

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE
CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

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Vol. XI

September 1949

No. 7

EDITORIAL

The two summer months in which the Specialist does not appear seem long to the members, yet very short to your editor. Before the days of blessed idleness came along, your editor dreamed of the tremendous amount of work he would prepare; he visualized a three or four month backlog of feature articles. Yet six weeks of the two months are gone and nothing is accomplished. Perhaps it is well so. Modern life in urban America is geared to a high pitch and when the time comes for us to exert ourselves, we do it with wonderful efficiency. In times of necessity, as in the last war, we proved we can work harder and more hours than any other people in the world. We had two months to prepare this issue and we shall work hard these last two weeks to finish enough material. This dolce far niente is wonderful!

A German Philatelic Society was born and we learn that our Mr. Wolfgang Fritzsche will edit its bulletin. Welcome to the fourth estate, Wolfgang! . . . Shriners had a convention in Chicago and the editor was pleased to have a phone call from Wesley Dudek of Little Rock and Mr. C. J. Osbourne of Canada visited with us. We thank these members for their thoughtfulness. . . . The American Air Mail Society will hold its annual convention and exhibition at the Edgewater Beach Hotel in Chicago October 7 to 9. Members of the Chicago area are invited to visit the show. . . . The Osterreichische Briefmarken Zeitung of Vienna sent us a sample of an English edition of their paper. We recall with pleasure the several issues of Zpravodaj nasi filatelie which contained fine articles in English. . . . The silver medal awarded to your editor during the National Philatelic Exhibition in Praha last December was received. We thank our friends in Czechoslovakia who exerted themselves to obtain permission from the government to export this medal. . . . Advance notice from Praha hints that the winter issue "For the Children" may be multicolored. . . . The Czechoslovak Ministry of Posts thanks us for the fine work done by the Czechoslovak Specialist and asks us to send them back issues of our publication. At present we have only the 1947, 1948 and 1949 volumes complete. These were sent to the Postal Museum in Praha. If any member wishes to send spare copies we shall try to assemble older volumes for this historic cause. . . . Members in the Chicago area are requested to mail 25c to Mr. A. N. Weiner, 5056½ N. Kenmore Ave., Chicago 40, Ill. This quarter is to defray the expense of postal card notice of meetings. Only those members will receive notices who ask for them.

CZECHOSLOVAK CATALOGS

In one of our recent issues of the Specialist we announced that we have for sale the Drufila catalog for 1949. Due to export limitations at the time, only a small number of catalogs was received by us and soon after the an-

nouncement, all were sold. Since then we received a very limited supply of the very fine and specialized Novotny catalog and a sample copy of the Hirsch-Mrnak catalog.

Early in the year we announced that a decision was reached whereby catalogs must use identical numbers for identical stamps. This is so; all three catalogs agree in this respect. The prices do not agree and the discrepancy at times is astonishing. As for the printing, the Novotny is good but the Hirsch is very poorly illustrated.

Criticism of the Novotny catalog in Cesky Filatelista is not too well founded and we think professional jealousy is behind it all. It is true that Novotny uses as a basis for quantities issued in the P. C. 1919 issue the statistics compiled by Leseticky which have long been discredited, but as long as no other statistics are available, why the criticism? Another criticism is concerned with the listing of various plate varieties—to the effect that it is following the old Ekstein catalog. In the United States the Ekstein catalogs did more to popularize the stamps of Czechoslovakia than any other catalog issued before or after the war.

When we mentioned the possibility of an American check list of Czechoslovak stamps, most collectors advised us to follow the system started by Ekstein. They asked for a trifle more information on the reason for the issue and for the plate layout. They asked that plate number information follow each stamp listed instead of a separate chapter on plate numbers or plate markings.

It is obvious that our venture cannot materialize for quite some time and that in the meantime we must choose some other handbook. For those collectors who are satisfied with a more simple listing, the Drufla catalog will suffice. For those who want a truly specialized catalog, we fully recommend the Novotny catalog. It lists all varieties, and while the valuations may be out of true proportion, it is worth knowing these varieties exist.

If a sufficient number of collectors ask for this catalog, we shall make every effort to supply the demand. We shall also endeavor to supply the Drufla catalog (this one fails to list the Protectorate and Slovakia issues). The tentative prices, postpaid, are as follows:

Hirsch-Mrnak \$0.60; Drufla \$0.70; Novotny \$3.20.

