

# THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

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CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

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## EDITORIAL

The traditional opening of another philatelic season is nearly upon us. Soon many of us will again turn part of our attention away from heat waves, vacations, beaches, bathing beauties and double headers to stamps. Yet there is no reason for entirely neglecting stamps in the midst of these and other attractions. An extremely hot day might better be spent in a cool room at home with stamps than at an overcrowded beach where the bathing beauties are far outnumbered by defunct banana skins and empty pop bottles. Baseball games are fine as long as your team wins, but what can you lose by catching up with some of that long-delayed stamp mounting? Vacations, of course, can have their philatelic aspect, by means of visits to collectors and dealers in other parts of the country, and even more so if one visits foreign lands. However you have spent the summer, we trust it was enjoyable.

We regret to inform you that our indispensable editor, good friend and valued raconteur and advisor, Frank Kovarik, was recently hit by a truck and is confined to a hospital, where it is expected he will remain until about the end of September. We understand he is expected to recover satisfactorily and is showing good progress at present. Although he is unable to write letters just now, having his right hand and wrist in a cast, he would undoubtedly be glad to hear from friends and correspondents at St. Anthony's Hospital, 2875 W. 19th St., Chicago 23.

It is a recognized law of physics that two objects cannot occupy the same space at the same time, but many of our truck drivers are willing to try this feat, even when the pedestrian—in this case Frank—has the right of way. With his usual diligence, he had much of the material for this issue prepared before the accident, so that a few of his friends are able to put this issue together with little difficulty. We wish him a speedy and complete recovery.

Our treasurer, George Kobyłka, has moved to 1433 S. Cuyler Ave., Berwyn, Ill. He states that the turmoil of moving now being past, he will be happy to receive our 1955 dues and give us credit for same just as soon as we realize that another year's end is not too far in the future.

Mr. Kobyłka, the publisher of the new Czechoslovakia album pages, has now completed those comprising Supplement #1, illustrated, providing spaces for new issues from Sept. 15, 1953 to May 15, 1954, and also including the airmails, postage dues and other special service issues from 1945 to present time. His advertisement appears in this issue.

## PARADE OF NEW ISSUES

## Sport Issue — 1954



The Ministry of Communications issued on 24th April, 1954, a new series of three postage stamps with the following motives:

Athletics, Kčs 0.30 value, brown, designed by Mario Stretti, painter-artist  
 Hiking, Kčs 0.80 value, green, designed by Mario Stretti, painter-artist  
 Swimming, Kčs 1.00, blue, designed by Jiří Běhounek, painter-artist

1. The Kčs 0.30 stamp with the motive Athletics shows two runners in the race and the badge "Připraven k práci a obraně vlasti" (Ready to work and to defend the native country). The hatch drawing is by Jindra Schmidt, engraved by Jaroslav Goldschmied.
2. The Kčs 0.80 stamp propagating the organized Hiking shows a group of tourists in a mountain terrain with a wide outlook in the country. The motive is completed with the badge of Czechoslovak Tourists. The hatch drawing and engraving are by Jan Mráček.
3. The 1.00 Kčs stamp shows a woman swimmer before the racing dive and the inscription "Každý občan plavcem" (Every citizen a swimmer).

The stamps No. 1 and 3 were recess printed in sheets of 50, the stamp No. 2 was printed from flat plate in sheets of 10 copies. The values of Kčs 0.30 and Kčs 1.00 are in vertical form, the value of Kčs 0.80 in horizontal form, dimensions of the picture being 23x30 mm.

Validity for postage from 24th April, 1954.

The official First Day Cover was designed and engraved by Jiří Švengsbír.

## Regular Issue, Part II



The Ministry of Communications issued on May 15th, 1954, the second part of the emission of new current postage stamps with the following motives and denominations:

1. A soldier, the 50 hal. value, dark green, designed by Bohumil Matějčiček, engraved by Jiří Švengsbír.

2. A women textile-worker, the 80 hal. value, dark brown. The author of the design is Zdeněk Adámek, the engraving is by Bedřich Housa.
3. A research scientist, the 1.20 Kčs value, blue violet. The author of the design is the same as subject 2, the engraving by Jan Mráček.
4. An engine-driver, the 2.40 Kčs value, blue. Design by professor Cyril Bouda, engraving by Bohdan Roule.
5. A chemist, the 3. Kčs value, red, design by Mario Stretti, engraving by Bohdan Roule.

