

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE
CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

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EDITORIAL

Four years of our stewardship as editor of the Czechoslovak Specialist have passed by and as we look back upon our work, we are pleased. Man is a queer animal. Much as he disclaims it, he craves praise and is best satisfied when others tell him how good he is, what good he does; his accomplishments are extolled and if criticism is offered, providing it is of a constructive nature, it makes him very happy. The interest and appreciation of the members who took the trouble to write us helped lighten our task and spurred us on to greater efforts. As usual, we shall take a two months variation from our editorial duties and please do not ask why the July and August issues failed to arrive. To you who have brought in new members, to you who help by being associate or patron members, to you who encourage us in our modest efforts, many thanks. To you who expressed concern over our health, thanks. These were delightful four years and we hope we have many more.

MEMBERSHIP LIST

Last year we failed to publish our annual membership list. This year's membership list will be published in the next issue; if you are still in arrears (shame on you!), do not fail to mail your check to the treasurer before the 12th of May or you'll learn you are no longer a member and surely you don't want to suffer such a fate! May we ask you to cooperate and if you moved will you please send us your correct address.

HALSEY STAMP EXCHANGE

Our member, Mr. Bohumil Dubey, announces he is now owner of the Halsey Stamp Exchange, 259 Halsey St., Newark, N. J. Whenever you are in the vicinity of Newark remember to visit Mr. Dubey who will gladly take care of your wants to the extent of his stock. Good luck, Mr. Dubey.

IN MEMORIAM — JOHN F. KOKOSKA

John F. Kokoska, Roster #160, who has enjoyed his short span of membership in our Society and who was very enthusiastic about his collection of Czechoslovakia, passed away March 31, 1946. Though only a general collector, he was genuinely interested in the stamps of his homeland and loved them as a true hobbyist. To his widow, sons and daughter, we extend our heartfelt sympathy.

NEWS AND VIEWS

J. W. Lowey

Had a very interesting letter from Karel Basika, Secretary General of the Central Federation of Stamp Clubs of Czechoslovakia. Strength of member-

ship: 60,000. Mr. Basika informs me that he will head a group of exhibitors and dealers who will participate in the International Stamp Exhibit in New York in 1947. His tentative plans also include lectures before clubs in the cities of the East and Midwest after the closing of the Exhibition. I will have additional information as it comes to me.

Some time ago the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia has gone into the stamp business. The offices are located on one of the main streets of Prague. The name of the new concern is "Lidofilatelie," and they specialize in the issues of Czechoslovakia (old and new) and Soviet Russia. The manager of the concern is Jaroslav Franek, well known co-editor with Ervin Hirsch of the pre-war publication "Tribuna Filatelistu" and the book "Monografie cs. znamek."

I learn that the Ekstein Catalog has been published annually up to including 1942, though the publisher himself then was in a concentration camp in which he later perished. The editions of 1940-42 appeared in German language only and were released by Geisler, the original compiler of the German version of the catalogue.

The first issues of the new magazine "Zpravodaj nasi filatelie" is at hand and a most welcome source of information which we have missed for so many years. It is printed on fairly good paper and the layout of articles, typography and general coverage of news excellent. Among the highlights is an editorial directed at the collectors of foreign countries, a complete list of post war issues of the republic, a specialized article about the 30 h denomination of the Dove issue, reproduction of 3 beautiful transition postmarks, reminiscences of war censorship, a Junior page, a directory of stamp dealers, interspersed with news and comments. Of course advertisements are spread over a few pages. Speaking of advertisements, do you remember the Sheets released by the Czechoslovak Pavilion at the New York Worlds Fair in 1939-40? Well—the colored overprints are being offered by a Prague dealer at one thousand koruny per item! If you were smart and bought some duplicates you have excellent exchange material.

The following members requested and were mailed copies: Eddie Skupniewicz, Dr. Irvin Neufeld, George Blizil, Dr. O. Pozdena, John Velek, A. J. Hrivnak, A. I. Kessler, Frank Voticky. More members requested copies but I could not oblige because I had only received 20 copies and the remaining were mailed to American stamp magazines regarding publicity.

