

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

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CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

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EDITORIAL

With this issue we again return to the group of articles dealing with the Masaryk stamps. The last installment appeared in June 1943; due to our war work and many related factors, we ceased our work on this series of articles. Somehow we are glad because much of the mystery of these issues has been solved; but, on the other hand, much material notes we had, have become clouded in mystery. We had recourse to some material which threw previous conjectures into a cocked hat; and so, as we solved one problem, another problem more formidable, appeared before us. Since the first group of articles appeared, we have almost doubled our membership (not so much an accomplishment for a small organization like our's). As a result, we are bound to reprint this material, but, knowing the faults of the previous articles, we shall continue the series, and, as facts crystalize, as criticisms from interested readers come in, we plan to revise the entire series and thereby present to our members a study which should surpass the famous Hirsch-Franek monograph on these stamps. We have gone to considerable expense to obtain illustrations, it is our intention to go farther if need be, to the limit of our treasury. We hope that members who have studied these stamps thoroughly loan us their knowledge and we promise to correlate all these findings into a compact whole which will enable our members to understand thoroughly the great enigma known as The Masaryk stamps of 1925-1930.

J. W. LOWEY ILL

If you or we get sick, the organization will prosper almost without a hitch. But, when the man behind the man behind the gun gets sick, that is bad. Our organizer, our first secretary, our present international secretary, Joseph W. Lowey, has been very sick. In one of our recent letters to him we wrote "You are trying to operate a B29 with a IHP motor." The last reports we had concerning his condition was again encouraging, though the first reports were very dismal and disconcerting. We hope and pray Joe makes a complete and perfect comeback, a recovery so startling that it can make news in the press. Joe is a great guy. Those of us who know him personally admire him but do not wish to emulate him. Possessed of an energy almost uncommon in mortals, he nearly burned out the motor and thus partially became a has-been in organized philately. Yet, a force so great cannot be squashed so easily, we are sure that when the fall season reopens, when the Czechoslovak Specialist again appears in September (God willing), we shall again read

NEWS AND VIEWS

by J. W. Lowey

But in the meantime our members must accept "Something old—something

smelly" concocted by the editor, who promised to pinch hit for Bro. Joe.

* * *

The last issue of the Specialist contained a letter from a Col. Forrest B. Volkel, G. S. C., in which the United States Officer asserts that "German Reichspost semi postal benefit 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." He continues "This overprinting was probably done by some Czechoslovak Philatelic Association. Some official of such an association presented several sets of the above described postage stamps to U. S. Army Officers." Then he ends with "The overprinting and issuance of the above described stamps was not authorized by the Third Army nor by any other U. S. Military authority." As we list through Scott's Catalogue "Axis Issues of Europe and the Philippines," we fail to find 1944 German stamps with bust of Hitler. Here the Army may be wrong in describing the stamps, but we personally believe the stamps sold on the market as "Occupation Stamps" of the U. S. Army in Czechoslovakia are common illegal fakes.

* * *

In our last issue appeared an article on No. 1 Czechoslovakia by our member, Mr. C. J. Pearce. Somehow we failed to give credit where credit is due. This article and the accompanying illustrations originally appeared in The Weekly Philatelic Gossip and we offer our humble apology to our good friend, Mrs. Dworak, publisher of WPG, for failure in acknowledging this fact and thanking her for permission to reprint the article as also for the donation to our small stock of cuts of the plate shown on pages 36 and 37. We have been pestered with printer's gremlins recently; who knows of a magic spell which will eradicate them?

* * *

A short time ago we received the only Czechoslovakian Specialized Catalogue appearing at present in that country. The publisher, Mr. Jan Lehovec, succeeded in presenting to the collecting fraternity a very creditable piece of work, even if he purposely omitted Bohemia-Moravia and Slovakia issues and included instead The New York World's Fair and London sheets. The postage stamps not listed did postal duty within the borders of Czechoslovakia; the sheets did postal duty nowhere. We are sure that when this misplaced hatred abates, these forgotten issues will find a place in an addenda of Czechoslovak Specialized catalogues. This catalogue may be ordered through your editor and will cost approximately 80 cents U. S. money or may be obtained direct from the publisher: Jan Lehovec, Filatelie, Praha I, Dlouha 38, Czechoslovakia and the price is 18Kcs (about 36 cents) plus postage.

