

# THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

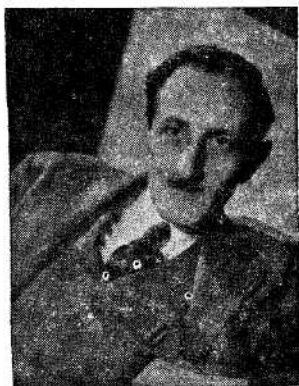
OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE  
CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

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

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No. 3



JOSEPH W. LOWEY

"You will be sorry to learn, I know, that J. W. Lowey died yesterday. I know that all of you in the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society will miss him, and I certainly will, too." These two sentences are from a letter sent us by Mrs. Downs, editor of "Stamps."

Those who knew Joe agree with Mrs. Downs. Every collector who came in contact with him, instinctively learned to like him. We have known him about a dozen years; in that time we exchanged many letters. In the early days of our friendship only matters of Czechoslovak philately or of our Society were discussed. As we learned to know one another better, our hearts opened up. We learned about one another's family affairs; religion and politics were argued in a friendly manner.

Mr. Lowey was born in Czechoslovakia, received his elementary and higher education there. During World War I he was drafted into the Austrian army; soon after the end of that war he came to this country. In New York he obtained work in a bank; studied commercial art during his spare time. Soon after he completed this course he obtained a position as commercial artist with a firm in the moving picture industry; it was at this job he earned a living for his family and at which work he persisted until his death.

Some time in 1937 he conceived the idea of a society of collectors of Czechoslovak stamps and after two years of hard work, he launched the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of North America. The first issue of the Czechoslovak Specialist was issued in May, 1933; a modest, four page publication edited by Tod Paper. In June of that year, the Society held its first convention in New York;

those were days of pride for Lowey. His hard work was beginning to bear fruit and when the first membership list was published in September, 1939, the roster contained 46 names; of these the first deceased was the Rev. V. Losa of Pittsburgh. At this convention Lowey was elected secretary; an office he filled with great skill until his health began to fail. He spent all his leisure for the benefit of the Society and for the advertising of Czechoslovak stamps. When the last convention of the Society was held in New York in May, 1947, Mr. Lowey was very ill, unable to attend any of the activities. This forced absence pained him more than the illness which was then ravaging his frail body; some of the older members who knew of the energy expended by him for the welfare of the Society, visited him at his bedside and thus gladdened the heart of this philatelic warrior.

His last illness was but the culmination of many ailments which beset him. His last few days were spent in agonizing pain; merciful death released him from this vale of tears January 18, 1949. Some of our New York members were present at the funeral ceremonies; our member Dr. Neufeld, who took care of Joe professionally almost throughout his entire illness, gave the funeral farewell on behalf of the Masaryk Club of New York and of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society.

To the bereaved widow, Heda Lowey, and the orphaned children, Eugene and Judith, the Society expresses the heartfelt sympathy of every member. Though her consort is in the cold ground, his warm spirit shall continue the good work he began more than ten years ago.

#### PHILATELIC EXHIBITION IN PRAHA

On the Occasion of the 30th Anniversary of the First Czechoslovak Stamp  
Z. Kvasnicka

As was announced in the previous issue of the Specialist, the following stamps were released in connection with the celebrations of the thirtieth anniversary of the first Czechoslovak postage stamp; 1, a commemorative souvenir sheet; 2, a reprint of the 5h Hradchany and 3, a commemorative postal card of which, the left side, contained a reproduction of the medal of the Federation of Czechoslovak Philatelic Clubs. The Federation sponsored a philatelic exhibition of Czechoslovak stamps, entires and cancellations, from collections of foremost Czech collectors. Everything was shown and everything was specialized: Posta Ceskoslovenska 1919 complete, including the 4.K and 10.K on granite paper, 20f Magyar Posta, etc. Rare printings of Hradchany, essays and proofs. Original block of 25-125h Masaryk on watermarked paper and all known essays and proofs of the 1920 Masaryks. The very scarce error 50h on 50h postage due in superb condition. Provisional cancellations of 1918-19, 1938 and 1945.

This exhibition filled two large halls; two smaller halls were filled with material which I picked out of the Post Office Museum. This consisted of original drawings for stamps by Mucha, Svabinsky and others. Complete sheets of S O overprints, Masaryks, Husbandry and Knowledge, 90h Hus priest with gutter between, etc.

