

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

We have given much serious thought to our organization. We have looked for reasons why the Society isn't making greater progress. We have checked on comments from members. After a not too scientific, but definitely not a haphazard study, we learned that: 1, the calendar year for the payment of dues is wrong; proof for this is that the largest philatelic body in our country begins its year July 1; 2, instead of relying on the membership to mail in their dues as a result of an appeal from the editor, notices should be mailed to each member with an enclosed return envelope addressed to the treasurer; 3, that we should hold a regular bi-annual convention and not spasmodic meetings as in the past; 4, that we should try to re-contact all dropped members; many of these are ready to return. Our annual turnover in membership proves that in some respects we are lax; certainly, an enthusiasm for the stamps of Czechoslovakia was responsible for these people to join our ranks. If, as our records show, more than 50% of the new members drop out after one year of membership, there is something rotten in Denmark! We note that only the most enthusiastic remain unconditionally. There is one more group, the loyalists. They need not be Czech nationals (your editor disclaims this title). They are members (like your editor) who have an abiding faith in the future of this remarkable, yet small republic. It is a little spot of color in the middle of Europe on any map. Yet, this little spot finds sponsors in other parts of Europe, in America, in Asia, Africa and Australia.

GERMAN-ENGLISH PHILATELIC DICTIONARY

Erich Haide of Germany has published a German-English philatelic dictionary which is really a masterpiece of thoroughness. The booklet is not very attractive, but the contents are excellent. We really need something like this, a Czech and Slovak-English philatelic dictionary. But, where can we find someone to tackle such a Herculean task? The German-English dictionary costs only \$1.00 and can be had from Erich Haide, (24a) Balje ueber Stade, British Zone, Germany.

1949 DRUFILA CATALOGUE

Under the existing regulations in Czechoslovakia it is impossible to do any business. Your editor has written to friends, philatelic and otherwise, to send single copies of the Drufila 1949 catalogue. This way the catalogue becomes more expensive; the important thing is, we now have it, though not in the quantities of previous years. It can be had for 70 cents, postpaid, from your editor.



An international philatelic show, such as is now being prepared in Praha for May 20-29, 1950, entails much work and preparation, as also cooperation of all philatelic organizations and stamp collectors. The main exhibition will be in the Exposition Palace "u Hybernu," right in the center of Praha. This "Grand Central Palace" of Praha, with its newly remodeled halls, will be a perfect frame for PRAGA 1950.

Cooperation of the Federation of Philatelic Societies with the Ministries of Information and Posts and Telegraphs gives PRAGA 1950 a perfect basis of international solidarity. The president of the Republic, Klement Gottwald, was asked to accept sponsorship.

This exhibition will be divided into several major grades so that every branch of collecting can assert itself fully. Besides the international group and expositions of the various governments, the exhibition will exert its influence to publicize the stamps of Slavic countries. It has been decided to devote special interest to collections of young philatelists. In the past, the philatelic press and literature have been all but ignored. It shall be the purpose of this exhibition to stress the importance of this medium of philatelic apostleship.

Dealers of the world will have special opportunities to meet colleagues from everywhere. It will be a seminar and congress where they will have an occasion to enhance their philatelic knowledge.

Dealers as well as collectors will gain more than superb philatelic knowledge. They will learn more about the humans who occupy that beautiful and colorful country in almost the geographical center of Europe, Czechoslovakia.

REPORT OF THE NEW YORK MEETING

(The editor apologizes for the late publication of this report; it should have appeared in the May issue of the Specialist.)

On March 4, 1949, the New York Group of CPSNA and the Philatelic Section of the T. G. Masaryk Club, held a joint memorial meeting for Joseph W. Lowey, co-founder of both organizations.

The chairman, Dr. Wm. Reiner-Deutsch, opened the meeting with a short recollection of his friendship with the deceased. He recalls that about a dozen years ago, J. W. Lowey approached him about forming an organization to promote the collecting and study of Czecho stamps; that it was JW L who called the first meetings and with all his energy created the Society of which he became first secretary and most active member. When, after the war, in 1945, Dr. Reiner-Deutsch returned from active service, it was again JW L who met with him to discuss the continuation of the activities of the Society. Despite the illness which forced him to retire from many of his stamp activities, he was an ardent philatelist to the last.

Dr. Irvin Neufeld, the main speaker of the evening, recalls JW L as an ardent idealist and propogandist of Czechoslovak stamps. JW L looked at

stamps differently than others. To him they were a medium of historical study, combining pleasure with friendship of the people of the entire world. To him stamps were a source of mental relaxation and there is no doubt he was on the right track of thinking because every hobby has its therapeutic value. His great service to Czech philately has been recognized by the Republic of Czechoslovakia.

