

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE
CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

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Editor Frank J. Kovarik, 2502 So. Kedzie Ave., Chicago 23, Ill.

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EDITORIAL

At the last meeting of the Chicago group several members suggested we eliminate the "No." issue of the year and substitute the "Whole No." showing how many issues of the Specialist have been published since the first copy made its appearance. We do not know whether the editor is to receive a medal or a bonus when he has edited his 500th copy, but, the idea behind the numbering project is good. In May of this year we will have completed 17 years of more or less continuous publication of the Specialist. We certainly find it difficult to realize that more than 75% was edited by us. We have mentioned many times we delight in this phase of our hobby. Willy nilly we learned more about the stamps of Czechoslovakia than if we had remained a mere collector even if dubbed a "specialist". We have contacted many more kindred souls than we could had we remained satisfied being a member instead of editor. We find that thruout the life of the Society the official organ has appeared quite regularly. Each volume consisted of ten issues except volume I which had 8 issues; volume II had 9 and volume X 11 issues. This means that a total of 158 whole issues was published. At first, with many subsidies, we produced 4 to 8 pages each issue. For many years now 16 pages per issue has been normal.

In our last editorial we mentioned our fruitful vacation. We do not like to monopolize the entire issue with personal stories albeit flavored philatelically and so we shall tell the various stories a little at a time. At the dinner held in the Old Prague restaurant when the winners at our Show of Shows were receiving their awards we told one story which we are sure has not been told in public before. In the booklet published in 1948 "Třicet Let Československé Znamky" the credit for the Winter Games part of the 1938 Sokol Slet (Scott A80) is given to Bohumil Heinz. We were shown a die proof of this design prepared by Karl Seizinger; an enlarged reproduction of the same die on the front cover of a contemporary Czech magazine and a se-tenant gutter between pair of this design of Seizinger's from a plate with the 1 Kč (Scott A60) on the other side of the gutter. The story as told to your reporter in brief summary is that Seizinger was commissioned to prepare the design. The design was accepted, a plate was made and delivered to the Unie.

Later Seizinger was told the plate could not be used because the plate wouldn't print. Heinz was requested to make both a new design and engraving. He followed very closely the original Seizinger design but the peculiar characteristics of the engravers can be seen in the workmanship. It is natural that Seizinger was not satisfied with the explanation given to him and he, personally, went to the Unie and found that the mat on the press was

incorrectly placed thereby resulting in a poor impression. When this defect was corrected it was too late to employ the original design. Seizinger was paid for his work but was never accorded official recognition for it. In our opinion this was a clear case of government sponsored plagiarism. The curious part of this story is that while it was told we had our note book in our hand yet the only notation on the entire story is covered with the words: "Zimní Hry—some story!" We hope some day to write the entire story with proper illustrations.

The greatest story of our Society is the publication of our English-Czech—Czech-English Philatelic Vocabulary. This was first placed on sale November 26, 1955 at our Show of Shows and we are gratified to report the sale was good. 500 copies were printed; 200 paper bound and 300 cloth bound. A tremendous amount of work went into this project and members are urged to buy this booklet to bolster the treasury which was considerably depleted because of the cost. With this, our first publication, we embark on a series of publishing ventures. We have had word from one of our Canadian members that due to a strike at the plant where he works time is heavy on his hands and he is translating the Novotny catalog which has been chosen as the basis of our own handbook on the stamps of Czechoslovakia. Because this entails not only much work but also a big expense, it has been decided to publish it not as one volume but three: The First Republic, The Protectorate of Bohemia-Moravia, Slovakia and Carpatho-Ukraine and the post WW II Czechoslovakia. To realize this ambition it is necessary that we not only maintain our membership but that each of us tries to get new members. By the way, did you pay your dues for 1956? If not, do so now.

A short note from Newark informs us that our energetic and cooperative member, our immediate editorial predecessor, Lolly M. Horechny became the father of a bouncing boy baby, James Emil, who tipped the scales at 7 lbs. 12 oz. on the day of his birth November 20, 1955. To the parents of this future specialist in the stamps of Czechoslovakia we wish much happiness.

Some time ago we received from our past president Geo. A. Blizil a cover bearing a red label picturing a soldier. The top contained the legend "Volontaires Tchèques de France" and the bottom between upright rectangular shields "Čeští Dobrovolníci ve Francii". The lower left rectangle bore the value 10c while the lower left had 2c. We thought of getting this item photographed and published but we recall past experiences when the item was mutilated and once lost. This cover was cancelled "Depots des Prisonniers de Guerre de XXI regim". The return address was "21e eg de Chasseurs Tchecosl., Casern Bedeau, Nantes, France." We know that prisoner-of-war mail is postage free; the label intrigues us. Does any member possess a similar item?

