

# 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

This issue of the Specialist is devoted almost entirely to the Society and its affairs. We shall publish the membership listing; all members yet in arrears are dropped from the membership roll. It is gratifying to note that so large a number of members paid heed to our plea and increased their membership dues. Members in the United States should know that two of our Canadian members sent in \$5.00 each for a patron membership. In view of the fact that the Canadian government permits its citizens to spend only \$10.00 a month in the U. S., these members have sacrificed half their monthly quota to help the Society. Though the membership listing shows your present status, we are ready to let others know of your generosity in the next (Sept.) issue of the Specialist. If your name does not appear in the membership list, this is the last issue of the Specialist you get, unless you pay your dues.

We are also publishing the auction list. Bid generously; this is one way you can help your treasury. We thank the donors, few as they are, who have been so generous.

We are also enclosing a ballot and ask you to fill it and mail it to the secretary, Mr. John Velek, 2229 Kimball Ave., Chicago 47, Ill.; as you see, the nominating committee selected only one candidate for each office. That doesn't mean you cannot vote for another member for any particular office. Merely write in your candidate's name on the ballot or instruct a member who will attend the convention to vote for your candidate and empower him to act as your proxy.

Last but not least; be sure to obtain the Czechoslovak issue of STAMPS, June 3, 1950 (or better yet, subscribe to this magazine). We know how the Lindquist staff painstakingly prepares our special issues. Many of you have correspondents in Czechoslovakia; treat them to a copy of this special issue to let them know that our Society is doing its bit to keep Czecho stamps in the forefront of philately.

Your editor will get a well deserved rest in the next two months; he and the officers wish you a fine and healthful vacation.

Latest news from Praha contains information which will be welcome to many collectors both here and over there. The Post Office is expected to take back from "Orbis" its prerogative to sell ALL postage stamps, freely. The actual transfer of this function has not yet taken place, nor is it known if stamps issued during the Orbis control period will find their way to the Post Office counter.

A short time ago we were shown stamps of Czechoslovakia as well as essays and proofs which were not issued during the time these were on sale at the Post Office. They appear to be reprints from worn plates; neither the color

nor the general appearance can satisfy even a cursory examination. When offered these "scarce imperfs," remember "caveat emptor."

From the membership list our members will note that we list 195 paid up members. What happened to the 65 members whose names do not appear there? We missed several old timers who, we are sure, don't want to drop out. They are too busy to mail in their dues. We are sure they'll correct this situation by sending in their dues for 1950 to our treasurer, Mr. Edward J. Sabol, 237 Radcliffe St., Bristol, Pa., without delay.

MILATELIA PRAVDA, post. priehr. c. 316, Bratislava I, Czechoslovakia, sends us the 4th issue of its catalog of Czechoslovak stamps for review, as also a catalog of U. S. stamps 1919-1950 (last stamp chronicled is the G. A. R. stamp). For one who desires a listing plus illustrations, these small and inexpensive catalogs are ideal and may be purchased from the publishers at 20 cents each, payable in mint U. S. commemorative stamps.

In this issue of the Specialist you are presented with a translation from "Die Lupe." It was originally translated for us by Mr. Paul E. Leeds through the kindness of our old friend, Mr. Ben Reeves. Re-reading Mr. Leeds' translation and comparing the original with our almost forgotten knowledge of German, we noticed several discrepancies and asked our member Mr. R. L. Spofford to check it over. Mr. Spofford submitted his own translation with the notation that Mr. Leeds was in a hurry and gave only a superficial translation. The truth is, Mr. Leeds was in a hurry; a few days after mailing the translation, he died. To his bereaved widow we extend our heartfelt sympathies.

We have been asked to reprint several articles for the newer members and so we go to the files of the 1940 Specialist and reprint "Stamps of the Czechoslovak Field Posts in Siberia." In the introduction we say that we may have "bogus material"; indeed, we have. Among the items in our collection we found genuine covers, with Siberian stamps REPRINTED IN PRAHA AFTER THE WAR attached to the genuine cover and the corners of the cancellation cleverly drawn in. Most of the covers we saw are stampless; soldiers needed no stamps to transport letter mail.

#### OUR CONVENTION — SHOW — AUCTION

As we go to press we are not very satisfied with the cooperation from our members. In the last issue of the Specialist we complained that only a very few members sent in donations toward the auction and only three or four members outside of Chicago promised to show any of their stamps. While it may be too late for some, may we urge those members who get this issue of the Specialist early enough to send their auction material to Mr. A. N. Weiner, 5056½ N. Kenmore Ave., Chicago 40, Ill. Bid generously! Use the enclosed order blank when submitting bids on auction material and mail promptly to Mr. Weiner.

