

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

This is the month of our American Thanksgiving. We have much reason to be thankful. We are living in a country where freedom means freedom; where "liberty" is not forced upon the citizenry; where the joy of living is expressed at our tables, in our churches, in our homes and in our cars, in each of our 48 States, yet making one strong and indivisible nation. Get down on your benders and thank God for America!

Last month we told you that we have a new treasurer. May we repeat that 1948 has not long to live and unless your dues are paid by January 1, 1949, you are in arrears. You do not want the new treasurer to believe you are careless or lazy in meeting your obligations to the Society, therefore, make out that check or hurry to the Post Office and buy a Postal Note for your 1949 dues now and mail to

EDWARD J. SABOL, 350 JACKSON ST., BRISTOL, PENNA.

In the last issue we pleaded with the Chicago members to come to the philatelic exhibition of the First Czechoslovak Philatelic Club of America and lend a moral support to your editor who is to address the guests. This month we plead again, this time with our brethren and sisters of the Cleveland area where your editor shall try to give a talk on the "Posta Ceskoslovenska 1919" stamps with color slides of some very fine pieces of this issue. He promises to bring this album to show our members the stamps in paper and ink, the originals of those shown in film. He is a fairly likeable chap and will be pleased to meet the old as well as the new members. The place: Mezzanine floor of the Hollenden Hotel, Cleveland, Ohio; the day and time: November 5, 1948, 8 P.M.; occasion: meeting of the Garfield-Perry Club, where your president is chairman of the committee which caused all this.

NEW MEMBER

356J. Henry West, 78-09 135th St., Kew Gardens Hills, Queens, N. Y.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

- 47. A. I. Kessler, 527 5th Ave., New York 17, N. Y.
- 85. John L. Havers, R. D. #2, Box 431, Johnstown, Pa.
- 124. F. S. Meisel, 5 Esgrave Dr., Toronto 12, Ont., Canada
- 207. David Martin, 33 Nieto Ave., Apt. 3, Long Beach 3, Calif.

APPRECIATION

A very fine letter from member Milo Barry reached us just as this issue of the Specialist was being put to bed. We shall extract from it such information as may be of interest to many of our members and publish it in the December issue. Thank you, Mr. Barry.

CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIAL ISSUE OF "STAMPS" MAGAZINE

The October 30, 1948, issue of the very popular philatelic magazine STAMPS will again be a Czechoslovak Special and will feature articles from the pens of Wm. L. Russell, Geo. A. Blizil and F. J. Kovarik. In later issues of the Specialist we shall reprint these articles; an arrangement which will meet with the full approval of the membership. The officers of the Society take this opportunity to thank Mr. Harry L. Lindquist, publisher of "STAMPS" as well as his able staff of editors, especially Mrs. Charlotte Downs, who made this special issue possible. Our ancient Slavonic "Mnogaja Ljeta" to them.

MEETING OF THE CHICAGO GROUP

Held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Glawe, Sunday, October 10, 1948. As in the past two years it was decided to start early plans for our annual show and auction. The editor disclosed the reason for his enthusiasm for these auctions; while he realizes it means much hard work for himself and especially for the few members of the Chicago group who always pitch in and slave for its success, he explained the effort may be worth while. He plans eventually to publish a handbook on the stamps of Czechoslovakia. Before going through with any plan, he is conducting a poll among his friends and this now extends to all the members of our Society; this is to decide on the type of handbook to be published. Shall it be a thorough job like the Hirsch-Franek opus or shall it be along the type started in last month's issue of the Specialist, in the form of a check-list? No haste is contemplated; all material will be published first in the Specialist, before it finds its way into any book form. All collector and dealer members are asked to check on information presented, so that the finished work will be as perfect as possible. Shall it be presented as a bound volume or published serially in loose-leaf form with additions as new stamps come out? Your ideas are welcome.

