

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE
CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

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EDITORIAL

Collectors of Czechoslovak stamps often have been told that it is a sin to collect the stamps of the Protectorate because these stamps portray the arch-enemies of Czechoslovakia.

In our humble opinion a collector has his choice; he may collect these stamps if he so desires or he may leave them. We know that collectors of United States Colonial Issues do not shun the stamps of the puppet government of the Philippine Islands and they know that most of these stamps were issued primarily to bolster the treasury of the government at war with our country.

A collector who collects these stamps of the Philippine Islands or of the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia or of Slovakia, has many valid reasons for doing so. He has a postal record of the land as it went through trying times. We have not heard that historians will ignore the years 1939-45 or at least ignore such ignoble characters as Hitler, Heydrich, Quisling, Laurel, Pavelich, Tiso and their kind. In our histories we read of Benedict Arnold and remember him for what he was. A stamp album is a history book, and certainly the years 1939-45 are worth remembering.

We in America know that Europe seeths with unrest. The governments as well as their people are filled with distrust of their neighbors and with a violent hatred for all but their own nationals. It is time that these nations learn to practice Christian charity; that is Europe's only salvation. A United States of Europe can be one solution; a universally recognized auxiliary language is another. We know that no national language can qualify because it would place the nation using the language into a very advantageous position. Perhaps a United States of Europe with Esperanto as the interlanguage could bring peace to a war torn continent.

THE KOSICE ISSUE

Do you remember how we used to look around for Czecho blocks of three? Years ago our member, Mr. Beedon, wrote of them in Scott's Monthly Journal. They were stamps of a certain format such as the high values of the 1936 pictorial issue, semi-postals of 1936, 1937, etc.; the Stickney printing press was and is used in Praha and the steel plates from which stamps are printed must always be of one size. When this format was used for vertical rectangle stamps, the top row of the printed sheet would consist of 16 subjects, the balance of the six rows would consist of 14 subjects each; the outer vertical rows, those below stamp one and stamp sixteen of the top horizontal row, were left blank. A sheet so produced would consist of 100 subjects with 12 blank spaces, often called coupons or tabs. A specialist would collect top right and top left blocks of three stamps and one blank and bottom right and left blocks of two stamps and two blanks; the bottom left block often carried a plate number.

Later on these blank spaces obtained decorative inscriptions and many collections of singles are found with these tabs.

On the recently issued Kosina set the government really "went to town." We still find the sheet of 112 spaces consisting of 100 printed stamps and 12 blank spaces, but the arrangement is very much different and one which may give headaches to the ultra-specialist who must have every possible position. The first and the seventh or last horizontal rows have seven printed stamps, then two blank spaces and again seven printed stamps; the second, third, fifth and sixth rows have one blank space, twelve printed stamps and again a blank space and, lastly, the fourth row has sixteen printed stamps. How must the ultra-specialist collect these? To show these twelve blank spaces to best advantage he must purchase a total of 32 stamps. Isn't that lovely? He will then have in his collection the entire first, second, fifteenth and sixteenth vertical rows and top and bottom center blocks of eight consisting of six stamps and two blank spaces each and with all this he will not show a regular, honest to goodness block of four!

DRESSING YOUR COLLECTION WITH PHOTOS

Some time ago we visited a collector whose collection was very interesting. He had photos made of some of his stamps which brought out the real beauty of the engraver's art; one was thrilled seeing an enlarged photographic reproduction. Very few collectors look for the beauty of the engraver's work with a magnifying glass; an enlarged photograph of the stamp reveals fine lines which otherwise never would be noticed. How many collectors of Austria or Czechoslovakia know that the name "A. Cossman" appears at the bottom of the 1916 Special Delivery stamps of Austria (Scott E1), the stamp which was used for the overprint of Czechoslovakia (Scott B32)?