All the stamps were recess printed, subjects 1 and 3 by the Post Printing Office in Bratislava in sheets of 100 copies; subjects 4 and 5 by the Post Printing Office in Prague in sheets of 100 copies. Vertical form, dimension of the picture 19x23 mm.

Validity for postage from 15th May, 1954.

An official First Day Cover for this issue was not issued.

#### "The Year of Czech Music 1954"



The Czech music takes up an outstanding position in the culture of the world. This year's remarkable jubilees of the founders of Czech music: Bedřich Smetana, 130th anniversary of his birth, 70th anniversary of his death Antonín Dvořák, 50th anniversary of his death. Leoš Janáček, the centenary of his birth were the motive for the arrangement of the YEAR OF CZECH MUSIC 1954. The Ministry of Communications contributes to the propagation of this significant cultural event by issuing three commemorative postage stamps with the portraits of Bedřich Smetana, Antonín Dvořák and Leoš Janáček. The values and colors are the following:

1. 30 hal. value, Antonín Dvořák, violet
2. 40 hal. value Leoš Janáček, brick red
3. 60 hal, value Bedřich Smetana, blue.

The designs of all three stamps are the works by professor Karel Svolinský, their engravings are by Jindra Schmidt.

All the stamps were recess-printed by the Post Printing Office in Prague, in vertical form, 23x30 mm in dimension, in sheets of 50 copies.

Validity for postage from 22nd May, 1954.

The official First Day cover is the work by professor Karel Svolinský, the engraving is by Jaroslav Goldschmied.

#### MEETINGS OF THE CHICAGO CHAPTER

September 19th—John Velek, 2229 Kimball, Chicago 47, Ill.

October 17th—George Kobylka, 1423 So. Cuyler Ave., Berwyn, Ill.

November 21st—Paul Marusic, 1720 S. Clinton, Chicago 16, Ill.

## NEW and RECENT ISSUES

(again) MINT only

558-59—35th Anniversary -- .15	Gottwald Mourning, 2 val. --- .14
560-61—1952 Red Cross ---- .16	Gottwald Sheet ----- .20
562-63—Aleš ----- .15	Socialist, 1 val. ----- .06
565-66—Peace ----- .21	Bicycle, 1 val. ----- .09
Writers and Poets, 5 val. --- .35	Socialist Construct, 3 val. --- .17
Nejedlý Birth, 2 val. ----- .17	May Day, 1953, 4 val. ----- .42
Peace Congress, 2 val. ----- .17	Agriculture, 2 val. ----- .26
5th Anniversary, 3 val. ---- .38	<b>New Currency</b>
Václavek, 2 val. ----- .12	Music Festival ----- .50
Womens Day, 2 val. ----- .11	Regular Issue, 6 val. ----- .80
Stalin Mourning, 1 val. ---- .05	Prague Castle ----- .75

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First Day Cover Pages ----- 4c each  
Four Corner Positions Pages 4c each

**In Preparation—**

BOHEMIA and MORAVIA  
(October-November, 1954)

SLOVAKIA  
(Early 1955)

FIRST REPUBLIC—1918-1939  
(During 1955)

NOTE THE CHANGE OF  
ADDRESS

**G. C. KOBYLKA**

1433 South Cuyler Avenue

Berwyn, Illinois

## March of the 80,000

Story of the Field Post of the Czechoslovak Army in Siberia

By W. L. Russell

(Reprinted from "Stamps" with permission of author and of publisher)



Scott No. 195—Scene in St. Sophia Square, Kiev, Sept. 28, 1914

### How the Army Started

When Austria declared war on Russia in 1914, whole regiments of Czechs and Slovaks (conscripted by Austria and Hungary) marched into Russia with flags flying and bands playing, and surrendered to the Russian Imperial Forces. They formed themselves into a Legion, and were prepared to fight alongside the Russians against Austria. Their starting point was Kiev, and there, on September 28, 1914, the first Czechoslovak colors were consecrated in the Cathedral Square. This event was commemorated twenty years later by a stamp which is now known as Scott's No. 195. It is illustrated with this article, and the design may be described as follows:

The scene is St. Sophia Square, Kiev, on September 28, 1914. The banner is held by standard-bearer Hejduk. At right of the banner is Lt. Col. Sezontovic, the commander of the Legion, and at the left is legionnaire J. J. Svec, who later rose to the rank of Colonel. The ecclesiastical dignitaries are not known. Kissing the banner is 2nd Lieut. Vladimir Klecanda, who was later Staff Commander of the Legion. At his right is 2nd Lieut. Cecek, who eventually became commander in the Far East.

