

# 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.

Vol. XI

February 1949

No. 2

## EDITORIAL

One of our members in Czechoslovakia wonders if any members are really interested in the highly specialized articles we sometimes publish and he especially pointed to the "Plate Varieties on the 40h Hradcany." He suggests we conduct a poll on the "finest stamp issued in Czechoslovakia." In answer to the gentleman, we, as your editor, feel competent to state that a justifiable number of members request articles of this nature; in fact, they are asking for more such material than we can give them. As for a poll, that is very controversial. What one likes another may dislike. Too often the reason for the stamp influences our likes or dislikes of the work of art. We have tried to give our members a well balanced magazine; the many letters of praise we receive are proof of our success. We appreciate these words of praise, not only because like all humans we like it, but because in these letters are hidden clues of what our members want.

Your editor was honored at the Praha Philatelic Exhibition which commemorated the thirty years of the Czechoslovak Postage Stamp. He was awarded a silver medal for his work in popularizing the stamps of Czechoslovakia in English speaking countries. Yet, dear member, without your help this could not be done. With your dues (by the way, have you paid your 1949 dues?) you have helped build one of the finest specialist organizations in America. With your work you have made possible one of the finest publications in this country. This honor is not bestowed upon your editor but on you, who have helped so much in bringing to the fore those beautiful gems we call "stamps of Czechoslovakia."

Member David Martin, 33 Nieto Ave., Apt. 3, Long Beach 3, Calif., writes he is in the market for a German Ekstein catalog. He also writes that he has several addresses of reliable collectors in Czechoslovakia who want to exchange stamps. For further information contact Mr. Martin.

Members Stein and Barry have sent information on the types of the Kosice issue. As the material needs some polishing it may not appear in print before April. We thank these members for the interest shown and cooperation extended to the editor.

Our treasurer, Mr. Edward J. Sabol, was appointed by your president as our Society's official representative to the Philatelic Museum in Philadelphia. Soon after our Chicago show, an exhibition of the stamps of Czechoslovakia is contemplated at the Museum. Members willing to send material for this exhibition are requested to contact Mr. Sabol whose new address is: Edward J. Sabol, 237 Radcliffe St., Bristol, Pa. (You need this if you failed to pay your 1949 dues. Please do so now!)

We have heard that Mr. J. W. Lowey is again confined in a hospital. Our member number 1 has had much hard luck in the past few years and we sincerely hope that he emerges from this last trouble as he did from those of the past.

### CORRECTION AND APOLOGIES

In the December, 1948, issue of the Specialist we notified our members that on the information received from another member, we were removing Mr. Miller's ad in which he offered for sale an error, Stach's no. 239A.

We then contacted Mr. Miller, who has kindly sent us for inspection both the error and the proof, convinced us that his ad was legitimate and that the error he has for sale is the same mentioned in Czech philatelic literature. The stamp in question is perforated like the issued stamps, the gum has the monogram embossing, while the proof (in reality an essay) is as different from the stamp as day from night.

Mr. Miller realizes how anxious we are to protect our members' interests and had no objections to our mention of our doubts. But we must realize that Mr. Miller is in the stamp business to make a living and erroneous criticism may damage his reputation unless a correction such as this appears in the Specialist. We apologize to Mr. Miller if our notice hurt him in any way.

May we call attention to Mr. Miller's new ad in this issue of our publication?

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### OUR TENTH ANNIVERSARY SHOW AND AUCTION

Plans for the coming show and benefit auction are progressing nicely. It is now entirely up to the members to do their part; the Chicago group and the committees are doing their share.

If you have not yet sent your donation of material for the auction do so now. Time flies; your editor must have the auction list ready for publication on February 10th, so it could be published in the March issue of the Specialist. Out of town members are just as anxious to bid on material; by sending your contribution too late, the Chicago members gobble it up to themselves at give away prices. Mr. Wm. Glawe, 9640 S. Seeley Ave., Chicago 43, Ill., is expecting this help from you now!