Enlarged photos of the overprints of Posta Ceskoslovenska 1919 afford the student an easy way to study the peculiarities of the printing. While it is true that overprints are easy to fake, yet very few overprint-counterfeits of this issue need worry the collector who once learns what to look for in the genuine stamps.

A study of the various Masaryk types in use from 1925 to about 1930, can be made very easily with photos enlarged several times the normal size. The same is true when one wishes to study other die types.

We learn that our member, Mr. Alfred Weiner, 5056½ N. Kenmore Ave., Chicago 40, Ill., is prepared to photograph stamps for your collection or for your record (in the case of scarce and valuable stamps it is almost as good as an insurance policy), for the sum of 50 cents each, additional prints 15 cents each. If you want photos of stamps of which he has negatives, the price would be 20 cents each print.

* * * *

If any member has suggestions on how to improve specialized collecting or knows how to make it more interesting, we trust he writes to the editor. A society like our's is a cooperative organization; we must strive to help one another.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 1946 DUES?

Every philatelic society has a certain membership turnover every year. About 10% of the members must be dropped from the roll either because they lost interest or because of financial difficulties; sometimes through neglect. If you do not want to retain your membership, notify us by mail; a penny post card can do the trick and save us time and money. If you are the neglectful type, write out a check NOW and mail it to the treasurer: Mr. Guy Greenawalt, 1443 N. Hudson Ave., Chicago 10, Ill. If the checkbook isn't handy, tie a string around your finger and keep it there until you send in those 1946 dues. **Thank you!**

NEWS AND VIEWS

by J. W. Lowey

Previous to the publication about the alleged U. S. Issue in Czechoslovakia in my last column I had a somewhat condensed version of it printed in 'Stamps.' Within a short time the postman was bringing me letters from collectors who had been victimized, and requested my advice. Letters are still coming in and they make the most interesting reading. I only wish I could reprint them here but unfortunately space does not permit. However I will give one example because the circumstances in this particular case are unusual ones. One of the first letters I received was from a lawyer who informed me that a philatelic friend had brought my article to his attention and that he would appreciate if I could give him an interview. I accepted his invitation to visit him in his office and there he told me the following story: it appears that his brother who was with Patton's army in the Wildstein district, one day was approached in a public place by a man who offered him a set for sale. The soldier is not a collector and knows nothing about stamps and he told the man so. Thereupon the stranger showed him a photostat, which was signed with the initials of an American officer and the signature of a Czech postal official. Above the signatures was the announcement of the release of the stamps, giving technical details. "You see," said the man, "I am not trying to sell you faked stamps, and if you will take my advice you'll buy them and when you return to the United States you'll get at least twice as much as you paid me." To make the story short—our soldier accompanied the man to his house and there he bought 10 sets at 15 Dollars per set.

The lawyer also showed me several covers franked with the set. All of them have the typical appearance which will make them instantly suspicious to the expert. The stamps are nicely and symmetrically spaced and the cancellation is applied ever so lightly yet easily readable over each stamp.

Since then I have seen some more sets and more covers bought by collectors in this country and all have the same characteristics—that is—they are addressed to no one or self addressed but never mailed.

Incidentally—Ervin Hirsch in his last issue warns collectors in Czechoslovakia to keep away from this issue which he calls a "dangerous toy."

Making the rounds thru the offices of my dealer friends I find that they are receiving large registered parcels from neutral countries which contain sets in full sheets of late Czechoslovak issues. I wonder how these bulky shipments of stamps get thru the rigid postal control in Czechoslovakia. As far as I know no local dealer has as yet received such shipments direct from Czechoslovakia. This is decidedly monkey business but who am I to tell Czech authorities to take steps!

In case you are in doubt as to how to mount your new issues (if you have them) here is how they appeared chronologically: Kosice Set and Sheet, Bratislava set, Linden Leaves, Moscow set, London Set, Partisan issue and sheet, Portraits (Masaryk-Benes-Stefanik), Students Congress, Chod or Kosina Set. All these sets had or have validity in the entire territory of Czechoslovakia but the Portraits, Students Congress and the Chod set can not be used on mails in Slovakia. Why this is so I do not know because I have no correspondents in Slovakia to learn the reason and Prague is silent on this matter.