The Russian Army collapsed after the 1917 revolution, and then the Czechoslovaks decided to march across Russia and Siberia in order to get to France, there to fight beside the Allies and complete the liberation of their homeland. The number of Czechs and Slovaks who formed the Legion and took part in the Anabasis was 80,000 men.

Numerous rearguard actions with advancing Germans had to be fought. In the first half of March 1918 the First Division of Czechs stood against two full divisions of Germans and held them at bay at Bachmac. This event was also commemorated twenty years later by a stamp, Scott's No. 243, and



Scott 243—Commemorating Czechs holding Germans at bay, Bachmac, Mar. 1918

which we are also illustrating.

Here is some of the background for this stamp:

Bachmac is a small Russian town in the province of Tchernigov. The Germans entered the Ukraine in March 1918, captured Kiev, and marched eastward. The 1st Div. of the Czech Legion engaged the Germans at Bachmac, whilst the 2nd Div. was assembling train cars to take them eastwards. A battle lasting from March 7th to 13th ensued, the objectives being the Railway stations of Doc, Pliski, and Peski. The Germans were repulsed and the Czechoslovaks went East.

From then on it was a constant struggle through hostile territory. They fought Germans. They fought the Reds. But towards the end of 1918 they reached Vladivostok. Here, however, they were confronted with an Allied change of mind. The Supreme War Council, it seemed, had found an answer to a problem; how to reconstruct an Eastern Front. The Allies had never recognized the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, and now decided to prevent a possible aid to Germany by the Bolsheviks. The only organized power in Siberia able to carry out the Allied plan was the Czechoslovak Legion. It was decided that the Legion should retrace its steps and prevent the repatriation of hundreds of thousands of German and Austrian Prisoners of War. These were starting to return to fight the Allies once more.

So the Czechs turned back, and, in a thin unwavering line, stretched from Vladivostok almost to the Ukraine, a distance of over 6,000 miles. On this line they fought until the Allied victory was an accomplished fact. Then they were ordered home, and once more started the trek to Vladivostok, where shipping was waiting to take them to Europe.

#### How the Fieldpost Started

During the eastward trek, while the Legion was in Chelyabinsk early in 1918, it was decided to organize a Fieldpost. The plan of organization was entrusted to Captain Anton Novotny, a former postal official, who had orders to present it to the Central Council of the Czechoslovak forces when it reached Omsk. This was done in August of 1918.

It should be understood that, by this time, the Czechoslovaks had seized the Siberian railway, and on one of the tracks at Chelyabinsk a small third class carriage was placed at Novotny's disposal. There, with one typewriter, concise and simple postal regulations were drafted and typed so that there should be at least one copy for every FPO formed.

For Postal Railway Vans Novotny was given ten freight cars, some of which had been used to carry flour, coal, lime, etc. All were dirty, all needed repairs of some kind, but it was all that was available and he made them serviceable. The mail at this time consisted mainly of newspapers published en route, booklets, pamphlets, and so on.

Only one Post Office (that of the National Council at Ekaterinburg) was housed in a building; all the rest were housed in railway cars, and equipment was very hard to obtain. Lamps were not available and the only lighting was from candles or flash lamps.

