

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE
CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

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Editor Frank J. Kovarik, 8748 Rockefeller Ave., Brookfield, Illinois

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EDITORIAL

Our readers are indeed fortunate that we have so much copy for this initial issue of the Specialist for the 1957-58 season. We could write a lot only about us and our new home, the nice things as well as the frustrations and disappointments. In the 50 years we lived on Kedzie Av. we remember one cloudburst which caused some trouble but then we were only a boy. Upon our return from the service in June 1919 the city was laying a sewer about 15 feet in diameter thru Kedzie Av. We moved to Brookfield only four months ago and already twice we had water in our basement. The first time we were not prepared and we lost about 20 years of National Geographics bound besides other books from our library. We naturally lost household items, implements, tools, dishes, etc.; after all we were not yet fully settled. Our trouble came trying to jam furniture and junk from two homes, one of 9 rooms and the other of 6, into a really spacious house of 6 rooms with many modern conveniences, but woefully inadequate for a 50-year accumulation. We planned on a library and study of modest proportions; the flood, as it is called here, resulted in a nice spacious room 12' x 24' which will relieve the pressure in the basement. Incidentally, the second storm was milder and we played it safe by keeping everything quite high, the damage was nil. Despite it all we feel we shall enjoy our new home a bit more as time goes on; some conditions irk us, but we must either fight them or try to get along.

Soon after we took on the task of editing this amateur publication we contacted many of our members. Among them was C. J. Pearce whose hobby centered on plate varieties of the Hradčany and Allegory issues. Because of Bud's enthusiasm three of us pooled our resources and had printed mats made of the various early stamps of Czechoslovakia. Then we each purchased a quantity of these at cost but in the end we had plenty of mats left over so that our investment turned out to be a flop. Only a few members bought these mats. Imagine our surprise when a short time ago Bud Pearce sent us a check for \$6. One of our enthusiastic members saw these advertised in the Specialist of some 15 years ago, purchased a quantity and is greatly pleased because he can illustrate the varieties as Velek does it in his Hradčany platings. If you are interested write to Mr. C. J. Pearce, Coalgate, Okla.

In the March issue of the Specialist we published a reprint from the American Philatelist by member G. A. Blizil about the Revolutionary Issues of 1945. About 98% of these issues are tainted with commercialism; in fact only one issue can lay some claim to legitimacy. We had many requests for this issue of the Specialist and satisfied all requests up to the present time. One ambitious gentleman proposed to write up all the revolutionary issues

providing we publish it in book form and illustrate every variety. We are amazed he did not ask the illustrations be in color. We find it difficult to publish our handbook and then we are to raise money for this?

We are certain many of our members occasionally talk about Czechoslovak stamps at clubs and other gatherings. We hope they mention our Society. Your editor has a very modest collection of U. S. 1847 issue and was asked to talk about these at the Hawthorne Stamp Club of the Western Electric Co. During the talk about proofs he mentioned proofs and essays of Czechoslovakia which he displayed to them the previous year, and got a new member for the Society. Remember, member, do Thou go out and do likewise.

Apropos the above, just look at the list of members dropped for non-payment of 1957 dues. We are not surprised at those who signed up in 1956; they were carried away in their enthusiasm during Fipex. But how about the older members? Have they turned sour or is it lethargy? Let's get them back.

One Czecho collector whom we mentioned in the editorial before asked for an ad which he'd pay for with First Day Covers. We find it difficult to sell these and so give him another free try. If you want to exchange stamps or FDC's write to Josef Košťál, černošice čís. 138, Czechoslovakia.

When the International Philatelic Exhibition was held in Toronto we were pleased to meet one of our early members, F. S. Meisel. Ever since he became a member he has been sending Canadian FDC's to us and because Canada is one country we always collected, we are always pleased. Meisel was a Bata official who did not return to his country. We happily recall his solicitous attention to us when we lost sight of the left eye. As a rule we do not mention members who send us items for our collection, but Meisel's long service must not go unnoticed.

In our June issue we mentioned we should reprint the sales department rules. Our Sales Manager, Wolfgang Fritzsche informs us he still has a supply of these on hand and any member interested in the sales circuits, either to buy or sell may contact Wolfgang, Box 402, Geneva, N. Y.