JWL had a great sense of humor and made friends everywhere. He departed after a short illness but his work and spirit continue with us. We shall always remember him.

Dr. A. Paster recalls JWL as a fellow with a humorous spirit who, despite constant ailments during the last few years, had always a kind word for everyone and could keep everybody in a friendly spirit.

Mr. L. M. Horechny suggested that the New York group of CPSNA honor the memory of its founder with a plaque, to be awarded annually for the best Czechoslovak stamp exhibit in America. Due to the fact that the next show will be held in Chicago in April, it would be proper to award the first "J. W. Lowey Plaque" on this occasion. The suggestion was accepted.

Selections from the collection of Czech stamps of member Arthur W. Kessler were then shown and thus concluded a memorable meeting in the annals of Czech-American philately.

Jos. Stein, secretary

OUR PRAHA LETTER

The POD of Czechoslovakia, with the consent of the Central Federation of Czechoslovak Philatelic Societies, decided to reorganize the sale of commemorative stamps so that through its agency it will sell ONLY ONE series to new issues subscribers. All existing orders are void. In the past, club buyers and philatelic publications served their members and subscribers with new issues, thus taking much of the burden from the philatelic agency. This practice must stop. Purchase under assumed names is prohibited. The collector is at liberty to obtain one set, or, none at all.

On the other hand, exchange among collectors is again permitted on a more liberal scale except that duty on both import and export has materially increased. Practically speaking, this liberalization is ineffective because the collector cannot purchase stamps for his overseas correspondents.

It is obvious that this step was not given serious consideration and if the government thought it will stop export of its stamps by chiselers who are willing to forfeit as much as 75% to obtain credit elsewhere, we are sure the ruling will have an exactly opposite effect. We Czech collectors are aware that collectors in the U. S. are more concerned with blocks of four than singles. Under present limitations it will be impossible to satisfy the wishes of our American friends. We are confident this ruling will end in a fiasco.

The question is: how could the federation acquiesce, because it is evident that it jeopardizes the position of the collector in Czechoslovakia who tried to improve his collection as reasonably as possible, yet with no loss to his government. The entire procedure indicates that it wasn't the work of the Federation but of an individual!

* * *

The Jirasek stamp is finished! At present the Engraving Section of the Post Office Department is at work on the Chopin stamp (announced by your Praha correspondent two months ago). Also, the stamps commemorating the U. P. U. are now engraved. If the composition of the Smetana stamp is considered superb, then the U. P. U. creates an exactly opposite effect. In the left half is a postillon, in the right an autobus.

Another series in preparation is to commemorate the convention of the Communist party. The central designs present scenes from the lives of workmen, especially miners.

Reduction of air mail rates required the surcharging of the present air mail series. Its face value may be about 83.Kcs. As airpost stamps are not commemoratives, the single set ruling does not apply to them.

Philately in our country is, as we say here, neither salted nor larded. Stamp collecting is on a starvation diet because specialization has been knocked into a cocked hat by the only permitted and tolerated philatelic magazine, owned and controlled by the Federation and for lack of controversial impulses which in the past gave life to our hobby, philately to all purposes is at a standstill. The coming summer season certainly will only add to the apathy and lethargy so evident now among Czecho stamp collectors.

JZM

* * *

Editor's note: JZM's comments in the past have been treated by us as "beefing" and "bitching" on the part of a lone collector. In the last month, however, we had several letters from the old country which seem to indicate that the feeling is more or less universal. Your editor has noticed that those who agree with the decisions reached by the present regime, are the same who always agreed with the Nazis. Is it possible that in crucial times these mice are ready to jeopardize freedom in their country for a lower berth?

TO MY DEAR FRIENDS OF CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELY

Words cannot express the appreciation I feel for the suggestion I be named "honorary life member" of both the CPSNA and the Masaryk Club. I shall ever consider this a signal distinction, not for myself, but for the memory of my deceased husband.

I take this opportunity to thank all of you who extended sympathy to me on the loss of my late husband. I love to think of you who have been in close contact with him in the promotion of the organization which has done so much for Czech philately. Though my heart aches because of the loss I sustained, it rejoices that he, who was closer to me than any other living mortal, could strum your heart strings so effectively. I firmly believe in a world beyond this. I am convinced that he and I shall meet again and that nothing will separate us. Every one of you is human and therefor subject to death, the great equalizer. We shall again convene and be together forever.

I have been a witness to the love you bore my husband. I thank you from the innermost depths of my heart.

H. Lowey

1950 - SHOW - AUCTION - CONVENTION

Last month the Chicago group held a very successful meeting in its new location, the office of the Liberty Stamp Shop, in downtown Chicago. Its owner is a former Czech national. As he dislikes personal publicity, we shall give him no more plug than this.

