

# THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE  
CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

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

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No. 160

## EDITORIAL

In the last issue we told a short story of our philatelic vacation in the East. We shall complete our story today by enumerating some of the rarities it was our privilege to view: Used 2Kč Masaryk Scott #103, Type II with a vertical watermark; pair of 25h Hradčany fakes; vertical gutter of the 3h Hradčany not tete-beche as is commonly known; 1Kč Tyrš with a damaged lower right corner, has the appearance of some heavy object damaging the plate (it may be the plate was printed from after the stamp was demonetized, the Germans are known to have done some funny things during their occupation of Czechoslovakia); 60h Liberated Republic fake; 1Kč Nitra gutter between pair; the 100h Vejprty counterfeit and 75h Hradčany, plate I position 82 with an elongated dash thru the "7" of "75".

We have the pleasure of publishing in this issue the new regulations governing the exchange of stamps with Czechoslovakia. It is deplorable that a very limited amount is allowed; another is the insistence on using Pofis catalogue for the stamps of Czechoslovakia and Lipsia suggested for the rest of the world. According to the official exchange 1Kč is worth \$0.147. We predict the exchange idea according to these regulations will turn out to be a fiasco.

We have received word from New York that the first meeting of the Group there will take place in the Collectors Club Friday, Jan. 20. We trust all New York area members will attend all the meetings scheduled from now on. We cannot expect the Club to give us room for our meetings unless a sufficient number of members is present. Many of our members will attend the big Fipex Exhibition and we must do all in our power to meet with them at least once during the Show. We are also asked by the Fipex Committee to give two talks in the Lecture Hall and this phase of our participation is now being worked out.

We are submitting to the members a financial report from our treasurer and a library report from our new librarian. Any member wanting to avail himself of the use of the library should contact Mr. Frank J. Kosik, RFD #3, Delavan, Wis. We also promised to show our members the core of Chicago workers of the Society who are responsible for the addition to our Treasury of a clear \$201.95 from our 1955 Show. Too bad all of our members didn't remain to the end but as we mentioned last month the weather turned to be most miserable and many left early.

A letter from member George Wheeler tells that Dr. Oscar L. Winklerstein, 39 Gramatan Av., Mt. Vernon, N. Y. has for sale a file of the Specialists from Vol. II No. 3 to and thru Vol. XII No. 6 (May 1940 to June 1950) in

looseleaf binders and would be willing to sell them at a reasonable price. We have frequently been asked for back copies no longer available from the Society surplus; if you are looking for the above, this is your chance.

Mrs. Michael Zemaný writes: My husband Michael Zemaný passed away. He left his collection to our son, Dr. Paul D. Zemaný, 25 Saratoga Dr., Scotia 2, N. Y. I hope he will keep it up to date and ask you to contact him to become a member.

We express our deep sympathy to Mrs. Ludmila Zemaný and thank her for her suggestion that their son follow in the philatelic footsteps of his father.

#### MEETING OF THE CHICAGO GROUP

The Chicago group met at the home of members Paul Marusic, Sr. and Jr. Sunday January 15 with a very fine attendance.

The first piece of business on the agenda was the authorization to pay our dues to the Chicago Federation of Stamp Clubs. Miles Skrivanek was again named delegate and Roman Reinowski alternate.

It was decided to lease again the Stefanik Hall for our 1956 show which will take place week end of October 27 and 28.

A drawing for the \$100 Bond which we failed to handle at our Show for reasons enumerated in the Specialist was the next order of business. Our hosts' wife and mother did the drawing and we are pleased to announce the lucky winner, a pioneer of our Society, Mr. C. J. Pearce of Coalgate, Okla. Congratulations, Bud.

Kovarík read letters from New York members Dr. Reiner-Deutsch and Joseph Stein to the effect that work on our participation at FIPEX is begun. The first meeting of our New York group is scheduled Friday January 20 at the Collectors Club. We hope to have particulars in the next issue of the Specialist.

In this issue of the Specialist you'll find a photo of some of the participants at our Show. Member Janecka asked members present at the meeting to autograph 14 photos and when all the autographs are on each of the 14 photos they will be given to the participants with Joe's compliments. Thanks, Joe. That makes a fine memento.

Kovarík explained the new regulations governing the exchange of stamps with Czechoslovakia and all agreed that the exchange, while better than nothing, is insufficient. Some expressed hopes that this may be the opening of the door to a more liberal exchange policy in the future.

