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CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

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EDITORIAL

This is the last month of the year. That means that our membership must be renewed NOW! After December 31 we are in arrears. No organization can exist without dues and a society like ours which carries an obligation to supply information on the stamps of Czechoslovakia to its members must have money in the treasury to pay for the illustrations and printing of this Czechoslovak Specialist, to pay for the envelopes and postage (Uncle Sam doesn't sell stamps on the cuff!). So, please, if you are poor send the treasurer the sum of \$2.00; if you are a little better endowed with worldly goods, send him \$5.00; if you are a member of the middle class, placate him with \$10, but if you are rich \$100 should not create a hardship and if you are filthy rich send a check for 1,000 plus your week's wash which will be returned cleaned with Fab, Tide, Dreft and Hexachloroform.

Your editor has tried as much as his finances permitted to attend the annual sessions of the American Philatelic Congresses. He was fortunate again this fall to attend the Congress in Washington, D. C. Every collector interested in knowing how stamps are produced shouldn't hesitate to spend some time in Washington and visit the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. Even a cursory trip through the establishment is rewarding. We have made this trip at least 8 times and with every visit we came back with a better understanding of what goes into those small pieces of paper which we love to collect. We take this opportunity to thank Mr. Chester Harucki who was our personal guide through the Bureau. While we are in this mood we also wish to thank Messrs. Wm. K. Schrage and Vic. S. McCloskey, Jr. for their very informative explanations. We recall that the first rotary stamps of Czechoslovakia were produced from Stickney presses and these were developed in our own Bureau of Engraving and Printing in Washington. A history of the growing pains of engraved stamps produced from flat presses and later the rotary presses can be read in the stamps of Czechoslovakia's 1923-30 period. Study the Masaryks and you will appreciate what we are trying to convey in this short paragraph.

We were astonished at the large number of people who came to us for information on Czechoslovak stamps. Most queries were easily answered for they were of an encyclopedic nature and not too technical. Often suggesting sources of more detailed information sufficed. With all the interest shown in these stamps we are surprised at the paucity of Czecho material in the various exhibitions. Several members of our Society have noticed this defect and decided to do something about it. The 1947 International Stamp Exhibition

in New York showed no unusual showing of Czecho stamps as far as we are aware. At least two fine Czechoslovak exhibits will be shown at FIPEX, maybe more. Several of our dealer members possess some remarkable collections and when we asked if they will exhibit, we received an answer which both surprised and pleased us: "We do not intend to compete with our customers; it isn't fair." Thank you, gentlemen!

Several members were anxious to learn something about the so-called New York Sheets. They asked your editor who referred them to member Frank O. Vinson of The United Stamp Co. of Tuckahoe, N. Y. Mr. Vinson was in the midst of a big auction and just couldn't take the time out to supply the information. Knowing your editor will be in Washington he suggested we return with him from D. C. to N. Y., spend the night at his home and study the issues and listen to the story the next day. At the time it sounded like a good plan but we had made a certain number of commitments in our capital and therefore flew from Washington the day after Vinson left, checked in our hotel and after a shower rushed to the Grand Central Station and arrived in the early afternoon in Tuckahoe. After a lengthy friendly visit with Vlasta and Frank Vinson followed by the Czech staff of life "vepřový, knedlíky a zelí" (pork, dumplings and sauerkraut), deliciously prepared by Vlasta, Frank and I got down to the business at hand. While this material cannot be classed strictly as philately, it is an historic fact that Czech American philatelists did their bit in maintaining the Czechoslovak Pavilion during the New York World's Fair in 1939 and 1940. Our notebook is replete with notes and some day we hope to present a complete story on this material which makes a very interesting showing.