But to return to the meeting. As far as the show is concerned it was decided that collectors who are advanced in their field do not show their stamps in a competitive class; most collectors hesitate to show their collections because some luckier fellow who started collecting sooner or has the do-re-mi, just drowns them out of the picture. They were reminded that often, especially in large cities, one may see one set of frames in every show of the year or years and this "set" collects all the "firsts" everywhere. Such a collector unconsciously invites dislike and does more harm to the hobby than good.

As this auction is for the benefit of every member whether he resides in Chicago, Praha or Timbuctoo, every member is asked to send his duplicate material as a donation for the benefit of the Society's printing fund, to the auction chairman as soon as possible; we plan to be satisfied with the widow's mite; if enough material is donated and the bidders bid high enough, it is possible to create a fund which will eventually enable the publication of such a work at a cost which will not be prohibitive to the collector who must be satisfied with tripe, lungs and udders in lieu of T bone steaks.

Another special issue of STAMPS is contemplated in the spring in connection with this show and auction. Those of you who have ever ridden Pegasus or drank celestial nectar on Olympus Heights, are requested to send your contributions to the editor early. It is necessary that this writing game continues, how else can the uninitiated learn the pleasures of stamp collecting? Without your words of wisdom they may revert to the pictures we used to get with Hassan, Sweet Caporals (of happy memory) and other cheesy cigarettes, sticky candy, gum, etc.

This auction is to take place either in March or April, the STAMPS Special Czechoslovak Issue is planned about that time. The following committees have been selected: Arrangement: Roman Reinowski; publicity and exhibition: Frank J. Kovarik; auction: William Glawe, 9640 So. Seeley Ave., Chicago 43, Ill. (start swamping him with donation items now!); general chairman: George Kobyłka, c/o Ace Co., 3250 W. 25th St., Chicago 23, Ill. (If you plan on exhibiting, and we sincerely invite all out of Chicago members to show their treasures, let Kobyłka know what group of Czecho material you intend to display, how many and what size pages.)

Remember, you are not doing this for the committee, you are doing it for yourself. Don't pass the buck! don't say "let George do it." If every member of the Society does his bit our treasury will not be burdened with a measly 400 dollars, but will enable the treasury to purchase for YOU and your SPECIALIST the best kind of cuts. Thank you.

STAMP NEWS FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA

It has been announced in Praha, August 4, 1948, that on December 31, 1948, all stamps, except the portrait series, will be demonetized. This includes the following:

Moscow Issue	6 values	Moyses	2 values
London Issue	16 "	Oct. Revolution	2 "
Two Year Plan	2 "	Sokol Slet I	3 "
St. Albert	3 "	Sokol Slet II	4 "
Lidice	3 "	Charles Univ.	4 "
Youth Festival	2 "	End of Serfdom	1 "
Masaryk	2 "	Kromeriz	2 "

The summer series of Sokol Slet post cards was suddenly removed from sale. The winter issue continues on sale at all post offices. Reason: J'e nest cepas.

The following quantities of stamps which have been sold out at the Philatelic Agency in Praha disclose these figures:

J. Slady-Kozine, 2.40 K	3,900,000 pieces
" 4 K	2,950,000 "
Student Congress	3,500,000 sets
St. George	2,250,000 "
" Sheet	639,000 pieces
Havlicek	3,000,000 "
Brno Exhibition Sheet	700,000 "
Return of Slovaks	800,000 "



Only 100 collectors of Czechoslovakia can have this item in their collection as that is the known number.

I have ONE mint copy of the color error of Scott B135 BROWN instead of blue. (Stach #239A). The first check for \$200.00 takes it.

Your want list for Czechoslovakia is solicited.

Prompt service and a large stock should take care of your needs in regular issues, tete beche, varieties, proofs and errors.

B. J. MILLER

Member CPSNA

264 E. 180th St.

New York 57, N. Y.



CHECK LIST OF THE ISSUES OF THE SECOND REPUBLIC

(Editor's note: Although at this writing the October issue of the Specialist has been placed in the mails only one week ago today, several letters of appreciation have been received. This idea has been your editor's dream for many years; member Kral of Cicero suggested it (not knowing we had been planning something of this sort) and we are happy that our modest efforts are being appreciated. But even this idea, we confess, is not original. We saw a catalog of "King George VI Issues," (publisher forgotten, sorry!) and this gave us the thought which, at long last, is finding itself in print.)

