

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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No. 7

EDITORIAL

We are preparing this issue of the Specialist with less than usual thought of the work at hand. Instead we are thinking of our vacation which begins tomorrow with a trip to New York; the first trip there not connected with philately, especially Czechoslovak philately. Then a trip to Rhode Island to visit with our very good friend Mr. Kenneth Woodbury and his charming wife Iris, who worked desperately to bring Ken back on his feet after his long siege of illness. There we'll be joined by another trusted friend Mr. Wolfgang Fritzsche, our Society's sales manager and Louise, his understanding consort. It is our wish to attend the much publicized and justly praised Rhode Island Philatelic Clambake. On the return trip we hope to visit for a very short while with Alfons Stach and family and on to Niagara Falls and home and work.

The entire country was plagued with very hot weather and areas like our own Chicago were muggy and sticky with humidity. Every free minute we had we repaired to our summer home in the country where we obtained a short but welcome respite from the heat and sultriness. Many of our members and friends may fret because we failed to answer their mail; we beg them to be merciful and when we return after Labor Day we shall do our best to clear the desk. Ye gods! when we return we must begin to work on the October Specialist.

The Czechoslovak Post Office Department should be told the fable about killing the goose that laid the golden egg. Our Parade of New Issues explains what we mean. Many collectors of new issues, especially those who are not interested in Czechoslovakia because it is Czechoslovakia as we are, threaten to drop not only Czechoslovakia but all the countries behind the Iron Curtain who are using collectors as milk cows to obtain for the U. S. S. R. and its satellites the hated (?) American dollars with which they will bombard us by means of their propaganda machines to let us living in decadent democracies know how abused we are.

The Society lost many members and your officers are contacting those who failed to pay their 1952 dues in an effort to bring them back into the fold. Every member who knows of a prospective candidate should make a serious attempt to have him join our Society. If you know a former member who permitted his membership to lapse try to bring him back into the Society. Our dream of a sixteen page Specialist every month of the year except July and August may vanish because of the loss of revenue from the dropped members. Please, help!

This reminds us that the year is coming to an end. It seems to us we just stopped reminding you that membership dues are due and now we must start all over again. This year we plan to use as little space as possible to beg you to remain loyal to your Society even if you can't remain loyal to the emissions of the country we all loved to collect.

We have received from various members first day covers, used Czecho blocks of four, U. S. socked-on-the-nose and U. S. plate numbers mint and used. We take this opportunity to thank members F. Steiner, F. A. Meisel, C. Aikins, G. Skopecek and others for their thoughtfulness.

The Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs held a Convention and Exhibition in Sheboygan May 17 and 18, 1952. Winner of the two leading awards, the Grand Award of the Convention Show and the Educational Award of the Chicago Philatelic Society, was our member Mr. Ray Van Handel, Jr., whose collection of Czechoslovak Hradčany was termed by the judges the finest they had ever witnessed. In addition Ray received also the first award for his collection of Czechoslovakia. In the last issue of the Specialist we reported Ray won our coveted Joseph W. Lowey Memorial Award. At the Sheboygan Show he competed with 98 other collectors. We congratulate Ray for hitting the philatelic jackpot in 1952.

Our secretary Mr. John Velek is a very modest soul. He made the trip to Sheboygan to present Ray with the Lowey plaque and was promptly grabbed by the local committee to act as judge. When we heard John's picture appeared in the papers, we obtained permission to reproduce it so other members would know what John looks like. Mr. Ben Reeves of Chicago is a well known philatelist and a stanch friend of our Society and the Chicago Group. He is frequently called upon to judge our Shows and to help out at our auctions. The third man in the picture is well known to your editor; a fellow member in the Bureau Issues Association specializing in U. S. plate numbers, Walter Brink is especially well known for his Columbians and often talked of as "broken hat Brink".