We couldn't visit New York without spending some time with our very dear friends, Arthur I. Kessler and his charming spouse, Edith. There, too, we dined. From Arthur we learned of the death of our member McBride in San Francisco. We learned a little more about the New York Sheets, another interesting chapter in this fascinating side line. We have been considered a specialist in the issues Pošta Československá 1919, for many years; it is no blot on our escutcheon to admit we were sometimes afraid of our own decisions and either referred questionable items to Arthur or personally asked his opinion. We know his knowledge is perfect and were very pleased to be initiated into the small inner circle of true specialists of these stamps. We could write an article on the proper detection of counterfeits in this series but unfortunately this information could get into the hands of an unscrupulous person who could then, possibly, produce a replica which would defy detection. Our knowledge will be divulged to a small circle of honest and true souls who may continue after we leave this vale of tears.

We also met with the quartet of stalwarts, members and friends: Dr. William Reiner-Deutsch, Lolly M. Hrechny, Joseph Stein and Emil Michaelson, who will make arrangements to be host to all visiting members during FIPEX. We have communicated with the HQ of the big Show and hope to have definite answer in the next issue of the Specialist.

If you haven't seen a copy of the November 12, 1955 issue of the national magazine STAMPS devoted especially to our Society and our coming exhibition known as the Show of Shows, you have missed something fine. If we whetted your appetite for this remarkable issue send 10 cents to STAMPS, 153 Waverly Place, New York 14, N. Y. Your editor has been a subscriber from number 1, volume 1 without missing a copy and is sure you too will like the magazine enough to become a regular subscriber. Mr. Harry L. Lindquist, editor and publisher, has done much to help our Society over the years and we take this opportunity to publicly thank him and his excellent staff.

TO OUR MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES
the editor and officers
of
THE CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF AMERICA
wish a
GOD-FILLED CHRISTMAS
and a full
PHILATELIC NEW YEAR!

Parade of New Issues



New commemorative issue "Czechoslovak Army Day"

To mark Czechoslovak Army Day the Ministry of Communications released on October 6th, 1955, two stamps with the denominations of Kčs 0,30, brown and 0,60 grey-green.

The value of the Kčs 0,30 was designed by Emil Kotrba and engraved by Ladislav Jirka.

The value of Kčs 0,60 was designed by Jiří Šebek and engraved by Bedřich Housa.

Both stamps were recess printed by the Post Printing Office in Prague in sheets of 50 copies, size 23 x 30 mm, and are valid for the postage from 6th October 1955.

A First Day Cover for this issue was designed by Emil Kotrba and engraved by Jan Mráček.

Cacheted cover with impressed stamp of Kčs 0,60

On the occasion of the Philatelic Exhibition "PRAGA 1955" the Ministry of Communications released on 10th September 1955 a cacheted cover showing a view of Prague of 1620, with impressed stamp of Kčs 0,60 depicting Hradčany Castle, in blue color, of the same design as shown on the Kčs 1,60 stamp in the Miniature Sheet "PRAGA 1955."

The designs as well as the engravings were done by Jiří Švengsbír. The cover is sold at Kčs 1,10. It is valid for the postage from 10th September, 1955.

Issue of the Exhibition Sheet "PRAGA 1955"

The Ministry of Communication with the Centre of Czechoslovak Philatelists and with the Ministry of the Culture organized from 10th to 25th September 1955, the International Exhibition of Postage Stamps "Praga 1955". The Exhibition being a part of the celebrations of the tenth anniversary of the liberation of Czechoslovakia was sponsored by the President of the Re-



public Antonín Zápotocký and approved by the Czechoslovak Government and by the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie (FIP).

At the instigation of the Centre of Czechoslovak Philatelists the Ministry of Communications issued on September 10th, 1955 the Exhibition Sheet "PRAGA 1955" perforated and imperforate.

The sheet includes five postage stamps with the following pictures of Prague:

1. The Romanesque Chapel of the Holy Cross, a 30 hal. value in dark brown.
2. The Gothic Old Town Bridge, a 45 hal. value in dark grey.
3. The Renaissance summer pavillion Belvedere, a 60 hal. value in carmine red.
4. Hradčany Castle and Charles Bridge, a 1.60 Kčs value in dark grey.
5. Hibernia House, Empire-style building, a 75 hal. value in carmine red.

