

# THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE  
CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

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Editor Frank J. Kovarik, 2502 So. Kedzie Ave., Chicago 23, Ill.

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## EDITORIAL

One of the most recent questions received asked us "how many philatelic publications are printed in the Czechoslovak Republic?" We recall that some time ago one Czech editor wrote us "there are six publications," and ended this information with the query "how many will last a year?" We recall when we assured Mr. Lowey, then secretary of our Society, that there cannot be enough interest for a publication like our little Specialist; we were sure we'll "die a'bornin'." We managed to pull through the most trying period of any organization, when all interest was centered on the war and its successful termination. Our publication grew well, despite lack of news of new issues, lack of time on the part of the editor and his friends who helped him with occasional articles. We are looking forward to a big year; we have succeeded in enlarging the Specialist every year; we hope for an end of the paper shortage; we are sure of cooperation by many members who will supply us with interesting information on stamps of Czechoslovakia, old and recent. We are assured of cooperation from the general philatelic press; PHILATELY assures us that any article of interest to Czech collectors appearing in their publication may be reprinted and all illustrations will be loaned to us; the philatelic column of the Czech Chicago daily SVORNOST promises help on new issues and cuts of same; STAMPS and PHILATELIC GOSSIP gave us permission to reprint anything from their publication; the editor of the SPA JOURNAL came out wholeheartedly to help us; we are confident that the AMERICAN PHILATELIST will do likewise. In that way, our Specialist will be a source of all valuable information on the stamps of Czechoslovakia and may be the medium of a handbook on the stamps of Czechoslovakia, if any publisher should ever decide to publish such a work. There are as yet many gaps; we hope, eventually, to fill these and then present to our readers a complete and authentic guide to a knowledge of Czechoslovak stamps. But all this is but an idle dream if our members do not cooperate; we must have your dues in early so we may budget our expenses for 1947. You have friends who collect Czechoslovakia but who are not yet members of our Society; why not bring them in? You have written notes on some phases of Czech philately; why not write them into an article for the benefit of all the members? If you feel you haven't the time for this, why not contact another who would gladly do this for you? On such problems, consult your editor. Remember, our Society is a cooperative society and as such must be free to give to other members, not material possessions, which are rightfully yours, but, all information which may be of benefit to them and of benefit to those who may, someday, follow in our footsteps when even our names have been forgotten.

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

195. Eom Lipensky, Office of Post Engineer, APO 244, c/o Postmaster, San Francisco, Calif.

## NEWS AND VIEWS

Editor

The following is a reprint from an Australian newspaper:

"CANBERRA, Tuesday—New designs were being sought for Australian postage stamps, the Postmaster-General (Senator Cameron) announced tonight. He said that to widen the choice of designs for new issues, artists, designers and the general public would be invited to submit suggestions. Designs depicting local industries, activities, outstanding achievements or other suitable subjects, which would advertise Australia abroad, would be sought.

"Selections would be made by a special board comprising the director of the Victorian National Gallery (Mr. Daryl Lindsay) and Messrs. J. R. W. Purves and W. L. Russell two leading philatelists.

"A £50 premium would be paid for each design accepted by the Postmaster-General. Entries would close on October 1st. Any designs accepted would be introduced from time to time as requirements demanded."

Mr. W. L. Russell is a member of our Society and is well qualified for the post. Knowing human nature, we extend our sympathies to Mr. Russell; all authors of rejected designs will accuse him of everything under the sun and above all let him know he is a lousy judge. Knowing Mr. Russell, we are sure he will do his best; for a long time he worried about Australian stamps and did write that whereas Uncle Sam puts out too many stamps, his government does not put out enough and what is issued is very poor from an artistic view.

\* \* \*

Among the first day covers of the new Anniversary of the Republic stamps coming to us from Czechoslovakia is a cover sponsored by the Ministry of Posts. The cover addressed to us is a large envelope, engraved thereon is a beautiful picture of the Hradcany, the work of Jindra, engraver of many fine Czech stamps. The cancellation is "PRAHA 29," Post office of the National Legislative body and commemorates the "Two Year Plan" with an inscription which translated means: "Two years of work—Two steps to prosperity." We take this opportunity to thank the Ministry of Posts and especially its secretary, Mr. Smolik, for a very fine and interesting item for our collection.