To tie in with the above: While in Sew York City we were shown a similar return card: "21 Reg de Tcheco Slovaque" with the addition "Le Vague-mester—Poštovní Úřad—československá Polní Pošta" addressed to Frenštát pod Radhoštěm. This bore a red label with an ornamental leaf with a manuscript large "10" in red. This, too, should find a companion somewhere. We are sure that many interesting items can be uncovered from time to time; we wrote many times that ours is a cooperative Society and as such we should acquaint our members with the oddities that come to our attention or into our possession.

A short time ago we had a letter asking information on the comet shown on Slovakia's Scott A3. During our show we were told by member Francis Beedon of Muskegon, Mich. that he had a letter from a pen friend in Czechoslovakia who claims that the design is allegorical showing in the astronomical language of Stefanik his quick, meteoric rise and sudden disappearance. As is known, Stefanik died in a fatal plane crash in 1920 during in abortive

attempt by the Hungarian Communists under Bela Kun to seize Slovakia for Hungary.

When this issue of the Specialist reaches you the Society has an almost entirely new group of officers. These were elected by an overwhelming majority:

President: James W. Adler, 6452 Nashville Av., St. Louis 10, Mo.

Secretary: Melvin F. Klozar, 601 Tuxedo Av., Cleveland 29, Ohio

Treasurer: Geo. C. Kobylka, 1433 So. Cuyler Av., Berwyn, Ill.

International Sec.: Aug. J. Hrivnak, 174 Addison Rd., Riverside, Ill.

Librarian: Frank J. Kosik, R. 3, Delavan, Wis.

Sales Manager: Wolfgang Fritzsche, Box 402, Geneva, N. Y.

Editor: Frank J. Kovarik, 2502 So. Kedzie Av., Chicago 23, Ill.

Eastern Vice Pres.: K. Woodbury, Sr., 129 Wovesett Av., W. Warwick, R. I.

Midwest Vice Pres.: C. A. Matiaska, 11217 Methyl Av., Cleveland 20, Ohio

Western Vice Pres.: A. J. Cifka, 1641 Stout St., Denver 2, Colo.

Many members have a habit of writing to one officer with problems that concern others. We feel the editor spends much time and some money in sending communications of members to the secretary, the treasurer, the librarian and others. While we are happy to be of service to you, please, do not burden us with unnecessary chores.

We have mailed the balance of the bound volumes of the Specialist to the patron members of the Society for 1954. If we failed any members this time please notify us. So we'd not run short again we had an extra few volumes bound and these can be purchased from your editor at \$4.00 per volume while they last.

SHOW OF SHOWS A BIG SUCCESS

Our exhibition at Stefanik Hall in Chicago Nov. 26-27, 1955 was the finest in the history of the Society. Soon after the doors opened, even before the last of the frames were placed on the easels the public was arriving. The publicity committee went all out not only by advertising the show in the philatelic press of our Continent, the local press of Chicago and outlying suburbs but also by writing to every member of the A P S and S P A in the Chicago area.

Several features attracted many who otherwise may have passed up the opportunity to view our Show. One of these was the Court of Honor introduced in our Show for the first time; leading collectors in the United States were asked to show their blue ribbon collections and the result was great. Your General Chairman, Paul Marusic, Sr. and his staff take this opportunity to thank Dr. Herbert Pollack for showing his marvelous Bergedorf; Charles Hahn for exhibiting his Great Britain Penny Blacks; Harry L. Lindquist, editor and publisher of STAMPS for his excellent Guatemala which a short time before our show was in CUPEX; Dr. Walter Eisin with his Lithuania and Mrs. Ethel B. McCoy for her magnificent United States Trans Mississippi.

The second feature was the new frames constructed by member Joseph Janicka. The frames and easels of steel are constructed in such a manner that a show can be put up or taken down in a fraction of the time it took with the old type frames. It is unfortunate that no one looked into the manner of lighting employed at the Hall; when the sun started to set we suddenly realized that the dance hall lights are totally ineffective. Members rushed home for extensions and larger bulbs. This will not bother us in the future as Joe has plans of wiring each group of frames, most likely with fluorescent lights. Any member interested in these frames may write to Mr. Jos. Janicka, 2723 So. Central Park Av., Chicago 23, Ill.