Our April show netted us much less than the show of the previous year. This is proof that things are tightening up.

When the Chicago group decided to hold its meetings in Leo's office, the members learned that Leo could not accomodate more than about 10 members with seats and the rest of those present were compelled to stand. Your editor (considered the Nestor of Chicago Czech collectors) suggested that at least a half dozen folding chairs be purchased out of the auction fund, providing it does not exceed 20% of the money. It is our wish to turn over to the treasury at least 100 dollars. We are sure other members will not object because it is the Chicago group who does most to build the treasury of our Society. This, however, was not the reason for the meeting. Because of this matter the final report on the auction cannot now be made; we can merely give thanks to all those who have contributed to the success of the venture either by donating material or by buying generously.

Preparation for a show and auction in 1950 was begun. A suggestion that we hold our next show in Philadelphia, at a time we convene there in connection with the Pan-Slavic Exhibition at the Philatelic Museum, brought on quite a discussion. It was pointed out that an annual show of our group in Chicago

is now an established practice. To further our work of publicizing Czech stamps in this city we must continue to hold an annual show. As to the auction, we know it is a big job and knowing we have a very small group in Philadelphia, we shouldn't burden them with this task. Being hosts to the convention will be enough work.

To prove we do not intend to "hog" everything, the Chicago group suggests that localities where we have a larger membership hold local shows and possibly auctions, for the benefit of the Society. These are to take place in advance of the exhibition in Philadelphia. The "J. W. Lowey" plaque could then be awarded during the convention and on alternate years in local shows.

It was also decided that in the future, the Chicago group will stage a two day show and permit entry of material other than Czech. This will bring to the show those collectors who do not care to see a "one country" exhibit and who, unknowingly, will benefit by seeing those old masterpieces which are an artistic expression of a people liberated from three centuries of oppression.

NEW ISSUES

The Ministry of Posts will issue two new regular postage stamps, May 4, 1949: 4.Kcs, violet, presenting a portrait of George Wolker, poet, and 8.Kcs, gray brown, showing Alois Jirasek, novelist. The first of these stamps was designed and engraved by Ladislav Jirka from a photograph; the second was designed from a painting by Max Svabinsky and engraved by Jindra Schmidt. The stamps are printed in a medium format and the sheets will consist of 100 and 50 subjects.

The 75th anniversary of the Universal Postal Union will be commemorated by three stamps issued May 20, 1949. These will consist of: 3.Kcs, red, 5.Kcs blue and 13.Kcs gray green. The designs for all three values were executed by Kamil Lhotak and, the engraving is the work of: 3.Kcs, Josef Mracek; 5.Kcs, Jindra Schmidt and 13.Kcs, Ladislav Jirka. The stamps will be printed in a double medium format size in sheets of 50 and 25 subjects. The designs present contrasts between early and modern transportation methods. These stamps will be demonetized December 31, 1949.

The IX Convention of the Czech Communist Party will be held in Praha, May 24-29, 1949. To commemorate this event the Ministry of Posts will issue three stamps which will embody designs: 1, agriculture; 2, salute to the party; and 3, industry. Values and colors are: 1.50Kcs, green, 3.Kcs, red, and 5.Kcs, blue. Design of the 1.50 is the work of Viktor Polasek and the 3. of F. Kovarik. Both were engraved by J. A. Svengsbir. The 5. was designed by Jan Kotik and engraved by Josef Mracek. These stamps are printed in the large format and will be the last issue with coupons.

The 125th anniversary of the birth of Bedrich Smetana and the 100th anniversary of the death of Frederyk Chopin will be remembered by a commemorative issue of postage stamps. The Smetana stamp is the work of the recently deceased artist engraver Bohumil Heinz and combines a portrait of the Music Master with the National Theatre in Praha. The Chopin stamp combines a portrait of the celebrated son of Poland with the Warsaw Music Conservatory and is the work of Jindra Schmidt. These stamps will be printed in the large format in horizontal rectangle in sheets of 70 and 35 subjects. Values and colors are: 1.50, green and 5.Kcs, blue (Smetana); 3, red and 8.Kcs brown (Chopin). These stamps will be issued June 4, 1949 and will be demonetized December 31, 1949.

First day covers will be issued for all the above commemorative stamps.
For the Ministry, Stehlik

NEW ADVERTISING RATES

	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
10% discount to members.			