\* \* \*

We have been told that on the first of the year a new stamp will be issued from Praha which, like our NRA stamp, is put out to advertise a governmental social venture. In this instance the venture is the aforementioned "Two Year Plan," designed to bring about a recovery from the horrors of Nazi occupation. We sincerely hope, plan or no plan, the Czech emerge victorious again.

\* \* \*

Sometime ago we mentioned that the Centennial Philatelic Exhibition held in connection with the celebrations commemorating the Centennial of the United States Postage Stamp will be held in New York City, May 17-25, 1947. We also suggested that our Society meet during this great celebration especially because we are certain that a number of Czechoslovak philatelic highlights are now planning to attend. It is up to some active New York member to start the ball rolling; we recall with pleasure our first meeting in that city in 1939. Then the most active member was Mr. Lowey and Joe really went to town with arrangements. Our "supper" was served in a true Czech atmosphere, even Pilsner was on tap for those who like a bit of good amber fluid. Just at present Joe is somewhat out of the picture; we do not want him to exert himself; though "all the king's horses and all the king's men" will be unable to keep him away.

\* \* \*

Our first post-war elections are over, now we can comfortably relax, sit back and go on collecting stamps. Strange as it may seem to others, we in America get all "hot and bothered" about the elections before they take place, after that we feel, if we win, it is up to us; if we lose it is up to the other party. To most Europeans we are an enigma. We don't take anything seriously; but when something does turn up, like the last war, it makes no difference whether we are Democrats, Republicans, Prohibitionists, Socialists or Communists, we are

first, last and always, **AMERICANS**. Some countries have found that out, others may yet have to learn.

This is the last issue of the Specialist for this year. Your officers take this opportunity to heartily wish you and yours a very  
**MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR.**

**NEW CZECHOSLOVAKIA**

(Reprinted with permission of the publishers, from "Philately")

by Frantisek Novotny



—Cuts loaned through the courtesy of the Czech daily "Svornost" (Chicago)  
**PRAGUE**

With the autumn season, philatelic interest was resumed here. The first postwar sample fair here brought thousands of visitors many of whom showed a keen philatelic interest.

Bartering between collectors has reached extremely high levels within a short time, for there are constantly opened up new channels for trade with all parts of the world.

The shops are well supplied with new albums, choice books, magnifying glasses and many other necessary and unnecessary things, including albums, wherein stamps can be fixed without adhesive substance.

Although philatelic life in our country unanimously objected to stamps with additional values, a certain political group enforced a further issue of occasional stamps with additional values, which will be issued on 15 October. The issue will include the following values:

- 1.60+1.40 Kcs, brown
- 2.40+2.60 Kcs, red and
- 4. +4. Kcs, blue

These stamps will be issued to welcome Slovaks returning home from Hungary, which exchange of population was the reason of very long speeches and debates in the Luxembourg Palace at the Peace conference in Paris. The stamps will be printed by "neotyping" and comb-perforated 10.

On 28 October, the 28th anniversary of the liberation of our beloved country, the current stamps with the portrait of Dr. Benes, president of the republic, will be substituted by new ones, which will bear the president's portrait, engraved according to the latest design of the national artist Prof. M. Svabinsky. There will be issued the following values:

- .60 Kcs; 1.60 Kcs, 3. Kcs and 8. Kcs in brown.

The three first values will have nearly the same colors as have had the former stamps and will be valid as long as supplies will be available. The new portrait shows our president as a younger man. The engravings, which are the work of the graphic-artist J. Schmidt, are most excellent.

With the beginning of the New Year new postal regulations will come into force, eliminating several antiquated orders, some of them 100 years old.

The administration has published the figures of postwar issues, no longer valid, in consequence of the financial reform in our country. Most of them are reaching levels of 8 figures. An exception is the "sheet of partisans," which has an edition of only 162,000 pieces, and then the so-called "Kosice-stamps," which were issued in an edition of 353,000 complete series, out of which a good deal was used up in the ordinary post-service.

The special value 25 Kcs of the air-mail stamp, issued on occasion of the first flight Prague-New York reached an edition of 620,300 pieces.