World Student Congress Issue



24

Issued in commemoration of the World Student Congress, November 17, 1945. The stamps, according to the American system of cataloging, are of the semi-postal variety, as they were sold with a surcharge for charity. The design is the work of Prof. J. Sejпка, while the engraving was entrusted to J. Goldschmied. Printed from steel engraved plates on the Stickney Rotary press from two plates, one consisting of 100 subjects, the other of 50 subjects. Line perforated 12½; white, unwatermarked paper.

CHECK LIST

Our no.	Scott no.	Druřila no.	Value	Type	Color
69	B154	429	1.50+1.50K	24	carmine rose
70	B155	430	2.50+2.50K	24	blue

Quantity issued: 3,500,000 sets. Demonetized: December 31, 1948.

Jan Sladky-Kozina Issue



25

In memory of the 250th anniversary of the hanging of Jan Sladky-Kozina, a peasant who dared the overlords in favor of the serfs and whose story has been so dramatically put into a novel by Alois Jirasek in his book "Dogheads," two stamps have been issued with Hosek's monument to Kozina as a central motif. The design was prepared by Prof. J. Sejпка and the engraving is the work of J. Goldschmied. Printed in large format size with 12 unprinted coupons variously placed in a sheet consisting of 100 subjects. Rotary Press printing on white unwatermarked paper and line perforated 12½.

71	305	431	2.40K	25	rose carmine a with coupon
72	306	432	4. K	25	blue a with coupon

(Editor's note: For description of positions of the blank coupons see the Czechoslovak Specialist of March, 1946, incorrectly entitled "The Kosice Issue.")

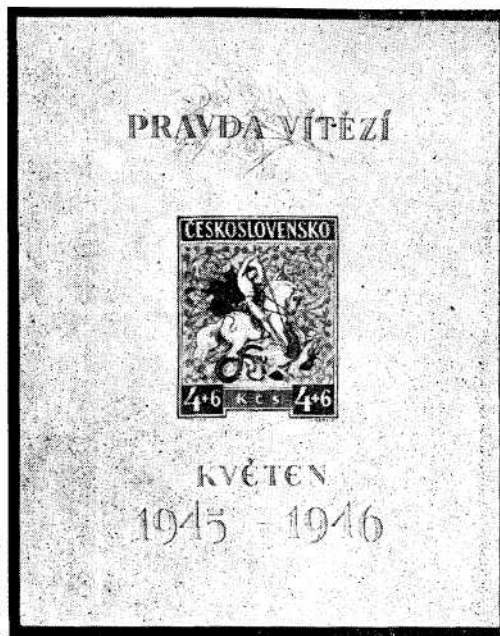
St. George Issue

(also known as the MAY ISSUE or LIBERATION ANNIVERSARY Issue)



26

27



In commemoration of the first anniversary of the May Revolution, semi-postal stamps, consisting of two values issued in sheet form and one in a miniature sheet consisting of only one subject, were issued May 10, 1946. The design and the engraving is the work of Jindra (Hank) Schmidt, from an old design by J. Manes. The sheet stamps were printed in the large format; this sheet consists of 100 subjects and 12 coupons. The coupons (also designed and engraved by the author of the stamps) consist of a linden branch motif with the Czech motto (reportedly Masaryk's) "Pravda Vitezi" (Truth Prevails) and "KVĚTEN—1945-1946" (May 1945-1946).

The sheet (miniature) was a reproduction of the 4.-6.K stamp and measures 70x91mm. and like the sheet stamps, produced by the Czech Graphic Union of Praha (Unie). This sheet was produced from steel engraved flat bed plates, with the motto "Pravda Vitezi" above the stamp and "Kveten 1945-1946" below it. The sheet was gummed but imperforate.

