

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

Once again we borrow for our editorial some very fine information from the *MERCURY STAMP JOURNAL* (Vol. I, No. 12). In an article entitled "Devaluation and Stamp Market" the author points out the effects of monetary changes on the value of stamps and on collecting in general. We are sorry space does not permit the reprint of the entire article. (Those readers interested may write to *Mercury Stamp Journal*, 522 Fifth Ave., New York 18, N. Y.) That part of the article which interests us most follows:

Philately is a sturdy hobby, it has withstood many threats to its very existence and it will not give in to the philatelic racketeers. When we look back into the history of philately, we are surprised to see how well our hobby has stood up to changing times and conditions. Very important stamp collecting countries were and are still temporarily excluded from the stamp market, because trade restrictions have excluded them as the potential buyers they have been before. It is amazing how the deletion of large groups of stamp buyers has not influenced the prices of stamps downwards, and contrariwise has not affected the steady rise of the value of good stamps, due to the increased popularity of stamp collecting in other countries. Another fact that has failed to influence stamp values, gives food for thought. Russia, after it came under communistic rule in 1917, ceased of course to be a stamp buyer. But although stamp collecting was originally promoted and a philatelic magazine was even published in Moscow, these signs of philatelic activity soon vanished and for a long time we have not heard anything about collecting activities in Russia. The philatelic news from there shows that the Soviet State has learned from the capitalistic countries that it can make money through the sale of stamps to foreign philatelists and it makes all possible use of this opportunity. Some stamp wholesalers in this and other countries do a good business with the Philatelic Soviet Agency and are rewarded for this service by imperforate stamps and similar varieties, given them as special and exclusive favors. Philately in Russia itself is not promoted at all, all of the colorful special sets, available in any quantity outside the country, are not available to the Russian collector, as post offices sell of these special sets, if at all, only single values, while the full sets can be bought from the Philatelic Agency in hard currency only. It is not surprising that under such circumstances philately seems to have almost vanished in Russia. The philatelist is an individualist and when his collecting activities are regimented, when he cannot buy and sell or exchange what he wants to, stamp collecting loses its main attraction. The collectors in the countries of Eastern Europe are now being subjected to a similar process. In Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Poland, Romania, Bulgaria and Albania, stamp collecting activities are reorganized, the Russian system being used as a model. Import and export of stamps is taken over by governmental agencies, all stamp magazines except one in every country, which is the official mouth piece, were suppressed, buying and selling of stamps are strictly regulated and most of the

stamp dealers are driven out of business. The collectors in these countries are, for the time being, lost to international philately and it can be only hoped that all the restrictions will not be able to kill philately in these countries, as it was obviously obliterated in Russia itself. There are many good and able philatelists in all walks of life in these countries, while in Russia philately was mainly a hobby of the upper classes and therefore lost its strength when these segments of the society vanished. In Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary and Jugoslavia there are plenty of collectors among the white collar and manual workers. They will adjust their collecting to the present conditions, continuing their collections and their philatelic work.

We know from experience that a real philatelist keeps faith in his hobby even under the most adverse circumstances and in this fidelity to our cause lies one of the main sources of strength of philately. We are confident that regardless of political developments stamp collecting will flourish as long as the small pieces of paper, to which we give our hours of leisure, continue to exist.

ISSUE OF THE COMMEMORATIVE STAMP "TATRA-CUP 1950"



On the occasion of the 51st ski championship for the Tatra Cup taking place on February 15-26, 1950, in High Tatra Mountains, the Czechoslovak Post Administration is going to issue a set of three commemorative stamps

1.50 Kcs blue grey 3 Kcs brown red 5 Kcs ultramarine

Both the 1.50 and 3 Kcs stamps have the same design showing a skier in the downhill race and snowy mountains in the background. The lettering "Ceskoslovensko" is at the upper part, the lettering "Tatransky pohar 1950" with the sign of the cup—three rings—at the bottom of the stamp. The value figures are in the upper right corner. The general arrangement of the stamp is by the painter K. Hocham, the picture motif carried out photographically by Otto Repa. The engraving is by Jindra Schmidt.