The next news we can relay to our readers is that the October 26th issue of the magazine STAMPS will be a Czechoslovak Special. It will contain a very interesting article on the Siberian posts and stamps which is a result of much research and study by our member, Joseph J. Jiraneck of Cicero. Members desiring this wonderful article should buy this issue of STAMPS from the newsstands or direct from STAMPS, 153 Waverly Pl., New York 14, N. Y. Or, better yet, why not mail in a subscription for 1 year of STAMPS and thus insure for yourself both this and the special spring issue commemorating our Society?

You will note we are publishing the membership list. If your name is not among the paid up members and you are sure you paid, contact the treasurer G. C. Kobyłka, 1433 Cuyler Av., Berwyn, Ill. If you are not so sure send him a check for 2, 5 or 10 dollars. Do not complain if this is the last issue of the Specialist you get.

Going thru some of our old material we found an original copy of the Constitution of The Czecho-Slovak (Hitler day spelling) Philatelic Society of North America. If our financial condition permits we should like to reprint it in the Specialist at some future date.

NEW YORK GROUP MEETING AND SHOW

The greatest event in the history of the New York group was the first public exhibition of the stamps of Czechoslovakia (and some foreign) in the Exhibition Room of the Collectors Club of New York where the group meets every third Friday at 7 p.m. The Hall was opened a little before 6 p.m. and

in a very short time the members were placing their material in the 20 exhibition frames provided for that purpose. The editor was also there and soon he was surrounded by his many friends. Among them was one he knew even before the organization of our Society; this friend was brought as a guest by member Beck. Elsewhere in this issue of the Specialist is a reproduction of the program employed.

It is not the intention of the reviewer to place any of our New York members on a pedestal so we merely shall point out some of the highlights. Masaryks in all issues, perforations, watermarks, essays, proofs, varieties, etc.; Křivoklát corner gutter pair, the only one we have ever seen; Nitra 50h gutter pair; a sheet of the 5Kč Masaryk; Terezin stamp and its accompanying letter; plenty of Hradčany also in gutter pairs and blocks; 1918 Provisionals; Allegory tete-beche in full strips; the very intriguing newspapers and some beautiful air mails. There were also some fine displays of Romania and Poland, Boxer Revolution covers and Hungarian FDC's.

After the show which was dismantled by 10 p.m. about 35 members and friends repaired to Ryan's Restaurant where they participated at a Table d'Hote luncheon. A telegram from Dr. James J. Matejka of Chicago was read and participants received their award certificates.

Editor's Note: The New York group is to be congratulated on the excellence of their exhibition. With only a limited number of frames it is reasonable to assume the participants wasted no valuable space and strived to show their best. Your editor was pleased and happy to meet so many old and new friends. The attendance was encouraging; it is a sad reflection on the lack of enthusiasm of many in the New York area who could but did not come. It is difficult to point to any particular exhibit as the best in the Show because each had its own story to tell. Maybe it is a good idea that the entire show was not for competition; the judges would have a difficult task making a choice. At any rate we are happy to be spared that ordeal.

We congratulate the New York group on this success and we are sure this is only the beginning of a long series of special Czech exhibits in the New York area. It is a lively group and we wish it happy hunting.

CHICAGO GROUP MEETING

The last meeting of the season was held in the office of member Jos. Janecka in Riverside, Sunday afternoon June 16 and the following were present: J. Jiranek, Dr. Matejka, E. Barka, G. Kobylka, J. Cerveny, J. Velek, G. Havlik, F. Kovarik and the host. The meeting would have had a better attendance but this was Father's Day and some of the regulars could not make it.

The main topic under discussion was next spring's big stamp show in Chicago. About 10 or 12 stamp clubs will form a corporation which will put on a joint exhibition but with each group maintaining an autonomous status. The Chicago group elected members Janecka and Kovarik to represent us in this grandiose venture, which is really an experiment but which has the appearance and possibilities of future philatelic policies in the Chicago area.

Member Kovarik announced that because we'll have no show this year we should still keep the Society in the limelight and have our special Czecho issue in the popular philatelic magazine STAMPS. He told the members that our own Joseph Jiranek wrote a very fine article on the stamps and posts of Siberia and this will appear in our issue of STAMPS October 26. Our Spring Czecho Issue of STAMPS will appear May 17, 1958.

Kovarik also reported on the New York Czecho Show and thanked Dr. Matejka for his congratulatory telegram which was a moral boost to the New York group. He explained why the Group in New York cannot be as

fully active as we are because the area comprises so vast a territory, the homes there are not as large as those in our area and they are dependent on the Collectors Club or any other central location to conduct their meetings. Despite their handicap they are doing a marvelous job.