* * *

Recently we advised our members that it would be to their advantage to subscribe to "Zpravodaj nasi Filatelie" through the editor of your Czechoslovak Specialist. So far, seven members requested us to do so, the total cost is \$2.00 per year. Those sending their individual subscription through the bank will learn it may cost them about \$3.00. We are willing to do this for a variety of reasons; we know that much valuable information will appear in this magazine, we want to help it financially, we now have permission to reprint any translation from its pages and when free trade is possible, we hope to obtain cuts of illustrations appearing in this magazine. If you read Czech and are interested in Czech literature on Czech stamps, this is your chance.

* * *

A very well attended meeting of the Chicago group took place at the home of Mr. August J. Hrivnak in Riverside, Ill. The Chicago meetings are unique. We have no president, no secretary, no treasurer. In fact, we have no meetings. We get together, form little discussion groups, talk about stamps of Czechoslovakia (or any other country) and in all, have a good time. Mrs. Hrivnak is a charming hostess; she is not interested in stamps but because Gus likes stamps and actually knows people who are human yet collect stamps, she likes these queer people. Our next get-together in September is scheduled again in

Riverside. We hope the weather is nice so we could enjoy ourselves outside in Gus' garden.

* * *

To all our members we wish a restful vacation, the first real vacation since the outbreak of the war.

F. J. K.

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THE ALLEGORY OF THE "CHAINBREAKER"

by W. L. Russell

(Continued from last issue)

The 40h is the only value that exhibits two types—one with, and one without a small white dot over the lowest leaf of the Linden branch at right. Most of you will already know the explanation for the two types, but it is worth repeating. The plates for the "Chainbreaker" series were produced by the photo-engraving process, whereby the original large sketch of the design was, with the aid of photography, reduced and reproduced in the form of a zinc cut.

There was only one original sketch for all the values in this series (excepting, of course, the 25h value which had a lined background) and it showed the figure "30". For the other values in the series the same sketch was used, the figure "30" being simply covered over with a black patch on which the other figures of value were sketched in white.

By accident, during the photographing of the 40h value, the covering shield was slightly misplaced, so that under it the lowest point of the "3" at the right hand side (which extends over to the lowest leaf of the Linden branch) peeped forth and appears on the 40h as a white dot. This was later corrected.

The "Chainbreaker" series is fairly rich in plate-errors. I have worked out a plan, based on those recorded in the Ekstein Catalog, together with others which I have established myself as being constant, which should enable you to easily locate them in the different values.

I don't imagine that the list is a complete one, but it shows all those that I have seen, or know of. If there are others which are constant, I shall be glad to hear about them. For example, I have read that the 50h red appears "without head," but hesitate to record it, as a similar error in the 20h was found to be a forgery.

One finds two kinds of paper in all stamps of the "Chainbreaker" series. It is either smooth white, or porous yellowish. The latter is caused through gum in the porous paper.

Perforation is usually Comb perf. 14, but Line perf 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ is found in all values as well, not only in those which were prepared for stamp booklets and consequently are found *tete-beche*. Imperf stamps cannot be regarded as other than essays, despite the fact that some did, for a short period, find their way to the Post Office unperforated (the 30h in Brno and the 40h in Pardubice).

Personally, I should like to see a re-issue of the "Chainbreaker" now that the Germans are driven from the country. The original design, steel engraved, and rotary printed, would very adequately proclaim the new-found freedom and would also be a link with the happy days of 1920. Does anyone second the motion?

