

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

About a year ago we went to an eye specialist and learned glaucoma robbed us of sight in the left eye. While it was a blow it was not too shocking; we were assured if we take care of the other eye our sight need not be further impaired. To several collector friends we confided this news and one, a member of the Society, invited us to New York to have other specialists examine our eyes. Unfortunately, the diagnosis of our Chicago physician was found correct and a confirmation by the New York doctors convinced us that we can place implicit trust in the man who has done so much to check the spread of the disease to the other eye. As long as we had to go to New York, we asked Dr. Reiner-Deutsch to gather the New York Group and we had a meeting with them. We do not know how gratifying will be the results but we hope our visit to New York will reactivate this group which at one time was the backbone of our Society. At the dinner held in the Bohemian Hall we met many old friends and made the acquaintance of many new members. Mrs. Lowey, the widow of our founder, was also there and told us how happy she is that the work of her departed spouse is continuing so well. She was especially pleased with the decision of the New York group to present a plaque annually to the exhibitor of the best Czecho collection at the exhibition of our Society no matter where it is held. To the New York group go our sincere thanks for a very pleasant visit. * Of course, to be in New York and fail to visit some of our dealer members would be almost criminal. Time was too short to visit them all and so we visited those who have been known to us for as long a time as the life span of our Society. We have succeeded in obtaining two full page ads for the next 10 issues of the Specialist (and we did no soliciting!), proof that we know how to combine business with pleasure. Incidentally, we can not tell where the pleasure ends and business begins. * Your editor collected stamps before the formation of Czechoslovakia and has friends who collect foreign stuff like U. S., British Colonies, etc. We have revived old friendships and thank these friends for a very enjoyable stay in their little town. * A kindred soul is he who sees almost eye to eye with you. Such a one is our very good friend in Rhode Island who isn't overly endowed with the goods of this world and therefor spends his money on quantity lots and collections which he then breaks down into plate and printing varieties as also into a study of cancellations. He has been doing much pioneer work, especially on cancellations of the Sudeten area. A native American of many generations, his knowledge of Czech town names and their German equivalents and the history of the Czechs and their country, could put to shame many former citizens of that land. We spent a

very fascinating visit with him and his wife and then, to our extreme joy, he invited us for a ride into the Berkshires to visit one of our oldest members who but recently moved from New York to Lenox, Mass. With him and his charming family we not only talked about stamps but we especially discussed the plight of those who perforce must remain behind the metallic draperies. All good things must come to an end and as the shadows of the evergreens were lengthening, we bid our friends a fond adieu, our Rhode Island friends and hosts drove us to Springfield where we boarded a train and were swiftly carried westward. Late morning found us beyond the borders of the U. S., in the land of our friendly northern neighbor. There, in the city of Toronto, an historical act was taking place, the first International Philatelic Exhibition in Canada, CAPEX. After the customary ablutions we repaired to the Exposition grounds, situated on the shore of the calm and beautiful Toronto Bay. The formalities of entering were soon consummated but, alas, we were recognized by some fellow townsmen of Chicago and taken around to the High, and Lesser Lights of American Philately. We knew many of these personally, some have recognized us, some remembered our face, but most of them could place us among the lesser stars in the Milky Way of Philately. As could be expected, our first visit to the enclosed shrine which held the stamps belonging to His Majesty King George. Pages of first issues from the collection of the King of Philatelists, the late George V and pages of die proofs of recent issues, presented by the various colonies to the Royal Collection. * Then to the Court of Honour (gosh, we feel very English spelling it so!). Two covers there attracted our attention: Mauritius, two one penny Post Office on one cover and one two penny Post Office on another cover. These are worth a King's ransom. First issues of Russia, Swiss Cantons, United States, Spain, Austria, British Mulready's including the caricatures, penny blacks and reds and two pence blues. * Then again back to the center of the Hall, to view the various government exhibits. The most interesting, from our point of view, was that of the government of Israel. It showed the genesis of the Dr. Herzl stamp. From the drawing of the artist's design, through various stages of photographing, of preparing the plate, to the final printing therefrom and placing the perforations. It is but natural that the government exhibit of Canada should be tops and that it was. Most interesting was the 15 cent Beaver variety of the Centennial issue first sold Monday, September 24, 1951. This included the design, the master die, the roller and finally the plate from which this stamp was printed. Only one country from the eastern half of our civilization was represented at this show, Poland. * While at the Show it was our privilege to meet two of our Toronto members (one of these was most active in committees of several conventions held during Capex) and one member from Montreal. Only one of our dealer members had a booth at the Show. We were very happy to make a personal acquaintance with these fine men and hope they gained as much good from meeting their editor as he gained meeting them. * We have visited many stamp exhibitions in the U. S.; two of them were international shows. We feel sure we voice the sentiments of most visitors to Capex that this was the finest and best lighted one of all. The roof of the exhibition hall is made of glass and when the sun went down, the electrical lighting showed the frames to good advantage. It was a well balanced show. Being held in Canada, a segment of the vast British Empire, it is but natural that a large portion of the show was devoted to the stamps of the Empire on which the sun never sets. Other countries were well represented, as were also the air mails and topical collections. Among the most interesting of the latter was a study of postage stamps consisting of 124 pages. Another interesting topical was a story of the first two chapters of Genesis as shown on stamps. There were no collections of Czechoslovakia at all though here and there one did

