

# THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE  
CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

Copyright 1949 The Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of North America  
Editor Frank J. Kovarik, 2502 So. Kedzie Ave., Chicago 23, Ill.

Vol. XI

October 1949

No. 8

## EDITORIAL

Since the advent of the new regime in Czechoslovakia, much has changed in the old country. The changes that affect us most, as stamp collectors, are the new and ever changing regulations governing the import and export of stamps and, more recently, the regulations governing the sale of commemorative stamps. In the last issue of the Specialist we told the members that of each new issue one value can be had by subscription only, while the other values of the set can be had freely in all post offices. Recent letters from over there confirm the earlier reports. If this is the case, our Society may be compelled to list such stamps as are issued for collectors only in a "Tentative Listing" for, surely, they are mere labels and not postage stamps. The high-handed methods employed by the Post Office Department of Czechoslovakia, milking stamp collectors with unnecessary stamps, issuing stamps through a government controlled agency in limited quantities only and taxing collectors for the privilege of subscribing to the new issue service are cheapening the stamps of the country and creating a hardship on our Society which has for more than ten years successfully advertised the stamps of Czechoslovakia. We ask responsible officials in Praha to give careful consideration to their actions because they can do more harm than good. \* The PRAGA 1950 International Postage Stamps Exhibition committee writes: We shall be publishing an extensive pamphlet shortly containing the first information in connection with the International Philatelic Exhibition in Praha. This pamphlet contains also an article concerning the first issue of Czechoslovak Air Mail stamps. Those interested in the above shall receive it on request free of charge, by merely writing for same. The time passes quickly and we ask you, therefor, to kindly prepare your collections for said Exhibition. The address is: Praga 1950, 41 Vaclavske Nam., Praha XII, Czechoslovakia. \* Your editor has been deluged with work, 94.84% Czecho Society work. Fortunately the Chicago group volunteered help. A committee is now handling the back issues; another is handling illustrations for the Specialist; another takes care of the mailing of the Specialist, etc. A rising vote of thanks is in order. Cooperation is a two way street. We cannot expect cooperation from a fellow member unless we, too, cooperate. Let us at all times bear this in mind and govern our every action accordingly. \* The October 29, 1949, issue of the well known magazine "Stamps" will be dedicated to the "Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of North America." All members are urged to thank the publisher, Mr. H. L. Lindquist for this opportunity of presenting the stamps of Czechoslovakia before its readers.

## PARADE OF NEW ISSUES

In the New Issues column of last month's Specialist only the UPU set was illustrated. Our official photographer has had difficulties with his camera but



assures us that in the near future he hopes to have everything in working order.

Today we are reproducing (we hope) the 50h, 80h, 1K, 4K and 8K values of the 1949 regular issue; the two designs of the Communist Congress issue; the Chopin and Pushkin Commemorative issues and the overprinted air mail issues. This latter illustration thru the courtesy of the AIRPOST JOURNAL official organ of the American Air Mail Society.

We have been promised other cuts and we are sure our members will pardon us if these don't appear until in the November issue of the Specialist.

#### FIFTIETH PRAHA JUBILEE SAMPLE FAIR

To propagate the Praha Sample Fair which takes place from September 11 to 18, 1949, the Czechoslovak Ministry of Posts will issue on August 20 two special stamps: 1.50Kcs, brown, and 5 Kcs, blue.

The stamp design shows the globe with an ornamental ribbon in national colors. Within the design is the lettering "50. jubilejní prazský vzorkový veletrh 11. - 18. IX. 1949" and the value. The legend "Československo" is at the top of the stamp. The design is the work of prof. František Tichý and the engraving is by Jindra Schmidt.

The stamps are large size horizontal rectangles, are printed by the steel engraving process on white paper in sheets of 70 and 35 stamps. A first day cover for this stamp was designed and engraved by Bohdan Roule. The stamps are valid for all mailing purposes from August 20, 1949 to March 31, 1950.