The stamps on the Sheet bear the inscription in dark grey "Mezinárodní výstava poštovních známek" and the exhibition emblem "PRAGA 1955" in carmine red.

The topic of the stamp No. 1 is by Viktor Stretta, the topics of the stamps Nos. 2, 3, and 4 are by Jiří Švengsbír, painter artist and the topic of the stamp No. 5 is the work of Pavel Sukdolák, painter artist. The engravings of all the stamps and the arrangement of the sheet including the exhibition emblem was executed by Jiří Švengsbír. The dimension of the picture Hradčany is 49 x 30 mm, the dimensions of the other stamps are 23 x 30 mm. Dimension of the sheet 14 x 11 cm. The sheet was recess printed á plat by Post Printing Office in Prague.

No official First Day Cover for this issue was released, instead of this the Ministry of Communications issued four cacheted covers showing four different graphical topics drawn and engraved by Jiří Švengsbír. Price 50 hal. each.

The sheets are valid for postage from 10th September 1955.

For the Philatelic Exhibition "PRAGA 1955" there has been issued also a cacheted cover with an impressed stamp of Kčs 0.60.

EXHIBITION SHEET "PRAGA 1955"

On the occasion of important exhibitions of postage stamps in Czechoslovakia exhibition sheets have, as a rule, been issued. This will also be the case at this year's exhibition "PRAGA 1955", the title of which has inspired artists and designers to draw ideas for the stamps of this sheet from the architectural sights of Prague. The stamps issued on the occasion of the nation-wide exhibition of postage stamps "PRAHA 1950" showed pictures of the capital of Czechoslovakia, which were mostly inspired by book-illustrations or by engravings of old masters, while this time the actual architectural sights of Prague belonging to various architectural styles have been depicted by three authors of the stamps of the exhibition sheet "PRAGA 1955". The artists are: Viktor Stretti, Jiří Švengsbír and Pavel Sukdolák.

The sheet "PRAGA 1955", apart from the title and exhibition emblem, will include five stamps with the following pictures:

- (1) The Chapel of the Holy Cross (by Viktor Stretti)—face value 30 h
- (2) The Old Town Bridge Tower with a view of the Knights-of-the-Cross Church (by Jiří Švengsbír)—face value 45 h
- (3) The summer pavilion Belvedere (by Jiří Švengsbír)—face value 60 h
- (4) Hibernia House (by Pavel Sukdolák)—face value 75 h
- (5) Hradčany Castle and Charles Bridge (by Jiří Švengsbír)—face value 1,60 Kčs.

Prague's oldest architectural monuments are represented on the sheet by the Rotunda of the Holy Cross (Romanesque style), founded approximately in the middle of the 12th century. Rotundas with a central groundplan and a semi-circular apse were the first church buildings of stone in this country. The chapel is surmounted by a lantern with four small Romanesque windows. The masonry of the rotunda is simple, of square tuff stones; only the apse is ornamented with a bow-shaped frieze.

The drawing of this valuable historical monument on the stamp is by Viktor Stretti who in his roamings through old Prague in quest of picturesque motifs has always discovered some quiet corners which he loves to depict in his prints.

In his drawing he depicted the rotunda against the background provided by a school-house in order to bring out the contrast in size of the two buildings, and besides he confronted the small rotunda with a tree standing close by.

The second drawing is by Jiří Švengsbír and represents the Old Town Bridge Tower. This Gothic entrance gate to Charles Bridge was founded in 1357 after a plan by Peter Parler, builder of St. Vitus' Cathedral. Its present appearance is preserved in its original condition (a mighty prism above the first bridge arch). The bridge gate is surmounted by a Gothic vault with a stud in the shape of the crown of Bohemia. The front of the tower displays reliefs representing the builders of the bridge tower, Charles IV and Wenceslas IV, and the patron-saints of Bohemia, St. Vitus, and St. Albert, Sigismund. These sculptures were finished at the end of the 14th century.