#### A NEW INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY

Although our genial friend, Mr. Lowey, is feeling much better, he feels he should be relieved of all duties in our Society, at least for the time being. For that reason, the board of officers have chosen Mr. Hrivnak, one of our oldest members (in years of membership) to that post, not only because Gus speaks Czech and Slovak, but also because he has had extensive connections in Czechoslovakia for a long time. All communications should be addressed to Mr. A. J. Hrivnak, 174 Addison Road, Riverside, Illinois. Of course, all details pertaining to the secretaryship are still in the hands of John Velek.

#### ACTION IN CHICAGO

At the last meeting of the Chicago group, held in the home of members Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Glawe, the "gang" unanimously decided to hold an auction sometime in March for the benefit of the Specialist. Members are asked to donate some of their duplicate material, preferably Czechoslovakia, to this auction which will be publicized not only in the Specialist but also in the stamp columns of the Chicago newspapers. Credit will be given to the donors through the columns of the Specialist; mail bids will be solicited; both room space and handling of the Auction is a voluntary service of our member Mr. Roman Reinowski, 1939 Highland Ave., Berwyn, Ill., whom you address when mailing your donation on your bids.

#### NEW MEMBERS

- 243J. Thomas A. Reiner, 166 E. 96th St., New York 28, N. Y.
- 244. Rudolph A. Snyder, 9717 Elwell Ave., Cleveland 4, Ohio.
- 245. Miles Skrivaneck, Sr., 2147 W. Evergreen Ave., Chicago 22, Ill.

### QUANTITIES ISSUED

(Reprinted from Zpravodaj Nasi Filatelie, by permission of the publishers)

The Ministry of Posts acceded to the request of collectors and publishes the quantities issued of those stamps which have been removed from circulation. These figures are very interesting.

|   |           |             |        |
|---|-----------|-------------|--------|
| 1. Postage stamps with the linden branch design:  |           |             |        |
| value 10h   |           | 20,000,000  | pieces |
| " 30h   |           | 55,000,000  | "      |
| " 50h   |           | 55,550,000  | "      |
| " 60h (neotype)   |           | 85,100,000  | "      |
| " 60h (Steel plate)   |           | 26,800,000  | "      |
| " 80h   |           | 11,800,000  | "      |
| " 1.20K   |           | 110,000,000 | "      |
| " 3K  |           | 21,400,000  | "      |
| " 5K  |           | 21,450,000  | "      |
| 2. Postage stamps printed in Bratislava:  |           |             |        |
|   | I issue   | II issue    |        |
| value 50h   | 3,050,000 | 9,554,009   | pieces |
| " 1K  |           | 6,780,000   | "      |
| " 1.50K   | 3,089,000 | 10,082,809  | "      |
| " 2K  | 4,994,000 | 5,920,000   | "      |
| " 2.40K   |           | 6,726,000   | "      |
| " 3K  | 2,070,000 | 4,779,000   | "      |
| " 4K  |           | 2,948,000   | "      |
| " 6K  | 1,322,000 | 4,849,000   | "      |
| " 10K   |           | 2,158,000   | "      |
| 3. Postage stamps printed in Kosice:  |           |             |        |
| value 1.50K   |           | 353,400     | pieces |
| " 2K  |           | 1,924,560   | "      |
| " 5K  |           | 480,000     | "      |
| " 6K  |           | 615,600     | "      |
| " 9K  |           | 604,680     | "      |
| " 13K   |           | 602,580     | "      |
| " 20K   |           | 369,120     | "      |
| 4. Miniature sheet issued in commemoration of the return of the president to his native land: 595,300 pieces                        |           |             |        |
| 5. Postage stamps issued in commemoration of the Slovakian national uprising in 1944:   |           |             |        |
| value 1.50K   |           | 2,040,000   | pieces |
| " 2K  |           | 2,070,000   | "      |
| " 4K  |           | 1,030,000   | "      |
| " 4.50K   |           | 1,010,000   | "      |
| " 5K  |           | 1,000,000   | "      |
| 6. Souvenir sheet with surcharge for the benefit of the survivors of the victims of the Slovakian national uprising: 162,000 pieces |           |             |        |
| 7. Air mail stamps of the 24K denomination (blue) valid for first flight Praha-New York: 620,300 pieces                             |           |             |        |

In the first paragraph we find the stamps with the linden branch motif. We recall those early days when the post offices were unable to sell us stamps to prepay postage because most of the stamps, immediately after their appearance were gobbled up by speculators, with "occupation" money. Today we see that the quantities issued represent for the most part 8 figure numbers, a welcome sign, because in the first place it is the speculator who is hit. All stocks of these stamps will remain for a long time unsold or sold much lower than face value.