#### AIR MAIL OVERPRINTS

September 1, 1949, the Ministry of Posts will issue a series of surcharged air mail stamps. The present air mail stamps will be changed as follows:



old value	new value	color of overprint	issued in sheets of
1.50Kcs	1. Kcs	blue	50 and 100
5.50Kcs	3. Kcs	red	100
9. Kcs	6. Kcs	brown	50 and 100
10. Kcs	8. Kcs	green	70
16. Kcs	7.50Kcs	red	50 and 100
20. Kcs	12.50Kcs	blue	70
24. Kcs	15. Kcs	blue	70
50. Kcs	30. Kcs	blue	70

The overprinting is done by the engraved process and the old value is obliterated by two horizontal lines about 8mm in length. The stamps are valid for postage in both inland and international mails. The unsurcharged air mail stamps continue to remain valid.

For additional news see "Our Praha Letter."

#### NEW MEMBERS

295. James G. Zdenek, 611 E. 34th St., Tacoma 4, Wash.  
 296. Robert R. Evans, 5014 S. 23rd St., Omaha 7, Nebr.  
 297. Mrs. Victoria Voller, 5338 W. 24th Pl., Cicero 50, Ill.  
 298. John J. Britt, 481 Ft. Washington Ave., New York 33, N. Y.

#### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

23. Dr. R. Ritzman, 32 S. River St., Aurora, Ill.  
 50. Rud. Novy, Box 2025, Dallas 1, Tex.  
 193. Vilem Ostadal, na Zlichove 36, Praha XVI, Czechoslovakia.  
 368. J. D. Morrissey, Jr., Box 31, University Sta., Urbana, Ill.

#### OUR PRAHA LETTER



The new issues of the Czechoslovak Post Office Department continue to come out with an ever increasing tempo. The reason for this activity can be surmised from reading the titles. Only a short time divides us from the New Year but we already know of the following:

- August 20. Praha Sample Fair, 1.50 K and 5. K, large format  
 August 29. Zvolen, 10. K, medium format

- September 1. Air Mail Overprints, 3. K face
- September 11. Day of the Miners, 1.50, 3. and 5. K, large format
- December 4. Arts and Crafts Congress.
- December 18. For the Children (at least one value is to portray Bozena Nemcova, authoress)
- December 21. Portrait of Stalin.

\* \* \*

The Czech collector shows some interest in new issues, but he shows greater interest in the laws governing the sale and exchange of postage stamps with collectors in foreign countries. The latest laws governing this activity have just been published, but both the organized collectors and the Post Office Department are dissatisfied. Despite this it seems certain that the monopolistic company "Orbis" (the government (?) owned philatelic agency) will continue to dictate rules. Through the insistence of "Orbis," the Ministry of Export Trade issued a proclamation from which we publish the following excerpts:

"Until further notice the 'Orbis' company is the sole export and import agent of stamps for collectors. Our collectors, who wish to exchange stamps with collectors of other countries, must obtain permission through 'Orbis.'

"Outside 'Orbis' no one is allowed to export a larger quantity of stamps than those valued at 500. crowns or a weight in excess of 20 grams.

"An exchange permit for collectors is allowed through the 'Orbis' company only to collectors who are members of a philatelic group associated with the Central Federation of Philatelic Clubs.

"'Orbis' company will create offices in Praha and Bratislava to examine all parcels leaving or entering the country and will issue special forms and envelopes for exchanging purposes.

"The collector will turn in an unsealed envelope with permit form issued at the 'Orbis' company's headquarters. The stamps will be computed, tabulated and recorded and when the exchange comes in, the Post Office Department will turn the stamp parcel over to "Orbis" where the control office will charge off the exchange. In each case 'Orbis' decides on clearance of stamps.

"Any collector who has sent to a foreign collector stamps to the amount of 1000. crowns and has failed to receive a like amount in exchange loses his permit to export stamps to the defaulting collector until the amount due him is received."

\* \* \*

Orbis is endeavoring to curtail the sale of commemorative stamps to one copy per person. In this way a collectors chance for exchanging stamps with foreign collectors would be eliminated. As a first attempt at such a stringent regulation shall be the 5.Kcs value of the Praha Sample Fair. It is obvious that such a regulation does not meet with favor by the collectors of our country. We advise our foreign friends to await further developments.