A letter from our librarian was read in which he proposes to enlarge the services of his office. It was decided to bind about 25 copies of every volume now on hand and sell these bound volumes to members, two years in one volume for \$6.00. This will cut down our inventory and it is hoped will add a fine sum into our treasury. The remaining volumes of unbound Specialists now in the custody of member Emil Zaludek will be turned over to the librarian who will sell them to interested parties while the supply lasts.

Next meetings of the Chicago Group will be held in the homes of the following members:

FEBRUARY 19. Geo. Kobyłka, 1433 So. Cuyler Ave., Berwyn, Ill.

MARCH 18. John Velek, 2523 N. Newcastle Ave., Chicago

APRIL 15. Jos. Janecka, 2723 So. Central Park Ave., Chicago.

These meetings commence at 2:30 P.M. sharp. We cordially invite every member who may be in Chicago at the time of any or all of the meetings to meet your fellow enthusiasts.

## REVIEWS

We wanted to review this material last month but the Post Office Christmas rush prevented us doing so. We trust the publishers will forgive us.

## GEO. KOBYLKA'S ALBUM OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA 1918-38

The first day sale of this album took place during our Show of Shows and immediately became the success it promised to be. We recall Walter Sargent's effort at the publication of an album for the stamps of Czechoslovakia in 1939. Sargent merely copied the listing from Scott thus precluding even mild specialization. Kobyłka did a very fine job by eliminating from his pages blocked spaces for stamps which are almost unobtainable but mentioning them nevertheless. A collector sometimes finds it difficult to explain vacant spaces when showing his collection especially to a non-collector.

Part 1 of this album begins with the Hradecny issues and continues thru the 20th Anniversary issue. This is followed by the Carpatho-Ukraine stamp, the airs, dues, newspapers, special delivery and personal delivery stamps. A key to the watermarks follows a forward by past president Blizil. The Hradecny is mildly specialized especially according to the official perforations as also in the Legionaire issue. The Posta Ceskoslovenska 1919 overprint is quite well handled; we feel the omission of the three highest priced stamps in no way hurts the majority of the collectors. Many collectors shy from these but getting genuine copies at a fraction of their true value is a thrill; on the other hand getting soaked with fakes is somewhat a tragedy. One thing is certain, when buying these stamps make sure you get them from a reputable dealer who is willing to take the stamps back if you have doubt of their genuineness. The Allegory issues are handled exceptionally well. Page 15A, specialized according to types and perforations is somewhat lopsided and not free of errors so George promises to rework the page. The Masaryk stamps of the 1925-27 issues and the Castles and Views parts of the 1926-27 series are the last to offer fairly easy specialization, especially if one is satisfied with used copies. Beyond these to the end of the volume specialization is comparatively easy as it consists of tabs and gutters.

Part 2 is very interesting and in itself a wonderful stimulus to those collectors who love to collect material not shown in Scott. Mention is made of the various revolutionary issues: Srobar, Prague both I and II, Skalica, Mareš-Hluboká and Horner-Budweiss. The Scout issue including Příjezd Presidenta Masaryk appear on one page. The Siberian issues take two pages. Then comes the London Exhibition Sheet. This is followed by explanatory pages (written by George A. Blizil) and some illustrations of the Liberation overprints of 1945. The World's Fair overprints of New York contain a check list of the major varieties which were sold at the Fair for the upkeep of the Czechoslovakian Pavilion. In this we find one error persistent; instead of each second line reading: "Inscription in: Black, Blue Green and Red with each Coat of Arms" it should read: "Inscription in: Black, Blue, Green and Red". The plate number check list consists of 5 pages and gives an idea to the collector what he must look for in this most elusive group of specialized items. We have seen only one collection of Masaryks complete with all plate numbers; it took almost an entire album to show them.

We recommend this album to those of our members who do not care to go to the trouble of preparing their own pages. Many of us are too busy to go to too much work with our collections. Some of us like to make gifts of philatelic material to friends; a good way to start a friend collecting Czechoslovakia is to present him with the complete Kobyłka albums covering the period from 1918 to date.

Kobyłka tells us that in a short time he hopes to publish binders with or

without slip cases suitably inscribed. If you are contemplating the purchase of binders why not wait to see what George will put out.

