

# THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE  
CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

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## EDITORIAL

We surprised our members with a ten page issue in June. We'd like to give such surprises to them more frequently; unfortunately, our treasury can take just so much punishment and no more. It is possible to put out a very creditable organ of twelve, even twenty pages, but the problem of finances always puts a crimp into such plans. Our genial member, Mr. Alfons Stach, promises a full page ad in each issue for at least six months; Mr. I. G. Kessler assures us he'll do likewise upon his return from a trip to Europe; Mr. R. Reinowski has advertised quite a bit recently. These ads help the treasury and so help the publication. We need more members; we need more associate and patron members, we need more advertisers and the advertisers need more customers. Let us all chip in; of the organizations devoted to serious study of stamps other than United States, our group is certainly the best. We must maintain this position and we can accomplish this by doing all in our power to bolster the treasury.

Perhaps the older members remember how we begged our membership for co-operation. We asked for articles to publish. We needed more money and we needed more workers. Recently we had much co-operation; we can use more. It is not difficult to slap together something about the stamps of Czechoslovakia; but we do know it takes time and work to put out a creditable job. There is no money in it; merely the satisfaction of helping another fellow to understand better a particular phase of our hobby. Be charitable and help the editor not merely, with notes but with good articles for which other members will be truly grateful.

## PHILATELY

On August 5, 1946, the new weekly magazine "Philately" made its debut. It is edited by our fellow-member, David Lidman, and from all indications it promises to be a real competitor to the other philatelic weeklies which have weathered all previous storms. To Dave and his bosses of the Comfort Press Inc., of St. Louis, Mo. we wish success.

Incidentally we wish to mention that "Philately" pays for worthwhile articles—and we are permitted to disclose a secret; any article on Czechoslovak philately published in this magazine may be reprinted in the Specialist and cuts will be loaned us freely. We thank Mr. Lidman for this opportunity of amassing worthwhile material into our specialized paper as we also thank the other publications for similar favors.

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

- 27. Dr. Wm. Reiner-Deutsch, 36-20 211 Str., Bayside, L. I., N. Y.
- 122. Dr. Irvin Neufeld, 325 E. 80th St., New York 21, N. Y.
- 157. Karl Zerk, 1074 Pilot Court, Banning Homes, San Pedro, Calif.
- 222. David Lidman, 200 S. Seventh St., St. Louis 2, Mo.

## NEWS AND VIEWS

J. W. Lowey

At the outset I should say thanks to the editor for the high evaluation he has bestowed upon me in the June issue. I am also grateful to the members who have written me encouraging letters. And special thanks to Capt. and Mrs. Neufeld and Mr. and Mrs. Fritzsche who drove up to visit us in the country.

As soon as I could stand on my legs, the family packed their things and on May 15th we moved to Liberty, in upstate New York, where we are tentatively slated to stay until Labor Day, possibly longer.

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While leafing through the magazine section of the "New York Herald-Tribune" I came upon an article entitled "Those Were The Days." The writer brought the reader back to the halcyon days of sumptuous dishes which New York restaurants served at the beginning of the century. The article was accompanied by a full size reproduction of a menu of the "Cafe Martin," one of the city's top class eateries of bygone days, and which was dated April 15, 1904.

It was not the array of dishes which took my interest. I was struck by an illustration which covered about one vertical half of the menu and showed the figure of a female bon vivant. The style in which it was executed and the surrounding ornaments seemed so familiar to me, I tried to find the artist's markings, but could not locate a name on the drawing. I gazed into space for a while, thinking—suddenly a name came to my mind—could it be that it was the work of..... I looked again, suddenly I saw a name cleverly interwoven into the scrolls which are so characteristic of his work—. Yes, it was Alfons Mucha!

Very few collectors know that Alfons Mucha, the designer of the first issues of Czechoslovakia, had lived for many years in the Yorkville section of New York. He came to this country about 1900 and returned to the homeland just before the outbreak of World War I. While here, he free lanced as a commercial artist and illuminator of books and manuscripts.