73	B156	433	2.40+2.60K	26	carmine rose
					a. with coupon
74	B157	434	4.+6.K	26	blue
					a. with coupon
75	B158	435	4.+6.K	27	blue

(To be continued)

CONGRATS TO OUR INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY

We should have been preparing copy for the printer of this issue of the Specialist, but we couldn't resist the temptation of visiting the stamp exhibition of the Hawthorne Stamp Club. There our very good friend, August (Gus) J Hrivnak, exhibited his truly beautiful collection of Czechoslovak Revolutionary issues of 1918. Of all the material Gus has shown, not one appears in a Scott catalog! The judges knew stamps; read Gus' honest description and historical evaluation of these labels and gave Gus the Grand Award. Again, congratulations, Gus.

**SIX HUNDRED YEARS of THE CHARLES UNIVERSITY
of Prague**

by **George A. Blizil**

Reprinted from Linn's Weekly Stamp News with permission

During the four days from April 6th to 10th of 1948, Czechoslovakia celebrated the 600 years of existence of its first university founded in Prague, the old capital of the Kingdom of Bohemia, and now the capital of the Czechoslovak Republic. It was founded on April 7th, 1348, by Charles IV, then King of Bohemia, and bears the title of Charles University to this day.

To commemorate this celebration the Czech government issued a set of four stamps, all designed in 14th century type of art. The first of the two different designs is a portrait of the founder, Charles IV; while the second shows St. Wenceslas and Charles IV (taken from the stone plaque or shield placed over the grand window). A commemorative postmark was also employed in Prague on the first day.

Charles IV was King of Bohemia and also Holy Roman Emperor. The coupling of these two high offices, though the Roman Empire was considered the greater of the two, in no way interfered with the independence and sovereignty of the ruler of Bohemia. The founding of the university occurred through his power as Czech King, being created as an ornament of enlightenment for the benefit of the nation. This is further stressed in the Papal Bull of Clement IV, dated January 26th, 1337, for Charles first sought permission to found the university from the Papacy. This is also proved in Charles' founding charter, known as "the Golden Bull," of April 7th 1348.

The new university, the first in Central Europe north of the Alps, had the advantage that it could lean on the old church school of humanities connected with the Cathedral of St. Vitus at Hradcany Castle. This school was changed and enlarged, being patterned after the two older universities of Paris and Bologna. Like all universities of the middle ages, the general course of study was open to all. Not only could native folk study and teach there, but foreigners from all parts of Europe came to learn the recognized sciences and receive the usual recognized degrees also. The university took its place with other great universities of the time, having its rights confirmed by the Roman Emperor and the Pope and enjoying all distinctions, liberties and privileges, which were rightfully theirs.

The founding of the new institution created much interest in all the Czech Provinces and also in surrounding countries. Not only Czech scholars were called to teach, but foreign scholars came and constantly increased in numbers, attracted by favorable conditions in Prague and the royal court. A contemporary chronicle tells of how in a few years higher education spread, advising that "Prague has now become the city of learning. Students are now enrolled from England, France, Lombardy, Hungary and Poland, among which are sons of the gentry and nobility and prelates of churches from all parts of the world."

From the beginning the professors and students were organized into four different "nations." Besides the Czech and Slovak "nationality group," there were



Charles IV



St. Wenceslas and Charles IV

also "nations of the Bavarians, Saxons and Poles. These were at first friendly organizations of compatriots who looked after and cared for the interests of their members. Gradually the "nations" insisted on greater individual rights. Soon there were clashes and the most powerful and influential of the foreigners were the Germans.

The Germans really controlled the university "nations" of the Poles, Bavarians and the Saxons, and tried to enforce their rights against the Czechs. Then new arguments between the Czechs and Germans sprang up. These differences hinged around administration and philosophic and theological policies. During these conflicts many foreign teachers and students left Prague as new universities were created in neighboring lands, though this in no way reconciled the differences between the Czechs and Germans. The Czechs tried to solve the problems in the spirit of evangelical Christianity, introduced and sponsored by Master Jan Hus, then Master of Liberal Arts and Bachelor of Theology.