\* \* \*

Orbis is anxious to handle new issues for the whole world. This would mean that any foreign collector would be compelled to obtain his stamps thru Orbis and not through a philatelic friend in our country. Here, too, we advise our friends to await developments. We hope to have something more definite in our next letter.

JZM

\* \* \*

(Editor's note: We have learned that only six values of the eight overprinted air mail stamps issued September 1, 1949, can be had at the post offices; the two values: 8.K on 10.K and 15.K on 24.K can be had only from Orbis. If this is really so, your editor will cease listing these items as stamps and will call them by their real name: labels. It may be effective if our members send letters of protest to the Ministry of Posts in Praha. The address is: Ministerstvo Post, Odd. A/3, Praha VII, Czechoslovakia.

---

Artistic commemorative covers and souvenir favor sheets with special commemorative or memorial cancellations in exchange for mint U. S. LAD. KRO-PAC, Praha 54, Liboc 234, Czechoslovakia.

## THE CASE OF THE 30h DARK VIOLET IMPERFORATE

E. Hirsch

Translated from Ceskoslovenska Filatelie by G. Skopecek

The scarcity of and reasons for issuing the imperforate Hradcany 10h green, 20h red and 30h violet are well known to collectors. However, if we want to dig deeper into the background of the 30h, we have first to recapitulate all we know of it.

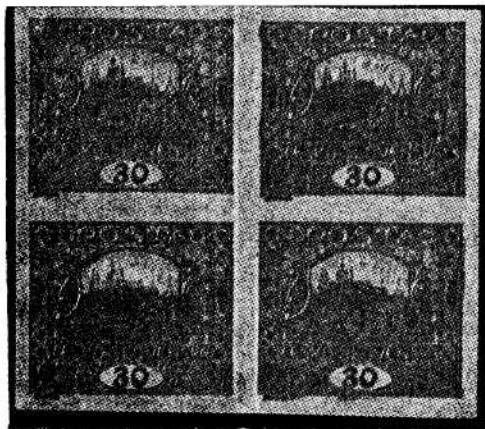
The official date of issue of these stamps, perforate, was April 1920 and they were valid for only one year. The large issue (36 millions) in such a short time was productive of variations in perforations, making it a desirable field for specialists. Most desirable is the 30h imperforate, which with its sisters, the 10h and 20h, has its own niche in catalogs and albums.

Today it would be valueless to call attention to the principal errors of cataloguing it. The stamp was to be perforate only but appeared imperforate in small numbers and should have been catalogued as a variety of the perforated stamps. The main reason for its scarcity is not the fact that only a small number appeared on the market, but mainly that this small number received the character of a regular issue which should be in the album of every collector of Czechoslovakia.

Backtracking on the prices of these stamps, we find to our surprise that 25 years ago the light violet 30h was quoted at 16 Kc and the dark violet at 17 Kc, while the 20h imperf was offered at 20 Kc. This discrepancy in prices is not easily explained, even when we take into consideration the small number of serious collectors in the first year of our independence, who were rather indifferent to the difference between perforates and imperforates.

To evaluate the situation today it is necessary to sift all the facts we have about this stamp. It is an established fact that a small number of imperforate sheets was sent out by mistake to some postoffices. Janske Lazne was one of them, which is proven by the large number of these stamps cancelled there. One thing however, should be remembered—none of these used stamps was dark violet. This fact should be filed for future reference. Of these few imperforate sheets which were sent out, most were used up as no one paid any particular attention to perforates or imperforates, both being accepted for postage. Today there are more mint stamps of this category than used ones in collections. How can this be possible?

A small number of these came from whole sheets bought at postoffices and not used, but the difference between the number of mint and used stamps in collections and on the market is so pronounced that we have to look elsewhere for a real explanation. This came to us by an accident on an inspection of material in the Postoffice Museum. Among the waste which occurs in the production of stamps were values of all Hradcany stamps except one—the 30h vi-



olet. From this it is possible to surmise that the inefficiently inventoried waste material of 1920 was used to supply the increasing demand.