The Allegorical Designs of Czechoslovakia

By F. J. Kovarik



Dove Design Liberated Republic Hussite Priest Husbandry & Knowledge



Master Die for the Liberated Republic Design

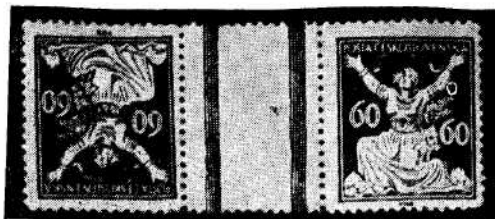
The first stamps of Czechoslovakia, the Hradčany issue, were produced in such extreme haste that their general appearance was most unsatisfactory. Despite this fact, they remain the best liked issue; perhaps because of the symbolism of the Hradčany Castle, the spiritual Mecca to all the Czechs. The occupation of the Castle by tyrants never decreased the hope for freedom, which seems enshrined on the altars of the St. Vitus Cathedral.

As early as November 30, 1918, even before the first Hradčany stamp made its debut, a competition for stamp designs was advertised. This miscarried and a second competition for definitive issues took place February 3, 1920. (A competition for semi-postals, known as the "Legion" issue, took place June 13, 1919.) As a result, three designs submitted February, 1920, and a modified version of a design submitted for the June, 1919, competitions were chosen. They were the "Dove" design, symbolic of the postal service, by Prof. Jaroslav Benda; the "Liberated Republic" (also known as the "Chainbreaker") design, an allegory of the new Republic, by V. H. Brunner; a "Hussite Priest" design, representing Bohemia's glorious past, by Alfons Mucha; and "Husbandry and Knowledge" design, representative of the cultural aspirations of the people, by Jaroslav Obrovsky.

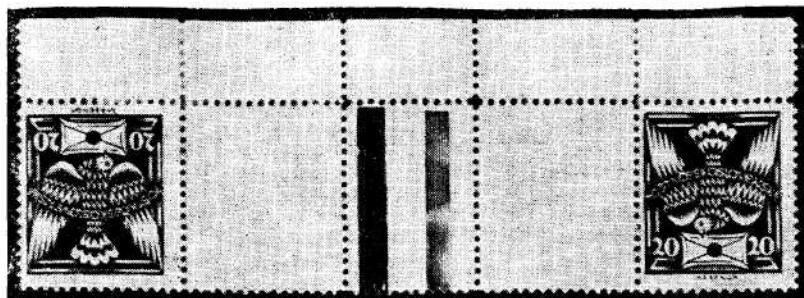
The preparation of dies for these stamps is the subject of very many interesting studies. Because of the manner of producing them, we find different



Tete Beche—Type I



Tete Beche—Type II

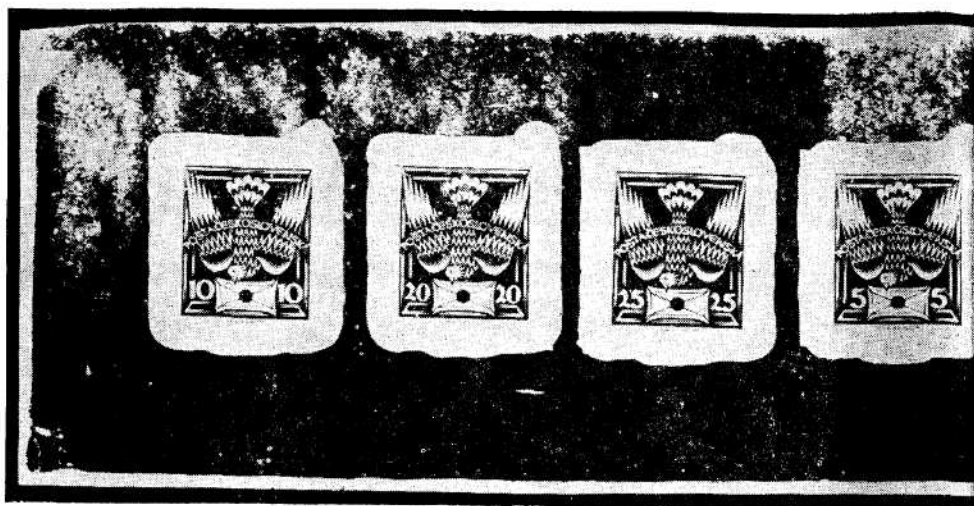


Tete Beche—Type III

sub-types, as in the 20, 25, 40, and 100h stamps. The printing was done by the "Unie" (Printing Company) in Praha by the typographical process, also known as the book-print method, on three of the designs; the fourth, the Hussite design, was printed by photogravure. These printing methods were the reason for so very many plate varieties, which are avidly collected because it is possible to plate most of these stamps. Some of these stamps were line perforated and others comb.

