

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.

Vol. XIX

March February 1957

No. 171

EDITORIAL

With this issue of the Specialist your editor completes 15 years as disseminator of philatelic knowledge in the Czechoslovakian field. He is looked up to as omniscient in this field, but believe it, he best knows his own shortcomings. In one he is fortunate; since 1920 he corresponded with many philatelists in Czechoslovakia and Czecho collectors throughout the world and if he cannot supply information, he knows where it is obtainable. He is doubly fortunate in having an excellent unofficial staff: George R. Skopecek, translator; member Richardson Spofford who checks on the linguistic perfection in the feature articles; Mrs. George Kobyłka, expeditor; Mrs. Joseph Cerveny, who handled the addressograph (this task will now be taken over by member Frank J. Zaviska) and last but by no means least, our printer Harlan Miller. He (the editor) is happy to have a large number of contributors. For a Society as small as our's he has a staff of writers which is the admiration and envy of many of his colleagues. On this his anniversary he wishes to give public credit and recognition to members Zdenek Kvasnicka, Frantisek Novotny, Ladislav Kropac, Karel Basika, William L. Russell, John Velek, Frank J. Kosik, George A. Blizil, Mildred Glueck, Joseph J. Jiranek and all those others who in any way helped make the Specialist a fine publication. Thanks gang!

On several occasions during the last war we mentioned the Lusatians, a Slavic group in south-central Germany who have been under German domination for centuries and despite persecutions kept up their national culture and patriotic spirit. It was hoped they would gain some measure of autonomy but without any regard to the people's aspirations they remained with Germany but because of their location they are a part of the Eastern Zone. At long last a fervent patriot from this group was honored by the Post Office Department. Jakup Bart čišinský who escaped to Prague in 1871, gathered about him compatriot refugees and published poems and novels in their mother tongue. He was ordained a preacher but because of his fervent patriotism was removed from his parish and continued as a writer until his death.

Our members are aware of the Society library which is at their disposal on condition that a contribution of 10 cents per item and payment of postage both ways is turned in to the librarian. All three ex-librarians voiced their complaint about members failing to meet these conditions. The treasury does not contribute any money to the library which is supposed to be self-sustaining. Our present librarian has paid postage in several instances but we cannot expect him to do so always. We request members availing themselves of this service to meet these small obligations. While on the subject of the library, a word to those who are house-cleaning this spring. You may have

Czecho catalogs or magazines which are of no use to you. May we ask you to contribute them to the library? Your editor sent duplicate magazines to the librarian; others may have similar material. Help your fellow members with such gifts.

In the last issue you read Cross Stamp Co.'s advertisement of their February auction and if you asked for an auction catalog we are sure you were amazed at the wealth and quality of the Czecho material offered for sale. We asked the auction firm if it is possible to send us a list of prices realized so members could become acquainted with current values of highly specialized material. We have published auction results in the past and this feature was appreciated by many. We understand another large Czecho collection will be sold by Cross Stamp Co. in April. If interested it will pay you to write to them requesting the April Sale Catalog.

A member writes: "About how much do you look for the Czech Handbook to cost a copy when published? Did you get any action from your last editorial on the subject? I could advance \$19 if there are enough interested to make it worth while, but it has been so long in the making that it begins to take on the status of a myth." We'd like to answer this question.

Browsing thru the Weekly Philatelic Gossip we read:

The Dietz Confederate Catalog

This writer would indeed be happy to be able to report that real progress had been made during 1956 on the project to issue a new edition of this most important Catalog and Hand Book. But, the actual report is that substantially no progress at all was made, and worse, that the outlook for any in the near future is dim. As Co-Chairman of the Editorial Board, the writer believes he has done his full share, and he is continuing to do his best. Every new discovery of a Handstamped Paid, or other form of cover, a new cancellation or postal marking, Semi-Official imprint or Patriotic, College, Prisoner-of-War or other cover, has been photographed, noted, and added to the vast amount of such data accumulated by him. However, it is now from three to five years since the final proofs of the first sections of the catalog were corrected and sent in to the printers in Richmond, Va., and practically nothing has resulted therefrom. Many promises of a resumption of activity have been made, but none have been fulfilled. A further difficulty has thus resulted in that developments in Confederate philately during the past few years have been such as to make even that much of the completed revision work sadly out of date now, both as to new listings and as to pricings or values.