In the meantime the portrait set has received several additional values and now consists of: 30 h rose violet, 50 h deep brown, 60 h light blue, 80 h blue green, 1.20 K rose carmine, 1.60 K yellow green, 2.40 K rose carmine, 3 K wine red, 5 K light green, 7 K olive green, 10 K blue and 15 K violet red.

Also the Bratislava Set has an additional denomination—2.40 light red brown.

The long overdue newspaper stamps have been released. I only have one item but no information as to the colors of the rest of the set. The stamps are of the same size as the former ones but the design is new. It shows a hur-

rying messenger with these denominations: 5h, 10h, 15h, 20h, 30h, 40h, 50h, 1K and 5K.

Belatedly I also have to report that for some time now official stamps have been in use in Slovakia. The design, strangely consists of the Bohemian Lion and on its two sides the letters S - Z (Sluzebni znamky—Official Stamps.) The values are: 50h dark green, 1K deep violet blue, 1.20 wine red, 1.50 rose, 2.50 ultramarine, 5 K brown violet and 8 K rose.

A friend has shown me two beautiful items which I would like to own but he does not want to sell. Perhaps you have a duplicate of either one I'll be glad to buy or swap. One is a postal stationery card showing the imprinted helmeted soldier of the Kosice set with an imperforate copy added. The postmark over the stamps reads "Arrival of President Benes." The second is a letter mailed from Prague to this country on the day General Eisenhower visited the capital. The special postmark has the legend "Welcome, General Eisenhower."

And here is my reaction to the article "Catalogs" in the last issue. At the outset I would say that Editor Kovarik has hit the nail squarely on the head because I, too, believe that it would be a hazardous undertaking, from whatever angle one looks at the proposition. Some of my own special reasons, why I consider the proposal as ill advised are these: supposing the society would be able to finance the publication of a specialized catalogue or some member would be willing to offer financial backing—who would be the competent person to make the compilation, a tremendous job, if one is not to copy the material from some other catalog and quote the CORRECT PRICES, which would satisfy both dealer and collector.

Furthermore it has to be considered what kind of specialized catalog it should be. Collectors can not be just lumped together into one single group because they form a scale from beginner to top specialist. From the point of which group should the compilation be made?

Without wishing to repeat a plug I, nevertheless, again claim that for general purposes the Kessler catalog at present is the best we have. Therein the headings above each issue are quite correct as to historical details, perms., etc., etc., and can serve as a good guide line for writing up album pages. The catalog lists all issues and such specialized items and varieties which should go into a collection (of course depending on means and volume of property) without going to the extreme.

A second philatelic magazine is about to appear in Czechoslovakia. I have just received word from F. Novotny, former editor of the "Narodni Sberatel" and editor of the new publication, that it will be a first rate publication. I, for one believe, what he says because no other philatelic writer in Prague has the information channels Novotny has at his disposal.

At this time I have no details as to name of publication and price of subscription but will announce both in the April issue. I have a batch of first issue copies on the way and those interested to have one will please send me a 5 cent stamp for postage. First come, first served.

Last night, together with Frank Voticky, we attended the initial sale of the Roosevelt collection at the Parke-Bernet Galleries. I will not go into details— if you are interested you will obtain them from your newspaper. However it should be reported that a really terrific struggle was on when the "Czechoslovakia Flag Sheet," autographed by the late President and Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau, came up. One by one the bidders fell aside. Yours truly hung on up to 150 Dollars but then got scared. The victor, ever smiling Frank Voticky, paid \$350.00 for the sheet. This afternoon another Czechoslovak combination was up for sale namely, the same sheet though without autographs, a letter from President Benes to President Roosevelt and a First Day Cover from Ambassador Hurban to the President. The bidder, unknown to me, paid 90 Dollars for the combination.

