

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

April 1949

No. 4

EDITORIAL

With April, the philatelic season rapidly approaches its end. A Society like ours has a really quiescent summer time, when the editor takes his vacation and the publication fails to appear. Last year we thought it necessary to issue eleven numbers of the Specialist; this year we may increase the size of some issues, but we plan to limit ourselves to ten issues. This gives your editor an additional month of planning the future issues. He may thus be spared the chagrin which was his when the September issue was to make its appearance. We have received notice from New York that a special philatelic gathering of the Masaryk Club and the New York group of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of No. America, was scheduled for Friday March 4, to commemorate Jos. W. Lowey, founder of both organizations. The best monument to Lowey, in the opinion of the editor, is to name his widow, Mrs. Heda Lowey, honorary life member of both groups. In this way his name will always be before us and we'll not forget. (Latest news on this comes from Mr. L. M. Horechny: the New York chapter decided to award an annual "J. W. Lowey Plaque" for the finest Czech showing at our annual exhibitions.) It has been decided that the Chicago group meet every first Tuesday evening in the offices of the Liberty Stamp Co., 147 W. Jackson Blvd. Members of the Society are always welcome and Chicago-land members are urged to attend. You cannot but benefit from contacts thus made. We hear that our Circuit Manager, Wolfgang Fritzsche, will be guest speaker at the Garfield-Perry Club in Cleveland, where he will show his fine collection of Zeppelin covers. His talk will be accompanied by colored slides. We hear that former Member Kulisek of New York died and the reason he dropped out of the Society was his illness. Our Society should give cases of this sort a "deferred payment membership" until such time as their financial condition warrants their resumption of active membership.

OUR PRAHA LETTER

J. Z. M.

Three new postage stamps were issued February 25. Of these, the present 8. Kcs portraying Gottwald, is identical with the previous 8. Kcs value except for a change of color; reddish brown instead of red. (Editor's note: Mr. Kobylka submitted two blocks of this for inspection; they were two distinct shades of claret.) The 10. Kcs value, representing the portrait of Gottwald as taken from the 30. Kcs sheet, has the legend "Unor, 1948" (February, 1948) added in the lower left corner of the stamp. The coupon has this arrangement: 1st line: 1948; 2nd line: unor; 3rd line: 1949. (This makes the stamp a commemorative in the opinion of the editor.) A third value, 3. Kcs, actually commemorating the February events of last year, represents Clement Gottwald addressing a

gathering in the Old Town Square.



The first two values are printed from rotary press, line engraved plates at the Unie; the latter by photogravure process and produced in Bratislava's Pravda.

The following new values are scheduled to appear in March: 50h, Hviezdoslav; 80h, Vancura; 1. Kcs, Sverma; 2. Kcs, Fucik; 4. Kcs, Wolker; 8. Kcs, Jirasek. The most urgent need is for the 2. and 8. Kcs values; the old ones are sold out at the post offices.

The proposed stamp for the Youth will not materialize; instead, consideration is being given to a stamp portraying Chopin, in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of his death and Poland in turn will issue a stamp portraying Smetana. As is known, France has already honored the memory of Chopin with a stamp.

A new postal card for use in international mails is in print.

The IXth Communist Congress is scheduled for May. To commemorate this event, three commemorative stamps will be issued; work on the designs is now in progress.

The new values will replace the series issued in 1945-46 and portraying Masaryk, Benes and Stefanik.

Preparatory work for the International Philatelic Exhibition "Praga 1950" is in full swing; a report on this will be presented in our next letter.

QUESTION BOX

A member submits the following question: What special significance have the following towns to a collector of Czechoslovakia and what special stamps, overprints and postmarks are available in support of their philatelic history: Galanta, Levice, Nove Zamky, Sany, Uzhorod, Mukacevo, Batovo, Berehovo, Seivus, Chust, Rahno, Jasina and Asch?

Your editor admits he cannot write about all these; members are requested to send their answers to the editor, who promises to make an effort to write a story on each town, providing members submit answers.