The exhibition chairman, Mr. George Kobyłka, c/o Ace Co., 3250 W. 25th St., Chicago 23, Ill., is anxious to know what you intend to show and how many frames you hope to fill so he could make arrangements in building a well balanced exhibition. Contact George immediately and thus insure a fine show.

The "Czechoslovak Special Issue" of the magazine "STAMPS" will be published April 2, 1949. Unless you have something ready for publication now, you are too late for this issue. But, keep on writing, we need literary material all of the time.

Now for the general information. Our show takes place Sunday, April 3, 1949, in the Olympic Theatre Bldg., 6136 W. Cermak Rd., Cicero, Ill. The Douglas Park Elevated takes you to Lombard Station; this is immediately behind the Olympic Bldg. Go east on Cermak Rd. to the theater entrance and down one flight of stairs. The show and bourse open at 10 A.M. and continue until 8 P.M. No admission is charged; as an added attraction, coffee and doughnuts will be served to all guests, compliments of the general chairman, Mr. Roman Reinowski. The auction is scheduled for 4 P.M. and again, as in the past, Mr. Jack Domar of Polonus Philatelic Society, has promised to officiate. His incomparable humor alone makes the auction an outstanding event. Messrs. Julius Steindler, Ernest Dee Polachek and Ben Reeves promised to judge the show. Ladies and Gentlemen: Here you have it! The rest is up to you!

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### NEW MEMBERS

- 361. Earl P. L. Apfelbaum, 504 Finance Bldg., 1428 S. Penn Sq., Philadelphia 2, Pa.
- 362. Anton Dragoun, c/o Masaryk School, 5701 W. 22nd Pl., Cicero 50, Ill.

### THE PARADE OF NEW ISSUES

#### Issue of the Souvenir Issue Marking Birthday of Pres. Gottwald

To mark the birthday of the president of the Czechoslovak Republic, the Czechoslovak Postal Administration will issue a postage stamp of a 20. Kcs denomination November 23, 1948. The stamp is of large size, dark violet in color, showing the same portrait of president Gottwald as the stamps issued October 28th. The engraving is the work of Jindra Schmidt. The stamp is printed on white, unwatermarked paper from a steel engraved plate on the rotary press.



On the same day the administration of Posts will issue a special souvenir sheet with the same design in a 30. Kcs value. The stamp is in the center of the sheet, supplemented with a design of the presidential flag in its left margin and below a quotation from the president's manifesto. The sheet is printed in a carmine red color from a steel engraved plate on white unwatermarked paper. Size 66x98mm. This souvenir sheet is gummed and can be used for prepayment of postage.

#### Commemorative Souvenir Sheet for the 30th Anniversary of the Czechoslovak Postage Stamp

The design for the first issue of stamps for the Czechoslovak Republic was the work of the distinguished artist Alfons Mucha, who later designed several other issues, and represents the historic Castle Hradchany.

The typographic process employed in printing the first Hradchany stamps was not ideal for reproducing this detailed design and much of its beauty is lost in the finished stamps.

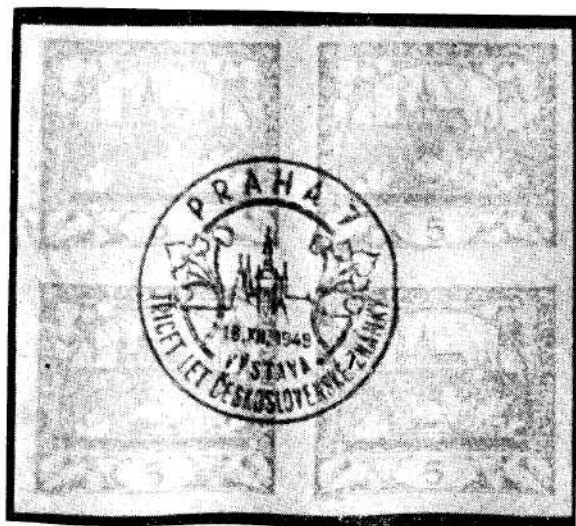
The Administration of Posts is determined to mark the 30th anniversary of the first Czechoslovak postage stamp by issuing a commemorative souvenir sheet with the motif of the first stamp now prepared by the steel engraving process.

