

# THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE  
CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

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Vol. IX

June 1947

No. 6

## EDITORIAL

As we write this editorial—we are making final preparations for our visit to New York to attend the convention of our Society and incidentally take a look at the big show which is taking place during that week at Grand Central Palace. Our last visit to New York was in 1939—when our Society was only a little baby. Since then it has grown quite a bit—and we hope it will continue this healthy expansion.

When we prepared our membership list the thing that has been forcefully brought to our mind is the fact that a goodly percentage of the newer members drop out, but of the old only a very few. Perhaps the older members recall the early days of the Society when we gave them some 50 pages per year—with little specialized information and practically no illustrations. To add a little color to the paper, your editor purchased the stock of Czechoslovak stamp illustrations from The Philatelic Gossip. These have appeared from time to time, but are really inferior to those we use now. As time goes on, we can give the members more and better information. Your treasurer's report in this issue shows that despite the fact that we gave the readers more pages, our balance is larger than last year. Since the first of the year we have shown greater increase in the treasury; besides more dues, we shall show a larger income from advertising and quite a contribution from our auction. Our next problem (over which we haven't much control) is to obtain more paper, so we could give the members more reading matter. We understand that after September there will be more paper available; of course, we don't know what it will cost.

In our column "News and Views" we hinted we may give the members eleven issues of the Specialist this year. We feel the need of a vacation—when we return from New York, we may not be in a position to put out even four pages. So, a report of our convention shall be sent to the printer from New York; for inclusion in this issue. Kindly note that in the officer personnel there may be a change. At any rate, officers will be elected during our convention and the printer will be asked to hold up the printing of our publication to include the results of the election. Your June issue will most likely reach you rather late—but we'll try to get the September issue to you about the middle of August.

## NEWS AND VIEWS

by the Editor

The Czechoslovak government sent to subscribers of their new issue service "Supplement Nr 1" announcing the 1Kc orange (portrait of Stefanik); 9Kc air post brown (portrait of Novak); 25h newspaper stamp violet (postboy) and the series honoring St. Vojtech, whose name they translate "Ethelbert," though in this country the Czechs have been translating the name to Albert and the Poles to Adalbert. This series, as has been noted before, commemorates the

950th anniversary of the death of the saint and is issued in three denominations: 1.60Kc gray; 2.40Kc carmine and 5Kc green.

From this supplement we learn that St. Albert, Bishop of Prague was one of the most remarkable personages in the intellectual life of the X. Century, was a fervent propagator of Christianity, the founder of the Benedictine Monastery at Brevnov near Prague.

His missionary activities in eastern and north-eastern Europe did much to strengthen the relations between Slav nations in the spiritual sphere.

St. Ethelbert was martyred in heathen Prussia on April 23rd, 997.

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A supplementary list of commemorative cancellations used in Czechoslovakia during the year 1946 has been received and shall be translated then published as has been the list of cancellations used in 1945. So many favorable comments on this have been received that we feel the space thus used in the Specialist has been expended very nicely.

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This issue of the Specialist will reach you late because we should like to include a short report on our convention in New York and if there is a change in officers, notify you who your new officers are. We also announce that the editor will take his customary 2 months vacation during which time he hopes to assemble enough reading matter for you. Next issue following this will come out in September.

\* \* \*

One of our new members owns a complete modern rabbitry consisting of eight (8) finest pedigreed New Zealand white, hutches, automatic watering system, electric heating, etc. He wants to dispose of this in exchange for Czech or United State stamps. If interested, write to member #277, Mr. Joseph Janousek for further particulars.

The above may sound like an ad—in a way it is. Our's is a cooperative society and your editor feels that we should help one another. We are ever ready to devote a little space to similar notices.

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We hope to have with us in the September issue our old friend Mr. J. W. Lowey. He started the News and Views column; it was a very popular feature. When Joe got sick, we decided to continue the column and though we didn't do as well as Joe, we hope the members appreciated our efforts.

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In last month's issue of the Specialist appeared a request asking the member who borrowed our copies of the Specialist, please return them. Three days after mailing the May issue of the Specialist a phone call announced they were in the mail. Thank you—dear member. Who said advertising doesn't pay?

