

# THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE  
CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

Copyright 1950 The Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of North America

Editor Frank J. Kovarik, 2502 So. Kedzie Ave., Chicago 23, Ill.

Vol. XIII

May 1950

No. 5

## EDITORIAL

Some years ago Orson Welles startled the citizens of America with a "report" of an invasion from Mars. A mild panic and a partial hysteria were the result of a fine piece of radio acting.

In March we expressed a wish to retire from the exacting duties of an editor and to devote some spare time to our stamps. We deplored the fact that because of our office our collection suffered. We had an avalanche of letters begging us to retain our office. Some even threatened to resign from the Society if we threw in the towel! — Let us assure the members that after we have devoted so much time and money to this venture called the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of North America and its official organ, the "Czechoslovak Specialist" we hesitate to leave rashly. Our successor must be an able editor. If he (or she) is a Czech expert, all well and good. If, however, our successor possesses only the attributes of a scholar and editor, we propose to remain as editor or at least an associate editor. We want to guarantee to the members the continued diversity of the Specialist. We want to guarantee to our readers news and new findings in every phase of Czech philately. Fortunately we are not narrow in our philatelic outlook. We do not collect everything Czech, but we have a working knowledge of everything from Czech seals to stamps—meters—cancels—well, everything, or at least almost so!

In collection with the Society's show and convention, we want to spring this surprise! Our handbook publisher promises to present for inspection the first galley proofs of our handbook (of the sections in his hand at the time).

"The Lord's mills grind slowly, but surely" is an old Czech adage. We did not rush ourselves. We couldn't. — We have several sections of our handbook in our hands now. Our original idea was to make the handbook appear the work of one man, even though we have a dozen co-workers. — Should we modify George's work and endeavor to exalt John's efforts? — After all, each of these fellows has put a piece of his personality into his task. Why throw them into a melting pot? Our final effort may result in a work consummated by a dozen members, more or less. Every member knows that Velek is the outstanding authority on the Hradcany issues. Kovarik knows all there is to know about the 1920 Masaryks. Various members have a working knowledge of the allegories. Greenawalt and Kovarik put in much time studying the 1923-30 Masaryks. Waldmann has studied the airmails, Sabot the dues, Kovarik the newspapers. — True, there are sections and phases not yet worked out, but they will be shortly. We can produce a handbook better than any ever published in any language.

Chambers advertised our handbook for 1950. In our balmy heaven we couldn't fathom the handbook this year. But, we do not want to make a liar out of our publisher. We hope to present to him at 11:59 P.M. (2359 hours international time) on Dec. 31, 1950, the manuscript for our handbook. Let Ted

Chambers work on it a year—if he calls it a minute—it shall be completed in the year of our Lord 1950!

---

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. Wolfgang Fritzsche, chairman of the nominating committee, sends us the proposed slate of officers for 1950-1952. The ballots, membership list and the auction bid sheet will be sent to the members latter part of May so that the new officers can take over during the convention held in Chicago, June 10 and 11.

President: John Knollmueller, Salt Lake City, Utah  
 First V. P.: W. B. Bryant, So. Pasadena, Calif.  
 Second V. P.: Rudolph Secky, Whitestone, L. I., N. Y.  
 Secretary: John Velek, Chicago, Ill.  
 Treasurer: Edw. Sabol, Bristol, Pa.  
 Librarian: open, no candidate.

---

#### CONVENTION — SHOW — AUCTION

The Chicago group is very disappointed at the lack of interest shown by the members in all three of the above activities which take place next month, June 10-11. Up to the present only two out of town visitors have promised to attend. Outside of the Chicago group not one member promised to show stamps at our exhibition. Outside of the Chicago group no member sent in a donation for our auction. Your officers and the Chicago group fear that the lethargy exhibited by the membership at large is a sign of diminishing interest in the Society. While many members find nothing but praise for the officers, it is possible that the majority want a change. When the ballots are mailed to you, use them.

Why waste precious space in the Specialist? Send your contribution to the auction, NOW, to Mr. A. N. Weiner, 5056½ N. Kenmore Ave., Chicago 40, Ill.; write to Mr. G. Kobylka, 3452 W. 23rd St., Chicago 23, Ill., what you intend to show; notify Mr. R. Reinowski, 1939 Highland Ave., Berwyn Ill., if you plan to be in Chicago for the convention and especially if you want us to find you lodgings; any miscellaneous information will be supplied by Mr. Wm. Sporka, 1435 S. Central Ave., Cicero 50, Ill. The success or failure of our great annual venture is up to YOU!