The Germans resisted the reforms of Jan Hus, which were centered around the teachings of the great English reformer, John Wycliffe. The Germans also opposed the politics of King Vaclav IV, son of Charles IV. In 1409 Jan Hus and Vaclav IV intervened with the promulgation of Kutna Hora, which decree stated that the Germans were in Bohemia only as guests and did not have the right to occupy administrative offices and rule over the university, and that the three German "nations" together would have one vote in the university's administrations. The Germans, highly indignant at the turn of events, refused to talk compromise, left Prague, and founded a university of their own in Leipzig.

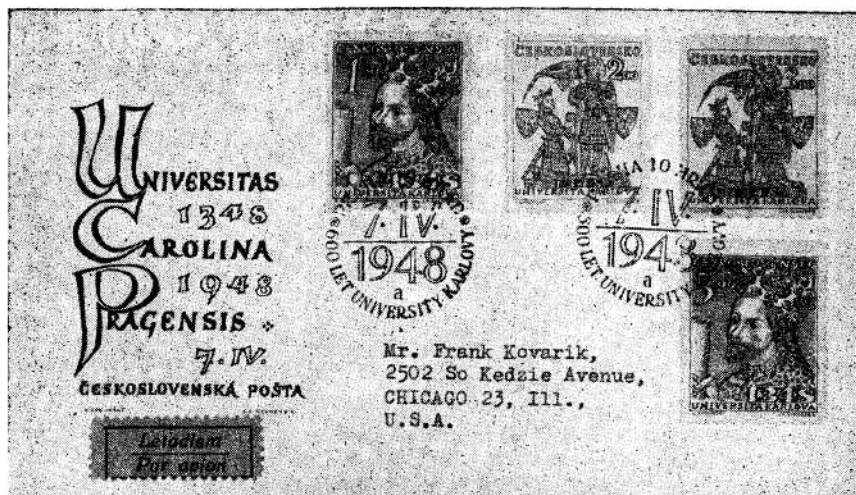
During the dispute, the Czech nation as a whole stood behind the teachings of Jan Hus. Hus' spirit was supreme and the honor and love felt for him by the Czech nation was really exceptional. Jan Hus is shown on the stamps of Czechoslovakia, Scott 74 and 75. He was elected Rector of the university in 1409, but his real strength and importance lay in his sermons and teachings. His faith in these beliefs was never shaken and was proved by his heroic death at Constance, where he was burned at the stake in 1415.

From 1409 to the time of Hus' death, Charles University fell entirely into the service of the Hussite movement. By doing this it lost its former universal character and had only a small number of students, and lost prestige. The Church and the Holy Roman Emperor were forced to again recognize the University on its liberal terms. Charles University had a share in the fight for recognition and Czech glory, inasmuch as they were the first nation to demand liberty of conscience and fight for it.

The Catholic Hapsburg family came to the throne of Bohemia in 1526, and attempted to bring the Czechs back into the Catholic fold. Hapsburg King Ferdinand I saw that the root of opposition was Charles University and founded the Jesuit Academy of St. Clement in Prague. The University defended itself with all means in its power so that it would not be surpassed academically. And it survived; In 1620, at the Battle of White Mountain, the Czech Estates were defeated and dissolved.

Previous to the Battle, the Czech Estates were the power of the times and supported the University. With their military defeat, Charles University lost all its privileges. Victorious Ferdinand II changed the old Czech constitution, and forced Bohemia, once a Hussite state, to become again Catholic. The German language was installed on an equal footing with the Czech language throughout the land and naturally the University was affected also. It was placed in the hands of the Jesuits and in 1654 Emperor Ferdinand II merged the two educational institutions and called it the "Charles-Ferdinand University."

The re-organized educational institution became an organ of the Hapsburg family. Latin was adopted as its official language, however, in the course of time the German language became more and more important in dealing with the administration and government bureaucracy. Everything in Central Europe became German, but "The Prague University" remained completely foreign to the German influence. In the later part of the 17th Century the school was used to educate priests, officials and teachers for the state. Use of the Czech language was forbidden.