\* \* \*

A very interesting report was submitted by our secretary. We have mentioned on several occasions we'd like a membership of more than 200 members. This is not an impossible goal—but as long as the government of Czechoslovakia refuses to permit its citizens to export money—the only members we can have in that country are they who are donated membership by American friends. Many of these are dropped and we don't like to lose them. Another great loss struck us when we lost most of our Batawa, Canada, members. It is difficult to understand this loss. We submit two guesses. Bata, who, as we hear, collaborated with the Nazis, who has been sentenced "in absentia" to 15 years imprisonment, but who at present is residing in Brazil, may have "fired" some members. We hesitate to ask. Then, too, it may be that some of these members have returned to "the old country." With member Meisel away from Batawa, things have gone wrong there!

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We apologize! We have written much in recent issues of the Specialist about "The Official Czechoslovak Government Stamp Collection" which we viewed in Cleveland, brought to Chicago and exhibited during our Show and Auction in March. We had complained of the poor arrangements of the stamps for exhibition purposes. Now we learn from Praha that the Ministry of Posts

had no intentions of exhibiting anything at C. I. P. E. X. and that what we considered exhibition material was only an album showing samples of Czechoslovak stamps.

A new Lehovec catalog has been published and just like its predecessor fails to mention the stamps of Bohemia and Moravia and the stamps of Slovakia. It did drop the New York, London, Belgium and such sheets which have no value except to those who bought these items to help along the cause of liberation. The new catalog reflects the financial condition of the country more truly than the old. The prices for many items are half and even less, which shows that the speculators are out; we hope they took a sound philatelic beating.

#### NEWS FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA

by Fr. Novotny



As was announced before, three new stamps were issued April 5th. These included a 1Kc value (type A106), orange; a 9Kc airpost stamp (type AP9) and 25h newspaper stamp (type N4) violet. All three values are made necessary because of a change in the postal rates.

We illustrate the new St. Adalbert commemorative stamp which made its appearance April 23rd. It was designed and engraved by Jindra Schmidt from a plaster cast by K. Dvorak. The issue will consist of three values: 1.60Kc gray, 2.40Kc red and 5K green. This series commemorates the 950th anniversary of the death of Adalbert, first Czech Bishop.

Sometime ago we reported that a memorial stamp for the fifth anniversary of the Lidice massacre is considered by the Ministry of Posts. We now can report that the Czech artists were asked to submit suitable designs for such a stamp and 96 essays were received. The authorities failed to choose even one out of all these; instead commissioned a very select group of artists to work through the submitted designs and then prepare something that could be accepted. As a result three designs were made; two of these will be used for the stamps and one for the margin coupon. The latter represents a miner's lamp with rays escaping from it symbolizing that Lidice will continue to live. Our understanding is that the designs will be very modernistic. In our next letter we hope to present the names of the chosen artists.

#### OUR NEW YORK MEETING

As announced in the May issue of the Specialist, members of our Society held a meeting in the Bohemian National Hall, Thursday, May 22, 1947. Af-

ter a very good a la carte supper, Frank J. Kovarik announced that Dr. Reiner-Deutsch would act as Master of Ceremonies. Dr. Reiner Deutsch then opened the meeting with a surprise, by presenting the editor with a gold Schaeffer Ball Pen in behalf of the New York members as a token of appreciation for the work performed by Kovarik. He then asked Mr. Kovarik to accept chairmanship of the meeting. The chair then appointed Mr. W. Glawe to act as secretary. Dr. Reiner-Deutsch gave a short talk on how our Society functioned during the war and said that this year we should hold an election. The chairman named a nominating committee consisting of Dr. Reiner-Deutsch, chairman, and Messrs. W. Fritzsche and L. Horechny as members. A suggestion was made by Mr. Schottan that our society have more than one vice-president, each vice-president from a different section of our country and that these vice-presidents in their respective areas help in establishing greater activity within the Society. After much discussion it was decided that the executive board consider this suggestion and present their decision to the nominating committee.