It seems the same fate is due the other issues, even if their quantities are substantially lower than those of the linden branch series, very large blocks are saved for philatelists.

We especially call attention to the Kosice issue because these show that at best only 353,400 complete sets are available. We must also take into consideration that, especially of the lower values, large quantities have done postal ser-

vice. It is also worthy of note that the special printing arrangement of these stamps requires special handling and arrangement for the specialist's album, so that we can expect, in perhaps a very short time, a scarcity of these stamps on the philatelic market.

The same cannot be said of the so called "partisan" issue because only a very few of these stamps did actual postal service so that stocks of these will be on hand for a long time.

The most surprising news concerns the quantities issued of the so called "partisan" sheet! 162,000 sheets represents a quantity strictly speculative. Every collector knows that at the time these stamps made their appearance, enthusiasm ran high and a million copies could easily have been sold. When we take into consideration that the surcharge amounted to 33K, which amount was earmarked for the survivors of the victims of the Slovak uprising, then we must confess that these survivors were short-changed by at least 27 million crowns. It is timely to investigate now who was responsible for this act, who was so anxious that the issue be so small. Of course, we recall, during the existence of the so-called Free Slovak State, the then chief of the postal service boasted that the issues of Slovak stamps were small and inviting of speculation! Those who made the decisions on these questions knew that criticism was taboo and as a result speculation boomed. At that time a Swiss philatelic journal pointed out the vile practices then prevalent, but at home, one dared not raise his voice. Our article, which criticized these conditions, was twice confiscated, but despite this, our readers will eventually learn the truth. We are waiting a more opportune time and a time when paper space will not command such a premium.

The greatest surprise were the stamps issued for the Praha-New York flight. To this we must give a little more consideration.

(\*—Were not used in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia.)

Nty.

#### NO REVALUATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIAN CURRENCY

According to a report issued by the Czechoslovak Press Bureau, on August 6, Dr. Jaromir Dolansky, the new Czechoslovakian Minister of Finance, declared that the government will maintain the stability of the monetary unit. He said that the government does not intend to change the rate of exchange of the Kcs.

#### REBUILDING OF LIDICE

An exhibition of plans for the rebuilding of Lidice was opened in February at the Industrial Museum in Prague. Altogether fifty-six plans and drawings were submitted as a result of a competition. All the work sent in for that purpose is of a very high standard. The plans and drawings are most complete in every detail, and the architects who submitted them carefully endeavored not to disturb in any way the actual place where the original Lidice stood before its eradication by the German invaders. The new Lidice will, of course, be rebuilt a little distance away from the original spot, so that the piety of the old village may in no way be interfered with.

#### THE SUDETENS

by Joseph Martinek

(Next month we hope to reprint an article from the magazine "Philately" dealing with the stamps of Sudetenland and written by our member, G. A. Blizil. We know that many Americans misunderstand the so-called "Sudetens." We take this opportunity of acquainting our readers with the true state of affairs in these border lands, where the inhabitants tried their worst to disrupt the orderly government of Czechoslovakia and thus create a reason for Hitler's first grab in the Republic.)

##### I.

The situation of the Sudeten Germans, under which the German minority

in Czechoslovakia became known largely because of Nazi propaganda, differs in many respects from that of the German minorities in other Central European countries. The main difference is that the Germans of Czechoslovakia had a full opportunity to come to terms with the Czechs on the basis of broad democracy, but they failed utterly to take advantage of it. This is the reason why the Czechs today refuse to take another chance and why the transfer of the German minority from Czechoslovakia to the Reich is the only reasonable solution of the problem.

