

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

There comes a time in every man's life when he knows there is someone who can or has something better. While going through some old magazines in our library, we found an editorial by Al Burns, once America's most popular philatelic editor. Although the editorial is three years old — it is still new with its timely advice.

It is a pity that Al Burns' Stamp News met an untimely death — his words of wisdom where always welcome. So — with apologies to Al — we reprint in full his editorial of December 27th, 1941:

"We will soon enter into a new year with a war of vast proportions staring us in the face, and some of us are going to furrow our brows with worry. Worry may quite properly be called a disease, and as such may run a downward course to a dangerous crisis. Has there ever been a time when worry accomplished any good? Care should be taken here to differentiate between giving a subject careful consideration, and fretting about it.

It is not to be expected that we may, by a request, be given a smooth, level road through life. If we had no rocks to circumvent on our path, no hills to climb, we would be apt to make little progress toward perfection. To ask to have all difficulties removed is to ask that a rough diamond be spared the cutting, grinding and polishing which would reveal its beauty.

A tree is not spared the experience of a storm. It may be buffeted but it does not expend itself fighting back. Neither does it give up. It holds tight to its anchorage, and bends before the storm. Afterward it straightens to position, still strong, live, flexible.

Liberty is never lost to a nation until it is lost in the soul of the men who compose the nation. When men care more for security than freedom — then, and then only, the national vision becomes clouded and national standards are lowered.

Eternal vigilance is the price of our liberty. This government of the free, by the free, and for the free can be unraveled as easily as a cloak of yarn by the pull of one or more strings if the wrong people are allowed to rule us. It is well to remember that a thing can not be well for any of us unless it is well for all of us. We must not, like Nero, shoe our mules with silver, build a golden house for our body but let our soul live in a mud hut. It is "all out." or, it might as well be nothing. in 1942.

Philatelically yours,
AL BURNS

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

BOHUMIL DUBEY, 262 OAK STREET, MANCHESTER, CONNECTICUT

**MEMBERS ON THE MOVE
ATTENTION!**

In recent months your editor has had returned several issues of the Specialist. Those of you who move or contemplate moving, kindly notify your editor of change of address and thus insure to yourself the receipt of our paper. Just at present we are anxious to contact Mr. Emil Burger, Mr. Wm. Bauer and Mrs. Olga Strnad.

MEMBER KOPTA IN ARMY

Mr. Gustav Kopta reports he is now in the Army. Due to the fact that members of the Armed Forces move so frequently, we do not print nor announce their military address. Members wishing to write to other members who are in the service should contact them (where possible) by writing to their civilian address. Gus' last address in civilian life is:

1427 S. 23rd Street, Lincoln, Nebraska.

and Mrs. Kopta will forward all mail to him.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members:

I have been honored by being elected president of our Society. I thank you heartily and promise that it shall be my sincere desire to work with all my heart for the best interests of our Society. We can do much for the good of the country which in its past, and we hope again in the near future, was and will be a bulwark of democracy. It is a small postage stamp we collect, but each stamp is an etiquette of the issuing country. The stamps of Czechoslovakia were well liked and found much favor among general collectors. As a country, Czechoslovakia did not issue many stamps of long and costly series; instead, it endeavored to issue graphic masterpieces which eventually became beauty spots in many albums.

We know that in a short time Czechoslovakia will be liberated and that its stamps, old and new, will again come to us. We are sure that our Society will get in touch with collectors of the "old country" and that every member will benefit thereby. The worst stage of our organization efforts is past and a new opportunity presents itself to make our Society bigger and better. This can be done sooner if we make up our minds to bring in at least one new member in 1945.

I take this opportunity to thank the past presidents for their labor of love in guiding our Society at a most difficult time; when it seemed that Czechoslovakia can no longer exist, not only as a stamp issuing country — but even as a nation. The Society did admirably when new issues did not exist to bolster up enthusiasm for Czechoslovakia stamps.