#### When the Fieldpost Started

At the beginning of September 1918 Novotny announced the opening of FPO's in Chelyabinsk, Samara, Sysran (courier connections along the Volga to Simbirsk and Kazan), Ekaterinburg (courier connections to the Northern front and Chelyabinsk), Omsk, Krashnojarsk, and Irkutsk (courier connections to Chita). Nine or ten railroad mail cars ran every other day from Chelyabinsk through Samara and Sysran back to Chelyabinsk. To cover the round trip from Chelyabinsk, Sysran, and Irkutsk, including delays, took about



konopný papír	manila paper	královský	royal
koňská hlava	horse head	kramář	dealer
koňské dostihy	horse races	krámský stůl	counter
konsulát	consulate	krásný	beautiful
kontrakt	indenture, contract	krátký	short
	contract	krátký návod	condensed instructions
kontraktor	contractor	křehký	tender, brittle
kontrola	control	krejcar	kreuzer
kontrolní značka	control mark	krejčovské kolečko	tailor's wheel
kopí	spear	křemičitá lampa	quartz lamp
kopyto	last, hoof	kresba	design
korálek	bead	kreslicí křída	crayon
Korea	Korea	kresliti	to draw
korek	cork	křesťan	Christian
korespondence	correspondence	Kréta	Crete
kořistiti	to spoil	křída	chalk
koruna	crown	křidlice	slate
korunování, korunovace	coronation	křidlicově modrý	slate blue
korunovaný	crowned	křidlicově šedý	slate gray
Korutany	Carinthia	křidlicově zelený	slate green
kosočtverec	rhombus, lozenge	křidlicově černý	slate black
kosočtvereční průsek	lozenge perforation	křidlicově fialový	slate violet
Kostarika	Costa Rica	křídlo	wing
kostel	church	křídlo dveří	door leaf
kotouč	roll	křídou pokrytý	coated with chalk
kotva	anchor	křídový	chalky
koupaný	off paper	křídový papír	chalky paper
koupě	purchase	krise	emergency crisis
koupel ve vodě	water bath	křivá čára	curved line, crooked line
koupiti	to buy, to purchase	křivě	wrongfully, indifferently
kousek	piece	křivka	curve
kout	corner	křivolaký	serpentine
kout nad klenbou	spandrel	krk	neck
kov	metal	křížem	across
kovář	blacksmith	křížení,	crossing
kovové razítko	metal stamp	křížovatka	
kovový	metallic	křížovaté linkování	crosshatch
kovový lesk	metallic sheen	křížovaté linkované pozadí	crosshatched background
k prodeji	on sale	krok	step
krabatý	rippled	kromě	without, except
krabice	box	kromobyčejný	extraordinary
krádež	theft	krom toho	beside, further
kraj	region, margin, border, province, edge	kronika	chronicle
	landscape	kroužek	ring
krajinka	landscape	krov	roof frame
krajní	extreme	kruh	circle, ring
krajní poloha	margin position	krunýř	armor
krajinský	provincial head	krvavě červený	blood red
přednosta		Kuba	Cuba
krajská správa	provincial govt.		
krajní známka	margin stamp		
Krakov	Krakow		
král	king		

kudrlinka	curl
kukuřicové žlutý	corn yellow
kulička	small marble
	sphere
kůň	horse
kupec	purchaser
kupecké skladiště	warehouse
kupon	coupon
ku prodeji	salable, for sale
kurs	currency
kursiva	italic
kurýr	courier
kus	piece
ku škodě pošty	to the detriment of P. O.
ku škodě sběratelů	to the detriment of collectors
kutáletí	to turn over, to roll

labut'	swan
lacinější	of lower value, cheaper
laciný	cheap
lahodivý	delicate
laik	layman
lak	varnish
lakýrník	painter
lalůček ucha	ear lobe
lano	cable
laskavý	kind
Latinka	Roman character
Latinská Amerika	Latin America
lavírovaná kresba	wash drawing
Leden	January
legitimní	legitimate
lehce	slightly, lightly
lehce orazítovaný	philatelic cancel lightly, thought-
lehkomyšlně	lessly
lehký	light, slight
lem, hem	frame, seam, border
len	flax
lenošiti	to idle
lepenka	hinge, cardboard
lepidlo	glue, gum, paste
lepší	better
lepší třída, stupeň	better grade
leptaný	etched
leptání	etching
leptati	to etch
lept v mědi	copper etching

Kuvait	Kuwait
květ, květina	flower
Květen	May
kvitance	receipt
kvitovati	to receipt
kyj	club
kyju podobný	club shaped
Kyrenaika	Cyrenaica
kyselina	acid
kyselině citlivý	sensitive to acid
kyselině odporující	acid resistant
kyselinu obsahující	containing acid
kysna	box
kýta	shank
kytová barva	fawn color