The Philatelic Activities of the Czechoslovak Army in Britain

by George A. Blizil

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Type I



Type II



Type III

Three types of regular bilingual cancellations were used by the Field Post from 1940 to 1945. Type I was put into service August 1941; Type II on August 1, 1942; and Type III on September 14, 1943. These cancellations were applied in black on all outgoing regular mail. Commemorative cancellations were applied in either red, blue, black or green.

Favor sheets have been issued for years by Czechoslovak philatelists and several were issued for some of the above listed events. Favor sheets were officially issued in numbered quantities by the Archives Office. Others were unofficial and several were manufactured by individual collectors for their own amusement. The official favor sheets were sold and funds from their sale were used to purchase cigarettes, film, candy, etc. for the soldiers, inasmuch as the government in exile was unable to pay them a salary. Official favor sheets are shown in Figs. 4, 6, 7 and 8. The St. Wenceslaus favor sheet shown in Fig. 9 was not official.

Two different sets of patriotic gummed stickers were also issued in panes of 40. Printed in red, white and blue, they read "A Free Czechoslovakia in a Free Europe," "Czechoslovakia Fights for Victory!", "Czechoslovakia Fights for Freedom," etc.



Fig. 5

Commemorative Czechoslovak Field Post Cancellations

OCCASION	DATE	CACHET	COLOR	FAVOR SHEET
Pres. Benes' Visit to Quarters	7/26/40	Fig. 10	Blue	
St. Wenceslaus	9/28/40	Fig. 9	Blue	Yes
Peter Bezruc's Anniversary	9/15/40	Fig. 14	Blue	
Independence Day	10/28/40	Fig. 11	Red	
Masaryk's Birthday	3/ 7/41	Fig. 12	Red	
Black Saturday	3/15/41	Fig. 13	Black	
Stefanik's Birthday	5/ 4/41	Fig. 6	Blue	Yes, 1000
Pres. Benes' Birthday	5/28/41	Fig. 8 & I	Red & Blue	Yes *
Battle of Zborov	7/ 2/41	Type I	Red	
Peter Bezruc's Anniversary	9/15/41	Fig. 14	Blue	
Independence Day	10/28/41	Fig. 7	Red	Yes **
Student's Day	11/17/41	Type I	Black	
Masaryk's Birthday	3/ 7/42	Fig. 15 & I	Red	Yes
Black Saturday	3/15/42	Fig. 25	Black	Yes
Pres. Benes' Birthday	5/28/42	Type I	Red	
Battle of Zborov	7/ 2/42	Fig. 16	Red	
Independence Day	10/28/42	Type II	Red	Yes
5th Ann. of Masaryk's Death	11/14/42	Fig. 17	Red	
Student's Day	11/17/42	Fig. 18	Black	
Masaryk's Birthday	3/ 7/43	Fig. 2	Red	
Black Saturday	3/15/43	Fig. 19	Black	
Pres. Benes' Birthday	5/28/43	Fig. 26	Blue	
Independence Day	10/28/43	Fig. 4 & III	Red	Yes, 2000
Philatelic Exhibition	11/ 8/43	Fig. 20 & III	Green	
6th Ann. of Masaryk's Death	11/14/43	Type III	Red	
Student's Day	11/17/43	Fig. 24	Black	
Masaryk's Birthday	3/ 7/44	Fig. 21	Red	
Stefanik's Birthday	5/4/44	Fig. 22	Blue	
Pres. Benes' Birthday	5/28/44	Fig. 3	Red	Yes, 2000
Battle of Zborov	7/ 2/44	Type III	Green	
Independence Day	10/28/44	Type III	Red	

* 1000 in red and 1000 in blue.