---

#### ORBIS SHOPS

The first retail stamp shop of Orbis opened in Praha II, Vaclavske Nam. 28. It is expected that other stamp shops will open soon not only in Praha but all over Czechoslovakia. There are no private stamp shops in the country today.

---

#### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

50. Rudolph Novy, 2421 Randolph St., Dallas, Texas.  
 153. Leo Goldman, 2264 Gladstone Ave., Windsor, Ont., Canada.  
 156. Frank L. Stack, 4210 S. Prairie Ave., Brookfield, Ill.  
 231. John Novotny, 6308 Hollis Ave., Dallas 17, Texas.

---

#### NEW MEMBERS

413. Lois S. Slivon, 1144 Elmwood Ave., Oak Park, Ill.  
 414. Leslie Markovich, 5501 W. North Ave., Milwaukee 8, Wis.  
 415. Frank Newman, 3539 Hartford St., St. Louis 18, Mo.  
 416. James E. Buford, 7452 Esterbrook Dr., St. Louis 20, Mo.

## PARADE OF NEW ISSUES

To commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the Soviet poet J. V. Majakovskij the Czechoslovak Post Administration will be issuing on April 14th, 1950, two commemorative stamps with the poet's portrait by professor J. Svolinsky, 1.50 Kcs, brown 3.— Kcs, red

The stamps, vertical rectangles 23x37 mm in dimension, in sheets of 50 and 25 copies, will be printed by steel line engraving process.

The engraving is by Jan Mracek.

A first day cover with design by the author of the stamps will be also issued; the engraving is by J. K. Svengsbir.

The stamps will be valid in the inland and international relations from April 14th, 1950, until recalled.

## CESKOSLOVENSKA FILATELIE

In our April issue we severely criticized the first issue of volume 6, of Československa Filatelie; we now have before us no. 3 which deserves nothing but praise. It contains a very fine introductory article to "S O 1920" and a humorous yet instructive piece on the Hradchany fakes used in Vejprty. It compares very favorably with the prewar publications of Mr. E. Hirsch, his famous Tribuna Filatelistu. It is possible that the transfer of the publication from the previous owners to Orbis was the reason for the poor appearance of the first issue of the magazine. We congratulate Mr. Hirsch on this issue and hope his work for Czechoslovak philately continues for many years.

## MISCELLANY

In the January issue of this year we illustrated a label and asked our members kindly to explain what it is. We have heard nothing on this to the present. Our guess is that it is a newspaper stamp, but guesses never solve anything.

• • •

Among the many special cancellations of Czechoslovakia we fail to find one commemorating the 100th anniversary of the birth of T. G. Masaryk, first president of Czechoslovakia. A cover from Hodonin, Masaryk's birthplace, post-marked March 7, 1950, contains only a plain everyday cancellation. A country which commemorates anniversaries of men of other nations yet fails to remember its own great is very ungrateful.

• • •

Member Novy writes that we illustrated the 5K value of the 5 Year Plan issue and labeled it "Day of the Miners" issue. We hereby correct ourselves and thank Mr. Novy for calling this to our attention. Mr. Novy also tells in his letter that two errors appear in the Scott catalog. In the Bohemia-Moravia section type A15 does not show the Wallenstein Palace of Prague but a garden scene with a pavilion known as Salla Terenna. (In one of the books we have this view is labeled "The loggias of Waldstein Palace.") Mr. Novy tells that the second error is in type A16 entitled "Cathedral at Pardubice" but should be labeled "Castle Pastal." We have no means for checking on this.

• • •

We announced that the Praga 1950 was called off. We now hear that a National Philatelic Exhibition will take place in the fall, commemorating the 100th anniversary of the first Austrian postage stamps.

• • •

A series of 32 illustrated postal cards made their appearance February 10. To date we have seen only one; the illustration covers one side entirely. The 1.50K brown Gottwald stamp is imprinted in the upper right corner as usual

and only one-half of the card can be used for the message. The value of the card is 3K.

\* \* \*

In the philatelic columns of newspapers in Czechoslovakia we read that all mail destined for foreign countries must be brought to the postoffice unsealed, must contain a return address and the writer must prove his identity. Mail dropped into mailboxes is returned to the writer or is disposed of as a dead letter. In the same paragraph we read "this is not for censorship purposes."

