

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE
CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

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Vol. VIII

January 1946

No. 1

EDITORIAL

There are two collector groups of Czechoslovak stamps in Chicago: one is devoted entirely to the study of Czech stamps, whereas the other is devoted entirely to the acquisition (and disposal) of stamps. One is permeated with a thirst of knowledge—and the other is saturated with prices and values. One considers a good handbook in Czech stamps of prime importance while the other considers a catalog the necessary book, its bible. In the first group students wonder how such and such a variety occurred while in the other group they ponder on its relative scarcity and value.

Both groups are necessary for the furtherance of our hobby. Both are essential because each caters to a particular group. Some of us consider it a sacrilege to sell a stamp while others think it foolish to hold onto a stamp if a good buyer is around. Kipling said that "East is east and west is west and never the twain shall meet." And so it is in our groups—each has its own ideal and thinks the other is queer.

In our last meeting which was held in the home of our past editor we decided to make an attempt to bring in the other group as a body into our society and for that purpose we chose one of our circle to visit the other group and present the suggestion of an amalgamation or at least a close union. Our man went, saw, but did not conquer. Instead, he saw how difficult it would be and therefore left them without mentioning our plan. It would be a good idea if we could bring some of them into our Society just as it wouldn't be wrong if some of us joined them in their efforts.

OUR LUSATION ARTICLE

Some time ago the secular press contained items about the desire of the Lusatian Serbs to become incorporated into the Czechoslovak Republic. Several members asked us "who are these Slavs?" and for that reason we reprint from "News flashes from Czechoslovakia" an article by a Lusatian Serb on this subject. We have in our library a small volume entitled "The Extermination of the Elbe Slavs" and written by a monk chronicler in the XIIIth century. History almost repeated itself—The entire history of the Germans from ancient times is war on peace-loving Slavs in an effort to wrest from them lands and property. We trust our members accept this article in the spirit in which we present it. It is not our intention to malign the German people but we do want to point out that ruthless leaders in Germany existed before Hitler. And there were other ruthless people in the world—we all heard of Napoleon, Nero and Huey Long!

A HAPPY NEW YEAR To All Members and their Families

NEWS AND VIEWS

by J. W. Lowey

The set of 16 values printed in London and showing "Czechoslovak Heroes" have the following portraits:

- 5 h, Staff Captain Ridky (British Field Uniform), fell at Alamein
- 10 h, Army Surgeon Novak (French Uniform) died in London during the Blitz.
- 20 h, Captain Otakar Jaros (Russian Uniform) fell at Sokolov.
- 25 h, Captain Cimprich (French Foreign Legion) perished in Air flight.
- 30 h, First Lt. Jiri Kral (French Uniform) fell during the Battle of France.
- 40 h, Sgt. Josef Gabcik (British Parachutist's Uniform) one of the four Parachutists flown from England to Czechoslovakia. It is Gabcik who killed Heydrich. He was later shot in pitched battle with the Gestapo.
- 50 h, Staff Capt. Vasatko (British Air Uniform) killed in Battle of Britain.
- 60 h, Pvt. Fr. Adamek (British tropical Uniform) fell at Tobruk.

The remaining 8 values repeat the portraits.

* * * *

For some time now it is possible to send registered letters to Czechoslovakia. Also parcels up to about 4 pounds can be mailed but since such are accepted only as first class matter the fee is very high. However it is expected that soon regular parcel post will be established.

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An interesting article which appeared in a Prague Daily and chides collectors of Protectorate issues runs as follows: "You can partly quiet your conscious by throwing these stamps into the furnace. All those stamps with the portraits of human beasts and all those perforated receipts which acknowledge your contribution to their orgy of murder. You who have so patiently waited in lines that you might put upon the altar of "Greater Germany" your contribution which sometimes ran into thousands. Mr. X and Mr. X2 does not your conscience stir that at a time when the Gestapo was perhaps torturing your best friend with white hot rods you were paying thousands for so called commemorative sheets with the portraits of the greatest criminals in world's history? Realize that by your contribution you have actually paid these wielders of white hot rods. You who have gleefully rubbed the palms of your hands visualizing tremendous profits of your investment."