The stamps are of large format arranged horizontally, printed by rotary steel-engraving in sheets of 70 and 35 copies.

The 3 Kcs stamp represents "Dr. Tyrs' Badge of Efficiency" the design of which is by Jan Benda. This stamp is of large format arranged horizontally. The two-colored print is effectuated by deep print in sheets of 100 copies.

The lettering Ceskoslovensko is at the upper edge, the value figure in the left bottom corner.

The stamps are valid in inland and international postal relations from February 15, 1950.

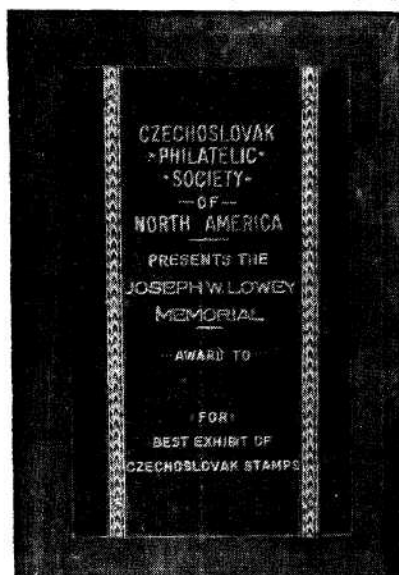
THE PAN-SLAV BULLETIN

We have before us Vol. I, No. 1, of the official publication of the Pan-Slav Society of America. It is edited by our treasurer, Mr. Ed. Sabol and contains some very interesting information on the stamps of Montenegro and Russia. It states the purpose of the Society and its bulletin and at present promises four issues of its publication within the year. Membership dues are the same as those of our Society. Members of our Society who collect other or all Slavic countries may contact the secretary of Pan Slav, Mr. Lester S. Glass, 1931 Glenifer St., Philadelphia 41, Pa., for specimen copy of the bulletin.

SHOW — AUCTION — CONVENTION

The Chicago group held another meeting at the home of our secretary, Mr. Velek, during which every phase of our programs has been discussed. For the benefit of both out of town members and those living in the Chicago area who were unable to attend we hereby present a short summary.

SHOW. Our Exhibition this year is planned to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the birth of T. G. Masaryk, first president of the Czechoslovak Republic. Members are again urged to notify Mr. G. Kobyłka, 3452 W. 23rd St., Chicago 23, Ill., what they intend to exhibit and how many pages. Page size information will be of great use. Remember that for the first time we permit the showing of material other than Czecho. Mr. Kobyłka should have this information by the end of April. The New York group is again presenting the J. W. Lowy Plaque for the best Czecho showing; the Chicago group plans to donate



several awards, either cups or engraved diplomas.

AUCTION. It is very important that the material donated for the benefit auction reaches Mr. A. N. Weiner, 5056½ N. Kenmore Ave., Chicago 40, Ill., before the end of April. It is not necessary to repeat all we said in this regard in the last issue of the Specialist. The time to act is NOW!

CONVENTION. Mr. R. Reinowski, 1939 Highland Ave., Berwyn, Ill., is anxious to know who plans to come to Chicago and how long they plan to stay. He also wishes to notify the Chicago group that many volunteers will be necessary to do all the work the three projects will entail. Several members decided to sponsor a buffet dinner for the out of town visiting members and contributions from other Chicago members are solicited. Let us show our guests true mid-Western hospitality.

ATTENTION CHICAGOLAND MEMBERS! Every member is asked to attend the next meeting of our group at the home of John Velek, 2229 Kimball Ave., Chicago 47, Saturday, April 15, 1950, at 7:30 P.M. We must decide on a place for future meetings of our group as also which days are most convenient for the majority of our members. Kindly cooperate by attending this meeting or, in the event you are unable to attend, by contacting Mr. Weiner or Mr. Velek, stating your preference.