In the drawing for the stamp Švengsbír tried to stress the loftiness of this fine specimen of Gothic architecture. The view of the Tower in the centre of the picture, projected against the clear sky in the background, is a veritable masterpiece of composition. The intense tone of the drawing creates a silhouette against the sky, yet preserves the tectonic of this outstanding Gothic building.

The period of the full flowering of Renaissance architecture in Prague is represented by a view of the summer pavilion known as the Belvedere, which stands in the one-time Royal Garden close by the Castle. The Belvedere, which is generally considered one of the most beautiful specimens of Renaissance building outside Italy, was erected by Paolo della Stella on the order of

the Emperor Ferdinand I, who gave it to his wife, Anne of Jagellon. Later, in the reign of Rudolph II, this building was used as an astronomical observatory by Tycho de Brahe.

Jiří Švengsbír depicted the Belvedere with the "Singing Fountain" in the foreground. The latter is the work of F. Terzia (1558-68), who created the design, and Tomáš Jaroš, a famous Prague metalworker.

Among Prague's noteworthy architectural monuments a number of fine Empire-style buildings particularly stand out. On the exhibition sheet this period is represented by a front view of Hibernia House, a one-time monastery in which, in 1630, monks expelled by Elizabeth I of England found refuge. The name of the building is derived from the Latin word for Ireland. In 1808, after the monastery had been closed, the building was reconstructed to its present form, and for many years accommodated the Customs Office. Today it is used as an exhibition hall.

Pavel Sukdolák, designer of the stamp, has well succeeded in conveying the feeling of greatness which Hibernia House inspires, and this has been by no means an easy task considering the size to which the artist had to limit his design.

In Švengsbír's panoramic view of Prague Castle, stress has been laid on the portrayal of Charles Bridge in the foreground. The bridge was built in 1357, and is one of the longest medieval bridges in existence, being 520 metres long and ten metres wide. At either end of the bridge there is a tower: the smaller of these dates from the year 1235. Above the scalloped roofs of the picturesque houses of the Little Town, a district of the city adjoining the Castle, there rise the spires and domes of several fine baroque churches. Outstanding among these is St. Nicholas's, built by Kelian Ignaz Dienzenhofer. This building embodies most of the typical features of Prague's baroque architecture. The dome and the tower of St. Nicholas' have for centuries formed an indivisible part of the panorama of Prague Castle.

The view depicted on the stamp is dominated by the Castle, the Gothic cathedral of St. Vitus and the Romanesque basilica of St. George. The origin of the Castle can be traced as far back as the first half of the 9th century A. D., when the Czech princes transferred their residence from Vyšehrad Height on the opposite bank of the Vltava to the site where the Castle stands today. Throughout centuries the complex of buildings has been adapted and added to, yet none of the adaptations or additions have in any way impaired the whole. The present appearance of the Castle is an embodiment in stone of a thousand years of cultural development. The stamp designed by Jiří Švengsbír depicts this art treasure which has been created by dozens of gifted master-builders and architects as well as by thousands of pairs of industrious workers' hands.

The emblem of the International Exhibition "PRAGA 1955", which is at the head of the exhibition sheet, is also the work of Jiří Švengsbír, the artist and engraver to whom the technical execution of the whole sheet was entrusted. The design of the emblem is based on the Gothic coat-of-arms of the City of Prague and so stress is laid on the wealth and antiquity of Prague's architecture. The emblem is in full harmony with the motifs used on the stamps of the exhibition sheet.

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THE POSTAGE STAMP ERROR 50:50

by Karel Basika



Errors occurring in recent issues of postage stamps were often occasioned indirectly by postal administrations or by persons connected with the production of stamps. Among such rare exceptions belongs the Czechoslovak provisional due error 50:50 on the stamp of the type "The Liberated Republic". This surcharge is due to an oversight and was discovered in October 1928.