#### BILLIG'S 1955-56 PRICE LIST OF PHILATELIC LITERATURE

In the last decade or so the collecting of philatelic literature has made great strides. Despite the fact, as Edwin Mueller points out in the Mercury Stamp Journal, that publication of Handbooks is poor business and the publication of catalogs is very good financially, more and more literature is coming from the presses. In recent years several large collections of philatelic magazines, catalogs and books reached the auction tables and many items brought some fancy prices.

Member Fritz Billig has published a catalog of philatelic literature and distributes it for 25 cents, this amount to be deducted from the first purchase of any item from the catalog. It is invaluable to serious collectors who want to read up on the countries they collect, on forgeries, etc. We recommend this price list to our members and ask them to obtain their copy from F. Billig, 168-39 Highland Ave., Jamaica 32, N. Y. or Billig and Rich, Inc., 55 W. 52nd St., suite 629-31, New York 36, N. Y.

#### KATALOG MEZINÁRODNÍ VÝSTAVY POŠTOVNÍCH ZNAMEK PRAGA 1955

(Catalog of the International Exhibition of Postage Stamps Praga 1955)

This paper bound volume is a magnificent work of art and our Czechoslovakian friends can justly be proud of their achievement. Containing 240 pages with beautiful illustrations in black and white and a reproduction of the Souvenir Sheet in actual colors, the book is printed in five languages: Czech, Russian, French, English and German. The photos of leaders of State and the Exhibition Committee with letters of welcome to the visitors plus photos of the prizes accorded to winners in the competition help make it a very informative brochure. Pictures of glorious Praha enhance the work as does the listing of the city's architectural and artistic highlights. A most interesting part of the exhibition catalog are illustrations of some of the better items from the various exhibitors' collections. We have seen many catalogs of International Exhibitions but this seemingly unpretentious volume, in our humble opinion, is the best yet. We congratulate the committee on a marvelous job well done.

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#### CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE

Our members should know some of the people behind the scenes in our organization. One who works all the time is our treasurer's wife, Mrs. George Kobyłka. It is Bertha who folds the Specialists puts them into the envelopes, sticks on the stamps, checks addresses, etc. Another worker who never gets into the limelight is your editor's sister Caroline, who cuts all the stencils for the Society's publicity work and runs the stuff off on the mimeograph. The addressing of envelopes from the addressograph plates is often the work of another Kovarik, Mrs. Jos. Cerveny, Frank's littlest sister. Thanks, girls.

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#### HELP

During our show in November a Mr. Wm. Kleinschmidt, who gave as his address 1426 No. Kedzie Ave., Chicago 51, paid dues into the Society, but the Specialist addressed to him is being returned "NO SUCH NUMBER". Does any member know him, and could we be supplied with the correct address?



Members participating in our Show of Shows, 1955. Seated, left to right: George C. Kobyłka, Frank J. Kovarik, James W. Adler, A. J. Hrivnak, Roman Reinowski. Standing, left to right: Paul Marusic, Sr., Miles Skrivanek, Dr. James Matejka, Frank Zaviska, Peter Kreischer, John P. Velsk, Joseph Jiranek, Joseph Janecia and Frank J. Rosner. Photo by Zdenek Pivecka.

**FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE TREASURER**  
from Jan. 1, 1955 to Dec. 31, 1955

**RECEIPTS**

	1955	1954
Dues and Donations -----	\$762.08	\$ 346.50
Advertising -----	213.60	147.60
Society Circuits, 15 circuits -----	66.70	62.48
Sale of Back Issues -----	10.00	2.40
Chicago Show (cost of the Bond to be deducted in 1956) --	276.95	114.65
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1329.33	\$ 673.63

**DISBURSEMENTS**

Printing of Specialist -----	\$ 796.90	\$ 685.50
Expenses of the Editor, Treasurer and Secretary, including mailing of Specialist, addressograph plates, printing of membership cards, cost of envelopes & cost of banking	215.81	187.60
Deficit on sale of Vocabulary -----	208.75	
FIPEX, deposit on Cz.P.S. lounge and purchase of four publicity frames -----	140.00	
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$1361.46	\$ 873.10

**RECAPITULATION**

On bank and on hand, Dec. 31, 1954 -----	\$ 412.64
Receipts, 1955 -----	1329.33
	<hr/>
	\$1741.97
Disbursements, 1955 -----	1361.46
	<hr/>
On bank and on hand, Dec. 31, 1955 -----	\$ 380.49

G. C. Kobyłka, Treasurer

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## C. P. S. N. A. LIBRARY LIST