The third feature was the first day sale of the complete album for stamps

of Czechoslovakia compiled and published by our treasurer George C. Kobyłka. Your editor was so impressed with this album that he is seriously thinking of remounting his entire collection into these albums which can be expanded with blank pages into an ultra specialized album. For further particulars see Kobyłka's ad in the Specialist.

The following members exhibited in the foreign section: Rudolph Novy, First Flight covers; J. W. Adler, Pioneer German Air Mail (first award winner); P. Kreischer, Australia (second award); P. Marusic, Danzig; M. Kalish, Ave Maria (topical); C. Aikins, Great Britain Circular Delivery stamps (third award); J. Janecka, Pages from Life magazine.

Czecho was well represented by both members and a non-member: Mareš Issue, A. J. Hrivnak (second award); J. Jiranek, Siberia (first award); G. Kobyłka, the 10K Airmail in pictures; G. Kobyłka, Czecho pages (the judges asked that G. K. be awarded a special medal for philatelic achievement); Dr. J. Matejka, Seizinger die proofs (Grand Award winner), J. F. Velek, Hradčany cancellations; R. Van Handle, specialized Hradčany (championship award); J. W. Adler, third award Revolutionary issues 1918; C. Cheslow, Souvenir sheets, Benes and Jan Masaryk Autographs on same; J. Ruzinsky, Czecho Post cards, Sports set; F. J. Kovarik, miscellaneous Czecho.

The judges of the show were well known collectors of the Chicago area Drs. W. Eisin, H. Pollack and L. Kozakiewicz. As a token of our appreciation of their work which was not easy, the Society awarded to each of them a bound copy of the just published vocabulary.

When the show closed Saturday evening about 25 members and friends drove to the Old Prague restaurant in Cicero where, in the "sklípek" (cellar) a delicious roast duck, dumplings and sauer kraut dinner was served to most participants, though some timid souls were satisfied with weaker foods! The winners of the awards were given their plaque, medals and trophies. The new president of the Society, James W. Adler of St. Louis gave a short talk and was followed by the retiring secretary J. Velek and then by others, too numerous to mention here. Your editor spoke at length about his plans for the future and exhorted all to continue their support of the organization. He also regaled the assemblage with a number of short philatelic anecdotes. The party came to a close about 1:30 A.M.

Sunday morning about 10 A.M. the Hall again opened to a fairly large number of visitors and we all looked forward to having a record crowd for the auction. About noon a drizzle settled over the city; within an hour snow came down heavily as also the thermometer. When the auction ended at about 4 P. M. the weatherman said 8 above with lower temperatures before night. As a result everyone went hurrying home; at 6:30 P. M. the last of us left the Hall. In the excitement no one thought of the drawing for the bond; this will take place during the January meeting of the Chicago group Sunday at 2:30 P. M. in the home of members P. Marusic Sr. and Jr., 1720 S. Clinton St., CHICAGO (not Berwyn). The results of the drawing will appear in the February issue of the Specialist.

The auction was conducted jointly by our very good dealer friend of Chicago, Leo Easton of the Liberty Stamp Shop located in the Board of Trade Building and your editor. Some items showed very spirited biddings; we may publish the results in the next Specialist.

We have noted among our visitors members Frank Kosik our new librarian of Delavan, Wis., Francis Beedon and wife of Muskegon, Mich., Henry Nouss and James W. Adler of St. Louis, Mo. and a host of local members. It is unfortunate that many of our members of the Chicago area failed to make their appearance. Just before the Show closed a photographer took a picture of the members present.

Your editor hesitates to estimate the financial result of the Show; we

**TRY OUR
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shall leave that to the more competent mathematician, our treasurer George Kobyłka. One thing is sure: Despite the weather and expenses we are sure to show a profit.

Those of you who have seen the Nov. 12 issue of STAMPS magazine and read the publicity in the many papers, lay and philatelic alike, know that there was a reason for the Big Success of our 1955 SHOW OF SHOWS.

Your Chicago group has started plans on a big show again, bigger than the last, and again in Stefanik Hall, October 27-28, 1956. In the meantime we all must work hard to make our debut at an international Exhibition, FIPEX, the big Success we want it to be.

CORRECTION

We apologize to the shade of Dr. Edward Benes for placing his picture in a short biographical sketch of Klement Gottwald, page 158, December issue.