NEW MEMBER

477. Ernest A. Stanford, 520 Clark Dr., Vancouver, B. C., Canada

CORRECTION TO MEMBERSHIP LIST

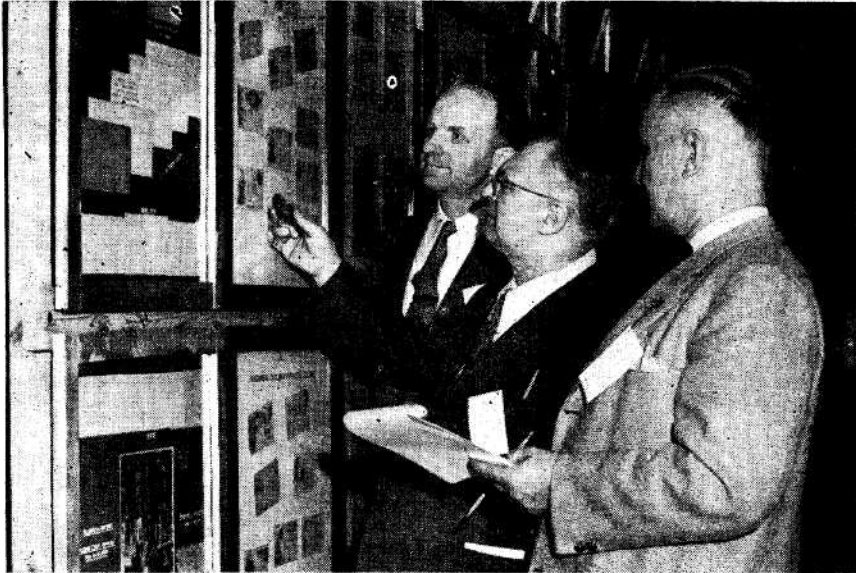
36. Louis A. Ruzicka, 3006 58th Ave., Oakland 5, Calif.
 212. Morris Lichtman, 830 Market St., Rm. 605, San Francisco 2, Calif.
 273. Mr. and Mrs. Alex Sisson, 4841 Chopin St., Detroit 10, Mich.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

91. Joseph Novy, Route 7, Kent, Conn.
 407. Christine Hushebeck, 105B Martin Lane, Monroe Park, Wilmington 6 Del.

The recent issue honoring the gifted author Alois Jirásek consisted of four stamps yet three types of printing were employed to produce them. The 1.50 Kčs showing Jirásek's portrait was printed from engraved rotary plates, in sheets of 50 and 25 subjects; the 5.Kčs same design was printed from engraved flat plates of 10 subjects each and the Ales drawings which were employed for the 3.Kčs and 4.Kčs stamps were produced by the photogravure process.

Some time ago we published a note that stamps with fascist tendencies, especially those issued for Bohemia and Moravia and Slovakia, cannot be sent out of the country. The present régime is very anxious to obliterate anything which exposes the degradation suffered by Czechoslovakia in the years 1938-45. Succeeding degradations will be treated likewise in due course.



Three of the four stamp experts who judged entries in the 21st annual convention of the Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs are shown at work above. From left to right are: John Velek of Chicago, Ben Reeves of Chicago and Walter C. Brink of Genesee Depot, Wis., the "Two-Cent Columbian Man". Chairman Reeves revealed that stamp collections on exhibit at the YMCA gym this week end are valued at approximately one-quarter of a million dollars. Among the outstanding collections in competition at the show are a series of early U. S. cancellations and a study of the Hradčany stamp of Czechoslovakia by Ray Van Handel Jr. of Sheboygan. Exhibits from the internationally known collection of Walter C. Brink and Burleigh E. Jacobs of Green Bay were also on display. A fourth judge, Allan Parsons of Chicago, who judged U. S. cancellations, was not present when the above photo was taken.—(Sheboygan Press photo.)

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President: John Knollmueller, 2159 Preston St., Salt Lake City 5, Utah
 National Sec.: John Velek, 2229 Kimball Ave., Chicago 47, Illinois.
 International Sec.: A. J. Hrivnak, 174 Addison Rd., Riverside, Ill.
 Treasurer: Geo. C. Kobyłka, 3453 W. 23rd St., Chicago 23, Ill.
 Editor: F. J. Kovarik, 2502 So. Kedzie Ave., Chicago 23, Ill.
 Librarian: Leo F. Goerth, 1850 Brewster Ave., Cincinnati 7, Ohio
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1/16 page	1.25	1.15	1.00

10% discount to members.