In connection with this I should mention that advertisements are beginning to appear in stamp magazines with the following admonition: "Attention! We hereby request collectors not to offer us for sale stamps of the so-called Protectorate, including the first overprint, because we do not handle these issues any more."

* * * *

Czechoslovak postal authorities are planning a repeat performance of the 1919 overprints. At present an inventory is being taken as to the quantities of Protectorate issues in the hands of the Government. If sufficiently large quantities are found they will be suitably overprinted and sold to the public. As far as I can see there is nothing wrong with the idea itself. I would like to see the face of Hitler, Heydrich and the others heavily obliterated by some overprint but I hope that the sale itself will be "on the level" and not on some favor system as in 1919.

* * * *

Among the exhibits shown at the Union of Czech artists at Prague there also was the design of a stamp by Vojtech Preissig who died in the Dachau concentration camp. The striking design which shows the Bohemian Lion ripping up a swastika flag has the inscription "Czechoslovak Revolutionary Post." The original design has been acquired by a printing concern and is being reprinted in colors as a perforated seal.

* * * *

The first definite issue of Czechoslovakia has appeared, on October 28th. It consists of three stamps of small size, perforated 12½, namely

30 h, violet (Stefanik)

60 h, blue (Benes)
1.20 K, red (Masaryk)

Below the portraits is a laurel branch. On the same day the post office Praha-Hrad cancelled mails with a commemorative postmark in red showing the Czechoslovak flag in its middle.

In honor of the World's Youth Congress held at Prague two Commemorative stamps appeared on November 17th. They are of identical design, showing a girl student's face and an owl perching on the top of the world's globe. The inscriptions are as follows: on top "Ceskoslovensko" across the globe large numerals "17-XI" and across the numerals is a ribbon superimposed showing the year "1939-1945" connected by a chain link. Below the portrait is the lettering "Svetovy Sjezd Studentstva v Praze."

1.50 K plus 1.50, light rose

2.50 K plus 2.50, light blue

On the day of issuance a special black postmark was applied with the inscription "Svetovy Sjezd Studentstva" and large numerals "17-XI" in a double circle.

CATALOGS AND CATALOGS

Several members think it would be worth our while to publish our own catalog of Czech stamps. Their contention is that a catalog published by a dealer reflects the stock of the publishing dealer. The Scott Catalog is a collector's catalog and therefore it is popular. In Czechoslovakia Hirsch put out a catalog though he was not a dealer in stamps; The "Society of Independent Collectors" put out a catalog which was well received. Kaplanek and Ekstein put out catalogs, but in these one could see they are really mere price lists of their firm.

A catalog by a group as small as ours is a hazardous venture. It would be necessary to obtain good illustrations and these cost money. Perhaps a good handbook would be more appropriate; a reference list at the end of each series could well serve as a catalog. May we have your suggestions?

CANCELLATIONS OF THE PLEBISCITE TERRITORIES OF SPIS AND ORAVA

by W. L. Russell

So far as I know, nothing has been written about the Plebiscite territory of Slovakia, as distinct from that of Eastern Silesia, yet philatelically it is quite interesting. Let's see if we can't add to our stock of knowledge about it.

First of all, whereabouts on the map are the Orava and Spis territories? If you move your finger along the boundary of Czechoslovakia and Poland eastwards from the Silesian Plebiscite territory, you will find a Czech salient thrusting into Poland, with its apex north of Polhora. This salient and the Polish land to the north and east of it is known as the Orava. Now, still moving east, Poland pushes a salient into Czechoslovakia. Follow it down and, as the border swings north again, we find the Slovak town of Javorina. Go from there north and northeast until you come to Spišská St. Ves, and you are in the middle of the Spis area.

Now that we have located the territory, let's get on with the story.