NEW MEMBERS

- 366. Gerald P. Glanton, U. S. Naval Station, Tacoma 2, Wash.
- 367. Rudolph F. Sloboda, 24 Tennent Ave., Englishtown, N. J.
- 368. John D. Morrissy, Jr., 1009 W. Pennsylvania, Urbana, Ill.
- 369. Mero Djeska, 1720 W. Huron St., Chicago 22, Ill.
- 370. Dr. Henry J. Safarik, 21 S. Chapel Ave., Alhambra, Calif.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

- 79. Joseph H. Trengove, 6 Oak Lane, Wharton, N. J.
- 264. Alan York, 1342 40th St., Brooklyn 18, N. Y.
- 286. Carl A. Pitha, 182-18 Wexford Terrace, Jamaica 3, N. Y.

I am ready to exchange stamps of Czechoslovakia, Bohemia and Moravia and Slovakia for old and current illustrated and fashion magazines. Am also ready to exchange stamps and first day covers. Karel Malik, 7, Gottwaldova, Olomouc 1, Czechoslovakia.

CHECK LIST OF THE ISSUES OF THE SECOND REPUBLIC
Continued

XI. All Sokol Meet, First Issue



43

This first group was issued March 7, 1948, to publicize the coming All Sokol Meet in Praha. The design is the work of Max Svabinsky and the engraving was done by J. Schmidt. Stamps are of the large format, from line engraved steel plates produced on the rotary press and perforated 12½. The coupon was prepared by the author of the stamps but this was engraved by J. A. Svengsbir. The Sokol motto: "Ni zisk, ni slavu" (neither gain nor glory) is embodied in the coupon.

Our no.	Scott no.	Drufila no.	Value	Type	Color, etc.
107	343	467	1.50Kcs	43	brown a. with coupon
108	344	468	3. Kcs	43	red a. with coupon
109	345	469	5. Kcs	43	blue a. with coupon

First day cover

Note: During the Meet many different kinds of souvenir and favor sheets were offered for sale; some were presented to participants. The same is true of the second group of this issue, our nos. 115-118.

Charles University Issue



44

45

To commemorate the 600th anniversary of the founding of Charles University in Praha, the Post Office Department issued four stamps April 7, 1948. These were designed and engraved by J. A. Svengsbir. Issued in the large format from line engraved steel plates on white unwatermarked paper and perforated 12½. The coupons, also the work of Svengsbir, contain the Latin legend which means: Alma Mater—Charles University in Praha and the year dates: 1348-1948.

110	346	470	1.50Kcs	44	black brown a. with coupon
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111	347	471	2.	Kcs	45	dark brown a. with coupon
112	348	472	3.	Kcs	45	brown red a. with coupon
113	349	473	5.	Kcs	44	dark blue a. with coupon

First day cover

Slovak Agricultural Exposition



46

This stamp was issued to commemorate two events; the 100th anniversary of the Slovak Peasant Revolt and to advertise the Slovak Agricultural Exposition in Praha. The stamp was prepared by the Slovak artist, Janko Alexy, printed by the photogravure process in small format of 100 subject sheets and perforated 14. In the lower left hand corner of a full sheet is found the authors name.

This stamp contains the motto: "Za novu dedinu" (for a new homeland) and the names of the towns most prominent in the 1848 uprising: Chlumec and Nitra. First day of issue May 14, 1948.

This stamp was demonetized Dec. 31, 1948.

114	350	474	1.50Kcs	46	dark olive brown a. stamp 91 with author's name in margin
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This stamp was chronicled in last month's issue of the "Specialist."

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
⅓ page	1.50	1.35	1.25
1/16 page	1.00	.85	.75

10% discount to members.

THE KOSICE TYPES

Red Soldier Design

It has long been known that 4 types appear on the Red Soldier design. Two months ago we promised our members the information which appeared in the press in Czechoslovakia. Member Stein kindly supplied us with the article necessary (this appeared in "Ceskoslovenska Filatelie," Vol. II, no. 2).

