

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

This month marks a mile stone in the history of our Society. For twenty years your Society through its officers and members worked hard to build for itself a niche in American philately. It was hard, up-hill work. Only a very small number of members realize this. Few know that a mere half dozen members, through financial sacrifice, kept the spark of life glowing from the time of the Munich Pact up to the end of WW II.

Your Society has passed through several hard crises. The first came soon after our organization when Hitler's hordes robbed the Republic of its Maginot line of defense; then came Poland grabbing the Teschin area and finally Hungary stealing everything around Slovakia plus all of Carpatho-Ukrainia. In our handbook we present a map showing these wholesale grabs; it is difficult to understand why Poland and Hungary helped the Nazis or why Slovakia entered the enemy camp as an ally. Yet in our own private lives such situations arise.

At a recent meeting of our Chicago group it was decided that our handbook should be sold at \$4.50 per copy. The reason for this move is: The printer notified us that if we order 200 copies more now these can be had at a total additional cost of \$200. This brings the total cost to \$1600. After figuring in the expenses necessary to publicize the book and its transportation the decision was that we are not in the market to make money (of course, neither to lose it) and we'll show a small margin of profit if we sell all 600 copies. The members who helped finance the project can obtain their volumes at \$4 per copy.

We expect the members of the Germany Philatelic Society to purchase a goodly number of our handbooks. In view of this we shall have a short ceremony at which the editor will sell the first copy to the president of the local Germany group, May 30, at the La Salle Hotel. This publicity cannot hurt.

Among the most recent additions to the library are three bound volumes of Tribuna Filatelistu which issues were published during the war years. The articles dealt primarily with the stamps of Bohemia-Moravia and Slovakia and the information could have helped us when compiling data for the handbook. The important material will be assembled and presented to our readers in future issues of the Specialist.

Last month we told you that a special Czecho issue of the magazine Stamps will be published May 17. Make sure you get your copy before they are completely sold out. We take this opportunity to thank the H. L. Lindquist Publishing Co. for their cooperation and friendliness. We ask all mem-

bers to become regular subscribers to STAMPS.

We again urge our members to help with donations to our benefit mail auction which will take place in November. Kindly contact chairman of the committee Frank J. Kosik, R. #3, Box 463, Delavan, Wis.

Up to the present writing we failed to receive a report from the New York Group. We heard from our distinguished visitor, Dr. Reiner-Deutsch, that the meeting of March 21st could not be held because of inclement weather. We were told an executive meeting was held in a restaurant at which the business of the day was discussed and the annual exhibition of the Group was postponed to October in honor of the 40th anniversary of the liberation of Czechoslovakia.

Our New York Group came through handsomely not only in the handbook effort but also in Compex. They had printed "participation awards," a large reproduction of Hradcany stamp in a light color as a background and the award legend printed over that. They deserve the thanks of the entire membership.

If you wish to exchange U. S. stamps for Czecho, 1918 to date, mint or used, errors, printer's waste, various watermarks, etc., contact Jaroslav Krasik, U Druzstva Ideal 14, Praha 14, Czechoslovakia.

CLEVELAND MEETING

We'd be happy to title this "Cleveland GROUP Meeting" but this meeting was not even formative perhaps because of the visitors. It is nine years since your editor visited the Cleveland members and recalls there were others present then: Kotab, Nemecek, Fiser, to mention a few. But we were happy to meet some of the old timers as well as some of the new. Among those present at the March 23 meeting in the Hollenden Hotel were: M. F. Klozar, C. Cerny, S. Marton, H. Prokupek, C. Kozak, L. Pesak, C. Matiaska, A. Klein, J. Dolak, K. Zahradnicek, G. A. Blizil and A. Kopcok, all of Cleveland; W. Fritzsche of Geneva, N. Y.; H. H. Smith of Findlay, Ohio; and Dr. J. J. Matejka and F. J. Kovarik of Chicago, Ill.

Member Blizil introduced the visiting members and said that much was read about the Society activities and asked Kovarik to present a report on the handbook. Kovarik explained the reason why this particular facet of collecting was chosen as the initial volume and then presented a step by step progress report similar to the reports presented in previous issues of the Specialist.

