

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE
CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

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EDITORIAL

The Chicago Group meets every third Sunday of the month except July and August and as September's third Sunday happened to fall on the 15th its results can appear in the Specialist now. The chief topic of discussion was the Big Chicagoland Exhibition; be sure to read the report on the meeting elsewhere in this issue.

Before W. W. II very few groups held exhibitions; they most often tagged on to a bigger Society or held no Show at all. The first Show we staged in Chicago was with Chipex about 1940; this was perhaps the best Show up to then in the Chicago area. Our next Show was in connection with the Cicero-Berwyn group, also a success. All came to an end when the war brought us away from our hobbies to put all we had into the great effort. After the war petty jealousies crept in and many small clubs started to hold independent shows. The Chicago Group got on the bandwagon and its first shows showed a very nice profit; had it not been for these, we could not have afforded a representation at Fipex nor could we have published the dictionary. This success went to the heads of hall owners and hall managers who have asked for more rental every year. Our last show especially was a great moral success but a financial fiasco. We hope the new venture "COMPEX '58" will turn the tide and that philatelic shows will again be successful.

Our treasury cannot stand severe jolts and therefor it is time our members began thinking of paying their 1958 dues now. Up to this writing several of our delinquent members sent in their 1957 dues and we hope many more will follow suit. We cannot afford to lose even one worthwhile member if we want to go thru with our plans.

In the near future your president will write to several members to serve on a nominating committee. As we usually hold our meeting and election of officers during one of our shows, May 31, 1958 seems a very appropriate date. We ask those who are enjoined to choose candidates for the next period not to shirk their duty. The Society has acted creditably during its 19 years and we hope it continues for the good of Czechoslovak philately.

Some time ago we mentioned about the controversy which raged in Czechoslovak philatelic circles up to a few months ago. We did not care to enter into it, but we did get many letters asking us what we thought of the situation and how we view the stamps under fire. As a result we had Mr. Skopecek translate the opinions of Franek and the late Hirsch and follow it up with opinions of leading collectors in Czechoslovakia plus a report finally settling the whole issue. If we made it rather lengthy, pardon us; it is our desire to air it out and then bury the whole thing forever.

When the Chicago group held a Show and Auction in 1956 a photographer was on hand to immortalize the event by snapping all the members who were present at the time. Each of the participants was to get an autographed reproduction but three failed to get the picture. Your editor holds these copies and they may be obtained by writing for them or, better yet, calling for them in person.

The latest request for exchange comes from Jan Fara, Praha XIV Michle, Adamovská 804/3, Czechoslovakia. Unfortunately Mr. Fara can correspond only in Czech.

CHICAGO GROUP MEETING

The Chicago group met in the home of member C. Chesloe, Sunday, Sept. 15th, and the following were present: Zaviska, Matejka, Janecka, Velek, Jiraneck, Kobylka and Kovarik. This meeting was advertised with the added feature "come and swim" but because the day was too cold for aquatic sports, this feature was eliminated.

Dr. Matejka who is the force behind the idea of one but good show in the Chicago area, reported on the progress made. He read a summary of the work accomplished in the initial meeting which follows:

The following is a summary of the meeting held in the Hotel La Salle on Monday, June 17th, 1957, in Parlor A, at 9:00 p.m. At this time there were 13 local clubs represented, as follows: Austin, Czechoslovak Club, Jack Knight, Ogden Hills, Philometer, Roosevelt, Scandinavian, German, Evanston, North Shore, China, Precancel, Elmhurst, Topical. An agenda was set up and mailed to each of the representatives of the aforesaid clubs. The following is the conclusion voted upon by the organization.

1. Name of Organization—COMPEX (Combined Philatelic Exhibition of Chicagoland). The tentative exhibition will be called COMPEX 58.
2. Date of the Exhibition—May 30, 31 (Memorial Day) and June 1st, 1958, covering Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Thursday the 29th of May will be used to set-up.
3. Place of Exhibition—Hotel LaSalle, Grand Ballroom and Century Room, 10,000 square feet.
4. Articles of Incorporation—It was agreed to incorporate. A committee of Messrs. B. Hennig, Earl Wellman and Roger Swanson was chosen to draw up Articles of Incorporation.
5. Cost to each Club—It was agreed by all members attending that a fee of \$1.00 per frame from each club will be charged and that 50% of this be deposited to the COMPEX Treasurer by October 1, 1957 and the balance be paid on or before December 1, 1957. This money was to be used as a surety bond on the part of the clubs and will be used as a basis of dividing up the net profits. Thus if a club arranges to have 200 frames in the show, their share of the cost would be \$200.00, and they would have a \$200.00 equity in the show to be reckoned with upon settling up the profits. Inasmuch as \$700.00 has already been paid, no hotel deposit is necessary. (By anonymous).
6. Cost of Frames to individual members exhibiting—This is strictly up to the individual clubs of which the member was a part.
7. Entry Blanks—Up to each club, but early enough to get copy to Executive Committee to get in program.
8. Ads in program—Each club to sell sufficient ad space to cover free pages pertaining to said club. Original articles are to be included to make program worthy of being put in collectors' library.
9. Awards—Each club is to take care of its own awards and judges. No Grand Award of the Show.