MEETING OF THE CHICAGO GROUP

The final meeting of the year of the Chicago group was the best attended in many years. Held in the home of Member Joseph Jiranek a week before the show it accomplished its purpose. The final plans for the exhibition were formulated then. The members were very pleased to meet member Jack Benchik who is now a student at Notre Dame and who has been a member since boyhood.

The next meeting of the Chicago group will be held Sunday January 15, 1956, 2:30 P.M. in the home of members.

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Hradcany tete-beche pairs are known in the following values: 3, 5, 10, 20, 25, and 30 hellers. The 30h value is rare.

Gutter pairs are known in the 3 and 10 heller values, and now the 20 heller, which has come into possession of **John P. Velek**, Hradcany expert. Mr. Velek informs us that the 20h gutter pair comes from Plates 3 and 4.

Any reader having or knowing of another pair of the 20h gutter is asked to contact the writer, who will pass the information on to Mr. Velek and readers of STAMPS.

Any questions pertaining to Hradcany issues will be cheerfully answered.

—Frank J. Kosik,
Route #3, Delavan, Wisc.

NEW MEMBERS

- 533 Wm. Kleinschmidt, 1426 No. Kedzie Ave., Chicago 51, Ill.
534 Geo. Porada, 4033 So. Euclid Ave., Berwyn, Ill.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

- 103 Cdr. L. L. Dille, 12525 Athol Dr., Silver Springs, Md.
256 James B. Glaze, 291 Lawton Rd., Riverside, Ill.
316 Andrew Kopcok, 4109 W. 49th St., Cleveland 9, Ohio
496 Francis B. Ales, 1371 First Ave., New York 21, N. Y.
497 Mrs. Marie Stoeff, 1211 Crestview, Tallahassee, Fla.
520 M. L. Hromadka, 311 12th Ave., S. E., Cedar Rapids, Ia.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

The Christmas rush in the Post Office started very early this year (1955) taking us entirely by surprise. As a result of the long hours, our show and your Specialist we have many letters to answer, so please be patient. It is impossible to thank individually for the many Christmas greetings from members so we take this opportunity to say:

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Biography of Karl Seizinger—Stamp Engraver

By Richardson L. Spofford

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Karl Seizinger, designer and engraver of Czech stamps, and of other countries.

Karl Seizinger was born on March 23, 1889, in Hildburghausen, Germany, a town over 600 years old, which is located in the former duchy of Sachsen-Meiningen, now Thuringia.

This province of Germany became known throughout the world as a result of the devotion of its regent, Duke George, to art in all its forms, and especially music and the theatre. The world-famous court theatre and orchestra traveled all over the world, including the United States, where it gave a concert.

It was in Hildburghausen that in 1826 the foundation was laid for the famous *Encyclopedia Meyer's Konversations Lexikon*. At that time photography had not yet been discovered, and it was necessary to use engravings and drawings as illustrations for the dictionary.

Meyer surrounded himself with fine artists in the field of engraving and drawing, sending them out into the world to visit interesting places and gather information and experiences in other countries, which then were translated into engraving plates and used as illustrations for the dictionary. Thus Hildburghausen acquired a reputation as the town of engravers.

A small incident during Seizinger's school days decided his future. An old engraver who wished to write his autobiography asked the institute, where the boy attended, to recommend a pupil who had a good legible handwriting. Seizinger was recommended as not only having a distinct handwriting but also as having some talent for drawing, and he was given the job. As the old engraver told the story of his travels through India, Spain, and the U.S.A., and the boy copied down all the fascinating details of the places visited, Seizinger found himself living in imagination the old man's experiences. He found the story so exciting that he was inspired then and there to become an engraver.

The art of photography had now begun to develop, and the elder Seizinger had a photograph business which he had hoped would be carried on