This show was open for one full week and more than 5000 visitors viewed it. On this occasion the Federation presented commemorative medals to the Ministry of Posts, the Czech Graphic Union and to all the editors of philatelic magazines including the editor of the Czechoslovak Specialist, for their labor in disseminating knowledge about Czechoslovak stamps.

A second exhibition was conducted by the Ministry of Posts in their own building. They featured only the Hradchany stamps but among the exhibited rarities were such unique items as the Red Cross overprint, both values printed on a se-tenant sheet with gutter between.

This exhibition complemented the one of the Federation but because it was located too far from the center of activities, was but poorly attended. Collectors, however, visited both places and did much to make the celebrations successful.

### OUR PRAHA LETTER J. Z. M.

Beginning with this issue and every month from now on, I shall send you news from Praha and Czechoslovakia. This news will be philatelic and written by one not contaminated by politics, but one who is concerned with what the present administration is doing with our stamps.

Perhaps you know that all philatelic publications in Czechoslovakia save one have been suspended. The remaining is the property of the Federation of Czechoslovak Philatelic Clubs; its heavy treasury did not succeed in presenting a truly superior paper and its first new issue is decidedly weak.

It was expected that a philatelic publication will come from Bratislava, but, to date, nothing was done. Its catalogue, which has been advertised for more than a year, has not yet appeared. It seems that philately in Slovakia is undergoing reorganization.

I read in "Zpravodaj nasi Filatelie" that we are searching for a new way in the production of stamps. It seems to me that the Post Office Department does not want to find a way. There have been many protests especially since the issuance of the Benes Memorial stamp. This stamp exemplified the dislike shown our greatest statesman, as also it showed that not every artist is capable to present a good subject. But protests cannot move the author of this stamp who said that he "is here to lead and not be lead."

Because of this statement, let us review his past record.

His "Lidice Mother" brought a storm of dislike in its first days. Later the design's message seemed to make itself coherently expressive: "I can cry no more." A great thought, but presented a little too drastically.

The "T. G. Masaryk," a pretty stamp but a plagiarism as it was once produced as a wood-cut.

"Charles University." A new design in the portrait of Charles IV, which cannot be criticized, but the seal design cannot be classed as a work of art.

Though the "Slovak Uprising" stamps are well produced, they are mere copies of photographs.

I can say no more about the "Benes" stamp than what has been said by thousands of others, none of it flattering.

Finally we come to the stamps "For the Children 1948." Both designs of the children are lovely and emanate the spirit for which they were issued. But the design "Mother and Child," though considered by some as ultramodern and ultramoderns must not be criticized!), is certainly not artistic. While the upper portion of the stamp is dreadfully crowded, the lower is loud with emptiness.

This resume shows the author is not omniscient and is a plea for a competition for stamps. We are sure beautiful works of the graphic arts could bring more converts to Philately.

Lastly, something about the stamps issued for the thirtieth anniversary of the first Czecho stamp. The idea of reprinting the 5h Hradchany was not a happy one and collectors are very critical. The very thought of asking 100 crowns for a sheet of 100 stamps which in 1918 cost five crowns is preposterous. Not only that, in 1918 one could get five crowns worth of service from the sheet; in 1948 it is only a worthless label. Yet many modernists were found who obtained cancellations over the entire sheet.

### ACTIVE MEMBERS

Members of our Society are active on all philatelic fronts. Word from England acquaints us with the news that our member, Mr. W. G. Ludlow, is newly elected president of the Bath Philatelic Society and at a meeting of the club showed his collection of Czechoslovakia.

Another active member is Mr. David Lidman, eastern editor of the Western Stamp Collector. Dave was always a booster of our Society; in the January 25, 1949, issue of the WSC he put in a big plug for the Society's Tenth Anniversary Show and Auction in Chicago. Thank you, Dave, and keep up the good work.

