

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

Many of us are anxious to know what the stamps of Czechoslovakia bring in the open market and therefore we eagerly watched the Harvey Spilka and Rudolph Novy Sales, conducted by Rosenbaum Co.; the first sale was conducted July 26th, 1945 in Pittsburgh; the second August 18th, 1945, during Stampex in Newark, New Jersey. Through the cooperation of Mr. Fred Ott, who manages the stamp department of Rosenbaum Co., of Pittsburgh, we are in a position to present to our readers a resume of both sales. We must remind our readers that any comments we may make are **our own**; we are not engaged in the stamp business and therefore our views, have no financial backing. We think more as a collector than a dealer—because that is what we are.

WE HEAR FROM DR. REINER DEUTSCH

A short note from our past president, Major W. Reiner-Deutsch, advises us of his new address. The Major is at present Hospital Inspector and Executive Officer of his present hospital stationed in Paris. His present address is:

Major Wm. Reiner-Deutsch, M. C. — O-483910

1st General Hospital, A. P. O. 887 c/o P. M. NEW YORK.

While on the subject of our roving members, Gus Kopta finished the war in Europe, left for the Pacific via the Panama Canal and hurriedly put an end to the conflict over there. Uncle Sam should have called on Gus sooner.

NEW YORK CHAPTER

If members of the metropolitan area again wish to hold monthly meetings during the coming season I am willing to make arrangements. Those interested please drop me a line.

—J. W. Lowey

THE NOVY COLLECTION SALE

Previous to the sale I had a good look at most of the items offered and I came to the conclusion that it will take a long time, if ever, that a collection of this size and variety is offered to buyers. Mr. Novy really had everything and with a few exceptions, the material was in splendid condition.

Here let me switch back to a sentence in the September issue of the Specialist regarding the sale, namely "...Nassau Street will study this sale closely." Well, it did and the reaction is that the sale should have taken place in the Fall and only in Nassau Street because it proves again and again that Nassau Street is the philatelic hub of the world and as such brings the highest prices.

True, every lot, I believe found a buyer. However most of the lots went to mail bidders but the choice material to floor bidders and it is the floor bidder who decides the issue. (Unfortunately, Essex House, where the sale was held, is a bit out of the way for New Yorkers. Also many possible bidders are

on their vacation at this time of the year. I counted six bidders on the floor but I missed many of the faces I usually see in New York when Czechoslovak material is offered in Auctions.

On the other hand some items, though a very few, brought unbelievable prices. I would like to know, for instance, who the "lucky" buyers were who paid \$26.50 for a pair of the usual Scout covers and \$17.75 for a Block of Four of the Protectorate issue Scott 13a.

FIRST COVER FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Through the courtesy of H. L. Lindquist, publisher of Stamps, we present to our readers an illustration of the cover which brought the first philatelic



news from Praha to our secretary. In the letter which was written by Mr. Frank Novotny former editor of Narodni Sberatel, we learn the following. Our member, Mr. B. Pollak, lost his wife and daughter—neither one has as yet returned. Both brothers Ekstein are missing. Their two nieces are said to have been gassed. Mr. Stedry has not yet made his appearance. It is said Mr. Wolf died. Others are among the missing. Mr. Novotny adds one comforting note—"Many are still among the dislocated peoples and may yet make their appearance." We sincerely hope so; but having heard of the concentration camps—death camps—torture camps especially prepared for the Jewish people of Hitler's Europe, we cannot feel comforted. To Mr. Pollak we extend our heartfelt sympathy.

NEWS FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA

I have received what I believe to be the revival of the former "Narodni Sberatel," the well known Czech philatelic monthly, edited by Frant. Novotny and printed by E. Stiburek. The new publication has the same editor and publisher. It is dated August 10th though it does not seem to be the first issue because it refers to previous numbers. The name of the publication is "Novinkove zpravodajstvi" (News Report). Due to the shortage of printing paper it consists of four small, densely printed pages, without illustrations.

To one who has been cut off from Prague for five years it is intensely interesting. Here are some of its contents:

"Shortly after the liberation of Prague there appeared on the market the Exhibition Sheet printed in London in 1943. Though it was known that this is an unofficial release it nevertheless brought in the first days the fantastic price of over 20 thousand crowns. (This of course shows that inflation is rampant). Since then, however, the price has gone down and the sheet now sells from three to seven thousand crowns, though there are few takers.

"The philatelic agency at Prague has again been established though at present it has little to offer because the maze of many new issues is promptly sold. Its chief purpose, as in former days, is to sell picked, well centered copies.