Kovarik also explained that at the moment there seems no need to raise the dues especially if the more affluent and generous members voluntarily increase their dues to a higher level. Blizil opined all members should bear the burden equally and proposed dues be raised. Some others were of like mind but our secretary then spoke. He told that many collectors have a very limited budget and that many would rather buy stamps for the extra dollar than pay it into the treasury. He believes the present arrangement is best thus far. It is good to hear the opinions of members outside the Chicago and New York areas.

Dr. Matejka made a detailed report on Compex, recording it would be a repetition of the reports published in the Specialist to date. The only news we had for the Cleveland group was something we first heard in that city: The Postmaster General, the Hon. Arthur Summerfield, will personally attend the Chicago show. Official Washington recognizes Compex as the biggest local show in the U. S. Kovarik pleaded with the members to support the show by exhibiting, by advertising in Compex Directory or at least contributing as a Good Fellow the sum of \$1 which would help the Society fi-

nancially. Four dollars were collected from the members present for this purpose.

Kovarik asked the Cleveland members to reorganize as they were in 1945-49 when an active group was in operation. Member Zahradnicek gave as a reason the obnoxious political propaganda which appears on many of the stamps of Czechoslovakia. While this is to be regretted we should not let politics interfere with our hobby. We can minimize our purchases of new issues and really specialize in early Czecho.

Member Kopeik pointed to some errors which appeared in the Specialist. For instance: In the article "Postmarks of Bratislava" the author states that Bratislava was the seat of the Great Moravian Empire. It was Nitra. Likewise that Czechoslovakia is not composed of Bohemia, Moravia, Silesia and Slovakia; Silesia has been absorbed by Moravia. The editor admitted he is not omniscient and hopes when members find errors or any discrepancies they notify him. He repeated that our Society is a cooperative venture and that as such all members are bound to help.

All in all, this was a very interesting meeting and the Cleveland members responsible deserve the thanks of all. The meeting was well publicized in the philatelic press of the country as well as in the stamp columns of the Cleveland newspapers. We hope this meeting was the germ of a strong and husky Czechoslovak group.

CHICAGO GROUP MEETING

The meeting was held in the office of member Janecka Sunday March 16 and the following were present; Guest, J. Elmer Zinsmeister, editor of the S. P. A. Journal; members: Jos. Janecka, J. Jiranek, J. Velek, P. Kreischer, C. Chesloe, Dr. J. Matejka, P. Marusic, Sr., G. Kobyłka and F. Kovarik.

The subject of a permanent meeting place has again been discussed and the majority of the members decided we continue our meetings as here-to-fore.

Kovarik announced that the second president of our Society, Dr. Wm. Reiner-Deutsch with wife will be in Chicago during the week following Easter. The group decided to meet in the La Salle Hotel Monday April 7 at 7:30 P.M. For further particulars the members were asked to stop at Room 216. Compex meeting will be held April 9 and Dr. Reiner-Deutsch will be invited to see the greater Chicagoland philatelists in action.

Kovarik read a letter from the editor-in-chief of Minkus' World Wide Catalogs, Mr. George Tlamsa, which thanked the Society for its cooperation in bringing out this big and truly informative catalog. J. Velek who noticed the counterfeit air mail overprint in the illustration was asked by the group to contact Mr. Tlamsa and help to correct the error.

Dr. Matejka and F. Kovarik plan to attend the Garfield-Perry stamp show and APS regional meeting in Cleveland next week and expressed a hope they'll try to reactivate the local group. There are many members in the area and we are confident more could be found if an effort was made to bring them into the fold.

Dr. Matejka reported on Compex. He stated that Compex will print and service "official" first day covers combining the Exhibition and the International Geophysical Year stamp. All members are urged to be present to help lick stamps on these covers; some estimate it is possible to clear a profit of \$500. Whatever the end result may be, it will entail work and we must supply the labor.

It was announced that like all participating societies ours is allotted 11 banquet tickets. Of these, three are earmarked for one each for the president, J. W. Adler, the delegate and alternate. This leaves 8 for the total

membership which is hardly enough to go around even to the officers. The following plan was devised: two tickets will be donated out of the treasury to R. Van Handel and his wife as a token of appreciation for the work and frustrations he suffered with the handbook. The remaining tickets will then be offered to the present officers and only after their refusal will they be offered to the members. Especial care must be exercised to include member Fritzsche, our Sales Manager, the only officer who has been an officer of the Society from the very beginning.