It is not too late to send your album pages of stamps for the show. Mail or express these fully insured to Mr. George Kobylka, 3452 W. 23rd St., Chicago 23, Ill. Immediately after the show these will be returned to the exhibitors express collect.

Those who want hotel reservations please contact Mr. R. Reinowski, 1939 Highland Ave., Berwyn, Ill. All other information will be gladly supplied by the general chairman, Mr. Wm. Sporck, 1435 S. Central Ave., Cicero 50, Ill.

May we again remind you: all the work for this is freely donated by a few members of the Chicago area. The money thus obtained is for the publication fund. Your editor found it necessary to cut down on expenses; your Specialist could contain more illustrations and more pages, if every member did his part to bolster the treasury. Many members have voluntarily increased their dues and we thank them. May others follow their example!

## PARADE OF NEW ISSUES

## Majakovsky Commemorative

Last month we chronicled the two Majakovsky stamps and today we present our readers with an illustration.



Commemorative Stamps "The Fifth Anniversary of the Czechoslovak Peoples-Democratic Republic"

Commemorating the fifth anniversary of the Czechoslovak Peoples-Democratic Republic the Czechoslovak Post will issue two sets of commemorative stamps the first of which comprises the 1.50, 2.-, 3.- and 5.- Kcs values and will be placed on sale May 5, 1950.

1. The 1.50 Kcs stamp "Liberation of Czechoslovakia by the Red Army" shows a Soviet tank soldier and in the background the architecture of Hradecany after design by K. Obertor; engraved by Jindra Schmidt.
2. The 2.- Kcs stamp shows the distinction of "Hero of Labor," designed by V. Nemecek, engraved by L. Jirka.
3. The 3.- Kcs stamp "February 1948" shows two figures of the Factory Militia and in the background a part of the Old Town Hall's architecture and the Tyn Church. Design by B. Dolezalova, engraving by B. Housa.
4. The 5.- Kcs stamp "The Kosice Programme" showing a part of its text and the Czechoslovak Coat-of-Arms both carved upon stone. Design by V. Suchdolak, engraving by J. Svengsbir.



The second set comprising the 1.50, 2.-, 3.- and 5.- Kcs values will be placed

on sale on May 9, 1950.

1. The 1.50 Kcs stamp "Youth taking part in the Socialistic Competition," shows the figures of a young man and a girl with their tools in front of a factory.
2. The 2.- Kcs stamp "The Industrialism of Slovakia," expressed by a design of a big crane and a group of workmen with Tatra Mountains in the background.
3. The 3.- Kcs stamp "Agriculture" shows a portrait of a farm labourer and the mountain Rip in the background. Design by B. Dolezalova.
4. The 5.- Kcs stamp "Nationalization" shows the figures of three workmen walking out of the factory.

The stamps, horizontal rectangles, will be issued in sheets of 25 and 50 copies—the first set—and of 50 copies—the second set—and be valid until recalled. A First Day Cover will be issued on both sets.



**CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA  
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 Kopcok, Andrew, 4109 W. 49th St., Cleveland 9, Ohio — #316  
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 Kosan, Bronislav, Klecanky u Prahy, C. S. R. — #390  
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 Kvasnicka, Zdenek, Praha XII, Lobkovicovo nam 9, C. S. R. — #292  
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202. Norman F. Ives, 133 Dean St., Mansfield, Mass.

## SUPPRESS FORGERIES!

## Overprint Forgeries of Czechoslovakia

by Dr. Arthur Schroeder

We cannot allow the opportunity of seeing the seven different overprint varieties of Michel #40 to 58 together in an old collection to escape without seizing it for our readers. Indeed we cannot oblige with seven varieties, as the Michel catalog considers them, since the forger has thereby really simplified the matter by using one overprint for overprint types 4, 6 and 7, in which the P of POSTA is over the second S in CESKOSLOVENSKA.

On the genuine stamps this position of the P appears only on the Hungarian stamps, Michel nos. 104 to 129 and 138 to 144, while it appears on the Austrian stamps (postage due and newspaper) nos. 74-88 and 98-103 in the middle above the O and S, and on the Hungarian postage stamps nos. 145-158 over the O.