"Commemorative postmarks are again in use but are applied only to mails actually posted. Favor cancellation as formerly applied to so called souvenir, commemorative and favor sheets has been strictly forbidden."

It seems that a great many new issues have appeared since the country was liberated. First there are the Provisionals where all stocks of the Protectorate issues were overprinted with the word "Ceskoslovensko." Since then sets have appeared which can be classified as definite. However, since the Prague printing facilities seemed inadequate resort was made to printing plants in other cities. I cannot give a detailed list at present but will follow up as soon as I have information. However, on covers which I have already received from former correspondents I have the following stamps.

The Linden Leaf issue released by the Germans when they occupied the country has been changed by erasing the German inscriptions and substituted with Czech lettering. The set seems to come in two sizes and two shades of printing for all values. The set was printed in Prague. An imperforate set, showing the Bohemian Lion and Linden leaves was printed in Bratislava. An imperforate set with the profile of a soldier with steel helmet. Bohemian Lion and what appeared to be smoke stacks below the portrait was printed in Koscice. A long set of 16 values with the portraits of Czechoslovak heroes who fought with the Allies was printed in London. Another set of 3 showing President Masaryk was printed in Moscow. Finally, though I have no copies, a set and a Souvenir Sheet appeared shortly after President Benes returned to the homeland.

—J. W. Lowey

LOWEY WINNER IN STAMPEX

Word has reached us that Mr. J. W. Lowey, our secretary, received 1st Gold Medal at the Stampex show in Newark where he exhibited his War Covers of Czechoslovakia. Our congratulations, Joe.

"PROTECTORATE" ISSUES

A few weeks ago a controversy between two large stamp firms via advertisements in a leading stamp publication was aired as to the merits of stamps issued in countries under Nazi domination. This, of course, includes the stamps of Bohemia-Moravia and Slovakia.

One firm cautioned collectors of these issues to keep their hands off, at least until the status of these stamps could be ascertained. The other firm suggested that collectors buy now, otherwise they would have the same experience collectors had after the First World War with enemy issues, in that they found some of the stamps later on outside their financial reach.

There is no question that this argument has become acute because in the last weeks large quantities of stamps have appeared in this country which were issued in German dominated countries of Europe.

I believe that most of our members will primarily want to know as to whether to put the stamps of Bohemia-Moravia, which have been released during the war, into their collections. Here I might point to an article of mine which was published in the Specialist in 1939. Therein I stated the reasons which should guide the individual member as to what course to follow.

As far as I am concerned and I believe I speak for others, I reject the stamps. I would neither buy nor sell them and I would never put them in my personal collection. Of course, this is an individual opinion and should not influence those who must have these stamps at any price. In choosing my course I have been guided by two principles, namely: 1) Pride of Race, 2) because they were not issues of a free Czechoslovakia.

I visit the offices of many dealers who are my personal friends. Likewise do I see in their offices collectors who are also friends of mine and it pains me when I see these dealers and collectors sell and buy the stamps which show the portraits of Hitler and Heydrich. Why? Because I know that quite a few who are engaged in this transaction have had their parents, brothers, sisters and other relatives murdered in the most fiendish manner on orders of these two men.

I wonder what the collector feels when he opens his album and looks at the pictures of these two men for whom historians yet have to coin a proper name. Do they think of their loved ones whose bodies were tortured, poisoned and cremated and whose ashes were blown to the winds so that no trace will remain? I, for one, could not go through this self inflicted torture!

In closing let me bring out one point, I am not compelled to write this "reminder" because I am a Jew, but because I am a Czech FIRST! True it was Hitler's aim to exterminate the Jews but his hangman Heydrich extended the order to all other faiths in the Protectorate. A book has been released some time ago by the Czechoslovak Government in London with a forward by Jan Masaryk. The title of the book is "Victims and Heroes." It contains a list of several thousand names of Czechs and Slovaks who were executed because they were—Patriots. The men and women who went to death were of all classes, from top scientists down to the poorest laborer. Therefore, regardless of my credo,—I owe my faith to the "Victims and Heroes."