THE PLATE ERRORS

| | | |
|----------------|--|--|
| No. on diagram | Description of Plate Error | 39 Head and neck joined at right by thick white line |
| | 20h RED | 33 ENSKA joined to fingers |
| 1 | P of POSTA filled in | 26 3 and 0 joined at left |
| 26 | Angle of left 2 filled in | 46 3 and 0 joined at right |
| 37 | Right hand without fetter | 20 Double line on the left hand |
| 21 | Left hand with "glove" | 37 Right arm without fetter |
| 35 | Right hand with "glove" | 46 White line across right 30 |
| | Inscription blurred | 40h BROWN |
| 32 | CESKOSLOVENSK (without final A) | 12 Broken frame above V of SLOVENSKA (T. I) |
| 24 | White ring above left value | 34 "Burning" chain under SLOV (T. II) |
| 21 | Left hand with six fingers | 8 Broken O in CESKO (T. II) |
| 37 | "Burning" fetter | 25 Dot over 40 at left (T. II) |
| 46 | Right figure 20 blurred | 38 "Pimple" on arm at right (T. I) |
| 17 | No P in POSTA | 10 Long L in SLOV (T. II) |
| | 30h VIOLET | 6 C of CESKO joined to chain (T. II) |
| 20 | 4 fingers on left hand | 14 E of ENSKA joined to fetter (T. II) |
| 23 | White "stone" hanging to chain at left | |



VHB

- | | |
|---|---|
| Blurred inscription | 44 Broken 6 at right |
| 44 Right 4 with line through it | 27 Broken 0 of 60 at left |
| 36 White "C" shaped fleck above right chain | 100h BROWN |
| 50h RED | 4 Semi-circle under A in POSTA |
| 43 Ring above right 50 | 10 L missing from SLOVENSKA |
| 15 White dot under S of SKA | 48 Second \$ in right 100 broken at base. |
| 30 Egg in girdle | 35 4 fingers on hand at right |
| 37 Arm without fetter | 25 First 0 of left 100 with white dot above |
| 11 SLQV | 49 Broken inner frame below right 100 |
| 15 SK in SKA joined | 19, 35 Both hands white |
| 3 SLA instead of STA | 20 4th and 5th fingers joined at left |
| 50h GREEN | 4 Long A in POSTA |
| 30 Egg in girdle | 26, 44 No serifs to 1's in both 100's |
| 5 Dot between A of POSTA and C of CES | 43 White dot over first 0 in right 100 |
| 35 Right hand white | 28 White dot under first 0 in left 100 |
| 45 Colored dot in front of right 50 | 35 "Boil" on right hand |
| 60h BLUE | 150h RED |
| Inscription blurred | 18 Left hand with long thumb |
| 21 Six fingers on left hand | 185h ORANGE |
| 2 Small ring in O of POSTA | 25 8 open at top (left) |
| 16 K and A joined with white line | 44 8 closed at top (right) |
| 27 Broken outline to left 0 of 60 | 35 White hand at right |
| 25 Inner frame line broken at left below 60 | 13 White dot in V of SLOV |
| 19, 35 Both hands white | 250h DARK GREEN |
| 22 White dot under left hand. | 28 Double line under left 250 |
| 1 P of POSTA filled up | 31 Broken Knee |
| 40 Hair extending right to frame | 26 Dot between 2 and 5 at left |
| 9 White dot over head | 7 Dot under K of CESKO |
| 42 White ring above right 60 | 41 Mutilated Breast |
| 46 No inline to right 60 | 47 "Burning" branch |

THE MASARYK ISSUE
1925-27

by Guy Greenawalt and F. J. Kovarik



Type I — Format B

TYPE I

All four Kc values which were issued on March 7, 1925 were printed with line engraved steel plates. The designs were identical except for the numeral of value. The engraving was prepared using Prof. Max Svabinsky's portrait etching of President Masaryk. The central portion and side panels of the design are the same as the 1923 Jubilee stamps, with the portrait of President Masaryk in the center and the linden leaves in the panels. The top panel contains the legend "POSTA CESKO-SLOVENSKA" in shaded caps on a lined background of 23 closely spaced horizontal lines, the monetary designation is in a lower center panel and the numeral of value is in lower corner panels, all the panels having a lined background.