The design of Alfons Mucha will pattern to the engraver, Jindra Schmidt. It is intended not only to remind us of the appearance of this stamp but at the same time to show the difference between the original manner of production of Czechoslovak stamps and to allow a comparison with the line engraved printing of the present technique.

The miniature sheet will appear on December 18, 1948, which is designated as the Day of the Postage Stamp. The denomination of the stamp is 10. Kcs and can be used for prepayment of postage.



Reprint of the First Czechoslovak Stamp, the 5 haleru Hradchany



Complying with the wishes of many stamp collectors the Ministry of Posts will issue a reprint of the first Czechoslovak 5h postage stamp "the Hradchany." This reprint of the stamp will help especially the young collectors to study the whole plate. The reprint of the stamp is executed from the original copper plates, in light green, on ungummed illustration paper, and will be sold only in complete sheets of 100 subjects. The price per sheet is 100. Kcs. These stamps

have no franking value. Due to the wear of the plate, only a limited quantity is possible.

#### Commemorative Postal Card with Hradchany Motif

The 30th anniversary of the first Czechoslovak postage stamp occurs on Dec. 18th, 1948, and in addition to the preceding, the Ministry of Posts will issue a commemorative postal card on December 11, 1948. On it is printed a reproduction of the Hradchany motif as designed by Mucha, in the value of 1.50 Kcs (sold for 1.60). In the left half of the address side of the card is shown the Jubilee Medal of the Federation of the Czechoslovak Philatelic societies of Praha, with the text "Thirty Years of the Czechoslovak Postage Stamp 1918-1948." The card is printed from engraving in brown on a white card paper.

#### Fifth Anniversary of Pact with USSR Commemorative Stamp



The Czechoslovak Ministry of Posts will issue on the day of the fifth anniversary of the conclusion of an alliance treaty with the USSR on December 12, 1948, a stamp in a 3. Kcs denomination, in carmine red color.

The motif and the design for this stamp has been proposed by the artist B. Nemeč. The engraving is the work of Jindra Schmidt. The design shows a Czechoslovak and a Soviet workman shaking hands as the sign of friendship and cooperation among the two nations. In the background are the flags of Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union.

The stamp is a horizontal rectangle of the large size, printed from steel engraved plates of 100 subjects on the rotary press and line perforated 12½. Due to the large size of the stamp, the first and sixteenth rows of stamps contain but one stamp, the balance of the spaces contain printed coupons. The coupon design is the work of the author of the stamp, the engraving was done by B. Roule.

The stamp is valid for postage purposes from December 12, 1948. A first day cover for this stamp is prepared by the Post Office.

#### Semi Postal Stamps "For Children 1948"

The Ministry of Posts issued on Dec. 18, 1948, three postage stamps with a surcharge in the following values and colors:

- a, 1.50 plus 1. Kcs, violet
- b, 2. plus 1. Kcs, blue
- c, 3. plus 1. Kcs, red

The surcharge is for the benefit of Slovak and Czech Child Welfare.



All three stamps were designed by prof. Karel Svoboda. They represent: a, a boy shepherd with sack over his head, a switch in his left hand and surrounded by birds and flowers; b, mother and child and c, a seated girl with babushka on her head and with birds and flowers in the background.

The engraving is the work of: a, Ladislav Jirka; b, Jan Mracek and c, J. A. Svengsbir.

The stamps are a vertical rectangle of the large format printed on white, unwatermarked paper from the rotary press. Each design contains appropriately engraved ornamental coupons (12 to each sheet). These are designed by Svoboda and engraved by (a and b) Bohdan Roule and (c) Svengsbir.

A first day cover for these stamps was designed by Svoboda and engraved by Svengsbir.