In sheets of stamps rejected for some small defect in printing, most of the stamps were satisfactory, so the good ones were sold for postage and the defective ones as errors. Our cut shows a typical example of a so-called error which inspectors rejected but in those days was not destroyed. It stands to reason that a faulty print such as this should not have the value of a good stamp, especially if the stamp is a rarity. It is tragic that there are experts who will put their signature on such misprints, thus enhancing their value in the eyes of collectors. No wonder we see ads offering "30h imperf. expertized by Gilbert double print, bottom row" at 8000 Kc., while the real description should be "Waste," at about one-tenth of that price.

Serious collectors should bear in mind the following rules in regard to this rare stamp:

- 1) The 30h imperforate was given a catalog number as a regular issue by catalog and album makers.
- 2) The 30h dark violet imperforate was never sent out to the postoffices but was printed later, as is proved by the fact that the errors in the first printing were not repeated. The dark violet regularly used is not known to exist as it is not a stamp but waste.
- 3) The 30h light violet, which you may have in your collection or see offered for sale, comes from a small supply of some postoffice or from waste obtained illegally from the printers. The ratio is about one to ten. It is well to bear this in mind when buying this stamp, as it is not always possible to decide in which category it belongs.
- 4) Every faulty print (so-called error) is a sure sign of its being waste, of which there is a great deal. When buying, do not be led to believe that you are getting a bona-fide error, no matter how many experts say so. Times are hard for the experts, but that is no reason one should support them.
- 5) Always inspect a 30h stamp carefully, not only for printing, but paper as well—and if it shows any creases or folds, it is a sure sign of waste having no connection with the regular stamp, even if it did wander to Janske Lazne. Some readers will say that it is rather late to bring up these facts, but if they will realize that records divulge their secrets only after many years they will not be too hard on us. Anyway, we believe it is better to expose such legends than not to.

#### More About the 30h Dark Violet Imperforate

We received a number of comments and questions regarding our article. Most of these argued that the recognition a stamp had had for 30 years should not be taken away. Well—philately is a progressive hobby and we believe it is the duty of a philatelic publicist to tell the truth about stamps, regardless of whom it may hurt. Some readers wanted to know if our comment that "the experts were having hard times" applied to the old Tribuna expert bureau. Our answer is yes, although it ceased to function about ten years ago. I also stopped my expertizing more than ten years ago, having learned my lesson the hard way.

—E. Hirsch

#### MORE ABOUT CZECHOSLOVAKIAN CATALOGS

Despite our efforts we were able to get only seven volumes of the Novotny catalog. On our list were fifteen names. We took 15 pieces of paper, entered on each one name, folded them in a box, shook same, drew 7 slips of paper, and these lucky seven will get the catalogs. Sorry, folks, that is the best we could do.

We have convinced a Chicago member, Mr. Alfred N. Weiner, 5056½ No. Kenmore Ave., Chicago 40, Ill., to order books from Czechoslovakia for our members. Your editor has been doing this for a long time but finds less time to devote to this type of work. We are sure our members will not hesitate to pay a slight premium to Mr. Weiner (we always quoted our prices much too low). He will have more time to cater to your wants than we have. Kindly turn to him for all your philatelic literature needs in the future.

## CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND HUNGARY NATIONALIZE THEIR STAMP TRADE

Almost within a few days of each other, Czechoslovakia and Hungary have issued decrees nationalizing their stamp activities. This leaves Poland as the only remaining Soviet satellite that hasn't yet joined the "nationalization" circle, a step that is expected to be corrected very soon, according to A. August Tiger.

The elimination of speculative issue is the reason given for the step by Czechoslovakia. Emphasis however, appears to be on the control of currency exchange. Foreign stamps are said to be coming into the country at the rate of over 400 Kcs. per U. S. dollar and over 90 Kcs. per Swiss franc.

Mr. Tiger reports that in an effort to stabilize the market for Czechoslovakian new issues in foreign countries and to "avoid" inflationary offers which are said to have a disastrous effect in the Czech market, a monopoly has been established with Orbis, Ltd., being the only firm permitted to import or export stamps, postal stationery and some philatelic accessories.

