

Although the Czechoslovak Army had been fully mobilized long before and had moved to the borders, it was only on October 1st that the Fieldpost offices began to function. The government had supplied fieldpost cards which were obtainable by soldiers at all fieldpost offices. They were made of the usual carton paper, and in various colors, — gray, buff, rose, and several other shades. Also, there are three different types, namely:

Type One — Size 14.7 by 10.6 cm. In the space above the address is the coat of arms (Bohemian Lion) and below, the inscription, "Dopisnice Polni Postovni Sluzby." (Postcard of the Fieldpost Service). On the left side of the card, within a space of 3.2 cm. and bordered by a heavy line, the word "Odesilatel" (Sender) is printed on top, and below, several vertical lines for the soldier's name, unit, and Fieldpost number.

Type Two — Same size and inscriptions in the space for the address. In the column for the soldier's name and address the word "Odesilatel" is printed horizontally in six languages.

Type Three—Size 14.1 by 9.4 cm. Same emblem, but inscription below now reads "Dopisnice Cs. Polni Posty" (Postcard of the Czechoslovak Fieldpost). The space for the sender's name is somewhat wider, and on vertical lines are the following inscriptions: "Sender," "Private Address," "Unit," and "Field post Number."

Altogether, there were sixty-four fieldpost offices. However, the postmarks differ as to size and character of inscriptions, and in studying them I find that eight different types exist, one type usually having been used by several post offices.

Type One — Diameter 27 mm. Inscription "Ceskoslovenska Polni Posta." On the bottom is the fieldpost number. The year in the date bar is missing. In making comparisons I find that this and some of the other cancellers seem to have been used previously in the Czechoslovak-Hungarian Crisis in 1918-19.

Type Two — Diameter 30 mm. Inscription on top shortened to fieldpost and number, and on the bottom, the initials C. S. P.

Type Three — Diameter 31 mm. Inscriptions taller.

Type Four — Diameter 30 mm. Smaller inscriptions. Asterisks on each side of initials C. S. P.



POLNÍ POŠTA 32



Polní pošta Censurováno
 Telegramní prapor 3 - radiotelegrafní rota 3
 Podpis censored:



Type Five — Diameter 31 mm. Wide space between Polní Posta and field-post number.

Type Six — Diameter 30 mm. Note the different ornaments on sides of initials C. S. P.

Type Seven — Diameter 30 mm. Initials C. S. P. in square type and asterisk.

Type Eight — Diameter 31 mm. Instead of initials C. S. P., three ornamental

designs. Markedly heavier date bars.

The color of all postmarks is black, with one exception: on October 28th, Independence Day, the post offices canceled mail in red.

The censorship practiced during the crisis makes an interesting chapter. Mail sent to the front from any part of the hinterland had the identical rubber stamp "Censurovano," and beneath, a dotted line for the signature or initials of the censor. The color of the rubber stamp was either blue, black, or red.

Mails from soldiers to the hinterland, on the other hand, show a vast variety of censorship marks, and although I have seen and own quite a few on soldier's mail, I doubt that anyone has seen all of them.

Whereas the censorship rubber stamps for mail going to the front were supplied to the clerks by postal authorities, no such procedure occurred at the front. The military postal authorities did not require the soldiers or officers who did censorship duty to apply their signature to censored mail. They were merely required to affix rubber impressions which would show that the mail had been censored, and I have it on authority through correspondence with responsible men in Czechoslovakia, and also several Czechoslovak officers, who performed censorship duty and now live in this country, that each military unit was given a free hand in having rubber stamps made according to their own wishes.

That is the reason why there are so many. A few appear to have been made by professionals, but the overwhelming majority have the appearance of having been made "on the spot," from all sorts of materials, and of having been applied with inks of various colors. They range from plain numbers to complicated designs, some being very crude, others showing a skilled hand.

CZECHOSLOVAK FIELDPOSTS IN FRANCE AND ENGLAND

Already during the early days after the demobilization of the Czechoslovak Army in 1938 many of its former officers and soldiers left the homeland in order that they might fight as volunteers with the Allies against the Germans. Several regiments which had been stationed near the Polish border were able to cross into that country completely outfitted where at first they were disarmed but later, when the Germans invaded Poland were again rearmed and as independent "Czechoslovak Legion" fought with the Poles.

Even after Hitler's armies had marched into Bohemia-Moravia many were able to escape across the borders,—some went singly and others in pairs or small groups. Their goal was France and some reached it in short time but the majority had to travel via various means and routes and sometimes across entire continents before reaching their destination.