** 1111 with stamps and 1000 with message from Pres. Benes.

In the summer of 1941 the British Post Office Department allowed the Polni Posta cancellation to be applied to covers. However, the regular British cancellation was applied on the stamps (Fig. 5). Later that year permission was given to cancel mail with the Field Post Type I, IF the cover was unregistered. Exclusive use of the Field Post cancellations on all mail was started in March, 1942.

About that time the Field Post cancellations (commemorative and regular) were also found on the British registry certificates (Fig. 23). The British P. O. furnished the Czechs with their own bilingual Registry labels, as shown on covers in Figs. 21, 25 and 31.

October 28th, 1943, was the 25th anniversary of the Czechoslovak Republic. In connection with this celebration an exhibition of Czechoslovak stamps was held in London the week of November 8th. The Czech government had a miniature sheet printed by Waterlow & Sons for the exhibition and anniversary and the Polni Posta prepared a special meter cancellation for the event (Figs. 20 and 31). The five stamps in the miniature sheet were not valid for postage, being issued primarily in connection with the Republic's silver anniversary.

It seems that several soldiers had access to the commemorative cachets and thousands of imprints were made, some on low denomination British stamps, just for souvenirs to take back to Czechoslovakia. Collectors should be careful in making purchases of these "part covers." However, the numbered and official favor sheets together with genuine Field Post covers showing censorship marks, etc., are very desirable property

(To be Continued)

SPECIAL NOTICE

We are aware of the fact that even with special care, dishonest men can get into our organization. We publish the names of new members so that the older members, who may recognize in these names possible shady characters, notify the officers immediately and this case then is handled by the judiciary committee which examines such complaints and makes its final decision. We had no complaints yet, but, with the steadily growing membership we must be on the alert constantly. Help us maintain the high standard of membership which has been our pride since the day we organized.

CORRECTION

In last month's Specialist we misspelled the name of our new member — #183. It should read: Mrs. Wm. H. Andelt. We have also been asked to state that the abbreviation C. S. R. means Czechoslovak Republic and as a rule is written Czechoslovakia on addresses going through the mails.

NEW MEMBERS

- 197. Arnost Siegel, 11 Shoshanat Hacarmel St., Box 2017, Haifa, Palestine.
- 198. Peter Pisaroff, 435 E. Bernard St., West St. Paul 7, Minn.
- 199. William Glawe, 9640 S. Seeley Ave., Chicago 43, Ill.
- 200. Paul Schneider, 51 W. 36th St., New York, N. Y.
- 201. Joseph C. Javurek, 79-62 69th Ave., Middle Village, L. I., N. Y.
- 202. Norman F. Ives, 266 Main St., Franklin, Mass.
- 203. Leo E. Smerza, 5284 French Rd., Detroit 13, Mich.
- 204. Mrs. Anna J. Holas, 409 Eggert Rd., Buffalo 15, N. Y.
- 205. Lloyd W. Litchfield, 81 Dedham Ave., Needham 92, Mass.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

- Jos. C. Hejl, 2341 S. 13th Ave., Broadview, P. O. Maywood, Ill.
- Albert Thivierge, 6 Long's Court, Amesbury, Mass.

REINSTATED

- 148. Arthur J. Mates, 4007 E. 123rd St., Cleveland 5, Ohio.

OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 1945

- President: Karel Zahradnicek, 13306 Bartlett Av., Cleveland 20, O.
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- Librarian: Mrs. M. Glawe, 9640 S. Seeley Ave, Chicago 43, Ill.
- Sales Mgr.: W. Fritzsche, % McDonald, 3317 Glenwood Rd., Brooklyn 10, N.Y.

POZOR FILATELISTÉ V Č.S.R.

Chcete-li se státi členy Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of North America neb si vyměnovat známky s jejími členy, pište o informace našemu mezinárodnímu tajemníkovi: **J. W. Lowey, 201 Marcy Place, New York 56, N. Y., U.S.A.**