"What the final outcome may be, this writer has no way of telling. He must wait upon the printing firm in Richmond to proceed, and that they seem to be unable to do. As they hold all the cuts, forms and data, as well as the copyrights, their cooperation is essential. The writer will continue to assemble all the new data sent him and will also continue to hold himself in readiness to proceed just so soon as he is permitted to do so. Until then, or until some new plan may be devised, collectors and dealers are urged to report all new findings, and otherwise to be as patient as may be possible. The last edition of the Dietz Confederate Catalog and Handbook was published in 1945, some twelve years ago and copies are rapidly becoming a collector's item. A new edition is terribly needed—let us hope that need will be truly recognized soon by those who are in a position to see it satisfied. In the meanwhile, the 'Confederate Stamp Album,' the new monthly publication of the Confederate Stamp Alliance will continue to publish new findings, and if properly supported will expand that feature to a point where it may serve as at least a temporary substitute or stop-gap."

We are not the only people with publication troubles.

Among the letters we received is the following excerpt: "My reaction to the final status of the Chicago auctions. (The member refers to the benefit

auctions of the Society.) Many years ago when I was buying and bidding at auctions I donated some material and made some bids. I thought I was being liberal for the good of the society. I received only one item. I received a note along with it on being sorry I was so unsuccessful. Well, that was all right but it developed in the report on the auction what a lot of fun the group on the floor get 'overbidding the value' of the material by the floor bidders 'for the good of the Society.' I was glad for the Society to get this easy money but I noted mentally at the time that in the long run such auctions would be bad for the 'outlanders' as regarded future support. I noted personally that I would rather make a cash donation to projects I wished to support and bid at auctions elsewhere. It takes time to bid at auction and we want the auction to be legitimate when we get no 'floor fun' and just the work of preparing our bids. I might have liked some of the things offered. In fact I wondered if I did not get from Stach once something not sold from his material in Chicago, he did not have it before the auction, but had it after the auction. All this by way of review and just food for thought." In one of the meetings after our last show we discussed this same problem and thought it a good idea to limit ourselves to mail sales only. We may not gain as much money but we gain more in other ways.

In the past few issues of the Specialist we published names and addresses of Czecho collectors desirous to exchange stamps and/or First Day Covers. These requests are reaching us more frequently and we fear we may have to call a halt. Our poor collector friends may accuse us of selfishness but we cannot help it. Here are two more: Lada Voprsl, Jiraskova ul. 974, Pardubice; Jindrich Helekal, Palackeho 3, Sternberk.

CHICAGO GROUP MEETING

The Chicago group held its meeting Sunday January 20 in the home of member Kovarik. The following members were present: Dr. James J. Matejka, Miles Skrivanek, Frank J. Zaviska, George Kobyłka, John Velek, Joseph Jiranek, Peter Kreischer, Paul Marusic Sr. Paul Marusic Jr., Joseph Janecka, and our Toronto member Herbert Dube. Richardson Spofford called that he is unable to attend.

Most of the afternoon was spent in a discussion of the handbook. Kovarik read what he reported in his February editorial. Kobyłka, Matejka and Velek expressed their opinions and in the end Dr. Matejka promised to contact a printer he knows and Kobyłka promised to look into the possibility of printing by the offset method with set type. Some members thought of typing the text and then offsetting but the appearance could hardly be complimentary. Velek suggested that if we see that the Society cannot finance the project in a manner which would permit us to sell the book at a reasonable price we should turn the manuscript over to a publisher such as the Gossip Printery, Western Stamp Collector or member Fritz Billig. The disadvantage here is that the work loses its identity with the Society. The meeting was adjourned with a promise of a more lively discussion on the same subject again next month when the meeting will be held in the home of John Velek.

Next meeting of the Chicago Group will be held in the home of member Frank J. Zaviska, 3649 W. 63rd St., Sunday, March 17 at 2:30 p.m.

NEW MEMBERS

- 581 Edward G. Pobuda, 42-04 Layton St., Elmhurst 173, N. Y.
- 582. John J. Vojtek, 919 Rebecca St., McKeesport, Pa.

MEMBERS REINSTATED

- 350. Wilbur D. Knox, 2436 Freeland Ave., San Angelo, Texas.
- 496. Francis B. Ales, 1371 First Ave., New York 21, N. Y.

NEW YORK GROUP MEETING

Herewith is submitted a short report of our meeting held January 18th. Despite the bad weather, snow and freezing, eight members were present. Dr. Reiner-Deutsch was the presiding officer. Member Horechny showed his Masaryk collection and gave explanations where these were needed or asked for.