As we look through the catalog we see that several values appear in both the Dove and the Liberated Republic designs; the 100h appears in the Liberated Republic and Husbandry and Knowledge types. Then, too, some of the values appear in two colors and on different papers. This issue was in constant use for many years. During the life of this issue the Stickney Rotary Press was brought to Praha and the first line-engraved stamps were produced. While these changes were taking place, the Allegories continued to serve the public until the production of line-engraved and rotary printed stamps was found sufficiently satisfactory. Additions or removals of stamps were dictated by postal needs, and, as in the case of the Mucha design, by political circumstances.

Scott lists six values of this series as appearing in tete-beche pairs. These are not errors in sheets, but were deliberately so prepared. The "Piras Advertising Agency" suggested to the Post Office Department that they were ready to pay the extra cost of printing stamps in booklet form if the government would permit the Agency to use the covers and blank spaces for advertising purposes. Accordingly the 5h and 10h Dove design and the 40h, 50h and 60h Liberated Republics were used in the preparation of plates of 90 subjects and the 20h Dove in sheets of 60 (with 30 blank spaces or coupons). In the case of the first five values mentioned the arrangement was: margin, three stamps upright, three stamps in inverted position, blank space, three stamps upright and margin. The 20h arrangement was: margin, blank space, two stamps upright, two inverted, three blank spaces, two upright, margin. In each prepared plate there were ten rows. By this arrangement there came into existence what Czech collectors call "tete-beche types I, II and III" (see illustrations). Somehow the idea of booklets failed to materialize, and the sheets, having been printed, were sent to the Philatelic Agency for disposal. Collectors were thus able to obtain these interesting varieties in either complete sheets or in pairs, as long as the supply lasted.



Die Proofs of the Dove Design



Die Proof of the Husbandry and Knowledge Design

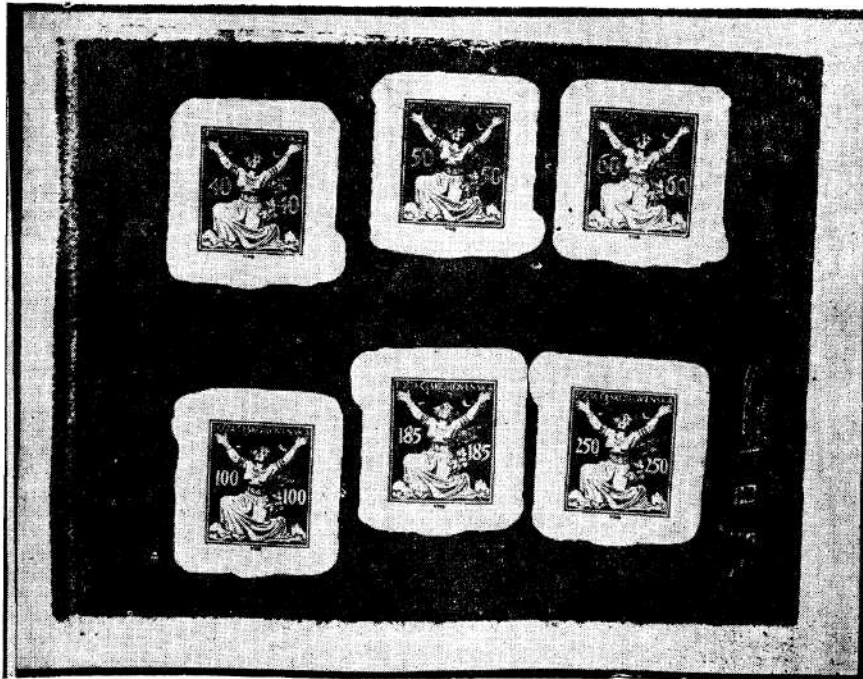
Some values of this issue were also prepared in coils. Outside of the "paste-ups" they didn't differ from other stamps inasmuch as fully perforated sheets were used. These proved very unpopular; even stamp collectors ignored them because when the rolls were guillotined to make the coils, the knife most often cut above or below the perforation, thus producing a very ugly duckling.

Plate markings on this issue are varied and interesting. Stamp collectors have placed them into four groups. At first the plates were not clearly marked. Breaks in the dashes beside the control numbers may be the only distinguishing feature of some plates. In the second group plate numbers are made by



Essay of the Hussite Design

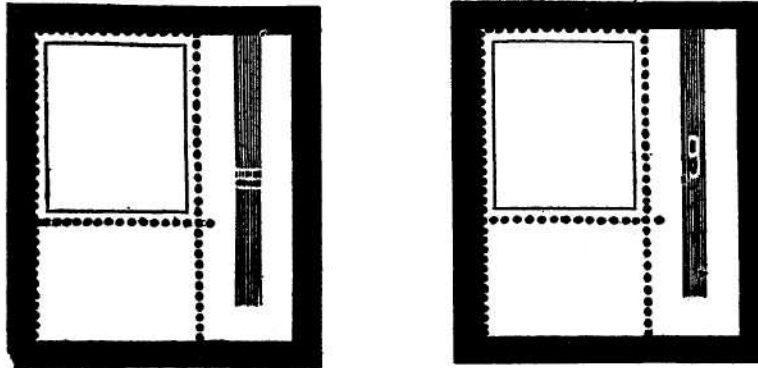
vertical, horizontal or oblique lines through the protective strips at either left or right hand side of the sheet. The third group has the plate number in Arabic numerals in the protective strips either vertically (more common) or horizon-



Die Proof of the Liberated Republic Design

Group 1

Plate not marked or numbered in any manner whatsoever.