10. Listings of clubs would be arranged on an alphabetical arrangement.
11. Workers—The handling of each club's exhibits will be up to the individual club. Each club would be responsible for its personnel, both erecting and taking down their exhibits. A delegate is to be supplied from each club to form the executive committee, and the officers of COMPEX would be elected by this committee.

He told the assembled members that more than 900 frames will be shown and bourse tables will be available for 30 dealers. In the foyer will be available space for participating clubs, to do their own private advertising, selling of their literature, etc.

The entire venture, while combined, will retain the individuality of each participating section, not only in the role it plays, but in the distribution of profits (or losses, should these accrue, Heaven forbid!).

Our Society has 144 frames and prefers to charge the members the same rate as CompeX. It is understandable that with so many participating clubs we may not be able to show all our frames and we empower our delegate J. Janecka to accept a just allotment of space.

All philatelic ads taken for the program will be accepted in the name of CompeX; other ads, those of non-philatelic nature, must be obtained by each individual group.

Our group is represented by Jos. Janecka, Jr. as delegate and Dr. Jas. J. Matejka, Jr. and Frank J. Kovarik as alternates.

After this discussion Kobyłka told the members he now handles about 200 boxes of cuts belonging to the Society. About 80% of these will never be reused and some which perhaps could be utilized are in a group with others and separating them may cause considerable distortion. Since the flood brought water into almost every basement in Chicagoland, platforms are being erected and in many places floor space from a height of 2 to 4 feet is cleared for a possible return of water. Kobyłka feels this loss much and suggested he be allowed to dump the supernumerary cuts. Members Jiranek and Matejka agreed to store cuts in their attics and thus, another crisis is avoided.

Next meeting of the Chicago Croup will take place in the home of Egon Berka, 5475 Everett Ave., Sunday, Oct. 20, at 2:30 p.m.

The meeting after that will be held in the home of George Havlik, 2336 So. 56th Ave., Cicero, Sunday, Nov. 17, 2:30 p.m. Use side entrance please.

The December meeting is tentatively scheduled in the home of Frank J. Kovarik, 8748 Rockefeller Ave., Brookfield, Dec. 15, 2:30 p.m. Finding this address is somewhat tricky. If you are coming from the east, hit First Ave. to Washington Ave. (3500 South) west to Arden Ave. (last street before bridge across Salt Creek), go one block north, your right, and then one block west, your left. It is the next to the last house on the north side of the street before you reach the forest preserve. If you come from the west, hit Maple Ave. (17th Ave., in North Riverside or in Maywood), turn east, your left, on Washington Ave., (3500 south), cross Salt Creek bridge to Arden Ave., one block east, turn north, your left, to Rockefeller Ave., then west, your left, to the next to the last house on your right. Clear as mud, eh? Before you make the real trip, why not a recon ride and visit Kovarik? You are always welcome.

CROSS COMPANY AUCTION RESULTS

Catalog prices are tricky and we often wonder what our stuff may be worth in actual money, what it may bring on an open market. We know that some countries may bring a fourth or a third of the catalog value, that superb items in some countries may bring above cat value while others may sell below actual face. Another thing to remember is that certain auction houses

have a picked clientele for certain groups of stamps; what may bring 75% of catalog with one firm may go a-begging with another. Certain firms cater to Czecho material and we contact these firms whenever an outstanding lot is on the block and respectfully request them to give us results of the prices realized. It is with a great sense of satisfaction we offer our members an idea of the true value of Czecho stamps. Cross Stamp Co. has handled more important Czecho collections in the past and they have a clientele which recognizes the true value of the stamps of our choice. We are confident we are doing a service to our members presenting dollar for dollar results of these important sales.

Results of Cross Stamp Co. Auction of June 8, 1957

(Philadelphia beats Chicago for the B25. 150h/50h error goes to Chicago.)