Mr. Kovarik brought to the attention of the members the plight of our organizer, Mr. Joseph W. Lowey, who has been seriously ill for the last 15 months and whose finances have been sapped as a result. He made a plea to the members that we raise a fund of at least 400 dollars which will enable Mr. Lowey to be taken to a hospital for a complete physical examination. Dr. Neufeld, our member, has been taking care of Mr. Lowey gratis and he has the thanks not only of Mr. Lowey's family but of the Society as well. All contributions should be sent to Mr. F. O. Vinson or Mr. Alfons Stach.

The meeting was then adjourned at 9:20 P.M. Immediately after this meeting, Mr. L. Horechny photographed the entire assembly and we sincerely hope the picture turns out well. When it does, we shall obtain an illustration of this for the Specialist.

As we are preparing this report we fail to find the list of members present at this gathering but promise to publish (with the above promised picture, we hope) in the September issue of our publication.

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It will be of interest to our members to know that, the Federated Philatelic Clubs of Czechoslovakia sent two representatives to CIPEX: Mr. Jan Burian and Mr. Zdenek Kvasnicka—both of Praha. They were our honored guests and we trust to present to our members their reactions in America. Both of these gentlemen exhibited stamps at the show. Mr. Burian is an authority on the stamps of Masaryk (he has shown several frames from his voluminous collection) while Mr. Kvasnicka showed Eastern Silesia and Siberia, stamps and covers. They also brought with them the collection of Great Britain, property of Karel Basika, secretary of the Federation in Praha, which incidentally received third award at CIPEX in this class. As Mr. Basika vied with the world's greatest British collections, the honor thus bestowed upon him is really exceptional. We noted a yellow cancellation on a Penny Black, authenticated, and perhaps the only known copy. These gentlemen promised their full cooperation in helping us understand Czech stamps and, though neither one of them has any knowledge of English, your editor promises to translate their articles for publication in the Specialist.

#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear friends of the Czechoslovak stamp:

Man often dreams of happiness, yet this frequently turns to disappointment. I had so hoped to be with you in New York during CipeX, but this pleasure is not for me.

Even if I'm not with you, my thoughts will be in the Czech National Hall, Thursday, May 22, at 7 P.M. I wanted personally to thank all of you who have so generously helped our Society. I must do so in this message and therefore thank Dr. Reiner-Deutsch, Secky, Fritzsche and Lowey and your guest Kovarik for the work done.

We all were firm believers after March 15, 1939, that we will not close our albums of Czechoslovakia as a closed country; in our Society we started a

great work in behalf of the stamps of Czechoslovakia and the most helpful propaganda for that unfortunate country in the heart of Europe. We have gone through dark days, but whenever we looked through our collections and noted the stamps of St. Vaclav whose ancient choral we pray "let us not suffer annihilation" we were sure that God will not forsake us. As we gazed upon the stamps of the president-liberator, we recalled his slogan "Truth Prevails" and we were sure will again collect stamps of a liberated Czechoslovakia.

The day came. We came this evening to rejoice in the work so well accomplished. I am happy with you and wish the best of luck to your constant endeavors.

Devoted to our cause, I remain.

K. Zahradnicik, president

#### FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 1946

Jan. 1st, 1946 — Balance in Treasury .....		\$172.16
Receipts Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 1946		
Membership dues .....	\$275.88	
Sales Circuit Commissions .....	49.02	
Advertising in Specialist .....	6.00	
Sale of back copies of Specialist .....	6.85	
Total .....		337.75
Gross Income .....		509.01
Expenditures Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 1946		
Printing Specialist .....	199.70	
Editors Mailing .....	49.25	
(includes binding of Specialist for patron mem.)		
Secretary's Expenses .....	6.61	
Bank Charges .....	1.00	
Mailing delinquent dues notices .....	1.50	
Printing for Sales Circuit .....	6.00	
Total .....		264.06
Dec. 31st, 1946 — Balance in Treasury .....		\$245.85

#### Secretary's report for the year ending in April 1947.

During the year the Society continued its steady growth with a net increase of 27 members. Membership statistics are as follows:

1946 membership .....	149
New members enrolled .....	63
Total .....	212
Dropped for non-payment of dues .....	36
1947 membership .....	176
Minus 1946 membership .....	149
Net gain .....	27

The 176 paid up members are enrolled under the following groups: Patron: 8; Associate: 71; Regular: 97.