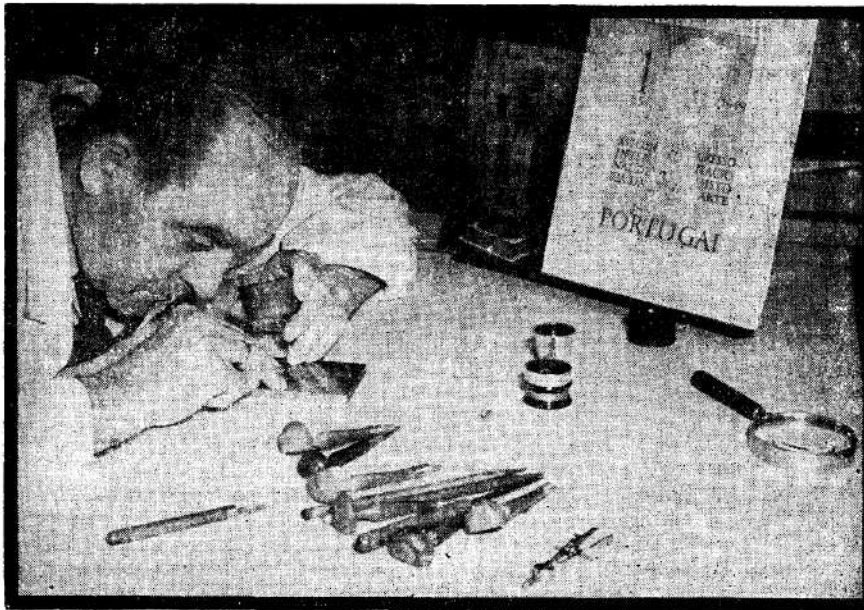
by his son. He tried to convince the boy that he should study photography instead of engraving, but to no avail, and young Seizinger entered the institute for engraving at Hildburghausen. He admits today that he underestimated the task that lay ahead of him. His most trying experience he considers to have been learning to handle the tools. But he persisted diligently and put all his energy into the task, determined to master all the intricate details that would some day make him an engraver.

Seizinger had just begun to get his first orders after finishing school when his career was interrupted by the start of the first World War. He spent eighteen months in France with the army, but desiring adventure, he applied for a transfer. He was sent to Iraq to become a flyer.

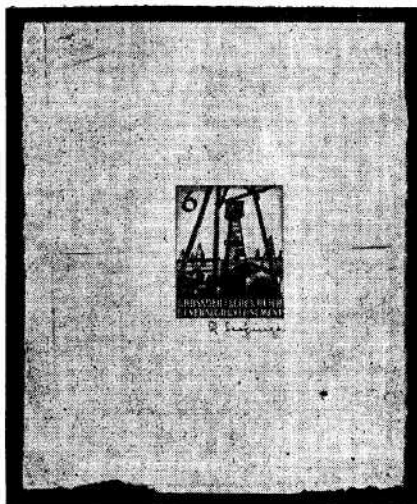
The trip from France to Baghdad lasted eight weeks; the Baghdad railway did not then exist. Four weeks of the trip were spent on a raft on the Euphrates, and at this point the Seizinger party was joined by the explorer, Sven Hedin, who describes this trip in his book *Baghdad, Babylon, Nineveh*.

The armistice found Seizinger at the Mosul Oil Fields. Attempting to avert capture by the advancing English army, a group of 800 soldiers, including Seizinger, had started to walk in the direction of the Black Sea, and had reached Samsun when they were captured by the English. From there they were transferred as war prisoners to Constantinople, and interned. After four weeks, however, they were started on their way to Germany under command of an English captain. They reached Wilhelmshafen in April 1919, and found Germany in a state of revolution.

After the men were released, Seizinger joined his wife and child in Berlin. But he found there was little need for the services of an engraver in a country where loss of the war had brought anarchy, inflation, and general chaos. Money and stamps had to be printed daily to keep up with the steadily rising tide of inflation and changing postal rates, and it required about a year to produce a new engraved banknote. This was a time for printing, not engraving. Seizinger decided to look abroad for a job, and to build his future



Karl Seizinger, at work on a Portugal stamp of 1949.



Stamp engraved by Seizinger during German occupation of Poland, but which was never issued. In philatelic terminology, an "essay."

in a more favorable political atmosphere.

He learned that Finland was looking for a banknote engraver, and offered his services, with samples of his work, and was accepted. He found the task a difficult one, as no banknotes had been engraved for seven years, and the old designs, by the famous architect Prof. E. Saaviene, were very worn. However, Seizinger succeeded in doing the engraving job to the satisfaction of the bank, and his contract was renewed for three years. During this time he lived in Helsinki.

Reading an article about the newly established republic of Czechoslovakia one day, he learned that it was the intention of that republic to establish its own banknote institute. Knowing that such an institute would have to employ some engravers, Seizinger offered his services to the new Czech government.

With his application he submitted a sample of his work, using a photograph of President Masaryk. His application was accepted, and he went to Prague. There he was given the task of engraving securities, and was especially entrusted with work on postage stamps. He stayed on this job for six years, and during this time enrolled with Prof. Max Svabinsky at the Academy of Arts.