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

1918-20

1619	★	Scout mail, mint set, another tied, og, vf -----	\$6.25
1620	★○	As before, mint and used set, og, vf -----	6.00
1621	C	Scout, 10h, neat cover, backstamped, vf -----	8.75
1622	C	Scout, 20h, neat cover, backstamped, vf -----	10.50
1623	E	Artist designs, 8 diff. rejected, gummed, imperf, vf -----	4.25
1624	E	Similar, but diff. 12 designs, no gum, vf -----	5.25
1625	E	Similar, 14 diff. all perf, no gum, vf -----	5.25
1626	★	Mares issue, 1h-10k, invert overpt., og, vf, sign. -----	18.00
1627	★	As before, invert. red overpt, og, vf, sign -----	14.50
1628	○	Mares, Austria 145, 146, 2 pairs, one stamp of each with in- verted ovpt, vf, signed -----	5.10
1629	★	Mares, Austria 160a, 161a, both inverted overpt, og, vf, signed	7.50
1630	○	Mares, Austria QE2, strip of 5, 2 stamps, 3 blank labels, red overpt on stamps only, v. interesting, vf. -----	4.75
1631	○	Mares, QE1-4, all red overpt, also 1 black overpt, vf -----	4.75
1632	○	Budejovice issue, overpt, on 3h-4k, vf -----	3.25
1633	P	Hradcany, 5 black proofs, 3 col. trials 1 clear double print, all diff, interesting lot, vf -----	6.75
1634	○	12 diff. Hradcany, each with overpt. circle "Vyroci 28. rijen 1918-19", vf -----	4.50
1635	★	5h, 2 tete beche gutter pairs as block, not folded, og, vf (2) -	9.75
1636	★	20h tete beche gutter pair, og, vf, signed -----	18.50
1637	E	Masaryk, des.A4, 5 essays, (50h(4), 125h, diff sizes and pa- pers, vf -----	7.50
1638	E	50h, blk of 4, imperf, gummed (prepared not issued) og vf A4	3.75
1639	P	Nos. 65-67, 78, 79, green, imperf proofs on stamp paper og vf	4.25
1640	★	40h, width of sheet with tete beche pr & gutter pr og vf (71a)	8.50
1641	○	Nos. 71a, 73a, 82a, 3 canc tete beche gutter pairs vf -----	3.75
1642	★	60h width of sheet with tete beche pair and gutter pair, og, vf (73a) -----	8.50
1643	★	5h width of sheet of tete beche pair and gutter pair, og, vf 82a	8.00
1644	○	20h tete ecbe pair, vf (84a)-----	4.50
1645	★	50h tete beche gutter pair, og, vf (87a) -----	11.75
1646	○	50h tete beche gutter pair, vf (87a) -----	9.00
1647	★	1925-38 Masaryk, Nos. 95-101, 103-5, 105a, 106-8, og, f-vf ----	6.75
1648	★	1925 1k, rare, og, fine (102) -----	12.00
1649	★	1926-27 Nos. 109-118, selected copies, well cent, nh, og, vf --	2.25
1650	★	Views, wmkd, og, fine-vf (109-125) -----	5.50
1652	★	1927-31 30h-3k, selected copies, well cent, nh, og, vf (126-36)	3.00
1653	★	Views, unwmkd, og, f-vf (126-41) -----	5.00
1654	★	20h, marg pair imperf between, unwtmk, very rare, pl #1, og vf (141) -----	31.50