\* \* \*

In a statement prepared for the National Assembly, Dr. A. Neuman, Minister of Posts, spoke of stamps. He enlightened the Assembly on the propaganda value of postage stamps and said that since February 1948 only such stamps are planned or issued that concern the history of or individuals directly connected with socialism. The motifs do not merely record history but also show man at work. He added that the government soon saw that sometimes individuals purchased entire issues of stamps for speculative purposes; others illegally sent stamps out of the country to transfer their capital and sold these stamps for only a fraction of their actual value. In that way the prestige of Czechoslovak stamps suffered and they cluttered the foreign market, causing considerable loss to the government. At a sacrifice the Postal Department in connection with the Department of Commerce created the government-owned monopolistic society Orbis which alone sells stamps to overseas subscribers and limits the sale of commemorative stamps to one set for citizens of Czechoslovakia. A study of this system is being made, and if found practical, the number of stamps sold to collectors may be increased.

\* \* \*

The Federation of Czechoslovak Philatelic Societies has created an expert committee to pass on the genuineness of stamps. Each club elects one member to handle these tasks. Collectors requesting this service place their mark in pencil on the back of stamps submitted so there is no chance of error in this service. Stamps expertized must catalog at least 15Fr. according to Zumstein or 1000 Fr. according to Yvert. The committee charges 1% of the catalog value of the stamp for its service and guarantee mark; if a photostat is desired the charge is 5% on stamps of over 100 Fr. value by Zumstein or 10,000 Fr. value according to Yvert. A list of the committee follows and contains such well-known names as Basika, Hirsch, Mrnak, Dr. Munk, Liska, Sulc, Weiss and others.

---

On Sunday, Dec. 17, 1949, our Minister of Posts, Dr. Neuman, aided in bringing to the fore the meaning of our "Day of the Postage Stamp." It was especially interesting in the facts the Minister, Dr. Neuman, presented with the statement that topical collections are now the proper thing as it is the people's type of collecting and most of our collectors endorse this phase of philately. We do not doubt but that all who heard the Minister's statements are heartily in accord with him.

Rude Pravo.

---

Post Office personnel submitted to their Department several suggestions on the institution of stamped envelopes. A fulfillment of this idea met with many obstacles which have fortunately been surmounted and envelopes with imprinted stamps will shortly be placed on sale at the various Post Offices throughout the country.

Prace.

---

Mention this publication when answering ads. Thanks!

## PHILATELIC LITERATURE

We offer the following:

Tricet Let Cesk. Postouni 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
(Only 1 copy of the last 2 items available)	

All Books Postpaid

Please make all remittances payable to A. N. Weiner

### Weiner and Fein

5056½ N. Kenmore Ave.

Chicago 40, Ill.

## 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	.06	379-81 U. P. U.	.45
363-5	Gottwald (4)	.10	382-4 IX Congress	.15
366	Gottwald 20K	.30	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

264 E. 180th St.

New York 57, N. Y.

**OFFICERS**

President: Geo. A. Blizil, 2364 Queenston Rd., Cleveland Heights 18, Ohio.  
 National Sec.: John Velek, 2229 Kimball Ave., Chicago 47, Illinois.  
 International Sec.: A. J. Hrivnak, 174 Addison Rd., Riverside, Ill.  
 Treasurer: Edward J. Sabol, 237 Radcliffe St., Bristol, Pa.  
 Editor: F. J. Kovarik, 2502 So. Kedzie Ave., Chicago 23, Ill.  
 Librarian: Mrs. M. Glawe, 9640 S. Seeley Ave, Chicago 43, Ill.  
 Sales Mgr.: W. Fritzsche, Box 402, Geneva, N. Y.



**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
1/2 page .....	3.50	3.35	3.15
1/4 page .....	2.15	2.00	1.80
1/8 page .....	1.50	1.35	1.25
1/16 page .....	1.00	.85	.75

10% discount to members.



**WE ARE YOUR HEADQUARTERS**

for unusual Czechoslovakian material: covers, stationery, varieties and so on. If it enhances the beauty and value of your collection, WE HAVE IT.

In order to sell Czechoslovakian Postal History, we have to buy, so dig out your duplicates of better-grade specialties, errors, varieties, covers, etc. Not only Czechoslovakia, though, but the rest of Europe, too.

**POSTMAN'S KNOCK**  
 Specialists in European Postal History

Box 6

Zone 7

Cincinnati, Ohio

## October 28

by F. J. Kovarik

Reprinted with permission from "STAMPS"



Design of the Fifth Anniversary Issue, Showing Masaryk portrait

October 28 has the same significance to a Czechoslovak that July 4 has to an American or July 14 has to a Frenchman. They are turning points in the history of nations. They mean transition from slavery, political or economic, to independence and liberty.