### NEW ISSUES

In commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the death of V. I. Lenin, the Ministry of Posts issued on January 21, 1949, two stamps bearing Lenin's portrait, with values 1.50Kcs brown and 5.Kcs blue. The design is the work of J. Schmidt, taken from an original photograph; the engraving is also Schmidt's work. In the lower part of the stamp is the name "V. I. LENIN" and the dates "21. 1. 1924—1949." The stamps are a vertical rectangle, printed from the rotary press on white unwatermarked paper in sheets of 100 stamps and 12 ornamental coupons. Mr. Schmidt also authored and engraved these. A first day cover was prepared for this stamp and was designed and engraved by J. S. Svengsbir. The stamps will be valid for postage until December 31, 1949.

For the Ministry,  
Soukup

### TENTH ANNIVERSARY SHOW AND AUCTION

The Chicago group met February 1, in the offices of the Liberty Stamp Co., in downtown Chicago and was one of the best attended meetings thus far. Much enthusiasm was evinced for our great annual affair and the committees found no difficulty in enlisting help to make this affair an outstanding success.

Tentatively the following members will exhibit: Weiner, photographs of stamps and the stamps; Hrivnak, Slovakia; Waldman, tete-beche, mint, used and on cover; Waldman, airmails, complete; Velek, first issues; Kovarik, 1945 issues; Jiraneck, Kobyłka, Blizil, Glueck and others, not yet announced what they'll show.

Up to the present writing the following have donated material for the auction: Zaludek, Velek, Reinowski, Blizil, Kovarik, Pearce, Novy, Polachek, Waldman, Glawe, Weiner, Skopecek, Greenawalt.

Do not forget. It is not yet too late to notify the committee what you intend to show; it is not yet too late to send in something for the auction, even if it will not be published in the Specialist. Within this issue you'll find the auction catalogue; if you have nothing to give, bid generously and thus help make this show and auction outstanding in the annals of the Society.

For further information concerning the show, please read what was printed on page 14, February, 1949 issue of the Specialist. Space is too valuable to repeat it all.

Before we close remember! Every cent the Society collects goes into the Specialist, our Society has no salary-drawing officers. When enough money is on hand, the Society intends to publish a handbook on the stamps of Czechoslovakia, 1945 to date. If this handbook meets with success, it is planned to publish handbooks of the stamps of the 1918-1939 era, Bohemia and Moravia, Slovakia, etc. Do your part.

### BILLIG'S HANDBOOKS

We have had several occasions to review Billig's Handbooks, especially those which contained material about Czechoslovak stamps. We have just received Vol. 8 of these handbooks, which contains "United States County and Postmaster Postmarks" by H. K. Thompson, M.D. In our estimation, this is the most complete check list in this type of material ever assembled. It is very well illustrated throughout and is a must in the library of every postal markings' collector and every collector of serious philatelic literature. In the foreword, Dr. Thompson tells that the book is the result of many years study on his part and the cooperation of some 30 other collectors. Because of the wealth of material contained in this volume, it is a valuable reference book and the price, \$3.50, is very low, indeed. You may have this volume direct from the publisher, Mr. Fritz Billig, 168-39 Highland Ave., Jamaica 3, N. Y.

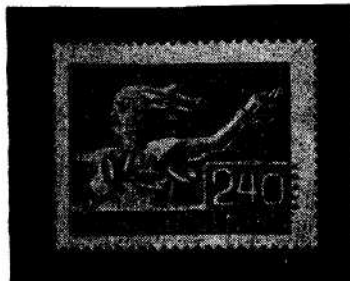
### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

272. W. R. Zelenka, 12813 Crenell Ave., Cleveland 5, Ohio

## CHECK LIST OF THE ISSUES OF THE SECOND REPUBLIC

Continued

## October Revolution Issue



43

In commemoration of the thirtieth anniversary of the October Revolution in the U. S. S. R., the Czechoslovak Ministry of Posts issued two stamps on October 26, 1947. They were designed by Jaroslav Benda, professor in the School of Arts and Industry in Praha. They were printed by the photogravure process in the "Pravda" printery in Bratislava, on white, unwatermarked paper in sheets of 100 subjects and perforated comb 14.

Our no.	Scott no.	Drufila no.	Value	Type	Color, etc.
102	338	462	2.40K	43	red
103	339	463	4. K	43	blue

First day cover

## Benes 1948 Regular Issue



44

Three stamps bearing the portrait of Dr. Eduard Benes, prepared from a photograph by Prof. Ehm by the artist K. Svolinsky, were issued February 15, 1949. They were to replace the then current regular issue with the portraits of Masaryk, Stefanik and Benes, but the change of government which occurred a few days after these three stamps appeared, made it a short issue. They were printed by the photogravure process from 100 subject plates on white, unwatermarked paper and comb perforated 14. The 1.50Kcs value was printed in the "Unie" in Praha; the 2. and 5.Kcs values were printed in "Pravda" in Bratislava.