But again—I would advise those members who speak Czech to send their subscription of 80 koruny (1.60) to Zpravodaj nasi filatelie, Praha XII, Korunni 121, Czechoslovakia. In doing so please state that you are a member of our society.

THIS MAY INTEREST YOU

OFFICE OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT FOR GERMANY (U. S.)
INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION
COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH
APO 742

19 March 1946

Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of North America
201 Marcy Place
New York 56, N. Y.
Attention: J. W. Lowey, Secretary
Gentlemen:

Reference your letter dated 15 December, 1945, and newspaper clipping concerning the alleged overprinting of German postage stamps by U. S. Military authorities.

German Reichspost semi-postal benefit postage stamps (with bust of Hitler), series of 1944, were apparently overprinted at a Czechoslovakian post office with the words and figures "U. S. Army/v C. S./18. IV. 1945," commemorating the arrival of the United States Army into Czechoslovakia. This overprinting

was probably done by some Czechoslovakian Philatelic Association. Some official of such an association presented several sets of the above described postage stamps to U. S. Army officers.

The overprinting and issuance of the above described stamps was not authorized by the Third Army nor by any other U. S. Military Authority.

Sincerely yours
FORREST B. VOLKIEL
 Colonel, GSC, Executive Officer

PHILATELIC ACTIVITIES IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA DURING THE WAR by Karel Basika

Secretary General Czechoslovak Philatelic Federation

The German occupation of our homeland was a terrific burden to bear and the constant issuance of new decrees restricted our every day life to the utmost. The "new order," likewise, affected our philatelic activities and the contacts which we had built up with foreign countries during a period of 20 years were abruptly extinguished.

And now, though it is only a comparatively short time, that the war is over, we have the satisfaction that our foreign friends have not forgotten us, especially the many thousands who last visited our capital Praha during the International Exhibition just prior to the Munich betrayal. As soon as it became feasible old and new friendships were reestablished and we are indeed happy about this.

But to get back to those war years. The restrictions imposed upon us by the Germans necessitated drastic changes, primarily because we were cut off from the outer world. To what extent we were further handicapped may be realized from the fact that already in the spring of 1941 all philatelic papers had to cease publication. In order to prevent a complete stoppage of literary dissemination we resorted to the printing and quasi hand to hand distribution of leaflets and similar matters, and by having lecturers travel throughout the **country and speak before clubs and gatherings**. How drastic the changes were may be substantiated by statistics; for instance—in the previous year, 1940, though Czechoslovakia already was under complete occupation but not yet completely restricted, we celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the Postage Stamp. There were staged in Bohemia-Moravia 20 national exhibitions and about 100 well attended lectures given by outstanding collectors.

The subject of these lectures were invariably the stamps of Great Britain or our own country. I might mention that it became a self imposed task of the speakers to inject, what we all felt, our hope of eventual freedom and, to dedicate ourselves to that task. Needless to emphasize that the lecturers gambled with their own lives when they spoke thus.

Since we realized the necessity of a united effort, both spiritually and philatelicly, it became, therefore, paramount, to solidify all clubs into one unit. This was not an easy matter, because the eyes of a suspicious enemy were constantly watching us and our activities. Nevertheless we succeeded in our plan and in 1944 were able to bring all clubs into one Central Federation. (Ustredi).

As to connections of the capital with rural communities there were many hardships to overcome. Our lecturers on their travels were constantly in mortal danger, due to the ever increasing air raids of the Allies, who made a special effort to concentrate on moving trains. Then, in the closing months of the war, when the air raids attained the crescendo, and travelling became impossible, the only means of communication were postal channels.

Our liberation finally came in the early days of May 1945. Since we had made preparations for that event we shortly thereafter arranged for a Memorial Meeting. Then in September we held the first Federation meeting of all clubs affiliated at Olomouc. And now we are busy with arrangements for our first post war All States Philatelic exhibition which will take place in August at Brno, capital of Moravia.

We rejoice in being again a free people. As philatelists we vision a bright future and in this spirit we send our heartiest greetings to the collectors of the United States. May we never again be separated.