NEW MEMBER

412. Earl Fein, 445 Roslyn Pl., Chicago 14, Ill.

The Development of the Postal Stationery of Czechoslovakia

1918 and 1945

By F. M. Loegel

(Translated for "Postal Stationery" from original German by H. Geo. Wolfe)
(Reprinted by permission)

Out of the ruins of the Austro-Hungarian Empire—left bleeding from a thousand wounds on the battle field of the first World War—there arose a number of independent states, among them the republic of Czechoslovakia. The postage stamp is one of the symbols of self-government. But the rapid course of events had made it impossible to issue a definite series of stamps in time for the day of the Czech revolution, October 28, 1918. This fact explains why Austrian and Hungarian stamps remained valid and why these stamps, if cancelled on or after October 28, must be considered the first stamps of Czechoslovakia.

Postal History 1918-19 (Adhesive stamps)

Before tracing the development of postal stationery, we shall delve briefly into the history of the adhesive stamps of Czechoslovakia, because both items developed in an analogous manner; whatever applies to the stamps applies also to postal stationery. All Austrian and Hungarian stamps in circulation on October 28, 1918, and postally used in the territory of Czechoslovakia—are to be regarded as **the first stamps of Czechoslovakia**. Sole exceptions are the Austrian Airmail stamps which had been issued for the route Budapest—Vienna—Krakau (Cracow)—Lemberg (Lwow) (date of issue: March 30, 1918), and were, consequently of no concern to the new State of Czechoslovakia.

It is a strange circumstance that both Austrian and Hungarian stamps were valid for use throughout the whole country, i.e. Hungarian stamps could be used in the so-called "historical" (Bohemia & Moravia) countries and Austrian stamps in Slovakia, formerly a part of Hungary. However, this use of Austrian stamps in Slovakia was quite sporadic (post offices of Trnava and Malacky), while Hungarian stamps used in the "historical" countries have never been found. By the same token, the occurrence of mixed uses is, theoretically, quite possible but none have ever come to the writer's attention. Somewhat later however, after December 18, 1918, we know mixed uses of the first Hradcany issue with Austrian and Hungarian stamps. They are not rare, especially when used on parcel cards and money orders. Thus, the following dates should be carefully noted:

Birthday of the stamps of Czechoslovakia, i.e. Austrian and Hungarian stamps postally used on Czech territory, October 28, 1918; Austrian and Hungarian stamps remained valid until February 28, 1919.

The first definite issue of Czechoslovakia, the Hradcany stamps, were announced by official decree on December 18, 1918.

An addition purely for philatelists was issued December 12, 1918. (This should read Dec. 12, 1919). At that time, all remaining stocks of Austrian and Hungarian stamps received a 3-line overprint and were sold at 50 per cent over the face value. (This series remained valid until January 31, 1920). These stamps do not exist on genuinely commercial, non-philatelic covers. In general, covers of this period frequently represent the most curious examples of mixed postage. One may find bisect copies of postage due stamps, newspaper stamps, or special delivery stamps, even of the Hradcany stamps—all employed to make up supplementary postage. To explain this situation, one must remember that the official centers of stamp distribution, Vienna and Budapest, had been forced to close down after October 28, 1918; this meant that post offices, unable to replenish depleted stocks of certain denominations, had to improvise as well as they could. Since the distribution of the first Hradcany stamps, too, was slow and inadequate in numbers, the continuance of provisional measures is understandable. It is for these reasons that a postal decree of January 19, 1919, permitted the use of stampless "postage paid" franks. These

franks were affixed either in pen and ink or by special cancellers. The old Austrian and Hungarian cancellers, mutilated by the removal of the Imperial eagle and of the German town names, were still employed. However, their further use was banned by a decree of August 3, 1919.