Seizinger's most difficult job in Prague, and in fact, he says, probably his whole career as an engraver, was the 1934 1k Legion stamp, Scott's No. 196. Thirty-two persons are shown in this design, and to reduce these portraits to fit into postage stamp size and still show some resemblance to the persons pictured was indeed a task!

There were years during his employment at Prague that he had to engrave all the stamps issued, but about 1934 he was joined by one he calls "my talented colleague," the late **B. Heinz**.

When the political horizon over Czechoslovakia darkened in 1938, and Hitler was threatening all states bordering on Germany, Seizinger decided to leave Czechoslovakia and try to reach Yugoslavia. He did not wait to receive an offer of employment, but waited until he arrived at Belgrade to apply for work. However, he was successful in securing employment there, and was assigned to the task of making the first copper-plate engraved stamps in Ju-



Croatian stamp of 1943, designed by Seizinger, and showing St. Mary's Church and Cistercian Cloister in Zagreb, 1650

goslavia. He spent two years in Belgrade, which he declares is a beautiful city, with a population known all over the world for its outstanding hospitality.

When Hitler tried to make a pact with Yugoslavia in 1940, the Serbs made it clear that they did not want such a deal, and the situation became more tense each day. Hitler started to threaten openly, and Seizinger felt that under such conditions German nationals would be increasingly resented in Yugoslavia. Not wanting to embarrass his many friends in the Yugoslav government, Seizinger resigned and returned to Germany, though he had privately resolved to leave there again as soon as possible.

Back in Germany he received many offers to work for the government, but all were somehow connected with the Nazi party, and he would have none of that. While he had been in Belgrade, he had made friends with persons from Zagreb (called by the Germans "Agram"), and he approached them on the subject of securing a job with the Croatian government. He was invited to Zagreb, and left Germany promptly, glad to escape the possibility of being forced to work for the Nazis.

In Zagreb Seizinger again worked on engraving stamps, and here also he was made Professor of Graphic Arts for Croatia. He was commissioned to take a long trip through Europe to study the latest methods of printing stamps, and thus had the opportunity again to visit Prague.

Upon his return to Zagreb, once more the political situation was worsening; the partisans were beginning to have considerable success and endanger the government in power. Everything German was being eyed with suspicion, was indeed considered an enemy, and was constantly in danger of violence. So to move on, and left in early May 1945, but it was already too late. The stations he had to pass en route to Austria, where he had headed, were already in the hands of the partisans. They searched everyone in the train, and took Seizinger's suitcases containing his personal effects, although, fortunately, they did no personal harm to any of the passengers, who were in fact permitted to continue the trip.

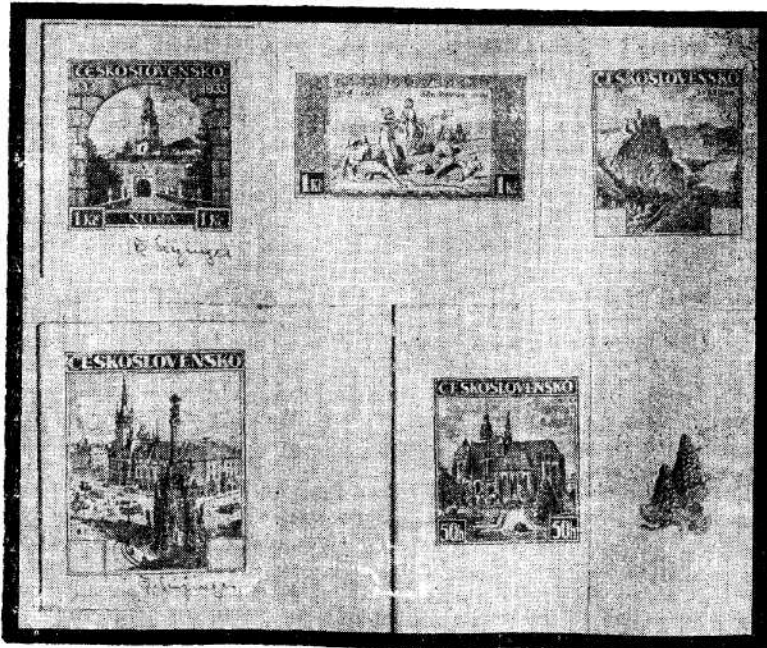
Seizinger arrived in Klagenfurt on Lake Worther See in Carinthia, South Austria, without clothing or tools, and found the place already occupied by the

English Army. The English supplied him with tools, painting supplies, and food, and he was then able to draw landscapes to sell to the English occupation forces.