## Catalogs

- 1 Cross 1937 and 1942
- 2 Stach 1941
- 3 Katalog Sbératelů Č. S. Známek, edition of Filatelistická Revue 1937, text Czech.
- 4 Ekstein 1936 Plate No. & Comm. cancels, text Czech & German.
- 5 Sbératelský Katalog Č. S. Známek, edition of Tribuna Filatelistic. 3 copies 1937-38 and 39, text Czech. 1937 Edition mutilated.
- 6 Lekocův Katalog Č. S. Známek, 2 copies of 1946 edition, text Czech.
- 7 Die Flugpostmarken der tschechoslovakischen Republic aus dem Jahre 1920. A small booklet 36 pages—no illustrations. Published in 1926. Text German by Jaroslav Šula.
- 8 Tricet Let C. S. Postovny Znamek (brand new)
- 9 Zamstein 1949 Europe. Text German (bound)

## Following catalogues published by Hugo Kolar in Bratislava. Text Slovak.

- 10 C. S. R. 1918-47. 8 copies.
- 11 Serbia, Montenegro & Croatia.
- 12 Austria 1850-1918
- 13 Austria 1918-1948
- 14 Bosnia, Austro-Hungarian Field Post & Austrian Levant
- 15 Yugoslavia 1918-1947
- 16 Slovakia, Bohemia-Moravia 1939-1945
- 17 Russia 1857-1923
- 18 Germany 1871-1938
- 19 Hungary 1868-1946
- 20 Hungary 1938-1948
- 21 Poland 1860-1948

## MAGAZINES

- 22 Special Czech Issue of Stamps, Dec. 7, 1940. 2 copies.
- 23 Philately—Czechoslovakian Issue, Mar. 17, 1947.
- 24 Stamps, Oct. 11, 1941. Contains:  
C. S. Army Field Posts W. W. II by Lowey.
- 25 The American Philatelist, Jan. 1951 contains:  
Plating the 25 H value (Plate 11) Hradcany by Velek.
- 26 The American Philatelist, Feb. 1941, contains:  
Commemorative PM of CSR and Their Hist. Background by Lowey.

## CZECH MAGAZINES

- 27 Filatelistické Lesty No. 20 & 22 of 1949 and No. 10 of 1946.
- 28 Časopis Českých Filatelistů No. 8, 1948.
- 29 Zpravodaj naší filatelie Vol. I Nos. 7-8 and 9.
- 30 Československá Filatelie Vol. 5, 21 copies No. 22 and 23 missing. Following is same publication:  
Vol. II 1946 Nos. 7 and 17.  
Vol. III 1947 Nos. 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 22 and 24.  
Vol. IV 1948 Nos. 1, 7, 8, 12, 13, 15, 19 and 21.
- 31 Filatelista 1949 No. 9 (Slovak text)

## THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

- Vol. I 1939 Vol. II each in black covers.  
Vol. IV, V, VI, and VII 1942-45 Bound in one volume.

## Following are all unbound copies.

- Vol. II 1940 #1, 3 (2), 4 (2), 5 (2), 6 (4), 7 (2), 8 (2) and 9 (2).  
Vol. III 1941 Two copies of the following numbers 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10.

- Vol. VI 1945 Two copies of 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7.  
 Vol. IV 1942 just #2.  
 Vol. VII 1945 two of 8, 9, and 10.  
 Vol. VIII 1946 Complete, 2 of each, 3 of #10.  
 Vol. IX 1947 Complete, 2 of each, 3 of #1.  
 Vol. X 1948 only 2 copies of #7.  
 Vol. XI 1949 complete, 2 of each.  
 Vol. XII 1950 complete, 2 of each.

## RESEARCH

- 1a Printing Postage Stamps by Line Engraving by James H. Baxter 163 pp. fine binding. First Edition #24 published by A. P. S. 1939.

## ARTICLES (Tear Sheets)

The following are from various publications and other sources.