The large issue of provisional dues was not released at a time but in succession from 1922 to 1927, and it was in this issue that the error under discussion occurred. At that time the Czechoslovak postal administration started to print new stamps on rotary presses, using the steel-engraving technique. As a result there were left over considerable supplies of stamps which were in use earlier and had been printed in book-print. These stamps had to be utilized somehow instead of being destroyed as was the usual practice in similar cases. The stamps with the picture of the Hradčany Castle, those with the allegories "The Liberated Republic" and "Economy and Science", as well as the remainder of postage dues, were overprinted with the word "DOPLATIT" (Postage Due) and surcharged with new values—with the exception of a single type of stamp which retained its original value, the 100 h "Liberated Republic".

In this way 40 different provisional dues were issued, or 55 if we take into consideration all the different colors, types of perforation and other varieties.

The overprinting of such a large number of stamps, both those stored by the postal administration and those returned by post offices, involved a tremendous amount of work. The printing house of "Česká grafická Unie" made more than 180 million overprints for the provisional dues, issued from January 18, 1922, to September 26, 1927.

Despite a thorough supervision of the planning and figuring out of the whole issue of the provisional dues the printers did not avoid a mistake, which accounts for the rare and peculiar overprint of the provisional due "The Liberated Republic" 50:50. There existed three values of this type of stamp in red: 20 h, 50 h and 150 h. These values having the same color were issued in succession in accordance with changes being made in postal rates. However, the color of all three remained the same. Two of the values in question, i. e. the 20 h and 150 h stamps, were later surcharged with the new value of 50 h, while the stamps with the denomination of 50 h were not meant to be overprinted at all because only a very small number of these had been withdrawn.

Of the provisional due 50:20 altogether a total of 2,700,000 were issued on September 24, 1927. The other value, 50:150, reached a total issue of 3,930,000 stamps and was released on the same day. Both of these dues were among the last overprints made before the entire issue of the provisional dues was finished.

This shows that the 50h value was at no time intended to be surcharged.

Consequently, the discovery of the overprint 50:50 in October 1928 was a great surprise to all collectors of Czechoslovak stamps. The stamps in question were used at the post office at Holešovice, a district of Prague, and bore the postmark PRAHA 14. As a matter of fact the surcharge 50:50 was quite unnecessary for it would have been sufficient to use the words "Postage Due" only. So it was obviously an error. The stamps came to be used because the post office clerks had failed to check them.

The discovery of the error in question created a great sensation among



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philatelists, and many of them now went through their collections, examining their stocks of duplicates, kiloware, packets and unused stamps in the hope of finding the error 50:50. The registries of a number of department stores were also carefully looked through and some of these errors were found on commercial mail. On the whole, however, the result of this search was meagre enough. By 1935 on the whole only 11 errors of the provisional due had been detected. All these bear the postmark PRAHA 14. Up to date we know of 17 of these rare stamps, all of them being in cancelled condition.

The apparent rareness of this error caused sleepless nights also to forgers of postage stamps who were able, without taking great pains, to make a simple overprint on the 50 h postage dues in red. However, since there was not a single stamp of this type known to have been unused, it was quite easy for experts to discover these forgeries. Another device resorted to by people attempting forgery consisted in covering the figure 1 on the 150h stamp. But this forgery, too, could easily be detected since the figures on the 150 h stamp are different from those on the 50 h stamp, being narrower and without the inner filling.

The error 50:50 may with justice be called a veritable rarity among Czechoslovak stamps and one of the rarest errors among world philatelic rarities.

Today there are 17 collectors who are aware of being in possession of this rare stamp. Others may have it in their collections without suspecting it. Be that as it may, the value of the stamp will not be affected even although some more specimens should eventually be found to exist.

(Editors Note. The above article has been reprinted from the "Praga 1955" Prospectus.)