#### Program of New Issues for the Year 1949

The Ministry of Posts plans to issue the following stamps:

1. A memorial stamp to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the death of Vladimir Ilyich Lenin, January 21, 1949. (Design and engraving of both stamp and coupon is the work of Schmidt.)
2. Commemorative stamps of the first anniversary of the February happenings with the following motifs:
  - a, February 25, announcement by the president of the Ministry, K. Gottwald, of change of government
  - b, industrial production
  - c, agriculture
  - d, arts and sciences
3. Stamps glorifying mining industry, in remembrance of the 700th anniversary of Czech coal mining and the 150th anniversary of the granting of special privileges. A series of 3 stamps is to contain the original coat of arms of the guld or a showing of the primitive methods of mining as taken from a historic painting; Modern methods or a group of miners working underground.
4. Convention of Czech and Slovak youth with a design symbolizing unity.
5. Stamps to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the U. P. U.
6. Commemorative stamp in honor of the 70th birthday of J. V. Stalin.
7. Semi postal stamps "for children 1949."

Besides other commemoratives new regular stamps will be issued from time to time to replace the last issue and for this purpose portrait designs by Jan Sverma, Julius Fucik, Janko Jesensky and Vladimir Vancura will be utilized and for some values scenic motifs will be employed. Due to changes in air mail rates, new air mail stamps will be issued with scenes which will help advertise Czechoslovak spas.

A new series of postal cards will also be issued in 1949 which are designed to propagate artistic, cultural and natural beauties of the Republic.

## CHECK LIST OF THE ISSUES OF THE SECOND REPUBLIC

Continued

## World Youth Festival



40

To commemorate the World Festival of Youth then convening in Praha July 20th to August 17, 1947, the Ministry of Posts issued 2 stamps which were designed by J. Liesler and engraved by Jindra Schmidt. Printed from line engraved rotary plates on white unwatermarked paper and line perforated 12½. First day of issue July 20, 1947.

Our no.	Scott no.	Drufila no.	Value	Type	Color, etc.
96	332	456	2.20K	40	violet brown
97	333	457	4. K	40	slate

First day cover

## T. G. Masaryk Memorial Stamp



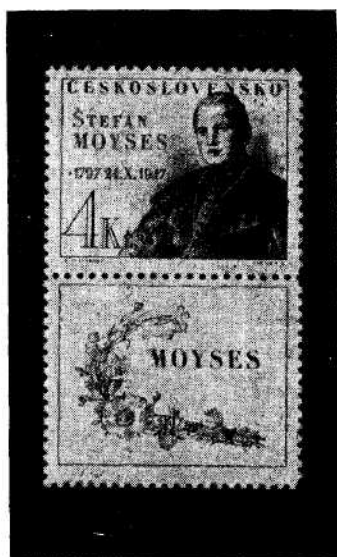
41

This issue of stamps was issued in memory of the tenth anniversary of the death of T. G. Masaryk, the Republic's first president. It was designed by prof. Karel Svolinsky and engraved by J. Schmidt. Printed from line engraved plates of the large format from the rotary press on unwatermarked paper and line perforated 12½. The coupon consisted of a design of linden and laurel branches with the text (translated) "We shall remain true." First day of issue was October 4, 1947.

98	334	458	1.20K	41	gray black on buff paper a with coupon
99	335	459	4. K	41	blue black on cream paper a with coupon

First day cover

## Moyses Issue



42

Stefan Moyses was a warrior for the rights of the Slovaks who were constantly mistreated by the Magyars. To commemorate the 100th anniversary of his birth the Ministry of Posts issued on October 19, 1947, two stamps which were designed by K. Svolinsky and engraved by J. Schmidt. Printed in the large format from line engraved rotary plates on white, unwatermarked paper and perforated  $12\frac{1}{2}$ . The coupon had a floral design and the text "Moyeses" and was engraved by Svengsbir.

100	336	460	1.20K	42	rose violet a with coupon
101	337	461	4. K	42	deep blue a with coupon

First day cover

(to be continued)

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

217. Miller Lee, Goodyear Service, 9th and Park, Canton, Ohio.  
 259. Edward J. Sabol, 237 Radcliffe St., Bristol, Pa.  
 264. Joseph A. Hudec, 173 Poplar Ave. N. W., Canton 8, Ohio.

## CORRECTION OF NAME

359. Charleen Veselka, 2129 So. Pulaski Rd., Chicago 23, Ill.

Mention this publication when answering ads. Thanks!