These prices may seem high to those who see the value in Czech crowns on the cover. In explanation we must say that several taxes are added to the cost. This, plus postage and registration brings the cost of each catalog to almost double the original price.

PARADE OF NEW ISSUES

At the close of the stampic program initiated by the Benes regime, a new trend became apparent immediately. The new government, conscious of the advertising power of every new postal label, embarked on a propaganda spree. Lenin was honored and Stalin is to be pictured soon. The anniversary of the USSR-CSR pact and the anniversary of the February coup d'etat were commemorated. Pushkin and Chopin, while great figures in their own lands, have been given postal recognition by a sister dictatorship. The convention of the Communist party took its lion's share of free postal advertising.

But all this could be forgotten if the government had not resorted to hijacking tricks of our gangsters. We were notified that every collector of CSR stamps may obtain from the philatelic agency in Praha only one complete set and one first-day cover of all new commemorative issues. After many protests from organized collectors the government permitted an additional set in blocks of four. These collectors did not purchase these stamps at face because they had to pay a registration fee plus some other charges to get this pittance. We understand that one value of each issue is printed in very limited quantities while the other values are sold freely and at no surcharge wherever stamps are sold.

The whole joker behind these regulations is this: We collectors in foreign lands are allowed to buy as many stamps from dealers as we want. Your editor has the dirty habit of obtaining all corner blocks of four, thereby creating

his own miniature sheet of every stamp. These, so far, have been supplied quite freely and at no extra cost. Thus we get 21 mint copies of every stamp issued in Czechoslovakia but the native has difficulties purchasing 5 sets.

We admit we are too illiterate to understand the government's motive in limiting its collectors to 5 mint sets. If the government hopes to discourage the illegal export of its stamps, we are sorry for them. They have not accomplished their purpose. If it is the wish of the government to facilitate Wallingford results for a chosen few, then we feel sure they can achieve great success. But, be it as it may, the poor collector in Czechoslovakia is still holding the bag.

4.00 AND 8.00 KCS REGULAR ISSUE

Two more new values were added to the newly-begun regular issue on May 4, 1949:

4 Kcs, violet, portrait of Jiri (George) Wolker, poet

8 Kcs, gray, portrait of Alois Jirasek, novelist.

The 4 Kcs stamp was engraved by Jindra Schmidt after a design by Max Svabinsky.

The stamps are printed from rotary plates of 100 and 50 subjects each.

(Editor's note: We have requested short biographical sketches on the subjects of the recent regular issues. To date we have received what we translate below.)

George Wolker. Born 1900, died 1924. Moral and poetic pioneer of proletarian poesy. Boyhood and youth spent in family comfort and well-being. Active in Scouts and Sokol movements. Studied law and very active in Praha literary circles when pulmonary illness undermined his health. While in a sanatorium in the Tatra mountains he died. His first book was published in 1924 and carried the title "Guest in the House." He depicted poverty and destitution in a collection of poems entitled "Holy Mount." Several of his ballads are very popular and frequently quoted.

Vladimir Cancura. Born in 1891, executed by the Gestapo in 1942. Physician by profession. His first novel "Jan Marhou, Baker" is a proletarian novel of a man's fight for his daily bread. Other novels: "Margaret Lazar," "Flight to Budin," etc.

J. Sverma. Communist member of Parliament, active in Communist circles before the war. During the war active in the underground, then escaped from his homeland. In 1944 took part in the revolution in Slovakia at Banska Bystrica. Already then he was ill and during the retreat into the mountains died. After the war his remains were returned to Bohemia where they were interred. His widow is at present a leader in the women's Communist movement and a member of Parliament.

U. P. U. COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE

The Ministry of Posts issued on May 20, 1949 three stamps to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Universal Postal Union in the following values and colors: 3 Kcs, red; 5 Kcs, blue and 13 Kcs, green.

The designs for these stamps were prepared by Kamil Lhotak following ideas presented by Miroslav Soukup. The 3 Kcs was engraved by Jan Mracek, the 5 Kcs by Jindra Schmidt and the 13 Kcs by Ladislav Jirka. These stamps will be valid for inland and international postage until Dec. 31, 1949.