find Czecho stamps; most interesting were several pages of Czecho air mail proofs, trial printings, printer's waste, etc. * Altogether we enjoyed our vacation and we feel sure our trip helped us immensely. At the various functions, luncheons and dinners, our name may have been heard and forgotten, but the title—editor of the Czechoslovak Specialist, will be remembered. If our trip helped the Society, we are happy.

Filatelie Orbis favored us with a new issue report as well as a price list of post war Postal Stationery and Postage Stamps. Picture post cards with postage stamp imprinted on them have been issued in such large numbers that what little interest they commanded in countries other than Czechoslovakia is rapidly waning and will soon be as extinct as the dodo. The stamps offered for sale (in U. S. dollars, postage extra, cash in advance) are a revelation. We know that Czecho currency is supplied at 2 cents a crown. We also know that Czech currency sold in a free market brings less than 2 dollars for 1000 crowns. Yet Filatelie Orbis unblushingly offers these stamps at over 50% over face. They have also gone into the used stamp business like Liberia, USSR and others who sell "fine cancelled stamps" per 10, 100 or 1000 copies. We wonder if the gum has been washed off! Anyone desirous of purchasing 1000 used sets of the 1951 airmails can have them for as little as \$380. (U. S., not Chinese dollars).

A very interesting letter came from New York just as we were putting the final touches to copy for this issue of the Specialist. It contains a clipping from the "New Yorkske Listy" in which was recorded an account of our trip to New York and the meeting with the Czecho collectors there. We want other New York members who couldn't attend the meeting to know that an election of officers in the New York group resulted as follows: president, Dr. Wm. Reiner-Deutsch; treasurer, L. M. Horechny; program director, R. Secky; secretary, Jos. Stein. For further information contact Mr. Stein, Box 606, New York 8, N. Y. In his letter he mentions the avalanche of orders which reached the office of the United Stamp Co. following their ad concerning the sale of the Dr. O. R. Pozdena Specialized collection. We are sure the bidding for many items will be very spirited and our members must now be anxious to learn what the various items brought.

And another reminder: Kindly send your dues for 1952 to the treasurer Mr. Geo. Kobylka, 3453 W. 23rd St., Chicago 23, Ill. Regular membership, \$2, associate, \$5, patron, \$10, and life \$75.

NEW MEMBERS

- 462. Mrs. K. F. Goodman, 110 Brunswick Rd., Ealing, London W 5, England
- 463. William Trnovsky, 526 Fifth Ave., San Francisco 18, Calif.
- 464. Robert A. Helm, 2473 Elm Pl., New York 58, N. Y.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

- 102. R. L. Spofford, 5001 Drexel Blvd., Chicago 15, Ill.
- 346. Walter Beck, 97 Katherine Ave., Clifton, N. J.
- 403. Frank J. Rosner, 2520 So. Crawford Ave., Chicago 23, Ill.
- 453. Otakar Kutvirt, 220 Valley Rd., Rochester 10, N. Y.