- 1b List of CSP Philatelic Societies.  
 2 The "Hradschin" Issue by Dr. Viktor Weinert. Source—Gibbons M. J. July 1924.  
 3 Czech Postal Statistics 1928. Source—Stamp Collecting 1929.  
 4 Czech 1938 Miniature Sheet by Lowey—Stamps 1938.  
 5 Prague Phil. Congress & Exh. 1927. Source—Stamp Coll. 1927.  
 6 List of Sudetenland Post Office. Published by the Canadian P. O. info. from German Postal administration.  
 7 A Czechoslovak Counterfeit by F. S. Poteet in the Am. Phil (100 H Chainbreaker)  
 8 C. S. Tabs & Gutters. Source—W. P. G. Jan. 28, 1939.  
 9 1930 Air Post Issue of C. S. and its Varieties by Guy Greenawalt. Source—Sanabria's Airpost News #18 1941.  
 10 C. S. Stamp Designs by C. C. Lance. Source 1941 Mekeels.  
 11 C. S. Engineering Pictured on a Boh. & Mor Stamp by C. C. Lance. Short article 1941.  
 12 C. S. Legions 1938 by Milo Barry.  
 13 Legion Stamps 1918. Six typed pages.  
 14 "P. C. 1919" Ten typed pages.  
 15 The Masaryk Mystery (TGM Portrait Stamps) by H. Stanley Redgrove. Source Stamp Collecting, Mar. 24, 1928.  
 16 Congressional Record—Annexation by Germany of C. S. Speech of Hon. Wm. H. King of Utah in the Senate of the U. S. April 13, 1939.  
 17 C. S. History of the 1918 Provisional Overprint—A short concise article from Stamp Collecting Nov. 27, 1920.  
 18 The 5th Ann. of C. S. Independence. Some Interesting Essays & Proofs. Source, Stamp Collecting Oct. 27, 1923.  
 19 C. S. an Aero-Philatelic Survey. Source, The Aero Field Nov. 1938. This article make a reference to Jaroslav Sula (our catalog #7)  
 20 By Post Across C. S. Reprint from Stamps.  
 21 The Postage Stamp of C. S. by Derek Ingram. Source, Stamp Collecting May 24, 1919.  
 22 Varieties of the Early Issues of C. S. by Lowey.  
 23 C. S. Memories by Frank Novotny.  
 Found this among the clippings. Should be listed under the catalogues or research.

STUDIE Razitek Rakousko—Uberskyeb v Ceskoslovenske Republica 1938 by Ing Dr. J. Peller 32 pp. 6 x 10 well illustrated.

## Financial Report

\$6.85	cash
.45	mint U. S. Stamps
<hr/>	
\$7.30	Bank roll 22 Nov. 1955



### THE CENTRAL UNION OF CZECHOSLOVAK COLLECTORS

#### Excerpt from the Regulations relating to the Exchange of Stamps with Foreign Countries for Philatelic Purposes.

The private exchange of stamps with stamp collectors abroad for philatelic purposes can be carried out only by Czechoslovak collectors organized in philatelic circles attached to Works Clubs of the Revolutionary Trade Union Movement and in the cultural sections of other mass organizations, in as far as they are registered with the Center of Czechoslovak Philatelists in Prague.

The foreign stamp collector must address his exchange consignment: Středisko zahraniční výměny poštovních známek, Hybernská 1, Praha III, Nové město, which is the address of the Center for the Exchange of Stamps with Foreign Countries. The name and address of the Czechoslovak collector for whom the consignment is intended should be written on a slip of paper enclosed in the packet. If the exchange packet should, by mistake, be delivered to the collector in this country direct, the latter is under obligation to forward the packet, as received, to the Center by post, within 15 days from the time of its delivery. If it is arranged that the foreign collector is to send the first packet, the Czechoslovak collector must instruct his correspondent that the packet should be addressed to the Centre.

Should the Center be obliged to return the consignment to the foreign collector, the cost of so doing must be borne by the collector. Philatelic accessories, catalogues, postage glues, photographs and other items must not be enclosed with exchange consignments.

Further it is not permitted to send stamps which are not listed in the POFIS CATALOGUE. Nor is it permitted to import stamps issued by any State with fascist motifs. The import is also prohibited of stamps which are not listed in the LIPSIA CATALOGUE or in its supplements. This prohibition does not apply, however, to new issues which could not be included in the appropriate catalogue or its supplements.

The valuation of exchange stamps is carried out as follows:

- a) Czechoslovak postal stamps are valued according to the POFIS CATALOGUE;
- b) Stamps issued by postal authorities abroad are valued according to an agreed World-catalogue.

A pre-condition or the crediting of exchange consignments is that the foreign collector should enclose with his consignment of stamps an exact list with reference numbers and prices as published in the appropriate catalogue, which the sender of the consignment must expressly quote. These prices are binding for the Czechoslovak collector who should not ask for any reduction. The Center will make a check-up of the value of the stamps sent from abroad according to the enclosed list only in the case of more expensive stamps. Nor can the Center settle complaints in connection with mistakes for which the foreign sender is responsible.