I have received numerous letters from members and non-members asking for information about stamps of Czechoslovakia. Those questions I was not able to answer myself I referred to members who were qualified and in this way alone the Society has been of real help to collectors interested in the stamps of Czechoslovakia.

John Velek, Secretary

## EDITOR'S REPORT

Those of you who recall our first general meeting (which we called a convention) recall that in this Hall sat Tod Raper—our first editor—who, really, is responsible for the initial successes of our Society. While I don't want to and can't minimize the big work of our secretary, J. W. L., everyone must realize that it was our little publication which not only kept the few original members interested, but helped in increasing our membership. Our society was born at a most inopportune time. The death knell was sounding for the Czechoslovak Republic—Hitler and his gang of cut-throats were moving—first into Sudetenland—then on to Praha—and, overrunning the entire country—created the impression—especially among those people who thought Germany meant well—that the majority of the Czech citizens were eager for the Nazi yoke. No new issues—except the first few from the Protectorate. Yet, those few members who rallied round our banner, believed that the Hydra of Europe, the scourge of Democracy, shall one day be crushed. Our hopes shot up when our country actually entered the struggle. As John Nesbit says: And so the story goes. After year's of struggle, victory came. Despite the fact that this victory is not yet complete—while a political shackling of the freedom-loving Czechs is still in progress—complete liberty is in sight and when that takes place—I am confident our membership will increase many-fold.

For some mysterious reason, Raper dropped out not only as editor, but as member. It all happened so suddenly and every attempt on our part to learn the reason, failed. His place was taken over by Peter Kreischer of Chicago—who did well until we entered the war. Working in a factory which was converted 100% to war work, his hours in the factory increased 100%, poor Pete couldn't cope with this high paying job and resigned. Lolly Horechny from across the river took over—but in 3 months was forced to throw up the sponge, same reason Pete had. At this time I learned the meaning of the phrase "irony of fate." When our Society was organized the post of editor was offered to me, and I flatly refused. No one volunteered now. I felt I should take over until someone with more time and ability could do the work. As the tempo of war increased, I saw the futility of asking any other member to carry on. And so, despite the fact that I, too, worked 12 hrs. each day instead of 8, and 6 or 7 days a week instead of 5—I tried to do my best. The collaborators (what an ugly word—eh?)—were few, and very often 100% of the material published came from my trusty pen. Anyway, I lasted 2 weeks longer than the Japs. But, the good Lord was good to me and good to the Society. I got out the September issue (1945) before I collapsed—the October issue came out while I was recuperating. I hurried the December issue, the day after I mailed the January 1946 copy to our printer, I was rushed to a hospital where 10 blood transfusions and the removal of half of your editor's stomach—miraculously kept the Society's publication going. One of my sisters took my dictation at the hospital for the February 1946 issue, after that things were going smoothly.

Most of you know how our modest paper progressed. We are confident that ours is among the best publications in the specialized field; excluding the Bureau Specialist and the Essay Proof Bulletin, it can be considered the best. As your editor, I have tried to give you as much for your money as possible. At present we are confronted with a paper shortage. If you get the Collectors Club Philatelist—or the American Philatelist—you must notice that these publications are very poor when compared with their former grandeur. We are materially better off because we are able to give our members more pages of reading matter now than ever before. In fact, since I became editor, you have received more pages every year than the year before. Our goal this year is 100 pages; last year, which was our best, produced 82.

I have no intention of resigning from this job. I didn't earn a fortune at it, but I enjoyed it, and, being human and as egotistic as any other human being, I enjoyed the many letters of praise, thanks and encouragement. After all, our life span on this miserable earth is short, and if we succeed in creating friends by a little effort expended in our neighbors welfare, we have lived a full life. What more can man want? But I would ask of you, fellow members, a little help. At the "benefit auction" in Chicago in March we made enough money

to get "addressograph plates" made; I ask your kind permission to let me do so. I may even go a little farther and ask you to let me find a member who would volunteer to do the mailing (this includes folding, affixing of stamps, etc.) This task has taken about 2 or 2½ afternoons of my spare time, writing and editing, as a rule, took 7 to 10 days of my free time. I am fortunate in having sisters who though not interested in stamps, are willing to help in transcribing my scribbling in a legible matter for the printer.