After that an editorial (from the February Specialist) was read and a long discussion took place. Several ideas were presented and the assembled group reached the following conclusion: That the handbook be printed serially on 4 pages of each Specialist in the middle as was done with the vocabulary. An announcement should be made in the Specialist that only those members who contribute \$4 or \$5 in advance would receive this section. At the end of the serialization those who contributed would have the handbook; all others would have to obtain it from the sections removed from each issue. It was hoped that inasmuch as the editor is retired he has more time to play with this work. All our dealer members would be asked to push the sale of these handbooks because indirectly they would benefit most from the handbook.

We have decided to hold our Exhibition Friday evening May 17, on our regular meeting night, at The Collectors Club. We shall invite only members from the New York territory to exhibit. In charge of the show are members Patrick L. Flynn, Lolly M. Horechny and George Koplowitz. There will be no jury. The Club has 20 frames and members will be limited to one frame each which holds 9 album pages. At least 10 frames to contain Czecho material, one frame for Society promotional material and balance for stamps of other countries. Some of our members have some beautiful non-Czecho material. The exhibit will close our season. All members are invited to view our show May 17, 1957.

We were sorry to read about the Society's financial difficulties but we are not an isolated case. The Collectors Club raised its dues to \$10 and \$35 per year.
—Joseph Stein.



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| 269A ----- .03 | 586 ----- .10 | Slovakia |
| 276 ----- .03 | 624-26 ----- .30 | 2-23 ----- 17.00 |
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| 307-9, 311-14 .50 | 629-30 ----- .15 | 38-39 ----- .04 |
| 329-31 ---- .06 | 639-41 ----- .32 | 55 ----- .05 |
| 331-35 ----- .05 | 642-44 ----- .22 | 62-64 ----- .75 |
| 351-54 ----- .06 | 676-77 ----- .10 | 65 ----- .03 |
| 366 ----- .08 | 678 ----- .25 | 70-73 ----- .25 |
| 369 ----- .02 | 681-82 ----- .08 | 74-76 ----- .05 |
| 377 ----- .03 | 691 ----- .06 | 84-87 ----- .25 |
| 386-87 ----- .08 | 692-93 ----- .13 | 103-107 ----- .05 |
| 388 ----- .02 | 694-95 ----- .08 | B8-10 ----- .15 |
| 389-90 ----- .10 | 696-98 ----- .24 | B17-21 ----- .10 |
| 391-92 ----- .08 | 699-705 ----- .52 | B21-24 ----- .15 |
| 394-96 ----- .32 | 707-710 ----- .55 | C1-9 ----- .25 |
| 399-400 ----- .10 | 711-15 ----- .38 | Ex1-2 ----- .06 |
| 401-403 ----- .18 | 716-718 ----- .14 | T1-12 ----- 5.00 |
| 404-405 ----- .10 | 719 ----- .75 | T13-23 ----- .60 |
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| 434a ----- .12 | 721-22 ----- .10 | P20-30 ----- .15 |

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FLEM STAMP CO.

5921 - 33rd Street, N. W.

Washington 15, D. C.

Czech Liberation Provisionals of 1945

By George A. Blizil

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Have you any strange looking overprints on the stamps of Bohemia & Moravia . . . strange to the extent that they are not listed in any catalog? Or have you noticed any unusual looking stamps bearing the name "Czechoslovakia"? If so, nine chances out of ten they are the "Liberation" stamps of Czechoslovakia.

These mysterious bits of paper are eagerly sought by specialists of Czecho. A few specimens are usually found in European "Collections Intact by Country" up for auction and are generally described as "not counted" in total catalog valuations. As a rule these provisionals are mere labels—souvenirs of the liberation of Czechoslovakia by either the Allied Forces or the Red Army in the summer of 1945. Only one issue has received a catalog listing in a European catalog, and that one is described as "tentative". Covers exist bearing these stamps, but most of them were prepared by philatelists and never saw actual postal service.