PARADE OF NEW ISSUES



Labour Day

The Czechoslovak Ministry of Posts issued on May 1st, 1952, a set of two stamps to honor Labor Day, with the denominations of Kčs 3.—, red, and Kčs 4.—, brown. The stamps show a group of young people marching with flags and banners at the head of the May Day Parade. At the bottom of the stamps is the wording "Proletáři všech zemí, spojte se" (Workers of all lands, unite). The design is by Václav Šprungl.

The stamps are printed in photogravure, in sheets of 50 copies, of horizontal format, 22x41 mm in dimension. Validity for postage from 1st May, 1952.

A cacheted First Day Cover designed by Václav Šprungl, engraved by Jaroslav Goldschmied, as well as a Collection Sheet, were issued at the same time.



Agricultural Commemoratives

The Czechoslovak Ministry of Posts issued on April 30th, 1952, a commemorative series marking Agriculture. The set comprises three values with the denominations of Kčs 1.50, 2.— and 3.— printed in photogravure in sheets of 100 copies, of horizontal format, 23x30 mm in dimension.

The stamps of Kčs 1.50, blue, and Kčs 2.—, brown, show a harvester, mowing and threshing corn in a large field, designed by Viktor Polášek, engraved by Jaroslav Goldschmied and a Collection Sheet, were issued at the same time.



International Children's Day

May 31st, 1952, on the occasion of the International Children's Day, the

Ministry of Communications issued a set of three commemorative postage stamps

Kčs 1.50, brown, 2.—, green, 3.—, red

The stamps were designed by Milada Kazdová and they show:

The values of Kčs 1.50 and 2.—, a group of little children led by a pioneer, and the lettering "Za mír a šťastnou budoucnost všech dětí světa" (For Peace and a Happy Future of all Children of the World).

The value of Kčs 3.—, a member of the CSM (Czechoslovak Youth Federation) teaching a group of pioneers, and the lettering "Pionýři, druhá směna ČSM" (Pioneers, the Second Shift of the CSM).

The stamps of Kčs 1.50 and 2.— were engraved by Ladislav Jirka, the stamp of Kčs 3.— by Jaroslav Goldschmied. The stamps are recess-printed on yellow paper in sheets of 70 and 35 copies in form of a horizontal rectangle, 23x30 mm in dimension. Validity for postage from May 31st, 1952.

An official First Day Cover, designed by the authoress of the stamps, engraved by Jaroslav Goldschmied, and a Collection Sheet, were issued at the same time.



Liberation of Czechoslovakia by the Soviet Army

To commemorate the seventh anniversary of the liberation of Czechoslovakia by the Soviet Army, the Czechoslovak Ministry of Posts issued on May 9th, 1952, a commemorative series of the following values and colors:

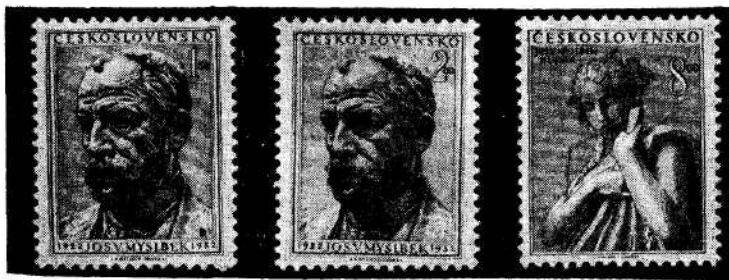
Kčs 1.50, red, 3.—, blue

The design of the stamps shows a group of Soviet soldiers on a tank driving through liberated and cheering Prague. The design is by Václav Šprungl.

Both the stamps are printed in photogravure in sheets of 50 copies, in form of horizontal rectangle, 23x30 mm in dimension.

Validity for postage from 9th May, 1952.

An official First Day Cover designed by Václav Šprungl, engraved by Jaroslav Goldschmied, and a Collection Sheet, were issued at the same time.



J. V. Myslbek Commemoratives

To commemorate the 30th anniversary of the death of J. V. Myslbek (20.6.1848-2.6.1922), the greatest Czech sculptor of the new time, the Ministry

of Communications issued on June 2nd, 1952, a set of three commemorative postage stamps

Kčs 1.50, red brown, 2.—, brown, 8.—, green.