To give even a short resume of the UPU would take much space and because of its significance, every philatelic magazine has published articles on the accomplishments of this great organization. We shall therefore present the highlights of the UPU during the life of the Republic of Czechoslovakia.

The 7th Congress was to take place in Madrid in 1913 but was postponed until 1920. This was the first congress at which the CSR was represented. An application for membership was filed in 1918 and it became a full participating member June 1, 1922. Czechoslovakia also participated at the 8th Con-



gress in Stockholm, the 9th in London, and the 10th in Cairo. In 1939 the 11th took place in Buenos Aires and Czechoslovakia was not represented because it was then occupied by the Nazis. Germany participated as a self-appointed representative of Bohemia-Moravia, but because of the neutral attitude of the majority of the participating countries, failed to subscribe to any of the decisions of this Congress. Czechoslovakia was again represented at the 12th Congress in Paris.

PUSHKIN COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE

To commemorate the 150th anniversary of the birth of the Russian poet Alexander Sergeyevich Pushkin, the Czechoslovak Ministry of Posts is going to issue a commemorative 2.Kcs postage stamp in green color.

The design for this stamp is the work of prof. Karel Svolinsky and the engraving is by Jan Mracek.

The format of the stamp is a large sized vertical rectangle, rotary printed and perforated from line engraved plates on yellow paper in sheets of 70 and 35 subjects.

Validity in inland and international traffic is from June 6th to December 31, 1949.

Pushkin's first notable success came in 1820 with "Ruslan and Ludmila." "Boris Godunov" was published in 1825, "Poltava" in 1828 and in 1832 his autobiographical poem, "Eugene Onegin." He often clashed with the Czarist authorities. Fatally wounded in a duel, he died January 29, 1837.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

44. Gustav Kopta, 3515 Woods Ave., Lincoln, Nebr.
 202. Norman F. Ives, Box 2-143, RFD #1, Franklin, Mass.

229. George Turner, 34-52 73rd St., Jackson Heights, N. Y.
281. John Novotny, 575 Hedding St., San Jose 11, Calif.
372. Clarence J. Kozak, 4005 Trowbridge Ave., Cleveland 9, Ohio.

NEW MEMBERS

389. Robert A. Boydston, 29 N. E. 5th Ave., Hialeah, Fla.
390. Bronislav Kosan, Klecanky 26, Klecanky u Prahy, Czechoslovakia.
391. Gustav A. von Gross, 2043 N. Broad St., Philadelphia, Pa.
392. Russell T. Waines, 43 Albertus Ave., Toronto 12, Ont., Canada.
393. Dr. Andrew A. Ring, 1501 E. 70th St., Chicago 37, Ill.
394. John P. Israll, 157 Mitchell St., West Orange, N. J.

HANDBOOK MEETING IN CHICAGO

About a year ago your editor mentioned the desirability of publishing an English handbook of Czechoslovak stamps and, with this purpose in mind, prepared a check list of the stamps issued after the liberation, July 5, 1945. Since then comments, suggestions, corrections and criticisms have been our steady lot. In fact, it became apparent that the handbook talk stage must change soon to action and for this reason a special meeting was called Sunday, July 31, 1949.

In this report no names will be mentioned, not only because that takes up too much valuable space but also because your reporter failed to note the proposers.

It was generally agreed that an initial printing of 1000 copies is necessary. The type of printing was then discussed; a suggestion of offset printing was killed temporarily because the finished product usually looks too cheap. The only redeeming feature of this type of work is the savings possible on illustrations. It was also deemed essential that Czech diacritical marks be used instead of the present anglicizing of Czech names.