At the Paris discussions in 1919, Poland claimed both Hungarian and Austrian territory. It was resolved, therefore, to establish a Plebiscite area in Orava, Spis, and Eastern Silesia. In Slovakia, the districts of TRSTENA, NAMESTOVO, SPIŠSKA STARA VES, and the region of JAVORINA were determined upon for this purpose. The International Commission consisted of one delegate each from Britain, France, USA, Italy and Japan, and they had their sittings in JABLONKA and ORAVA. Sub-commissions sat in TRSTENA, SPIŠSKA STARA VES and SPIŠSKA BELA.

Representing Slovakia on this Commission were the Bishop Marian Blaha, of Spis, the former Vice-President of the Lands Dept. (Dr. Milan Radlinsky),

Dr. Juraz Slavik, and the former Burgomaster of Ruzomberok (Jan Jancek). In addition, an Arbitration Commission was appointed, whose Chairman was Anton Bulla, former Vice-President of the High Court in Bratislava. This Commission consisted of 4 Czech and 4 Polish judges.

The Plebiscite Commission began its activities at the beginning of February 1920 and completed them on July 28th 1920. Actually a plebiscite was never held, either in Eastern Silesia or in Slovakia. The desires of Poland were clarified in the course of proceedings and she was awarded territory as follows: In Orava, from TRSTENA district, 13 communities; and in Spis, from SPISSKA STARA VES likewise 13 communities, with a total population of about 23,000 souls.

If you've read this far, you're probably beginning to wonder how it affects us philatelically. Let's see:

First of all, there are plenty of people who believe that the S O overprint on Czech and Polish stamps was used because the letters stood for Spis and Orava, as well as for Silesie Orientale. On that I make no comment, for I do not know.

However, in the Plebiscite territory, just as in the rest of Slovakia immediately after the revolution, only Hungarian stamps and cancellations were used. The cancellations were in use to the end of 1919 (except at CHYZNE, where it was used to the end of February 1920). Slovak cancellations came into use at the beginning of 1920 (i.e. just before the Plebiscite period), so that in these territories one finds:

1. Hungarian stamps with Hungarian cancellations.
2. Czechoslovakian stamps with Hungarian cancellations.
3. Czechoslovakian stamps with Slovak cancellations.
4. Plebiscite stamps with Slovak cancellations.
5. Polish stamps with Slovak cancellations.
6. Polish stamps with Polish cancellations.

In the territory surrendered to Poland it may be interesting to note the various spellings of the different towns. In Orava:

Hungarian name	Slovak name	Polish name
Jablonka	Jablonka	Jablonka Orawska
Podvilk	Podvilk	Podwilk n. Orawe
Chizsne	Chyzne	Chynze
Also Lipnicza	Dolna Lipnica	Dolnia Lipnica
Felso Zubricza	Vysna Zubrica	Gornia Zubrzyca
and in Spis:		
Frigyesvagasa	Fridman	Frydman n. Spiszu
Nedecz	Nededza	Niedzica
Ujterebes	Tribs	Trybsz
Szentmintszent	Kacvin	Kacwin

In the territory which was retained by Czechoslovakia we find these towns:

In Orava:	Hungarian name	Slovak name
	Hrustin	Hrustin
	Lokcza	Lokca
	Breza	Breza
	Klinzakamene	Zakammene Klin
	Erdodka	Erdutka
	Novoty	Novot
	Mutne	Mutne
	Veszele	Vesele
	Nameszto	Namestovo
	Szlanicza	Slanica
	Usztye	Ustie
	Bubro	Bobrov
	Zubrohlava	Zubrohlava
	Rabcsa	Rabca
	Rabcsicze	Rabcice
	Arva-Polhora	Polhora Oravska

and in Spis:

Hanusfalva	Spisske Hanusovce
Szepesofalu	Spisske Stara Ves
Osztornya	Osturna
Koronahegyfurdo	Smerdzonka
Nagyharsas	Vel'ky Lipnik
Javorina	Javorina

In these places stamps and cancellations were used in the same way as in the territory relinquished to Poland, with the exception that in these towns one finds no Polish stamps with Czech cancellations and, of course, none with Polish cancellations either.