THE ARRIVAL OF PRESIDENT BENES

For six years President Benes was the chief hope of the Czechoslovakian people. His one time political opponents declared: "We are ready to kneel before him and ask his pardon." What we witnessed, however, either directly or indirectly, on his entry into Prague surpassed even our greatest expectations. The cheering of the people of Prague was a demonstration of joy which cast even the glorious moments of 1918 into the shade. For six years President Benes was the unquestionable unifying authority. But today he has become something more: he has become one of the greatest figures in our national history, the national President not only in the political but in the spiritual sense of the words. His word is law to the nation. His very existence appears a guarantee of the future, of hope, of certainty. His life, his struggle during the last war, his six years of exile, the six years of hard struggles, humiliation and endurance, calmness and hope, achieved by this remarkable man who for

the second time is bringing freedom to the nation, have become a symbol which fills every Czechoslovak with the deepest emotion. The words "The President Liberator" and the "President Restorer" spread through the Czechoslovakian countryside like wild fire. Under his leadership the conflicts of political parties and political programs are vanishing. His ideas of freedom, democracy, social justice, his conception of close cooperation with the Soviet Union and unchanged relations with the great democracies of the west, have become a program accepted by the whole nation. There is no need to emphasize the significance of this in the present disordered condition of Europe. Under Benes's leadership the nation has achieved unity, which is the greatest gift on the road to the future. It will preserve the nation from the crises and upheavals which have been the lot of most of the other liberated peoples of Europe.

LUSATIA DEMANDS AUTONOMY WITHIN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

On July 13th, the Bratislava Radio broadcast as follows: "The Lusatian National Committee in Budysin (Bautzen) whose temporary seat is in Prague, has sent a memorandum to Generalissimo Stalin and President Benes demanding full independence. Basing its claim on the history of the Lusatian Serbs, the National Committee wants to live in a self-governing state entirely within Czechoslovakia.

"Furthermore, it is demanded that the Lusatian Serbs should be separated from the Germans and the Lusatian population allowed to return to their homes."

THE HARVEY SPILKA SALE

The Rosenbaum sale of this collection has been arranged and priced by Scott's 1945 Catalogue and Billig's Specialized Catalogue of Czechoslovakia. The first group of lots consisted of short sets of the 1918 Provisionals; due to their incompleteness they were sold very cheap. The next group was the Hradcany Issue; the proofs and printer's waste went very cheap; strips, tete-beche pairs and regular blocks sold for almost full catalogue except the scarce imperfs which sold at a mere fraction, possibly because of the narrow margins. The 1920 Masaryk brought fair prices in both stamps and proofs. In the 1920 allegories sold well—the tete-beches brought good prices. From then on the stamps were selling at half or less of catalogue; the National Anthem Souvenir sheets brought \$62.25, this in spite of the fact that the Catalogue note "(2 Kc sheet trifle wrinkled at bottom edge)." Scott #255—the 60h dark blue brought \$6.25 as a single but only \$19.25 as a block. (Perhaps the centering of the latter may have caused the price to come down). The Posta Ceskoslovenska 1919 sold very reasonably; the 1923, 1925 and 1926 Semi Postals sold better than average. The Airs went very cheap; Airs listed by Sanabria (6B, 6K, 6C) sold for about 30% (we look upon these as proofs and not errors). Dues, Newspapers and Souvenir Folders sold very cheap; possibly their unpopularity had something to do with this. The only surprise was the Slovakia airs #C1 to C9 which brought \$20.25 though the estimated price was \$12.50.

THE RUDOLPH NOVY SALE

In this sale the Provisionals sold much better than we expected, because only a specialist would buy these. For the record we wish to note that the First Prague Provisional Issue brought \$20.00; the Second Prague Issue brought \$24.25; the Budejovice Issue \$22.75; ditto to 1K on cover, \$10.50; Skalice Issue \$25.25; Srobar Issue \$18.75; the Levec issue (2 covers and a short mint set) \$25.25.

The Emergency Issues, Bisects and Surcharges all sold very cheap; most likely because they are so little known in this country. The Scout stamps brought very good prices; especially the price \$87.75 for "Arrival of Pres. Masaryk" overprint surprised us.

In the Hradcany the proofs and printer's waste have brought fair prices; these should have sold for much more because it will be difficult to duplicate a collection of this sort. On the variation of perforations in this issue we

doubt a similar collection can be brought together again, yet these sold for a song. The essays listed after the Hradcany were practically given away. In the 1920 Masaryk and 1920 allegories we note again that the stamps brought much less than they should; however, the tete-beche brought very good prices. The regular issues brought better prices here than at the Spilka sale; the National Anthem Sheets brought \$62.75 — here again the 1K is described as slightly wrinkled in lower left corner."

The Posta Ceskoslovenska 1919 Semi-Postals brought better prices at this, than at the Spilka sale, but even here they sold for much less than actual value at present market prices. Condition cracks must have caused B39 to sell for \$8.50 because of a "1mm perf. crack and tiny thin at bottom." The 1920 Semi-Postals sold quite cheap; but the 1923 Fifth Anniversary set sold very well while the 1925 Olympic and 1926 Sokol sold quite well.

