

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE
CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

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EDITORIAL

Our organization has progressed nicely within the last year or so and the officers are really happy that they can give to the members more for their money than in the past. We had no general meeting since 1940. So far, your officers have been "the organization"; your officers have been elected by an un-American process; one name was submitted and if no objections were made, such a person became "a duly elected" officer of the Society.

Our first "convention" was held in New York City in June, 1939, at which meeting officers were elected. The Fourth International Philatelic Exhibition is scheduled for May, 1947, in New York City; this Exhibition will commemorate The Centenary of the United States' Postage Stamp. Many of our members, we are sure, will want to attend this Exhibition. We should make plans for that now. It would be well to organize a Convention Committee of our Society in New York and prepare for a convention where many of our members, who have known one another through correspondence for years, could meet in a truly stampic atmosphere. At such a meeting your officers can present to you the problems with which they struggled during the past years and we are confident members could show the officers what was wrong with their conduct of the Society and could give directives to the new officers which would result in a bigger and better Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of North America.

CORRECTION

When the March issue of the Specialist reached us and we saw the caption "The Kosice Issue" on the first page, we were ready to do body harm to the printer. Knowing we are human (to err is human, you heard that often), we checked back on the carbon copy of the material we sent to the printer and to our satisfaction saw it was our mistake, thereby saving ourselves the effort we'd expend punishing Mr. Miller. Most of the members know we meant "The Kozina Issue"; those who index their material should make this correction.

Incidentally, we saw sheets of some of the stamps issued under the Protectorate regime and these had the same arrangement as the Kozina stamps. We cannot accuse the present government of this fanciful presentation; it has been done before.

A NEW OLD PUBLICATION

In his column in this issue, Mr. Lowey tells of the new philatelic magazine in Praha "Zpravodaj nasi filatelie." It is a continuation of "Narodni Sberatel," under the same able editor, Mr. Frant. Novotny. Our copy reached us yesterday and therefor we cannot give you a thorough summary of the contents, but we are sure that this publication will be an asset to any collector of Czechoslovakia who has at least a slight knowledge of the Czech language. If at least

five members show a willingness to subscribe to this publication, we are ready to forward the money to Praha and thereby save time and money to these members. Sending the sum of \$1.60 to Praha through the bank, costs almost that much. If more members club together, a worth-while savings can be affected.

NEW MEMBERS

- 206. Melvin F. Klozar, 3984 E. 42nd St., Cleveland, Ohio.
- 207. Anthony G. Vavricka, Box 363, East Islip, L. I., N. Y.
- 208. John W. Price, Aer. M. 1/c, U. S. N., Aerology N. O. T. S., Armitage Field, Inyokern, Calif.
- 209. Dr. Alfred Berger, 20 W. 85th St., New York 24, N. Y.
- 210. Roman Reinowski, 1939 Highland Ave., Berwyn, Ill.
- 211. Emil E. Zaludek, 5737 S. Francisco Ave., Chicago 29, Ill.
- 212. Morris Lichtman, 961 Golden Gate Ave., San Francisco 2, Calif.
- 213. Bedrich Deutsch, Box 42, 24 Cambridge St., Summerside, P. E. I., Canada

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Albert M. Pratt, 1800 So. 15th St., Philadelphia 45, Pa.

NEW ISSUES FOR MARCH

We have been notified that the following stamps are scheduled to appear in Czechoslovakia in March, 1946:

Additions to the Moscow Issue: 5h, 10h, and 20h. Same design and size.

To the current issue (portraits of Benes, Masaryk or Stefanik) two new values added: 4K and 20K.

Values which had the "K" monetary designation will be replaced with "Kcs" in the following values: 1.20, Masaryk, which will come out in a new color, 3K Benes, 5K Masaryk and 10K Stefanik.

The following Postage Due Stamps are being printed in Bratislava: 0.10, 0.20, 0.30, 0.50, 0.60, all inscribed "Kcs" and printed in red; 1.20, 2.40, 3.20, 5. also inscribed "Kcs" but printed in blue. Date of issue not announced.

Future issue of the Air Post Stamps:

Seven values are now scheduled: 1.50, 5.50, 10., 16., 20., 30., and 50. Kcs. This is issued in these strange values on account of the various rates now in effect.