Equally curious and interesting were the postal developments in Slovakia. In that territory, Hungarian stamps remained valid even after February 28, 1919, i.e. after their validity had officially ended. Even Hungarian stamps with overprint "Koztarsasag"—issued in the new Hungarian state after October 28, 1918—have been used in Slovakia and were cleared through the mails without difficulty. During the days of the revolution (directed against Austrian authority) patriotic Czech postal employees had left their jobs or gone on strike; these experienced civil servants had to be quickly replaced by unskilled personnel who did not know the postal regulations and sold to the public every stamp they happened to have in stock. Finally, at the end of April 1919, the postal authorities prohibited the delivery of all mail franked with Hungarian stamps.

Cancellations from the district which was temporarily occupied by Czech troops and then ceded to Hungary, are rare. The same applies to the district of Teschen while under Polish occupation, before it was ceded to Czechoslovakia.

Postal Stationery: Forerunners

Just as with the adhesive stamps of Austria and Hungary, the postal stationery of these countries, too, remained valid for use in Czechoslovakia. The only difference is that the validity of the old stationery items was extended until October 14, 1919, while that of adhesives had ended on February 28 of the same year. This extended use is especially interesting in view of the fact that definite Czech stationery had already been issued in the meantime. It is probable that the postal authorities were guided by considerations of economy and possibly also by the shortage of paper. Proof for this assumption is a decree of April 10, 1919, which expresses the desire, on the one hand, to withdraw Austrian and Hungarian stationery, on the other hand, to sell out existing stocks and to distribute the new Czechoslovakian stationery later.

Now, we can observe a repetition of the same regular and irregular proceedings which characterized the use of adhesive stamps. Austrian stationery was sold in Slovakia and, conversely, Hungarian stationery in the "historical" countries; the latter, however, extremely infrequent. Unexperienced new postal employees passed through the mails all manner of acceptable and unacceptable—since demonetized—stationery, even items of questionable origin, without postage due charges. Thus it happened that in Slovakia the Austrian issues of 1900 were used, and in the "historical" countries the issues of 1910; 8h cards were delivered without postage due although the domestic rate was 10 h. In brief, it must be stated that postal chaos reigned in Slovakia, formerly Hungarian territory, a situation which may be explained by the general political situation. Just as was the case with the adhesive stamps of the new Hungarian republic, the 10-fil. cards "without Kir" (Ascher 72) were accepted by post offices in Slovakia, even though they had been issued after the Hungarian revolution and had remained in some post offices after the Bolshevik invasion.

All these items went through the mails without any difficulty, even after October 14, 1919, the day on which Austrian and Hungarian entires had definitely lost their validity.

Overprinted Postal Cards

The first item of postal stationery issued by Czech authorities is the Austrian 8 h. card overprinted with monogram "CSR-10" and sold for 10 h. The decree of December 10, 1918 which authorized these cards failed to give pertinent details. It did neither indicate which 8 h. cards were to be overprinted or whether cards with overprint would remain valid for postage. Consequently, all Austrian 8 h. cards left over in the "historical" countries, regardless of date of issue, were overprinted. Among them was also the card with Franz Joseph design Ascher 229; the writer considers this card the rarest item of Czechoslovakia and one of the rarest of all stationery items. One commercially used copy is known; it is cancelled in Prague on May 7, 1919.

The monogram overprint is found in black and in greenish blue. The lat-

ter is scarcer, especially in used condition. The overprints were produced by the firm of A. Haase and it is claimed, by the Melantrich press, both in Prague; this may explain the existence of several types of these overprints (see POSTAL STATIONERY, May-June 1949, page 9). Only 4 types were listed at first; since then it has been asserted that ten or more types can be distinguished. It is both amazing and regrettable that after 30 years this controversy should remain unsettled, especially in view of the fact that research material exists in adequate quantities and Czechoslovakia prides herself on a high level of philatelic research. Unfortunately it has thus far proven impossible to organize Czechoslovakia's philatelists, despite many efforts made in that direction; research work suffers from this lack of organization (recent reports indicate that Czechoslovakia has introduced a government controlled philatelic organization similar to the Russian model).