#### NEW MEMBERS

- 535 Mrs. Helen F. Bily Beller, 2230 So. Oak Park Ave., Berwyn, Ill.  
536 John Timko, 641 Bryn Mawr Ave., Orlando, Fla.

#### REINSTATED

- 262 George L. Schwartz, P. O. B. 48, Placerville, Calif.

#### CHANGES OF ADDRESS

- 403 Frank J. Rosner, 1542 So. Kildare Ave., Chicago 23, Ill.  
529 Garfield Perry Stamp Club, Hollenden Hotel, Cleveland 14, Ohio.

## Parade of New Issues

### New Commemorative Issue "Celebrities."



The Ministry of Communications marked the anniversaries of the Celebrities Hans Christian Andersen (1805-1875), Adam Mickiewicz (1798-1855), Johann Christoph Friedrich Schiller (1759-1805), and the American poet Walt Whitman (1819-1892), by issuing four commemorative postage stamps showing the portraits of these poets. The significant event is the 100th anniversary of publishing Walt Whitman's poetical work "Leaves of Grass". The anniversaries of all distinguished poets were commemorated by the World Council of Peace.

Values and colours are the following:

1. Andersen, 30 hal. value, brick red.
2. Schiller, 40 hal. value, blue.
3. Mickiewicz, 60 hal. value, carmine red.
4. Whitman, 75 hal. value, grey-green.

The design of all the four stamps and of the First Day cover are by professor Karel Svolinský. The engravings are by Jindra Schmidt.

The stamps 23 x 30 mm in dimension were recess-printed by the Post Printing Office in Prague in sheets of 40 copies.

Validity for postage from 27 October 1955.

### Commemorative Issue "The Constructions of Socialism"



The Ministry of Communications issued on 15th December 1955 four com-

memorative postage stamps "The Constructions of Socialism". The design of all four stamps are by František Hudeček, painter artist.

The stamps show the following motives:

1. 20 hal., green, a railway viaduct, engraved by Jan Mráček.
2. 30 hal., brown bistre, a railway-line (the viaduct), engraved by Ladislav Jirka.
3. 60 hal., blue, a railway-line (The tunnel), engraved by Jindra Schmidt.
4. 1.60 Kčs, red, Poruba u Opavy miners' center, engraved by Bedřich Housa.

All the stamps were recess-printed by the Post Printing Office in Prague in sheets of 50 copies. Dimension of the stamp design 23 mm by 40 mm.

Validity for the postage from December 15th 1955.

The design of the First Day cover is by František Hudeček, the engraving by Jaroslav Goldschmied.

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## THE "KOŠICE" ISSUE OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA

By W. L. Russell

Reprinted with permission from STAMPS

Those of us who had eyes to see might well have sensed the shadow of things to come in the first Czechoslovak stamps which appeared after World War II. These were the "Košice" issues, bearing the picture of a Red Soldier, the clasped hands, and the flags of Czechoslovakia and Russia. Issued to coincide with the return of President Beneš to his native land after the awful bloodbath through which his nation had passed, these issues were implicit in their unspoken statement that the country was to be absorbed into the Communist sphere of interest.

There is no question that President Beneš and top-ranking Czechs knew what was going on. There was nothing wrong with their lines of communications. It was just that things happened too rapidly for them, and in February 1948 the Communists seized power.

With what happened thereafter we are not concerned in this article. It isn't a political article anyway. Some aspects of the Košice stamps, however, will repay a little study and it is with these that we propose to deal.

## Red Soldier Design



The 2Kc. "Red Soldier" stamp. This value was used as the master die for the other two values of the set

The first of the series to appear was the Red Soldier design. There were three values in this set, and they were put into limited circulation on March 26, 1945. The "Clasped Hands" design was issued on May 9, 1945. Both were produced by the offset-lithography method in the VIKO printing offices, Košice. They remained valid for postage until January 31, 1946, in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia, and until February 28, 1946, in Slovakia.

The "Red Soldier" design had for its original stamp the 2Kč value, and this was used as a master die from which two other values (5Kč and 6Kč) were produced. A block of four of the 2Kč was used for this, and new values were superimposed over the "2". It is not difficult to understand that (the production-process being offset-litho) variations occurred. For this reason we find four different types existing in both the 5Kč and the 6Kč values. The main differences are the varying distances of the numeral "5" from the edges of the stamp, or from the top of the "K" beneath the "5". In Type I the distance between the top of the stamp and the top of the "5" is 0.8mm, while the distance between the "5" and the "K" is 0.6mm.