Every member must realize that a project of these proportions requires much money and various suggestions were made how to raise a fund. Among the plans proposed are: 1. A raffle. Every member is to receive and dispose of at least one chance book and each book to bring in a minimum of five dollars. With 200 members, excluding those living outside the United States, this would mean a gross of \$1,000 and after deducting the prizes, cost of printing and mailing, a minimum of \$750 is expected from this source. The proponents were cautioned that mailing these is prohibited by U. S. Postal laws. Some thought that if the tickets are labeled "donation" the project can be put over without breaking the law. 2. Sale of back issues. Since the institution of three classes of membership, some of the older members may have unwanted back copies of the Specialist. The members present at this meeting were told that requests for back issues of our publication come frequently to your editor, who hasn't the time to search for them. It was proposed and decided, not only in the interest of the handbook fund but especially to help new members, that Mr. Emil Zaludek, 5737 So. Francisco Ave., Chicago 29, Ill., take care of the collection of back issues and re-sale of same to members. Inasmuch as older members contributed at least one dollar per year or ten cents each issue, it was decided that back issues be sold for not less than ten cents each copy. Members who have back copies of the Specialist, especially before 1947, are asked to donate them and send them to Mr. Zaludek. 3. Outright donations. It was decided that solicitation of donations be postponed until such time as definite plans for a handbook are formulated. 5. The possibility of finding a publisher. The editor was asked to contact several publishers and learn from them: a. Would he be willing to publish a handbook at his own risk? b. Would he require a certain number of copies purchased by members of the Society? c. Would he want us to underwrite the publication and if so, to what amount? d. Should the first edition be a success, can we expect royalties from the sale of succeeding revised editions?

The editor explained how he visions a handbook and presented a brief outline what information this book must contain. His idea is a check list similar to the one published in the Specialist on the stamps issued after May 5, 1945. Many additions were suggested by some, chief of which was the pricing of individual items. Some feared that pricing stamps is too controversial; others thought a happy medium could be reached by obtaining an average of several catalogs. Some suggested a point system for varieties. No decision was reached; it was suggested a committee be appointed at a later date to solve this knotty and intricate problem.

As this problem is the problem of the entire membership, the prime requisites of information necessary for this informative work are here enumerated:

1. Name of issue
 2. Official and Scott catalog numbers.
 3. Value and color.
 4. Varieties
 - a. color
 - b. printing
 - c. plate
 - d. perforation
 - e. paper
 - f. essays and proofs, also printer's waste
 5. reason for issue
 6. Source of design.
 - a. author of design
 - b. engraver
 7. Date of issue and demonetization
 8. Quantity issued.
- Suggestions by other members are welcome.

Your editor announces the following authors and the sections on which they are to work:

Hradchany—John Velek
 1920 Masaryk—F. Kovarik
 Allegories—C. Osbourne
 1923-27 Masaryks—Greenawalt
 1936 Regular issue—open
 Commemoratives—open
 Air post and other service stamps—Waldmann
 Postage Dues—F. Kovarik
 Bohemia-Moravia—Kobyłka
 Slovakia—G. Blizil
 1945 to date—F. Kovarik

It was agreed that such subdivisions as Revolutionary issues of 1918, Sudeten area overprints and the 1945 revolutionary overprints may deserve separate treatment but do not fit in with the handbook, checklist or catalog as contemplated. The same may be true of sections on Siberia, Eastern Silesia and Military Posts; Cancellations: General, 1918-19 transition, pre-1918 on Austrian and Hungarian stamps, commemorative and slogan cancellations; first day covers and their cancellations. It was generally agreed that for the time being the above could be treated best as articles in future issues of the Specialist.

The entire project is much too vast for us to tackle lightly. We must be careful not to commit the Society or any of its members to obligations impossible of fulfillment. At present only one section of the handbook is ready and that is the section dealing with Bohemia and Moravia by G. Kobyłka. The 1945 to date is almost complete. If you are especially qualified to handle any section or a part thereof, even if it is in the hands of another, your cooperation is very welcome. Write to your editor now.

We again urge every member interested in this undertaking to lend a hand with suggestions and those who are able to cover some section not yet worked on, contact the editor. The task is tremendous for an individual but, if we all work together, the obstacles are not many nor difficult.

SALES & EXCHANGE DEPARTMENT

Our Society has reached another milestone on the way to success in the philatelic world: we now have our own approval books, just like any other large stamp club. To most of our contributors to our circuits I have sent an initial supply of new books and I hope that you too like the new books. From now on, only such books will be accepted for use in our circuits, except of course if someone should submit covers or postal cards, which would have to be mounted in larger and stronger books.

The printing was done by our member Bob Ives in Franklin, Mass. He has given us a break and through his help we are in a position to sell the new books at 6c each incl. postage, which is almost as low a price as asked by the APS for example, which society is in a position to place a much larger order than we were able to do. At this time I also will again thank the various members, who from time to time have sent me letters of appreciation and thanking me for the service I have given them. It shows that the Sales dept. has been helpful to our members in building up their collections. All this has been possible only with the help of our members who have availed themselves of our special services.