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THOMAS G. MASARYK



The first president of Czechoslovakia, born March 7, 1850 in Hodonín, Moravia, died in Lány Sept. 14, 1937, is to Czechoslovakia what Geo. Washington is to the Americans. Architect and builder of the first Republic, for over 60 of his busy 87 years he fought for the right and freedom of the human mind, so that a man could comprehend and solve for himself the spiritual, cultural, political and social questions of his day. At the same time he spent 50 of those years in studying how to overcome the difficulties of organization and maintenance of the life of nation, state and Europe as a whole.

He began teaching philosophy at Praha University in 1880, where for 20 years he tried to awaken the Czech nation to its cultural, political and social heritage. At that time the Czechs were somewhat provincial, being hemmed in on all sides by hostile neighbors, and he was endeavoring to bring them out of it and fit them into the scheme of the family of nations. He is the last of the Czech giants, who fought for the spiritual, moral and national renaissance of his nation. His efforts were crowned with success when he united the Czechs and Slovaks in a political entity. He himself was a Moravian Slovak.

During the 1914-1918 upheaval, he became convinced that in the newly established states, the so-called "Third Estate", comprising the laborer, farmer and white collar worker was entitled to a larger share of moral and political responsibility, and that the overwhelming rivalry of the Great Powers was the real cause of the 1914 war and that in essence the European society was waging its great fight for a social equality. It was to be a change from the domination of nobles and cities to a new, brighter and more humanitarian democracy, in which all were allotted their proper place in the new national and political whole. His sentiments are best expressed by an excerpt from his book "Making of the State".

"The strongest argument for democracy is the belief in man, spiritual value and his immortal soul—that is true equality in abstract. According to moral principles, democracy is the political realization of love for a fellow-being. The human soul cannot be indifferent to eternity and by the same token it cannot abuse, take advantage of, or violate eternal Providence. True democracy, founded on the love and respect of one mortal for all others, is the realization of God's command on this earth."

By unanimous vote of his countrymen T. G. Masaryk was given the appellation "President Liberator". Fate gave this man the opportunity to change an idea into history. His death was a national incident—for he died as he lived in the hearts of his nation. The funeral was attended by thousands—he was almost sanctified. Those, who live in the heart of a nation—do not die? He is interned at Lány, together with his beloved wife Char-

lotte (née Garrigue), where also lies his unfortunate son, Jan, whose tragic death has not been solved.

Masaryk's first portrait on a Czechoslovak stamp appeared March 7, 1920, his 70th birthday. There were 3 values, 500h, 1000h, and later 125h. For the plebiscite in Silesia and Slovakia these were overprinted S O 1920. The original design is by Max Švabinský. E. Karel made a line engraving in steel, from which electros were made.

For the 5th anniversary of the Czechoslovak Republic, Sept. 28, 1923, a set of four engraved stamps issued by the Czechoslovak Republic, are considered the best. For the Olympic Congress 3 values of this set were overprinted with an engraved die, CONGRES OLYMP/ INTERNAT PRAHA 1925 and for the VIII VŠESOKOLSKÝ SLET PRAHA 1926, in the same manner. Good counterfeits of these issues exist.

In 1925 a set of three stamps, printed by rotogravure, values 40h, 50h & 60h were issued, with both line and comb perforations. (These stamps are very sensitive to light, water and benzine.) Then follows a set printed from steel-coated plates, with values 1K, 2K, 3K, 5K on watermarked paper. This is Type I. Horizontal watermarks are common, vertical, rare. These stamps are almost as good as those printed from steel engraved plates. Stamps of Types II to VII are printed from steel engraved plates. Type II (called by Czech collectors "Shoulder" type) is found on the 1K, 2K & 3K values, the left shoulder being crosshatched. In Type III, the left shoulder on values 1K & 3K, is line hatched. Type IV issued Aug. 25 is the first stamp printed on the Stickney rotary press. It is like Type III but line perforated 9%. In Type V, 1K value, the numeral shield is framed with a thin line, cross-hatched background and the numeral is shaded. In Type VI, 1K value, the numeral shield is framed with a heavy line. This type also exists on unwatermarked paper. In Type VII, 1K value, the right side of the mustache is pointed. It is printed on unwatermarked paper.