Many "errors" of the overprinted issue are known: inverted overprints, double—yes, even triple—overprints. As many as three varieties are known of the reply cards (234): 1) normal overprint on both cards, 2) reply cards without overprint, 3) small monogram instead of normal size. The official decree provided that double cards were to be cut in two, but these cards exist in unsevered condition. Blue overprints are very scarce. Similarly scarce are single cards on grey paper (233 b), double cards on grey (234 b) are unknown.

Extremely rare are the 10 h. cards with crown design (235 a and b). It has been claimed that these cards were erroneously overprinted in Teplitz-Schonau in an issue of 300. However, A. Haase in Prague produced the same overprint: but the cards were distributed exclusively through post offices in Northern Bohemia. Two overprint types are known, color black.

Postal card 233 a (10/8 h., Emperor Charles was issued December 28, 1918 and shows a smaller monogram which is known only in black; no further varieties of this have been found.

The three-line overprint "CSR-10" on card 233a differs considerably from the monogram types and was, therefore, long regarded as a private "manufacture." But it has been established that this overprint, too, was of official origin and was sold in the regular manner in Western and Northern Bohemia. Properly used copies are known with cancellations from Bezveror-Bernklau (District Kralovice near Pilsen), Cossengrun near Falkenau, Jilemnice-Starkenbach, etc. The identity of the printer is not known.

Proper commercial use of any of these overprinted cards has **not been found prior to January 1919**. To complete the picture of the period, mention should be made also of the semi-official issues.

Semi-Official Postal Cards

1. Skaut cards (Boy Scout Organization) with imprint of a 10 h. stamp in blue. This issue was sponsored by the National Organization of Boy Scouts in Prague during the period of Nov. 7-25th, 1918. These cards were sold by scouts and, if used, bear the official rubber stamp of the National Executive Committee "N. V."

2. Dr. V. Srobar, minister plenipotentiary in Slovakia, ordered the overprinting of a quantity of Hungarian postal cards, envelopes, and letter cards with the legend "Ceskoslovenska posta" and the coat of arms. Produced by a private printer in Zilina, these overprinted items were accepted by the post offices, but properly used copies are very rare. In collectors' hands are the following: (Ascher numbers of basic Hungarian items) postal cards 41, 42, 44, 52b, 56a, 59a and 70; envelope 16a; letter cards 17, 21, 22, 30, 34a, and b. One copy is known which has the overprint on the stamp only while text and crown remain visible. There exists also one Hungarian 10 Fil. card of 1918 with monogram CSR (without "10") completely different from other forms of this overprint. The origin is unknown, and it is possibly a private product which happened to get through the mails.

3. When the postal rate advanced from 10 to 15 h., the postmaster of Kremnica had a local printer overprint Hungarian card nr. 70 with the numeral "15." One may distinguish a larger and a smaller type, the latter being very rare. Unused copies have not been found.

4. In 1919, the Czechoslovak Legion in Siberia issued a postal card which

was overprinted in the following year with the date "1920." Properly used copies are very rare.

Developments of 1945

From the point of view of postal history, the development after World War II represented almost a duplication of the events following the earlier war. Again it became necessary to liquidate and to coordinate the postal authorities of two separate states. These two separate units, in 1945, were the "historical" districts embraced by Hitler's "Protectorate" in the West, and the former eastern portion of Czechoslovakia which had become the independent state of Slovakia.

Once more, the new second republic of Czechoslovakia faced a difficult postal task. Once more the problem was solved in two different ways. In contrast to 1918, existing items of stationery were demonetized over night—in both parts of Czechoslovakia. In the historical districts, new postal cards were issued May 23, 1945. Prior to this date, there had been distributed huge quantities of "revolutionary issues," produced by overprinting stationery of the Protectorate. Prepared by private printers, partly on private initiative, partly in cooperation with local postmasters and patriotic groups, every one of these issues was denied recognition by the Post Office Department in Prague. They do exist postally used because postal officials were, for obvious reasons, not unsympathetic to these expressions of patriotic fervor and had, in fact, frequently a part in their origin. However, due to the uncompromising attitude of the Prague authorities, they have been classified—and degraded as "souvenir items"; but they are ardently collected as historical documents.