He was worried about his family, however, and applied for permission to go home, which was granted after about six months' delay while his background was checked. His family was in the eastern part of Germany, and usually permission to return was granted only to those whose families were in western Germany. Seizinger went to Berlin, and from there tried to cross the frontier into Eastern Germany. The borders were guarded by the Russians, but during a dark November night he managed to get through and reach Hildburghausen to be reunited with his family.

Seizinger had no intention, however, of remaining in Hildburghausen, and even while still in Klagenfurt had written to various firms in the west, offering his services, looking forward to the day when he and his family might get out of the country. In Hildburghausen it became even clearer that he had to do this as soon as possible, which of course was not an easy undertaking. It was still too close to the time of the war and memories of what the Nazi forces had done were too fresh for a German to be easily accepted in the western countries. He did manage to succeed in this, however, and received an offer from the well known firm of Joh. Enschede and Sons, in Haarlem, Holland, provided that he could get permission of the English authorities to leave Germany.

After a few months' waiting while he was again checked, he received permission to leave, and was the first German to get a job in Holland after



Some of the 101 designs prepared by Karl Seizinger for stamps of Czechoslovakia: Top row (l. to r.)—Nitra Church (Scott A47) of the 1933 Pribina issue; National Anthem issue (A54) 1934; Strecno Castle ruins (A67) 1936. Bottom row—Olomouc Town Square (A71), 1936; and Kosice Cathedral (A86) 1938, and the tab for the Kosice stamp.

the war. Mr. Seizinger says that, considering what the Germans did to Holland he thought it a near miracle to have received their indulgence.

Seizinger's chief work in Holland is making banknotes, but occasionally he works on stamps. He also engraved a stamp for Portugal, and his latest work on a stamp was to engrave the United Nations stamp designed by Leon Helguera, showing the UN building in New York. As will be recalled, the firm of Joh. Enschede and Sons was awarded the contract to produce these first United Nations stamps, issued in the fall of 1951. Mr. Seizinger has expressed himself as being very proud of his engraving work on this design.

At the present time, Mr. Seizinger is working on banknotes for Joh. Enschede and Sons, and says he is still hoping and dreaming that he may some day be permitted to engrave a stamp for the United States of America. He is now 66 years old, but hopes to engrave many more banknotes and stamps.

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Printers' Waste from the First Issue of Czechoslovakia

by John Velek

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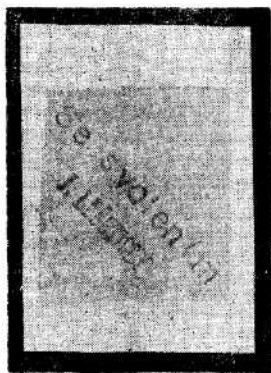


Fig. 1—Official back stamp

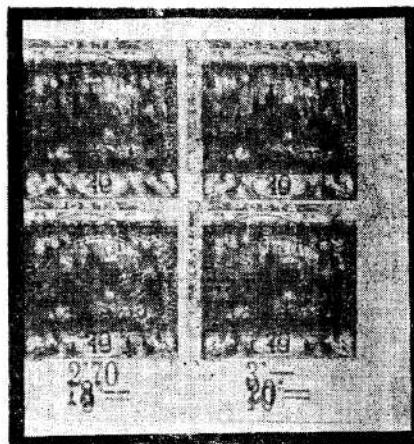


Fig. 2—Typical multiple impression of printers' waste.

Collectors of very few countries have the opportunity of accumulating and examining printers' waste as do those who specialize in the first issue of Czechoslovakia. These stamps are commonly known as the "Hradčany," and are named after the palace which they portray.

This material came into collectors' hands by two methods. The first large lot was released by authority of a high postal official, Jaroslav Lesetický. Pressure exerted on him by the Czech Philatelic Club of Prague, of which he was president, resulted in a large lot being put at its disposal.

This event is described in an interesting and informative article which appeared in the magazine *Ceskoslovenska Filatelie*, Vol. 5, No. 15. The article is unsigned but was probably written by the editor, Erwin Hirsh. He describes a Sunday morning in April 1919, when eleven members of the club met with Mr. Lesetický, who produced 5,000 uncut sheets of 400 subjects of printers' waste of all stamps that had appeared up to that date. This consisted of the Hradčany values 3h to 400h, the first special deliveries, the 2h newspaper stamp, and some postage dues. The article tells how this group cut up the entire lot into blocks of four, and offered them to its members and other interested collectors.