Overprint 1 "decorates" the attractive Austrian crown, coat-of-arms and Emperor Karl stamps of 1916, is at hand in two different forgeries, both fairly clumsy as the illustrations show. First of all is the size (in order to avoid constant repetition, in the following I means the length of the upper line (Posta), II the length of the second line (Ceskoslovenska) and III the length of the lower line (1919). IV is the height of the whole overprint and B signifies the height of the letters in mm.).

Genuine	I: 11	II: 27	III: 7	IV: 17	B: 4
Forgery 1	I: 10½	II: 26	III: 6½	IV: 16	B: 4¾
Forgery 2	I: 10	II: 26	III: 6½	IV: 17	B: 4

In the first forgery the grotesque distortion of the letter S is apparent, which is also repeated in the S in CESKOSLOVENSKA and is emphasized by the contrast with the adjoining letters S. The high-legged P, the squat-figured O, the broad-shouldered T and the completely different A also attract attention at a superficial comparison. The accent over the S is much higher than in the genuine overprint, as well as in a different form. It must not be forgotten that

Printing #2 — genuine

forgery

Printing #3 — genuine

forgery

Printing #4 — Genuine

Printing #4 — forgery



the letters in the genuine overprint are spread much farther apart than in the forgery.

This applies also to Forgery 2, which comes somewhat closer in the shape of the letters. The flattened top of the S is striking here as well as the more angular P, the crooked O and above all the radically different A. The word CESHKOSLOVENSKA shows mainly the S with the long-drawn-out appearance and the L slanted at the bottom.

Overprint 2, which is only met with on the airmail stamps, Michel nos. 67, 68 and 71-73 and in the postage due provisionals, nos. 92-97, is usually much blurred, the accent is reduced to a small spot and the letters are shaky and plums. On the other hand the forgery appears neater, yet their impression is quite different. The letters are much stronger and especially the P, S and O show entirely different forms, not to mention the horizontal accent. One gets the impression (as with printing 3) that perhaps the Michel catalog illustrations have stood godfather here, showing similar errors.

Overprint 3, to be found on the horizontal Austrian special delivery stamps and the Hungarian parliament stamps (Michel nos. 69, 70 and 130-137), is best distinguished by the depression in the upper part of the S. The dimensions are:

Genuine:	I: 9½	II: 27	III: 7	IV: 15	B: 4
Forgery:	I: 9	II: 27	III: 6¾	IV: 15	B: 3¾

The color of the genuine is sooty to dull deep black, generally well covered, standing out from the stamp on the sides. The forgery is dull, often poorly covered and not standing out from the stamp at the edges.

Overprint 4 appears on the postage dues (74-88), generally sooty-black; on the newspaper stamps (98-103), on the other hand, dull and almost always somewhat rough. The forgeries are dull-shiny, deep black, artificially made rough by blotting, whereby the color stands out somewhat. The design is again

Printing #1 — genuine

Printing #1 — first forgery

Printing #1 — second forgery

Printing #5 — genuine

forgery

quite divergent though much better than the genuine stamps. The S is entirely different with its stretched appearance and the A is broad-legged. In the word CESKOSLOVENSKA is again an entirely different S with uniformly thick lines and strongly emphasized vertical serifs, and an L, interrupted at bottom, with attached triangular diagonal stroke, a completely different stroke. Dimensions are:

Genuine	I: 8	II: 24	III: 3½	IV: 15	B: 3
Forgery	I: 8	II: 22	III: 5	IV: 14	B: 3

Overprint 5 (only on the kronen values of the postage dues, Michel 89-91) is very similar to overprint 1, is well printed in evenly-spread dimly-shining ink. The design is well-proportioned, yet the word POSTA is too crowded, the O too broad, and above all the S is flattened at top and bottom, which never occurs with the genuine letter. The second word CESKOSLOVENSKA attracts attention in that the cross strokes of the E and K are in the middle, whereas in the genuine they are farther from the top. Dimensions:

Genuine	I: 11	II: 27½	III: 7	IV: 16	B: 4
Forgery	I: 10½	II: 26½	III: 7	IV: 16	B: 4

The forged overprints #6 and 7 are identical with that described under #4; the genuine, on the other hand, are not; they are differentiated by the position of the first word relative to the second (see above).

—Translated by Richardson Spofford



Some time ago Mr. R. L. Spofford showed us a very fine Masaryk 1K stamp with a scratch running from just above the S upward and to the right past the K. Above and to the right of the top right frame line are two dots which are well discernible in the accompanying illustration. Look through your duplicates and see if you have a similar item.

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