Two reasons are offered for the existence of these provisionals: (1) The Czechoslovak people are fervent souvenir collectors . . . in better days they made generous use of commemorative postmarks, souvenir sheets and folders (arsiki); and (2) It may be possible that the manufacture of these provisionals had in mind a comparable "Budweiss" issue. The Budweiss issue of 1918 was also an overprint on Austrian stamps and actually did exist as an authentic set of stamps at the time. They were recognized and did postal



About The Author

George A. Blizil has been active in the hobby for more than 30 years. Since the age of 10, he has been an ardent philatelist. He is past president of the Garfield-Perry Stamp Club, as well as this Society. As current Chairman of the International Relations Committee of the American Philatelic Society, he enjoys an international reputation. Among the high spots of this endeavor is the successful placing of Awards at stamp exhibitions in countries of the free world, as well as those behind the iron curtain.

Mr. Blizil resides in Cleveland Heights, Ohio, and is the Executive Secretary of the Cleveland Dental Society.

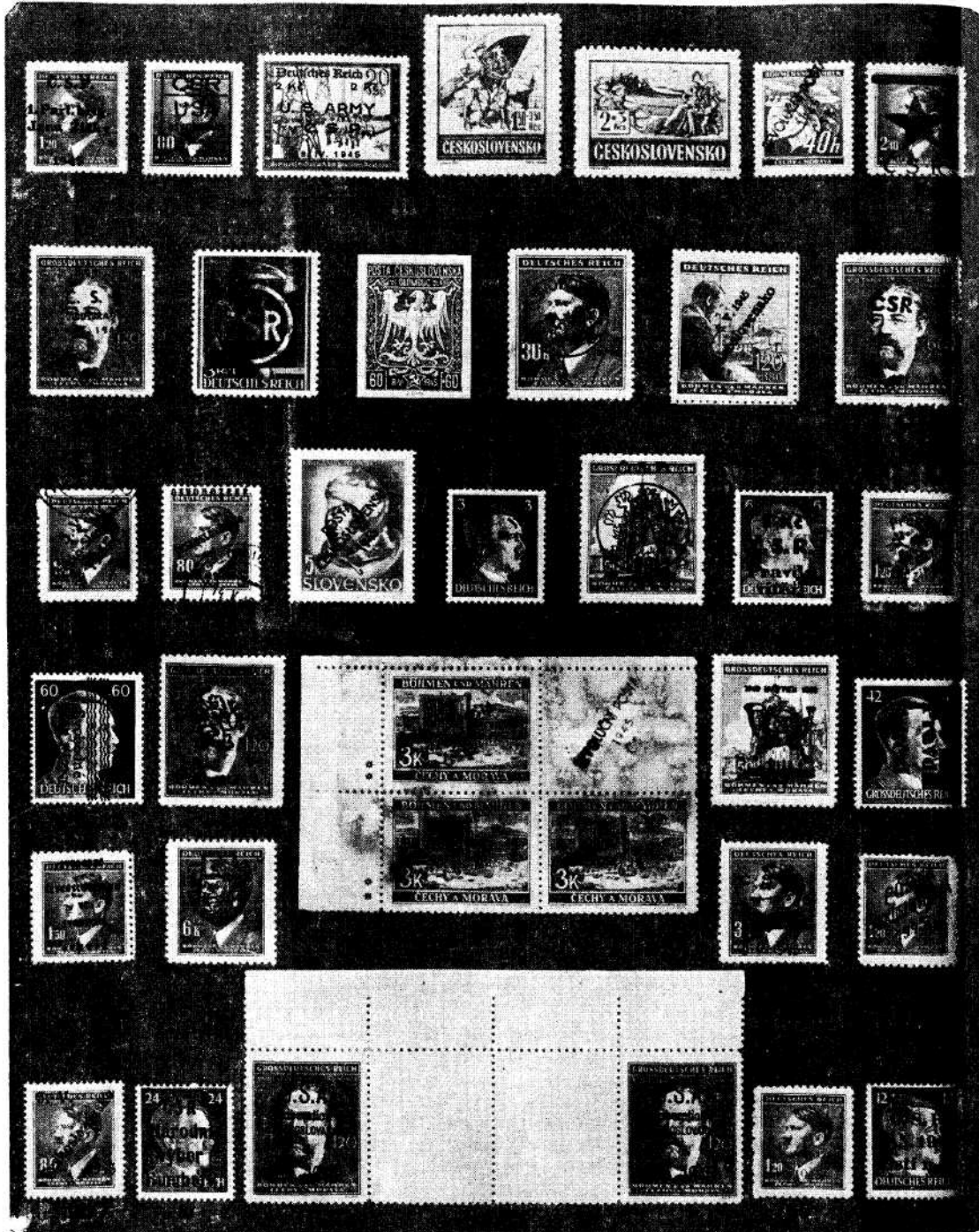
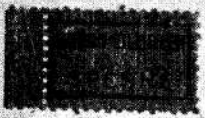
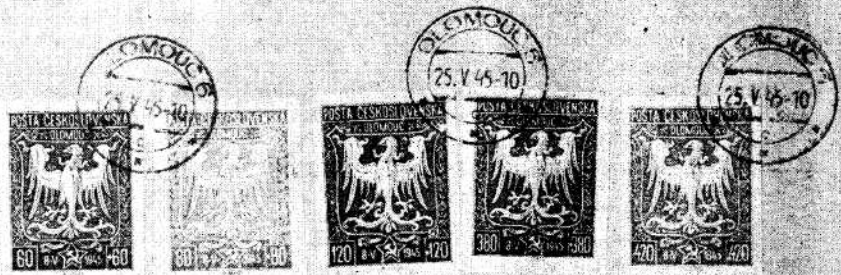
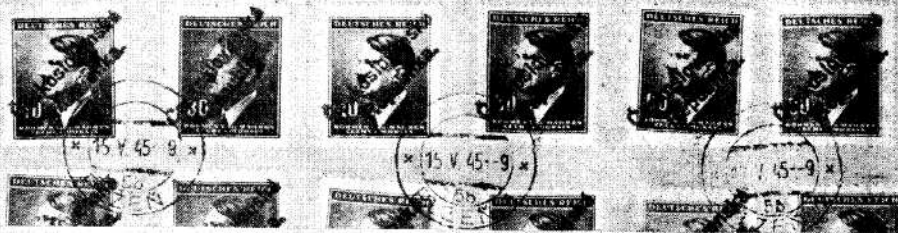