The original design used for this was the 2Kcs stamp, red, and it has no separate types. This was used as a master die from which 2 others values were obtained: the 5. and 6. Kcs. Because of this arrangement, a block of four was used in the preparation of the additional values by superimposing the new numeral over the old, this resulting in four different types for each of these values. We describe the differences below:

5. Kcs



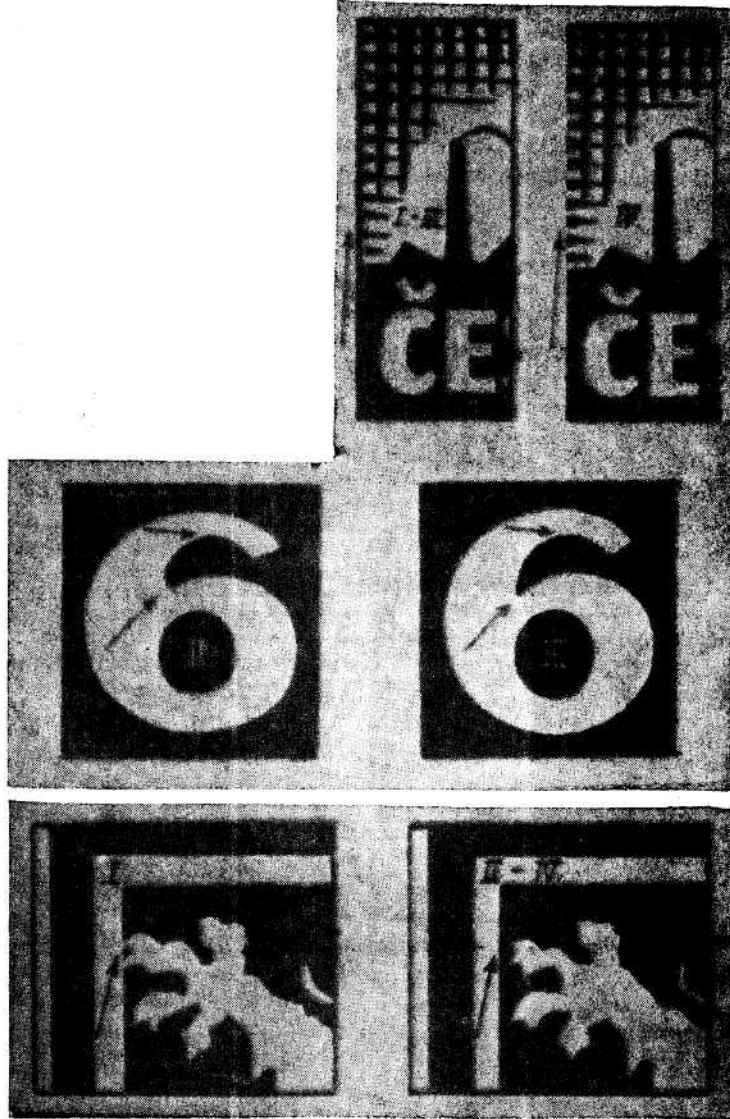
The main differences are the distance of the numeral from the edge of the stamp or from the top of the "K" below the numeral of value. In type 1, the distance between the top of the stamp and the top of the "5" is the largest (0.8mm) and as a result the distance between the "5" and "K" is the shortest (0.6mm).

Type III is the exact opposite of type I; the first distance is 0.6mm and the second is 0.8mm.

Type IV has the shortest distance as illustrated by the arrow (2.5mm).

For an easier differentiation in the classification of types II and IV note illustrations: a "wart" in the shield in type II and a dot behind the eye in type IV.

8. Kčs

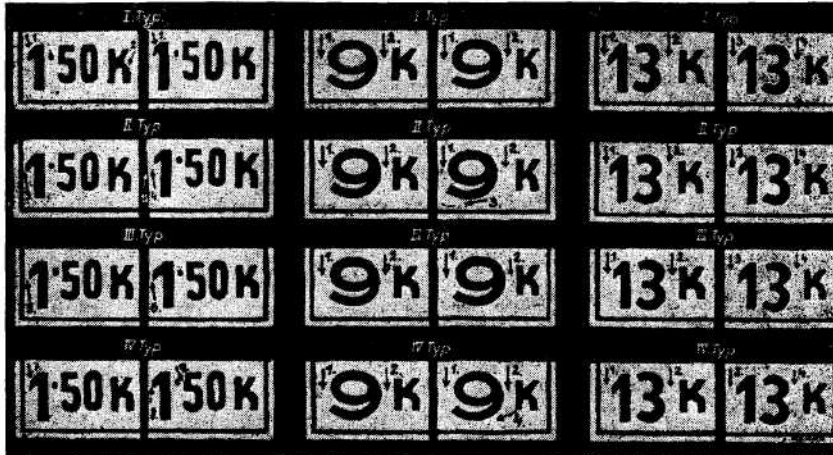


Type I of this value is the easiest to recognize: the claw of the lion touches the frame line, whereas in the other three types there is space between the claw and frameline. Additionally this type I has an additional recognizable feature: a dot after "Leo" and to the top of the first "a" in the name of the author.