In 1937 a set of 3 stamps, values 50h, 60h, & 1K, was issued on unwatermarked paper. The 50h value is of Type II.

In the 10th Anniversary of the Czechoslovak Republic issue is a large 3K value with Masaryk's portrait.

Last of these issues is the one of 1930, values 50h, 60h, & 1K, perforated 9%, and 1K coil. The coils contained 1000 stamps. The 50h stamp is of two types. In Type I the mustache is curly; in Type II, pointed.

For the 80th birthday of Masaryk the postoffice issued four large stamps with ornamental coupons, values 2K, 3K, 5K & 10K. A special cancellation was used on the date—March 7, 1930.

His 85th birthday was again celebrated with a set of stamps, values 50h, 1K, 2K, & 3K. A special gold and red cancellation was used. The Praha-Hrad station had a very elaborate red cancel almost 6" long.

In 1936 a 1K red stamp was issued, similar to the one issued in 1935, portrait with cap, but a different frame.

After the death of Masaryk two mourning stamps, 50h and 2K values, were issued, the 2K with an ornamental coupon inscribed—"TGM vigilant for the welfare of the State". This motto is inscribed on a plaque in the Czechoslovakian Parliament. A special black cancel was used by most of the post offices.

March 7, 1938 a child welfare stamp of 50h and 1K with a surcharge 50h was issued, picturing the president holding a child, dressed in native costume, in his arms. It was engraved by B. Heintz after a photo taken of him on his visit to Ždár, Moravia. The coupon of these stamps is inscribed "Respect the soul of the child". At the same time a mourning sheet was issued printed in black with a 3K surcharge.

The 1939 1K red stamp (cap) is similar to that of 1936, except the value

is shown as 1K instead of 1Kč and a hyphen is placed in Česko-Slovensko.

For the 10th anniversary of Masaryk's death, two stamps, 1.20 and 4K were issued in 1947 with coupons inscribed "FOREVER TRUE". A first day cover was issued and a special cancel was used.

Going back to the end of World War II in 1945 we see a set of 6 Masaryk stamps printed in Moscow by rotogravure. In the large issue of regular stamps of 1945-46, printed in Praha, stamps with his portrait with values of 50h & 15K were printed by rotogravure and the values 1.20, 4K & 5K were printed by rotary press.

In commemoration of the life work of Masaryk the postoffice issued a set of 20 postal cards, portraying various events of his life between 1918 and 1935. The 50h stamp was imprinted in the upper right corner. The tenth card shows him in 1932 broadcasting to America on Washington's birthday.

The initials TGM were quite often used in the special cancels of the Czechoslovak fieldposts scattered among various allied armies.

DR. EDVARD BENEŠ



The second president of Czechoslovakia, he was born May 18, 1884 and died in Sezimovo Ústí Nov. 3, 1948. He was the outstanding diplomat and statesman of his time, who for over 30 years fought for nation and state. Before and during World War II he was the moving spirit of Czechoslovakia efforts beyond the borders of Austria. Absolutely honest and stubborn, he worked hard and without pause for the good of the nation. June 7, 1948 he resigned the presidency rather than give his approval to the new Red Constitution prepared by Gottwald. His premature demise was lamented throughout the nation and during his funeral, Praha and the rest of the country were wrapped in deep mourning. Hundreds of thousands came to bow their heads in grief on his last journey.

The first stamp with his portrait is on the 50h value of 1936. The stamp of 1937 was also 50h, but with face in profile, in two types (shading of the ear). This stamp was overprinted B I T 1937 for the occasion of a meeting of the International Labor Bureau.