PLATE ONE



PLATE TWO



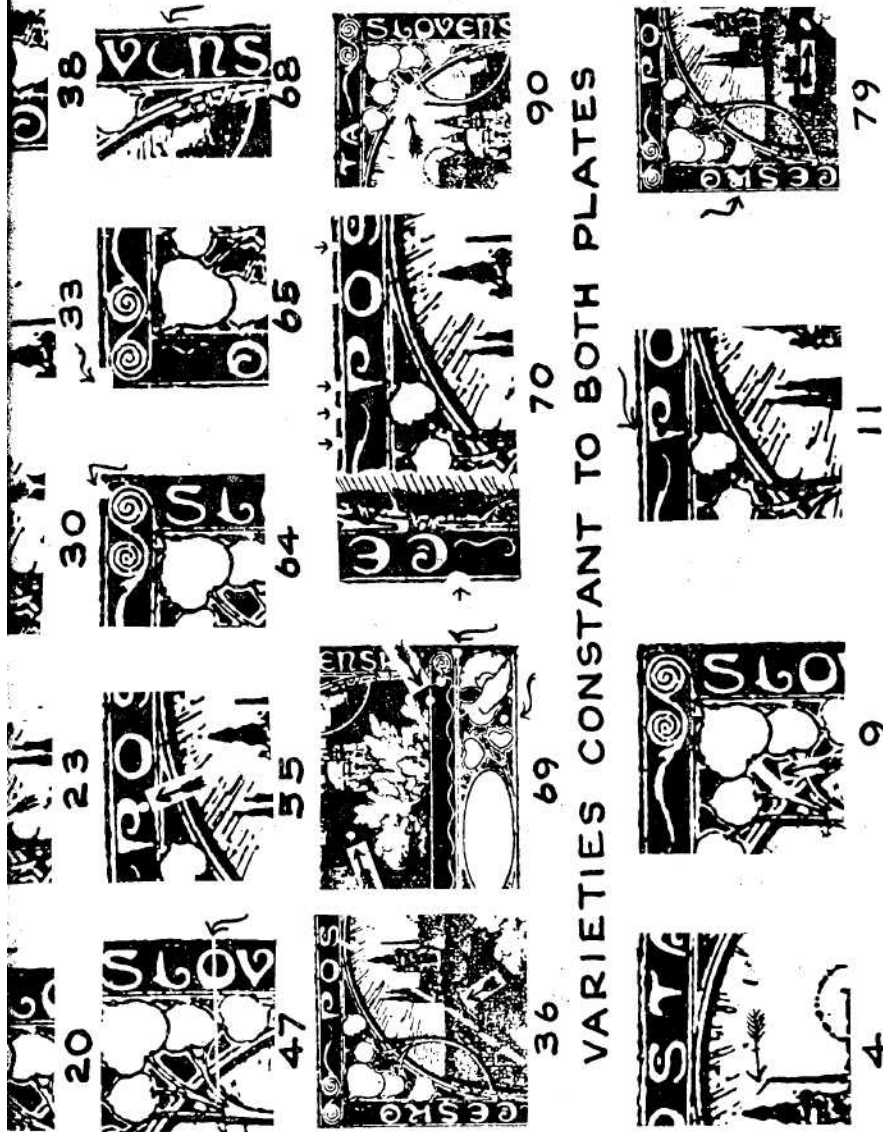
PLATE VARIETIES OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA NO. 1

By C. J. Pearce

For the student of plate varieties, few stamps offer a greater field for study than the first issues of Czechoslovakia.

Issued during the formative weeks of the new Republic, printed by a firm which had had no previous experience in the printing of postage stamps and without government supervision, there was ample opportunity for errors of all types.

Prior to the time Czechoslovakia declared its independence, all stamps for



VARIETIES CONSTANT TO BOTH PLATES

this area were supplied by the Austrian and Hungarian Governments of which Czechoslovakia had been a part for several centuries. One of the first tasks of the new Republic was the reorganization of the postal system and the issuance of new stamps. As time was of utmost importance the first issues were typographed from zinc plates made by the photographic process. While plates made in this way can be produced in a very short time, great care must be taken as peculiarities may appear due to the action of the acid used in developing. Many of the more pronounced varieties were probably produced in this way; others were caused by careless handling and natural wear on the plate.