An essay by Herr Baurat Ing. Weiss, of Moravska-Ostrava, on the Plebiscite cancellations mentions that Plebiscite stamps were also used outside the plebiscite territory. This is true also of the Spis and Orava districts, and it has been reported that the 15h postcard (issue of April 1919) overprinted S O 1920, was also used in Post Offices adjacent to the Spis territory. No official confirmation of this has been issued, but the card has been reported with the cancellations of Kezmarok, Stara Lubovna, Podolinec, Spisska Bela, Jarem'bina, and Gniazda.

Genuinely used letters from the Spis and Orava Plebiscite territories, with Plebiscite stamps, are for the most part rare. Oftenest the cancellations found are Trstena, Namestovo and Spisska Stara Ves, because these places were district centres where, in addition to small traders, there were one or two lawyers, doctors, officials and so on. The rest of the territory, with the exception of two or three communities such as Ustie, Slanica and Bobrov, was perhaps the poorest part of Czechoslovakia, the populace being at that time mainly illiterate.

It is a fact, too, that during the Plebiscite period, many P. O.'s exhausted their stocks of Plebiscite stamps, and ordinary Hradschin stamps without the overprint were used.

Well, this sheds a bit of light on a little-known corner of the Republic, particularly if you are interested in postmarks. It is of interest to note, too, that in 1938 when Hitler overran the country, he handed the Spis territory to Poland, so now there will be new postmarks still to come from this part of the country.

(Note: Some of the details in this article appeared in the Bratislava "Donau-Post" in 1936, to which publication the author acknowledges his indebtedness).

NEW MEMBERS

- 176—Frank Sigmund, 3813 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, Ohio.
 177—Arnold Bellini, 441 W. 49th Street, New York 19, N. Y.
 178—Mrs. N. D. Marty, 3214 W. North Ave., Chicago 47, Ill.
 179—Emanuel H. Novak, 4340 W. 21st Place, Chicago 23, Illinois.

UNIFIED PHYSICAL CULTURE MOVEMENT

The Czechoslovakian physical culture organizations have issued, on September 2, a joint statement in favor of unification of all groups interested in gymnastics and sports. The name of the unified organization will be Telovychozny Svaz Sokol (Sokol Union for Physical Culture).

Among those who signed are the Czechoslovak Sokol Union, which is the oldest and largest, the Workers' Gymnastic Union, the Federation of Workers for Physical Culture, the Czech Athletic Amateur's Union, and twenty-four different sport federations.

The unified physical culture movement will closely cooperate with the army in the pre-military training of the Czechoslovakian youth.

Pay Your 1946 Dues NOW!

LUSATIA
A SLAV ISLAND INSIDE GERMANY

by J. Wycaz

I.

As the scene of actual warfare shifted closer to Central Germany, people following the Russian advance with a map in their hands read such names as Leipzig, Dresden, Meissen, Bautzen, Guben, Kottbus, and many others ending in -itz, -in and -ow. If the reader had some knowledge of Germany, he knew that these names were not of German origin. The Slavs founded these towns and called them Lipsko, Drazd'any, Misen, Budysin, Gubin, and Chotebuz.

One thousand years ago the frontier between the Slavs and the Germans extended from Lubeck on the Baltic Sea down to the Elbe River, followed the course of this river up to Magdeburg, then swung directly southwards, leaving all of the present Saxony outside the German territory. This frontier line is called "Lines Sorabicus." East of the Elbe we have thus a "colonial" territory and a people who are racially not Germans, although they speak the German tongue. Just as the English-speaking Irish are Anglicized Kelts, so the bulk of the Pomeranians, Silesians, Brandeburgers, and so-called Saxons are Germanized Slavs.