Last, but definitely, not least. In the beginning of this harangue, I said that I did most of the writing for our paper. Among my best co-workers were Blizil, Greenawalt, Lowey, Osbourne, Pearce, Russell and Velek. There are many more of you who could help. If your ability at writing is meager, remember you have an editor who is willing to help (besides, he is no better than you, just read his junk and compare it with what you have written.) Please, mail it in. I know of one of our members who has written up a wagon-load on the Allegory varieties. Being a school teacher, he must, in order to remain alive, help his father in the cement business. When his material existence is benefited we hope Tony will prepare his findings as a full article for the Specialist.

I have taken up much of your time, dear friends, but I am used to that. I have been doing that since April 1942. I shall appreciate any suggestions for the improvement of our Specialist. Let us maintain our present high standard and if anything, try to bring it higher. If I, personally, have taught you to love that little piece of paper that comes from Praha, if I helped you to understand its aims and ambitions, if I brought you to a better realization of what democracy can mean to a country you and I love so dearly, I am amply repaid for the many hours expended in preparing, editing and publishing YOUR Czechoslovak Specialist.

Thank you.

#### THE CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

About fifteen years ago, several collectors of the stamps of Czechoslovakia tried to organize a group of collectors with like enthusiasm. They were all members of the American Philatelic Society and intended to do their work within the framework of this national society as a Czechoslovak unit, as at that time the existing units were showing gratifying results. A certain number of members had to signify their intention of forming such a unit and, though the number necessary was very small, this minimum could not be reached.

A few years later J. W. Lowey of New York City, tried a similar venture, but as an independent group and not within any other existing organization. Those few who tried within the A. P. S., ridiculed the idea and tried to assure Mr. Lowey that his organization was doomed aborning. Two of them enlisted in the new society, though they were sure it was wasted money and effort. Joe refused to accept their verdict and, having contacted what he considered a sufficient number of enthusiasts, launched the society in 1939, with a well advertised "convention" in New York City, and in a true Czech atmosphere, put the society on its own.

The first group of officers elected at this convention shows that the society was not dominated by Czechs, for the first president was George F. Smyth, the vice president was Fred Peters, the secretary was Mr. J. W. Lowey, the treasurer was Guy Greenawalt and the librarian, J. Stephen. Tod Raper was appointed first editor and his able handling of the "Czechoslovak Specialist," gave the official organ of the society a good start.

The society was born at a very inauspicious time. The perfidy of France and England at Munich, the grab of Sudetenland by the Nazis, the biting off of big chunks of the country by Poland and Hungary, the withdrawal of the Slovaks to form an independent (?) country (but wholly dominated by Hitler), all this spelled doom to an independent Czechoslovakia.

Soon after that, Czechoslovakia as such, or, at least, fell into a deep sleep and in its place we have the "Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia." In Czech, the word "protectorate" is written "protektorat," but the Czechs who are as witty, if not more so than the Irish, used the word "protentokrat," which means



Some of the members of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society at the Garfield Perry at the showing of The Czechoslovak Government Album of Czech Stamps: Arthur J. Mates of Cleveland, F. J. Kovarik of Chicago (your editor), George A. Blizil of Cleveland, C. I. Ball of Cleveland (not a members of our Society), Rudolf Novy of Pittsburgh (our vice-president) and Karel Zahradnicek (our president). (Illustration courtesy of "Philately.")

"for the time being." Even the Czech collectors gave up collecting these stamps because every penny spent on these stamps added to the coffers of the Nazis who, by now, defied the entire world and like an octopus, spread their tentacles all over the world and especially Europe.

The small group of collectors who comprised the society had faith in the eventual destruction of the hydra of Europe, and with dues higher than in any other organization devoted to a specialization of our hobby, continued their blood and plasma existence awaiting the day of liberation. This came when the Nazis finally hollered "uncle." Then many collectors in the U. S. and Canada, and indeed all over the world, flocked to the society. Though even at present its membership does not number 200, it is on the map and with its bulletin, gives information on Czech stamps, old as well as recent, that cannot be obtained from any other English language publication in the world.