PLATE I—Czech Liberation Provisionals



Pan

František V e n c l
tajemník

R Oblast 6
Olomouc 6
16

P ř e r o v
Hranická 17.

duty, even though they were privately produced. Stamps and covers of the Budweiss era are the pride and joy of every serious collector of Czechoslovakia today.

Illustrated on Plate I are 34 different types of these 1945 provisionals. A reference to the plate will show that a majority of the overprints are on Bohemia & Moravia stamps. Only a few overprints are known on the stamps of Slovakia. New designs are few also, as typified in Nos. 4, 5 and 10.

The first stamp was produced in JANA ZIZKY and was sponsored by the Partisan Brigade, under the leadership of Karel Vesely-Stainer. This brigade was active throughout the Nazi occupation and Jana Zizky was a center of many railroad derailments, bridge bombings, etc. It was also a center of the Czech underground movement. This series of "special" commemorative stamps was requested by Vesely-Stainer and an attempt was made to use them in the post office. Letters were posted with the stamps affixed but the postmaster didn't service them and allowed the covers franked with these provisionals to accumulate in his office.

Stamp No. 2 on Plate I is a typical example of the popular PILSEN overprint. Its text acknowledges liberation by the U. S. A. on May 6, 1945. The overprint is quite common in black, but also exists in red (scarce), as well as gold ink (very scarce). A second type of Pilsen provisional is shown on the second cover on Plate II, which is a "manufactured" unaddressed cover. There never has been any official detailed explanation about the Pilsen issues.

Stamp No. 3 is the famed WILDSTEIN provisional. Wildstein was deeded to Germany in 1938, being located in Sudetenland. It is perfectly proper, therefore, that the stamps of the Reich be overprinted for the liberation by the U. S. Army. However, at the time of the appearance of this set of 7 provisionals on the philatelic market, much was written by the late J. W. Lowey of N. Y., a keen student of Czech philately. Mr. Lowey personally inquired about this issue in December 1945. He contacted the Czech Consulate General in N. Y. for an explanation. He also wrote to the War Department in Washington, D. C. It was learned that neither the War Department nor the Czechoslovak officials in U. S. knew about any authorized stamps for Wildstein. Lowey's suspicions were aroused when he challenged the statement "the U. S. 3rd Army found it necessary to alleviate a shortage of stamps for Wildstein." This statement appeared in new issue chronicals of American stamp papers. Wildstein was an insignificant community. The question was raised — "Why weren't these stamps sold at some larger towns or cities in the vicinity of Wildstein, for instance Cheb, or others where the shortage of stamps must certainly be expected to have been at least equally acute?" At the time these stamps appeared on the new issues market it was stated that a U. S. army officer had brought the "unsold remains" of this issue to this country. A strange procedure. Who was the officer and why was his name withheld if the issue was authentic? In a chronical at the time it was stated that "a few covers exist which were properly cancelled at Wildstein". This means exactly nothing! During the entry of the U. S. 3rd Army into Bohemia, that territory was a no man's land. A "postmaster" or "Czecho official" may have been only too willing to oblige when the request came from a man in the uniform of the liberating army. Mr. Lowey further pointed out that there was no need at all for an issue of this type at Wildstein—or any of the other hundreds of communities in Czechoslovakia in mid-1945. During the transition period the sender took his letter to the Post Office and there the clerk noted the fee paid on the cover, adding his signature or initials. At the time the Wildstein series came into existence, it was announced that 1200 sets were issued.