The 3 haleru value was placed on sale December 21, 1918. 129,760,000 cop-

ies were issued. Printed by the Graphic Union, Praha's largest printer of books and pamphlets. Two plates of 100 subjects, each arranged 10x10 were used.

Other varieties than those listed here may be found in some of the later printings and the writer would appreciate hearing from any reader having additions to this list.

Plate One

- 2 Long "P" in Posta extends downward through arch and leaves.
- 12 Frame broken over "A" in Slovenska.
- 16 Loop in "P" of Posta closed.
- 23 White spot of lower loop of "E" in Cesko.
- 24 Two distinct dots in tail of dove, lower left corner.
- 57 Frame line broken at top near left corner.
- 69 Three white dots—above large bush; below large bush on line; between right small heart and dove.
- 71 White line from bush to branch.
- 97 White spot in tower left side.

Plate Two

- 2 Dash and dot in value tablet, left of figure of value.
- 5 Roof broken inside sun. White spot in upper right sprandel and in "S" of Slovenska.
- 7 Border broken over "O" in Slovenska.
- 13 Frame line broken over center lined leaf top right corner.
- 14 White spot in upper right border, appearance of fork.
- 20 White oval spot on "S" of Slovenska.
- 23 Linden leaves upper left corner joined by thick white line.
- 30 Enlarged linden leaf on left under "P" of Posta.
- 33 Color spot in top loop of "S" of Posta.
- 36 Diagonal scratch starting under "S" of Posta and extending to bush in lower left corner.
- 38 Broken frame line over upper left sprandel.
- 47 White line through "O" in Slovenska extending left to branch.
- 55 White dot on lower loop of "P" in Posta.
- 64 Frame line broken at top near right corner.
- 65 Corner broken at top left side.
- 68 "E" in Slovenska partly obliterated.
- 69 4 white dots—above large bush; below large bush on line; between right small heart and dove; on right frame right of dove's tail. This is similar to No. 69 of plate one but with addition of fourth dot.
- 70 Five breaks in top outer frame—two left of "P," one over "P," one over "C," and one left of "S" in Posta. Left border broken below "C" in Cesko.
- 90 Broken branch in upper right corner.

Varieties Constant to Both Plates

- 4 Tip on fourth tower; appearance of flag.
- 9 Thick white stem in linden leaves, upper right corner.
- 11 Color dot in "P" of Posta.
- 79 Two white spots—one in "K" in Cesko; one over left section of large bush.

REINSTATED

- 150. Joseph Brazda, Royalton Rd., R. D. #2, Brecksville, Ohio.

NEW MEMBERS

- 214. Gustav Kodet, 2964 Ripley Rd., Cleveland 20, Ohio.
- 215. Bohumil Berra, Wiclifova 18 n, Praha 11, Czechoslovakia.
- 216. Louis L. Melsha, 427 26th St., S. E., Cedar Rapids, Iowa.
- 217. Miller Lee, 9706 Carton Ave., Cleveland 4, Ohio.
- 218. Paul Reiner, 19 Rector St., New York 6, N. Y.
- 219. Matthew J. Tomascik, 413-14 Brooks Bldg., Wilkes Barre, Pa.
- 220. Dr. Michal Zibrin, Laurinska 21, Bratislava, Czechoslovakia.
- 221. Frank R. Zimmerman, 1241 Sargent Ave., St. Paul 5, Minn.
- 222. David Lidman, 50 W. Schiller St., Chicago 10, Ill.

CZECHOSLOVAK COMMEMORATIVE POSTMARKS

Just as in prewar days, Czechoslovak postal authorities are again applying commemorative and special postmarks in connection with unusual events.

I have just received from Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs at Prague the original impressions of three cancellations which should be of interest to Americans. These postmarks were applied on the days on which Generals Eisenhower, Patton and Montgomery visited Czechoslovak territory.