The design of the Kčs 1.50 and 2.— stamps shows the plastic self-portrait of J. V. Myslbek in graphical arrangement by professor Karel Svolínský, the engraving is by Jindra Schmidt.

The Kčs 8.— stamp shows a part of Myslbek's plastic work "Music" in graphical arrangement by professor Karel Svolínský, the engraving is by Jan Mráček. The stamps are recess-printed on white paper in sheets of 50 copies in form of vertical rectangle, 23x30 mm in dimension. Validity for postage from 2nd June, 1952.

An official First Day Cover, designed by professor Karel Svolínský, engraved by Jaroslav Goldschmied, and a Collection Sheet, were issued at the same time.



The 10th Anniversary of the Nazi Destruction of Lidice

To commemorate the 10th anniversary of the destruction of Lidice by the German Nazis, the Ministry of Communications issued on June 10th, 1952, a set of two commemorative postage stamps

Kčs 1.50, grey brown, 5.—, blue gray,

after the design by Pavel Šimon. Lidice is a symbol of the invincible resistance of the peoples of all nations against Fascism and Nazism and a warning memento against the new warmongers as well. At the same time Lidice is a symbol of the desire of the working people to attain a new, better life, to attain Socialism. The lettering on the stamps reads "Mír, ne znovu Lidice" (Peace, never more Lidice). The engraving is by Bohdan Roule.

The stamps are recess-printed on yellow paper, in sheets of 70 and 35 copies in form of horizontal rectangle, 23x35 mm in dimension. Validity for postage from 10th June, 1952.

An Official First Day Cover after the design by Pavel Šimon, engraved by Bohdan Roule, and a Collection Sheet were issued at the same time.



International Music Festival of Prague

To commemorate the International Music Festival of Prague (Spring in

Prague 1952) the Ministry of Communications issued on June 7th, 1952, a set of three commemorative postage stamps

Kčs 1.50, gray blue, 3.—, brick red, 5.—, blue

with two designs:

(a) The 1.50 and 5.— Kčs stamps show the portrait of Ludwig van Beethoven (16.12.1770-26.3.1827) who died 125 years ago and whose works will be commemorated by several concerts of the Music Festival. The portrait is the work of professor Karel Svolínský, the engraving is by Jindra Schmidt.

(b) The House of Artists, a building in New Renaissance style, built by architects Josef Zitek and Josef Schulze, in which the concerts of the Music Festival are held. The design and the engraving are by J. A. Švengsbír.

The stamps are recess-printed on white paper in sheets of 50 copies, in form of horizontal (the Kčs 3.— stamp of vertical) rectangle, 23x30 mm in dimension.

Validity for postage from June 7th, 1952.

An official First Day Cover, designed by Prof. Svolínský, engraved by Jaroslav Goldschmied, and a Collection Sheet, were issued at the same time.

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450-51	Agriculture	.10	474-75	Smeral	.15
452-54	Recreation	.20	476-78	Ostrava	.30
455-59	30th Anniversary	.60	479-81	Movies	.18
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464-65	Hybes	.11	487-89	Friendship	.25

POSTAGE DUES MINT

J1-14	1918-20	7.00	J42-49	1926	1.25
J15-19	1922	.50	J50-56	1927	.75
J20-31	1923-26	11.00	J58-69	1928	1.00
J32-34	1924	1.00	J70-81	1946-48	.40
J35-41	1925	1.25			

OFFICIALS MINT

O1-7	1945	.30	O8-15	1947	.35
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The 1951 Airmail Stamps

By L. Kropac

Reprinted with permission from "Stamps"

The four very attractive air mail stamps issued in Czechoslovakia April 2, 1951, depicted several world famous spas and watering places of the country. There are few people in the world who haven't heard of Karlsbad or Mariensbad, and of the curative properties of their springs. It is no wonder the government of Czechoslovakia utilized this means of acquainting the world that other good spas are within its boundaries. Besides the two mentioned, they are advertising the resorts of Píestany and Sliač, both in Slovakia.