Czechs Commemorate University's Founding

The stamps issued by Czechoslovakia to commemorate the 600th Anniversary of the Founding of Charles University at Prague are shown on the above cover received from the Philatelic Agency of the Czechoslovakia government. The set consists of four values, each of which is printed on a buff tinted paper. Two designs are used for the set, the 1.50 Kcs. in black and the 5 Kcs. in dark blue bear the portrait of Charles IV, while the 2 Kcs. in brown and the 3 Kcs. in red depicts St. Wenceslas and Charles IV taken from the stone plaque over the grand window. The simple cachet was the work of Professor Svolinsky. Attention is also called to the commemorative postmark which gives the first day date of April 7.

Emperor Joseph II, whose reforms started freedom of worship and the end of various aspects of feudalism, gave hope for a NEW Charles University. In 1848 the Czechs demanded rights of liberty and politics for the university, it being a neutral organization for generations. The Czechs had to wait 30 more years before the university in Prague could really be called their own. On February 28th, 1882, a law was passed whereby the institution was to be divided into two completely independent organizations. Both had the same name, but one was Czech and one was German. As a result the Czechs really had nothing and had to begin at the beginning.

But in spite of these difficult conditions, the Prague University became an international organization and in a few decades performed outstanding scientific work. During the revolution after the first World War, it took back its old name, the Charles' University, thus proclaiming its continuity to the world.

The recent Czechoslovak Republic gave the German portion of the school a chance to flourish, but it was always a center of anti-Czech activity working to disrupt the country. It is said that the Sudetenland Coup was engineered there. After the Nazi invasion of Czechoslovakia, the German university assisted in destroying the Charles University, which was forcibly abolished on September 17th, 1939, the day of the world renowned Student Massacre. After VE Day education was again restored by the new Czech State.

However, today the 600 year old Charles University is in the shadow of an Iron Curtain. Undoubtedly it has been enveloped into the communistic sphere. But some day it will again work for the Democratic free thinking Czech State, and serve humanitarian ideals, those ideals personified by two men: Hus and Masaryk.

MARES ISSUE

In Use with Un-Official Sanction From October 28 to November 18, 1918

by A. J. Hrivnak

The 1918-1919 Revolutionary Issues of Czecho Slovakia have interested the writer for approximately 25 years. Scotts catalogue dismisses these with a short footnote. The philatelic press in America (and for that matter in Czechoslovakia) has published very little information concerning them. This lack of published information is probably due to the fact that genuine stamps are scarce and because many counterfeits have been sold to unsuspecting collectors. The latter reasonably could be sufficient justification to give these issues more publicity to ward off the efforts of the peddlers of bogus stamps.

The Revolutionary Issues are divided into two major classes. One class consists of those stamps, practically all surcharges on Austrian stamps, fundamentally issued for use in Bohemia and Moravia. The other class consists of surcharged Hungarian stamps destined for use only in Slovakia.

The idea of surcharging existing Austrian stamps for use in the early days of the Czechoslovak Republic was originally brought into being by Mr. Vojtech Mares from whom the issue derives its name. In Czechoslovak philately this is also called the Budejovicke Issue, which is somewhat misleading to the writer since Mares resided in Hluboka n/Vltavou at the time the issue was produced. Mares had his die for the surcharging produced by Mr. Hora, an engraver residing in Ceske Budejovice. The design consists of the Czech Lion above the words Cesko Slovensky Stat. This was completed and ready for use on October 29, 1918. Quantities of existing stamps were surcharged under his direction using black as well as red ink. In all 45 varieties were surcharged. This issue, therefore, consists of 45 stamps each surcharged in Black and a like amount surcharged in Red. In addition, inverted surcharges and pairs having the surcharge tete-beche are known.

The following stamps comprise a complete set of the Mares Issue. All others are authored by counterfeiters who came on the scene shortly after the Decree to outlaw these issues was announced. All stamps are Austrian stamps that were currently in use at the time.