Most of the air mail stamps sold well, but the covers—which are really very scarce items, went cheap. Whoever obtained these, really picked up a bargain.

The Special Deliveries, Dues and Newspapers sold at some discount from Catalogue. The 1918-20 Emergency Postage Dues sold exceptionally low—very few collectors in this country understand them and here again the buyer obtained a real bargain.

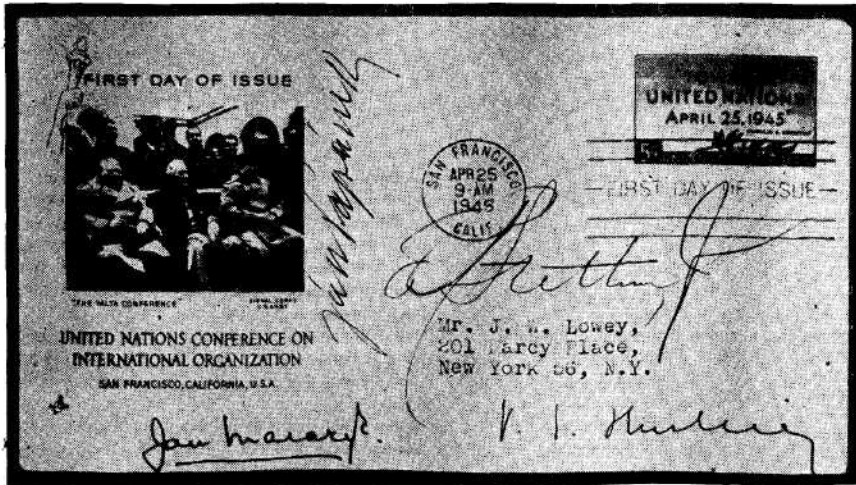
The Bohemia and Moravia issues sold very well, much better than we expected. Eastern Silesia sold very cheap and the issues of the Czechoslovak Army in Siberia were almost given away.

The various commemorative postmarks sold reasonably; the Post Cards and the Parcel Post Cards were practically given away and not sold.

We feel sure that if the stamps were on sale in the winter they'd bring more. We must not forget they were sold during V-J week—when many a prospective buyer worried what is going to happen to his job. We do not share Mr. Lowey's conviction that the stamps could bring more in New York—but we are sure they'd bring more anywhere at another time of the year.

SAN FRANCISCO COVER

"San Francisco conference first day cover, autographed by Edward R. Stettinius and the three Czechoslovak delegates to the Conference; Foreign Minister Jan Masaryk, Ambassador V. S. Hurban, and Minister Jan Papanek, Head of the Czechoslovak Government Information Office in the United States. This illustration appeared in the weekly magazine Stamps and we are indebted to the H. L. Lindquist Publishing Co., for permission to show it. As can be noticed, the cover was sent to our Secretary, Mr. J. W. Lowey.



NEW MEMBER

No. 166—A. P. Kovanic, C. MO. M. M. U. S. C. G. Cutter Northwind, c/o Fleet Postmaster, San Francisco, California

MAILS TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA

On August 31st, 1945, mails were open for transmission to Czechoslovakia. At present only First Class mail may be sent and this must not weigh more than two ounces. Rates are the same as before the war: First Class—1 ounce 5 cents, 2 ounces—8 cents; Air Mail $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce 30 cents, each additional $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce 30 cents; Postal Cards—3 cents. Illustrated post cards are at present not acceptable. Stamp exchange, of course, is still out of the question.

OUR LIBRARY

Our Librarian, Mrs. M. Glawe, 9640 Seeley Ave., Chicago 43, Ill., sent me a complete list of articles, catalogues, etc., which make up our library. Members are urged to make use of this service. A charge of 10c is made for each loan, with postage paid both ways by the borrower.

Library List

- 1a—The Hradcany Issue of 1918.
- 2a—Illustrated Check List of Uncatalogued Varieties.
- 4a—An Aero-Philatelic Survey.
- 5a—Czechoslovakia and Her Stamps.
- 6a—The Fifth Anniversary of Czecho-Slovakian Independence.
- 7a—History of the 1918 Provisional Overprints.
- 8a—By Post Across Czechoslovakia.
- 10a—Collecting Czechoslovak Cancellations.
- 11a—Postal Statistics for 1928 and 1931.
- 13a—List of Philatelic Society in Czechoslovakia.
- 14a—Pronunciation of Czech. & General Information.
- 15a—The 20th Anniversary Miniature Sheet.
- 17a—List of Post Offices in Sudetenland.
- 18a—A Czechoslovak Counterfeit.
- 19a—Czechoslovak Tabs and Gutters.
- 20a—The Scouts Issue of Czechoslovakia.
- 21a—Czechoslovakia, Commemorative Postmarks of and their Historical background.
- 22a—The 1930 Air Post Issue of Czechoslovakia and its Varieties.
- 23a—Czechoslovakian Stamp Designs, The Hradcany at Prague.
- 24a—The Czecho-Slovak Army Field Posts.
- 25a—Czechoslovak Engineering Pictured on a Bohemia & Moravia Stamp.
- 26a—Czechoslovak Legions.
- 27a—Legion Stamps.
- 28a—"Posta Ceskoslovenska 1919"
- 29a—The Republic of Czecho-Slovakia, Miniature Sheet.
- 30a—The Masaryk Mystery.