### THE PRAGUE TOWN HALL CLOCK

By George A. Blizil

One of the greatest marvels to come out of the Renaissance in Central Europe is the Astronomical Clock on the Town Hall in Prague.

In studying the engraving of the famed engraver Karl Seizinger on two 5 Kcs. stamps of Czechoslovakia, issued in 1928 (Scott Nos. 151 and 167), the tower clock can easily be distinguished on the lower part of the old Town Hall. Casual interest developed into a most interesting story which goes like this:

The clock was completed and put into service in 1490, two years before Columbus discovered America. It was built by Master Hanus, one of the first of our modern astronomers—a man who was trying to convince others that the earth was round, it revolved about the sun and also had the moon revolve about it. As a hobby, he constructed this clock to illustrate to the people of Prague



Full view of the astronomical clock on the Prague Town Hall.

the new astronomical phenomena. Hanus was born in the town of Hradec Králové and was a professor of mathematics at Charles University.

In the fifteenth century Prague was the capital of the Kingdom of Bohemia. The Lord Mayor of the Town gave Master Hanus permission to build this ORLOJ (Czech for Tower Clock and pronounced ORLOY. The ancient French word for tower clock is HOROLOGE). Upon completion of the orloj, King Vladislav II complimented Hanus and bestowed many honors upon him.

Within a few months news of the orloj had spread to all corners of Europe. Hanus refused countless commissions to reproduce or design new clocks in other cities.

Even today the orloj is a showpiece in Prague. Its elaborate construction has awakened the interest of all its foreign visitors.

The clock is composed of two parts, an upper figure dial and a lower lunar dial. On the figure dial are shown the movements of the earth, moon and sun. In the center the earth, the poles, parallels of latitude and meridians are marked thereon. The remaining part of the construction represents the heavenly sphere divided by three gilded circles (the Equator and the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn). Above this lies a circle marked with signs of the Zodiac, and moving around it is the sun and moon. A large rotating circle marks off the hours.

The lower portion of the orloj is the lunar dial, which is actually a calendar. It is a circular disk rotating once a year. A fixed pointer at the bottom marks the date of each day. A copy of the original disk ornamented with allegorical paintings representing the twelve months and the old arms of the Town of Prague, which was in use up to 1648, is now preserved in the Municipal Museum. Substituted in its place a careful copy was painted by a Professor Liska after an original by the famous Bohemian artist Josef Manes. In the fourth and outside row of this dial are inscribed the ancient Czech Císiojanus of twenty-four verses, two for each month. Anyone knowing the Císiojanus by heart



Arrow shows location of Orloj on Czechoslovakia No. 151.  
The clock is also shown on Scott's No. 167.

can easily count off all the dates on his fingers.

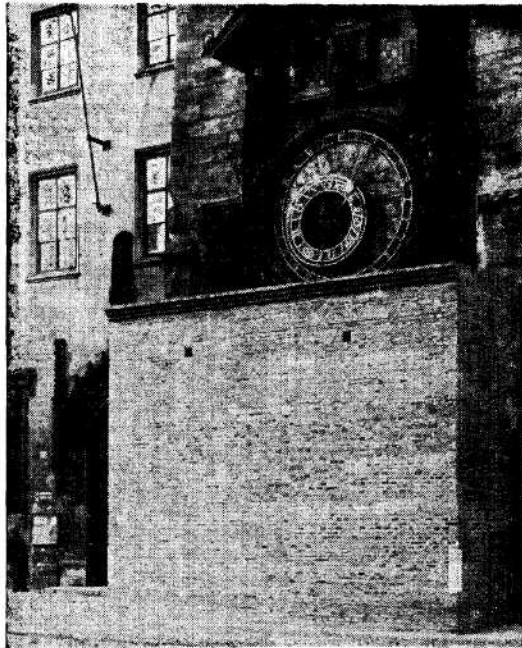
At each side of the two dials are Gothic columns with wooden figures of an Angel, a Dandy, a Miser, a Turk and a Skeleton, which move during the striking of hours. In the movements the Skeleton, representing Death Rings, turns up the hour-glass, moves its jaw and nods to his neighbor the Turk, who however shakes his head, refusing to go with Death. The statuette of the Miser moves its head and the sword in his hand, and the Dandy beside him rolls his head and looks into a mirror. The lower statuette of the Angel has a sword in her left hand and a sceptre in the right, together with a shield and the town emblems.