Orbis will serve only members of recognized philatelic societies. For this purpose they have offices in Prague and in Bratislava. At these offices will be made available specially required correspondence envelopes as well as lists of domestic and foreign stamps available. A collector may not order more than 500 Kcs. worth and it must not exceed a weight of 20 grammes (about 7 ozs.). When the proper forms have been filled out, the collector sends the special envelope unsealed to Orbis, Ltd., for approval, the control stamp and posting to the foreign country designated.

A Czech collector is not permitted further purchases if he has an outstanding exchange debt exceeding 1,000 Kcs. The control stamp affixed to the envelope by Orbis is necessary because no envelope is permitted to leave the country without it. All transactions coming and going are through the facilities of the Orbis firm.

Tables and booths at philatelic meetings and bourses in Czechoslovakia can be obtained only by properly licensed dealers. Collectors may exchange stamps with anyone within the country, but they are not permitted to sell stamps except to properly licensed dealers.

The Czech postoffice will no longer sell stamps in complete sets. Only one value of each set will be available. Complete sets can be had only through Orbis, Ltd.

Orbis insists that all leading stamp catalogs of the world will recognize Czech stamps because they will be issued in a quantity limited to one year of use. To discourage collectors from seeking more than one set, philatelists will be required to file their names and intention of purchase providing they are at least six years of age. Parents can register for younger children and "even new born babies."

Foreign buyers must deal with the central office and purchases are to be made at an established nominal value plus 15% for the trade. Others will have to pay a plus of 25% in order to give the trade a 10% margin for their service. All prices will be set in U. S. dollars and Swiss francs.

—Reprinted from "Svornost"



## POSTMAN'S KNOCK

Cincinnati, Zone #7, Box #6, Ohio

Specialists in European Postal History

We cater to the collector who is interested in adding to his collection something different...items not usually found in the average dealers stock...Our specialties are...out of the ordinary covers...postal stationery...non-Scott items...locals...feldposts...First Day Covers...Stamps with tabs...Philatelic Literature...

Selections of reasonably priced items sent for your inspection on your request only.

To sell we must buy...so if you have something you care to dispose of we are always glad to inspect your properties. No item too small or too large.



## OCCUPATION ISSUES

By Vernon McKenzie

Reprinted with permission of author from "Weekly Philatelic Gossip"

It will not be possible, within reasonable space limitations, even to mention most of the stamps issued by order of Germany in the areas occupied from 1939 to 1945. So I shall concentrate, in the main, on those emissions which display the Fuehrer's features, or those of some other German leader or quisling.

One of the first things that may be observed is that occupied countries in Eastern Europe were treated more severely, even philatelically, than those in the North and West. This was in accord with the Reich's spurious racial theories. Germany has felt, even before Hitler came to power albeit not so emphatically, that West European culture is superior to that of East Europe; and that, of course, German Culture (and Kultur) must be superior to both.

Roughly, the Nazi-German philosophy held that human beings are stratified. At the top, come "Aryans,"—primarily Germans—and at the bottom of the heap are the Jews. Just slightly higher than the Jews, Hitler, Goebbels, and the Nazi "philosopher," Alfred Rosenberg, placed the peoples of Eastern Europe. They were treated much worse than those in the West and North. There were gas ovens for liquidation in Poland, but none in France, Belgium, Holland or the Scandinavian countries.

No, I am not getting off into ideology, or indulging in anti-German propaganda. I am recording facts, and leading up to the point that Germany treated Eastern Europe more drastically than other parts, even philatelically. With a warped consistency, Germany was rougher on Poland, Czechoslovakia, Ostland and the Ukraine, than in other areas: even when it became a part of the larger problem to decide what stamps these areas should be permitted to issue.

Virtually all collectors know that the part of Poland taken over by Germany became the General Gouvernement. Bohemia and Moravia—roughly two-thirds of Czechoslovakia—became a part of the Greater Reich. Ukraine and Ostland (the Baltic area) were given specially severe treatment. These four areas, and only these, had the Fuehrer's face imposed on their stamps. There was, of course, strict or lax control of propaganda in stamps exerted in other occupied areas—but in these Northern and Western countries there are NO Hitler head stamps.