Type IV is easily recognized inasmuch as the line, illustrated by arrow, is absent in this type, but quite pronounced in the first three types. It is therefore necessary to find the differences between types II and III. Here the differences are very slight and one must have sharp sight, as the illustration of the figure of value shows.

The numbering of the types I to IV was made by the position of the varieties in a block of four, taken from any corner of a sheet. These are: type I, upper left stamp of block; Type II, upper right stamp of block; type III, lower left stamp of block; type IV, lower right stamp. We wish to call to the attention of our readers that any block of four of the values 5. and 6. Kcs, must contain all four types, but not necessarily in the order mentioned, depending from which position of the sheet the block was removed. Also, we wish to call attention of the reader to the fact that the stamps which appeared in the sheet issued for the return of president Benes are slightly larger than those issued in large sheet form.

Clasped Hands Design



Just as in the Red Soldier design the 2. Kcs was the master die, basis for the other two values, so in the Clasped Hands design the 20. Kcs, blue, was the original die. The other stamp dies were made by covering the figures of value and supplanting with the new values 9. and 13. Kcs. As this was made in a block of four, the arrangement would be similar to the arrangement employed in preparing the Red Soldier dies.

Our illustration shows the differences in the shields of value. The information in this part of the Kosice types was kindly supplied by our Member Barry.

9. Kcs

In type I, the distance between the frame line and the numeral "9" is the same, 8mm, (1), and between "9" and "K" (2), both right and left.

In type II, the distance at left is the greatest, 10mm, and at right the smallest, 6mm.

Type III has the distances alike on both sides, 9mm.

In type IV, the distance in the left side is 8mm and in the right 9mm.

Besides the above, type II could be distinguished with the aid of a magnifying glass, which will show a small white line curved under the "9". In the case of type IV, the curving of the line runs the full length of the "9." This is not too pronounced.

13. Kcs

This is pretty hard to identify without an enlargement. Presented here are the distances between the slanted tail line of the "1" in "13," then between the "1" and "3" and the "K." The first row of numerals is on the left side; the other two on the right side of the stamp.

Type I. The distances are 5mm and 10mm left and 6mm and 9mm on the right sides.

Type II. 6mm and 9mm left and 7mm and 8mm on the right.

Type III. 7mm and 8mm on both sides.

Type IV. 6mm and 9mm left and 6½mm and 8½mm right. The distances noted are illustrated with the figures 1, 2, 3, and 4.

1.50 Kcs

This is the most interesting value. The shield for the value is slightly larger than in the other values because the space before the "K" was too small to include the value "1.50." Eight new shields were made with both numeral and "K." The above illustration shows the different types.

Type I. The slanting tail line of the "1" shows at 1 to be short; is longer in all the other types. A cut-off shows in the "K" (2).

Type II. The distances between the "1" and the frame are different as shown by means of arrows and numerals (3 and 4). A small "pimple" on the left edge of the frame line is shown (10) and the line (11) shows a slight curve.

Type III. Again the spaces are different as shown (5 and 6).

Type IV. Has several markings. In the left shield the "1" is rounded up (7); a slanting out of the "1" is also shown (8). Besides this, the "5" also shows a slanting cut.

As in the Red Soldier design, the types are numbered: Type I, upper left; type II, upper right; type III, lower left; type IV, lower right. Naturally, the stamps with plate number are all type III.

CZECHO MUSIC SHEET COUNTERFEITS

by Milo Barry

The sheets were reproduced by J. Hrdina and sold by K. Dusil both of Smichov, Czechoslovakia. The arrested pair confessed and a number of plates, perforation contraptions and many finished sheets were at once confiscated.