Above the two dials is a small chamber with two windows which open at the striking of each hour to show a procession of Christ and the Twelve Apostles. Placed in the apex of the structure is a mechanical cock which flaps his wings and crows after the striking of each hour when the sound of the large bell in the tower has subsided. The orloj is ornately trimmed with leaves, animals and garlands.

The orloj has four mechanism chambers, one each for seasons, months, days and hours. In each chamber there is an intricate system of iron wheels, gears, weights and chains.

First official mention of the orloj is found in the writings of Jan Taborsky in 1570, 80 years after the clock was installed. Taborsky's records, in Latin, are now preserved in the Prague Museum.

A very interesting history is recorded on the orloj. Shortly after completion in 1490, the King and the Mayor, together with the Town Council, feared that Master Hanus may some day change his mind and build another orloj elsewhere. A few years later Hanus was overpowered very mysteriously by three cloaked and masked strangers who blinded him with red hot fire tongs. The people of Prague were outraged over this crime and demanded that the strangers be found and apprehended. A search was made but nothing came of it. A few years



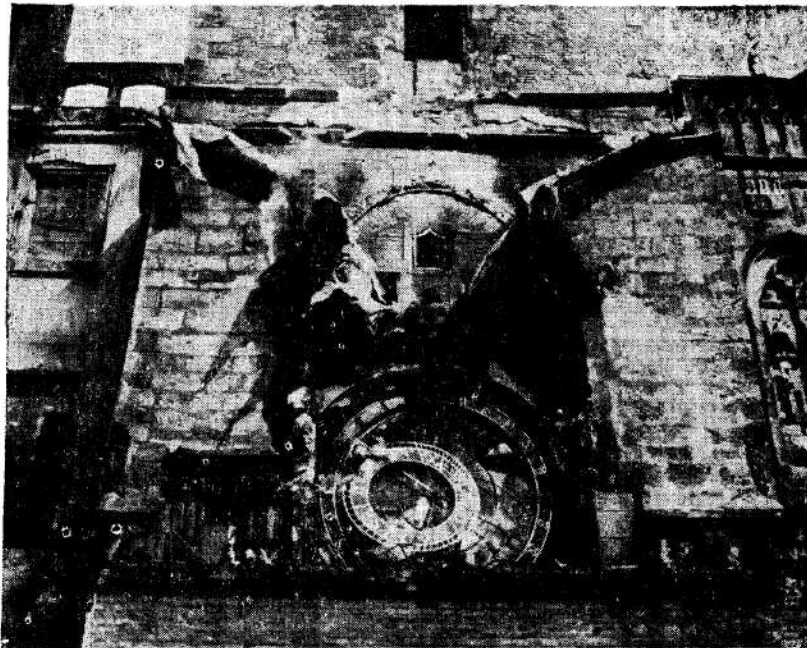
Bomb-proof and air-raid shelter constructed for clock during the World War II.

later Hanus became a broken, forgotten man. He could still hear the remark made by one of the three strangers before he fainted on the night he lost his sight. "You will never make another clock again." The Town Council ignored him but he was visited almost daily by Jacob, his favorite and faithful pupil. One day Hanus and Jacob went to the orloj and on the pretext of either adding to or repairing something, they were admitted to one of the clock's four chambers. At high noon and with the usual crowd assembled before the orloj, Hanus smashed several vital parts of the mechanism immediately after the 11th stroke on the ball. The crowd was amazed with wonderment and awaited for the sound of the twelfth hour, which never came—in fact the clock remained silent for two generations. Hanus was led to his attic room, where he died a few weeks later.