In connection with Compex our handbook will be featured as an added attraction. According to Velek who talked long distance with Van Handel, the handbook will definitely be ready for sale on Compex opening day. Thus our Society will be given much valuable publicity gratis.

There will be many visitors to Compex from out of town, and many will come with their wives. So that these temporary stamp widows are not too bored, Mrs. Marion C. Zinsmeister was asked to organize a corps of women who will take care of these visitors. Kindly ask your women folks at home to help us out Friday and Saturday, May 30-31 and contact Marion at 340 No. Pine St., Chicago. Thank you much.

Due to the A. S. D. A. show today, Mr. Larry Edmunds, vice president of SPA could not attend to present the Chapter Charter to our Society and Mr. J. Elmer Zinsmeister will substitute. Mr. Zinsmeister gave a short but interesting talk on the occasion and reminded the Society that the cost of membership can be saved during the first show, if nothing else. He reminded us that in union there is strength and that by affiliating ourselves with the two largest philatelic bodies in the U. S. we are assuring ourselves of worthwhile cooperation.

He then added that having a publication like our Specialist is a fine thing but before we have specialists we must have collectors interested in our country. He suggested that our writers prepare basic articles on the stamps of Czechoslovakia and he knows that A. P., S. P. A. Journal and other philatelic publications will gladly accept such articles. (It was later decided that we urge our writers to prepare such articles and mail them to the editor who will then farm them out.)

He then told of the S. P. A. Handbook Committee which will help us sell our publications which we cannot move. He had reference to our dictionary and suggested we contact Mr. Steve Rich. Elmer's words were accepted with sincere gratitude.

Jiranek reported he'll contact Messrs. A. Dragoun, J. Vondrak and Dr. L. Kozakiewicz to judge our show in Compex.

Kovarik showed samples of medals and trophies suggested by our committee. It was then decided that Dr. Matejka order the J. W. Lowey Memorial Award plaque and the championship medal; Kovarik shall write to Nous and obtain the S. P. A. medals, gold, silver and bronze; our president donated a trophy which will be presented for the best showing of postal history and a letter from Horechny and the New York group that they will furnish participation awards was accepted with gratitude. Other awards available will be the APS, SPA and Central Federation.

The last item on the lengthy agenda was a report on the handbook progress. Kovarik, with the aid of Jiranek, showed the artwork, the work of Van Handel. This included a map of Czechoslovakia as it was before the Munich Pact; then a map showing the divisions Bohemia-Moravia and Slovakia, as well as all territories lost, when and to whom. Then came the frontispieces: The Lion of Czechoslovakia serving as a background; one page entitled Bohemia and Moravia and Slovakia, A Philatelic Handbook; Bohemia and Moravia and finally Slovakia. Some members questioned the use of Czech coat of arms for the Protectorate and again for the puppet state but

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quickly agreed with Van Handel who foresaw this, that even if Hitler had a strangle hold on the country, its people still considered themselves citizens of the Republic. The plate arrangement of sheets containing coupons is still another page and then we were given a preview of one page. Everyone was amazed at the beauty of the job, especially our guest who asked "how can you pay for all that?" received as an answer one word "love." Nor is it only Ray Van Handel's love for this book which makes it possible, it is the confidence of the members who with pledges and loans oversubscribed the printing. The editor is certain that by next meeting he will announce that no further monies will be accepted for this project.

Next meetings of the Chicago group are as follows: Sundays, 2:30 P.M.:
 May 18, home of Jos. Janecka, 2723 So. Central Park Ave., Chicago
 June 15, home of C. Chesloe, 83rd and Wolf Rd., Hinsdale. Bring your swim trunks.

SECOND LIST OF LOANERS TO HANDBOOK FUND

\$100 J. J. Janecka; \$25 W. Fritzsche; \$20 F. S. Meisel; \$10 G. Cuhaj, F. J. Rosner, J. J. Prochazka, Jr., E. J. Michaelson, J. Benchik, C. Kozak, H. H. Smith and F. Steiner.