In Slovakia, however, stocks of Slovakian cards were overprinted with the legend "Ceskoslovensko." According to the reports of the Postal Supervisor for Slovakia (in Bratislava) only machine overprints should be regarded as official. These are: postal cards, 1.20k Hlinka, series of 36 view cards; 1.20 plus 1.20k Hlinka; 70 h. Dr. Tiso; 70 plus 70 h Dr. Tiso; 1k-Razus, series of 18 view cards; 1k. V 1k.—Razus; letter card 1.30 Hlinka; telegram order form 50h. Hlinka; also several types of C. O. D. forms. Items overprinted by hand stamp were prepared to order. These handstamps were distributed to post offices to be used only on parcel cards, money orders and other stationery without imprinted stamp.

The first new postal card was issued April 30, 1945. It shows a view of Banska Bystrica, the principal center of national resistance; two types exist. Next was the Kaschau issue on green and yellowish paper, showing the cathedral of Kaschau and a legend. Then followed the last and rarest of new Czechoslovakian cards: stamp design and view are the same as on the previous card, but the legend is shorter and in one line only, inscription Slovakian and French.

These four postal cards were valid only in Slovakia and could not be used in the historical districts. The list is completed by another stationery item issued in Kaschau and valid only in Slovakia. This is the telegram order form with stamp design of a Red Army soldier, 1.50K. It is comparatively rare.

In this general survey, it has been impossible to mention many details, such as the issues of 1920. These too, offer an abundance of remarkable research material which I warmly recommend to my fellow collectors. Quite aside from these considerations, the stationery of Czechoslovakia is doubtlessly among the most beautiful and technically perfect. From the research as well as from the esthetic point of view it satisfies every requirement of the stationery collector, and thus fulfills completely the purpose of our endeavor.

OFFICERS

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HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 1950 DUES?

A short time ago we received a note from our treasurer: "Cut down on the expenses, Frank." We wrote back asking for a short summary of the cost of the Specialist. We learned that our printing costs for the first five months of this season were \$185; cuts were \$22.25; postage \$38.47; addressograph plates \$3.14; other miscellaneous expenses of the editor were \$4.08. This does not include the cost of the envelopes of which we now have a goodly stock on hand. You like the 16 page Specialists, but do you realize your editor spent more than \$250 in the first half of this year? This does not include the expenses of the secretary or the treasurer. Unless many more of you support your Society in the auction of June; unless more of you voluntarily raise your dues to \$2 and \$5 memberships; unless you help in a substantial manner to increase the treasury, we may be forced to return to the 8 and 12 page Specialist. It is entirely up to you. And remember, remaining in arrears depletes the treasury because mailing reminders costs money.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

18. Mrs. Mildred Glawe, 12122 So. Ann St., Blue Island, Ill.
 172. Albert Thivierge, 1 Ridgemere Way, Amesbury, Mass.
 199. William Glawe, Jr., 12122 So. Ann St., Blue Island, Ill.
 277. Jos. Janousek, R. R. #1, Box 330, Glendale, Ariz.
 202. Norman Ives, (who knows Mr. Ives new address? His mail was returned to your editor.)
 172. Albert Thivierge, 1 Ridgemere Way, Amesbury, Mass.
 281. John Novotny, 4922 Homer St., Dallas 6, Texas.
 295. Ray Van Handel, Jr., 64 Lincoln Ave., Sheboygan, Wis.
 4. Guy Greenawalt, 1215 Cleveland St., Wilmette, Ill.
 184. Chas. E. McBride, 500 Ninth Ave., San Francisco 18, Calif.