## L

les	forest
lesk	gleam, sheen, gloss, brightness
lesklý	glossy, brilliant
lesklý papír	glossy paper
lesknouti	to gleam
let	flight, wing
létací	flying
letecká pošta	air mail
letadlo	airplane, plane
letecká služba	air service
letecký dopis	air letter
letiště	airfield
letoun	airplane
lev	lion
lev se sekyrkou	lion with hatchet
levandule	lavender
Levardské Ostrovy	Leeward Isls.
levý	left
ležaté písmo	italics
ležeti	to recline, to lie down
lháti	to lie
lhůta	time
Libanon	Lebanon
Liberie	Liberia
Libie	Libia
libový	lean
líc	face
líčidlo	paint
Lichtenstein	Lichtenstein
lichý	empty
Lidová Republika	Peoples Republic
lidstvo, lidé	people
lila	lilac



linkovaný	ruled
linkovaný papír	ruled paper
lípa	linden
lipan	umber
lípová ratolest	linden twig
lípový květ	linden blossom
lípový list	linden leaf
lis	press
lišící se	different
lisovaný	pressed
list	sheet, leaf
lístek	pane, ticket, card
listí	foliage
listina	document
listonoš	mail carrier
Listopad	November
listoví	foliage
listová ozdoba	foliate ornament
listovní kolek	documentary stamp
list poštovních známek	sheet of stamps
lítati	to fly
literka, litera	type

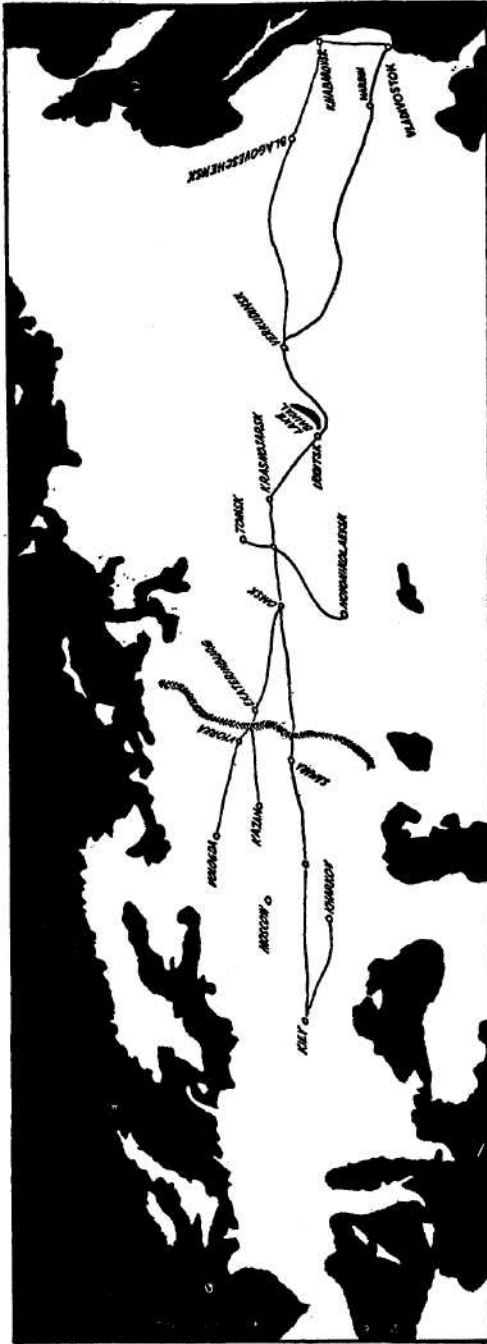
literky	font
lítí	to pour, to mould
Litva	Lithuania
lněné plátno, prádlo	linen
lod'	ship
lodní	navy ship cancel
orazítkování	
lodní pošta	navy P. O.
lod'stvo	shipping, navy
los	ticket, lot
losos	salmon
lososově růžový	salmon rose
lososově červený	salmon red
lotusový květ	lotus flower
Lotyšsko	Latvia
loupavé nálepky	peelable hinges
lstivý	fraudulent
Lublaň	Ljubljana
Lucembursko	Luxemburg
lučišník	archer
lupa krychlová	magnifying cube
lusk	shell, peapod