Note: Several copies of the September and October Specialists have been returned to us as undeliverable. When you move, please notify us of your address change immediately because returned copies become expensive. We are looking for new addresses of the following members: John J. Krivanek, Ray A. Walther, Norman B. Ives, Mrs. John Strnad and Mrs. N. D. Marty.

We have received from the Post Office Department notice of the death of Mr. Charles E. McBride of San Francisco and of member A. G. Dewars of St. Paul. To the bereaved members of the families of the departed we extend our deepest sympathy.

PARADE OF NEW ISSUES

New Commemoratives Honoring the "Miners Day 1951" (Heavy Industry 2nd Series)



To commemorate the "Miners Day 1951" celebrated on September 9th, 1951, the Czechoslovak Ministry of Posts issued on 8th September a new series of the following commemoratives:

- (1) Region Ostrava, the iron base of Socialism, Kčs 1.50, brown,
- (2) Ore mining, Kčs 3.—, red,
- (3) Design as on (1), Kčs 5.—, blue.

The design and the engraving of the stamps (1) and (3) is the work of Bohdan Roule. It is a photomounting of a mining-tower with factory buildings and a part of the architecture of the Ostrava town-hall, and the statue "Miner" by Vielgus. In the dark band of the bottom edge there is the inscription "Ostravsko, železný základ pětiletky" (Region of Ostrava, the iron base of Socialism and coat-of-arms of the town of Ostrava).

The design and the engraving of the stamp No. 2 is by J. A. Švengsbír. It is a picture of two miners working in the ore mine with a modern rock-drill. On the bottom edge of the stamp there is the inscription "Rudné hornictví" (Ore mining).

The stamps in the form of a vertical rectangle, 23.5x30 mm in dimension, are recess printed in sheets of 70 and 35 copies. Validity for postage from 8th September, 1951.

A cacheted First Day Cover designed and engraved by J. A. Švengsbír, and the Collection Sheet, were issued at the same time.

New Issue "The Day of the Czechoslovak Army"



To commemorate the Day of the Czechoslovak Army falling on October 6, 1951, the Czechoslovak Ministry of Posts has issued a new series of five commemoratives of the following designs and denominations:

- (1) Soldiers on parade, Kčs 0.80, brown, designed by Václav Šprungl,
- (2) A gunner with the field-gun, Kčs 1.—, green, designer as above,
- (3) The Portrait of President Klement Gottwald, commander-in-chief of the

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Czechoslovak Army, Kčs 1.50, grey, after the photograph by professor J. Ehm, graphically arranged by professor K. Svolinsky, engraved by Jindra Schmidt,

- (4) A tankist with the tank, after the design by Dagmar Křováková, engraved by J. A. Švengsbír, Kčs 3.— violet,
 (5) The Air-Force, Kčs 5.—, blue, designed by Jiří Blažek.



All the stamps bear the inscription ČESKOSLOVENSKO "Den čs. armády 1951" (The Day of the Czechoslovak Army 1951) and except the stamp of Kčs 1.50 also the inscription "Se sovětskou armádou na stráž míru" (With the Soviet Army on the Peace-Guard"). The stamps of Kčs 0.80 and Kčs 5.— in the form of a vertical rectangle, 23x31 mm in dimension, are printed in heliogravure. The other stamps in the form of a vertical rectangle, 23x30 mm in dimension, are recess printed in sheets of 70 and 35 copies. Validity for postage from October 6, 1951.

A cacheted First Day Cover with the design of the badge of an excellent rifleman, engraved by Jaroslav Goldschmied, as well as the Collection Sheet, were issued at the same time.