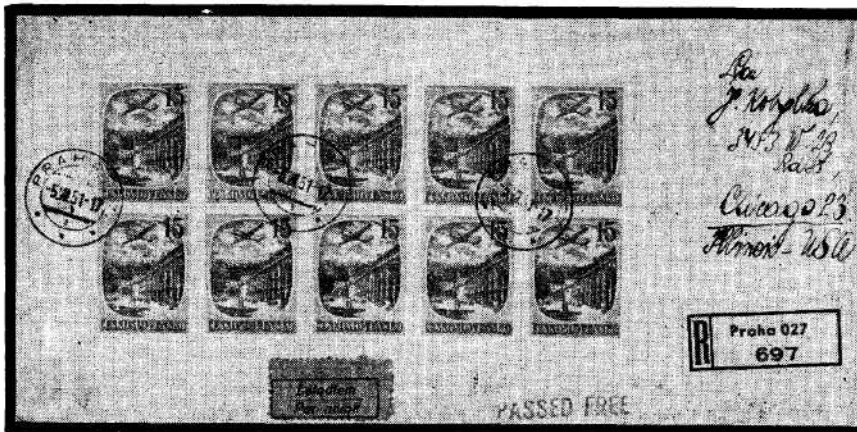
The four stamps were designed by the architect Zdeněk Pokorný and engraved by Jindra Schmidt. They were issued in the following values and colors: 6Kc—green—Karlovy Vary (Karlsbad); 10Kc—red violet—Pieštany; 15 Kc—blue—Marianské Lázně (Mariensbad); 20Kc—brown black—Sliač.

They were printed from steel engraved flat plates in sheets of ten subjects each, and perforated frame 13%. Contrary to the existing practice of the Czechoslovak Post Office Department, no first day covers for this set were issued but a Favor Sheet, called over there a Collection Sheet, bearing the first day cancellation, was sold to collectors.

Karlovy Vary

Tradition tells us that 600 years ago a group of hunters, headed by Emperor Charles IV, gave chase to a very large deer. Suddenly the deer reared, jumped, and disappeared from the sight of the pursuers. A pack of hounds failed to notice any obstruction, and fell headlong into a hot spring, and so quite by accident, the healing streams which benefit mankind were discovered. Charles IV founded a town around the springs, and commanded the people there to care for the sick. The town grew and prospered, and the Emperor endowed it with many privileges. Karlovy Vary (Charles Springs), in the western part of the Republic, established for itself a glory undimmed no matter what some physicians thought of the water's values.

Originally the waters were used for baths only. In later years the medical profession devised a curative program of drinking the water. The springs



A cover showing entire sheet of the 15Kc Mariánské Lázně stamp.

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**CZECHOSLOVAKIA
SPECIALIZED**

UNITED STAMP CO.

405 E. 54th St.

New York 22, N. Y.

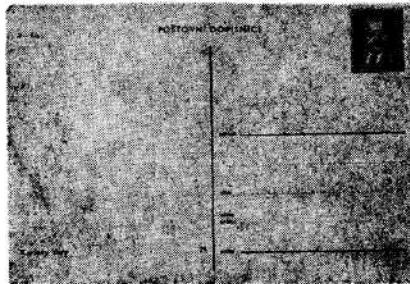


Government post card, front side, showing view of Karlovy Vary.

contain salts, oxygen and carbon. They are perfectly harmless for children and old people as well as others; they can be taken with good results by expectant mothers. All kinds of water cures are administered; steam baths, sulphur baths, massages under water, inhalation of the steam, etc. There are eighteen thermal springs in Karlovy Vary; the main spring known as Vřídle (Hot Spring) gushes 2,000 liters of water every minute, that is 2,900,000 liters per day, and contains nineteen tons of dissolved salts. Four million bottles of this wonder-water are exported annually. It is estimated that 23,500 glasses of this water are consumed daily on the spot.

Piešťány

Piešťány Baths, with 15,000 population, lies in the western part of Slovakia at a height of 162 meters above the sea. On its north the place is guarded from the severe wintry blasts by the White Carpathian Mountains, on the east by the Inovec Range, and on the west by the Small Carpathians.