First it must be stated that the so-called Sudetenland never belonged to the German Reich. Secondly, that it never has been an independent political entity, not even during the Austrian regime when the Czech provinces of Bohemia and Moravia were parts of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The border areas in which the Germans lived did not constitute a connected whole; there were eight territorial fragments separated one from another by districts in which the Czech language was spoken. Thirdly, it must not be forgotten that the experience with the German Fifth Column during the last war is by no means the only experience the Czechs have had with this problem. During the Hussite wars in the fifteenth century the German minority allied itself with the foreign invaders of the country; and after the Thirty Years' War—a total war which left only 800,000 Czechs surviving out of 3,000,000—the country was forcibly Germanized to such an extent that the Czech nation was threatened with extinction. This experience will never fade from the memory of the Czechs. Finally, during the First World War the Habsburgs, the princes of German blood, after three hundred years of their misrule in the Czech lands, tried to suppress the Czech movement for independence by shooting, hanging, and jailing of Czech patriots; and, while they did not reach the depths of bestiality of the Nazis, they left enough new marks and sores to make the Czechs irreconcilable for all time.

Yet, after the First World War, did the Czechs take revenge upon the German minority within their borders once they reestablished their independence?

On the contrary. Guided by the great humanitarian, Thomas G. Masaryk, they did the very opposite. After having firmly established their government, the Czechs gave the German minority the fairest and freest chance to develop to its greatest advantage. They gave the Germans actually more rights than they were required to give them by the peace treaties.

## II.

The Czechoslovakian government stopped, of course, the de-nationalization of Czech children who were compelled to attend German schools under the Austrian regime, but the schools of the German minority were preserved everywhere where at least forty German children had attended the school for three years. The Public Libraries Law provided for German Public Libraries, administered by Germans, in every town and village with a population of 400. The Germans administered their great school and educational system themselves through an independent German section of the Provincial Educational Council. They had numerous high schools, Technical Institutes, Commercial schools, and a German University. Of 433,431 German children, 417,003 were being taught in German schools by German teachers in 1935.

Before the Munich pact the Germans had in Czechoslovakia, not only cultural autonomy, but full political freedom. Owing to the proportional representation system of election, they had the fairest possible representation in the parliament. They had the homerule in all communities where the Germans were in the majority. Since 1925 their democratic parties (Agrarian, Socialist, and Catholic) were participating in the cabinet, their ministers being equal to their Czech and Slovak colleagues.

The German language rights were fully protected; in all places where the German minority consisted of more than twenty per cent of the population, all courts of law and public offices had to accept and to deal with applicants in the language of the minority.

In addition, the Germans had more than a fair share in the economic life of the country. They dominated the mining industry, the textile, porcelain, and glass industries, and had vested interests in the financial system of Czechoslovakia.

## III.

No minority in Central Europe was treated as well as that of the Germans under Masaryk and Benes; yet how did they react to the sensible, not to say magnanimous, attitude of the Czechs?

They responded in a truly master-race manner. Accustomed for centuries to an overlordship, they regarded the conciliatory attitude of the Czechs as a weakness. The equality with which they were treated they considered as oppression. The loss of privileges they misrepresented as persecution. Their greatest complaint was against the Czech constabulary and soldiers placed in the border regions; the real reason for this complaint is now very obvious. It is true, that they voted first for the democratic parties, but once Hitler attained power in Germany, they cast off the democratic mask and voted in a body for the Henlein Nazi party, making this Nazi party—in the multi-party system of the country—the largest single party in the Republic. What is to be underscored is the fact that the Germans in Czechoslovakia, in 1935, voted for this Nazi party not in a plebiscite under duress but in entirely free elections; if there was any compulsion exercised in that election it was that of the German industrialists against the German workers.

How the German Fifth Column aided Hitler to destroy Czechoslovakian independence during and after the Munich crisis is fairly well known. What is not generally known is the fact that the "Sudetens" were the worst oppressors and hangmen of the Czechs during the war. For the mass murder of the Czech students and the mass murder and destruction of Lidice and Lezaky they bear the main responsibility. Owing to their knowledge of the Czech language they were the most cunning, reckless, ferocious, and inhuman man-hunters and torturers of the Czech patriots.