The publication of the "Czechoslovak Specialist" was more or less spasmodic from the start. Under the editorship of Peter Kreischer of Chicago, it maintained a ten-issue paper in the calendar year. This schedule is retained to the present day except that the paper has an average of ten pages each issue instead of the original four or six. The society is still too poor to publish a big paper, but it is satisfied in farming out worth while articles to other philatelic publications, which it reprints later, a practice which enables the editor to spend more money for printing and giving the members more for their money. Of course, besides these reprinted articles, there are original works as well as news which can interest only the collector of Czechoslovak stamps.

Any reader of "Philately" who is interested in Czechoslovak stamps and who is willing to invest one, two or more dollars in learning more about them, is invited to contact the secretary, Mr. John Velek, 2229 Kimball Ave., Chicago 47, Ill., for further information as well as a sample copy of the C. P.

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### THE STAMPS OF THE SEA SCOUTS

by Frank V. Kovarik

The Czechoslovak Republic was born October 28, 1918, about ten days before the final disintegration of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Its birth was not accidental, but the result of plans well laid not only in the homeland but also abroad. Many stories are extant of the Czechs residing in every part of the globe: Czech colonies in France, in England, in Russia and in the United States. Somehow, when World War I began, these many colonies organized themselves and within the countries which they chose as their new home, began to plan a better future for the Czechs and Slovaks who suffered political, economic and cultural enslavement under Austria and under Hungary. Especially those who lived in democracies wanted above all, to liberate their brothers who remained at home, so they, too, could enjoy the fruits of liberty. As in World War II, so also in World War I, there existed a very active "underground."

At the outbreak of World War I, Thomas G. Masaryk was in London, M. Stefanik and Edouard Benes were in Paris. Through their efforts and their firm faith in the Allied cause, these three men succeeded in co-ordinating the efforts of all Czechs, at home and abroad. Theirs' was not an easy task. Lacking a unified government at home, the Czechs and Slovaks who left their homeland for other lands followed the dictates of their own minds and, having planted themselves in their new home, sought kindred souls for social intercourse. So they organized societies—fraternal, cultural or economic—each of these within the framework of their own religious beliefs. Thus we find the Czechs divided into three groups: freethinkers, Catholics and Protestants. This was



The Sea Scout stamps of Czechoslovakia, one shown on cover being the 20h red, showing the cancellation "N. V." used by the national committee. The "Posta Skatu Praha 1918" with date written in, was another marking used. The two stamps unused showing the "perforations" that are really not perforations.

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the chief reason why they couldn't form a strong block in American politics—their failure to work together. Besides, the Czechs and Slovaks were poles apart!

As we mentioned before, Masaryk, Benes and Stefanik worked together and by employing simple logic, managed to knit these three groups into a working whole. Their next task was to coordinate the labor of the outside groups with the work of the underground. These two groups, then gave moral support to one another; financial support went from the group residing abroad to the group working at home. The underground in Praha knew that Woodrow Wilson in the United States, David Lloyd George in England, George Clemenceau in France and the Pope in Rome, were in accord with the wishes of the Czechs and Slovaks all over the world for a free and independent nation.

The result of all this was perfect harmony among Czechoslovaks all over the world. Religious, political and economic differences were put aside and all had but one aim: Liberty and complete independence. At home this perfect accord brought phenomenal successes so that, when the eventful October 28, 1918, arrived, Czechs and Slovaks were a united nation ready to brave the ancient hatreds of the Austrians and Magyars.

Each entity in Czechoslovakia had its particular task to perform and it was the Sea Scouts, then organized within the Czech Yacht Club, who were entrusted with the handling of all official mail. Long before the "bloodless revolution" the Yacht Club formulated plans for this official post: they even went to the extent of preparing stamps for this service.

They were issued by the headquarters of the Sea Scouts with the approbation of the National Committee of Liberation (service order No. 324/A, November 7, 1918). It is necessary to understand that this organization had nothing to do with ordinary private or business mail, but was entirely devoted to the handling of mail between the National Committee, the police, various official organizations, etc.

This service existed until its official cessation by order of the president of the Scout Alliance, J. Rossler-Orovsky, as of November 25, 1918. This post was reinstated for only one day, December 21, 1918, the day of the arrival of president Thomas G. Masaryk, in Praha.