## M

Madagaskar	Madagascar
Madarsko	Hungary
mahagony	mahagony
mailomat	meter machine
maják	lighthouse
majetek,	estate,
majetnost	possession
Makao	Macao
makati	to touch
makulatura	printers waste
Malá Asie	Asia Minor
Malajsko	Malay States
malba	painting
malebný	pictorial, colorful
malé písmo	small letter,
	lower case
maličko	slightly
maličký	tiny, trifling
malíř	painter
málo	meager
malovaný	painted
Malta	Malta
Maltezácký kříž,	Maltese cross
Maltézský	
malý	slight, small, little
Mančurie,	Manchuria,
Mančukuo	Manchukuo
mandát	mandate
manželský	legitimate, marital
mapa	map
Mariánské	Marianas
Ostrovny	

Marie Terezie	Marie Teresa
tolar, Rakouský tolar, ra-	dollar
žený v čase	
Marie Terezie,	
platný okolo	
Středozevního	
moře a v Ha-	
beši.	
marka	mark
Maroko	Morocco
Maršalské	Marshall Isls.
Ostrovny	
mašina	machine
maska	mask
maso	flesh
mastný	greasy
mateřská země	mother country
matice, matrice	matrix, hub, die
matka s dítětem	mother and child
Mauritius	Mauritius
maz	paste
meč	sword
mechanicky	mechanically
měď	copper
medalion	medallion
měděná deska	copper plate
měkký	soft, tender
měnit se	to vary
menší odstín	minor shade
měření	measurement
měřítka	scale

<b>Merkur</b>	Mercury	<b>ministerstvo</b>	ministry (of)
<b>měsíc</b>	month		cabinet rank
<b>měšť'an</b>	citizen	<b>mladý pracovník</b>	young worker
<b>měšť'anosta</b>	mayor	<b>mléko</b>	milk
<b>městečko</b>	town	<b>mléčně modrý</b>	milk blue
<b>město</b>	city	<b>mluva</b>	talk
<b>metoda výroby</b>	production method	<b>mlýn, mlýnek</b>	mill
<b>metr</b>	meter	<b>mnohé</b>	many
<b>mez</b>	boundary	<b>mnoho</b>	much
<b>mezera</b>	gap	<b>mnohokrát</b>	many times
<b>meziarší</b>	gutter	<b>mnohonásobný</b>	multiple
<b>mezinárodní</b>	international	<b>množení</b>	reproduction
<b>mezinárodní právo</b>	international law,	<b>množství</b>	mass, quantity
	law of nations	<b>moc</b>	force, control
<b>mezinárodní pošta</b>	international P. O.	<b>moderní</b>	modern
<b>meziobratníkový</b>	tropical	<b>modrý</b>	blue
<b>mezník</b>	cairn	<b>modře černý</b>	blue black
<b>míchánina</b>	mixture	<b>modře křídlicový</b>	slate blue
<b>míhnutí</b>	glimmer	<b>modře šedý</b>	blue gray
<b>míle</b>	mile	<b>modře zelený</b>	blue green
<b>milimetr</b>	millimeter	<b>modravý</b>	bluish
<b>million</b>	million	<b>modravě bílý</b>	bluish white
<b>mimořádné nebezpečí</b>	emergency	<b>modravě černý</b>	bluish black
<b>minimum</b>	minimum	<b>modravě fialový</b>	bluish violet
<b>ministerstvo</b>	ministry	<b>modravě</b>	bluish slate
<b>míniti</b>	to signify, to mean	<b>křídlicový</b>	
<b>minerální</b>	mineral	<b>modravě šedý</b>	bluish gray
<b>ministerstvo financí</b>	treasury dept.	<b>modravě zelený</b>	bluish green
<b>minouti</b>	to miss	<b>mohutný</b>	strong, big
<b>minulý</b>	last	<b>moleta</b>	transfer roll
<b>mír</b>	peace	<b>Monako</b>	Monaco
<b>míra</b>	standard, measurement, size, format	<b>Mongolie</b>	Mongolia
	moderate	<b>monogram</b>	monogram
<b>mírný</b>		<b>Montserrat</b>	Montserrat
<b>mírová smlouva</b>	peace treaty	<b>Morava</b>	Moravia
<b>misionář</b>	missionary	<b>moře</b>	sea, ocean
<b>misionářská směs</b>	mission mixture	<b>mořena</b>	madder
<b>místní</b>	topic, local	<b>mořenově hnědý</b>	madder brown
<b>místní tisk</b>	local print	<b>mořenově</b>	madder carmine
<b>místní vydání</b>	local issue	<b>karmínový</b>	
<b>místnost</b>	locality	<b>mořenově</b>	madder orange
<b>místo</b>	space, spot, position, place, location, room	<b>oranžový</b>	
	instead of—	<b>mořenově</b>	madder purple
<b>místo narození</b>	birth place	<b>purpurová</b>	
<b>místo vydání</b>	place of issue	<b>mořenově žlutý</b>	madder yellow
<b>míti</b>	to have	<b>mořská modř</b>	sea blue
<b>míti na ruce, v zásobě</b>	to carry, to have on hand	<b>mořská zeleň</b>	sea green
<b>miliarda</b>	billion	<b>mosaz</b>	brass
<b>mimořádný</b>	extraordinary	<b>most</b>	bridge
<b>mimo to</b>	beside	<b>motocykl</b>	motorcycle
<b>mince</b>	coin	<b>motýl</b>	butterfly
		<b>moučný mlýn</b>	flour mill
		<b>Mozambik</b>	Mozambique
		<b>možný</b>	likely, possible
		<b>mrak</b>	cloud
		<b>mramorový, mramorovitý</b>	marbled