Between the Elbe and Oder Rivers we have a distinct type of village—the round one, the village actually of Slav origin. This, too, gives us a key to the ethnic build of the "Germans" between the Elbe. Their language was originally spoken in east as well as west of the Elbe, especially in the vicinity of Leipzig.

The people who lived between the Elbe and Oder Rivers during the Middle Ages are commonly called Polabians, which means dwellers on the Elbe, because Labe is the Slav name for Elbe. Their language was originally spoken in south-eastern Holstein, Mecklenburg, northern Brandenburg, western Pomerania, and on the Baltic island of Rugen, called in Slav, Rujana. It remained in use until the 18th Century in some places on the western bank of the Elbe, in the so-called Luneburger Haide.

Bloody conflicts occurred between these Polabians and the Germans in their attempt to push eastwards and continued until the 13th Century. The Germans, in justifying their first "Drang nach Osten," asserted that they must bring Christianity to these warlike Slav tribes who were fanatically clinging to paganism. Finally, the Polabians were overcome and their nobility was partly accepted in the rank of the German conquerors. Thus was born the caste of what later became ill-famed as the "Prussian Junkers." The bulk of the common people was reduced to serfdom and forcibly Germanized.

A small tribe of the Polabians, however, escaped this fate: the Wends or Sorbs in Upper and Lower Lusatia, who call themselves Serbs or Lusatians Serbs. They speak a language which is the transission from Czech to Polish and which is spoken on both sides of the Spree River from eastern Saxony to the Spreewald, about 100 kilometers south of Berlin. These Lusatian Serbs occupy, in eastern Saxony, in Prussian Silesia, and Southern Brandenburg, a territory of about 4,500 to 5,000 square kilometers and number about 150,000 souls, mostly small farmers. The towns are Germanized and only in the capital of Upper Lusatia—Bautzen or Budysin, about one fifth of its 40,000 inhabitants speak the old Slav language. Several thousand Lusatians are to be found also in the United States; they emigrated to the New World 80 years ago and settled down in Texas, near Springfield, where they are occupied with farming. They did not forget their old homeland; and about twenty years ago they sent the Lusatian Museum in Budysin a beautiful collection of Indian weapons.

II.

How was such a small nation able to survive although surrounded on all sides by Germans? First, because the Lusatians were always in close touch with their southern neighbors, the Czechs. With them they formed the first Slav State in Central Europe in the 7th century. In the 9th century, the Great Moravian Empire, which comprised more or less the whole of the present day Czechoslovakia, included Lusatia, too. In the 11th century the Lusatians fought

side by side with the Poles against the Germans; and Lusatia was incorporated for some decades as part of the Polish Kingdom. After one hundred years of German rule Lusatia returned in 1156 to the Czech Kingdom and formed a part of it until 1635 when it was given to Saxony. At the Vienna Congress of 1815 it was divided between Saxony and Prussia, the latter receiving the whole of Lower Lusatia and also the biggest part of Upper Lusatia. But the Czech Diet never recognized that partition; and the Emperor of Austria, as King of Bohemia, was until 1918 also at least nominally, "Margrave of Lusatia," preserving the right of reintegration of the country into the Czech lands, should the Saxon or Prussian dynasties become extinct.

But even after the separation of the Lusatians from the Czechs the strong cultural ties existing between them remained unbroken. In the beginning of the 18th Century a Lusatian Seminary for the training of Lusatian Catholic priests was founded in Prague. Furthermore the national revival of Lusatia at the end of the 18th and during the 19th Centuries closely followed the pattern of the Czech national revival.