Stamps Nos. 4 and 5 is a two valued set from SKALICE. These stamps were planned by local philatelic circles for a whole year before liberation of

the town on April 1, 1945. The entire issue was produced in 2 hours at the Tekla printery—even while the town was still under bombardment. They were approved by the military commander but had restricted sales at the post office because the clerks were not sure of their status. A few covers did reach Brno and Bratislava. On July 10, 1945, the district postal Chief-inspector at Brno informed the Skalice postmaster that he was to immediately discontinue use of these stamps. The plates were destroyed that same day.

Stamps Nos. 6 and 27 originated in HRADEC KRALOVE. The block is illustrated to show that this overprinting was done with a rubber handstamp, inasmuch as there is nothing uniform about the angle of the overprint. The text reads "Revolutionary Post, 1945, C.S.R." Even as late as 1947 the writer was offered the use of one of these rubber stamps by his Hradec Kralove correspondent for overprinting any extra Bohemia & Moravia issues he had in his possession. This issue was strictly bogus and no attempt was ever made to send these stamps through the mail.

There are no details on the issue from CEREKEV (stamp No. 7). The large star indicates that this community was liberated by the Russians. Stamp No. 8 is typical of the provisionals produced in PODEBRADY, and stamp No. 9 is said to have been produced in KRUMLOV.

The low value of a set of 5 provisionals from OLOMOUC is shown in stamp No. 10. This set was planned about a year before it was released on May 25, 1945. Red Army officers finally gave their O. K. to the set after several delaying conferences over the incorporation of the hammer and sickle in the design. The Russians wanted the U.S.S.R. insignia featured more prominently on the stamp. This is the only liberation provisional set that received a catalog listing (Zumstein). They were placed on sale in three post offices in Olomouc. Cover No. 4 on Plate II is a first day of the issue. Altogether 50,000 imperf sets were printed on gummed white paper. An additional 1000 sets were printed on gummed white paper. An additional 1000 sets were printed on shiny glossy paper for the local museum. Two versions are offered regarding the discontinuance of this set; (1) It was sold out in 3 days; and (2) the Olomouc postmaster was ordered to stop use and sale of these stamps. Covers franked with these provisionals were sent to several towns throughout the Republic, although it was primarily intended to be a local issue. The gross receipts for the series was 733,250 Kcs (approximately \$7,000 USA) and that amount was presented to the Central Communist Headquarters in Brno by the Olomouc postmaster.

Stamp No. 11 originated in FRYDEK and placed on sale there by the local philatelic club on May 2, 1945. Club members who worked in the post office cancelled several covers "to order" with Nazi type cancellation devices. The entire Hitler series was overprinted. This set was popular and sold in CSR even after the Praha officials banned them.

Stamp No. 12 is said to have originated in KLATOVY. The "CSR" on No. 13 is not identified.

The overprint on Stamp No. 14 was sponsored by the stamp society in KOSTELEC nad ORLICI. The society also printed 2 types of souvenir sheets. These stamps never got to the post office but were mysteriously cancelled on covers. No. 15 came from LITOVEL, which was liberated May 9th. The stamps appeared on May 12th. A thousand sets of small denominations and 250 sets of higher values were overprinted—also by the local stamp club. Each club member got a complete set free. The overprint "Osvorozene" (Liberation) and "Rudou Armadou" (Red Army) was applied on TOP of the cancellation! The writer has other used specimens overprinted the same way. In all cases no complete dates are shown in any cancellation. This is a case of bogus AND fraud . . . the manufacturers didn't even bother with mint stock! Both Litovel (No. 15) and Kostelec nad Orlici (No. 14) are close to Olomouc and

that accounts for the "Olomouc" cancels on the provisionals (?).