The widow of one of our former members has asked me to sell her late husband's collection. Most of it has been mounted in approval books but there is also a beautiful collection of USA Famous Men plate number blocks, which I hate to break. If someone is interested, please write to me.

Recently I have been asked to establish a sales department for the Pan-Slav Stamp Society and the newly organized Germany research group. If those 2 get going I will be able to give our sellers a better service, as it then will be possible to use some books for several societies, if the sales in one of them were not too good.

This year the sales seem to go up again. The amount of books coming in for circulation also has increased. By August already 16 circuits were sent on their ways, which is two a month, compared with the past average of 1 a month.

And now a reminder: if you do not take anything out of the books or if you cannot send the money at once, please at least inform me, that you have had a circuit and that you mailed it out again to the next one on the list. This information is very important to me. I should know at all times where each circuit is. Please help me and supply me with said information. A postcard in such cases will do.

Wolfgang Fritzsche

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

MEMBERSHIP LIST OF THE
CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

as of August 1, 1949

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 Nouss, Henry O., 405 N. Elizabeth Ave., Ferguson 21, Mo. #377
 *Novak, E. H., 4340 W. 21st Place, Chicago 23, Ill. #179
 Novak, Jaroslav, Batawa, Canada #133
 *Novotny, John, 575 Hedding St., San Jose 11, Calif. #281
 **Novy, Rudolph, 2315 Marfa Street, Dallas 16, Texas #50
 *Osbourn, O. H., 60 McLaughlin Blvd., Oshawa, Ont., Canada #66
 Osner, Mrs. Francis, 9 N. La Verne Ave., Chicago 44, Ill. #161
 Ostadal, Vilem, za Lihovarem 54, Hlubocepy, Praha, XVI, CSR. #193
 Paveza, Charles, 6410 Sinclair Ave., Berwyn, Ill. #175
 *Payne-Seddon, W. A., Orchards, Stockland, Honiton, Devon, Eng. #242

- *Pearce, C. J., Coalgate, Okla. #17
 Pearl, Dr. Julius, 23 Chestnut Street, Audubon, N. J. #25
 Penn, Elizabeth E., 512 S. Ogden Dr., Los Angeles 36, Calif. #335
 *Pitha, Carl A., 182-18 Wexford Ter., Jamaica 3, N. Y. #286
 Polacheck, Ernest D., 5111 S. University, Chicago 15, Ill. #325
 Polivka, Milos, 44 Ardmore Rd., Berkeley 7, Calif. #379
 *Poteet, F. Sargent, 6349 Hagerwood Rd., Kansas City 5, Mo. #233
 Pozdena, Otto R., M. D., 34-39 84th St., Jackson Hts., N. Y. #8
 Prashek, James, RFD #1, Lidgerwood, N. Dak. #180
 Reiner, Paul, 19 Rector Street, New York 6, New York #218
 **Reiner-Deutsch, Dr. Wm., 36-20 211th St., Bayside, L. I., N. Y. #27
 Reinowski, Roman, Jr., 1939 Highland Avenue, Berwyn, Ill. #210
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 *Ritzman, Ralph, M. D., 32 So. River St., Aurora, Ill. #33
 Rubin, Henry, GPO Box 3802, Sydney, NSW, Australia #355
 *Russell, W. L., 13 Park Crescent, Moonsee Ponds, Victoria, Australia #42
 Ruzicka, Geo. M., 3501 Sunnyside, Brookfield, Ill. #381
 **Sabol, Edward J., 237 Radcliffe Street, Bristol, Penna. #259
 Sadler, Alex, 2060 Metcalf St., Montreal 2, Canada #304
 *Safarik, Dr. Henry J., 21 S. Chapel St., Alhambra, Calif. #370
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 Schmidt, Frederick, 19443 113th Rd., St. Albans 12, N. Y. #249
 Schnieder, Paul, 51 W. 86th Street, New York, N. Y. #200
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 Sheppard, Alice M., M.D., 14 N. Franklin St., Pottstown, Pa. #164
 *Sisson, Mr. & Mrs. Alex., 4841 Chopin, Detroit 10, Mich. #273
 *Skopecek, Mrs. G. R., Box 232, Colfax, Calif. #45
 Skrivanek, Miles Sr., 2147 W. Evergreen Ave., Chicago 22, Ill. #245
 *Skupniewicz, Eddie, 5316 Melrose St., Chicago 41, Ill. #127
 Slivon, Frank, 52 E. 104th St., Chicago 28, Ill. #337
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 *Smith, Charles A., 52 Cherry Street, Easthampton, Mass. #99
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 *Stach, Alfons, 99 Nassau St., New York 7, New York #23
 *Stack, Frank L., 749 S. Central Park Ave., Chicago 24, Ill. #156
 Stavjanik, Tony, Batawa #37, Canada #146
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 Stein, Joseph, 655 Hinsdale St., Brooklyn, N. Y. #330
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 *Strnad, Joseph, 1160 Wilshire Ave., University City, Mo. #121
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 *Van Handel, Ray Jr., 931 N. 5th St., Sheboygan, Wis. #295