The march of the Czechoslovak Army across Russia. The Anabasis started at Kiev and ended at Vladivostok, a distance of 6,400 miles. The main body of the army was joined at various places by other units. Behind Lake Baikal the forces split, one group going north over Blagoveshensk to Khabarovsk, the other via Harbin, both finally merging at Vladivostok.



Cathedral at Irkutsk in background



An Armored Train



The so-called Sentinel

"Siberian Silhouettes"

sixteen days, and the distance covered, including courier service, was around 8,100 miles.

All first-class mail was handled in the simplest manner. Each trip of the ambulant posts was announced telegraphically, and military handlers were requested to meet the trains to accept mail for their depot and turn over the pick-up.

The first mailcars were soon too small, and the technical branch of the Legion placed at the Field Post's disposal ten freight cars, equipped according to Novotny's specifications, and these were coupled to the ordinary trains.

**What Cancellations Were Used?**

Part of the organization of any FPO is the cancellor, and the Czechoslovaks quickly got various ones made. They were mainly rubber, fifteen in number, and those that are genuine are shown here. Of those which were struck in metal, the most interesting is the "President Grant" cancellation. The ship "President Grant" was the thirty-fifth (and last) transport to take the legionnaires home, and bears the Roman numerals XXXV. Capt. Novotny came home on this ship.