This spacing is reversed in Type III, where the space between the top of the stamp and the top of the "5" is 0.6mm, and the distance between the "K" and the "5" is 0.8mm. Type II is very easy to pick out; it has a large "war" on the lower left hand side of the small shield which is superimposed on the lion in the Coat-of-Arms. In Type IV the "5" is nearer to the left-hand side

of the stamp (2.5mm) and there is a colored dot to the right of the lion's eye. There you have your four types of the 5Kč.

In the 6Kč the same process of production was carried out and again there are four types, but which are totally different from the four types of the 5Kč.

Type I is not hard to discover, because the claw of the lion touches and merges with the white frame of the Coat-of Arms, while in the other three types it does not touch the frame. An additional mark of recognition of Type I is a dot after "Leo" in the author's signature.

Types II and III are recognized by a difference in the shape of the figure "6".

Type IV is the easiest to discover, because the left-hand side of the stamp, just above the "C" of CESKOSLOVENSKA has the frame-line missing from the edge of the cross-hatching.

It is possible to find the four types of both the foregoing stamps in any block of four taken from the sheet.

#### Clasped Hands Design



The 20Kc. "Clasped Hands" design, which value was used as the master die for the rest of the set.

The same plan of reproduction was adopted in this series, but the top value (20Kč) was produced first and became the master die for the rest. Thus there are no differing types in the 20Kč, but again we find four types in each of the Kč 1.50, 9Kč, and 13Kč stamps. These you will need to carefully measure with the aid of a strong glass, as they are not as apparent as the types in the Red Soldier design.

The 1.50 is probably the easiest to separate into types. The value tablets in this stamp are slightly larger than those of the other values, owing to the amount of space required for the figures. In Type I the "nose" of the "1" is shorter than in any of the other three types. The "K" has a much more sloping "knee" in the left-hand tablet than in any other type.

In Type II the left-hand value tablet has the "nose" of the "1" very close to the edge. In the right-hand tablet there is much more room between. Also the left edge of the right-hand tablet is not quite upright.

In Type III the spacing is quite different from previous types. Type IV has a slightly rounded shape to the "nose" of the "1" (left-hand tablet) and a slanting shape to the end of the "nose" in the right-hand tablet. In this right-hand tablet, also, the downstroke of the "5" in "50" is sloping slightly away from the upright.

The 9Kč types are principally differentiated by the spacing of the "9" and the "K". In Type I, for example, the distance between frame-line and "9" is 8mm in both tablets, and the spaces between the "9" and the "K" are the same in both tablets.

Type II has a space of 10mm between frame and the "9" in the left-hand tablet—the widest of the series. Additionally, in the right tablet the space between edge of tablet and figure 9 is the smallest—6mm.

Type III has the distances between frame and "9", and "9" and "K" the

same in both tablets, 9mm.

Type IV has 8mm between frame and "9," and between "9" and "K" in the left-hand tablet; in the right-hand tablet this space is increased to 9mm.

The 13Kč value is probably the most difficult of all to separate into types. We can best give the separations by stating the differences in space between the "nose" of the "1" in "13" and the frame, then the distance between the "13" and the "K."

Type I has 5mm and 10 mm left, and 6mm and 9mm right. Type II—6mm and 9mm left, and 7mm and 8mm right. Type III has 7mm and 8 mm on both sides. Type IV has 6mm and 9mm left, and 6½mm and 8½mm right.

In addition to the types we have already described, it is possible in the Red Soldier design to get gutter pairs both horizontally and vertically. This naturally means that it is possible to get a block of, say, sixteen stamps with a white cross running down center and across the middle. Such blocks are eagerly sought after.

Shades are very distinct, especially in the 6Kč and the 1.50, although they exist in all values.

For purposes of record, the Red Soldier design was the work of Leo Gajdzica, and the Clasped Hands design was made by J. Gajzer. The 2Kč, 5Kč and 6Kč are always imperf, while the other values are rouletted.

There was also a miniature sheet issued showing the three Red Soldier values. The stamps in this sheet are slightly larger in format than those which appeared in sheet form.



Miniature sheet with the three "Red Soldier" values

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