- (a) Regular Postage—1916-1918 Issue—Typographed—Perforated 12½. Scott Catalogue numbers 145-163 (19 stamps). Four designs A-37 to A-40 inclusive.
- (b) Postage Due—Regular Postage Issue of 1908—Typographed—Perforated 12½. Scott Catalogue numbers J-47 and 48 (2 stamps). Two designs A-22 and A-23.

The regular postage stamps had been previously surcharged by the Austrian Government with the word "PORTO" in the case of the 1 Heller value (J-47) and the word "PORTO" and value change 15 in the case of the 2 Heller value, thus increasing its value to 15 Hellers (J-48). These stamps therefore were given two surcharges.

- (c) Postage Due—1916 Issue—Typographed—Perforated 12½. Scott Catalogue numbers J-49 to 59 inclusive (11 stamps). Two designs D-4 and D-5.
- (d) Postage Due—Regular Postage Issue of 1916-18—Typographed—Perforated 12½. Scotts Catalogue numbers J-60 to 63 inclusive (4 stamps). One design A-38.

The regular postage stamps had been previously surcharged by the Austrian Government with the word "PORTO" and new values as follows:

- The 24 Heller value was changed to 10 Hellers.
- The 36 Heller value was changed to 15 Hellers.
- The 54 Heller value was changed to 20 Hellers.
- The 42 Heller value was changed to 50 Hellers.

These stamps therefore were given two surcharges.

- (e) Special Delivery Stamps—1916 Issue—Typographed—perforated 12½. Scotts Catalogue numbers E-1 and E-2 (2 stamps). One design SD-1.
- (f) Special Delivery Stamps—1917 Issue—Typographed—Perforated 12½. Scotts Catalogue numbers E-3 and 4 (2 stamps). One design SD-2.

NOTE: Scott lists these stamps as having been perforated 11½, 12½ and

compound. The stamps in the authors collection, however, are perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$ and therefore this perforation is cited. It is possible that other perforations exist.

(g) Newspaper Stamps—1916 Issue—Typographed—Imperforate. Scott Catalogue Numbers P-19 to 23 inclusive (5 stamps). One design N-9.

Mr. Mares was not mindful of the financial aspects incident to the "patriotic" nature of his undertaking. Since his die was ready just one day after the Declaration of Independence he was keenly aware of it, perhaps had planned with that in view. Yet apparently to play safe, and so as to not run afoul of the Authorities, he on October 30, 1918 advised the National Committee which was functioning in lieu of an elected Governing Body of his undertaking. The Mares issue was used on local mail, without being hampered in any way by the Postal Authorities, but on November 18, 1918, after receiving Mares' information the National Committee issued a decree outlawing as of that date the further use of any privately produced issues. While this eliminated the further use of these stamps for official (?) duty, it made those that had gone through the mails very desirable "collector items."

In justice to Mr. Mares it can be stated honestly that he did not capitalize to the fullest extent on his venture. Why he did not can only be conjectured—perhaps he did not wish to share his profits with the dealers. Because of the lack of supply, his supposedly refusing to supply his product in the amounts requested by certain dealers, caused two dealers to likewise have dies similar to the Mares design made, and by the same engraver. These two imitations are known in Czecho Slovak Philately as the Horner and Beck issues. The Horner issue, because it saw light of day originally about the eighth day of November, 1918, 10 days before the outlawing decree was issued, is recognized. The other does not share official status, although the specialists are always ready to purchase genuine Beck stamps. Both the Horner and Beck dies vary in small details and quite readily can be distinguished.

The principal identification of the Mares issue consists in the location of the middle paw of the Lion which points midway between the letter E and S in the word Cesko.

Most if not all of the above information has been obtained from the Hirsch-Franek volume "Cesko Slovenske Znamky" published in 1935 by Fr. Boroxny-Praha. Credit to that source is hereby acknowledged. Similar information has appeared in both the Cesky Filatelista and the Tribuna Filatelistu—two philatelic magazines published in Czecho Slovakia prior to the Munich appeasement era.