Mail scheduled for delivery by the Scouts was brought to Scout Headquarters at the National Committee Council (which met in the Harrach Palace and later in this order: Cadet School, Parliament and Vice-regent's quarters) and then they obtained stamps, 10h on postcards or 20h on a letter. The postage amount was paid to the Scout by the recipient of the mail and the Scout was permitted to retain this sum. Many of the Scouts refused to keep this money and so it was used to help out the poorer Scouts and thus keep them in the service. As a result, as these stamps were not sold to anybody at the time, they are really official stamps.

About a week before the revolution M. Knapp ordered two stamps from Kolmann, the printing firm in Vinohrady.

10h blue (shades: dark, violet and light)

20h red (shades: dark, light and rose)

The printing of each value was done by one die which, besides printing the stamp, embossed the central design consisting of the Czech royal lion, the lettering at top and bottom and cut the outer edges of the stamp to resemble perforations. These edges cannot be called a perforation because each stamp was printed and cut individually—neither block nor even a pair can exist. Because for each of these two values only one die was used, there can be no more than one type. The inscription on these stamps can be translated thus: Top two lines "Posta ceskych Skautu" means "Czech Scout Post,"—whereas the two bottom lines "Ve sluzbach Narodni Vlady" means "In the service of the national government."

Besides the stamps a post card was printed with the 10h die on a white heavier paper. This issue was very small and the cards are scarce.

At one time it was said that only some 20,000 of each were printed, but the fact that they can still be had very cheap shows that they are quite plentiful. We need not fear reprints as both dies have been damaged by filing away a hor-

izontal dash across the die. These two dies are now reposing in the National Revolutionary Museum in Praha.

Besides the above mentioned shades, caused by improper mixing of inks, there exist trial printings in many colors and shades. As these have made their appearance rather late, it is feared that they are really reprints from the original dies and were made sometime after the stamps lost their validity. The originals are printed on a thinner paper and have white gum, the reprints are on a thicker paper and the gum is yellowish. No counterfeits are known.

Printing varieties on these stamps are not as common as one would suspect when an issue was prepared without government control.

The killer device used to obliterate the stamps was made of lead and consisted of a concentric circle, the outer frame line slightly thicker than the inner line. Within this circle are the letters N. V. capitalized (abbreviations for Narodni Vybor, National Committee). The ink used was black. A rubber cancelling device, again a double circle, containing the words, "POSTA SKAUTU - PRAHA - 1918." A horizontal line was included about  $\frac{2}{3}$  down wherein was handwritten the date. Black ink was also used for this. Besides this, another rubber stamp in violet ink was employed with this legend "Dopis od skauta — prevzal: —" (translation: "Letter from Scout — received by: —"). The scout wrote in his name, the addressee signed it and returned the cover to the Scout, except in cases where the Scout employed a notebook into which the addressee signed his name. These handstamps are all in the archives of the Czechoslovak National Committee. Many of the "used" Scout stamps were cancelled to order, individually placed on pieces of paper to give them the appearance of legitimacy.

We have mentioned that the Scout postal service was re-instituted for one day more—December 21, 1918, the day of the arrival of President T. G. Masaryk. Six hundred copies of each of the Scout stamps were overprinted with a three line legend reading, "Prijezd presidenta Masaryka" (Arrival of President Masaryk) and the service performed was again for official mail between the railroad station, city hall, parliament and the Castle (Hradcany).

The cancellation used was the rubber stamp "Posta Skautu" in black, and the rubber stamp "Dopis od skautu" also in black. Thus we see that the "N. V." killer was not used on this day.

Strange as it may seem, no one knows where this overprint was prepared. That the overprinting was done by an honest man is evidenced by the fact that the issue certainly does not exceed the 600 pairs previously mentioned. The known counterfeits are very crude and do not compare correctly with the originals in either size of letter or their form.

10h Blue—brick red overprint.

20h red—black overprint.

Only specialists of Czechoslovak stamps are interested in these stamps. The chief reason lies in the fact that of the internationally known catalogs only Michel recognizes them as official stamps, whereas as Senf, Zumstein, Yvert, Gibbons and Scott ignore them entirely. Yet, these stamps as official stamps, have done more postal service than many stamps listed in these various catalogs.

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