The sheets are a very good reproduction and are a very dangerous counterfeit. The average collector will not notice any differences unless he is a specialist. None of them are such as to show at once.

The paper on the originals is of a 0.15 mm. thickness, but the fakes were made on a paper of 0.17 mm. thickness as the thinner paper was too flexible. The paper is a little whiter than the original, but very slightly.

The red and blue ink was very good as they would never be noticeable. Some of the fakes are much brighter than the average original, but this would mean very little as even the originals show many shade varieties. The perforation is the one that shows up at once; being uneven. The individual perforations are of a different shape and on the back of the sheet show high spots.

The biggest danger of the fakes is in the sale of individual stamps from the sheet as there the improper perforations can not be detected. The originals were printed as offsets and the fakes were photoreproductions of the original and were engraved into copper and printed from a flat press. There is no difference between any of the individual stamps of all 15 in the sheet on the original, but the fakes show on each some small item which was caused in the process of etching.

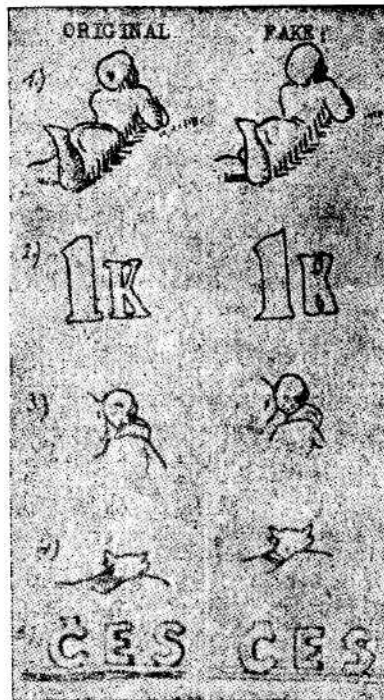
Kc 1.—Value

The size of the stamp is different. The picture of the original 30.5 mm. whereas the fake is 30 mm. that means a ½ mm. smaller measuring the actual picture within the frames and disregarding the perforations. The smaller size is the fault of the incorrect setting of the photocamera when reproducing. The size will also be found in the spacing of each stamp. The original has a horizontal spacing of 5.8 mm., the fake is only 5.4 mm.

On the attached photograph we can see the differences in the stamps and follow them in rotation as numbered.

(1.) The boy on the original has a spot on the head which on the fake is missing or barely visible. The head is longer to the back on the original, on the fakes almost an oval. The left shoulder is more shaped on the original than on the fake. At the right elbow are some dashes showing the grass which is less on the fakes.

(2.) The footing of "1" is entirely different on the fakes than the original, also the "K" is different.



(3.) The head of the baby held by the mother on the original shows 4 to 5 dashes (hair)—on the fake they are missing. Also the face is coarser on the fake than on the originals.

(4.) The ear of the cattle under the horn on the original is made as one piece without interruption, the fake is broken and looks like an ellipse.

(5.) The lettering of "CESKOSLOVENSKO" is on the third line counting the frame as the first, on the fakes the "C" and "S" are resting on the second line.

As mentioned before, there are many other varieties, in fact too many to go into detail here. On the original all the fine shading is clear, but on the fakes the same is unclear and sometimes missing as the photos were not very clear. Look at the years "1834-1934." The originals clear on the shaded sky, in the fakes there is some sort of glow like the shading around of holy pictures.

Kc 2.—Value

The spacing between the stamps is a little better than on the Kc 1.—.

Most of the same characteristics as on the Kc 1.— value. On the rear of the head of the boy we notice the fakes have sometimes two small dashes instead of one dot as on the originals. The face of the boy is not finished with a rounded line as the original, the same is ended in an extended line like a nose. This is a very valuable sign.

The head of the baby now has the hair and it is very hard to detect the differences.

The ear of the cattle is the same as on the Kc 1.— value.