Sincere thanks are extended to the secretary, Mr. J. W. Lowey; treasurer, Mr. G. Greenawalt and Mr. F. J. Kovarik, for their labor on behalf of the good of the Society.

To all the members I extend my best wishes for a joyous New Year. May 1945 bring a Victorious Peace, freedom to Czechoslovakia in a liberated Europe.

K. Zahradnicek

(Editor's Note: The above came too late to be included in the January issue where it rightfully belonged. We trust our president will forgive us)

SIGNAL HONOR

Our esteemed member, Mr. Felix Brunner won the Grand Award and the Europe, Research and Austria medals at the Sepad Exhibitions in Philadelphia. M. Brunner exhibited Austria #1 and early Austrian cancellations. The Society congratulates Mr. Brunner on this as well as on the several monographs on Austrian stamps which Mr. Brunner has written and which in recent months have been published in various philatelic publications.

ORCHIDS

Our secretary received the following letter which needs no introduction.
 Mr. J. W. Lowey, Sec'y
 Czechoslovak Philatelic Society
 201 Marcy Place
 New York 56, N. Y.
 Dear Mr. Lowey:

Under separate cover I am sending you imprinted copy of Volume #II of the new 1945 Catalogue containing the listings of Czechoslovakia. This is on instructions with the compliments of Mr. Clark in appreciation of the splendid work your society is doing.

Very truly yours,
 Scott Publications, Inc.
 Jean G. Koor, Sec'y.

Mr. Lowey advises us that the copy arrived and on its cover is imprinted in the same ink as the heading "Czechoslovak Philatelic Society." We thank Mr. Clark and Scott Publications for the gift and for the recognition of the work of our Society.

A MAP OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Mr. W. B. Bryant of South Pasadena has shown us a very fine map of Czechoslovakia which has been printed in England. This map costs about one dollar and any member interested in same should contact Mr. Bryant.

CZECH "GALLOWS HUMOR"

When the Germans occupied Prague and declared a "Protectorate" over Bohemia and Moravia, the Czechs, being no longer in a position to oppose the Nazis with arm, resorted to what has come to be known as "gallows humor." They immediately rechristened the protectorate (Protektorat) by the name Protentokrat (For-this-time or For-the-time being).

In a Czech cemetery there appeared in huge letters: "Hey, Czechs, get out of here! This is German Lebensraum."

After the British crippled the German navy during the attack on Norway, the Prague joke was that the friends of Fuehrer Hitler presented him with a diver's suit," so that he could review his fleet once more."

An inn-keeper in a small town in Bohemia is surprised late one evening listening in to Czech broadcasting from London. As he is dragged out of his bed, where he has enveloped his radio set and his head in thick blankets to prevent anyone from overhearing and discovering him, he sees visions of the concentration camp. But the Czech gendarme who dragged him out soon puts him at ease: "I don't mind your listening-in to London, you idiot," he bawls out angrily; "I do it, too. But you might at least have the sense to turn off the loud-speaker in the garden!"

To find a Czech who is truly loyal to the Germans is no easy task; and the Gestapo in Prague is therefore always on the alert to discover such a one in order to use him for propaganda purposes. Recently they found one, according to Czech "gallows humor." He was an old man walking up and down Vaclavske Namesti, in Prague, with his head down and speaking seriously to himself in this manner: "Adolf Hitler is the greatest leader. The Germans are a noble nation. I would work rather for ten Germans than for one Czech." A member of the Gestapo who happened to hear these remarks, invited him to visit the Gestapo headquarters and presented this rare specimen of loyalty to his superiors. But the man was not awarded a medal of loyalty for his utterances; for, on being asked what his occupation was, he reluctantly confessed that he was a grave-digger.

"Gallows humor works two ways," writes Dr. Obrdlik. "It bolsters the resistance of the victims and at the same time it undermines the morale of the oppressors. . . . If they can afford to ignore it, they are strong; if they react wildly, with anger, striking their victims with severe reprisals and punishment, they are not sure of themselves no matter how much they display their might on the surface."