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 Velek, John, 2229 Kimball, Chicago 47, Ill. #11
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 *Veselsky, Walter, 2424 S. Springfield Ave., Chicago 23, Ill. #48
 Von Gross, Dr. Gustave A., Broad & Diamond Sts., Phila., Pa. #391
 *Vrzalik, Leo F., Belcamp, Maryland #162
 Waines, Russel T., 43 Albertus Rd., Toronto 12, Canada #392
 *Waldman, Charles, 2747 Western Ave., Park Forest, Chicago Hts., Ill. #261
 Waldman, Thomas, 2747 Western Ave., Park Forest, Chicago Hts., Ill. #365
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 *Waltuck, Edmund, Rm. #511, Hotel Easton, Easton, Pa. #111
 **Wasserscheid, August, 59 Euston Rd., Garden City, N. Y., #118
 *Weiner, Alfred, 5056½ N. Kenmore Ave., Chicago 40, Ill. #107
 West, Henry J., 78-09 135th St., Kew Gardens Hills, Queens, N. Y. #356
 *Wheeler, George C., 146 Locust Ave., Scarsdale, N. Y. #311
 *Woodbury, Kenneth J., Sr., 19 Cowesett Ave., West Warwick, R. I. #181
 York, Alan, 1342 40th Street, Brooklyn 18, N. Y.
 **Zahradnick, K., 12704 Holborn Ave., Cleveland 5, Ohio #106
 *Zaludek, Emil E., 5737 S. Francisco, Chicago 29, Ill. #211
 Zaviska, Frank, 3021 S. Kolin Ave., Chicago 23, Ill. #282
 Zelenka, Wm. R., 12813 Crennell Ave., Cleveland 5, Ohio #272
 Zemany, Michael Jr., 2235 N. Benson Rd., Fairfield, Conn. #24
 Zenaty, Bert, 394 Burns St., Forest Hills, N. Y. #64
 Zern, Albert J., 6536 N. Spokane, Chicago 30, Ill. #374
 Zimmerman, Frank R., 1241 Sargent Ave., St. Paul 5, Minn. #221

THE NITRA ISSUE

by Charles Waldmann

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The Nitra Stamp

On April 20, 1933, the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs of Czechoslovakia issued two stamps commemorating the 1100th anniversary of the erection and consecration by Prince Pribina of the first Catholic Church on Slovakian soil. The church was situated in the town of Nitra, which had been chosen as the first center and fortress of Christianity in Slovakia for geographical and ethnographical reasons. The town of Nitra lies at the foothills of the Carpathian Mountains, which site is at the northern fringe of the Danubian flatland.

The founding of the Nitra settlement dates back to the Roman era, when the Legion outposts fortified the first hill encountered on the northern march alongside the Danubian tributary, the Nitra River.

This first hill, with its almost perpendicular granite walls on three sides and skirted in a half-moon shape by the rapid Nitra stream, was ideal for a fortress and lookout post.

In the Ninth Century the Nitra fortress consisted of a single circular wall built of granite in a so-called "cyclops" manner and was topped by a fifteen to eighteen foot wide brick wall. This protective wall on top of a high rocky cliff helped guard the unarmed farmers, the guild-member tradesmen, and the

well-to-do merchants from the marauding Frankish and Saxon soldier gangs then roaming through the fertile Danube basin in search of food and other household necessities.