Jan Taborsky repaired the orloj in 1570 during the reign of King Ferdinand I. It was he who added twelve more marks to the hour face, indicating half hours. In his records, Taborsky gives details of the unveiling of the orloj in 1490. He elaborated on those in attendance at the ceremony. The King, public officials, university professors and hundreds of townspeople all received lessons in astronomy and witnessed great honors bestowed on the Master.

A war in Central Europe in the 18th Century brought about a shortage of scrap iron. The citizens of Prague were about to dismantle the orloj for the cause, but instead yielded to the pleas of Professor Strnad, another astronomer. About 1802 a clockmaker named Landsburger repaired the clock. Landsburger attempted to add national and religious holidays to the lower dial, but his system proved to be erratic and was removed. Another clockmaker named Holub repaired the orloj again in 1865, and it has been running ever since.

After Czechoslovakia became a "Protectorate" of Nazi Germany in 1939, it was decided to build a bombproof air-raid shelter for the orloj. The clock was operated safely behind this protection all through World War II. Then, on



The clock on Prague Town Hall after the fire of May 2nd in the May revolt of 1945. The Town Hall itself was completely destroyed.

May 2, 1945, the fleeing Nazis set fire to the Town Hall and today Prague's orloj is practically demolished.

Through the ages several legends have been handed down in connection with the tower clock. One is the story and game played by Czechoslovak children "Caught By The Skeleton." This is supposedly based on a sparrow, flying near the orloj during the striking of an hour was caught and imprisoned in the closing mouth of the wooden skeleton. The bird was held there for one full hour. At the striking of the next hour, the skeleton opened its mouth and the bird then flew swiftly away. Another popular legend establishes Master Hanus as the first successful applicator of perpetual motion. The originators of this legend forgot to discount, however, that the chambers contained weights and chains which were shifted manually once each week.

This is just one of the many stories which comes under the title—"Romance in Stamps" or "The Story Behind the Stamp."

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#### REVIEW OF CZECHOSLOVAK POST OFFICE BOOKLET

The Czechoslovak Ministry of Posts published a most concise and thorough handbook entitled "Thirty Years of the Czechoslovak Stamp." The author, Ervin Hirsch, is not unknown to philately; with Jaroslav Franek he published a monograph on the "Postage Stamps of Czechoslovakia" in 1934, which is still hailed as the best in the field. The cover of this handbook was designed by Jindra Schmidt, who has authored so many of the country's postal labels; over a background of the linden leaf watermark motif are a reproduction of Mucha's design of the Hradcany stamp and below this the 5.Kcs. 1948 Sokol Meet stamp, designed by Max Svabinsky and engraved by Jindra Schmidt. The printing of this booklet was entrusted to L. Beaufort (printery) of Praha, which establishment gave of its best into this truly remarkable work.

The author divided his work into five parts, a very successful manner in showing thirty years of an upward struggle destined to present to the world beautiful engraved miniatures representative of Czechoslovakian graphic arts. These are: Part One—First Steps (1918-1922). Part Two—Trial Era (1923-1927). Part Three—Success of a Technique (1923-1933). Part Four—Art and the Rotary Press (1934-1939). Part Five—Renewed Creativeness (1945-1948). It is not surprising that the Hitler era is completely ignored; it was not, by any means, an era of progress. A nation compelled into submission cannot express itself; a soul stifled cannot soar.

Each of the eras described above is pictured clearly by the stampic creations of its artists. While the author gives the most necessary philatelic information on the stamps described, the short history of a free Czechoslovakia is revealed in no uncertain terms. The philatelic information consists of all essential phases which a collector needs, as, reason for the issue, a description of the design, author and engraver, manner of production, date of issue, quantity issued and date of demonetization.

The booklet contains much more! It gives a short biographical sketch of every artist responsible for the stamps of the country. It presents a resume of the kind of stamps issued (to June 30, 1948)—postage, air post, semi-postal, dueses, etc., and processes employed (book-print, photogravure, engraved, rotary and flat bed, overprinted, etc.). It explains postage rates for the more common services. Last but not least, it illustrates in black and white every type of stamp issued besides twelve plates of die proofs IN COLOR which adds dignity and richness to the work.