I may have overstressed the reason for the difference—but the difference is there. France, Belgium, Holland, Denmark, Norway and even the Balkan countries continued to issue stamps with designs showing evidences of their history and culture. Most of these produced stamps which also showed quislings, such as Vidkun Quisling and Marshal Petain. This may have been done on order, as it was in certain instances; or it was thought to be an act of diplomacy, which would curry favor with the German conqueror.

Now it is about time to quit generalizing, and get down to cases. It is logical to start first with Hitler's invasion of Czechoslovakia, in October, 1938.

As soon as the Munich Conference concluded, perhaps even before, the Sudeten Germans burst out in a profusion of propaganda, not neglecting philatelic opportunities. I have about 100 items from this feverish period—September 29, 1938 to October 31, 1938—but most of them are not probably postally used.

The first is a picture postcard, with reproductions of photographs on the back, showing Hitler, Mussolini, Chamberlain and Daladier. The following item is a picture of the notorious Czech quisling, Konrad Henlein. This is stamped with the ordinary 20 heller, Scott 154, and shows a slogan cancelation, but not a post office.

A 50 heller postcard is a curiosity. It obviously went through the mail, from Nordboehmen to Bremen, postmarked 2.10.38. In the postal cancelation is the slogan: Ein Volk, Ein Reich, Ein Fuehrer (One people, one country, one leader). In addition, the card is canceled from Warnsdorf, the cancelation stamp has "Heil Hitler" in the center, and it indicates that the "day of freedom" was 22.9.38. Some enthusiast must have jumped the gun, as this is a week before the Munich decision.

During October there was a multiplicity of slogan propaganda cancelations,



over the stamp, beside the stamp (or stamps), and in various other places. I have a "run" of these, postmarked each day from October 1 to October 15, and a scattering later. These cancelations usually point out the "day of freedom" in the cancellation. Some cards have propaganda pictures on the back, others just straight messages. On every one the swastika (or as the Germans call it, the Hackenkreuz), was conspicuously shown. Some of the slogans read (in translation):

Heil Hitler. Freed by German troops.  
We Thank our Leader—Bergstadt Johannesthal.  
Freed by Adolf Hitler. 7.10.38.



Sudetenland has come home to the Reich.

We are Free! Teplitz-Schoenau, 9.10.38.

Niemes is Free—Heil Hitler.

Sudeten-German Free Corps. Group IB, Platoon III, Company 2, Konrad Henlein.

Finally freed from the Czechs, 17.X.1938.

Many Czech stamps were overprinted, usually with Wir Sind Frei! (We are Free!) These went through the mail, but they have been repudiated by the Czechoslovakian authorities. Some Czech stamps were otherwise maltreated, with such overprints as:

Wir Sind Frei! with swastika and new value.

New value, swastika and Heil Hitler!

Heil Hitler! diagonally across the face of President Benes.

In the city of Usti (called Aussig by the Germans) one of the more enterprising philatelic rackets was carried out by the now defunct stamp firm, Kunz and Jenatschke. These two dealers either operated the press themselves, or worked in cahoots with the Aussig post office, and produced blocks of the Hindenburg head, 3 pfennig, Scott 416, with overprints on the two stamps in the left of each block. The two right were left clear. The overprint shows what might be sun rays on the upper part of the stamp, a Nazi Party swastika dagger down the center, and toward the bottom: Aussig is free! 16 Oct. 1938, Liberation Proclamation. (In three lines.)

These overprinted stamps, including the Aussig issue, are of course ignored by Scott, but some 178 local issue varieties are listed or mentioned in Zumstein, but are unpriced. The Aussig issue has a brief note. In addition to Germany 416, Aussig ist frei! appears on several Czech stamps.