No. 16 is one of the few Slovakia stamps that was given the "liberation" overprint and provisional treatment. It is said to have come from TRAVNA.

JABLONEC nad JIZEROU is represented by the overprint on stamp No. 17. Details on this issue were never made public. Stamp No. 18 is a pretty overprint and is said to have been produced in PISEK.

The town of CHEB (stamp No. 19) was liberated by the Americans. The words "Pravda Vitezi" is translated "Truth Prevails". The Mayor of this town suggested that this provisional be printed on all German stamps in stock. The work was done in a German newspaper printshop. There was more than one printing. The first printing used small hearts to obliterate the original value of the Hitler stamps. Later printings use bars, crosses, etc. Cheb is located in the Sudetenland.

The legendary linden leaf and "Pravda Vitezi" are overprinted on the provisionals of JICIN (stamp No. 20). As early as 1941 and 1942 the local stamp group planned this "liberation souvenir", and the Club's president, Eduard Capla, was sent to a concentration camp for violation of a Nazi law. At camp he met an engraver and there they fashioned the plate that was used to make this overprint. After being released in 1943, Capla stole stamps from the post office and laboriously overprinted them piecemeal and hid them for "the day of reckoning." The Jicin postmaster honored 65 registered letters on April 29th . . . sent by Pan Capla to 65 of his Sokol friends.

The entire stock of Bohemia & Moravia stamps at MARIANSKE LAZNE were overprinted as per stamp No. 21. The Czechoslovak double tailed lion on stamp No. 22 has not been identified, nor has the post horn overprint on stamp No. 23. The "Pravda Vitezi" on the 42 pfg. German stamp (stamp No. 24) is believed to have been produced in the Sudetenland town of NEYDEK.

The "Liberated Czechoslovakia in a Free Europe" overprint, as per Stamp No. 25, was produced by Sank Novatney, editor and publisher of the popular Czech stamp magazine "Sprovadaj Filatelistu". It was printed in PRAHA and he was assisted by Emil Stiburek. They planned this issue as early as 1940. News of the contemplated series of provisionals leaked out and Novatney's offices were searched several times for evidence. Novatney and Stiburek brought out of hiding their 1000 sets after liberation and on April 29, 1945, they sent a cover to each of their former magazine subscribers to announce resumption of the publication. The 1000 sets had a face value of 4.20 Kcs., and the proceeds from the issue were divided equally between the two men. Content of the letters went something like this: "We send regards to you the day before the actual Liberation. The stamps on this cover were prepared during the week of mourning for Heydrich. It is a souvenir only, for there are hundreds of provisional series like this and all are private. I hope that by the time you get this the war will be over, and I greet you. (signed) Novatney".

Stamp No. 26 has a coat of arms overprint similar to the 1910 overprint produced privately at Skalice . . . and could possibly be from that city.

Stamp No. 28 has not been traced to any definite city. The diagonal overprint on No. 29 was planned by Olomouc Postmaster Novatney and produced by a printer friend of his. Approximately 50,000 sets of a dozen values went on sale May 19th . . . purchased mostly by philatelists. This set was "surpressed" in favor of the official series produced by the Communist Party (No. 10).

The Brigade Commander in DOMAZLICE (No. 30) was a stamp collector and sponsored this type of provisional. They were not sold at the post office. Stamp No. 31 is one of a lengthy series that emanated from the Sudetenland town of RUMBURK. The double coupon strip of Smetana stamps (No. 32) is reported to be from the city of BUDWEISS. No. 33 is unidentified. The overprint on the 12 pfg. German Hitler stamp (No. 34) is one of the three

values produced in USTI nad LABEM.

There are several reported types of liberation provisionals that are not illustrated, but still have interesting histories. A collector in KOJETIN in Moravia, made up a supply of his own provisionals (2 types) and used them for post war exchange purposes. Collectors in KOSTEIECI u. HOLESOV (population 3000) overprinted 1000 sets of stamps with a diagonal overprint "CSR 1945".

The Chairman of the SUSICKE Philatelic Club, J. Langhammer, was responsible for the issue from his town. He printed his club's stock in secret before the liberation in red, gold, violet and black. The subject of his creation was the word "liberation" and a Czech coat of arms.

Hidden in his dental office for several weeks prior to the liberation of PARDUBICE, dentist Josef Kalmman started to distribute his provisionals on May 9th, 1945. Later he confessed that he was sorry he produced his series, which read "Glorious Days of Liberation", and admitted that such an act was not a credit to the hobby. He overprinted 8 different values in the basement of his home. A second Pardubice series was prepared by a stamp dealer.