NEW ADVERTISING RATES

(Effective Jan. 1, 1952)

	1 insertion	5 insertions	10 insertions
Full page	6.00	5.50	5.00
½ page	4.00	3.75	3.50
¼ page	2.50	2.25	2.15
⅛ page	1.75	1.60	1.50
1/16 page	1.25	1.15	1.00

10% discount to members.

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PRAHA POSTMARKS

By F. J. Kovarik

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Photographs of philatelic material in this article are by Adrien Boutreille, N. Y.

(continued from last issue)

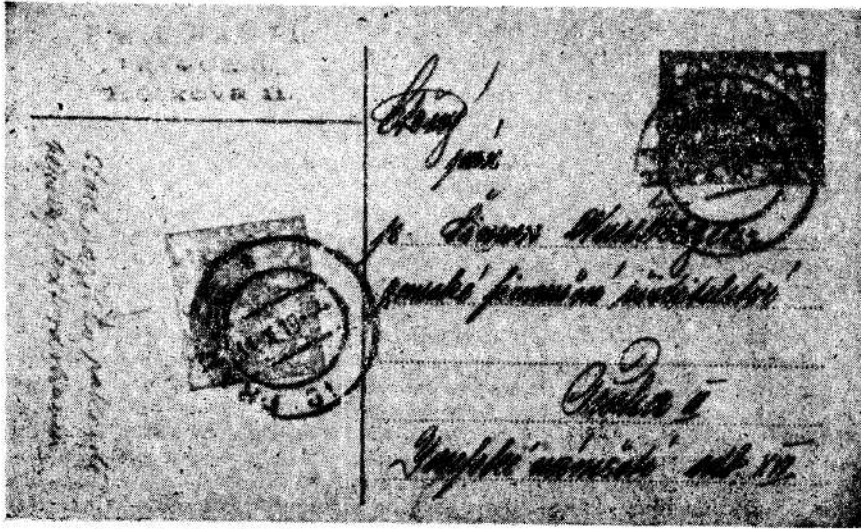
After the introduction of stamps we encounter an octagonal vertical frame containing the town name "PRAG," capitalized, with day and month and mailing indication. This, in our opinion, is the most common postmark used on the first issue of Austria. In later years, yet during the life of the 1850 issue, a single circle cancel was used, to which the year was added in the late 1870's. Our illustration shows an April 30, 1880 use of this cancel.

The double circle postmark was introduced soon after. This type was in use for a long time and even at present, this double circle device is followed very closely. Because this type remained static, postmark collecting became somewhat stagnant. From the turn of the century, one can really specialize to heart's content! The 1908 issue of Austria can be a fruitful field for this type of collecting. Not many covers have been saved (except, perhaps, postcards), but the stamps are of large size and all are large enough to accept a complete socked-on-the-nose cancellation. Stations are shown by number and the various types of cancelling devices contain letters of the alphabet.

We have not yet touched the cream of the Praha postmark specialization! (This, of course, is based on the likes and preferences of individual collectors.) On October 28, 1918, Czechoslovakia became an independent state. Even before this date, the world-famous artist and illustrator, Alfons Mucha, was approached by the "National Committee" to prepare a design for a postage stamp. Mucha chose the Hradčany Castle as a symbol of the newly won independence. The same design appeared in five different aspects, designated by the stamp collecting fraternity as types.