\* \* \* \*

I believe that the Czechoslovak Postal authorities should do something about the gum which they are applying to some of their late issues. The sensitiveness of the gum is so strong that the handling of stamps without tweezers has become a trying procedure. This perhaps may not be such a problem for the collectors over there where climatic conditions are favorable all year round but in this country where large sections are damp in winter and humid in summer it is a definite problem.

\* \* \* \*

In the June issue of the Specialist the editor gave a short appraisal of the Lehovec catalogue. During my stay in the country I had ample time to study the publication thoroughly and would like to add some personal criticism.

In view of the publicity which for quite some time preceeded the appearance of the catalogue, one is amazed at the many shortcomings. Though I should like to elaborate more extensively I am forced by lack of space to restrict myself and can only point out the most glaring faults.

For instance: the 10h Scout stamp used off cover is valued higher than on cover! This is something entirely new to me. The compiler makes very little distinction as to actual shades of most issues. Some accepted standard shades, ranging from light blue to blue black are all listed as "steel blue." The same procedure is used with brown, red, green, etc., completely disregarding variations of color. A most important thing for collectors—perforations, is omitted with several issues. Section Eastern Silesia: explanatory notes, in comparison with other issues, are too detailed; plate varieties of the Hradcany and Liberty issues which are extensively collected by specialists but are left out in the respective sections, are here mentioned in great detail.

There are some paragraphs in the section devoted to "Army Post in Siberia" which are superfluous; on the other hand the many interesting and valuable postmarks applied to these stamps are not even mentioned.

The editor has already pointed out the over-emphasizing of the so-called "Overseas Issues," such as the New York World's Fair Sheets and the London

Sheet—I should add that it is ridiculous on the part of Mr. Lehovec to give an entire page to the so-called Belgian Sheets—which have no standing by any stretch of the imagination and at best can be called favor sheets. (Editor's Note: We still have on hand five of these catalogues, if interested, send 80 cents to your editor.)

\* \* \* \*

Also at hand is a copy of the 1946 edition of the catalogue entitled "Slovakia and the new Czechoslovakia," compiled by Ladislav Novotny and published in Bratislava.

Here is a strange volume indeed! not from a philatelic standpoint, but, one must marvel at the mentality of the author who only reluctantly seems to want to admit that once there was a Czechoslovakia!

As a reference volume it will be strictly for the Slovak specialists, particularly for those who go in for minute plate varieties. Here Mr. Novotny has really gone to town!

The catalogue opens with the revolutionary issue released on Slovak territory in 1918/19, followed by the Bratislava sheets, the Parliament stamp and the blue Stefanik. Then comes the issues of Slovakia 1939/45 and closing with the issues of the newly liberated Czechoslovakia.

If the author was so intent in his purpose not to list the stamps of Czechoslovakia 1918/38, why then does he include such issues as the Bratislava sheets, the Parliament adhesive, the blue Stefanik—all of which can not be classified as stamps of Slovakia or the New Czechoslovakia because they were printed in Praha before Slovakia declared its "independence."

\* \* \* \*

Many times have I wondered about the selection of subjects for the stamps of Czechoslovakia, especially those chosen to commemorate its famous men past and present. As in most countries, historians or historical societies submit suggestions to the Ministry of Posts, who has the final word in these matters. To me the choice has not always appeared a perfect one, in view of the fact that some of the really great men of the nation have been overlooked, at least so far.

Take as an example the Macha issue of 1936 and the recent Kozina (Chod) commemorative. It cannot be denied that the works of Macha have qualities but other poets have merited previous consideration. Likewise in the case of Jan Sladky Kozina!

It is surprising that during the years 1918/38 the Ministry of Posts should have overlooked the outstanding historian of the nation, Palacky! It is inexcusable that a complete blackout exists of men and events of the rich and glorious history of the Kingdom of Bohemia—its long line of Premyslid Kings, Emperor Charles IV, King George of Podebrad, Jan Zizka, the greatest warrior the nation has produced and many others.

