

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE
CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

Copyright 1946 The Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of North America
Editor Frank J. Kovarik, 2502 So. Kedzie Ave., Chicago 23, Ill.

Vol. VIII

November 1946

No. 9

EDITORIAL

We are nearing the end of another calendar year and again are compelled to remind our members that, to continue our work, our publication, they must pay their dues. Last year we topped the record by giving our members 72 pages of reading matter in the Specialist; this year we'll go a few pages better. This year, in addition to reading matter, we have presented and shall continue to present, exceptionally good illustrations, such as those detailing the Masaryk types. Despite illness which wore down some of our officers, the Society functions perfectly and we trust that every member will re-enlist in the good cause of Czech philately. If you can afford more than the minimum membership, send in your unlucky two-dollar bills to the treasurer and remember that five dollars can do much more than one. For the benefit of new members permit us to say: our biggest expense is with the publication and everyone knows that the price of everything, printing and paper included, has gone up considerably. We offer three types of membership: for one dollar you are a member in good standing and you receive the Specialist; for two dollars you have the same benefits as the regular membership with the additional benefit of receiving at the end of the year the entire volume of the Specialist mailed flat; the five dollar or patron members get the same benefits a regular member enjoys, but at the end of the year or as soon thereafter as circumstances permit, the volume of the Specialist is mailed to them in a fine binding. These additional memberships enable us to put out a better magazine and we are sure you'll feel proud knowing that through your added generosity a little more can be accomplished.

NEXT MEETING OF THE CHICAGO GROUP

All Chicagoland members are invited to attend the next meeting of our group Sunday, November 10, at 2:30 P.M., at the home of members Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Glawe, 9640 So. Seeley Ave., Chicago. Those who attended the last meeting at Hrivnak's spent an enjoyable Sunday afternoon, thanks to both Gus and Mrs. Hrivnak. We had a chance to study both Czech stamps and kolacky.

NEW MEMBERS

- 240. Paul M. Krcina, Box 16, Phoenix, Ariz.
- 241. Milo Barry, 14653 Roscoe Blvd., Van Nuys, Calif.
- 242. W. A. Payne-Seddon, Orchards, Stockland, Honiton, Devon., England.

NEWS and VIEWS

(Mr. Lowey is still unable to continue in his work on this column so we promise to do a little pinch-hitting though we know we can't reach first base with our scribbling. Your Editor.)

South of the border is "manana land." But, it isn't only south of us, it is

also across the Atlantic. Many of us recall that before the war we'd send an order to a dealer in Czechoslovakia (or for that matter to any country in continental Europe) and after a few reminders, maybe the dealer would send us the stamps we ordered, with or without apologies. We have been promised material of interest to our members from Praha; to date nothing came. There are many "manana lands."

* * *

Many years ago we tried to get collectors of Russian, Polish, Bulgarian and Yugoslav stamps to combine and put out an all-Slav specialized magazine. We felt sure these other groups would gladly jump at the opportunity but nothing came of it. At that time the Polonus Club Bulletin and the Russian American Philatelist alongside our modest publication did fairly well. Since then the Russian magazine gave up its ghost, not because of lack of members or funds, but lack of cooperation. Polonus, like ours, continues on the same scale. We often wonder how many of our members collect all Slavic countries? Your editor is interested in this question and if you, too, have similar interests, drop him a line.

* * *

We recall that before the war, Czechoslovakia commemorated many local events by applying commemorative postmarks, often in bright colors, sometimes using a multicolored cancelling device. These items are interesting, even if they have no real value. As a collector of first day covers in our country knows, his collection of these covers has no monetary value and, if forced to sell his holdings, can realize but a small fraction of his investment (if we may be so unorthodox and call our stamp collections an investment), yet, many collectors continue getting them, especially to dress up their collection of stamps. Since Czechoslovakia regained its independence, many such commemorative cancellations were used in various parts of the Republic. If a sufficient number of our members evince an interest in these, perhaps your editor could give it a little space in each issue of the magazine. We recall a specialized catalogue published before the war listed these commemorative cancellations chronologically; sufficient interest on the part of our members could induce us to prepare such a checklist in future issues of the Specialist.

* * *

A chain letter racket from Czechoslovakia known as the "Philatelic Circle" reached our office a few days ago. Its promises are glowing, just listen to this: "The Circle gives the opportunity to exchange stamps of your country for those of other countries; it enables you to collect addresses of 823,543 persons anxious to exchange stamps; you will be able to acquire at least 41,177,150 stamps in exchange for the 50 stamps you send out!" Besides this it lists many other advantages. The letter we received contained seven addresses; four of the seven had identical family names; two had different names but identical addresses and one was under the name of a flour mill company. That in itself gives the whole thing away. We advise our members to destroy such letters if they receive them because, after all, we cannot expect millions of stamps in exchange for fifty; somebody must be left holding the bag.