The lower values are a small rectangle. On the right of the stamp is a bust of a flier, on the left the figure of value and above is a plane. The higher values are about the size of the old stamps, with a view of the Hradcany and the Karel Bridge and a plane in flight above. The value is on the left of the stamp. (These descriptions are from essays seen and nothing else at the moment is known.

NEWS AND VIEWS

by J. W. Lowey

The first specialized catalogue since 1939 has appeared in Czechoslovakia. It is put out by the Prague stamp dealer Lehovec and a copy is on the way to me. Since, however, it has not yet arrived I can not give a review at this time.

The new philatelic magazine edited by Frant. Novotny and mentioned in last months column has made its appearance. Subscription fee is 80 koruna per annum (approximately \$1.60). If you wish to receive it remit to "Zpravodaj nasi filatelie," Praha XII., Korunni trida 121, Czechoslovakia. PLEASE MENTION THAT YOU ARE A MEMBER OF OUR SOCIETY.

A paragraph in my last column regarding shipment of mint stamps to Czechoslovakia is partly erroneous though in essence correct. I have been

asked by the Czechoslovak Consulate General to make this correction: there is no censorship of letters as such,—however monetary restrictions do not as yet permit the import or export of postage stamps unless the resident in Czechoslovakia has a license. If stamps are found in letters they will be confiscated and neither the sender nor the addressee will be compensated. At the same time I am being given to understand that in the very near future conditions will return to pre war status.

Just as in 1918 specialists of transition postmarks will have a wide field with the present ones of the former Sudeten territory, though conditions are different this time. Whereas in 1918 the Czechoslovak government permitted for some time the use of former Austrian cancelling devices the problem this time is an entirely different one because the postmasters and clerks of most of the post offices have either destroyed or taken along the cancelling equipment. Since post offices could not function without such and since it takes time to manufacture and distribute this equipment made of metal the post offices are resorting to rubber hand stamps. Though they vary in size and color they are identical in that they consist of a double circle halved by two cross bars. Inside the circle is the name of the post office and between the bars the year. Some post offices, in addition, use a rectangular rubber stamp having the name of the post office and exchangeable date bar.

FIVE YEARS OF THE SALES AND EXCHANGE DEPARTMENT

Yes, it is 5 years now that this department operates. In the fall of 1941 I sent out cards, asking for opinions; the result was favorable and we started out. Many of the old participants still are with us and seem to enjoy our service which is proved by the many letters which I have received from them, showing their appreciation. Many have left us, but new ones always come in, therefore I always have at least 25 ardent collectors supporting us, either by buying or selling their stamps. It was their cooperation which made our sales department a success because it were their stamps which came up for sale and up to now I have not found it necessary to get any stock from any dealer in order to keep the sales going. Whatever has been offered for sale was material submitted by our own members. I hope you will keep up the good work and support us further by sending in your duplicates for circulation.

January 7th the first circuit started out on its way. Since that time up to the end of 1945 there were 54 circuits in circulation at a total value of \$4552.71. Two of those circuits contained only entires, (covers and cards and postal stationery), the remaining 52 circuits were made up of 500 booklets. This gives us an average of 11 circuits a year, at a value of about \$900 a year, with 100 booklets a year, which in my estimation is very good for the small group which subscribed to it. The sales average over the 5 years is about 50%, during the first years the average was poor but rose steadily; last year it came to about 66%. Selling and buying through our sales department also supports the Society. It will give the treasury about \$20 a year in commissions. Another good point I want to bring out: We have an insurance fund, but it has as yet not been necessary to touch it, as we have had no losses. Twice it seemed a circuit had disappeared but they turned up in time. One was lost in the Post Office but later recovered by them and the other was forwarded to an officer in the army, who went overseas and the circuit never caught up with him, it finally arrived after he had returned to the States. So, nothing was lost, only time. In the future I hope you all will continue to support this department as you have done in the past. I also hope you will send me books for circulation so we can keep on working with our own members' stamps and don't have to go to dealers and their prices. I have put in a lot of time, to keep things going, but have enjoyed it, you all know my reward is to get the first crack at each book. And while we are on this subject, I beg to remind you that at the average any one of you can be first on the list only once in two years, you know 25 members getting 11 circuits a year does not give a higher average. To speed up the traveling time I also have to adhere to a certain sequence, as it would be foolish to have

each circuit make from east to west or vice versa several times, I hope you all understand. Thanks to all of you for your cooperation.