104	340	464	1.50K	44	brown
105	341	465	2. K	44	red violet
106	342	466	5. K	44	blue

## NEW MEMBERS

- 363. Robert Stover, 814 Hampden Blvd., Reading, Pa.
- 364. Frank Kostell, 9906 McCracken Blvd., Garfield Heights, Ohio.
- 365. Thomas Waldmann, 2747 Western Ave., Park Forest, Chicago Hts., Ill.

### THE LEGIONNAIRE ISSUE OF 1919

by F. J. Kovarik

(Reprinted from "Stamps" Magazine)

Soon after the end of World War I, when the new Republic of Czechoslovakia was entering the philatelic field as a stamp issuing government, the postal authorities invited the artists of the country to participate in a contest of stamp designs to commemorate the first anniversary of the Republic. Only three artists took part in this contest: Messrs. Benda, Brunner, and Obrovsky. The committee chose Prof. V. H. Brunner's design as the best in the lot; second choice was the design of Prof. Jaroslav Benda; and the third went to Prof. Jakub Obrovsky.

Curiously enough neither the first nor second prize winners was used for this issue. The design of Obrovsky, which won third award, was used for three values. The design of the other three values, also by Obrovsky, had not been recognized by the committee as possessing any special artistic value. The first choice, in a modified form, later became a part of the second definitive (allegory) issue, and is known as the "Liberated Republic" design. The second choice, which represents a legionnaire in a burst of shrapnel, was found unsuitable for a stamp design. The third choice, "Mother Republic holding child of fallen legionnaire," is very appropriate and pleasing. The other design by Obrovsky which was utilized for this issue represents "the Czech Lion breaking the chains of bondage."

The values used for this issue were: 15h green, 25h brown, and 50h blue, of the "lion" type; and 75h gray, 100h red brown, and 120h violet of the "mother" type. Five million stamps of each value were printed, and consequently many shades exist on all values, but especially on the 15h, 25h and 100h.

The stamps were officially placed on sale October 27, 1919, and had validity for inland mails only to November 3, 1919. This meant they had a franking



The upper left design of this block of four won second award, but was never used as a stamp design.



The two designs used for this issue. The "lion" type, which received no award, and the "mother" type, which was third on the list.

value lasting only eight days. After demonetization they could not be returned to the Post Office for exchange. All the remainders, estimated at three and one-half million sets, were turned over to the "Committee for the Legionnaire Help Fund," which committee was selling them to collectors for many years.

The stamps were printed in the Czech Graphic Union in Praha. The lion type was printed from zinc plates by the letter-press process, and the mother type was printed from steel-engraved plates by the photogravure process. Each value was printed in sheets of 100 subjects arranged ten by ten.

Plate numbers were placed under the ninety-first stamp of the 75h and 100h values and under the one hundredth stamp of the 120h value. Plates 1, 2, 3 and 4 were used for the 75h; Plates 5 and 6 for the 100h; and Plates 7 and 8 for the 120h.



The circle cancellation used on a philatelic cover.

(Photos by Karen Lund)

Plates for the 15h and 50h were not marked by a number, but by symbol: the control number of the 15h first plate is marked: 3. - -, with break in dash in middle; in the second plate the break in the dash occurs farther to the right: 3 — -. On the 50h we find three plates were used: one plate has no distinguishing mark; in the second plate the control number under the ninety-first stamp has a shorter dash ( $2\frac{1}{4}$  mm instead of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  mm. as on first plate); in the third plate we find two symbols: under the ninety-eighth stamp the dash has one break and under the one hundredth stamp two breaks. No plate markings were found on the 25h value.

While the paper was usually white, tinted paper is also known. In the lower values, pinkish to rose violet; and on the 120h, it is yellow. No thick paper is known, but very thin paper has been shown on the 15h and 50h values. The gum was of very good quality, thinly but evenly applied.