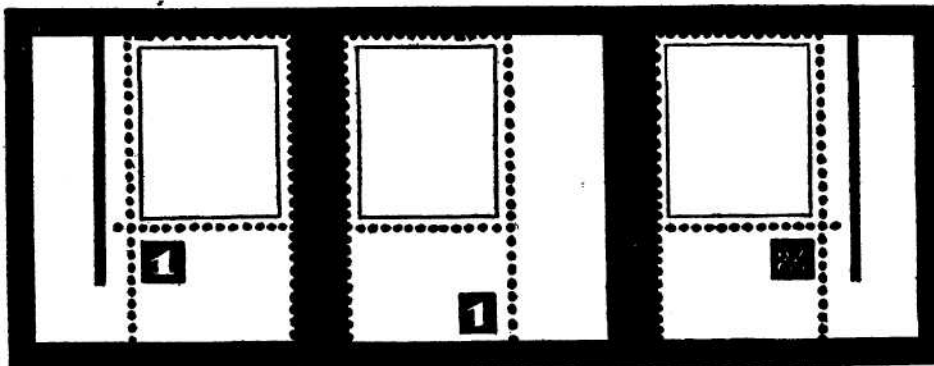


Group 2

Plate numbers made by means of horizontal, oblique, or vertical white lines in the lateral protective strips at either left or right hand side of the sheet.

Group 3

Plate numbers consisting of white figures in the lateral protective strips, either at left or right hand side of the sheet—occasionally both. The figures are sometimes horizontal.



Normal position of Plate number

Position of Plate number reversed with year number

Normal position of Year number

Group 4

White figures on colored rectangles under the 91st and 100th stamps, and consisting respectively of plate numbers and year figures. These are sometimes reversed, so that the plate number comes under the 100th stamp.

tally, either at left or right, or occasionally, in both. In the fourth group we find that the normal position of the plate number comes below the 91st stamp of the sheet, while the year date the plate went to press appears below the 100th stamp. A sub group has these positions reversed.

Large quantities of all these stamps were printed, and therefore shades on almost all values are many and of wide range. Eleven values of this series were suitably overprinted as provisional postage dues. Some were used in the production of the second issue of airmail (Husbandry and Knowledge design, three values). Two values of the Liberated Republic were used in the prepar-



Second Air Mail Issue



Provisional Postage Due



Counterfeit (Used in Kosice)



Essay for the 1920 Red Cross Stamp

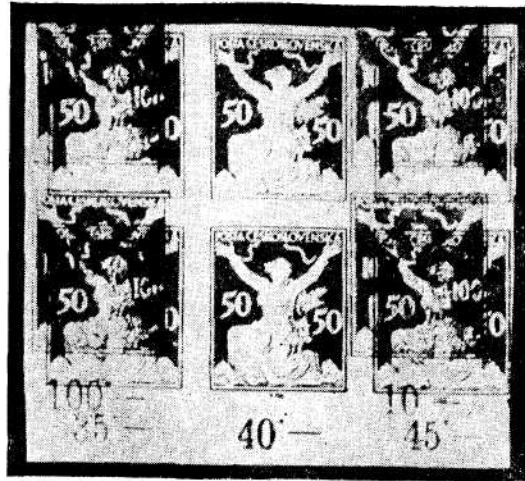
ation of essays for the Red Cross stamps of 1920.

Essays, die proofs, plate proofs, color trials, and especially printers' waste, exist in all values. Printers' waste is very plentiful; some plate proofs and color trials are not found too easily; and most die proofs are more or less scarce. As these are not stamps, they should not be valued too highly.

Several values have been counterfeited. These were not made to fool the collector, but to cheat the government. As the manufacture of counterfeits to defraud the post office was not too difficult, one can readily see why Czechoslovakia was so anxious to drop the bookprint method of producing stamps and turn to something more foolproof.

Imperforate stamps, stamps with missing perforations or double perforations, and stamps with various imperfections were sometimes bought in the Post Office, but most often material of this sort found its way from the printery into collectors' hands through illegal methods. These curiosities are interesting, but no special value should be attached to them.