The history of the Czechs and Slovaks was little known to us in America, and it was not until 1915 when the names of Masaryk, Stefanik, and Benes began to appear in news columns. It was then we learned that the Czechs were held in political subjection by Austria, and the Slovaks fared even worse under Hungary. Masaryk worked for the liberation of his country in London and in America; Benes and Stefanik labored toward the same goal in Paris. Not until the Czechs placed armed troops into the field against Germany and Austria-Hungary, troops recruited for the most part from prisoners of war, did the Allies give political recognition to these people. When America entered World War I, Woodrow Wilson promised the Czechoslovaks independence on the basis of his Fourteen Points. When Lloyd George for Britain and Clemenceau for France did likewise, liberty for a new nation was guaranteed. It was not easy to convince Italy because Italy feared a strong Pan Slavic Union, but when Benes proved that a group of several small nations whose ambitions were never unilateral emerges from the wreckage of the Dual Monarchy, Italy had nothing to fear, complete accord on the liberation of the central European Slavic state was reached. The Allies were victorious; Austria-Hungary disintegrated; the Kaiser escaped to Holland and the war was over. The Czechs announced their Declaration of Independence on October 28, 1918, and the day was declared a legal holiday.

Philatelically the day has been honored five times by the issuance of commemorative stamps. There have been many commemorative cancellations but we shall not deal with them in this article.

### Issue 1923 Fifth Anniversary of the Republic

A portrait of the first president of Czechoslovakia, Thomas G. Masaryk, from a design submitted to the Ministry of Posts by Prof. Max Svabinsky and engraved by Karel Wolf, was chosen for this Jubilee Issue. Printed from steel engraved flat plates on white watermarked paper. Gum was yellow brown with a monogram CSR impressed into it. Line perforated  $13\frac{1}{4}$ , but sometimes, due to imperfect alignment of the perforating pins this gauge may have reached  $14\frac{1}{4}$ .

The stamps were sold with 100 per cent increase in price. After deducting the cost of production from the net overcharge the balance was distributed among sociological and humane organizations.

Reference:	Quantity Issued
50h+ 50h green or dark green .....	920,000
100h+100h red or dark red .....	655,000
200h+200h blue .....	160,000
300h+300h brown or dark brown .....	140,000

We mentioned that the paper used for this issue was watermarked. A





**Tenth Anniversary Issue Showing Important Buildings and Scenes in Czechoslovakia and a Portrait of President Masaryk**

careful examination of the watermark will show that this can appear in 8 positions. The illustration shows the numbering of positions as used by collectors of Czechoslovakia and this illustration must be used in connection with the "Views" article also. Stamps of this issue are known with only the four vertical types of watermark, positions 5 to 8.

#### **Tenth Anniversary of the Republic Issue 1928**

These stamps were issued October 22, 1928, six days in advance of the holiday. The 1.20K was from a painting by Julius Marak; 2.K from a painting by Jaroslav Setelik; 40h and 5.K from paintings by V. Maly and the balance of the issue were from photographs. All were engraved by Karel Seizinger. Printed from steel engraved plates on the flat press on white, unwatermarked paper and perforated line 13%.

The values, with a brief description of each design are as follows:  
 30h, gray black. Hradec u Opavy in Silesia, castle known as early as the XI cen-



- ture. Quantity issued: 3,043,000 copies.
- 40h, brown. Levoca in Slovakia, the old town hall. 1,122,000 copies.
- 50h, green. Praha Telefon, new interurban telephone exchange in Zizkov, a partial perspective view of the building. 10,260,000 copies.
- 60h, red orange. Jasina in Carpathia, bell tower and Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, a typical Hucul building. 3,220,000 copies.
- 1K, carmine red. Hluboka, a beautiful Schwarzenburg castle, photo taken from an airplane. 10,210,000 copies.
- 1.20K, red violet. Velehrad, famous pilgrimage in Moravia, original painting hangs in Presidential box in the National Opera. 698,000 copies.
- 2K, ultramarine. Brno, Cathedral Church of St. Peter. 2,265,000 copies.
- 2.50K, dark blue. Tatra Mountains, southern view of the mountain group. 600,000 copies.
- 3K, brown. Portrait of President Masaryk. 1,275,000 copies.
- 5K, violet. Old Town Hall and the Tyn Church. 609,000 copies.

#### Twentieth Anniversary Jubilee Issue 1938

This stamp was prepared to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Czechoslovakian Independence and though issued, it came to us under an assumed name. At this time the country was in the throes of the Nazi hydra and because of instructions from Berlin, it was announced as "the 20th anniversary of the Czechoslovak Postage Stamp." This very pleasing design is the work of Prof. Max Svabinsky and was engraved by Bohumil Heinz. The commemorative sheet containing one stamp, measures 71x90 mm. and is frame perforated 12½. It was printed from steel engraved flat plates. Semi-postal in character with a surtax of 8.Kcs.