Your sales manager,

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

The Philatelic Activities of the Czechoslovak Army in Britain

by George A. Blizil

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The Field Post, which was always located in England, was discontinued shortly after V-E Day. The troops, being well trained in mechanized warfare fought right along with the British into Germany. The Czech replacement garrison was located at Southend-on-Sea. Early in the war Czechoslovak units took part in the defense of Tobruk and the Syrian campaign. In September 1942 units again left Britain for service in the Middle East, where they formed a Czechoslovak Military Mission.

Before coming to Britain, the Czechoslovak Army in France had very little field post activity. Only four cancellations are known to be used during their



Fig. 8

Fig. 9



FIG. 10



FIG. 11



FIG. 12



FIG. 13



FIG. 14



FIG. 15



FIG. 16



FIG. 17



FIG. 18



FIG. 19



FIG. 20

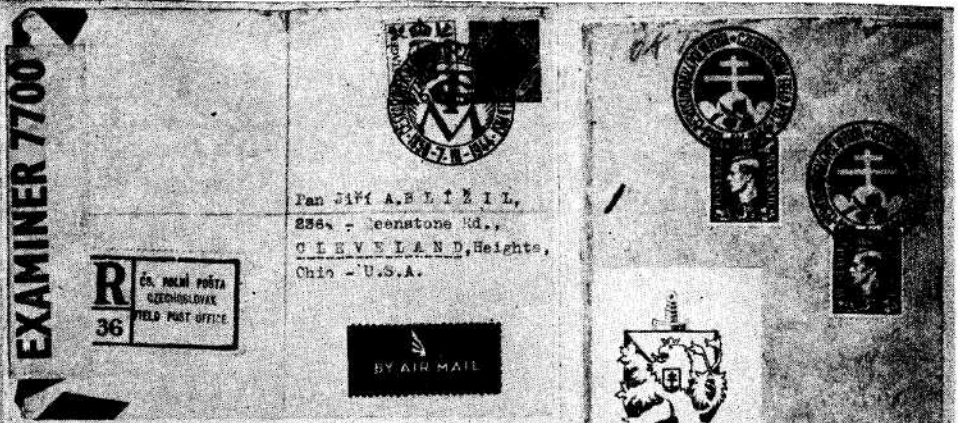


FIG. 21



FIG. 22

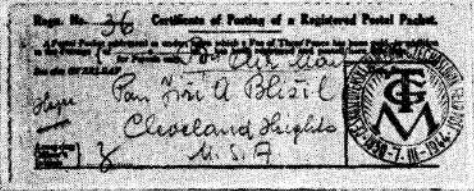


FIG. 23



FIG. 24



FIG. 25



FIG. 26



FIG. 27



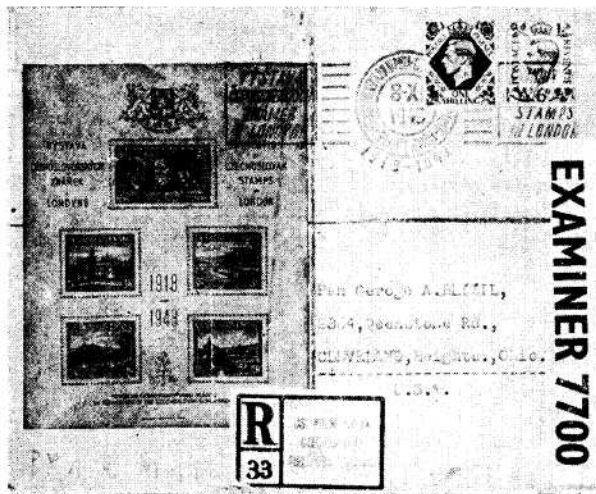
FIG. 28



FIG. 29



FIG. 30



stay in France and genuine covers are extremely rare.

Fig. 27 was the cancellation used for Masaryk's Birthday in 1940. Fig. 28 commemorates the birthday of General Milan Stefanik. Fig. 29 is the cachet used June 1, 1940, the day Czech Regiments left for the front to fight with the French Army. Fig. 30 is the cancellation of Le Vaguemestre (Field Postmaster) of the 3rd Regiment of the 1st Czechoslovak Division in France.

During World War II another huge Czechoslovak Army was in action on the eastern front. They organized and fought with the Russians. Their deeds? Their philatelic activities? That's another story.