The first of these stamps, the 5h blue and 10h green Dove design and the 80h Hussite, were the first of this issue to be placed on sale, June 1, 1920; the last was the 30h Dove, May 20, 1925. The 5h blue and 10h Dove, 20h and 25h Liberated Republic, and the two Hussite values were demonetized April 30, 1921, whereas the 10h olive, 15h, 20h and 25h Dove designs were the last to leave the active scene, February 29, 1932.



Printers' Waste, showing wide margins between plates.

All the stamps were issued in large quantities and are quite plentiful in used condition. They afford the student or specialist a very wide field for study. The search for the many varieties is interesting, and the cause of much fun and satisfaction. Collectors in search for new pastures can do themselves a big favor by starting a collection of this very fine and inexpensive group of early Czechoslovakia.

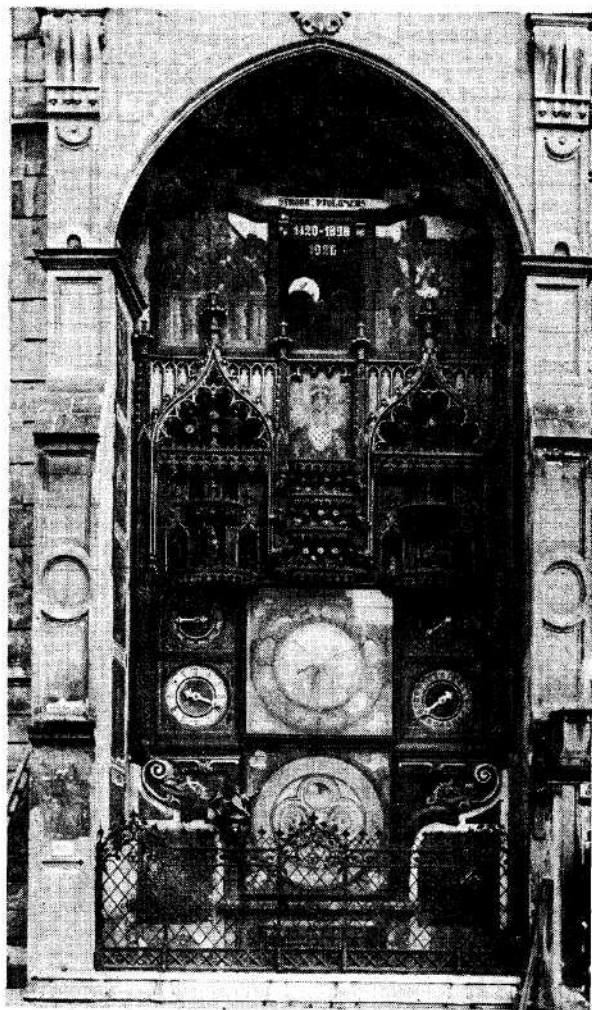
NEW MEMBERS

- 376. Wm. P. Sporka, 1435 S. Central Ave., Cicero 50, Ill.
- 377. Henry O. Nouss, 405 N. Elizabeth Ave., Ferguson 21, Mo.
- 378. Bernard Davis, 1520 Spruce St., Philadelphia 2, Pa.
- 379. Milos Polivka, 44 Ardmere Rd., Berkeley 7, Calif.
- 380. Max Lichenheim, Box 81, Salt Lake City, Utah.
- 381. Geo. M. Ruzicka, 3501 Sunnyside, Brookfield, Ill.
- 382. Col. Otto H. Schrader, 1229 W. Foster Ave., Chicago 40, Ill.
- 383. R. M. Montfort, M.D., 106 N. Vermillion St., Danville, Ill.
- 384. Louis J. Struhall, 2702 S. Congress Ave., Austin, Texas.
- 385. A. Barnsteiner, 492 Chevy Chase Rd., Mansfield, Ohio.
- 386. James A. Adler, 6452 Nashville Ave., St. Louis 10, Mo.
- 387. Leo Jelinek, 2243 S. Sawyer Ave., Chicago 23, Ill.
- 388. Archy S. Myers, 7024 Georgian Rd., Philadelphia 38, Pa.

THE TOWN HALL CLOCK IN PRAGUE

A Sequel on the Orloj

by George A. Blizil



Close-up of the Town Hall Clock of Olomouc, Czechoslovakia, which is now completely destroyed.

Since the appearance of our story on the famous Town Hall Clock of Prague in STAMPS, October 30, 1948, several things have happened in connection with this astronomical timepiece. We have also had numerous comments and inquiries concerning it which we felt justified writing a little more about the clock for the benefit of STAMPS' readers.