The perforations are a real headache, and many variations may yet be found. The Hirsch-Franek Handbook on the stamps of Czechoslovakia lists the following:

## Line perf:

$11\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$ , 15, 25, 50h	
$13\frac{3}{4} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ , 75, 100, 120h	
$11\frac{1}{2} \times 10\frac{1}{2}$ , 15, 25, 50h	scarce
$10\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ , 75, 100, 120h	scarce
$10\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$ , 15, 25, 50h	scarce
$13\frac{3}{4} \times 10\frac{1}{2}$ , 100, 120h	

## Comb perf:

$13\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$ , 15, 25, 50h
$13\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ , 75, 100, 120h



The linden leaf cancellation used on a block of four.



the following perfs are very scarce:

- 10½, 15, 25, 50, 75h
- 11½, 15, 25h
- 13¾, 120h

Perforation varieties (double perfs, omitted perfs, etc.) are not very common, and when found, can be classified as material illegitimately smuggled out of the printery.

Due to the large quantities of these stamps on the market, their monetary value today is no higher than it was the day they were issued, except for the imperforate stamps and the above mentioned perforation varieties. Needless to say, these stamps have not been counterfeited. Really postally used copies of this issue are extremely scarce, but purchasers should buy these on original cover only.

For the benefit of the "Fund Committee," commemorative cancellations were applied (at 10h each) to blocks of four or to stamps on cover (or piece), as is the custom in Europe. Some of these cancellations were counterfeited; but here the counterfeiter was stung because the dies used for cancelling were in the hands of the Fund Committee, and the committee applied these at same price as when originally issued. Two major types of cancelling die were used: a linden leaf and a circle design. Ink used for these commemorative cancellations was green, blue, or red.

Color trials, proofs and printers' waste are many and varied, and afford much fun to one who wants to collect something out of the ordinary.



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- on Gimbel pages, 15 countries with 33 stamps and 3 miniature sheets
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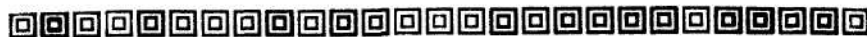
All the above mentioned pages fit any 3 ring binder.

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## AUCTION — APRIL 3, 1949

Lot No.	Cat. No.	Cat. Value
1	4 Blk of 9, pair, strip of 3, strip of 4 .....	\$ .54+
2	202-205 of favor sheet with gold canc. ....	.45+
3	82, 83, 84 and 87 on cover tete-beche gutter pairs .....	49.00+
4	B137-139 Olympic Congress 1925 on cover with official canc. 20.00+	
5	100 Bohemia Moravia .....	Estimate 1.00
6	199 (7 copies) First Day Music Sheet cancellation ..	Estimate 1.50+
7	29 different mint Bohemia-Moravia .....	4.61
8	100 Bohemia-Moravia .....	Estimate 1.00
9	C21 Blk 4 and Chlumec Nitra Za Novu'dedinu Blk of 4 .....	1-90
10	EX 1, 2 & 3 pairs mint .....	.70
11	Hurban, Stur and Hudza with coupons .....	Estimate .35+
12	B5-B8 Coupon blocks .....	.60+
13	100 Bohemia-Moravia .....	Estimate 1.00
14	62-64 Slovakia .....	5.35
15	62-83 Mint and used singles .....	3.60
16	14th Sokol Congress Corner blocks with coupons .....	.90+
17	322-324 Reconstruction set corner blocks with coupons .....	.63+
18	11th Sokol Congress corner blocks with coupons .....	.90+
19	10th Anniversary Masaryk death corner blocks with coupon ..	.63+
20	J58-J69 mint singles .....	4.16
21	243 with coupon & 246-248 with coupons .....	.55+
22	241 & 242 corner blocks with coupon .....	.90+
23	B152 Mint .....	1.50
24	B153 Mint .....	1.50
25	100 Bohemia-Moravia .....	Estimate 1.00
26	B7 (12), B8 (4), B14 (2) all mint .....	.68
27	100 Bohemia-Moravia .....	Estimate 1.00
28	1946 & 1948 New Zealand Health Sets on cover .....	.30+
29	C7 on card .....	1.00+
30	2 covers with commemorative cancellations .....	.30+
31	2 covers (#234 on Masaryk Mourning card and #31 on another) ..	.20+
32	11th Sokol Congress and University Set on covers complete ....	.37+
33	Bohemia-Moravia 56-59, 54-55 with coup's and Ex 1 & 2 prs mint	.80+
34	16 Post Cards (Benes 1K.50 Brown) .....	???
35	9 Post Cards (Benes 3Kcs Red) .....	???
36	16 Post Cards (Benes 1K.20 Brown Profile) .....	???
37	B128 Blk of 4 (color Trial) .....	???
38	8 mint pair .....	.30
39	Czech Specialist 1943-1945 .....	???
40	3 p.s. printers waste .....	???
41	Czech Specialist 1946 .....	???
42	Czech Specialist 1947 .....	???
43	B30 mint (overprint on both sides) and #71 with semi-postal surcharge type (a) of 1920 as on B130-B132 .....	???
44	3 covers (tied to these are #164, #50, #43 and #45- .....	.20+
45	3 covers (tied to these are #63, 196 and 318) .....	.55+
46	3 covers (tied to these Trinidad, Australia and Union of South Africa stamps) .....	.35+
47	#12 and 15-18 Austria Offices in Crete .....	1.65
48	11 Austria Offices in Turkey .....	.81
49	J9 Austria Offices in Turkey .....	1.50
50	100 Anniversary Kromeriz cover and card .....	Estimate .50
51	100 ANNIVERSARY Kromeriz Favor Folder .....	Estimate .75
52	4 Bratislava Sheets .....	1.00
53	#1 Slovakia mint block 6 .....	1.50
54	4 Bratislava Sheets .....	1.00
55	#1 Slovakia mint blk 6 .....	1.50
56	4 Bratislava Sheets .....	1.00
57	#1 Slovakia mint blk 6 .....	1.50