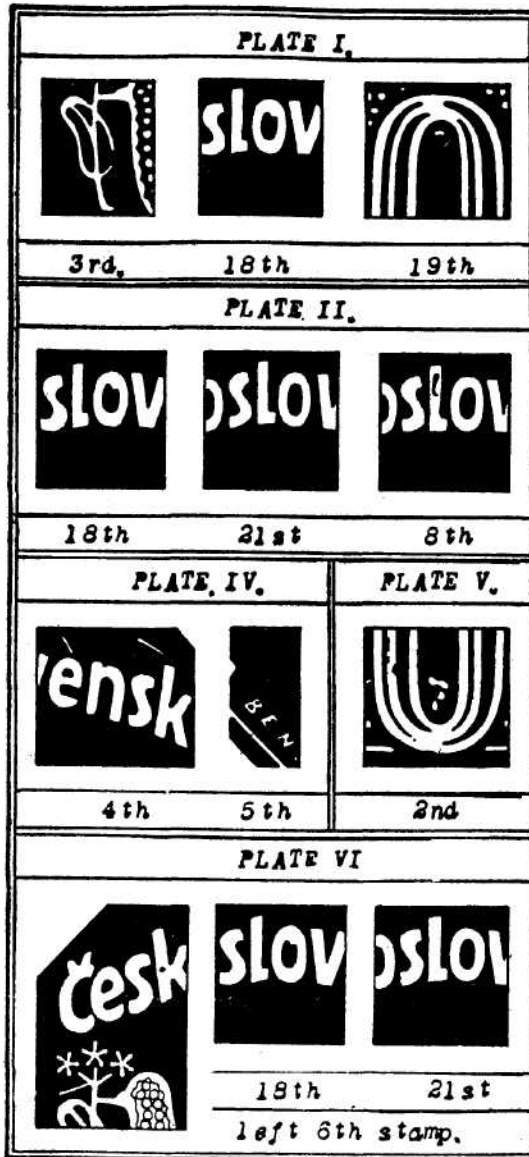
The lettering also is the same as on the Kc 1.— value.

Perforation

The best sign is the imperfect perforation as described above. In all probabilities the original was used as a mat and the perforations were made probably only with one perforation needle which would account for the uneven perforations.

This discovery was made by the quick actions and efforts of Mr. E. Hirsch of Praha.

SECOND BRATISLAVA SHEET
by Milo Barry



Several articles have been written about the numerous types of the so-called "second" Bratislava sheet. The resultant information from Europe showed that when the Types were grouped still other types were discovered, and therefore it was deemed necessary to seek another method of telling the various types.

All known types were compared to find some items in the stamps themselves, disregarding the inscriptions or lines mentioned before. The result is illustrated on the accompanying plate.

After lengthy study and comparisons of a considerable number of sheets all but Type III showed some variation in the stamps themselves. The exception still must be determined by the vertical lines, or by a process of elimination.

TYPE I, plate I, shows a damaged star-like linden leaf on the third stamp of the top row; the eighteenth stamp has an "O" with flattened inner line, and the nineteenth stamp has small white scratches within the "O" of "lo."

TYPE II, plate II, has the same marking within the "O" on the eighteenth stamp; there is a small period below the "L" on the twenty-first stamp, and a smudge exists in the lower part of the line of the stamp.

TYPE III, plate II, as noted before there are no stamp varieties thus far discovered.

TYPE IV, plate IV, a small white scratch is found above the letters "E" and "S" of the fourth stamp, and a small piece has been cut out of the fifth stamp, in the lower portion. All stamps on the right margin have slightly smudged edges.

TYPE V, plate V, a small bump and a few dots exist within the "O" of "lo."

TYPE VI, plate VI, there is a period within the letter "K" of the sixth stamp; a white scratch for the left of the same stamp; the flattened "O" on the eighteenth stamp, and on the twenty-first stamp a small period by the "L."

It is suggested that both methods of checking the plate of type be used, to assure a definite classification.

The printing of these sheets at the exhibition in Bratislava was for demonstration purposes only, and the sheets were not sold to the public, nor was it intended that they should be distributed. However, an official who had strict orders to guard them exchanged a number of the regularly issued sheets, giving in return copies of the display printing. These special sheets may be discovered by the colored dots found in the margins 14mm. above the third stamp and 12mm under the letter "A" of "Bratislava."

POST WAR CZECHOSLOVAKIA

MINT

272-287	Soldiers	.65	334-335	Masaryk	.10
288-292	Patriots	.85		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
319	Havlicek	.08		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	.50
332-333	Youth	.10		Benes mourning	.10

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