C S R SPECIAL ITEMS

Scott No.	Description	Price	No. available
101A-D	used	\$7.00	2 sets
200A-201A	in folder	75.00	1 set
292A	used sheet	2.50	4 sheets
307-309	gutter pairs	9.00	2 sets
310	used sheet	.75	5 sheets
B137-B139	Cover	10.00	3
B140-B143	Cover	10.00	1

NEW ISSUES MINT

361-2	30 Years	.05	379-81	U. P. U.	.45
363-5	Gottwald (4)	.10	382-4	IX Congress	.15
366	Gottwald 20K	.20	385-6	Smetana	.13
367	Gottwald Sheet	.25	387	Pushkin	.04
368	Sheet	.15	388-9	Chopin	.15
369	Soviet Pact	.04	390-1	Praha Fair	.15
370-1	Lenin	.07	392	Zvolen Castle	.15
372	Gottwald 3K	.03	396	2K Fucik	.04
373	Gottwald 10K	.10	C28-35	Air Post Surcharged	1.50

RECENT FIRST DAY COVERS

Smetana, Pushkin, Chopin, Miners, Trade Union, 1949 Red Cross, 1949 Child Welfare — 25c per cover.

B. J. MILLER

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CZECH SERIES HONORS SMETANA



Czechoslovakia honored its famous composer, Bedřich Smetana by issuing two commemoratives, June 4, on the 125th anniversary of his birth at Litomyšl.

The stamps, 1.50 koruna green and 5 koruna blue, show a portrait of the internationally famous musician with a large building in the background which is possibly the Czech national opera house in Praha.

The first day cover of the set received had an engraved cachet showing the opening bars of Smetana's "Libuse." The set was placed on first day sale at the composer's birthplace and a special commemorative cancellation was used.

PHILATELIC LITERATURE

We offer the following:

Tricet Let Cesk. Postovní Znamky (30 Years of Czech. Stamps)	\$5.00
Novotny Catalog—1949	5.00
Hirsch-Mrnak Catalog—1949	1.00
Some Notes on the Telegraph Companies of the U. S.: Their Stamps and Franks by Joseph S. Rich (signed by author)	2.25
Postage Stamps of the Philippines by Bartels, Foster, Palmer, signed by authors. Copy #123 of 350 printed	4.50
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ČESKOSLOVENSKA FILATELIE

About thirty years ago the well known student of Czechoslovak stamps, Mr. Ervin Hirsch, published the first issue of the *Tribuna Filatelistu* in Praha. As a semi-monthly publication it had a large following and its contents were considered authoritative. In 1935, Hirsch, in cooperation with Franek, published the finest handbook on the stamps of the Republic in both Czech and German. After the Nazis took over, Mr. Hirsch was compelled to remain in the background, but after the liberation he again came forward and with his persistence acquired editorship of *Ceskoslovenska Filatelie*, the official organ of the Federation of Czechoslovak Philatelists. With the first issue of Vol. 6 of this publication he becomes editor-in-chief and the publication ceases to be an official organ but the property of *Orbis*, the government monopolistic organization which has been mentioned in the *Specialist* all too frequently in the last year. The new ownership is reflected in the type of material presented to the readers. The first page is devoted to a reproduction of Czech stamps issued in 1920; the second page gives us the above "news" and likewise the radio talk of Dr. Alois Neuman, Minister of Posts, which has been published in every philatelic column everywhere in Czechoslovakia and on which we commented before. More than one page tells us that philately is the recreation of workers. A very mediocre article on Russian stamps of the post 1921 era and a poorer "topical collection" article follow. Less than one page is devoted to information on Czech stamps. Only one short article on the Hradchany issues from the pen of the editor is worth reading in the entire issue. We are sure that philately will now become a means for the propagation of a new ideology.

PROPOSALS TO CONVENTION

We are sure your editor gets more mail than any other officer of your Society. Your editor is happy this is so; he'd be happier if he could find the time to answer each of you individually and at length. Since this is impossible we present to all members some of the worth while proposals of ideas to the convention. Any other ideas are welcome.

Several members suggest that we raise our dues to \$2.00 minimum: almost every Society did this; our Society membership costs less than that of any other Society in our country, yet our official organ is among the best.

Several members, especially the pioneers of our Society, suggest Mrs. Hedy Lowey, widow of the founder of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society, Joseph W. Lowey, be made honorary life member.