At the turn of the Ninth Century, many of the isolated Slavic tribes were consolidated by Prince Pribina. The consolidation increased the prosperity of the people, who abandoned hunting for farming and home industries. Peace, prosperity, and culture reduced the fighting spirit of the native population, and the way was opened for the satisfaction of spiritual desires and the spread of Christianity. The fortress of the soldiers became a lofty House of God.

This peaceful era of religious culture lasted approximately a half century. In 894, a horde of fierce, pagan Huns, led by Atilla, left their Ural-Althai heights, and driven by famine and lust for plunder, tore mercilessly through the Verecky Pass of the Carpathian Mountains, engulfing the peaceful, but not unified Slavic tribes.

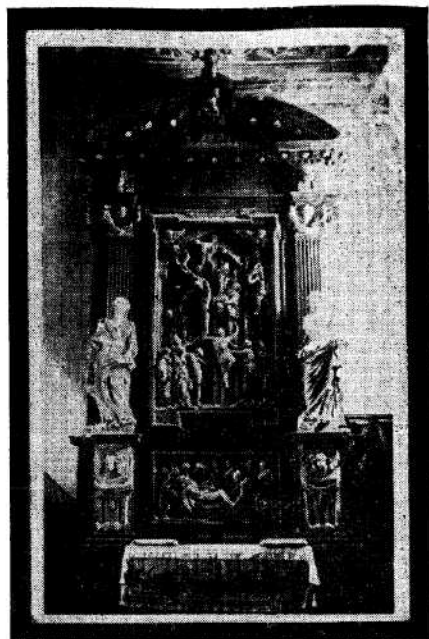
The upheaval created by the plundering pagan horde did not last long. The pillaging trips became longer and longer as the devastation progressed to the West. At Passau and Regensburg the Hun force destroyed the church, burning and plundering all around it. But their own eventual only means of survival was to settle down to farming and ask for acceptance into the folds of the mightiest power of the era: the Church. The fortress of Nitra was never conquered; it remained the fortress of God.

With the exception of one pagan leader, Vazul, the Nomads accepted Christianity. Vazul was tried and condemned to death. The oaken half-door on which Vazul was executed still bears marks of the molten lead which was poured into his ears at boiling heat, the means by which he was executed. This door, with numerous other medieval relics are in the Bishop's Museum in the Nitra Fort.

Today the same fortress, enlarged and renovated, is filled with historically significant Renaissance buildings including the Bishop's Palace, the Cathedral,



Church of St. Emery in Nitra, to which was added the Episcopal Cathedral in 1333. The baroque steeple was built in 1622. Last addition to the cathedral was constructed in 1720.



Altar in Episcopal Cathedral. The sculpture "Descent from the Cross" is the work of J. Pernegger (1662)

the ecclesiastical Library and Museum, the Franciscan and Jesuit Monasteries the Seminary, and the homes of the Hierarchy. The entire Castle grounds are studded with beautiful formal gardens which still retain a true medieval atmosphere.

The photographs accompanying this article were taken in 1937 and 1939. A photo-montage process was used by Karel Seizinger, the artist responsible for these attractive stamps. The stamps were produced by the rotary press from 100 subject plates, on white unwatermarked paper, and perforated 9%. The stamps, measuring 21x23 $\frac{3}{4}$ mm., were first issued June 20, 1933, and were withdrawn February 28, 1937. A commemorative cancellation was applied with the legend "Nitra Oslavy Pribinovy." Gutter pairs exist in both values; the 1 Kcs. is extremely rare. Quantities issued: 50h yellow green: 20,605,000. 1K carmine: 10,510,000.

TIMELY EXPLANATION OF THE COMMEMORATIVE TAB ARRANGEMENT ON THE STAMPS OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA

by George A. Blizil

Reprinted with permission of author from "Linn's Weekly Stamp News"

Recently, the Czechoslovakian Administration of Posts announced that it planned to discontinue the printing of the commemorative tabs in the selvedge of the sheets. The decision was brought about by the demands of collectors who in attempting to complete miniature panes of the stamps and who desired nothing but stamps with the tabs attached left the Philatelic Agency with many unusable pieces which were not saleable.

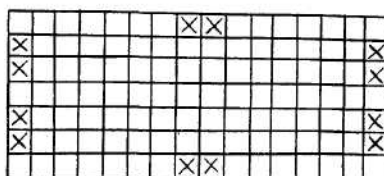
The original layout of the sheet as printed by the press at hand was changed to another distribution of the tabs with the intention of making more of the stamps of interest to collectors. This new layout fared not much better.