Government post card showing reverse, or address, side.

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Its climate is ideally mild, wafted by gentle breezes which keep it one of the driest spots in the Republic. Official statistics show it has 2,194 hours of sunshine annually.

Warm springs rise to the surface from a depth of 1,600 meters and are of volcanic origin. The main spring is found on Bath Island, which is the center of Piešťany Baths.

The history of the baths dates way back; the oldest document on record is from the year 1113. The ruins of a Knights Templar Castle prove that Piešťany was a popular center many centuries ago. A Latin book published in the year 1551, "Hypomnemation de Admirandis Hungariae Acquis," by Juraj Wernher tells of the curative properties of the Piešťany waters.

The Piešťany baths are best known for cures of rheumatism and kindred diseases; neuralgia, arthritis, and thrombosis. The mud baths have been especially beneficial to those suffering from eczema and various types of dermatitis.

Mariánské Lázně

Mariánské Lázně in the western part of Bohemia, and not too far from Karlovy Vary and Františkovy Lázně (Franzensbad), is situated in a mountain valley 2,236 feet above sea level. The valley opens to the south, and is surrounded with beautiful forests and parks. This world-renowned spa offers the most comfortable accommodations in its famous first class hotels and well equipped "pensions" (boarding houses), with the whole town trained to care for every whim and wish of its many visitors. The town has a population of 8,000 permanent residents, yet its built up area creates the impression of a much larger city.

There is plenty of opportunity for amusement; the Spa Symphonic Orchestra gives three concerts daily, the theatre provides excellent programs. The town provides its visitors with every type of sports such as golf, tennis, riding, shooting, volley ball, basket ball, and light athletics. The watering season starts May 1st, and continues until October 15th. The Spa offers opportunities not only for healing but convalescence and recreation. Some hotels and pensions remain open throughout the year.

Mariánské Lázně is especially known for its cures of the following disorders: stomach and intestinal diseases, liver and bile troubles, urinary diseases, heart diseases, and disorders in the blood-building system, women's diseases and rheumatism of the muscles and joints.

Sliač

Sliač Baths is in central Slovakia, nestled in the valley of the Hron River, between Zvolen and Banská Bystrica on a slope of evergreen forested mountains. The Sliač springs have been known in the Thirteenth Century. The first known note of them appeared in a chronicle of the year 1244. Of the therapeutic value of the Sliač waters much was written as early as the Thirteenth Century.

Sliač boasts five mineral springs, the waters of which are used either for baths or as a water diet cure. The main spring is noted for its rich deposits of CO₂, natural isothermic warmth which is so necessary in the cure of cardiac disorders. Besides heart diseases and high blood pressure the baths are very beneficial for various diseases of women, especially sterility.

The care patients meet in Sliač is a tradition. Basin and tub baths, mud baths, inhalation of the steam from the mineral warm waters, as well as drinking the minerally charged waters as prescribed by the physicians in attendance has helped many visitors to lose their ills and regain a greater desire for life.

Revolutionary Provisionals of 1918

Translated from the Hirsch-Franěk Handbook by

W. L. Russell

(Translator's foreword. So little has been written about these interesting items that there is a danger of them being forgotten. It is well, therefore, to have the findings of Hirsch and Franěk put into English for—whether you are a straight collector according to the catalog, or a specialist of the deepest dye—you cannot deny that these Provisionals definitely belong to the Postal history of Czechoslovakia. As such, they are collectable in the highest degree. The same cannot be said of the Provisionals of 1945, regarding which the best that can be said is, "All is not gold that glitters!")