\* \* \* \*

If you look at the various stamps of Czechoslovakia you may be puzzled by the inconsistency of the spelling of the denomination "Koruna." The value is sometimes written out, but with most issues it is abbreviated "K," "Kc" or "Kcs." The word Koruna is known the world over as the monetary unit of Czechoslovakia and the addition of "c" or "cs" meaning "Czechoslovak Koruna" should therefore not be necessary. For the same reason this procedure could

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## FIRST FLIGHT PRAHA-NEW YORK

JUNE 17, 1946

COVER with 24K value, special postmark and U. S. backstamped ..... 80c

**J. W. LOWEY**

201 Marcy Place

New York 56, N. Y.

be applied by various countries who use the same monetary unit, as for instance the United States, Canada, China, etc.

Therefore the Czechoslovak postal authorities should decide upon a permanent way of spelling out the denomination or use the single letter "K."

\* \* \* \* \*

When I examined the new Havlicek-Borovsky commemorative, I had a feeling that a different treatment should have been accorded the design. Not that I wish to criticize the engraver's work; Jindra Schmidt is a marvelous technician and easily ranks with his predecessors. The fault lies with the original design he was given and which he had to follow. The result would have been much more pleasing had the artist who drew the original chosen to portray Havlicek full face instead of profile.

#### NEW AND RECENT ISSUES



Czechoslovakia commemorated the first anniversary of its regained freedom on May 5th. On this occasion the Ministry of Posts issued a set of stamps consisting of two values and one souvenir sheet. The cost is Kcs. 2.40 plus 2.60 for the lower value and the color is red. The other is Kcs. 4. plus 6. and the color is blue. The miniature sheet is also Kcs. 4. plus 6. in blue, the size of the sheet is 70x90 mm; the sheet is engraved gummed, imperforate and printed in blue on granite paper.

The motif employed for this issue was taken from an oil painting by the famous Czech artist, Josef Manes, and depicts the battle of St. George with the dragon, symbolic of the victorious fight of freedom loving people against the forces of tyranny. The sheet also bears the motto "Truth Prevails" and shows the dates, May 1945-1946.

The stamps are printed in sheets of 100 stamps and 12 tabs; these are ornamented with linden branches and the branches bear the above mentioned date.

The surtax will be used for the benefit of the orphans who lost their parents through the vicious barbarism of the nazis.



The colors are as follows:

Kcs. 1.50—orange red; 5.50—dark blue; 10.00—blue green; 20.00—sky blue; 24.00—dark red; 50.00—violet blue.

The 1.50, 5.50 and 16. show the portrait of Capt. Novak, the 10.00 and 20.00 denominations show an airplane over the castle of Bratislava and the 24. and 50. denominations show an airplane over the Charles Bridge in Praha.



A stamp honoring Karel Havlicek-Borovsky, a Czech journalist of the 19th Century, a champion who fought against political oppression of his days was issued July 5th. He died June 29, 1856, after many years of imprisonment. The monument dedicated to this great Czech patriot was destroyed by the Germans and will now be re-erected in his birthplace, which will now bear his name: Havlickuv Brod. As this stamp is of the large format, it will consist of 100 stamps and 12 tabs, these are ornamented with a representation of the house in which Havlicek was born.

We also illustrate the new personal delivery stamp.

On June 17th, the direct air connection between Praha and the United States was inaugurated and the Ministry of Posts issued two stamps for the occasion which are illustrated to the left.

The Kcs. 16 value bears the portrait of the national air hero, Capt. Novak, who died during the war in France. It comes in the medium size and is violet. The sheets, as we know for this size, come in 100 and 50 subjects. Engraved by Jindra Schmidt after a sketch by Antonin Erhardt. This stamp is valid for use as postage only on airmail letters within the country and abroad.

To emphasize this historical event, the Kcs. 24 was valid as postage for mail dispatched on this first flight and has no validity afterwards. The stamp is a grayish blue. Since it was used only one day, the issue was of necessity limited. The stamp was designed by Antonin Erhardt and engraved by J. Goldsemidt. It is of the large format, on a yellowish (chamois) paper, and therefore the sheets consist of 100 stamps and 12 ornamental coupons. Mail bearing this stamp after the inaugural flight will be considered as unpaid and returned to writer for additional postage. There will be no sale of these stamps after the first flight has taken place.

The above two stamps were supplemented or changed on July 4th, by the addition of Kcs. 1.50; 5.50; 10., 20. and 50. Besides, the above mentioned, Kcs. 24 stamp is now issued in a different color and in this changed color made its appearance July 4th.