Now, the Czech Postal Administration has announced the abandonment

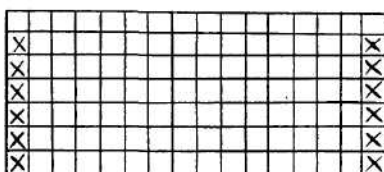
of the entire "tab" scheme and will print future issues without their appearance.

A description of the past, present and future disposal of the stamps of the sheets is as follows.

Most commemoratives and airmails of higher values are printed in what is known in Czechoslovakia as the "large format" size. The stamps referred to come off of a Stikney rotary press in the Prague Government Printing Works. Using this size format, the press provides spaces for 112 subjects. Only 100 stamps were printed—for accounting conveniences.

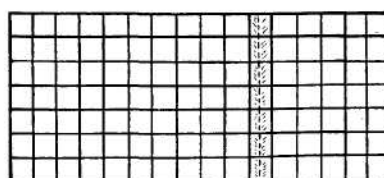


The above form shows 100 stamps (blank squares) and 12 coupons (X's). The pattern was used on some Bohemia & Moravia issues (88-9) and (B27-8 Smetana). Czech collectors objected to this because of the possible myriad of coupon-position blocks possible. This last appeared in the printing of the 1945 Kozina issue (Scott 305-6). Coupons in this pattern are all blank.



This pattern is the standard arrangement, having all coupons in right and left margins. The first time this appeared was in 1935 on Scott 204.

In 1938, commencing with Scott 241, art work and ornamentation appeared on coupons. It must be remembered that these patterns of 112 subjects only refer to large format stamps that are steel engraved. Note: The 1930 airmail set was NOT printed on this press.



In order to eliminate the troublesome problem in Czechoslovakia, the new printing arrangement from this press will produce 2 sheets from each pane. One sheet of stamps will be 10x7—70 stamps, and the other will be 5x7—a smaller sheet of 35 stamps. There will be a knife cut through some of possible coupon stamps, producing selvage for the new sized sheets. The new arrangement will have the press produce a total of 105 stamps from each pane printing, whereas the older system produced 100 stamps and 12 coupons, or tabs.

Editor's Note: Mr. Blizil is president of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of North America, a national group of collectors whose members are interested in the stamps of that country. He also has one of the foremost collections of Czechoslovakian stamps and philatelic material in this country. Inquiries about the Society can be directed to him at 2364 Queenston Rd., Cleveland Heights 18, Ohio.

CHECK LIST

(Editor's note: Some time ago we acquainted the members of the decision of the Czechoslovak government that all catalogs of Czecho stamps must use identical numbers. In our opinion this is a very good idea and we shall conform to the rule. The official number comes first, then Scott number, type number, value and description. The handbook numbering will follow this system.)

CENTENARY OF SLOVAK NATIONAL UPRISING



50

51



52

These stamps were issued to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Slovak National Insurrection, September 24, 1948. They bear portraits of three of the leaders: M. J. Hurban on the 1.50, Ludovít Štúr on the 3. and M. Hodza on the 5.Kcs. All three stamps designed by prof. K. Svolinsky. The engraving is the work of: J. A. Svengsbir on the 1.50, L. Jirka on the 3. and J. Mracek on the 5.Kcs. Printed from 100 subject engraved plates of the large format and each sheet contains 12 ornamental coupons. Perforated line $12\frac{1}{2}$. These coupons were designed by the author of the stamps and each engraver engraved the coupon of his stamp. Stamps lose validity August 31, 1949.

Number	Scott no.	value	type	other info.
481		1.50K	50	red brown with coupon

482	3. K	51	red with coupon
483	5. K	52	blue with coupon

First day cover

BENES MEMORIAL STAMP



53

This stamp was issued as a memorial to Dr. Eduard Benes, second president of the Czechoslovak Republic, on September 28, 1948. Designed by K. Svolinsky and engraved by J. A. Svengsbir. Rotary printed on unwatermarked paper and line perforated 12½. These stamps were valid for postage only one month.

484	8. K	53	black gray
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First day cover

To be continued

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
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⅛ page	1.50	1.35	1.25
1/16 page	1.00	.85	.75

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