The idea of issuing Austrian stamps with a revolutionary overprint came during the first days of the Revolution, from the Council of the members of the National Committee, chiefly from J. Rössler-Ořovský. In addition to his proposal (Bohemian Coat of Arms with the inscription PROVISORNÍ ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ VLÁDA, i.e. "Provisional Czechoslovak Government" above it) there was also a suggestion handed in by the head Postal Official, Lešetický, that the overprint consist of NÁRODNÍ VÝBOR 28.X.1918 in a laurel wreath. The overprint as suggested by Rössler was tried out on a number of low values in a thin type, which proved to be too fine. Accordingly, the same design was then printed with a somewhat thicker hand-set type ("Augenheil"). Both experiments were laid before the National Council on the 30th October 1918 which, however, gave neither a decision, nor yet an instruction forbidding the overprint. Rössler's overprint was brought into being, and either the National Council or its Commission (of which Rössler was a member) published in the newspapers the news that Austrian stamps were to receive an overprint. The inscription PROVISORNÍ ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ VLÁDA was selected because, at this stage, the definite form of the new state had not yet been decided upon, and a provisional government only, controlled the new state.

This overprint in black was originally carried out on a not particularly large number of low values, by hand-setting, in the Wiesner Printery at Prague. Afterwards, from this set-up, stereotyped clichés were made in the Knapp Printery, Prague-Karolinenthal, and complete series of Austrian Stamps of the issues of 1916-1918 overprinted as follows:

Postage: 3, 5, 6, 10, 12 (Crown type), 15, 20, 25, 30 (Karl), 40, 50 60 80 90h 1K (Coat of Arms), 2, 3, 4, and 10K (large format, light shades, non-granite paper, Express stamps (rectangular) 2 and 5h.

For the Bohemian shield (Bohemian lion rampant on a shaded background) the normal cut used at the head of printed matter of the Land Committee served, but with the Bohemian Crown removed.

The original overprint from the hand-setting shows two types, the variations between each other, as well as from those overprinted from stereotyped clichés (as third type) can easily be discerned.

TYPE I. Overprint from hand-setting. Shield blunted on right corner. No trace on the shield showing where crown has been cut off. Letter P in PROVISORNÍ is lower than the following R. Lower bend of the second S in the word ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ is greatly misshapen.

TYPE II. Overprint from hand-setting. Shield corner at right runs sharply to a point. In the word PROVISORNÍ the letters I and RNÍ are about the same height, whilst the R is rather larger than the following O. The letter V in VLÁDA is lower than the following L.

These two types are unquestionably the earliest. They are usually in

pairs, and are much rarer than the following, which also originated in the Revolutionary period.

TYPE III. Overprinted from stereotyped clichés. Shield corner, as in Type I, is blunted. The removal of the crown from the shield left very marked traces on the upper edge of it. The alignment of the letters is almost perfect, only the P in the first line showing, in some printings, lower than the following R. The letter C in the second line is occasionally markedly small. For this overprint, some stereos of the original setting were undoubtedly produced, therefore the already mentioned, and also other (insignificant, to be sure) variations are possible within the frame work of the production process. The stereos were made from the hand-set type of the original overprint, and apparently only 4 stereos were used, because no large blocks are known, the greatest number being blocks of four.

There are no variations from these types, except the forgeries which are mentioned later. Also, the arrangement of the settings shows no variations in the different values, except in the rectangular Express stamps, where the shield is placed alongside, instead of under the text.

Some days after the appearance of these overprints, the Commission, or its official, Rössler, was shown that the shield did not express the union of the lands of Czechoslovakia. Accordingly, on the 7th November 1918, a new altered overprint was produced, in connection with which the production proceedings were the same as with Type I. Not only was the shield altered (the "Legionaries" shield was used) but the earlier inscription was altered to ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ STÁTŇÍ POŠTA. As with the first overprints, we differentiate two distinct types:

TYPE I. Overprint from hand-setting. The distance from the bottom edge of the inscription to the top edge of the shield is $2\frac{3}{4}$ mm. From this set-up a stereotyped cliché was made (Type II), which shows no substantial difference from Type I, except that the accent on the letter Á is joined to the letter in the stereo, whilst on the hand-setting there is a distinct space between letter and accent. Similarly, as with the first type, the overprint of the hand-setting is rarer than those of the stereotyped setting.

The large shield overprints were used upon the same values as were the small shield, and also on the Austrian 10h postcard. Later on, by way of exception, small quantities of the triangular Express stamps were overprinted (with I and II and the shield under the text). Further, isolated copies of the red 10h stamp of Austria of the year 1908 (with I) the green Jubilee 5h of 1910 (with II) and the 5h of 1915 from the stamp booklets of July 1917, with St. Andrew's Cross (with I).