It is unfortunate that no price is mentioned in this booklet. It is possible that this information may be given later. At present we can do no more than thank the Praha Ministry of Posts for this booklet and congratulate them on the masterly advertisement of their products. Other countries would do well to emulate this example!

—F. J. Kovarik

## SALES AND EXCHANGE DEPARTMENT

Another year has gone by for which I owe a report. During 1948 only 9 circuits were sent out, which means 3 short of our promise of one a month. The old year started with a bang then all of a sudden nobody sent in books anymore and I had to write for more. Could it be possible that nobody has any duplicates for sale? Remember, if you expect us to give good service, you all have to cooperate. Please mount your duplicates in booklets and send them in for circulation amongst our members.

During 1948 \$24.46 was turned over to the Society for commissions realized on our sales.

Something unpleasant happened too in 48, 2 circuits were lost, one in the East and one in the West. These were the first mishaps in 8 years after having sent out 92 circuits. Unfortunately, the members involved did not have them fully insured and had to dig into their own pockets to make up for the differences. We were able to reach agreements with the owners of the lost books and have reached settlements and everything is straightened out again.

Based on those incidents, I will take the opportunity, to remind everyone again, that the circuits must be FULLY INSURED AT ALL TIMES. Saving on insurance fees, may cost you many times that saving if anything goes wrong. Since Jan. 1st, 1949, the Post Office Dept. has a new scale for insurance. It is now possible to have parcels insured for \$25, \$50, 100 and \$200, while under the old scale it was either \$50 or \$200, but no matter what it is, make sure you insure the circuit for the amount given on our route sheet.

Another reminder: follow the route sheet by all means. If you have difficulties, let me know first, but do not skip anyone just because it is convenient for you. Also do not go backwards on the list, just because someone may not have crossed out his name. After all he may have had the circuit and you then send it to him the second time, as it has happened already. When you send me your report sheet, please fill in the back of that sheet too. An entry is to be made thereon to whom you have forwarded the circuit and on which date. This information is vital to me, because I have to know all the time where each circuit is. For the same reason will it be necessary, to send me a penny postcard when nothing at all has been taken out.

It has happened many times that 2, 3 or 4 in a row did not take any stamps, but did not inform me of this either. After not having had any report on a circuit for a long time, I have to start tracers, write to the one who had sent the last report, then to the next on the list and so on, this means extra postage and work for me and also extra postage and writing for the others. With the proper entry on the back of the report sheet or with a penny postcard all this could have been avoided.

To make the new year a very good one, let us have your cooperation. Send in your duplicates, make up booklets, make your proper reports and be sure to have all circuits fully insured at all times, even if it costs a dime more.

Wolfgang Fritzsche

P. O. Box #402, Geneva, N. Y.

## NEW ADVERTISING RATES

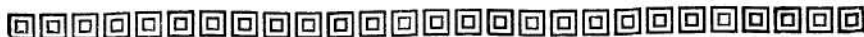
Due to the steadily increasing cost of printing and even the postage goes up! we find it necessary to increase the advertising rates. Beginning January 1, 1949, the new rates are:

	1 insertion	5 insertions	10 or more
1 page .....	5.00	4.75	4.50
½ page .....	3.50	3.35	3.15
¼ page .....	2.15	2.00	1.80
⅛ page .....	1.50	1.35	1.25
1/16 page .....	1.00	.85	.75

10% discount to members.

OFFICERS

President: Geo. A. Blizil, 2364 Queenston Rd., Cleveland Heights 18, Ohio.
National Sec.: John Velek, 2229 Kimball Ave., Chicago 47, Illinois.
International Sec.: A. J. Hrivnak, 174 Addison Rd., Riverside, Ill.
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Editor: F. J. Kovarik, 2502 So. Kedzie Ave., Chicago 23, Ill.
Librarian: Mrs. M. Glawe, 9640 S. Seeley Ave, Chicago 43, Ill.
Sales Mgr.: W. Fritzsche, Box 402, Geneva, N. Y.



POST WAR CZECHOSLOVAKIA

MINT

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