1655	★	1928-31 Nos. 142-51, 159-63, 165-67, 175-78, 184-86, og vf ----	6.10
1656		1924-30 Nos. 142-51, 175-78(2), one tabs at B, B133-36 each set tied by "First Day" canc, vf -----	4.50
1657	★	1929-31 3k-10k, blocks of 4, og, vf (165-67, 183) -----	14.00
1658	P	1930 Masaryk, die proof, slate, mounted, v. rare, vf (A38) --	48.00
1659	★	Masaryk, 2 sets, tabs Top & bottom, og, vf (175-8) -----	7.75
1660	★	1932 Tyrš set, og, vf (187-90) -----	2.10
1662	P	1933 Tyrš, 60h, die proof, red, mnted, extremely rare, vf (191)	48.00
1663	★	50h gutter pair, rare, og, vf (192) -----	31.00
1664	P	1934 Smetana, 50h die proof, green, extremely rare, vf -----	55.00
1665	★	Music souv. sheets in folder, rare, vf, signed (200a-201a) --	37.50
1666	★○	Souv. sheet singles, mint & used set, vf (200b-201b) -----	5.75
1667	P	1938 Sokol, 1k red, die prf, by prof. Seizinger, v rare, vf (242)	52.50
1668	E	1k imperf, essay in color of stamp, og, vf (A80) -----	22.00
1669	P	1k, imperf die proof in red, og, vf (A89) -----	22.00
1919 SEMI-POSTAL STAMPS			
1670	○	6h black overpt "Inverted" probably unique, vf, signed (B4)	275.00
1671	★	20h green, og, vf, signed (B8a) -----	7.75
1672	★	1k black overprint, og, vf, signed (B17) -----	7.75
1673	★	2k dark blue, superb copy of this rarity, perfectly cent, og, signed (B18a) -----	275.00
1674	★	3k, rare type, wide (25¼x29mm), perfectly cent, og, vf, signed (B19) -----	60.00
1675	★	3k claret, rare type, wide (25¼x29mm), well cent, og, superb, signed (B19a) -----	210.00
1676	★	10k violet, og, vf, signed (B21) -----	20.00
1677	★	10k deep violet, well cent, og, vf, signed (B21a) -----	16.50
1678	★	10k violet, granite paper, one of the great 20th century rar- ities of the world of which only 7 or 8 copies exist. This is the finest copy extant, signed by Mrnak and Tribuna. Cer- tificate Hirsch-Mrnak, og, fresh, superb, Zumstein #51B \$3750.00, Michel #62 \$4250.00 (B25) -----	1875.00
1679	★	2.50 on 3k, ochre, well cent, og, vf, signed (B38) -----	20.00
1680	★	30h, og, very fine, signed (B45) -----	31.00
1681	★	50h, well cent, og, vf, signed (B46) -----	75.00
1682	★	15h on 2h, og, vf, signed (B59) -----	8.50
1683	○	15h on 2h, vf, signed (B59) -----	7.75
1684	★	20h on 54h, og, vf, signed (B62) -----	8.00
1685	★	1f slate, unusual fine cent, fresh, og, superb, signed (B64) --	97.50
1686	★	2f-50f, og, vf (B65-68) -----	3.50
1687	★	70f unusually well cent, og, vf, signed (B70) -----	107.50
1688	★	10f, rose, og, very fine, signed (B71) -----	20.50
1689	★	15f, well cent, og, vf, signed (B72) -----	9.50
1690	★	3k, 5k, og, vf, signed (B88, B89) -----	8.25
1691	★	20f, fresh, the finest centered copy of this rarity, og, vf, signed (B97) -----	340.00
1692	★	12f unusually well cent of this rarity, og, vf, sign (B108)	245.00
1693	★	1f wmkd. Cross, fresh, og, vf, sign. (B111) -----	40.00
1694	★	5f, fresh, og, vf, signed (B113) -----	40.50
1920-37			
1695	★	Red Cross, blocks of 4, og vf (B130-32) -----	2.00
1696	C	Nos. 175-78 (tabs at B) B133-36, 2 "First Day covers" ----	5.25
1697	C	Jubilee, Olympic set, each on cover, vf (B133-39) -----	6.50
1698	★	Olympic set, well cent, og, vf (B137-39) -----	6.75
1699		As before, neatly cancelled & vf (B137-39) -----	5.75
1700		As before, tied by full neat spec. Olympic canc., vf (B137-39)	7.00

1701	★	As before on regist. cover, vf (B137-39) -----	6.75
1702	★	Sokol set, og, vf (B140-43)-----	5.25
1703		Sokol set neatly tied by full spec. Sokol canc., vf (B140-43) -	5.00
1704	C	Sokol set, tied to slet card, vf (B140-43) -----	4.00
1705	P	Mother and child, 1k+50h, die proof by Boh. Heinz in color of stamp, extremely rare, vf, signed (B148) -----	52.50
1920-30 AIR POST			
1706	★	14-28k set, og, vf, signed (C1-3) -----	5.50
1707	★	14-28k, imperf pairs, og, vf, signed (C1-3) -----	12.00
1708	★	14-28k, imperf. blocks of 4, og, vf, signed (C1-3) -----	25.00
1709	○	14-28k, neatly cancelled, very fine, signed (C1-3) -----	5.25
1710	P	28k, green trial impression on 200h, og, vf -----	5.50
1711	★	14-28k, perforated, og, vf, signed (C4-6) -----	11.50
1712	★	14-28k, blocks of 4, well cent, og, vf, signed (C4-6) -----	34.50
1719	○★	1918 Emergency overpt, 8 mint, 3 canc, all on Austria, diff. -	4.50
1720	★	13 diff. emergency post. dues, all on Austria, og, vf. -----	6.10
1721	★	Similar but diff. overpts. 18 cops, all Austria, og, vf -----	6.50
1724	★	1926 Postage dues, Error 50h on 400h (instead 60h on 400), rare og, vf, signed (J48) -----	33.00
1725	○	1927 "The Error" 50h on 50h carmine, One of the great rar- ities of Czechoslovakia of which only 6 to 7 perfect copies ex- ist, all used. As far as we can ascertain this is the first time that this "Error" is offered in an American auction sale. This is the finest copy known, well centered, lightly can- celled, v f. Zumstein #49a unpriced, Michel 51F \$1250 (J52a)	750.00
1726	★	1918-20 Newspaper, 5h green, marg gutter pair, og, vf (P2)	12.00
1727	★	1937 Nos. P19+21 se-tenant gutter pair, not folded, extremely rare, og, vf, signed -----	72.50
1728	★	Nos. P24+25, se-tenant, gutter pair, not folded, extremely rare og, vf signed -----	72.50
1738	★	10h green, imperf, huge marg, og, superb, signed (24a) --	34.00
1740	★	20h rose, imperf, huge marg, og, superb, signed (26a) ----	35.00
1742	P	500, 1000h, imperf. trial impressions of overprint, v rare, no gum, vf, signed (31, 32) -----	28.00
1748	★	1918 25k-1r, imperf. surch. "Balicky do Vlasti" (parcels to the homeland) used to pay parcel fees, rare, no gum, vf (31a- 33a) -----	36.00
1749	C	1921 Far Eastern Rep. 10k blue, vert pair tied to cover by "Czech. Army Fieldpost" canc. cover mailed from the Czechos. Consulate in Vladivostok to Dr. V. Girska, Praha, the first minister of external affairs, rare, vf -----	65.00
1754	P	1939-41 1k Prague Cathedral, die proof by B. Heinz, v rare, vf (A5) -----	37.00
1755	P	1.20k, Brno Cathedral, die proof by B. Heinz, v. rare, vf (A6)	35.00
1760	★	Tiso, 10k, imperf gutter pair, v. rare, og, vf (115) -----	23.00