The original die, with value omitted, was ordered from England. It arrived in very fine condition. However, the printers did not have the necessary technical experience with recess printing and at the very first reproducing stage the die was ruined.

A new die was prepared in Prague. It was not as fine an engraving as the die made in England. The manufacturing of the plates was begun using the same process which was employed in the manufacture of the plates for the 1923 Jubilee stamps.

In preparing the plates, blocks of 10 stamps (2x5) were prepared and the required number of these blocks were assembled to make the completed plate. The spacing between the stamps in the blocks is uniform but the spacing between the outer rows of the stamps of one block and the adjacent rows of the next block varies from 3½ to 4½ mm.

FORMAT A

The initial plates, or printing forms, which were prepared for all values of these stamps consisted of 100 subjects arranged in ten rows of ten stamps each. The watermarked paper used in the printing of these stamps was cut from the roll and the plates and paper were arranged on the presses in such a manner that the watermark appears in the vertical positions 1, 2, 3, 4, only on the printed stamps.

The color, the date on which printing of each value was begun and the

number of 100 subject plates used for each value is as follows:

- 1 Kc carmine—December 12, 1923—12 plates
- 2 Kc blue—December 22, 1923—14 plates
- 3 Kc dark brown—January 4, 1924—7 plates
- 5 Kc green blue—April 12, 1924—1 plate

Each plate was marked in numerical order, with a small numeral, which appears under stamp 100, in the lower right corner of the printed sheet. Sheets of stamps printed with these plates are readily identified by the plate markings. Individual stamps printed with these plates may be identified by their size, the design measuring $19\frac{1}{2} \times 23$ mm., and by the position of the watermark, which is always vertical.

FORMAT B

In order to increase the volume of production forms of 150 subjects were prepared and used in the later printings of all values. These forms each consisted of a 100 subject plate, 10 rows of 10 stamps each and a 50 subject plate, 10 rows of 5 stamps each. Both plates were arranged on the form with the shortest dimension of the the stamps along the greatest dimension of the form and the plates were separated by a vertical gutter. The plates were arranged so that on the printed sheet the 50 subject plate is on the left of the 100 subject plate. Each plate was provided with a marking which appears under stamp 46 of the 50 subject plate and under stamp 91 of the 100 subject plate. The marking includes the form number, a distinguishing roman numeral and usually the date. For example, on sheets printed with form 16, the marking 16—I—9/IX appears under stamp 46 of the 50 subject plate and the marking 16—II—9/IX appears under stamp 91 of the 100 subject plate. On some forms the date was omitted from one or both of the plates. The initials S and K appear in some of the plate markings. For example, the markings on the plates of form 42 are 42—I.S 12/VI and 42—II. The meaning of the initials is unknown.

For some unknown reason a small number of 100 subject plates were prepared and used in printing the 2 Kc and 3 Kc values. The plate markings on the 2 Kc are: 2/4, 3/4, 4/4 and 6/V. The markings on the 3 Kc are: +, (triangle), +, and ANNA.

The watermarked paper used in printing with these forms was cut from the roll, and the paper and forms were arranged on the presses, in such a manner, that the watermark appears in the horizontal positions 5, 6, 6, 8, only, on the printed stamps.

In the printing process the paper sheet is dampened before it is printed upon. Some shrinkage of the paper occurs when it dries. The shrinkage is always in one direction relative to the grain of the paper. In the paper used in printing these issues the shrinkage was transversely of the direction in which the watermark ran so that stamps on which the watermark appears in the horizontal positions (Format B) differ in the size of the printed design from the stamps on which the watermark appears in the vertical positions (Format A). The design on the Format B stamps measures $19\frac{3}{4} \times 22\frac{1}{2}$ mm., being wider and less in height than the design on the Format A stamps.