Those who pledged are now asked to redeem their pledges with money. We promised the printer we'll pay on the day of delivery. There were several members who pledged no definite amount but promised to send money in May. We hope they favor us with a check or money order soon after they read this. Mail your loans to either F. J. Kovarik, 8748 Rockefeller Ave., Brookfield, Ill., or to the treasurer, G. C. Kobyłka, 1433 Cuyler Ave., Berwyn, Ill.

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CHICAGO GROUP

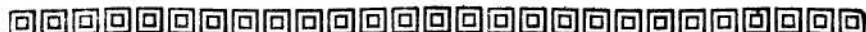
To honor our second president and his spouse, Dr. and Mrs. Wm. Reiner-Deutsch who visited in our city as well as to dispose the last of the handbook business, a special meeting was called for Monday, April 7, at 7:30 P.M. in the La Salle Hotel. When the group assembled the following were present: our guests, J. Velek, F. J. Rosner, R. Reinowski, J. Janecka, Dr. J. Matejka, J. Jiranek, F. Zaviska, R. Palmer, M. Skrivanek and F. Kovarik.

Kovarik announced that the first broadside of the handbook publicity was just fired. The gist of it is that the book will be placed on sale on the opening day of Compex and the cost of the book will be \$5 per copy postpaid.

Members were told that the Hon. Arthur Summerfield, PMG of the U. S. will come to Compex in person. It was deemed necessary to obtain a larger banquet hall and so instead of the originally available 8 tickets there now are 18. These will be sold on a first come, first sold basis and those interested are asked to contact F. Kovarik, 8748 Rockefeller Ave., Brookfield, Ill. Cost per plate is \$8.50.

Kovarik announced he has an agreement with our printer to have the June Specialist ready for dispatch early enough to take advantage of the first day of issue of the IGY stamp and obtain special cancellation during Compex. We are sure our members will appreciate this effort on the part of our dispatcher, member Frank Zaviska.

Member Van Handel sent us a snapshot of himself working on the handbook taken by his son. We hope to have it reproduced in this issue of the Specialist so all could see the father of our handbook. Velek reported that he offered Ray two Compex banquet tickets but Ray begged he be excused; he promised his wife to see and hear "My Fair Lady." We hope the Van



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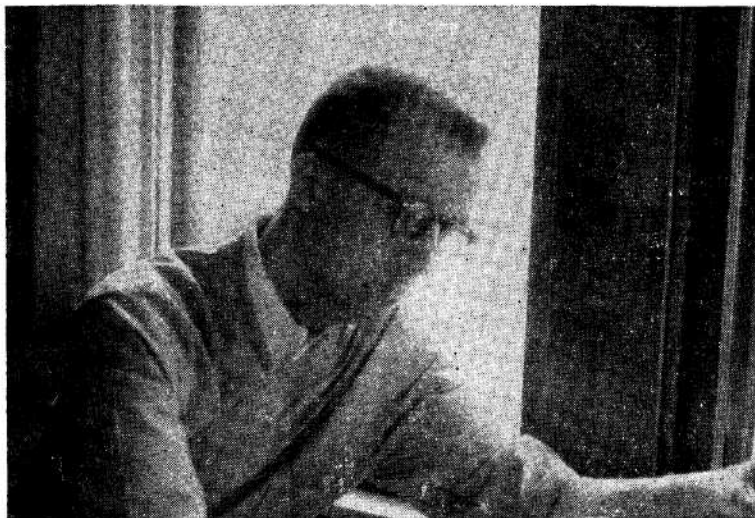
Alfons Stach

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LENOX, MASS.



Handels enjoy this musical as much as we.



Ray sent proofs of the handbook to this assembly for last minute corrections and changes. Your editor received it Saturday the 5th and had no time to check it over until after the meeting. Member Rosner brought up a pertinent question: In the map of Bohemia, Moravia and Slovakia, why was Praha spelled in Czech, Plzen in German and Brno misspelled? Your editor promised to check the entire copy and we hope the mistakes for which the editors and not the printers are responsible, can be corrected.