WANTED

TO PURCHASE OR TRADE

1. Czechoslovak Essays and Proofs.
2. Czechoslovak Field Post in Siberia 1917-1920.
3. Czechoslovak Field Post in France 1939-1940.
4. Czechoslovak Field Post in Britain 1940-1945.

Should you have anything of the above write to

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PARADE OF NEW ISSUES

(Illustrations are half the size of the original stamps)

New Issue of the Commemoratives "John Amos Comenius"



Honoring the celebrations of the 300th anniversary of the edition of "Opera Didactica Omnia," the works of Jan Amos Comenius (1657-1957), the Ministry of Communications issued on 28th March 1957, a set of four commemorative stamps of the following motives and values:

- 1) Comenius Mausoleum in Naarden (Holland), 30 hal. value, light brown,
- 2) Comenius in his studio, 40 hal. value, green,
- 3) Portrait of J. A. Comenius, 60 hal. value, dark brown,
- 4) Graphic sign from the works Opera Didactica Omnia, 1 Kčs value, red.

The portrait of J. A. Comenius (No. 3) is the work of Dr. h. c. Max Švabinský, the engraving was executed by Jindra Schmidt. The designs and the engravings of three other stamps are executed by Jiří Švengsbír.

All the stamps were printed by the Post Printing Office in Prague, the stamp (No. 3) recess-printed from flat plate, the other stamps in rotary recess-print.

The stamp showing the portrait of J. A. Comenius is of vertical form, dimension of the picture 30 mm by 49 mm, printed in sheets of 4 stamps, the other stamps are of horizontal form, 30 mm by 23 mm, printed in sheets of 50 copies.

The Ministry of Communications issued two First Day covers, the first showing the design of Dr.h.c. Max Švabinský, engraved by Jindra Schmidt, the second, designed and engraved by Jiří Švengsbír. On the first cover there is a 60 hal. stamp stuck on, the other stamps of this issue are on the second cover.

Commemorative Stamps Showing Sports Motives



Ministry of Communications issued on April 30th, 1957, five commemorative stamps showing sports motives. The denominations, motives and colours are as follows:

- 1) 0.30 10th International Cycle Race of Peace "Praha-Berlin-Warszawa 1957", brown and blue,

- 2) 0.60 Identical motive as above, green and ochre yellow.
- 3) 0.60 Mountain Rescue Service, dark blue and gray,
- 4) 0.60 European Championship in Boxing in Prague, brown and orange,
- 5) 0.60 World Championship in Archery in Prague, brown and green.

The stamps designs and engravings are the works of the painter artists and engravers:

- No. 1) and 2) Zdeněk Brdlik, Ladislav Jirka,
 No. 3) Rudolf Klimovič, Bedřich Housa,
 No. 4) Rudolf Klimovič, Ladislav Jirka,
 No. 5) Jan Černý, Jan Mráček.

All stamps were printed by the Post Printing Office in Prague in sheets of 50 copies, recess-print combined with photogravure. The picture size of stamps No. 1), 2), 3) and 5) is 41 x 23 mm, of stamp No. 4) is 23 x 41 mm.

The stamps are valid for postage from 30th April, 1957.

Two cacheted First Day Covers were issued for this emission. They were designed by painter artist Jan Černý and engraved by Jaroslav Goldschmied. One FDC bears two stamps issued for the Xth International Cycle Race of Peace, to the other FDC are affixed the remaining values.