The next meeting of the Chicago group will be held at the home of member Charles Chesloe, 83rd and Wolf Road, Hinsdale, Ill. Chuck invites all members to bring their swim trunks to take advantage of the immense swimming pool his father owns. The meeting is scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 15, at 2:30 p.m.

The October meeting will be held in the home of member Egon Berka, 5475 Everett Av., Chicago, Sunday 2:30 p.m., October 20, 1957.

Sunday Nov. 17 at 2:30 p.m. the meeting will be held in the home of member George Havlik, 2336 56th Av., Cicero, Ill.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

- 172 J. H. A. Thivierge, 52-14 39th Ave., Woodside 77, N. Y.
 395 Jas. G. Zdenek, Jr., 8208 So. 36th St., Tacoma 66, Wash.
 549 George Cuhaj, 31-50 33rd St., Astoria 6, N. Y.
 583 Dr. K. D. Miller, 59 Fairview Ave., Madison, N. J.
 584 Dr. L. V. Fischmeister, St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Washington 20, D. C.

NEW MEMBERS

- 590 Steve Marton, 3697 E. 106th St., Cleveland, Ohio
 591 Jos. J. Prochazka, Jr., 1912 Heath Field Rd., Baltimore 14, Md.
 592 Alex. M. Jankovic, 5218 So. Green St., Chicago, Ill.
 593 Alois Cuda, 412 E. 78th St., New York 21, N. Y.

CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY — New York Group Box 606, New York 8, N. Y.

MEMBERS' EXHIBIT

May 17th, 1957

Collectors Club, 22 E. 35 St., New York, N. Y.

Frame #	Exhibit	Exhibitor
1.	Rumania —	G. B. Koplowitz
2.	Poland —	G. B. Koplowitz
3-4.	Hungary, First Day Covers —	N. Feiwelsohn
5.	Boxer Rebellion in China —	W. Fritzsche
6.	LaGuardia covers —	Dr. Wm. Reiner-Deutsch
7-8.	Stamps which are not stamps —	W. Beck
9.	Czecho—Special Items —	Dr. J. B. Miller
10.	Czecho—Rarities —	R. Secky
11.	History of the Society —	Czechoslovak Phil. Society
12.	Czecho—Special Items —	J. Stein
13.	Czecho—Tete-beche Blocks —	L. M. Horechny
14.	Czecho—Noviny Issues —	L. M. Horechny
15.	Czecho—Specialized watermarks —	E. J. Michaelson
16.	Czecho—Airmails —	Wm. V. Schoenig
17.	Czecho—First Day Covers —	P. L. Flynn
18.	Czecho—1945 Provisionals —	F. Stern
19.	Czecho—Masaryk Issues —	A. I. Kessler
20.	Czecho—Special Items —	A. E. Kessler

The Czechoslovak Philatelic Society, New York Group, meets every third Friday of the month at the Collectors Club, 22 E. 35 St., New York, from September through May. Guests always welcome.

OFFICERS

President: James W. Adler, 6452 Nashville Av., St. Louis 10, Mo.
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The above named are, in the opinion of your officers, subject to removal from the rolls because they failed to pay their 1957 dues. This issue of the Specialist is the last to reach them unless they pay their dues immediately upon receipt of this issue. We hate to see them go, but they must have a good reason to drop out of the Society without even a good-bye.



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The Two Dies of the Unissued 2000 Haleru 1920

By George W. Brett

Your editor and our friend, Frank Kovarik, has thrown me a curve and we have been simple enough to bite on it. Specifically he has asked us to report on the two die essays which were illustrated in the Czechoslovak Specialist for December 1954 and which are illustrated again herewith Fig. 2. The curve comes in from the fact that we have never made any particular progress in the collecting of Czech stamps and our report is based simply on a qualification of some sort as a lifetime student of line engraving—but still having a lot to learn.

Now to report on the two different essays would seem easy enough but inspection of each (kindly supplied through the courtesy of Frank Kovarik) raises doubt as to the type of engraving and a little background may be helpful.

The issue of 1920 comprised the 125, 500, and 1000 haleru denominations. The 2000 haleru was projected and not issued and therefore the examples that we have are termed essays instead of proofs. The 500 and 1000 haleru were issued on March 7, 1920, and the 125 haleru Sept. 24, 1920. The issued stamps were printed from electrotypes (a medium used in surface printing of the type that is usually termed typographic or letterpress) (Reference: The Czechoslovak Specialist, December 1955, p. 155).