In the early part of August, a National Philatelic Exhibition was held in Brno. On this occasion a small miniature sheet showing a view of the city, is to be issued. The denomination is Kcs. 2.40 but the sheet is to be sold for Kcs. 10.00. Color is dark red. A stamp of the same design, color and denomination will also be issued.



At the same time a stamp honoring the town of Hodonin, the birthplace of Thomas G. Masaryk, first president of the Republic, will be issued. The value is Kcs. 7.40. At the present writing we have no information as to the color of this stamp.

#### AIRMAIL STAMPS OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA — 1920-1927

(Reprinted with permission from the S. P. A. Journal)

By Rudolph Novy

The first experimental flight, without mail service, was made on September 3, 1919 from Prague to Paris and return on September 13, 1919.

On August 12, 1920 the Czechoslovak Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs, by official decree established the first two air lines:

1. Prague to Strasbourg to Paris to London.
2. Prague to Warsaw.

First flight was inaugurated on October 5, 1920 from Prague to Paris only, and return, in seven hours flying time, and on April 23, 1921, from Prague to Warsaw in four hours flying time.

Rates from Prague to Strasbourg were 14 Kc, Paris and Warsaw 24 Kc and to London 28 Kc; in addition all air mail had to bear a special label which was sold for 10h each.

The first air mail stamps were issued on August 15, 1920, by surcharging three stamps of the current "Hradcany" set with a monoplane and a new value, flanked by two propellers. The stamps were imperf, and 300,000 sets were so issued, the surcharges being:

- 14 Kc in bronze red on the 200 h
- 28 Kc in dark blue on the 500 h
- 28 Kc in dark green on the 1000 h

All three denominations have inverted surcharges and a few sheets of the 1000 h are on rose-violet paper, known as the "Legionaires paper."

For trial purposes different stamps were surcharged with the monoplane in black, green and red colors.

On September 14, 1920 air mail stamps were issued on the perforated stamps of the same issue. These were:

- 14 Kc perf 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ : total issued 1,620,000 stamps
- 24 Kc perf 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ : 13 $\frac{1}{2}$  total issued 1,730,000 stamps
- 28 Kc perf 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ : 13 $\frac{1}{2}$  total issued 860,000 stamps

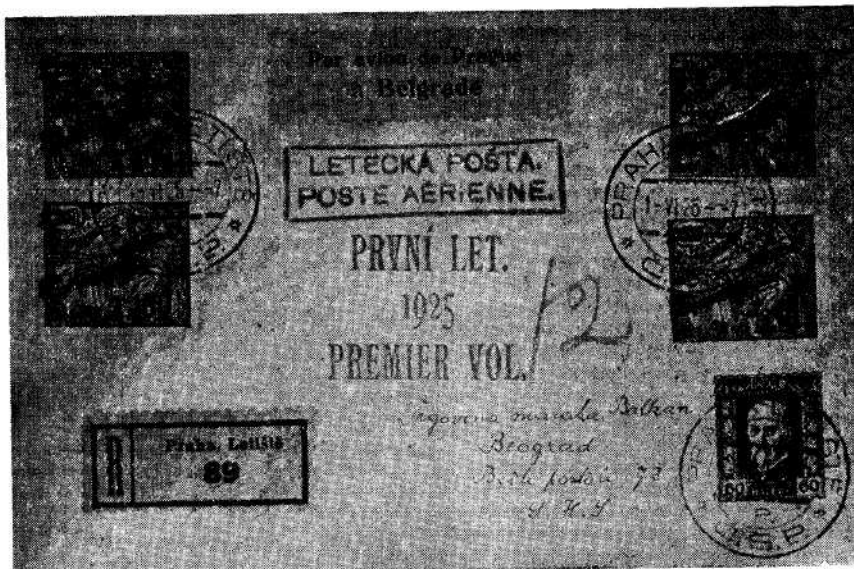
Only the 28 Kc have inverted surcharges in this series.