After World War II and the formation of the Second Republic his newly designed portrait again appeared on 60h, 1.60K & 3K stamps issued in 1945. A new issue on Sept. 28, 1946 was of 60h, 1.60k, 3K, & 8K. The last issue is of 1948 with a portrait from a photo by Prof. Ehm printed in rotogravure by Pravda in Bratislava. This issue is printed on a variety of thicknesses of paper. The last, a mourning stamp issued Nov. 28, 1948, 25 days after his death, is a travesty. It certainly is not a credit to the designer or engraver Svolinský and Švengsbír. A first day cover was also issued and a special cancel was used.

MILAN RASTISLAV ŠTEFANIK

was the third of the triumvirate with Masaryk and Beneš. He was born in 1880 at Košarisky in Slovakia, the son of an Evangelical preacher. He



attended the Magyar schools, but his proud nature could not stand the Magyar superciliousness of the association with the Slovak renegades, so he went to Praha, where he studied under the influence of Masaryk for six years. In 1904 Štefánik departed for Paris for advanced study of astronomy. His industry and knowledge got him an appointment as secretary of the Paris Observatory. In this position he was sent all over the world on scientific missions. It also gave him admittance to Paris society, where he became quite influential. When World War I broke out, Štefánik enlisted in the French air corps, where his knowledge of meteorology and flying brought him quick promotions. From 1916 he worked in close cooperation with Masaryk and Beneš and it was his influence with the French government that caused them to support the Czech cause. After the formation of the Czech Republic Štefánik was appointed the first Minister of National Defense. May 4, 1919, while returning home to Slovakia he was killed when his plane crashed at Bratislava.

His portrait as a general in the French army is on stamps of 1935, 1936, 1938 and 1947. For the occasion of Bratislava Stamp Exposition in 1937 a commemorative sheet was issued showing his monument at Bradlo.

The Slovenský Stát issued a set of stamps with his portrait, showing the Bradlo monument in the background. However, this set was withdrawn on day of issue at the objection of the German Ambassador.

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KLEMENT GOTTWALD



Gottwald was the third president of the Republic, born in Dědice, Moravia, Nov. 23, 1896, and dying in Praha March 14, 1953. He was the first Communist and artisan to reach that high position. He was an unwavering foe of capitalism and fascism and a strong supporter of friendship for Russia. After the German invasion he ran away to Russia, where he was actively associated in forming the Czech Brigade and where he received good training in Communism. He conceived and helped to shape the Košice Program. After the Republic was reinstated, he returned home and thru political shenanigans became prime minister in 1946.

On Feb. 28, 1948 he forced the ill and aging President, under the threat of civil war and Russian invasion to grant him supreme powers. There remained only a step to the resignation of the President. Thus the black cloud of Communism blotted out the sun of freedom in Czechoslovakia, the country's economy was integrated into that of Russia and the Iron Curtain dropped around another free state.

For the birthday of the new President a souvenir sheet was issued Nov. 23, 1948, showing the President's standard. This sheet has many varieties, considered as types.

For the first anniversary of the communistic government, Feb. 25, 1949, a 3K rotogravure printed and 3K & 10K engraved stamps were issued. The 10K stamp was with a coupon showing the date—1948 ÚNOR 1949.

Jan. 20, 1950 an envelope, with a 3K engraved stamp was issued, the first in the history of the Czechoslovakia postoffice. His portrait appears on a stamp of May 30, 1951 together with Stalin. This was the 30th anniversary of Czechoslovak Communism. The Army Day stamp of 1951 shows him on a 1.50K value in military uniform. For the Czecho-Soviet Amity issue of Nov. 3, 1951 his picture is on two stamps, 1.50 K & 4K together with Stalin. June 12, 1952 a 1K green stamp was issued. On the Feb. 25, issue he was again on two rotogravure printed stamps. March 14, 1953 a set of two mourning stamps was issued, values 1.50K & 3K and also a 5K mourning sheet. May 8, 1953 a 3K red reprint was issued.

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