In preparing the plates for this issue they would have started ideally from a single master die without denomination, engraved in relief. Such a die is not properly known as an example of line engraving, which is intaglio or recess work, but is instead the reverse of it, which is known as relief or raised engraving (like cameos or woodcuts). By a method of transfer secondary relief dies could be made on which the denominations would be engraved, again in relief. The original die we understand was engraved on steel by E. Karel after a design by Max Svabinsky. The name of the latter is at the bottom left on all examples of the issued and unissued items but that of the engraver is at bottom right on only the 500 and 1000 haleru and it is possible that these are the only ones for which E. Karel himself was responsible for. Now whether the Czech Graphical Union (Unie), who we understand did the work, was equipped to do this might be questioned (that is, able to transfer from steel to steel) but it is believed reasonable to assume that they were. From these separate denomination dies the electrotypes could then be made for printing by another set of transfers and electrodeposition.¹

Now from what little has been shown us we would put the issued and unissued items in three categories or classifications and rather than give our reasons first and then the list we will do the reverse as we believe that this will be more understandable:

- A. First design variation (master in relief?)—characterized by engravers name at bottom right.

¹—There is an alternate method that could have been followed. Insufficient study has been performed by the writer to check this but there could have been only one die for the 500 and 1000 haleru together and simply subsidiary plugs bearing the numerals of denomination only. The master die would have been cut out completely within the numeral scroll for this purpose and an appropriate numeral plug inserted each time as required. The same might have been true also for the 125 and 2000 haleru (first die). To determine this it would be necessary to check die proofs of these, if available, and see if there are any actual differences between the denomination pairs that we have given.

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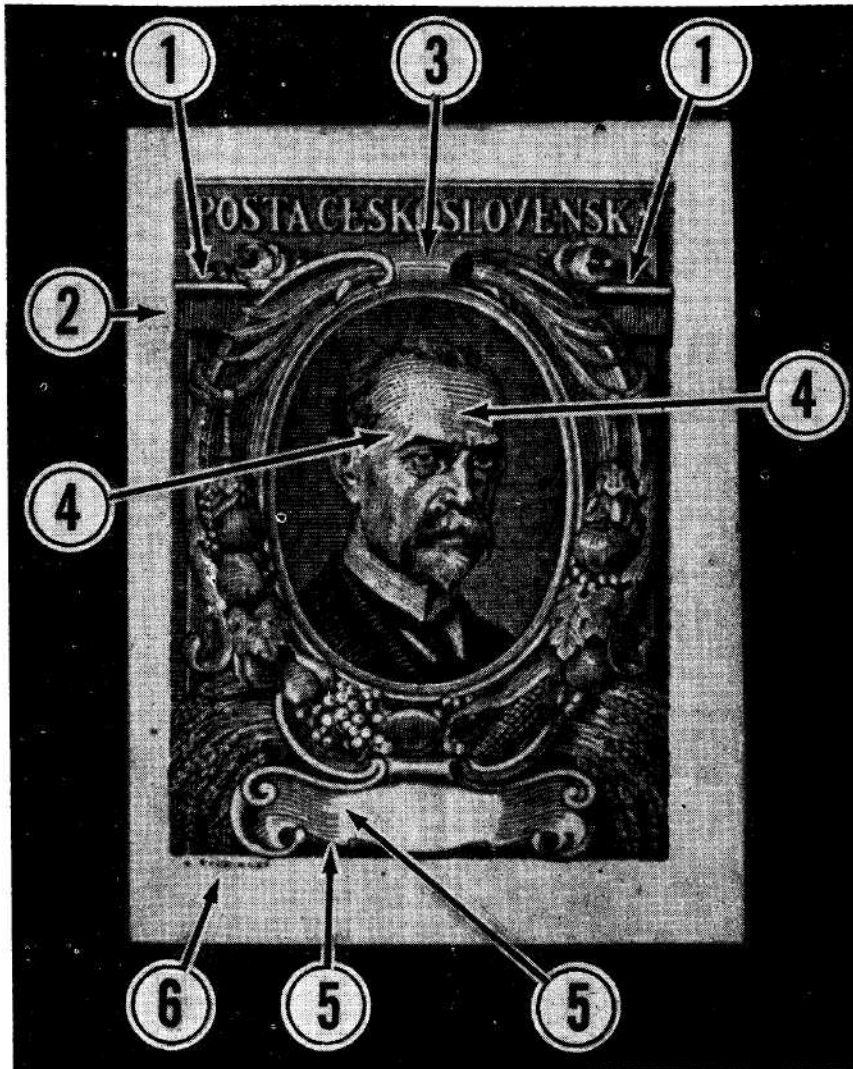
1. 500 haleru (subsidiary die in relief?).
2. 1000 haleru (subsidiary die in relief?) (Figure 1).
- B. Second design variation (master die in relief)—characterized by absence of engravers name at bottom right (Figure 3).
 1. 125 haleru (subsidiary die in relief?).
 2. 2000 haleru (subsidiary die in intaglio?) (Figure 2, left).
- C. Third design variation (die in intaglio), 2000 haleru—characterized by a large second zero in the numeral (Figure 2, right).
No evidence of subsidiary dies.