At least some of the sheets were rubber-stamped on the reverse in violet ink: "Se svolením" (with permission), J. Lesetický (Figure 1). I doubt that all the sheets were so stamped, as in several years of collecting this material, I have encountered only two impressions of the stamp. If this lot actually was in uncut sheets of 400, it seems incredible that many vertical and horizontal or even cross gutters were not saved. Possibly these sheets had already been cut into panes of 100. This lot apparently amounted to two million stamps. Some authorities claim that it was printed to order but because of the shortage of stamps at this early period of Czech postal history, and the pressure that must have been exerted on the printers to cover the needs of all the post offices, this material was probably saved from trial runs as the stamps were being printed.

The few gutters that do exist probably came into collectors' hands through employees of the "Grafic Union" which printed the stamps, and which undoubtedly had a number of philatelists among its printers. They "liberated" some of these items from time to time as they were being run. This source was not as fruitful as the first mentioned, and waste of the redrawn type (Scott #23-53) is much scarcer than of the first type (#1-10).

The printers' waste did not seem to enjoy much popularity, and considerable amounts of it have been reported destroyed. In recent years it has attracted the attention of a few specialists.

All Hradčany stamps were printed by typography in sheets of 400, usually two different values at a time, two plates of each, arranged vertically in pairs. This set-up made it necessary to use two different rollers each a different color, except when stamps of the same color were being run, such as the 400h Hradčany and the 1000h postage due. Thus, if a sheet with one impression was put in the press inverted, the second impression would be a different value. A study of these multiple impressions gives a clue to the various pairs of values that were printed together.

Although there are many single impressions of printers' waste (which are considered trial printings or printers' proofs as contrasted with official proofs on white glazed cardboard), the majority of this material comes in an amazing array of multiple impressions and combinations (Figure 2). The different combinations give some credence to the claim that they were printed to order. For instance, could the 10h value come incidentally combined with these values: 3, 5, 20, 30, 40, 100, 200, 400, 1 and 80h redrawn type; also the 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50, 100 500 and 1000h dues; the 2 and 10h newspapers; 2h special delivery and the 100h Legionaires. Include, also, many combinations of two, three or more of these. I have in my collection a piece with six impressions: two of the 25h plus the 3h, plus the 10h, plus the 20h and the 2h newspaper. Other typical combinations are: 3 plus 20 plus 30h, 10 plus 3 plus 100 plus 20h, 10 plus 1 plus 1000h due, 3 plus 5 plus 20 plus 2h newspaper and hundreds more. Many pieces of printers' waste remind one of 3D movies without the glasses.

Of course, many of these combinations may have been due to the shortage of paper which must have been acute in 1918-19 following the First World War. Oddly enough, waste seldom comes printed on both sides.

All this material comes on a poor grade of paper. The two most plentiful are a smooth white paper with a brownish cast reminiscent of the wrapping paper used by butchers in my delivery boy days, and a coarse buff paper. Less commonly encountered are the following papers: pinkish tissue, violet, pink, blue green, grey, green grey, reddish purple, yellow and a soft white cardboard also found perforated 11¼, 13½ and rouletted. I have not seen printers' waste with gum.

Mention must be made of two items which are believed to be unique—tete-beche strips (not gutters) of the 100h and the 200h values. The 100h item is in my collection and the other was sold at auction some years back, but its present whereabouts is unknown to me.

The great variety of printers' waste has discouraged many Czech collectors from making more than a token collection of them. However, a close study of gutter and corner pieces has taught us much about the printing of the first Czech stamps. My only regret is that our philatelic forefathers did not see fit to preserve more full uncut sheets to give us a clearer picture of the production of Hradčany stamps.

(Author's Note: Illustrations in this article were photographed by Ray Van Handel.)

WE OFFER IN
CZECHOSLOVAKIA

1920	Tete-beche values, mint (3) -----	\$2.00
	Red Cross compl., mint -----	.75
	80h+90 Hus, mint -----	.15
1926	Tatra 2K, 3K, 4K, 5K with watermark, mint	5.00
1928	10th Anniversary, compl., mint or used ----	1.00
1930	2K to 10K, mint -----	2.00
1932	Tyrš complete, mint -----	2.50
1937	Bratislava Souvenir Sheet, mint -----	.05
	1939-1940 World's Fair Sheets, 6 diff., mint -----	2.75
20	✉ Covers I Republic, all different -----	2.25
20	✉ covers II Republic, all different -----	2.50
20	✉ covers III Republic, all different -----	2.50

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