The second reason why Lusatia is still a Slav country is that the Lusatian Serbs have developed a literary language of their own. They were one of the first nations to embrace Protestantism, and in 1548 the Bible was translated into Lusatian language. This is significant as it was the beginning of their literature which consisted, until the end of the 18th Century, predominantly of books of a religious character, of grammars, and of dictionaries. The epoch of Romanticism and the awakening of the small European nations, following the revolution years of 1848-49, contributed much to the further development of the Lusatian language. The first real poet was Handrij Zejler who wrote in the first half of the 19th Century. His work was continued by Jakub Cisinski. Other modern poets and writers are Josef Nowak, Jan Skala, Lorenc Zaleski, and many others. In 1847 a literary and scientific society was founded at Budysin; and literary and political papers began to be published. After the First World War there were put into circulation two dailies, three weeklies of a political character, a scientific revue, a literary magazine, and other periodicals dealing with religious questions, economics, gymnastics, calendars, and literature for children. Many works of World literature have been translated into the Lusatian language as Homer's Iliad and Odyssey, Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar," works by Tolstoy, Gogol, Sienkiewicz, Jirasek, Vrchlicky, Goethe, and Schiller. So the Lusatian language, although preserving many archaic forms lost in the other Slav languages, as for instance the dual and aorist and imperfect tenses, has become an entirely modern language.

In the revolutionary year of 1848 political movements were likewise inaugurated. The restriction of the privileges of the German Junkers owning big estates in Lusatia and the introduction of the people's languages into the courts, public life, churches, and schools were demanded. The results were very poor. The schools were allowed to teach the native language only a few hours a week. The Protestant and Catholic churches were permitted to introduce it into their religious services. Some 15,000 Catholics remained mainly in Saxon Lusatia. To the courts there were appointed translators. On the whole however administration remained German until 1918.

III.

The establishment of Czechoslovakia found a strong echo in Lusatia, and the Lusatians remembered that the Czechs are their nearest brothers with whom they had lived so many centuries in a common State, and with whose help they had developed their national culture. Even before the collapse of imperial Germany, at the beginning of November, 1918, the two Lusatian deputies at the Dresden Diet claimed equal rights for the Lusatians. After the defeat of Germany a National Council was established in Budysin and feverish political activity was apparent throughout the whole country. The National Council claimed the union of the whole of Lusatia, in the ethnographic limits, into one administrative unity where Lusatians and Germans should have equal rights as to the use of their respective languages. Many meetings were held in towns and villages for the purpose of demanding the admission of a Lusatian representative to the Peace Conference of Paris. The President of the Council, the

former deputy Arnost Bart, left in January, 1919, for Paris, where the then Czechoslovak Foreign Minister, Dr. E. Benes, launched the Lusatian question in asking the Conference to take measures in order to guarantee the free national development of the Lusatians. But the Conference did nothing. In the spring of 1919 strong military forces were thrown into Lusatia; most of the national leaders were arrested and tried. Bart was sentenced in 1921 by the Leipzig Imperial Court for "High treason" to many years of imprisonment; and even under the Weimar Republic national oppression was stronger than it had been under Imperial Germany.

It is true, that in the Weimar Constitution paragraph 113 guaranteed full national and cultural development to the national minorities in Germany, but this stipulation was never carried out except for some slight improvements that were made in the Lusatian schools in Saxony. When Hitler came to power the brutal destruction began of all Lusatian cultural and economic institutions. Lusatian books were publicly burned; cultural organization were dissolved; their leaders were put into concentration camps; and printing houses and newspapers were confiscated, so that only one weekly has survived.

IV.

The Second World War must bring justice to the Lusatians. When their country will be free, there is no doubt that the people will raise the same claims as those raised in 1918-19, i.e., full liberation from the Germans and the unification of Lusatia. If the occidental frontier of the new Poland extends along the River Niesse, which forms the eastern frontier of Lusatia, there will be no obstacle to the re-uniting of Lusatia with Czechoslovakia, as it is proposed by Lieut.-Col. G. R. Gayre, in his excellent study about "Teuton and Slav on the Polish Frontier." If this is not done, the second best solution of the problem will be the transfer of the Lusatian people as a whole to Czechoslovakia, where vast territories will be free after the departure of perhaps two million of "Sudetens Germans," because the new Czechoslovakia will need a great number of good farmers; and about 80 percent of the Lusatians Serbs are an agricultural people.

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