Kovarik mentioned his experience in Cleveland where one member pointed out that after the plebiscite in 1920 most of Silesia was ceded to Poland, there was no need for such a province and what little remained was incorporated into Moravia. Member Rosner gave an impromptu talk on the subject and it proved of such extreme interest that the members followed the lead of the editor requesting an article explaining the entire situation.

Jiranek reported that about half the frames allotted our Society by Compex have been solicited by out of town members. The Chicagoland members are now requested to prepare their prospectuses and mail to Jiranek.

Kovarik then presented a report on Dr. Matejka's and his visit to Cleveland of which a report is presented elsewhere in this issue of the Specialist. We thank the Clevelanders for their fine hospitality.

It was decided to place an ad into the Compex Directory calling attention to the Society and the handbook. As this program will contain many worthwhile articles, including three by our members Velek, Kosik and Jiranek, we are sure many of our members will want a copy. It will sell for \$1 post-paid and may be purchased thru J. Jiranek, 5032 W. 25th St., Cicero 50, Ill.

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408. Clifford Aikins, 111 Elmer Ave., Toronto 8, Ont., Canada

NEW MEMBER

607. Joseph F. Dolak, 12818 Hlavin Ave., Cleveland, Ohio

PARADE OF NEW ISSUES

Commemorative Issue Showing Sport Motives



To commemorate the important international sport events of the year 1958 the Czechoslovak Postal Administration issued on 25th January, 1958, a set of five commemorative stamps showing sport motives of the following denominations and colors:

- 30h Europe championship in figure skating in Bratislava, red violet
- 40h World championship in canoeing in Prague, blue
- 60h Europe championship in volley-ball, brown
- 80h IV World championship in parachuting in Bratislava, blue violet
- 1.60 Kcs World championship in football in Stockholm, green

The authors of the designs and the engravers are as follows:

- 30h Jiří Běhounek—Jiří Švengsbír
- 40h Jaroslav Kovář—Jan Mráček
- 60h Mario Stretti—Bohdan Roule
- 80h Mario Stretti—Bedřich Housa
- 1.60 Kcs Jan Cerný—Jaroslav Goldschmied, line drawing by Jindra Schmidt

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

Validity for postage from January 25th until further notice.

Two First Day covers after the design by Mario Stretti and engraved by Jaroslav Goldschmied were issued at the same time.

Commemorative Stamps Marking the 10th Anniversary of the Victorious February 1948



To mark the 10th anniversary of the Victorious February 1958 the Czechoslovak Postal Administration issued three commemorative stamps of the following motives and colours:

- 30h Industrialization—giant mine excavator K 1000—The color of the recess print blue, of the photogravure, yellow

60h The militia men guard the bequest of the Victorious February; the color of the recess print dark brown, of the photogravure, red
 1.60Kčs Mechanization of agriculture; the color of the recess print dark green, of the photogravure orange

The author of all three designs is Josef Liesler, painter artist. The engravings are by Bedřich Housa (30h), Bohdan Roule (60h), and Jan Mráček (1.60 Kčs).

All the stamps were recess printed by the Post Printing Office in Prague by recess print combined with photogravure, in sheets of 25 copies. Dimension of the stamp picture of the 30h value is 30mm by 49mm, of the 60h and 1.60 Kčs values 49mm by 30mm.

Validity for postage from February 25th, 1958, until further notice.

The First Day cover was designed by Josef Liesler, painter artist, and engraved by Jaroslav Gildschmied.

Commemorative Stamps Honoring the 80th Birthday Anniversary of
 Professor Zdeněk Nejedlý



On the 10th February, 1958, professor Zdeněk Nejedlý, President of Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, attained the age of eighty. To mark the rare jubilee of this outstanding representative of the Czechoslovak cultural and political life, the Czechoslovak Postal Administration issued two commemorative stamps of the following denominations, motives and colors:

30h the Castle at Litomyšl, blue

60h the Bethlehem Chapel in Prague, brown

Litomyšl is the birthplace of professor Nejedlý and the rebuilding of the Bethlehem Chapel is due to the jubilarian.

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The designs and the engravings of both the stamps are by Jiří Švengsbír, graphic artist and engraver. Both the stamps were recess printed by the Post Printing Office in Prague, in sheets of 50. Dimension of the stamp pictures 30mm by 25mm.

Validity for postage from 10th February, 1958, until further notice.