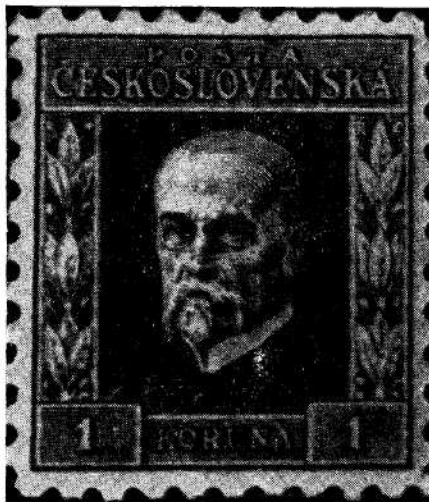
* * *

A letter from our Praha correspondent informs us that three new stamps commemorating the return of the Slovaks to the Republic will be issued October 15. The face value of the set is 16Kcs. and according to our informant "are not nice." The same letter also tells us that new stamps with a portrait of President Benes by Max Svabinsky, will make their appearance on October 28, the anniversary of the independence of the Republic. According to our correspondent, Svabinsky made Benes look very young, but "the stamps are very unusual, we'll have to get used to them." This hazy description gives us no clew what unusuality hides itself behind the new adhesives.

* * *

We hear that on November 1st airmail to Europe will be reduced 50%. Those of us who have much correspondence with Czechoslovakia know that the regular mails are dreadfully slow, due to lack of transport ships; airmail is fast service but with the rates at 30 cents per half ounce, it is quite expensive. We therefore welcome with joy the new 15 cents per half ounce rate.

MASARYK STAMPS
G. Greenawalt and F. J. Kovarik
TYPE III



The preparation of the plates for these stamps did not follow in chronological order the preparation of the plates for the Type II stamps. On the contrary, plates had been prepared and printing of the 1 Kc. (Type IV) had already begun on the rotary press but the product was not satisfactory. Since these were the last flat plates prepared and used it is convenient to disregard the chronological order and following the custom which has arisen, treat them next after the Type II. All the rotary plates may then be treated in order, beginning with Type IV.

Two plates were prepared, one each, for the 1 Kc., and the 3 Kc. values. Since the two values differ considerably in detail they will be described separately.

The 1 Kc. value was, at first, grouped with the corresponding value of the Type II stamps, being designated Type IIa or II/1, because of its close similarity. It differs from the 1 Kc. of the Type II printing in that the left shoulder of the coat is straight lined, the letters V and A in the top legend are not horizontally lined within themselves, the inscriptions are shaded and the size of the format is $18\frac{3}{4} \times 21\frac{1}{2}$ mm. The design as a whole, is much neater and clearer than the Type II.

Only one plate of 200 subjects is known and it is marked 2. - O. - 2/VII under the 181st stamp. A Third die, which was designed for use on the curved plates, was used in the preparation of this plate.

The 3 Kc. value of this type is distinguishable by the different shield design, the inscriptions being in unshaded lettering and the background being cross-lined. It is very nearly the same as the design for the 1 Kc. Type V value which was issued later and it is frequently grouped with that type.

Only one plate of 200 subjects is known and it has a marking in the form of a negative 4. This was the last plate made for this value. Sufficient quantities of the 3 Kc. were produced with this plate to satisfy the demands of the postal department.

The dates on which printing commenced and the stamps were circulated are as follows:

1 Kc. printing commenced July 2nd, 1925 circulated August 1925

3 Kc. printing commenced July 20th, 1925, circulated January 1926.

Watermarked paper was used in printing both values and all 4 positions

of the horizontal watermark exist. Position 6 of the 1 Kc. value is somewhat scarcer than the other positions. Copies of the 1 Kc. without watermark have been reported but it is suggested that the watermark is merely too faint to be seen.

The color of the 1 Kc. is bright red. The color of the 3 Kc. is a brown to brown red.

Both values are line perforated 13%. Pairs of the 3 Kc., imperforate between, are known to exist.

TYPE IV



With this stamp production on the new Stickney press using curved hardened steel plates was begun. The plates for this stamp were prepared and printing was begun in May 1925. Because the product was not wholly satisfactory flat plates were subsequently made and the 1 Kc. Type III stamp was also produced.

The same die was employed in the manufacture of the plates for this stamp and for the 1 Kc. Type III stamp. Consequently, the details of the designs for the two stamps are identical. However the two stamps differ in appearance. The design in the Type II issue is sharp and distinct while in the Type IV issue it is heavier and less distinct. This is due to a failure to properly design the die to meet the technical requirements of the rotary press. Stamps of this issue generally have a reddish tint where the paper should be colorless. This is due to a failure to properly adjust the mechanism of the press to remove excess ink from the printing surface of the plate.