Figure 1. Strakonice, July 17, 1945—"Visit of the Commander of American Armies, General Patton."



Figure 2. Praha 10 Hrad, September 22, 1945—"Visit of Marshall Sir B. L. Montgomery."



Figure 3. Praha 10 Hrad, October 11, 1945—"General Dwight D. Eisenhower, Visiting the Czechoslovak Republic."

I do not have details pertaining to the visits of Marshall Montgomery and General Patton, but in the case of General Eisenhower I am quoting from a Prague newspaper:

"When it is realized that our capital has a population of one million, but that two million citizens lined the sidewalks to welcome the great American, that surely must mean something. The fact is that to our memory no foreign visitor has ever received such acclaim. It was truly a stupendous spectacle and the memory of all details will remain indelibly in the minds of those who had the privilege to participate. We Czechoslovaks are not impressed by men dressed in colorful uniforms from whose chests dangle innumerable medals—but General Eisenhower, in his plain uniform, displaying a radiant, golden smile, waving his arms constantly to both sides and shouting our Czech 'Nazdar'—that appealed to the happy frenzy of a liberated people and went deep, deep into their hearts."

—J. W. Lowey

THE ALLEGORY OF THE "CHAINBREAKER"
by W. L. Russell



Has it ever occurred to you that, of all the allegorical designs shown on the stamps of Czechoslovakia, none more aptly portrays the spirit of October 28th 1918 than the "Chainbreaker"?

It reminds me of Macaulay's lines, "Burst the curb and bounded, rejoicing to be free." I confess to a fondness for this design, out of all proportion to its philatelic worth. Let's see what we can discover about it.

Designed by Professor Vratislav Hugo Brunner, "The Chainbreaker" was first issued on June 18th, 1920, printed flat-bed by the "Unie." Originally it was proof-printed in gravure, but either because of protests by the designer, or because gravure was found unsuitable, the design was reproduced by the book-print method. Four plates comprised the form in each printing, each plate consisting of 100 subjects.

The allegory shows a figure of a woman, dressed in Slovak national dress, in a joyful posture of thanksgiving. In the background at base are shown Mount Rip (Bohemia) and Mount Krivan (Slovakia). The design is always found with the initials V. H. B. outside the southern frame of the stamp. These initials, by the way, are slightly larger on the 40h and 250h values than on the others.

Brunner's design was first submitted in June 1919 at a competition. Curiously enough, although it won first prize, it was not used. At that time, it had a horizontally lined background and the date of the revolution on the left hand side. At a later competition (3/2/1920) the design was again entered. This time it had a full-colored background, two sets of value-figures, and no date.

So far as I have been able to discover, the values, dates of issue, and quantities, were as follows:

	Issued	Valid till	Originally printed	Finally Issued
20h red	22/6/20	30/4/21/	61,070,000	58,370,000
25h brown	18/6/20	30/4/21	13,920,000	9,220,000
30h violet	22/6/20	31/12/25	91,260,000	91,260,000
40h brown	16/8/20	31/12/25	165,860,000	165,860,000
50h red	17/9/20	31/1/23	41,840,000	41,839,900
50h green	23/1/22	31/12/25	469,990,000	469,990,000
60h blue	16/8/20	31/12/25	268,530,000	268,530,000
100h brown	15/10/20	31/1/23	197,940,000	191,580,000
150h red	10/4/22	31/1/23	10,000,000	6,070,000
185h orange	17/9/20	31/1/23	21,100,000	10,800,000
250h dark green	15/10/20	31/1/23	24,900,000	24,900,000

The variation in the last two columns of figures is due to certain stamps being later overprinted for Postage Dues.

(To be continued next month)

MORE ABOUT DRESSING YOUR COLLECTION

In the March issue of the Specialist we told what Mr. Weiner offers by way of photographing your stamps for your collection. We also stated the prices Mr. Weiner charges for this service. He notifies us that he does not insist on cash for this service but is ready to accept philatelic material for his collections of Austria, Czechoslovakia and United States.