The design and the engraving of the First Day cover are by Jiří Švengsbír.

New Commemoratives "World Exhibition in Brussels 1958"



On the occasion of the World Exhibition in Brussels the Czechoslovak Postal Administration issued five commemorative stamps advertising Czechoslovak products, which are exhibited in Brussels. The denominations, designs and colors are the following:

- 30h Jewelry, vermilion red and light blue
- 45h Toy manufacturing, brick red and light violet
- 60h Textiles, violet and light green
- 75h The Kaplan turbine, blue and brick red
- 1.20 Kčs Glass of art, green and rose

All the designs are the works of professor Karel Svolinský, the engravings were executed by Jindra Schmidt (toy manufacturing and glass) and by Ladislav Jirka (jewelry, textiles and Kaplan turbine).

The stamps were printed by the Post Printing Office in Prague, in bi-colored rotary recess-print combined with photogravure, in sheets of 50 copies. Vertical form, dimension of all stamps 23mm by 41mm.

Validity for postage from March 25, 1958, until further notice.

Two First Day covers after the design by professor Karel Svolinský, the engraving by Jaroslav Goldschmied, were issued at the same time.

THE CZECHOSLOVAK ARMY IN RUSSIA AND SIBERIA—1918 to 1920

Scott Catalog No. 31-45

By Joseph J. Jiranek

Reprinted with permission from STAMPS

(continued from last issue)

The overprint was applied in black diagonally (from lower left to upper right) in two lines. The text was misspelled ("Cesskja" instead of "Cessekaja"). No record was kept but it is thought that only about 1,000 copies were overprinted. They were used perhaps for one week and then taken out of circulation, when a corrected overprint was to be employed. In the meantime, however, the authorities at Omsk gave the free franking privileges to soldiers in the Czech army in Siberia. It is not known how the receipts of these stamps were to be divided between the Russian and Czechoslovak Posts. The small number of these stamps issued and the small number saved (mostly in unused condition) is the reason why so little is known about the stamp. Although this stamp really belongs in a collection of Russia, it is also much sought by specialists of Czechoslovakia and is highly prized as a memento of the trek across Siberia.

Pictorial (Irkutsk) Issue

The organizer of the Czechoslovak Field Post was A. Novotny. In January, 1919, and again in May 1919, he wrote that the production of special postage stamps had been discussed. When General Klecanda was persuaded to agree to an issue of charity stamps, designs were immediately prepared.



A meeting somewhere in Siberia between Thomas Garrigue Masaryk, who was commander-in-Chief of the Siberian Forces, center, front row, in civilian dress and wearing hat, and Gen. Ferdinand Foch, seen in the picture to Masaryk's left. The French General was on an inspection tour in Siberia. The others in the picture are officers and representatives of the other Allied armies in Siberia.

The order for the issue of the stamps was given by the representative of the Czechoslovak Government, Bohumil Pavel.

Volunteers prepared several designs, and the following are the ones approved:

25 Kopek—The Cathedral of Irkutsk, with an urn and a laurel branch in the foreground. 50 Kopek—The Armored Train "Orlik" (Falcon) from a small photograph loaned by General Syrový. 1 Ruble—A Czechoslovak Legionnaire silhouetted against the distant sky. The author of the 25 K and 50 K values was Jaroslav Malý, and the 1 ruble value was from a drawing by Cila.

These stamps were of course not necessary for postal matter of the legionnaires since that was frank-free, but the funds obtained from their sale were turned over to the "Invalid Fund" of the Czechoslovak legionnaires, and therefore classify as charity stamps. A combination postal and poster issue, they served to advertise the desire of the Czech soldiers for freedom and independence.

In December 1919 these stamps were sold at post offices of the field post—gummed but imperforated, 50 Kopek carmine, 50 Kopek green and 1 Ruble red brown.

In January 1920 the same stamps were issued perf. 11½, in the following quantities: 25 Kopek, 35,520, 50 Kopek 34,800, and 1 ruble 20,790.

The sale of these stamps in Siberia was very small because most of the soldiers did not know they existed. Also, many soldiers who bought the stamps, enclosed them in the envelope, fearing that the entire letter might be stolen for the sake of the stamps.