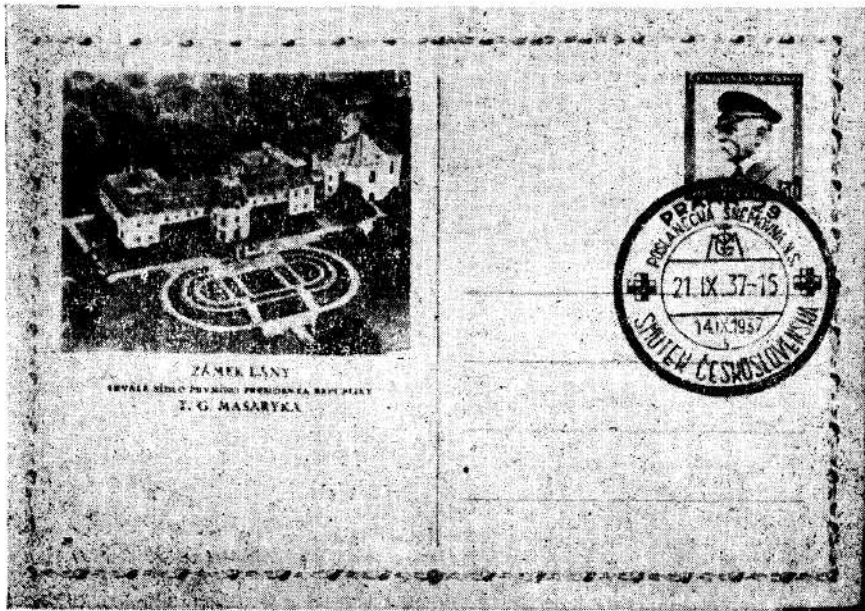


An early commemorative cancellation with German and Czech text advertising the Jubilee Exhibition of 1908.



The "nationalized" postmark with the German text removed.

From October 28, 1918 up to and including February 28, 1919 it is possible to find legitimate use of mixed franking (Czechoslovak and Austrian or Czechoslovak and Hungarian stamps) and bisects of Czechoslovak, Austria or Hungary (most often on the postage due issues.) Indeed, the regular postage stamps or cards of Austria or Hungary from October 28, 1918 to the date of their demonetization with the old Austrian or Hungarian postmarks, and later with these same postmarking devices nationalized by the removal of the Ger-



Memorial cancellation used at the death of the unforgettable T. G. Masaryk.



The regular cancellers used under the Republic: Left, with "C.S.R." at bottom; center, with ornaments; at right, smaller circle.

man text, are much sought by the collectors of Czechoslovakian postal history.

Due to the hurry and scurry to obtain the previous type of material the next phase of Praha cancels has been neglected. This type includes the various station numerals employed in the Praha Post Office. A very interesting period was opening in 1939 when Czechoslovakia began to replace the large cancelling devices with smaller dies, but due to the war and loss of independence only a very small number of offices obtained them.

Any collector of Chicago postmarks would consider it criminal negligence to forget important sub-stations or branches of the Main Post Office like Cicero, South Chicago, Evergreen Park, etc. Yet many collectors of Praha cancellations did by-pass such important stations as Smíchov, Královské Vinohrady, Žižkov, Nusle, etc. It is this material which adds zest to the collection of Praha cancels.

Now we come to the sad part of Czechoslovakian philately. We all know of the "Sudeten Crisis" which led to Munich, the separation from Czechoslovakia of its well fortified borders, which thus easily brought about the capitulation of the entire country to Hitler, who proclaimed himself "Protector" of Bohemia and Moravia (by this time Silesia was divided between Poland and Germany, Slovakia had proclaimed its "independence," and Carpatho-Ukraine had been stolen by Hungary). It is only necessary to remember that during the Protectorate Praha had eighty-nine numbered cancellation dies, with the German text "PRAG" and number at top and the Czech text "PRAHA" and number at bottom.

This period continued until 1945 when a situation similar to the 1918 "transition period" developed. This type of material is not as scarce as one would expect; the collectors saw to that by preparing mixed frankings and obtaining the "nationalized" postmarks. These nationalized postmarks were made by removing the German text from the device but retaining the Czech.

At the present time the Praha cancellations are very interesting. It seems that the station dies are being replaced with dies containing numerals



The Protectorate cancellation, nationalized by removing German text.



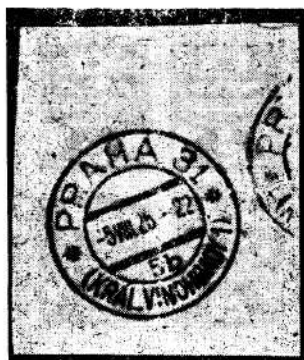
The hated Swastika, applied at the Praha post office during the German occupation.



Cancellation devices after World War II followed pre-war style.