Regular trips began on May 4, 1921, three times weekly and after July 26, 1921 both ways daily. Due to bad weather and short days all service was suspended on November 3, 1921 on the Prague-London line and on November 5th on the Prague-Warsaw line.

In the first six months of service in 1921 the Prague-Paris line carried 223 passengers, 5880 kilograms of parcels, 2078 kg newspapers, and 335 kg mail.

Stamps were cancelled with ordinary cancels in use, and not any special marking for first flights are known to exist.

On April 30, 1921 both sets of stamps were recalled from use and new,



lower rates were inaugurated; these were Prague to Strasbourg 1.50 Kc, to Warsaw, Paris or London 3 Kc, per 20 gr. or fraction, and regular postage stamps were used on all air mails from May 1, 1921 until June 15, 1922. Due to the lowered rates mails increased from 35.05 kg in April to 94.37 kg in May, 190.30 kg in June, 257.19 kg in July and 313.58 in August 1921.

On October 20, 1920 the Franco-Rumanian Air Society made an experimental trip from Paris to Bucharest with stops at Strasbourg, Prague, Budapest and Turn-Severin in fourteen and one-half hours.

A new line was inaugurated and operated by the Czechoslovak-Air Society on April 1, 1922. Prague was made the center of the five new lines—Prague to Vienna; Prague to Dresden, Berlin, etc., and the largest air port in all the world was built in Prague which was also used for commercial planes.

On October 8, 1921 Czechoslovakia Captains, Plass and Pospisil, made the first flight with a new Czech-made plane, type "SM" from Bratislava to Novy Sad, and returned on October 16th with official mails. This trip was made in three hours and forty minutes.

The second issue of air mail stamps was put in use on June 15, 1922, and consisted of three stamps of the Agriculture and science type, surcharged and all perf 13%, as follows:

50h on 100h total issued 2,650,000 stamps  
 100h on 200h total issued 4,350,000 stamps  
 250h on 400h total issued 2,720,000 stamps

Inverted surcharges are known on all three stamps. This issue was in use until March 31, 1931.

Definite issue December 16, 1931, perf 13%, eight values, engraved by K. Seizinger from original photos. The 50h and 1K show a monoplane flying over the Bohemian mountains; 2 Kc, 3 Kc, 4 Kc and 5 Kc show a biplane flying over the Tatra Mountains, and the 10 Kc and 20 Kc show a monoplane flying over a panorama of Hradcany.

This issue had many types, principally in size:

50h and 1 Kc	type	I	size	17¼ x 21
		II		17½ x 21¾
2 Kc	type	I	size	31½ x 21½
		II		30½ x 22
		III		30¾ x 22
3 Kc	type	I	size	31½ x 21½



II	31 1/4 x 21 1/2
III	31 1/4 x 22 1/2

In type I the figure 3 is thick and leans to the right;  
 in type II the figure 3 has been straightened

4 Kc	type I	size 31 1/2 x 21 1/2
	II	30 1/2 x 22
	III	30 3/4 x 22
5 Kc	only I type	size 31 1/2 x 21 1/2
10 Kc		32 x 21 1/2
20 Kc		32 x 21 1/2

The 10 Kc in ultramarine shade is scarcest. The 50 and 2 Kc were printed on new plates on January 16, 1939, the 4 Kc on February 6, 1929. The 2 Kc and 4 Kc are printed in sheets of 50 stamps each.

There are also many perf varieties the best known:

- 1 Kc perf 12 1/2: 13 1/2
- 4 Kc and 20 Kc perf 12 1/2
- 1 Kc is scarcest

Listed below are some of the first flights:

June 15, 1922, Prague-Paris-London .....	total 151 letters
June 15, 1922, Prague-Strasbourg .....	total 16 letters
June 15, 1922, Prague-Warsaw .....	total 9 letters
August 14, 1922, Prague-Vienna .....	total 46 letters
September 22, 1922, Prague-Bucharest .....	total 2 letters
October, 29, 1922, Prague-Constantinople .....	total 2 letters
October 21, 1923, Prague to Bratislava .....	total 23 letters
May 10, 1924, Prague to Kosice .....	total 50 letters
October 10, 1924, Prague to Constantinople .....	total 54 letters
(Reopened air lines in 1923 lead only to Belgrade)	
June 1, 1925, Prague to Mar. Lazne .....	total 71 letters
June 1, 1925, Mar. Lazne to Prague .....	total 22 letters
June 1, 1925, Prague-Vienna .....	total 24 letters
June 1, 1925, Prague-Belgrad .....	total 21 letters
June 1, 1925, Prague-Bucharest .....	total 21 letters