ДѢЙСТВУЮЩАЯ ЧЕЧКО-СЛОВАККАЯ АРМІЯ

ДѢЙСТВУЮЩАЯ ЧЕЧКО-СЛОВАККАЯ АРМІЯ

ČESKOSLOVENSKÉ VOJSKO

Polni posta č. 2

Genuine F. P. O. Postmarks

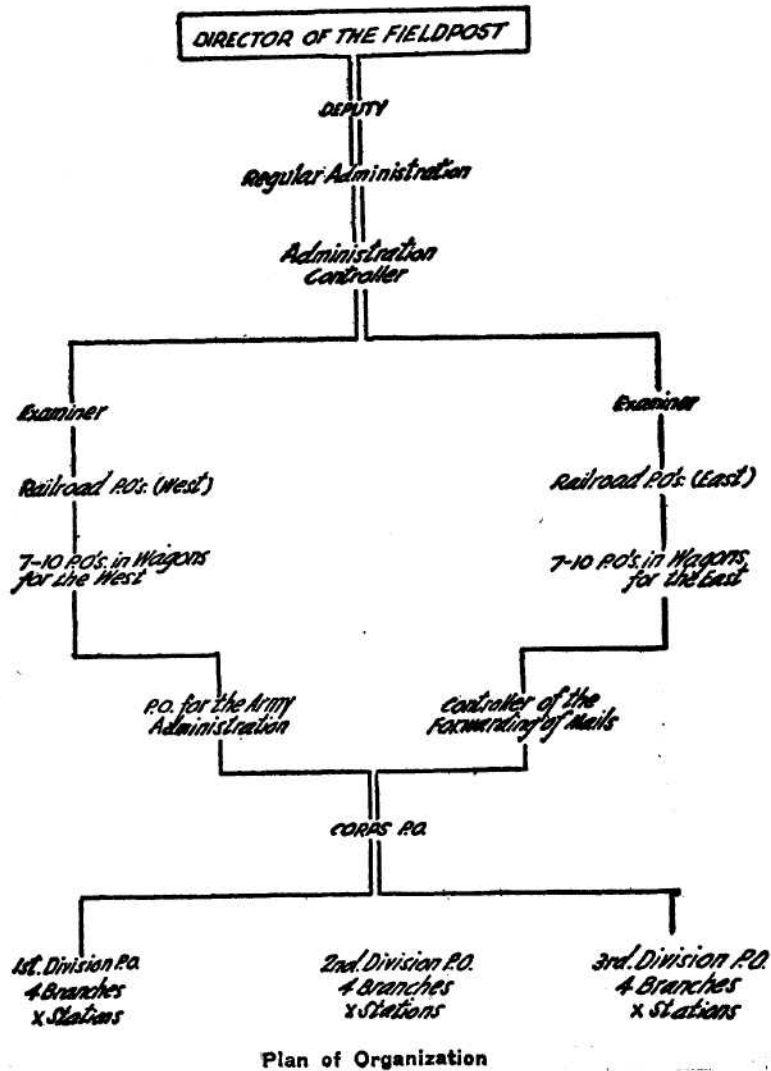
**Plan of Organization**

Anton Novotny has made clear in the accompanying graph the organization of the Fieldpost. It is taken from his book "Official Instructions of the Fieldpost of the Czechoslovak and Allied Armies in Russia."

In October 1918 the service was transferred to the General Staff under the command of General Klecanda. He substantiated the work of Novotny and under his leadership nothing seemed impossible. On October 18, 1918,



"Lion of Bohemia" 25 Kopec stamp of the Czech Army Post in Siberia



Klecanda ordered that, at least once a month, a railroad mail car should make the trip to Vladivostok, and the first car left Chelyabinsk on October 24th. This first trip to Vladivostok and back (about 8,000 miles) became also the Field Post of the ALLIED ARMIES, and attained a world record (at that time) in postal transmission. The time of the trip there and back, 10 to 14 days, without changing cars or personnel, and the crew subsisting on tea, bread, and canned meat, was really spectacular.

Beginning November 1st, 1918, parcel post and money-order services were organized. Mail to the homeland was also arranged for and the first correspondence from the Army reached Czechoslovakia in the Spring of 1919. It went from Vladivostok in ships which also carried invalids, and the route was to Canada, thence across the Atlantic to Prague.

#### When the Stamps Were Issued

The thought that the Fieldpost should have its own stamps was a result of the first stamp used by the Czech forces in Russia. This was a Russian 10 kopeck stamp overprinted in Russian CESSKJA POSTA, and was issued at the request of the RUSSIAN FIELDPOST in Chelyabinsk, and with the approval of the postal authorities in Omsk. It was used to frank letters addressed to members of the Czechoslovak Army who, in 1918, did not have the privilege of free franking. Free franking was granted, however, almost immediately afterwards in response to a request to the Ministry of Posts in Omsk. Once the request was granted, the use of this 10 kopeck stamp became unnecessary and no more were overprinted. Only about 1000 copies of this stamp were issued. They are extremely rare, about 50 mint copies being known to have survived.

Thus was born the idea of stamps of their own, although they were NOT NECESSARY for the transmission of mails. Since the money obtained from their sale was transferred to the "Invalid Funds" of the Legion, the subsequent stamps may be termed Charity stamps. At the same time, they had a high psychological value, for they emphasized the idea of independence.

(To be continued)

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