There was brief, but very brief, need for interim postal values in early October, when the Czech government was withdrawing from Sudetenland and German troops (with civic officials to take over) entered these areas. But the opportunity to produce an authorized postal issue was virtually nil. As Czech postmasters pulled out they took with them all their postal supplies—by order from Prague. German postmasters moved in, with German stamps.

Although the change over of allegiance was made in orderly, though often sullen manner, it took at least a few hours, and in some cases several days, to get things working under the new regime. In this interregnum Sudeten Nazis—members of the NSDAP—took it upon themselves to run affairs. It was only such groups, of gangs, which gave authority for overprinting. In some instances it was done as a private racket. In other cases the Nazi local party branch made dickers with stamp dealers, and perhaps with postmasters, to have the overprinting done, and used the money to enrich party coffers.

But, if there were no stamps left by withdrawing Czechs, in the post offices, where did the stamps come from? This is explained by Erich Halde, a Czech dealer who left his country to avoid trouble with the Germans, and is now, after much meandering, starting up again in business near Hamburg. Stamps, in the main, came from dealers' supplies. Proof of this lies in the fact that several stamps no longer valid, stamps which had been returned by order to the General Post Office in Prague, were overprinted.

Specific proof of the fact that many, at least, of these stamps could not possibly have been handled by Sudeten post offices may be given for two issues, by way of illustration. Czechoslovakian stamp B152 could only, at any time, be procured from the Philatelic Window in Prague Central P. O. 39 was solely obtainable at same window, or at the exhibition in Bratislava (Slovakia). Other issues voided and unavailable include: 183, 186, 191, 206-7, 208, 213-14, 215, 216, 228-9, 236-8 and B147-B149.

An exception should be made for stamps postmarked in city of "Asch." Here Czech stamps ran out September 21st and OPs were postally used.

Much more information about these issues could be given, but I shall merely refer any interested specialist to two books dealing with the subject (each book running around 200 pages!) One was published by Senf in Leipzig, and is the work of those indefatigable philatelists, Dr. J. Hugo Hoerr and Dr. E. Dub. The other, published by Kluege in Dresden, was probably also written

by Kluege himself. These are in easy German, and profusely illustrated.

One of my favorite covers—one that I wouldn't dispose of at a "reasonable" price—illustrates the thoroughness with which Germans canvassed ALL prop-  
aganda angles. Even street names—in Germany, after Hitler came to power, and in occupied areas later—were changed. This particular cover is addressed:

Herrn  
Karl O P P E L T  
Aussig a./E.  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
Sudetendeutschland  
Adolf - Hitler - Strasse 58.  
fruehere Petschekstrasse.

The x'd-out line partially conceals the former name of the street. The last two lines are in red ink. The cover is dated 17.X.1938.... Since mid-1945, the name of the street is: Rooseveltovastrasse!

Petschek, by the way, was a well known Czech figure. I asked a correspondent in Prague (Praha) if I addressed a letter to either of the first two names would it be delivered. He said "No."

In connection with German propaganda in Czechoslovakia, two German stamps, Scott B132 and B133, and two postcards should be mentioned. December 4, 1938, was selected as the date for the plebiscite which was to decide whether Sudetenland areas desired to be incorporated in the Reich. Shortly before the plebiscite the two stamps and one of the postcards appeared. The stamps have at the top of each "4 December 1938 Sudetengau." The one postcard is a six pfennig, green, with an eagle and swastika in background. In the panel at the bottom is "4 Dezember 1938." These were among the devices used to propagandize in favor of an affirmative answer to the plebiscite question.

The vote was an overwhelming "Ja." Germans were encouraged to bombard Czech contacts to get out the "Ja" vote. The Graf Zeppelin flew over Sudetenland and dropped propaganda postcards. (Dr. Hugo Eckener, Count Zeppelin's successor, declined to participate, but could not prevent the use of his dirigible for propaganda purposes.) Varied cancelations, on Scott 484 and 485, as well as C50, carried propaganda.

The second postcard remains to be accounted for. It is the same as the one I have described above, except that the plebiscite date is now blacked out. This was used as propaganda the following spring, when the Germans marched into Prague, and took over all Bohemia and Moravia. A cancelation, Bremen 29.4.39, indicates in addition Hitler's vaulting ambition: "zum 1. Mai Grossdeutschlands." This states that within 48 hours Germany would be called Great Germany....