Commemorative Issue "Spring of Prague 1957"



On the occasion of the 10th Jubilee of the International Music Festival "Spring of Prague 1957" and to complete the portraits of the most outstanding musical personalities, the Ministry of Communications issued on 12th May, 1957, a series of six stamps showing the portraits of the following composers and virtuosos:

- 1) Jan Václav Stamic (1717-1757) composer and violin virtuoso,
- 2) Fredinand Laub (1832-1875) violin virtuoso,
- 3) František Ondříček (1857-1922) violin virtuoso, 100th anniversary of his birth,
- 4) Josef Bohuslav Foerster (1859-1951) composer,
- 5) Vítězslav Novák (1870-1949) composer,
- 6) Josef Suk (1874-1935) composer.

The denominations of all the stamps are 60 hal., the colours in the order as above: violet, black, grey-blue, brown, red-brown and green.

All the designs are the works of prof. Dr.h.c. Max Švabinský, the engravings of all the designs were executed by Jindra Schmidt.

All the stamps were recess-printed by the Post Printing Office in Prague in sheets of 50 copies. Dimension of the stamp picture 23 mm by 41 mm.

Validity for postage from 12th May, 1957.

Two First Day covers were issued; the first with the stamps showing the portraits of J. V. Stamic, F. Ondříček and F. Laub, the second cover with the stamps showing the portraits of J. B. Foerster, V. Novák and V. Suk.

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RARE STAMPS OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA

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The Two Dies of the Unissued 2000 Haleru 1920

By George W. Brett

Now trouble comes in when we consider B-2. For category A we can postulate that we had a master relief die in blank and two subsidiary dies, A-1 and A-2, with denominations added. It didn't have to be done this way but it would be one of the usual ways. For B we'd like to do the same all the way but the evidence as represented by the essay before us for B-2 is that of an **intaglio die**. Yet the characteristics of the engraving are such that it is obviously of a relief type and it quite clearly duplicates the details of the 125 haleru. The ink of the print is distinctly glossy and of such a character as would make one think that it might be a special process ink having a resinous component as used in raised letter printing—but certain features of the impression are definitely that of an intaglio source, particularly the traces on the back of **countersunk embossing**. The essay shown us is on a thin card which tends to camouflage the character of the original printing surface but nevertheless enough evidence can be found to warrant what we've said. However the noted points are partly contradictory and there is a lingering doubt in our mind on the intaglio character of this die so if anyone has a pull from it on paper rather than on card we'd like to see it. It is of course the customary thing to have high valued stamps produced by line engraving because of the greater security of that method so that there is nothing unusual in that respect.

Now we really don't know whether the 2000 haleru die (B-2) preceded the 125 haleru (B-1), or vice versa, but we do wonder how they got from one to the other—and if anyone knows how it was done we'd sure like to hear about it. We can postulate several methods but we'd prefer knowing. Actually from the character of the engraving, the basic or first die under category B was in relief, and as per the illustration shown (figure 3) it was without denomination. Without question it was a distinctly different die from the basic one for the A category and a good reason we feel for Mr. Karel's name not being on it. There is one thing that bothers us about it however—the denomination panel is blank and colorless. To be colorless on a relief die means that that whole area had been cut away. If this was done on the original die it means that the takeup transfer from this would also have to be cut away at this point so that there would be metal on the subsidiary die to be cut away for the denomination. The two prints of this die that we have examined are clearly from a design in relief and so this must be what was done.²

The die represented by category C is definitely an intaglio die (and the essay seen clearly shows countersunk embossing on the back). It is patterned or copied after category B, rather than A—the occurrence of the colorless shelf (difference point 1) is enough to indicate that relationship—but it is a distinctly different die from A or B types. The fact that it follows closely the relief die B does not mean any more than that—that that is just what they tried to do. If anyone doubts the ability of an engraver to copy a piece of work very closely let them compare the U. S. 5c and 10c designs on the 1947 souvenir sheet with the originals of 1847. Also most engravers are capable of doing both intaglio and relief-type work. Relief work is harder but the tools used are the same and also the medium. Somewhat different techniques can be used however—for example, the cross-cutting white lines are best exemplified in relief work while colored cross-hatching is characteristic of intaglio work. And generally speaking the cuts have to be deeper in making relief dies so that the ink won't fill in those areas later and smudge the

²—See however an alternative as given in footnote 1.

printing. And for examples of relief type engraving on U. S. issues performed by the same engravers who do intaglio work take a look at recent postal cards. The 1c Jefferson and 2c Franklin are such examples (not the special Fipex or the new foreign rate cards issued in November 1956).

Chronologically our guess would be, on what we've seen, that the Czech dies here considered were developed in the order that we have listed them in the three categories.

Now then it is up to you folks to tear down or support this structure that we have set up. But make no mistake about it there were two different 2000 haleru dies, and as we see it now they were both intaglio and the first attempts—so Frank Kovarik tells us—at line engraving for Czech stamps.

We have been assisted by G. William Patten who graciously supplied the art work in connection with Figure 3 and the Buckingham Studios, Inc., who supplied the photograph. Obviously Frank Kovarik has also had a lot to do with it, including a lot of patience.