Stamps of this printing are readily distinguished from the Type III printing by the size of the design and by perforation. A thicker paper was used in the printing and the shrinkage was less so that the design is larger, measuring 19¼x22 mm. All stamps of this printing are perforation 9¼. The color is carmine red, the same as Type III. Both types were placed in circulation in August 1925.

Four forms were prepared for printing, each form consisting of two curved plates of 200 subjects each (20 x 10). The plates were marked with numbers as follows: small 4, large 4, small 5, large 5, 7 (with three rings before the numeral), 7*, 8, 8*. Plates 8, 8* were never used.

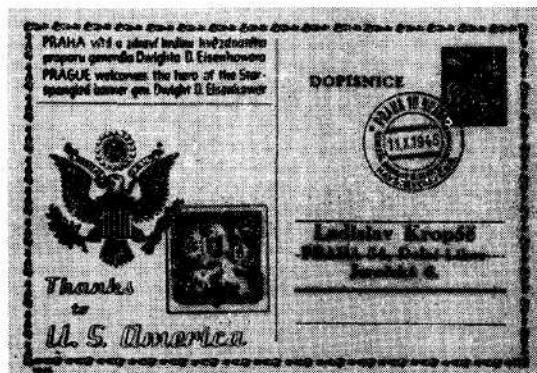
During the printing of some of these stamps the printing machine was provided with a rubber roller having lengthwise grooves over which the printed, gummed and dampened paper passed during the drying, the grooves leaving an impression in the form of stripes or ribs of 1 mm. width about 4 mm. apart.

(The grooved roller corresponds to the gum breaker used in the U. S. rotary printing machines to prevent excessive curling when the stamps become damp.) Specialized collectors distinguish between mint stamps with and without ribbed gum. The ribbing usually disappears when the gum is removed.

Watermarked paper was used in the printing and all four positions of the horizontal watermark exist. Position 6 is the most common while position 8 is scarce. The ribbed gum variety appears only on stamps watermarked positions 5 and 7.
(To be continued)

The illustration in Mr. Kropac's ad in this issue is a photographic reproduction of one of the cards from the set of 15 and the photography is the work of our member, Mr. Weiner, who is often called upon by your editor to do such work for the Specialist. So far, Mr. Weiner did this work for a "thank you" from the editor and as all editors are poor, he can get nothing in exchange for such payment. Mr. Weiner is ready to photograph any unusual stamp you have in your collection; he can offer enlarged photos of many Czechoslovak stamps to dress up your collection; his prices are reasonable, in fact he may accept your duplicates in payment. Why not contact him? His address is: Alfred N. Weiner, 5056½ N. Kenmore Ave., Chicago 40, Ill.

Are you a member of ABC International Collectors' Club? For a detailed prospectus write to Prof. Petr Zevl, Kralovice u Plzně, Czechoslovakia.



Are you interested in Favor Sheets? I can furnish the following, beautifully illustrated sheets with commemorative cancellations:

Truth Prevails; Praha after battle, May, 1945 15 kcs.
Lidice; Cancelled at Bustehrad Post Office, May 10, 1945 12 kcs.
Tyr's Games; Sept. 28, 1945; St. Lawrence Fair; Aug. 12, 1945, each 10 kcs.
Student Congress in Praha; Nov. 17, 1945 20 kcs.
Also a series of 15 cards as shown in illustration, artistically decorated,
with first day commemorative cancellations 90 kcs.

Postage extra.

Lad. Kropac, Praha 54, Liboc, Janecská 6, Czechoslovakia

CZECHOSLOVAKIA		SLOVAKIA	
New Air Post, 8v comp.	\$4.00	#89-92 4v comp.	\$.55
BOHEMIA MORAVIA		#95-102 8v comp. (Princes) ..	1.60
#60, 61 2v comp.	1.00	#110-115 6v comp. (Tiso)	1.60
#62-83 23v comp. (Hitler) ...	2.50	#B2-4 3v comp.	1.60
Same as above but used	1.75	#B5-7 3v comp.	1.00
#B20 (Heydrich)65	#B8-10 3v comp.	1.00
#B22-24 3v comp.75	#C1-9 9v comp.	1.75

Blocks pro rata

ROMAN REINOWSKI
1939 Highland Ave., Berwyn, Ill.



We Buy and Sell

**All
European
Stamps**



CZECHOSLOVAKIA IS OUR SPECIALTY

Of this country we have every stamp in stock

Alfons Stach

MEMBER C. P. S. N. A.

99 NASSAU ST.

NEW YORK, N. Y.

Telephone BEckman 3-0553