A few days later Bohemia and Moravia became a stamp issuing country.

I am subject to correction, but I was informed in Vienna, by the director of the Staatsdruckerei, that not only were many of the German issues run off in his plant, but also that all Bohemia and Moravia and Gouvernement General (Polish) issues were produced there. The Ostland and Ukraine overprints (20 in each set) were probably made in the Reichsdruckerei in Berlin, but I cannot be positive. At any rate, these two sets could not have been issued until at least two years after the invasion of Poland, as the German Hitler heads, on which the overprints appear, were produced in 1941-1943.

If a postage stamp can be called "vicious," one specimen that should be nominated for a high place in the hierarchy of viciousness is Scott Bohemia and Moravia, B20. This stamp bears the death mask reproduction of Reinhard Heydrich, and notes the dates of his birth and death: 7.III.1904—4.VI.1942.

Heydrich was one of the most brutal Germans. A few months before his death he succeeded the supine and semi-senile Konstantin von Neurath in the post of "Protector of Bohemia and Moravia." His cruelties were so outrageous that he was dramatically assassinated, during the last week of May, by Czech patriots from London, dropped by parachute in the Protectorate. He hung on to a tenuous grasp of life until June 4th.

Then the Germans really rubbed in their propaganda and hatred. The death mask portrait of their most hated oppressor was put on a commemorative



stamp. Its "plus" value is a philatelic outrage, as it was sold for 60 hellers, plus 440 hellers. Czechs who were quisling-minded, and eager Czech philatelists were probably the largest purchasers. The Heydrich, on postally-used cover, is another item in my collection which I would not dispose of at a "reasonable" price; except that I did swap one duplicate cover, with that distinguished German specialist, Herbert Bohmer, in order to extract a much-desired item from his collection.

My low regard for Heydrich is not recent. In a book of mine published in 1937 I wrote (in part):

"Heydrich is an ex-naval officer who left the German navy for the navy's good. He is a soulless machine. He does a lot of the Third Reich's necessary 'dirty work'." In the same book I attempted to classify Nazi-German leaders. I observe that I placed Heydrich in the "extremist" category, along with Streicher, Himmler, Ley and others.

Specialists no doubt have noted that there is a Heydrich error. It is called the "Poached Egg" variety, or the "Egg-on-the-head," and occurs five times in each sheet of 100, the ninth stamp in each of the five upper rows.

Two additional notes about the propagandistic utilization of this stamp should be added. Those who attended his State funeral were given either Heydrich sheets or Heydrich folders. The former are reported to command the equivalent of several hundred dollars in Switzerland. I have not seen the sheet. The folder, which I have, contains one mint block and one canceled block of the B20. I have been told that these were distributed to special guests AT the funeral, and would be interested to know if this is a fact, as it would indicate phenomenally fast production.

To be continued

## SECOND HANDBOOK MEETING

Your Chicago group held its second handbook meeting in the offices of the Liberty Stamp Shop, in downtown Chicago, Tuesday evening, September 6, 1949. The editor read three letters received from publishers. The best offer came from the Chambers Publishing Company of Michigan and as this company was highly recommended to us by H. L. Lindquist Publishing Co. a committee was formed which is soon to meet Mr. Chambers and get things started.

We have had quite a few letters from members with comments and advice. Members wrote "make it a check list and not a price list" and others wrote "be sure to put correct prices." Some wanted enough information to fill a five foot shelf of books while others pleaded for brevity. Some suggested that as long as it is "only a check list" it should be printed cheaply with new editions every year, while others would like to see it printed on parchment paper and bound in hand tooled leather. It is now very plain that no matter what is done we can satisfy only a very small percentage of our members (even we are sure to be dissatisfied with our efforts) but, because it is the first attempt in America of a book on Czechoslovakian stamps, we know every collector will find much good in it. We'll be happy when the task we set for ourselves is completed; on top of our editorial duties, this project is taking up almost all of our spare time.