58	2 Bratislava Sheets .....	.50
59	#1 Slovakia mint blk of 6 .....	1.50
60	B140-143 mint .....	25.00
61	C19 & 22 on cover 1st flight Praha-Bombay .....	???
62	236-238 on cover commem. canc. ....	.81+
63	P26 mint and used sheets .....	1.40
64	M152 Mint—no gum .....	1.50
65	36 & 63 used; 243-247 & 235 used with coupons .....	.69+
66	250 mint gutter pair and P9, 10 and 11 mint singles .....	.85
67	18 values Eastern Silesia mint singles .....	9.88
68	142-151 used—1st day cancellation .....	2.59
69	Bohemia-Moravia B9-12 mint blocks .....	\$ .80
70	322-324 mint singles & 323 coupon & 232 with coupon .....	.34+
71	93-94 mint .....	5.50
72	311-314 mint singles .....	2.10
73	C26 mint single .....	1.00
74	77-72 mint .....	.85
75	92 mint Type 1 comb perf .....	1.00
76	Bohemia-Moravia B13-14 mint blocks .....	.32
77	224, 228, 247, B144 and B151 mint .....	.75
78	B148 on favor sheet .....	.20+
79	Belgium—5 parcel post on pieces .....	.20+

## POST WAR CZECHOSLOVAKIA

### MINT

272-287	Soldiers .....	.65	334-335	Masaryk .....	.10
288-292	Patriots .....	.35		with tabs .....	.25
292A	Sheet .....	1.00	336-337	Moyses .....	.10
293-304, 325	Presidents .....	1.00		with tabs .....	.25
305-306	Kozina .....	.10	338-339	Revolution .....	.10
307-309, 311-314	Reds .....	.85	340-342	Benes .....	.15
310	Sheet .....	.30	343-345	Sokol .....	.15
315	Havlicek .....	.03		with tabs .....	.25
	with tab .....	.10	346-349	University .....	.25
316-317	Scenes .....	.20		with tab .....	.40
318-321	Benes .....	.25	350	Slav Return .....	.03
322-324	Reconstruction .....	.15	351-352	Kromeriz .....	.10
	with tab .....	.30		with tab .....	.25
326-328	Albert .....	.20	353-356	Sokol .....	.15
	with tabs .....	.40		with tab .....	.30
329-331	Lidice .....	.12	357-359	Hurban, etc. ....	.15
	with tabs .....	.25		with tab .....	.30
332-333	Youth .....	.10		Benes mourning ..	.10

Your want list for CSR from No. 1 to date solicited. Complete stock, including Bohemia and Moravia and Slovakia.

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