No matter what complaints the German minorities in Hungary, Poland, Yugoslavia, and Romania can make against those countries, the Germans of Czechoslovakia must admit that they did have a fair chance to prosper. They were given the opportunity but failed to grasp it. They cannot claim the benefit of doubt anymore. That benefit must now be accorded to the Czechs.

## IV.

The Czech people are determined to give the Germans no new chance. They cannot take another chance without jeopardizing their future existence. Mild-mannered and reasonable as they are known to be, they are resolutely set against taking any more chances. All the Czechs are of one mind in this respect, from the extreme left to the extreme right. In no question are the Czech people more united than in this. What the outsiders fail to understand is the fact that the Czechs cannot fully trust even the German democrats, having seen in 1935 that the great majority of the Germans deserted democracy and that only a handful of German voters, mostly of the older generation—their youth having gone over to the Hitler party almost completely—remained true to the republic. And it did not help the German democratic cause either when even during the war the greater part of the German Social Democrats, led by Wenzel Jaksch in London, made demands for autonomy similar to those made by Konrad Henlein in his pronouncement in Karlovy Vary during the Munich crisis in 1938.

Thus the transfer of the German minority is the only solution.

By voting in great majority for the Nazi party already in 1935—not to speak of enthusiastic elections held under Hitler—by following the Nazi slogan, "One people, One Reich, One Leader," and by accepting without a protest the Nazi rule, they forfeited their last chance. According to the German law which they accepted they are German citizens, and they are being given the opportunity of retaining it. Only the anti-Nazi Germans will remain in Czechoslovakia.

The process of transferring the Germans into the Reich, sanctioned by the Big Powers at the Potsdam Conference, is in full swing. Already we hear German complaints and hypocritical appeals for moderation in the name of outraged humanity. Some friends of the Sudeten Germans even accuse the Czechs of using Hitler's methods. What truth is there in these accusations and stories of excesses accompanying the transfer?

As was to be expected, there were some excesses during the first weeks of turmoil and chaos following immediately after the war, but on a much smaller



scale than would occur in other countries under similar circumstances, in view of what happened to the Czech people during the war, of the mass murders committed by the Germans, of sending half a million Czechs to concentration camps and jails, of 600,000 Czech workers deported to Germany, of Lidice, and of the fact that the Germans in Prague savagely fought even after the signing of the armistice. In towns adjacent to the borders some Germans were forcibly driven into the Reich. These instances are today played up as examples of Czech "frightfulness." But the accusers fail to explain that, as soon as the Czechoslovakian government was firmly reestablished in Prague, order was introduced and that, after an agreement was reached with the Big Allied Powers, the transfer is being conducted—as witnessed by many American newspapermen—in as humane a way as possible. The unfortunate excesses mentioned cannot be compared with the German brutality which accompanied the forcible transfer of the majority of 700,000 Czechs from the Sudetenland in 1938, not to speak of the forcible transfer of thousands of Czech peasants from the very heart of Bohemia (District of Benesov) and in Moravia to make room for the Germans during the war.

It is well to inspect the credentials of those who are complaining today. Certainly those people who did not raise their voice when the Germans were persecuting the Czechs so savagely and who were conspicuous by their absence, complacency, or silence when the Germans uprooted more than 30 million people in Europe and massacred millions of "inferior" Slavs and Jews have little right to speak loudly today.

#### V.

There will be no German minority in Czechoslovakia. Several hundred thousands of loyal Germans will be allowed to stay; but the evidence of their loyalty will be closely scrutinized, as already cases of the Nazis pretending to be members of the Socialist and even of the Communist parties were discovered. The Czechoslovaks are now following the American example: they will give all citizens equality under the law; but there will be no state within a state anymore. There will be Czech and Slovakian public schools as there are public schools in which the English language is prescribed in the United States, no matter how numerous are some foreign speaking groups.

The Sudetens were weighed and found wanting. The Czechs will not give them another chance. And to try to stop the transfer would invite violent repercussions in the most promising democracy in Central Europe, in a country which even Mr. Churchill did not dare to classify as a country without real democracy.

#### LOST MEMBER?

Does any member know the whereabouts of Mr. Edmund Waltuck? His mail has been returned to us from his last address as unclaimed.

#### OFFICERS

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