

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE
CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

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EDITORIAL

As we look through the back files of the Specialist, we note that about half of our editorials are "promotional." Half of our editorials are coaxing the members to renew their membership, bring in new members or otherwise help bolster the treasury. This should not be. We have decided to devote all our editorials in the future to philately and not to the organization; it is up to the members. If they pay their dues on time, they'll not be bothered with "please pay your dues" literature.

We spent the Thanksgiving week-end in St. Louis where we visited our members Mr. Jos. Strnad and Mr. David Lidman. We are convinced that personal contact with men whose interests coincide with ours contains greater benefits than the value of all the stamps in the world. It is true that collectors take pride in their stamps, but they are happiest in company with other stamp collectors. We thank Dave and Joe for a very pleasant visit.

NEWS AND VIEWS

by the Editor

A very fine letter written by Mrs. Hedy Lowey, wife of our former secretary, reached us for publication. It is easily understood by those who know this remarkable couple. We present it in full, blushing at the compliment paid us.

"I haven't heard anyone ask a woman what she thinks of her husband philatelist. I had often laughed saying that they are like fishermen. These, in Czechoslovakia, are called "quiet fools." Yet there is nothing foolish there, it certainly is a natural activity. A fisherman tries for fish, a philatelist tries for stamps. A philatelist scours the world in search of a missing item.

"I recall the days when my husband worked to build your organization and your 'Specialist'; much work and time was put into the endeavor. His heart and soul were in this work, and he is very proud that constant progress marks his efforts. Many good people continue in this work; they'll not forget his sacrifices. He spent many sleepless nights, writing articles, answering mail; on his only free day, Saturday, he covered the city in search of information. My heart often ached, but I didn't possess the strength to tear him away from all this because I knew it gave him much pleasure and what pleased him, pleased me. I am sure your past secretary hasn't written his last column for the Czechoslovak Specialist and that you and I will again read "News and Views" by J. W. Lowey.

"I must mention the friendship between him and Frank Kovarik. Often words are weak to translate our emotions, but I know that my husband retains a special place in his heart for Frank who does so much for your Society. He honors Mr. Hrivnak and adores Gus' love for Czechoslovakia; he often related what a charming hostess is Mrs. Hrivnak. He had a personal liking for every member for they are the framework of the organization he founded.

"Besides a complete recovery for your secretary, I wish and desire your organization continues to grow not only in America but thruout the entire world."

* * *

We are glad Joe has such a wonderful wife. Had it not been for her, certainly, our Society would not be what it is today. The early days were hard. Thanks to constant work on the part of some; financial sacrifices on the part of others and especially the loyalty of the first members (for they surely didn't get their money's worth in the first couple of years), the Society has grown and we hope shall continue so until we reach our goal: a sufficient number of members so we could get second class rates through the post office.

* * *

A new year is with us again. Our Society and our publication are entering on their ninth year. The first five years were the hardest. Without a five year plan—or even a two year plan we have gone forward, showing an annual progress. Last year we gave our members 82 pages; a new record. It is obvious that with present high prices we can hardly expect to give the members more, unless we increase our membership or otherwise bolster the treasury.

In the last issue of the Specialist we asked members to donate some of their duplicate material, preferably Czechoslovakia, to an auction to be held sometime in March for the benefit of the Society. Kindly do what you can and mail your donations to Mr. Roman Reinowski, 1939 Highland Avenue, Berwyn, Illinois. Next month we hope to present our first report on this venture which may mean more reading matter for you in 1947.

CZECHOSLOVAK NEWS

by Frantisek Novotny

The first post war stamp auction was held in Praha, November 8, 9 and 10. About 200 philatelists attended this auction when European and trans-oceanic stamps were sold. The third day was devoted to the sale of Czechoslovak stamps. All non-European items commanded special interest; prices realized reached an average of 5Kcs (Czechoslovak crowns) for a Michel 1943 catalog Mark. Many items reached the 10Kcs per Michel mark and quite a few surpassed the catalog quotations. The total amount realized at this sale reached about one and one half million Czechoslovakian crowns. The net result of this auction is proof that Czechoslovakian philately has returned into its pre-war channels.

* * *

A new catalog of Protectorate and Slovakian stamps is to make its appearance in the very near future. As is known, this portion has been omitted from the 1946 specialized catalog. A catalog of postal entires and of commemorative postmarks is also in preparation. The well known Stiburek Album for European stamps will issue its first additions early in 1947.

* * *

A set of three stamps is to be issued January 1, 1947, to propagate the "Two year construction plan." Advance information indicates that the values issued may be 50h, 1.20 and 2.40Kcs. They will be printed from steel engraved plates.

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS

198. Peter Pisarof, 5701 Raleigh St., West Duluth 7, Minn.

NEW MEMBERS

- 246. Loretta Kass, 1108 W. 103rd St., Chicago 43, Ill.
- 247. Anthony J. Cifka, 5901 W. Huron St., Chicago 47, Ill.
- 248. Allen H. Seed, Jr., 202 Pillsbury Bldg., Minneapolis 2, Minn.
- 249. Frederick Schmidt, 19443 113th Rd., St. Albans 12, New York, N. Y.