2.K+8.K, blue. Quantity issued: 230,000 copies.

Sheet stamps were sold without surtax and were issued in sheets of 100 subjects and 12 blank tabs or coupons, from steel engraved rotary plates and



Miniature Sheet Issued for Czechoslovakia's 20th Anniversary.



Design of 20th Anniversary Issue.

line perforated 12½ on white unwatermarked paper.

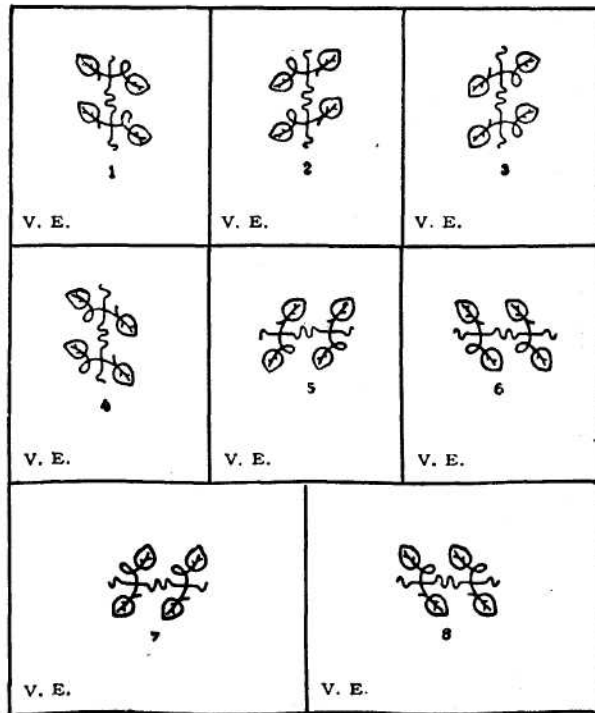
2K blue. Quantity issued: 3,000,000 copies.

3K brown. Quantity issued: 2,000,000 copies.

Editor's Note: A 1K essay exists in blue, red and brown.

1946 Commemorative Issue

While it is true that Czechoslovakia was reliberated after World War II by the Russians from the East and the Americans from the West, the first October 28 stamp was not issued until the following year. Dr. Benes, who worked so strenuously to bring about the liberation of the Czechs and Slovaks during World War I, who was elected second president of the Republic and who remained in that office almost to the time of the Nazi grab, had to work just as hard to regain recognition of the continuity of the Republic. Both British and French statesmen recognized the validity of the Czechoslovakian claim, but



The watermark positions on Czechoslovak stamps



Design of the 28th Anniversary Issue with portrait of Pres. Eduard Benes.

their ego must not be hurt; consequently, the Munich Pact with all its ill effects was not repudiated until long after it was foisted upon an innocent people by Chamberlin and Daladier. Russia and the United States were the first major countries to recognize the Czechoslovak government in exile.

In 1946, twenty-eight years after the liberation of Czechoslovaks from the Austro-Hungarian misrule, a series of stamps was issued bearing the portrait of President Eduard Benes. It was designed by Max Svabinsky and engraved by Jindra Schmidt. Printed from steel engraved rotary plates on white, unwatermarked paper in sheets of 100 subjects and perforated line 12½. The values issued were: 60h dark blue; 1.60Kcs dark green; 3.Kcs dark red and 8.Kcs dark brown.

A special First Day cover was prepared by the Post Office Department, with a beautiful engraving of the Hradchany by Max Svabinsky. The covers were numbered.

#### Thirtieth Anniversary of the Republic



To commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Czechoslovak Republic the Ministry of Posts issued two stamps. It is unfortunate that only the dates on the adhesives give any evidence of the occasion celebrated. The stamp was designed by Vaclav Sivko and engraved by J. A. Svengsbir. Printed on white unwatermarked paper in sheets of 100 subjects and 12 ornamental coupons and perforated line 12½. The two values issued are: 1.50K, blue and 3.K, red. A special first day cover was prepared by the Post Office Department for this stamp.

Orbis announces that it wishes to have all accounts of credits and debits recorder by Feb. 15, 1950, as has been officially designated. Under no circumstances will this time of grace be prolonged.

Lidova Demokracie.

**We Buy and Sell**

**All  
European  
Stamps**

**CZECHOSLOVAKIA IS OUR SPECIALTY**

Of this country we have every stamp in stock

**Alfons Stach**

MEMBER C. P. S. N. A.

99 NASSAU ST.

NEW YORK, N. Y.

Telephone BEckman 3-0553