The color, the date on which the printing of each value was begun and the number of known plates used for the Format B stamps is as follows:

- 1 Kc carmine red—August 13, 1924—25 forms—50 plates
- 2 Kc dark blue—May 10, 1924—51 forms—95 plates
- 3 Kc brown—February 14, 1924—42 forms—80 plates
- 5 Kc blue green—February 1925—16 forms—32 plates

The paper used in printing these stamps was generally thin and porous. Some 1 Kc stamps printed on a thin smooth paper have been reported and some ribbed paper has also been reported. A white gum was used.

The numerous printings show some variation in colors. The 1 Kc and the 3 Kc stamps of the Format A printings are usually somewhat darker than the corresponding values of the Format B printings. The reverse is true of the 2 Kc and 5 Kc values. The 2 Kc and 3 Kc values of both formats are also known in deeper and lighter shades. The 5 Kc of both formats is known in a gray green shade.

The perforation of all Type I stamps is line 13 $\frac{3}{4}$. The distance between the lines of perforations on stamps of Format A differs from that of Format B. Format A stamps have 15x18 perforations and Format B stamps have 16x18 perforations. The distance between rows is generally uniform but some sheets of Format A stamps have been found with perforations of one row close to the frame and the next row providing boardwalk margins, the distance varying from 21 to 25 mm. (measured from the middle of the rows). Double rows of perforations have been found as well as missing sheet marginal rows.

Trial printings of the 3 Kc value (watermark position 2) with line perforation 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ x12 $\frac{3}{4}$ and 12 $\frac{3}{4}$ x12 $\frac{3}{4}$ were made but not issued. Similar printings were made of the 2 Kc in sheets of 10 subjects perforated 11 $\frac{3}{4}$.

Although this issue was intended to be a regular postage issue it was put on sale on President Masaryk's birthday anniversary and an official commemorative cancellation was provided for use in the main post offices on the first day of issue. It is a double circle cancel having the post office, the commemorative year dates and the March 7, 1925 date, both the former being between the circles and the latter being in the center between horizontal lines, as PRAHA I * 1850-1925 * and 7 . III . 25. It was ordered applied in red but it is known in black, milky blue and violet.

A study of the ordinary cancellations indicates that the earlier printed stamps which were produced with Format A plates were distributed to almost every post office in the republic. However, collectors remained generally in ignorance of the differences in the size of the design and the watermarks of Format A and Format B printings until most of the supplies of the former were used up. Consequently, few mint copies of the Format A stamps were saved and all but the 5 Kc value are rarities in mint condition. The 5 Kc was not used up so fast and more copies of that value were saved by the collectors, so that it remains relatively cheap. Used copies of the 2 Kc and 3 Kc are not too plentiful.

The quantities printed from the different plates are unknown. The total quantity of each of the different values which was delivered to the postal department only is known.

A first day cover of the newest Czechoslovak stamps, the first anniversary of the liberation, postmarked with a Praha commemorative cancellation in red, reached us May 10th (the stamps were issued May 5th). Very good service indeed! There are two stamps and a commemorative sheet comprising this issue, and show St. George slaying the dragon, a reproduction of a painting by the celebrated Czech artist, Manes. We thank the editor of Zpravodaj nasi Filatelie, Mr. F. Novotny, for his thoughtfulness. We hope to present a more or less thorough story of these stamps in our next (September) issue of the Specialist.

SUMMER SPECIALS

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| Czechoslovakia | | Bohemia-Moravia | |
| Kosice Imperf. Sheet | .75 | 5th Ann. of Protectorate, 3v | 1.00 |
| Partisan issue 5v comp. | .55 | Mozart (with tabs) 4v | .45 |
| War heroes 16v. comp. | 1.00 | Heydrich, 1v | 1.00 |
| | | Hitler, 23v comp. Scott 62-83 | 3.50 |
| Slovakia | | Same as above but used | 2.00 |
| Airs C1 to C9 comp. | 1.90 | | |

Blocks and position blocks pro rata.

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