Again as in 1914 these Czechoslovak patriots were assembled in the south of France,—this time near the town of Agde in the province of Herault. Due to the excellent military training they had received in their own country it was an easy task for the French authorities to re-equip and form them into battle units within a comparatively short time.

During the first weeks at Agde mails sent from and to the Camp were handled through the town's post office. Later on when the contingent grew to larger proportions Fieldpost offices were established inside the camp which show the number "2197."

On February 1st, 1940 the Czechoslovaks were permitted to use a Fieldpost cancellation of their own design. The first day postmark was applied in red ink and subsequently black ink was used.

At intervals the motif of the postmark was changed and altogether three different ones are known. (Figures 38, 39, 40). In addition to these postmarks each cover shows the circular French Army Regulation Postmark in black "Postes Aux Armees" and date and year.

Unfortunately the postal History of the Czechoslovak Army in France is a short one due to the collapse of that country in the early summer of 1940. While the British soldiers were evacuated from Dunkirk the Czechoslovaks were rescued from the Port of Sete in the South of France on British and French ships and also on some belonging to neutral Nations.

I am indebted to the organizer and Chief Postmaster of the Czechoslovak



Fig. 39



Fig. 38



Fig. 40

Fieldposts in England, Captain O. V. for the following account which throws light on the interesting postal phase of the Army. Writes Captain O. V. "....After our arrival in England and within a short time we established postal headquarters "Somewhere in England." The men having charge of this department were all experienced, their task being made easier since the British authorities have supplied us with all necessary facilities. We are very busy not only with outgoing mails but ever increasing quantities of letters and parcels sent to our soldiers from all parts of the world. Of course the majority of these communications are with the United States where our men have family members or more or less distant relatives and also many friends.

Ours at present is the only existing Czechoslovak post office in the world. The entire organization and handling of matters is in efficient hands due to the fact that a percentage of our men are former postal employees in the homeland. With the British postal authorities we work in perfect harmony on all problems.

At one time we planned to issue our own stamps. To undertake this step would have required sanction by higher British authorities. Since they however, at present are occupied with more pressing problems, the idea had to be postponed though it has not been entirely abandoned.

We have within our ranks several artists, who besides creating designs for various other subjects also design the motifs for our canceling devices. Most of the time we use a regular postmark on outgoing mails with a fixed design. However, several times during the year we apply special cancellations,—usually in commemoration of events which remind us of our history and of our leaders of the past and the present. Now and then we also release commemorative souvenir sheets in small quantities. If we are able to obtain stamps of former Czechoslovakia such are pasted upon the sheets and the respective cancellation is applied. If Czechoslovak stamps are not available we use British stamps. These sheets are enjoying great popularity not only among the collectors of this country but elsewhere as well.

The army publishes its own daily newspaper. It is a multigraphed sheet, 13 by 8½ inches in size and from 4 to 12 pages. Printed mostly in Czech or Slovak it now and then appears in English. Frequently it is illustrated with sketches. The paper also publishes news and regulations about our postal department. It can be subscribed to by civilians, the monthly subscription fee being 2/6 plus postage."

Up to now the following postmarks have been used:



July 26th, 1940. Honoring the visit of President Benes. The motif shows the park gate of castle Ch. the army's camp. The same postmark was again used on September 28th, commemorating the Anniversary of St. Wenceslas. Colors were blue or red. Figure 41.

September 15th, 1940. In honor of Peter Bezruc, Czech patriot-poet. Motif: Lysa Mountains at Ostrava, the poet's native town. In the foreground "Lizard smoking pipe." (On several occasions when writing to friends Bezruc drew a lizard smoking a pipe instead of affixing his signature.) Color: Blue. Figure 42.



October 28th, 1940. Commemorating the Independence Day of Czecho-Slovakia and showing Coat of Arms and posthorns. Color Red. Figure 43.

March 7th, 1941. Commemorating the birthday of the late President Masaryk, showing initials T. G. M. and laurel branch. Color Red. Figure 44.

(To Be Continued)

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Junior member receives the Czechoslovak Specialist but has no voting privileges. Only those less than 18 years of age are accepted as junior members. A member receives the Czechoslovak Specialist and is entitled to vote and assume conduct of the Society. An associate member receives as a 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 Czechoslovak Specialist when the bound volumes are received from the bookbinder.

The size and number of issues of the Specialist for 1945 will depend upon how the members continue their support of the Society and its aims. The Associate and Patron memberships provide an opportunity for members to support better the work of the Society. The 1944 membership roll lists 7 Patrons and 40 Associate members. The 1944 Specialist consisted of 10 issues and had a total of 62 pages. The cost of printing has increased recently again. 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 essential.

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