THE SUDETENLAND STORY

by George A. Blizil

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The twentieth anniversary of the independence of Czechoslovakia was celebrated late in 1938, but it was a mournful mockery. Already Hitler had taken the Sudeten lands, the country was in the process of disintegration. Yet the design of the "20th Anniversary of Independence" stamps was an allegory of Peace!

The Anschluss with Austria 10 April 1938—a bloodless victory at the time—led Hitler to believe that further conquests would prove equally simple, if tackled in the right manner—the Nazi way! This anchluss was commemorated by Germany with a stamp, with border inscription reading "one people, one country, one leader" and shows a Nazi "taking in" his Austrian brother under the Nazi banner. There were two printings of this commemorative, one in Berlin and the other in Vienna. The Berlin print is dark green and is on paper watermarked swastikas. The Vienna printing is deep green, a few millimeters smaller and printed on unwatermarked paper.

The proposal was to take in Czechoslovakia, as Austria was "absorbed." So the full strength of the German propaganda machine was turned against Czechoslovakia. It seemed as though Europe was on the verge of war; there was intense diplomatic activity; Britain's Prime Minister Chamberlain flew to Germany and, finally, after a critical period which will always be remembered, came the Munich Pact, or Agreement. Mr. Chamberlain returned to London, jubilant.

The Munich Agreement of 1938 provided for the ceding to Germany of the Sudeten (German speaking) districts, which were mainly in Bohemia and Silesia, but the Agreement was broken by Germany almost as soon as it was signed. Germany wanted Czechoslovakia and without very much fuss started to take it.

The carefully timed revolts in the Sudeten areas adjacent to the German borders were engineered by Nazi agents in September 1938, and quite naturally, to protect their "blood-brothers," the German army would be forced to occupy these areas. And so began the rape of Czechoslovakia!

One immediate effect was that local Nazi authorities seized supplies of Czech stamps and overprinted them with swastikas and various inscriptions such as: ASCH IST FREI, HEIL HITLER, WIR SIND FREI, and the like. In some instances new values in Czech and German currency were also surcharged and instances also occur of German stamps being overprinted and used in the Sudetenland at this time.

The best known Sudetenland provisionals are those of Asch, Aussig, Rumberg, Karlsbad and Maffersdorf-Reichenberg, but there are others, varying considerably in type. Some of the overprints were very crude, being applied with a rubber stamp and ink pad, while others turned out to be very neat print jobs. (See accompanying illustration).

It must be stressed however, that many of these "WIR SIND FREI" overprints are of doubtful authenticity, while all represent the mark of the Nazi heel. European catalogs will list them extensively because many of these stamps did actual postal duty. Their actual value and worth will never be known because it is impossible to estimate how many were overprinted, and no one knows what has become of the rubber stamps.

To commemorate the Nazi "grab" at Aussig and other communities, certain low denomination German stamps were overprinted for use in their respective areas. (Lower left stamp in group).

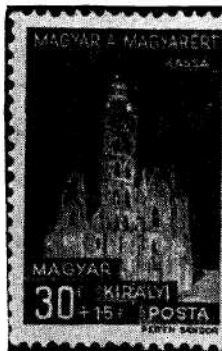
At the city of Asch (As) a shortage of the 1.20 Kc value developed. Current 50h and 1 kc values were overprinted with the new value. Hence another type of Sudetenland provisional was created.

The Czech overprinted provisional before-mentioned and illustrated were used only over the period 21 September to 1 October, 1938, that is, nine days.

The German army marched in on 1 October and from this date until 20 October occurs the second phase of the short philatelic history of Sudetenland. This was the period of the provisional postmarks, due mainly to the fact that



These two stamps Czechoslovakia issued to mark twenty years of independence. At the right: stamps issued by Germany, Poland and Hungary to mark acquisition of territory. After issuing this one, Hungary produced a complete series (below) to mark the "grab" of Czech areas. The inscription at the top means "Hungary for the Hungarians."



as the Czech postmasters retired they took their stamps and postmarkers. The Germans were forced to use various types of temporary postmarkers,



Types of surcharges and cancellations used during the Nazi "grab" of Czechoslovakia explained in the accompanying article. Items are from the author's collection.

and some hundreds of types of these are known. Most included the swastika device and inscriptions were in German only. Examples of these cancellations from Teschen and Bodenbach are shown. Many of these postmarkers were subsequently replaced with new postmarkers, bilingually inscribed, but certain provisionals were in use as late as August 1939.

The illustration of the provisional 1.20 on the 50h Benes, cancelled at "AS", indicates that the postmarker still retained the small "CP," (Czechoslovakian Post).

Germany issued two commemorative semi-postal stamps on December 2, 1938, to mark the acquisition of Sudetenland. These picture a German miner

and his wife. The surtax was earmarked for Hitler's "Culture Fund."