The question marks used above refer to the existence of the item and not particularly as to whether it may have been in relief or in intaglio.

Now we must immediately protect ourselves in having made these determinations and say that they are partly theoretical to explain what little we've seen in the way of material. Frankly they are based on five stamps (1-125 haleru, 4-1000 haleru); 1 plate (?) proof single, 1 plate proof pair, 1 plate proof block of 4—all 1000 haleru; 1 plate proof pair, 500 haleru; and 4 assumed die essays, one with 2 impressions; 2—category B, 1—category B-2; 1 (with 2 impressions)—category C). And now also perhaps it can be better understood why we consider this a "curve" that we have bitten on—but we freely admit that we have helped by sticking our neck out a bit too. And if this will stimulate consideration and perhaps cause the correct information to be secured from the Czech archives—if still available—then it will have served its purpose.

We are not going to detail the reasons for our classification but we will mention some of the differences between the three categories to show that we have not been entirely arbitrary (see corresponding numbers on figure 3). And we emphasize that anyone can take a glass and find many, many more points of difference and comparison:

1. Shelf that shows on both sides of ornamental frame below lettering at top.
 - Category A. Shaded by vertical lines.
 - B. Unshaded.
 - C. Unshaded.
2. Series of short horizontal lines making up left side frame at this same shelf area.
 - Category A. Left outside edge of lines nicely aligned.
 - B. Just below shelf the lines are short.
 - C. Lines nicely aligned.
3. The short central and roughly horizontal line on the curved scroll at top of oval frame (below "KOS").
 - Category A. Line is diagonal—up at left, down at right.
 - B. Line is slightly curved downward at both ends.
 - C. Line almost straight.
4. The white downward cross-cutting lines on the forehead.
 - Categories A and B. Many differences between these two in detail; also compare first colored line at upper left of left eyebrow (as we view the stamp).
 - C. Entirely different character to the lines—they are clearly not cross-cutting lines here but only simulate such and the colored segments between are dashes rather than practically dots.
5. Lines on left side of value tablet.
 - Category A. Bottom line touches bottom scroll tip; fourth line from top is shorter than others at the right end.
 - B. Bottom line short of bottom scroll tip; 3rd, 5th, and 8th lines from the top are short at the right end.



- C. Bottom line is half the length as on B; all lines are approximately even at right ends.
6. Designers name, and bottom left corner.
- Category A. Name appears as: "M. SYABINSKY"; corner and bottom aligned.
- B. Name appears as: "M. SVABINSKY"; corner and bottom aligned.
- C. Name appears as: "M. SVABINSKY."; corner and bottom of design not aligned. Bottom is short in a vertical direction between the short horizontal lines at left and the curve of the scroll to the right.

It is not expected that these points will be clearly seen on the illustrations

herewith but those of you having the actual stamps should have no particular difficulty. As far as the two 2000 haleru die essays are concerned the considerable difference between the numerals on B-2 and C is quite apparent and should clearly indicate to any skeptic that two different dies are involved.



Figure 1.—Category A-2, the issued 1000 haleru.



Figure 3.—Master die essay, category B.



Figure 2.—Die essays of the 2000 haleru; category B-2, left, category C, right.
(To be continued in next issue)

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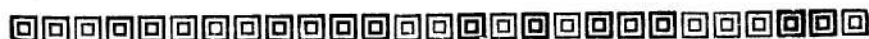
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