TURČIANSKÝ SV. MARTIN

This small town has long been the center of Slovak national culture. It is the seat of Slovenska Matica, a society for the promotion of national art, culture and industry. Štefan Moyses was its founder and first president. A fine collection of national art and memorials of all kinds was housed there. The Magyars, alarmed at the renaissance of Slovak spirit, dissolved the society and confiscated all treasures and property and removed the best to Budapest in 1875. In 1896 a Slovak Museum was opened as a limited company so that the Magyars could not touch it. Here, on Oct. 30, 1918, the Slovak National Council issued a manifesto to the effect that the Slovaks considered themselves an integral part of the Czech nation.

The 4K stamp of Partisan Series, issued in 1945, shows the town.



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THE GREAT CONTROVERSY IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

An introduction by your editor

About a year or more ago an article written by Franek in *Filatelie*, co-author with Hirsch on the finest monograph dealing with the stamps of Czechoslovakian stamps from 1918 to 1934 repudiated the validity and collectibility of the so-called Revolutionary issues. This spark put the entire Czechoslovak philatelic into combat outfits; those who had the stamps maintained they were valid postal issues and those who didn't have them claimed they had no right in any philatelic collection. At the outset your editor paid little heed to the claims of either party, but eventually he had to take sides. That he is neutral is evidenced by the fact that until two weeks ago he was not interested in these issues. When our Australian member, Mr. Russell, offered for publication a translation concerning these issues from the *Hirsch and Franek Handbook*, the articles were accepted because your editor believed that for the specialist in the stamps of Czechoslovakia these issues had more than passing interest. What claim did your editor have? These stamps were accepted in the posts with unoverprinted Austrian and Hungarian stamps. True, they may have been unnecessary, but they showed to the world that a nation was re-born and that it was separate from the Austro-Hungarian Empire which collapsed with the end of World War I. The overprints on Austria were prepared by civilians; the overprints on Hungary for Slovakian territory were issued by Mr. Šrobár, a government official and Minister for the Territory of Slovakia. Even if a distinction had to be made, the latter must be considered official issues. In the controversy other issues were maligned as the reader learns reading the context. The big claim is that the stamps were unnecessary. Postage stamps have been in use for more than 117 years. In 1893 the United States Government issued a series of stamps to commemorate the discovery of the New World by Columbus and the Postmaster General of that time, John Wanamaker, claimed that the stamps in question would enhance the treasury. Since then hundreds, aye, thousands of unnecessary stamps were produced thruout the world but all were valid for postage and most of them had less claim to existence than the Revolutionary issues of Czechoslovakia.

We shall never forget when one of our late members, Charles Waldmann, showed these stamps, together with trial printings, trial overprints, etc., at a meeting of the Chicago Philatelic Society shortly before his untimely death. We recall vividly his enthusiasm when he told of his experiences of that memorable October 28, 1918 in Praha. As long as we live we shall recall the ring in Charles' words: "Gentlemen, I was there! I was present at the renaissance of a nation dead for 300 years! Can you blame this people, after three centuries of political and economic slavery, to proclaim to the world their new freedom and independence?"

Our position as your editor has placed us in an enviable position and we realize our duty. We were born in Chicago of immigrant parents. Our Mother could never forget her birthright and diligently saw to it that her children learned the language of their forefathers. In our home Czech is used as much as English. While only the oldest of the seven children mastered the Czech language, all of them are conversant in it. We shouldn't want to exchange our American birthright for what the old country has to offer, but we can sympathize with our cousins and our daily prayers shall be that they continue to live in the traditions of their forebears and eventually grow to the stature to which Nature and God brought them upon this earth. Our Dad is still with us. He does not want to return to his homeland, even for a short visit, for fear he may say something not consistent with the prevalent ideas fostered by the present regime.

In this group of articles under one common heading we bring before you the whole story. We have written to leading collectors of Czechoslovakia asking their opinion on this subject. Some asked us to withhold their names from publication fearing there may be a political twist to the controversy. Be that as it may, we shall conclude this short tirade with these words:

These stamps are collectible to the specialist and a general collector can show them without harm to his reputation. Scott is not a god! These controversial stamps have been permitted in the mails and "were demonetized with Austrian and Hungarian stamps." This seems to have given tacit approval to their use in the days before the Hradčany were made obligatory. The Šrobár issue in Slovakia had a longer life because the new stamps could not be forwarded as rapidly as they were in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia.

We predict that within the next decade these stamps will be listed in the general catalogs of this country. The deletion so far is due to ignorance of the true situation.

The Great Controversy

REVOLUTIONARY STAMPS OF 1918

Jaroslav Franěk, a former philatelic journalist, requested the editors of PHILATELIE to publish his article REVOLUTIONARY STAMPS OF 1918. In this article the author is endeavoring to explain the source of these "stamps".