A large number of imperforate and ungummed remainders were sent to Prague by the last transport, President Grant. In Prague these stamps were gummed at the Unie Printing Works, line perforated 13¾, and then sold. They can at best be called unissued stamps.

These stamps were ordered by the Department of Field Posts from the Information Bureau, which had rented the printing establishment of Makusin and Posochin in Irkutsk. There the stamps were produced by lithographic process.

The designs were reduced in size photographically and reproduced on an aluminum plate six times. From this they were transferred to a lithographic stone. Due to this process, six definite types of each stamp exist. There were two stones, one for the combined printing of the 25 K and 50 K stamps and the other for the 1 ruble stamp printed in two sheets.

Horizontal pairs exist of the 50 K and 25 K with gutters between and the 1 P and 1 R vertical pairs with gutter but are very scarce. After the printing of the stamps the stones were washed so that an additional printing was impossible.

The Prague Issue

In August 1919 a "Charity Committee in Czechia" was organized in Prague, to make a collection and send gifts to the Czechoslovak soldiers in Vladivostok. On the suggestion of J. Rossler-Orovsky this committee issued a special commemorative stamp. It was designed by Lieut. Rybak and Rossler-Orovsky. The dies, together with printing material for the eventual re-issue, were sent along with the stamps to Russia in two shipments, one-half via England and Canada, the other through Trieste and Japan. The first shipment reached Vladivostok in November 1919 via the Japanese ship Liverpool-Marú but was considerably damaged by dampness and cold. The second shipment arrived in comparatively good condition in the beginning of 1920.

The design of the stamps represents the Czech lion in an alliptical oval

framed by a legend "Posta Ceskoslovenske Armady Sibirske" (Siberian Czechoslovak Army Post). The outer part of the stamps is filled with designs of modern and medieval implements of war, with the Hussite Chalice and Bible above the posthorn, and the date "1919" below. In the corners are found the linden leaves and berries. The appearance of the stamps reminds us of the early issues of Russia. The design measure 20x25mm. No values were mentioned. These stamps sold at 25 Kopeks each, the proceeds to be used for charitable purposes. The color of the stamps is a blue frame with the center of brick red.

The stamps were printed by a process which showed the central design (the Czech Lion) embossed in relief. The stamps were printed in pairs, the central design (white lion in a red field) separately. The embossing of the design as well as the colors employed (brick red for the center and blue for the frame) were done in one operation and the stamps produced on paper already gummed, giving the appearance of the perforations on the outside. It is therefore impossible to have a stamp of a different perforation gauge or a joined pair, as issued. Some pairs do exist, but these may be classified as stamps "not so issued" or as "unfinished products." Both the dies and the printing are the work of K. Kolman, Prague.

As has been noted the stamps were printed in pairs and each die was prepared separately. There are two distinct dies or types, easily recognized: Type I Small handle of sword in the left frame; Type II Large handle of sword in the left frame.

There are two other noticeable varieties to distinguish the two types, but these are not so pronounced. Since they were printed in pairs, it is impossible to have a scarcity as between one or the other type.

Imperforate Essays

Essays that were prepared but not issued were printed in five colors: blue, red, violet, green, and brown. All the essays were printed in composite sheets, which contained a group of each of the five different scenes. The five designs which were so prepared were: (1) Standing Legionnaire; (2) Soldier Scouting; (3) Military Train; (4) Soldier on Guard; (5) Soldiers by the Campfire.

CLEVELAND GROUP MEETING

Sunday, April 12th the organizational meeting of the Cleveland group met in the home of member Henry Prokupek and with the following member guests: S. Marton, A. Kopcok, C. Kozak and M. Klozar.

Since this was the first meeting of the group at a member's home a very enjoyable afternoon was spent looking at Prokupek's stamps. Future meetings will be announced thru the pages of the Specialist. Cleveland area members and even non-member collectors of Czechoslovakia are urged to attend these gatherings. The next meeting will be held in the home of Melvin F. Klozar, 601 Tuxedo Ave. (off Broadview), Brooklyn Heights, Cleveland on Sunday, May 4, 2:30 P.M.

Our end aim is to further Czechoslovakian philately in the Cleveland area and it behooves all interested collectors to help.

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