From the estate of J. Rössler (died 1933) isolated overprint proofs came into collectors' hands. These include both sorts of the normal overprint, also some with the crown not filed off the top of the Bohemian shield. They are partly on white paper, and partly on different Austrian stamps (Provisional Postage Dues 1h, 10/24h, 15/2h, 20/54h) or on the stamps of the Austrian Field Post in Roumania (3, 50, 80 bani, 3 and 4 lei. II type). Included in this lot of private prints were off-center and inverted prints, as well as off-sets, of which we illustrate some actual examples. (See page 113).

In the introduction to these Revolutionary issues, we stated that these stamps were postally usable, and were indeed in the highest degree valid for postage. This was due not only to the circumstances of their early appearance after the revolution, but also that it had been published in the press that they would be used. That they did not succeed in having a wide distribution was due to two facts; firstly, only a small quantity was overprinted and secondly, a considerable part of the original edition was taken by the representatives and functionaries of the National Assembly and Diet.

With these stamps, the Post has accepted both ordinary and registered

letters from known personages, and unhesitatingly forwarded them. The stamps were used ONLY IN PRAGUE. The latest fixed dates, from letters at hand, are: 8.XI.1918 for Type I (small shield), and 11.XI.1918 for the second issue. (Ing. J. Šula leads the field with first appearance date, with 30.X.1918 for type I, and 7.XI.1918 for type II.) The postmarks on letters before me are "Praha-Zemský sněm" (Prague Diet), Prag I, Prag 19, and Kgl. Weinberge I. The letters are copiously over-franked, and the majority of them were sent on philatelic business, to a place away from home, or even to one's own address, as the illustrated letter with superfluous franking, and the owner's own handwriting shows. In October and November 1918, when the overprints were applied to the stamps, the Austrian stamps of values two to ten Kronen in DARK SHADES had already been sold out, so that except such values in LIGHT shades, on non-granite paper, only the 2 and 3K on granite paper were overprinted. The 4 and 10K values on granite paper first appeared in Austria later, although we meet them in numerous series with undoubtedly genuine overprints, of course only from stereotyped clichés of the III type (small shield) or the II type (large shield). This series is derived from a supplementary print which Rössler-Ořovský brought about in the first half of 1919 for members of the Czech Philatelic Clubs in Prague.

Some of the series included were overprinted by individual members; among them happened to be just such values as betrayed the fact of later overprinting. These series must be considered as Reprints, because the overprints are from the genuine clichés, and are derived from the same source as those of the revolutionary period. It can be neither proved nor disproved whether the overprint was continued later, because according to Rössler's declaration of 20th May 1930, the clichés for the design were destroyed AFTER the supplementary prints appeared. They are housed in the Archives of the National Council, and the "destruction" took the form of filing across their design as in the accompanying illustration. The quantities of both designs cannot be approximated, because on the one hand private persons or printers carried out the orders without full control, and on the other hand, the clichés were in private possession, and were taken advantage of to print the supplementary, or so-called "Club" overprint. From the circumstance that the price of both series (originally about Kč 100) has fallen only about one-third, against a price-slump of half and more for some of the earlier CSR issues, it seems reasonable to conclude that the total number of pieces in circulation was not large.

Forgeries

Like almost all valuable overprinted stamps of CSR, the Prague Revolution stamps have not escaped the attention of the forger. Of the forgeries of Types I and II of the Prague Revolution stamps, the most competent expert in the stamps of CSR—the late Ing. J. Šula—writes in the 1927 Year Book of Czechoslovak Philatelists, *inter alia*, the following: "... There are less successful, but also some very successful forgeries which, however, are easy to distinguish from the originals. There are certain variations, which I cannot, in the best interests of the matter, discuss." Especially dangerous forgeries of both types appeared on the Prague market in 1928. The danger lay not in the manner of their production, but much more in the circumstance that the expert J. Lešetecky took them for originals, and as such they were subsequently furnished with the expert's mark and put into circulation by some dealers, both through direct sales and by auction.

(to be continued)

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the Collectors of
Czechoslovakia

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