It has been the privilege of the writer to form a very fine friendship with Mr. Moric R. Masek, a former Mayor of Hluboka n Vltava, where Mares also resided during the period of his stamp issuing proclivity. Mares and Masek were also friends. It is from and through the efforts of Mr. Masek that the brief biographical sketch concerning Mares that follows can be written. Mr. Masek advises that a large share should be credited to a Mrs. Cimmerman—a widow still residing at Hluboka (February 1948)—whose husband was employed by Mares for a great many years, and who in addition were socially friendly so that she is in a position to speak with a degree of authority. The photograph of Mr. Mares was obtained from her.

Vojtech Mares was born in 1860 in Praha. After graduating grade schools he became a gardener's apprentice at the Catholic Seminary in Stare Dejvice near Praha. Upon completion of his apprenticeship he secured employment at one of the more famous gardens of Vienna, Austria. Subsequently, he worked as a gardener in various cities of Germany and Austria, gaining experience and a reputation along the lines of gardening with the nobility of the Hapsburgs. He returned to Bohemia in 1889 to become the Head Gardener for the Bergman family at Novy Bydzove. His wedding took place in this town during the first year of his employment.

Mr. Mares stayed with the Bergmans for 2 years, then obtained employment from Count Kinsky at Chluma n Cidlinou where he remained until his appointment in 1908 as Head Gardener by Count Schwartzenburg at his Windsorian Castle at Hluboka n Vitavou. He retained this position until his retirement in 1931 when he moved to Ceske Budejovice, where he died on November 5, 1932.

His body is buried in the cemetery at Hluboká n Vltava alongside his wife who preceded him in death by a few months.

During his lifetime Mares was very active in Philatelic Circles. Unfortunately thus far the writer has not contacted any contemporary Philatelic friend of Mares to learn something about his collecting specialties. Mr. Masek writes of an incident that took place during the early part of 1919 while he was Mayor of Hluboká n Vltavou. The Government was then gathering evidence to use in its prosecution of offenders of the Postal Laws. Mr. Masek was asked by the State Police to be present at their search of Mr. Mares' home. This was an awkward situation for Mr. Masek since he and Mares were friends. The Police search revealed a sizeable amount of stamps, all of which were untouched or not deemed pertinent to the search since they were after a "Town Cancellor" which Mares was reputed as using in the production of officially used stamps. Mr. Masek stated that if memory serves him right the cancellor contained the town name of ZDIBY. The cancellor was taken by the Police, and in the conversation that followed after the Police had gone Mares supposedly remarked, pointing to the stamps, "That they would be highly productive financially."

Mares apparently was not found guilty since he was not imprisoned. The philatelic press of Czechoslovakia commenting in later years as to why Mares was not severely punished attribute it to the division of guilt, namely that the P. O. Department was likewise to blame for accepting and rendering service to matter franked with stamps of his issue. Other comments tend to point out that his freedom cost him many times any financial gain he might have made by the venture.

T. G. MASARYK CLUB OF NEW YORK

The General Meeting of the newly formed Philatelic Unit of the Masaryk Club held its General Meeting on September 24th at the Hotel Beacon, Broadway and 75th Street which was attended by 36 collectors among them the following belonging to the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society, Mr. & Mrs. Horechny, Mr. & Mrs. Lowey, Emil Michaelson, B. J. Miller, Dr. & Mrs. Neufeld, Dr. & Mrs. Reiner-Deutsch, Joseph Stein, Mr. & Mrs. Vinson and Henry West.

The following officers (who are members of both the Masaryk Club and the CSPSNA) were elected for the season of 1948-49, Chairman—Dr. Reiner-Deutsch, Secretary—Joseph Stein, Treasurer—L. M. Horechny, Program Director—J. W. Lowey.

Meetings will be held every second Friday of each month at the Hotel Beacon. It was decided that from time to time prominent philatelic speakers be invited, alternating with Donation auctions. The first auction is slated for Friday, November 12th.

The next regular meeting will be held on Friday, October 8th at the above hotel and all members of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society who live in the metropolitan district should make it their business to attend since it can be only to their advantage.

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