Latest cancellation.



Cancel #31 showed the office (Kral. Vinohrady)

only, because recent mail bears Praha numbers 124, 144, 184, etc.

No collection of Praha cancels can be complete without commemorative advertising and slogan cancellations. Even as far back as 1908 we find a commemorative cancellation for the Jubilee Exposition and in 1912 a cancellation for the Sokol Meet. From 1919 these were issued in ever increasing numbers so that today this type of collecting is losing favor. During the Protectorate these commemorative cancellations irritated the Czechs as many of them honored the man most despised. There were cancellations honoring "Hitler's visit to Praha," "Hitler's Birthday," etc.

Railroad cancellations can be collected, though the railroad station and the Railway Post Office cancellations are a field in their own right.

There is another group of cancellations which come from Praha frequently. This is the cancel used on first day covers. As most U. S. first day covers come from Washington, D. C., so also most Czechoslovakian first days are cancelled in Praha. Most of these are cancelled to commemorate the

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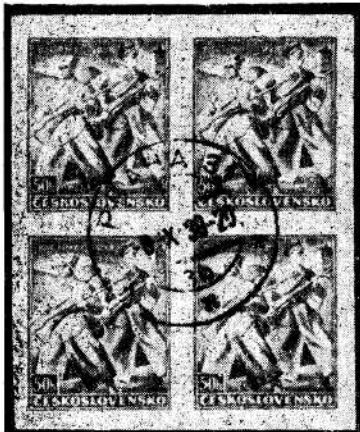
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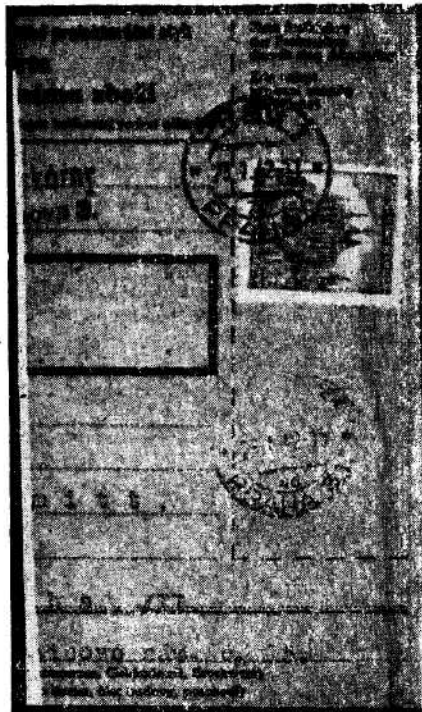
stamp or its special event but some copy the U. S. slogan "First Day of Issue" (První Den Vydání).

This may be "waste basket philately" but even so, it can bring much joy to the collector at practically no cost. Stamp collecting is a hobby and as such should remain a form of recreation. So for real fun, collect postmarks of any country; I shall continue with Czechoslovakia but, especially, Praha.



Cancellation 31. In early days of the Republic, cancel bore the name of station. Discontinued later.

The Post-Munich Cancellation.



NEW AND RECENT ISSUES

	Mint	Used			
406-09 Democratization	--- .35	.15	430-31 P. T. T.	-----	.15 ---
410-13 Nationalization	--- .35	.15	432-33 Tajovsky	-----	.20 ---
414-15 Neumann	-----	.15	434-35 New Prague	-----	.15 ---
416-17 Nemcova	-----	.25	434a Philatelic Sheet	---	.25 ---
418-21 Student Congress	-.35	---	436-37 II CSR-USSR Friend		.20 ---
422-23 Fibich	-----	.33	Peace Fighters (2 v.)		.15 ---
424-25 Army Day	-----	.15	Fucik (2 vals.)	---	.20 ---
426-29a Old Prague Sheet	--- .85	.75	Heavy Industries (3)		.26 ---

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Caught In The Snare!

by George A. Blizil

In these days when the intent of so many governments is to offer a host of philatelic "extravaganzas" in exchange for collectors' pocket-books, certain governments by the prolificness of their philatelic programs, fall into disfavor. Czechoslovakia is going that way very fast. But the truth of the matter is that the communist government of Czechoslovakia is not out to part collectors from their money—however dollars and pound sterling are always welcome. All precautions are being taken to avoid the cornering of issues by a favored few.