Not illustrated is a series from JAROMERIC nad ROKYTNOU (population 2900). Their provisional series appeared on May 15th with a "red army Thank You". They were on sale at the post office for only 2 days and only 4 sets per customer were allowed. They are said to have been valid for local postage for only 3 days. On May 17th the post office was ordered to stop use of the issue and the postmaster sent 9600 Kcs. to the Communist District Office in Brno.

In BRNO itself there were 4 different overprints . . . all private on Bohemia & Moravia stamps. The town of SV. KOPECKU (near Olomouc) had a local series on sale for 3 days. The stamp club at BUDWEISS printed a set of their own (not to be confused with No. 32) which read "Thanks for Liberation. 5.V.45". These were issued after regular Czech government stamps were in use. At RAKOVNIK the president of the Rakovnik Stamp Club, Ed. Besorner, a printer by trade, printed several hundred sets of his own provisionals and sold them to Club members.

Dr. John Rydl of RICANEC (near Praha), president of his stamp club had his own provisionals, which he produced for local club members with a set of 10 brass dies. Another private issue was recorded at NOVE MESTO where 2000 sets were sold out in one day . . . to collectors.

The first provisional to appear in 1945 was at 12:01 A. M., May 18, 1945, in the town of SLAVKOVE (near Brno). It was intended for use in the immediate community only by the Committee for Liberation. They were not overprints but a set of new designs, 60+40H (monument) blue, and 120h+80h (church) red. There were 20 values to a sheet and altogether 6000 sets were printed on poor quality paper. The Slavkove postmaster sent 30 sets on postcards to committee members. On May 20th a special liberation postcard was issued also.

On Plate II attention is called to a privately produced series from PRAHA (No. 1) and the cover from HOLESOV (No. 3) is a handsome set of overprints.

The editors of the stamps magazine "Filatelisticke Listy" (Brno) gave up in despair the description and detailed data on these provisionals. Up to August 2nd, 1947, they had fully listed 32 different towns and it was stated at that time that there were between 200 and 300 different issues. No one can guarantee the genuineness of their issues. In Czechoslovakia today they have no value and are considered novelties. Recorded in their country in 1946, more than a year after liberation, were "new" series from private sources in the towns of Prclouc, Neratovice, Decin, Klatovy, Chomutov and Prestice.

On May 16, 1945, the Czech Post Office Department in Praha announced

that ALL overprinted "provisionals" were invalid . . . postage had to be paid in cash at post offices. Either this order did not reach outlying postmasters, or the order was ignored by local patriotic philatelist administrators.

The writer wishes to thank his friend and colleague, Karel Zahradnicek, for his valuable assistance in compiling the data on these stamps. These "provisionals" provide another interesting phase in Czechoslovak philately. If the reader studies the facts presented herein, he will know the true background and history of these stamps. As far as values are concerned, it is possible that a black picture is painted . . . but it is an honest one.

Parade Of New Issues

Commemorative Stamps "National Costumes"



The Ministry of Communications issued on 15th December, 1956, a set of four commemorative stamps "National Costumes" of the following denominations and colors:

1. Slovácko (Moravia), 30 hal., brown, red and blue,
2. Blata (Southern Bohemia), 1.20 kčs, brown, red and blue,
3. Čičmany (Slovakia), 1.40 Kčs, brown, red and yellow,
4. Novohrad (Slovakia), 1.60 Kčs, brown, red and green.

The designs of all the three colored stamps are by professor Karel Svobinský. The engravings of the stamps 1, 2 and 4 are by Jindra Schmidt, the engraving of the stamp No. 3 by Ladislav Jirka.

The printing of all the stamps was executed in three-colored recess print from flat plate by the Post Printing Office in Prague, in sheets of 10 copies. All the stamps are of vertical form, dimension of the picture 23x30 mm. Validity for postage from 15th December 1956.

The design of the First Day cover is by professor Karel Svobinský, the engraving by Jaroslav Goldschmied.

New Czechoslovak Current Stamp



The Ministry of Communications issued on July 10th, 1956, a single current stamp of 30 hal., light blue, showing the portrait of President Antonín Zápotocký, recess-printed, line perforation. The design of this stamp is identical with the same stamp issued in 1953, dark blue, comb perforation.

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