Military Postal History of Czechoslovakia

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

(Continued from last issue)



March 15th, 1941. In Memory of Czechoslovakia, showing pre-Munich map, silhouette of Hradcany castle and laurel branch. Color: Black. Figure 45.

May 4th, 1941. Commemorating the tragic death of General M. R. Stefanik, Czechoslovakia's first Minister of War. (Stefanik during the World War was a noted flier and co-worker with Masaryk and Benes in the liberation of the country.) Motif: Tatra Mountains with double cross and airplane propeller. Color Blue. Figure 46.



May 28th, 1941. Honoring the Birthday of our Commander, Dr. Benes. Motif: Initials of the President and Bohemian Lion. Color: Red. The same postmark was applied on July 2nd, 1941 in memory of the battle of Zborov. Same Color. Figure 47.

May 28th, 1941. Bordered rectangle with bilingual inscription "Czechoslovak Fieldpost," May 28th, 1941. This cancellation was used in conjunction with the previous one. Color: Red. Subsequently and until May 1942 it was used as regular postmark in black ink. Of course the date bar was changed daily. Figure 48.

October 28th, 1941. Anniversary of Independence. Motif: Large "X" denoting October upon which a sword is superimposed. On its sides is the date 28, 1918-1941. Color: Rose Carmine.

March 7th, 1942. In honor of President Masaryk. In a cross bar is the date "7.III.1942." Above the initials "T.G.M." and below the bar "1850-42." Color: Rose Carmine.

March 15th, 1942. Honoring the Homeland. Large rectangle showing Charles Bridge with figure of Christ on Cross and in the background Hradcany castle. In the upper left hand corner the date "15.III.1942." Color: Black.

May 28th, 1942. Honoring President Benes. Figure 48 again was used in red ink.

July 2nd, 1942. Commemorating the Battle of Zborov. The postmark has a date bar showing the date "2.VII.1942" and on each side of the bar two crossed swords. Above the date bar is the word "Zborov" and below the bar "1917-1942." Color: Rose-Carmine.

November 14th, 1942. In memory of the students of Charles University of Prague who were massacred by the Gestapo in 1939. Motif: Flaming Torch and year 1930-1943. Color: Black.

March 7th, 1943. In honor of President Masaryk. The date bar shows the years "1850-1943" and above and below same the numerals "7" and "III" in circles ornamented with laurel branches. Along the outer circle in small letters is the inscription "Thomas Garigue Masaryk, First President of Czechoslovakia." Color: Rose-Carmine.

March 15th, 1943. Commemorating the massacre of the students of Charles University. In the middle is the cross bar showing date "15.III.1943." Above the bar silhouette of Hradcany. Below the bar again in small type the same date and inscription in Latin: "Dies Furoris Teutonicus." Color Black.

May 28th, 1943. Honoring President Benes. Plain circular postmark with date bar in middle showing date "28 May 1943." Color: Violet Blue.

CONCLUSION

At present the Czechoslovak Army in England has units of varying sizes wherever British armies are stationed. A considerable number has participated in the African campaign with the 8th Army. Other groups are stationed in Palestine and the Near East and in India. Lately Czechoslovak contingents have either relieved or supplemented British units in the Faroes Islands and other islands in the vicinity of Great Britain.

An ever growing army is now fighting on the Russian front whose marvelous exploits we have learned from our newspapers.

The author has letters from Czechoslovak soldiers which show the Field Postmarks of various battle zones. Unfortunately, due to existing censorship conditions he is unable to give details or have the postmarks reproduced at this time. However it is his intention to release this information in the AMERICAN PHILATELIST when censorship has been lifted.

PREMIUMS

All Associate members receive with their February issue the 10 copies of Volume V mailed flat. The patron members must, of course, wait until the book-binder gets their volumes bound before they receive their premiums. This may take some time due to manpower shortage; we trust these members will bear with us.

OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 1945

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