A rationing system of commemorative distribution has been corrected, and issues are now available to all collectors in the CSR. The censoring of all outgoing mail discourages those Czechs who in the past attempted to "peddle" issues below face value. This was a practice of stamp-minded Czechs to secure food parcels. The practice is now eliminated, and the new issue market has stabilized itself to 1 crown, equalling 2¢.

The principal objective of the government in the current Czechoslovakian philatelic sphere is its eagerness to promote a "new state," but it has over-emphasized labor and industry. Labor and "People's Government" means communism, and communism meets with natural disfavor among collectors in front of the iron curtain. Commemorating by the Czech government of events of Soviet origin strikes a sour note with collectors in the CSR as well as the West. These Soviet issues were, in all probability, the result of Kremlin directives. For instance, why did Czechoslovakia acknowledge the anniversary of Chopin, a Polish composer; the Russian Revolution of 1917; Pushkin, a Russian poet; or Stalin's birthday; or Lenin's?

At present there are no philatelic dealers in CSR. The government controls the stamp trade through its ORBIS agency, which at present is a philatelic agency of the Ministry of Posts. (That's another story in itself.)

The government has not gone wild in issuing errors, however, and it has not issued any "occasional" imperforate sheets. Everything has been in order. The face value of all the issues in the past three years has been modest, and within reach of all collectors. The only "irregularity" that can be reported at this time is the Ministry's admission of an airmail overprint variety: the 15 Kcs. on 24 Kcs. (Scott C34), which has appeared in a light violet shade overprint.

A screwball enterprise has to do with C29, the 3 Kcs. on 5.50 Kcs. When it was decided to revalue the current airmails in 1949, because of reduced rates, it was found that the supply of the original 5.50 Kcs. value was inadequate. So an additional supply was printed so that they could be overprinted. Why did they not come out with a new 3 Kcs. value on the spot? It was a



Issued Oct. 26, 1947, for 30th Anniversary of Russian October Revolution.



Issued 1948 for 11th Sokol meeting. This stamp had been arranged for before communist coup.



1948 issue for 600th Anniversary Charles University. Planned before Communist coup.



Issued Feb. 25, 1949. Shows communist President Klement Gottwald, and commemorates first anniversary of coup that placed communists in control of Czechoslovakia.

case of creating remainders for overprinting. At any rate, the reprint appears in a light gray blue, whereas the original is a darker gray blue. A trivial variety, but nevertheless it exists.

Back to the disfavor of Czech stamps. The seed was sown on October 26, 1947, when Czechoslovakia observed the 30th anniversary of the "great October Russian Revolution" (Scott 338-9). This issue was definitely not popular in CSR, and served notice to the philatelic world that the former democratic republic was about to be drawn behind the iron curtain. The actual change in government was made on February 25, 1948, which date is known as "ÚNOR 1948" and for the coup that placed the communists in control.

Following this coup, six pre-arranged sets were issued. One honored the XI Sokol meetings; another was for the 600th anniversary of Charles University; a single for the Slavic Agricultural Exposition in Prague; a second set for the Sokol movement featuring its first leaders; two stamps for the Kroměříž Constituent Assembly; and a set of three values for the 100th anniversary of the Slovak National Insurrection against the Hungarian government. The communists interjected some sentiment in this last set which would naturally be objectionable to Slovaks inasmuch as the three featured men (Hurban, Štúr and Hodza) were Protestant leaders, and Slovakia today is practically 100% Catholic.

On September 28, 1948, a memorial stamp was issued for President Beneš. The communists did not allow too much sentiment for this stamp, validating it for only thirty days, a precedent unheard of prior to issuance of this stamp in CSR. Possibly the reason for the withdrawal of the Beneš stamp was that October 28th was the date of release of the first three President Gottwald stamps, and having stamps in use of two different men, representing two different forms of governments, would be embarrassing.