Our Society's name is too ponderous. It is suggested we drop "of North America" inasmuch as we have members all over the world.

Election of officers every two years.

Convention every two years.

Have year begin Sept. 1, as most other organizations do. Dues to be paid then; any member who fails to pay by Jan. 1 should be dropped from the rolls and the Membership list to be published in February, at latest in March.

Several members asked when and where the Society held its past conventions. Your editor attended all of them, the only member to hold this honor. 1939, New York; 1940, Chicago; 1947, New York. God willing, the 1950 convention will be held in Chicago.

It has also been suggested that a constitution and by-laws be prepared and published. Work on this, we believe, has been done.

The president has appointed a nominating committee. A report from this committee will appear in the May issue of the *Specialist*. Every member is urged to vote; it is not necessary you vote for the members suggested by the nominating committee.

AUCTION PRICES

Now and then we read of some scarce Czech item sold at auction but we seldom pay attention to it. We have before us the 24th annual resume of auction prices realized for really scarce material by H. R. Harmer and on page 12

we find only one Czechoslovak item, the 3.K lake, Posta Ceskoslovensko 1919 on Austria, Gibbons 85, Cat. £20 which sold for £23 on Jan. 3, 1949.

We also have a listing of prices realized at an auction conducted by E. Navrátil in Praha, Nov. 5, 1949. All catalog numbers are Drufila, first value column is Drufila cat. price and the other shows the prices realized:

HRADCHANY	3b, 5a	730.	500.
	6	350.	270.
	10c	400.	270.
	13	3000.	2600.
P C 1919	66	400.	not sold
	84	1760.	900.
	116, 117	1500.	770.
1920 Masaryk	140-142	190.	160.
Allegory	(100h Kosice fake)		110.
1923 Jub.	176-179	600.	260.
1925 Olympic	180-182	2500.	1450.
Masaryk	194	2500.	2000.
Music Sheets	233-234	19000.	9200.
Air Post	1-3	2400.	1700.

Many items were left unsold because the minimum bid, usually ½ cat., was not offered.

BACK COPIES OF THE SPECIALIST

Some time ago the Chicago group chose several members to help the editor: Mr. Kobyłka takes care of the storage of cuts and his wife mails out the Specialist; Mr. Weiner handles the meetings of the group by sending out post cards to those interested (each member who wants to receive notices of meetings contributes 25c); Mr. Zaludek takes care of all back issues of the Specialist. We have been rounding up back copies and in a very short time these will have been arranged. Check your files of the Specialist now and send your want list to Mr. Emil Zaludek, 5737 S. Francisco Ave., Chicago 29, Ill. and enclose 10 cents plus postage for each number. When ordering remember this: in the past errors crept into the numbering of volumes and months have gone by without an issue of the Specialist. Kindly order your missing copies by MONTH and YEAR to eliminate confusion. Do not expect any copies from 1939 and first part of 1940. Even after that many are gone, but try your luck anyway. The copy you need may be in the files.

Here is a check list of the published Specialists:

1939	May through to December
1940	Jan. Feb. May June July Aug. Oct. Nov. Dec.
1941 to 1947	Monthly except July and Aug.
1948	Monthly except Aug.
1949	Monthly except July and August.


PRAGA 1950

A letter from the committee for the International Philatelic Exhibition which was to take place in Praha May 20-29, 1950, tells us that plans for this show have been dropped. Several notices in the philatelic columns in the lay press of Czechoslovakia state that in view of the fact that FIP, the organization which promotes and sponsors these big shows, has transferred its allegiance to the London show, the Czechs fear their exhibition following so closely upon the London affair, would be a total fiasco.

WE READ:

Stamps of the Trade Union Congress being commemoratives can be obtained in mint condition only at Philatelle Orbis at a higher rate than face. These stamps can be had on first day covers at face and can be had for postal purposes by application at the P. O. However, the P. O. will affix these stamps to the envelopes which are handed in with the request. All future commemoratives will be accorded similar treatment.

Prace.



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