Catalogues

- 1c—1936, 1937, and 1939 Ekstein, German Text.
- 2c—Tribuna, 1937, 1938 and 1939, Czech. Text with Supplement.
- 3c—Revue, 1937 Czech. Text.
- 4c—Cross, English Text, 1937 Edition.
- 5c—Stach, 1937 Czech. Text.
- 6c—Stach, 1941 English Text.
- 7c—Keßler, 1945, English Text.

Bound Volumes

- 1v—Hirsch-Franek Monograph—Czech Text.
- 2v—Printing Postage Stamps by Line Engraving.

Hand Books

- 1h—Postal Cancellation of Czech., German Text by Leitenberger.
- 2h—Postal Cancellation of Czech., Czech Text by Leitenberger.
- 3h—English Translation of the above by C. H. Osbourne.

Bound Copies of "The Specialist"

SP.1—Vol. I—May 1939 to Dec. 1939 SP.2—Vol. II—Jan. 1940 to Dec. 1940

OUR SALES & EXCHANGE DEPARTMENT

RULES

- 1) Mount your stamps in your own books, which must be of size 6x3½", use good peelable hinges.
- 2) The base is Scotts catalogue, if you use some specialized catalogue, state so. Above the stamps write the catalogue number. Below each stamp write the catalogue value at the left and the NET price for which you want to sell, trade or exchange at the right. As all our business, selling and exchanging alike is done on a NET basis, it is important that you establish a stable sales value.
- 3) The material has to stay with the Sales & Exchange Dept. at least for the time which is required to send the book through one circuit.
- 4) After being retired from the circuit, the books will be checked and balanced and the credits payed to the owners. If they wish they can leave the credit standing for future use. Members wishing to exchange only, will be notified of the amount taken from their books and this credit can be used up by them in future credits.
- 5) Charges are 10% of the sales created, plus postage to return the books to the owner plus 10c for each check if the owner wants the cash immediately. This last fee can be saved, if members leave their credits on accounts or have them balanced only once a year.
- 6) Insurance will be only 1% of each book's GROSS value, but will not be taken in cash. After each book is retired, 1% of its original value will be taken out in stamps which had not been sold. These stamps will be mounted in insurance books from which anyone, who has any claims will be reimbursed in stamps.
- 7) After receiving a circuit, check the number of books and check the amount of stamps on each page. Should you find empty spaces in some books, notify the sender of the circuit, who is responsible for the missing amount and also notify the exchange manager. In such spaces write "found empty" with your name and number, it will so be charged to the member who had the books before you.
- 8) When taking stamps from the books, make sure you sign each space where you took a stamp with your name or initial and also with your membership number. Enter the total amount taken from each book on the report sheet and send this sheet together with the money to the exchange manager. If you have an account send only the report sheet. Should it occur that nothing is taken from the circuit, inform the manager by postal card.
- 9) Do not keep the books too long, speed up the circulation, 3 days maximum should be sufficient. After you are through send the circuit to the next member, whose name and address will be found on the route sheet. Always send the circuit 3rd class mail insured and keep a record when you received each circuit, how much you took and to whom and when you mailed it out. This information is sometimes very important to trace circuits.
- 10) Each member is responsible for the full amount of the circuit, as long as it is in his possession until he receives the insurance receipt from the Post Office, or if delivered personally up to the time he gets a receipt from the member to whom delivered. Switching of stamps, substituting poor copies for better ones is stealing and will be dealt with according to law.
- 11) Members wishing to exchange only, will get an advance credit of about 25% of the value of the books sent in. Should they overdraw or underdraw their credit, the settlement of the differences will always be made in cash.
- 12) All payments must be drawn payable to the exchange manager and must be made in U. S. Dollars and must be made in New York funds or the bank exchange fee will be charged back to the sender.

Sales and Exchange Manager:

Wolfgang Fritzsche, 3317 Glenwood Road, Brooklyn 10, N. Y.