We are very happy to report that the Clock is now fully repaired and has been restored to its former splendor. At present workmen are still clearing rubble and debris from the Town Hall, but the city fathers lost no time in completing the rebuilding of the orloj, once they got started on it. The expense was divided equally between the city government and popular subscription



Arrow pointing to location of the Clock on the Town Hall in the City of Olomouc

throughout Czechoslovakia.

An effort was made to have the orloj repair completed in time for the Eleventh Sokol meeting last summer, but it was not finished until September, 1948. Now, several of the mechanical works have been replaced with electric motors. The mechanical cock, which used to crow at the striking of hours, is now replaced with an electronic cock. The old bellows, which produced the crow of the cock, was destroyed. In its place there is a series of radio-like vacuum tubes and a loudspeaker which produce the sounds. Yes, this ancient memorial, built in 1490, now wears wonders of this electronic and atomic age.

Another historic town hall clock can be very easily seen on three other stamps of Czechoslovakia, viz: Scott 225 and Bohemia and Moravia 34 and 35. This clock is located on the town square of Olomouc. This orloj is even more ancient than the one in Prague, having been built in 1419 by Anthony Pohl. It stood by itself for many years, and the town hall was built around it, having been formally dedicated and blessed by the archbishop in 1491. In 1570 a calendar was added. In 1746 Martin Weiner repaired the clock, and added a face with twenty-four hours, also cymbals and chimes which played folk songs. Weiner added a 100 year calendar, which actually ran from 1746-1847. Between 1746 and 1898 the clock became the victim of souvenir hunters, and their vandalism eventually put it out of working order. In 1898 the Olomouc Orloj Society was founded for its restoration, and a fund of 20,000 zloty was raised. It was repaired and remodeled by a Swiss firm. In 1926 it was again renovated, and in 1945, it was completely destroyed, along with the Town Hall, when caught in Nazi-Russian artillery cross-fire.

Previous to its destruction, this clock was also a spectacular thing. At the striking of an hour, the center chimes and gongs sounded, the man on left beat his drum, the old man on the left struck his large gong with a hammer, the boy on the right sounded his flute, the man on the right moved his hands in the sign of the cross, and the rooster crowed and flapped his wings. Some day the City of Olomouc expects to rebuild its town hall, together with this famous clock.

These are the orlojes in philately. There are many others throughout central Europe, but none of them are easily found on stamps.

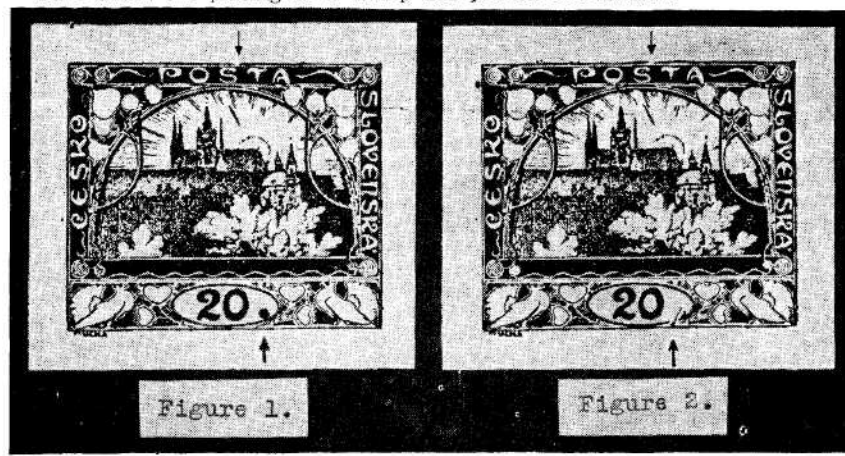
A MAJOR RETOUCH ON THE FIRST ISSUE OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA By John Velek

As a rule, only the extreme specialist pays much attention to varieties such as retouches, but the plate variety "period after 20" on the 20 haleru value of

the first issue of Czechoslovakia (Scott #4) is so prominent and well known among even the general collectors of Czechoslovakia that I believe many would be interested in a major retouch of this stamp.

The variety "period after 20" is found on position 78 from Plate 2 of this stamp, and is illustrated in Figure 1. I had considered the variety shown in Figure 2 to be a separate plate variety until I plated this value, and found both came from the same position in the sheet.

The key to this position proved to be the break in the top frame line over the "S" of POSTA, along with many minute similarities in the design, too small to illustrate. Calling Figure 2 a retouch is a polite word for a very crude job of knocking off a raised spot on a typographic plate. This appears to have been done with a dull engraver's tool or a small chisel, and the carelessness of the workman left a defect in the plate almost as prominent as the original one. Once again the plating of a stamp has proven informative.



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	Lidice12	357-359	Hurban, etc.15
	with tabs25	with tab50	
332-333	Youth10	Benes mourning ..	.10	

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