The Gottwald sheet (367) made its appearance on his 52nd birthday, November 23, 1948, and was an opportunity to give a communistic message thereon. The same date marks the appearance of a 20 Kčs. Gottwald stamp, the highest denomination ever issued for regular postage. The 30th anniversary of the Republic could not be overlooked, and was commemorated with a poorly executed set of 2 values (361-2). Another indication of the communistic trend developed with the issuance of No. 369, a commemorative single for the fifth anniversary of an alliance treaty between CSR and USSR.

Continuing the running commentary on the stamps issued since "ÚNOR 1948," we next have the important 30th anniversary of the first Czech postage stamp on December 18, 1948, which was acknowledged with a 10 Kčs. souvenir sheet (368), a special postcard and a re-issued Scott No. 2 on pelure paper (actually CSR No. 1). This last item was printed from the original copper plate and was not valid for postage. Due to the wear of the plate, the print-

ing was limited and was done primarily for collectors attending the national stamp exhibition on December 18, 1948. The same day saw the appearance of the 1948 Dětém (Child Charity set Nos. B163-5), which is of unique design, executed by Professor Karel Svoboda.

In rapid succession stamps appeared for the death of Lenin, the first anniversary of "ÚNOR 1948," and two more Gottwald stamps (370-3, 364a). In March and May of 1949 a new series of low denomination was released for regular postage (374-9). The 50h honored Hviezdoslav, the poet. The 80h Vančura featured a Czech physician who became a communist writer and was a hostage when killed by the Nazis. The 1 Kčs. honored Šverma, a member of the executive committee of the Czech communist party, who escaped to the USSR after German invasion, and then froze to death fighting the Nazis. The 4 Kčs. Wolker was for another Czech poet who touched on "social" conditions. The 8 Kčs. was in memory of Jirásek, a popular Czech writer.

The CSR was among the first to observe the 75th anniversary of the UPU (380-2) on May 20, 1949. Five days later a set appeared for the ninth meeting of the Czech communist party in CSR (383-5) and, incidentally, this was the last set issued with the famed ornamented coupon. The next four releases were non-political (?), being commemoratives for composers Smetana, Chopin, Pushkin and the P.V.V. Sample Fair at Prague (386-92).

By now we are into September of 1949. Political stamp issues from then to the conclusion of the third anniversary of "ÚNOR 1948" include a set for Miners, Julius Fučík, the Second Labor Congress in Prague, Stalin's Birthday, Majakowski, fifth anniversary of the Czechoslovak People's Democratic party, Neumann, II International Students World Congress, "Day of the CSR Army," the P.T.T. & R. employees international congress (which was attended only by iron curtain country delegates), and finally the recent set of two values for "world peace."

Legitimate nationalistic commemorative and regular issues in the same period were the 10 Kčs. Zvoleň castle, the overprinted airmail set, the 1949 Red Cross and Child Charity sets, the Tatra Cup winter games series, authoress Němcová set, composer Fibich set, the beautiful Praga block of four stamps, the Slovak writer Tajovský set, and two more issues for the 1950 stamp exhibition—a miniature sheet and a set of two.

Incidentally, the government has never released any official figures on amounts realized from the surtaxes on semi-postal issues in the past three years. Could this practice be comparable to the "Hitler Culture Fund" semi-postal surtax funds during the Nazi regime?

These are the stamps that appeared in Czechoslovakia up to and including the third anniversary of communist domination. Most of the stamps are well executed, and show no diminishing of the artistic beauty for which Czechoslovakia's stamps have always been outstanding.

Collectors of Czechoslovakia are caught in a snare. Shall they continue in the new issue parade in order to follow a true history of the Czechoslovak peoples; or shall they just quit? Only time can tell.



Issued Dec. 12, 1948, for Fifth Anniversary of an alliance treaty between Czechoslovakia and U.S.S.R.



Issued Jan. 21, 1949, for 25th anniversary of death of Russia's Lenin.



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