The editors, jointly with the Central of the Czechoslovak Philatelists present the article to the public without comment, at present, in hope that it will help objectively to judge this controversial affair.

Ervin Hirsch also offered to the editors an article on the same subject. His article will be published following the one by Jaroslav Franěk.

In 1918 there erupted a rash of so-called Revolutionary stamps, issues of Praha, Budějovice and Slovakia, to which we can add the Siberian Lions. All catalogues listed them at high prices and the collectors gobbled them up as valuable documents of the transition period. In 1945, on the liberation from the Nazi occupation, a similarly deplorable condition sprang up. Collectors were offered many of the so-called revolutionary issues. This time, however, no catalogues listed these labels and so, with the exception of a few who were interested, no one collected them.

Reading the various opinions about these Revolutionary issues, one would think that there really were different backgrounds to these two issues. I will show that the difference was not in the stamps or their issuers, but in the collectors, their organizations and the opinions of the philatelic press.

In 1918 a coterie of clever operators printed, or had printed for them the Revolutionary stamps and were fortunate enough that the philatelic press was not very alert or of high character. In 1945, a great many small operators, issued or had issued for them in numerous places overprints on stamps. They only copied the methods of the 1918 clique and hoped to reap great profits for themselves. However the *Rozhledy Filatelistů* of June 4, 1945 blasted their hopes, showing the stamps to be a pure speculation and unneeded and so made the promoters a laughing stock.

That I am turning to the 1918 revolutionary issues critically and in detail, is only in the hope that I can aid in cleansing our philately before death hushes me forever. Personally, I do not remember the philatelic occurrences of 1918-20, as my first philatelic efforts appeared in the "*Tribuna Filatelistů*" only in 1925. The news of the years 1918-1924 are gleaned from the scanty information contained in the philatelic press of that time. The reason I did

not follow up the revolutionary issues during my 30 years of philatelic work will be evident from the following.

The first news of the revolutionary issues was printed in "Český Filatelista" Jan. 1919. It said:

"Regarding the overprinting with the Czechoslovak Lion or the Escutcheon of the Czechoslovak Republic which was performed by the Revolutionary Committee in Praha or by private individuals elsewhere on Austrian stamps, and the use of these stamps the Committee of the Club of the Czechoslovak Philatelists informs us that these overprints were not issued by the Czechoslovak Government and that stamps so overprinted were accepted by the postal employees only by mistake."

With this short quote, the only philatelic publication expected to satisfy the readers on this very live issue, alluding somewhat superficially and inexpertly to the first Czechoslovak stamps that they were partly perforated, partly imperforate Austrian stamps overprinted with the Tyrolean eagle and similar other overprints, but went into great detail about the emergency issues manufactured by postal officials in different towns by overprinting Austrian stamps or Czechoslovakian current and newspaper stamps.

In the next number of "Český Filatelista" a member of the Klub Českých Filatelistů, one Mr. J. Rössler-Ořovský wrote as follows:

"It is not right to claim that the first and second overprint of Austrian stamps accomplished by the Commission and approved by the National Committee was permitted to be used in Praha and its suburbs only by mistake. It is not so; the postal officials expected the overprint, because at the suggestion of the National Committee the Czechoslovak Press Office advertised these overprints in newspapers. At that time there was no Government, so our Committee had full power to suggest such overprints. Officially, the overprints were not made, because no acceptable design was presented. However, overprinted stamps were in use from the beginning of November to the 14th of November 1918".

This communication the "Český Filatelista" printed without comment. Other lamentably scarce information about the new Czechoslovak stamps included notes about the clock in the tower, a dot after the numeral 200 and about the sale of printers' waste by the Post Office and its distribution.

No. 3 of the "Český Filatelista" warns against buying Austrian stamps overprinted "Československá Republika", Budějovice overprints of the Horner type and the second counterfeit of the Mareš type. The journal did not describe any of the stamps against which it was warning and as the Mareš overprints were not mentioned in this warning, they were apparently approved. What simplicity!

In no. 4 of the "Český Filatelista" it was announced that Karel Levec was expelled from the Klub Českých Filatelistů without giving any reason, but probably for putting out the "Československá Republika" overprint.

Rudolf Pilát, director of the Tradebank, wrote in no. 5 of the "Český Filatelista" the following about the source of the Revolutionary overprints in Slovakia:

(To be continued)

STREČNO

This castle, located near Žilina, stands on a steep rock, jutting into the river Váh. Founded in the 13th century, it was destroyed by Emperor Leopold in 1698. On the opposite bank of the river, a little ways downstream, stands Starý Hrad, similar to Shrečno. Both castles are now in ruins.

In 1936 a 2.50K stamp was issued and another stamp in 1945.



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