Poland and Hungary were also busy when the Germans took the Sudetenland. With Hitler's permission, they seized the opportunity of annexing certain parts of Czechoslovakia, the Poles taking a large area of Silesia around Teschen and the Hungarians gained almost a complete province where the population was predominantly Hungarian.

As could be expected, special stamps soon appeared. The Poles issued, on November 11th, 1938, a 25 g. stamp which symbolized "The Return," Czechoslovakian Poles being shown stepping over an upturned frontier post and being welcomed Home. It might now be said these "grabs" by Poland and Hungary were only temporary, inasmuch as Hitler later whipped Poland and made Hungary an Axis Satellite.

Hungary issued two commemoratives on 1 December 1938, overprinting two values "Hazateres, 1938" (See illustration). Translation of this overprint is "The Return Home." These two stamps were widely circulated.

On January 16, 1939, came another commemorative issue for the "Hungary for the Hungarians" Patriotic Fund. This set of five semi-postal (see illustration) showed various scenes in the newly acquired Czech territory, the Regent, Horthy, on the bridge of Komarom, formerly the frontier; a Hungarian girl pinning a bouquet on the tunic of a soldier, etc. The 6 f. plus 3 f. value shows the Statue of the North (Eszak). It stands in Liberty Square, Budapest, and represents the northern part of Hungary lost to Czechoslovakia after the 1st World War and now regained. The same Statue in the east, south and west of the Square represents lands lost to Roumania, Jugoslavia and Austria.

The practice of using stamps of two different countries on one cover during this period was not uncommon. Most of these "combination" covers were prepared by philatelists but received actual postal service and therefore mark another philatelic milestone in the Sudeten era.

In connection with Hungary's seizure of portions of Czechoslovakia, the Hungarian army had a field post office. Mail bearing this military cancellation is very rare and was used for only a few months in 1938 and 1939. With Hitler's permission the Carpatho-Ukraine was turned over to Hungarian custody on 15 March 1939. This small state was Czechoslovakia's Ruthenia and enjoyed about ten hours independence before the Hungarian army entered. Hungarian activities centered in and around Chust in this territory, which has now been ceded outright to the U.S.S.R. in November 1945 by the Czech government.

This is the philatelic story of Czechoslovakia's Sudetenland.

THE AUCTION

In the last issue of the Specialist mention was made of a plan of the Chicago group to help the treasury of the Society to meet the increases in printing costs. This auction is not to be confined only to Chicago; every member of our Society is invited to donate some material to this auction, preferably Czechoslovakia and when auction lots are advertised through the medium of the Specialist, every member is invited to bid. All material donated for this auction should be mailed to member Roman Reinowski, 1939 Highland Ave., Berwyn, Ill. Do so now, the time is short. The auction is scheduled for Sunday March 23, 1947, in the Olympic Bldg., 6136 Cermak Rd., Cicero, Ill.; at that time a philatelic exhibition will be in progress there from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. We trust every member will do his little bit either with a donation or a generous bid later. Watch the next issue for further particulars.

CHICAGO GROUP, ATTENTION!

A meeting of the Chicago group will take place Sunday evening, January 12, 1947, at 7 P.M., in the home of member John Velek, 2229 Kimball Ave., Chicago, Ill. Many subjects will come up for discussion, especially the coming auction, a plan to propagate the Society, a plan to increase the membership, etc. So, be sure to be there.

MASARYK STAMPS
by G. Greenawalt and F. J. Kovarik

TYPE V



When it was found that the product of the first rotary printing (1 Kc. Type IV) was not satisfactory, due primarily to the failure to properly design the original die to meet the special requirements of the new rotary press, a new die was prepared for use in the rotary press. This resulted in a new type which is distinguishable from the previous types by the changes made, particularly in the upper and lower shields. All the lettering in the shields is unshaded solid white. The background in all the shields consists of square crossed lines which are spaced farther apart and cut deeper to give a more distinct appearance. The lower shields are bordered by thin lines. In the portrait the left shoulder of the coat is cross lined adjacent the collar. The details of the design are so similar to those of the 3 Kc Type III that the two stamps are sometimes grouped as a single type. The design is more distinct and in general appearance more pleasing than the Type IV. The size of the format is 19 x 21 $\frac{3}{4}$.

One printing form made up of two plates of 100 subjects each was used in the printing which commenced late in 1925.* The plates were marked 9-XII-25, 9a-XII-25. Another set of plates were produced and used for trial printings only. They were marked X- $\frac{1}{2}$.26, Xa- $\frac{1}{2}$.26. (Note Ekstein listed these X-1/II-26 and Xa-1/II.26.)

Stamps of this type were printed on watermarked paper of medium thickness (0.06 mm. without gum). Some thicker paper (0.11 mm.) was also used. All four horizontal positions of the watermark exist, with the position 5 the scarcest. The color is carmine red. The perforation is 9 $\frac{3}{4}$.

*Note: There is some conflict in the catalogues as to dates when printing began and when the stamps were put in circulation. Two dates encountered are September 1925 and December 16, 1925.

(To be continued)

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