June 1, 1925, Prague-Constantinople .....	total 21 letters
June 1, 1925, Prague-Warsaw .....	total 22 letters
July 1, 1925, Prague-Budapest .....	total 61 letters
May 24, 1926, Prague-Brno .....	total 111 letters
May 24, 1926, Brno-Prague .....	total 130 letters
July 7, 1926, Prague-Casablanca .....	total 5 letters
July 7, 1926, Prague-Dacar .....	total 5 letters
Sept. 10, 1926, Prague-Nuremberg .....	total 103 letters
Sept. 10, 1926, Prague-Breslau .....	total 105 letters
1926, Prague to Bratislava .....	6 letters (delivered)
Prague-Kosice .....	6 letters (delivered)
Prague-Warsaw .....	11 letters (delivered)
Prague-Vienna .....	15 letters (delivered)
Prague-Bucharest .....	11 letters (delivered)
Prague-Budapest .....	10 letters (delivered)
Prague-Belgrad .....	10 letters (delivered)
Prague-Athens .....	8 letters (delivered)
Prague to Marianske Lazne and return, 20 covers each period	

For the year 1927 the number of delivered letters is not available.

March 16, 1927, Prague-Brno-Kosice-Bratislava

March 21, 1927, Prague-Dresden-Berlin

April 19, 1927, Prague-Salzburg, Vienna, Nurnberg, Breslau, Geneve, Zurich, Munich, Lausanne, Marseille, Bruxelles, Amsterdam, Hamburg, Braunschweig, London, Copenhagen, Malnu, Stockholm

May 2, 1927, Chemnitz-Leipzig, Tokio-Peking

May 9, 1927, Brno-Vienna-Glevitz

August 8, 1927, Prague-Geneve-Zurich-Marseilles

November 1, 1927, Brno-Vienna

November 2, 1927, Brno-Krakau

In memory of these flights a souvenir card has been issued by the Czech Air Society at Prague, as follows:

April 19, 1927, Prague-Munich

May 1, 1927, Prague-Breslau and Chemnitz

June 15, 1927, Prague, Liberia, Brno, Zlin, Piestany

October 1, 1926, Moskau-Clug-Prague

May 15, 1927, Prague-Venezia

#### REINSTATED

115. Wm. J. Kotab, 12706 Melgrove Ave., Cleveland 5, Ohio.

#### NEW MEMBERS

229. Geo. T. Turner, 37 King St., New York 14, N. Y.

230. Shirley L. Miller, 48 W. 6th St., Pottstown, Pa.

231. Robert Kreisinger, 1228 Eye St., N. W., Washington 5, D. C.

232. Jaroslav Kvapil, Strauchova 680, Jicin, Czechoslovakia

233. F. Sargent Poteet, 6349 Hagerwood Rd., Kansas City 5, Mo.

234. Hugo Svoboda, Alexandrova 677, Praha XIX, Czechoslovakia

235. Wm. G. Ludlow, 38 Wilson St., Bath, Somerset, England

236. J. O. Kay, 37 Heath's Bldg., Box 8059, Johannesburg, South Africa.

#### CAN YOU HELP?

A friend asks us if we could obtain for him the following Czechoslovak cancellations:


1936—Production of 100th gram of radium at Jachymov. Map of Czechoslovakia in green.

1937—"Lazne Bohdanec/u Pardubic/Videcna/slatina/pro choroby kloubu/nervove a zenske. Map of Czechoslovakia, in black.

If you can help, please communicate with the editor.

Exchange wanted! Czechoslovakia, old and new; Europe; in exchange for U. S. stamps. Will also accept chocolate, cocoa, coffee and cigarettes for what stamps you may want.

J. ZOUHAR, ZLIN, Kvitkova 34, CZECHOSLOVAKIA



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