

# THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

A publication of the Czechoslovak  Philatelic Society of N. America

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

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## EDITORIAL

As a rule this is the last issue of the Specialist for the season but because of Compex, August 26-30, your officers consider it necessary to issue one more number. Your June issue will reach you a little late and the July issue a little later, but the October issue is planned for an early date that month, possibly in the last week of September.

A note from our sales manager, member Wolfgang Fritzsche, gives us the glad news that he and his spouse are planning a tour of Europe from May 20 to July 15. They will visit the Hamburg Interposta and then motor with Wolfgang's brother and wife thru Switzerland, Italy, Austria and back to Germany. Wolfgang is the only officer of the Society who held his office uninterruptedly since the Society's organization. We wish him and his wife Louise full enjoyment of every minute of their vacation.

Our benefit auction failed to realize but several fine pieces were donated which the chairman sold outright so that to date the "auction" brought into the treasury a clear \$49. The balance of the material will be placed into Society approval books by member Geo. V. Havlik and circulated among members through the Society circuit. We thank the donors and the buyers for their generosity.

Last year during Compex we learned there are many collectors who help philatelic enterprises by buying covers sold during the Exhibition with a special commemorative cancellation, and many go for first day covers (of the show), last day covers and every day covers. This year Compex operates during five days and on the second day a 10c commemorative air mail stamp will have its first day sale during Compex, August 27. For those members interested in this phase of the hobby Compex offers an official cover of any day for 25c; all five days (for every day of the show with a different color each day) as a package deal for \$1; First Day Cover with a single stamp 25c; with pairs 40c; with blocks of four 65c and with a plate number block for \$2.00. From last year's experience we also learned there are collectors who collect mint (blank) covers; to cater to their whims these will be sold at 10c each; 50c for a complete set of 6 covers or three complete sets for \$1.

Occasionally your editor is visited by other members. The Chicagoland members come quite frequently but we are always thrilled by telephone calls from RR depots or airports of some passing-thru-Chicago member. We had the pleasure of again hearing the voice of member Dr. Southgate Leigh, Jr. of Norfolk, Va., and only yesterday a personal visit from member Bernard L. Hill of Elkins, W. Va.

Last month we presented 3 samples of classified ads sent in by our secretary and this month we add to it ads of our president, of the chairman

of the Masaryk stamp committee and of your editor. Not every dealer, sometimes no dealer, has on hand the material you need. This is a good way to acquire items for your collection and at the same time you are helping your Society to maintain the 16 page Specialist for 10 months each year; if we get enough ads we may give you more pages this year. Read these ads; you may have something you don't care for that will help a fellow member.

In the secretary's terse report appears the notice of the death of member Andrew J. Kolesar, Roster No. 320. Member Kolesar was a retiring member who never wrote much but always had a pleasant or encouraging word for our efforts. When we wrote we plan to retire from the editorship it was he who praised our modest efforts and almost convinced us to retire from stamp collecting and stick to philatelic literature. May his soul rest in peace.

The following from Czechoslovakia wish to correspond and exchange stamps: Karel Dvořák, Jablonec n/N., Dlouhá č. 7; FDC only: Frant. Blahuš, Ostrožská Nová Ves 532, okres Veselí n/Mor.; Vladimír Tupý, Švermov u Kladna, Sportovní č. 158; Ivan Kubela, Květná 174, okres Uherský Brod.

#### CHICAGO CHAPTER MEETING

was held on Mothers' Day, May 10, in the usual meeting place, Lincoln Federal Savings Bank, 6625 Cermak Rd., Berwyn. Because of the holiday the attendance was rather poor with only 9 members present.

It was decided the Chapter meets every month this year so that we could transact Compex business. Besides, we must have one more meeting to sort out our stock of Specialists; the librarian's stock of early issues is gone and our treasurer is asking for bound Specialists. As these are items that fortify the treasury we must rally to the support. This special work meeting will take place some Sunday afternoon in the office of member Joseph J. Janecka and we sincerely hope enough members sacrifice some of their leisure time to get the job done in one afternoon.

The Jack Knight Air Mail Society strives to promote philately among juniors and asked our Chapter to sponsor a plaque for the best Czecho exhibit. The winner must be awarded this plaque three times before it becomes the property of the winner. Knowing the fickleness of the juniors our Chapter rejected the above but promised a medal to the winner of the best Czecho exhibit.

The editor called attention to the Naspex Show on Long Island to which our president, Dr. Matejka donated a medal for the best Czecho exhibit. The idea came from Dr. Reiner-Deutsch who is a lively propagator of the Czecho stamp. It is the opinion of the Chapter to raise a fund for the purchase of awards for the best Czecho exhibits where there may be keener competition. If a sufficient response to this project reaches the secretary of the Chicago Chapter, J. J. Jiranek, it could be turned over to the officers for further study. The more we do to promote our phase of the hobby the better chance we have of survival and continued progress.

Member Kovarik who is especially interested in Czecho philatelic literature brought to the meeting four Czech publications. "Škola Filatelie," a very handsome book published in the early days of Bohemia and Moravia; "Úvod do Filatelie," a book for beginners published in 1957 by the Postal Philatelic Service; a book on commemorative cancellations of the Czechoslovak Post Office, 1945-1956, also a publication of the Postal Philatelic Service and a most artistic pamphlet commemorating the 40th anniversary of the Czechoslovak postage stamp. Very shortly the purpose of the booklet is outlined; it contains an engraving same as the one used for first day covers for the 40th anniversary stamp, a reprint of the 5h Hradčany, a stamp

produced for the anniversary and autographed by the author, prof. Max Švabinský and last but by no means least a bust engraving of Alfons Mucha, the father of the first Czechoslovak postage stamp and also autographed by the foremost Czechoslovak graphic artist and author, Jindra Schmidt, who designed and engraved many of the most beautiful postage stamp designs of Czechoslovakia.

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#### **NEXT CHAPTER MEETINGS**

The New York Chapter meets every third Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the Collectors Club, 22 East 35th St., New York City.

The Chicago Chapter meets every second Sunday of the month at 2 p.m. in the Lincoln Federal Savings and Loan Association Bldg., 6635 Cermak Rd., Berwyn, Ill.

Any changes from the above program will appear in the chapter meeting reports.

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#### **KOBYLKA SCORES AGAIN**

When president Dwight Eisenhower announced the first Champion of Liberty stamp it was received with great enthusiasm. The primary subject could not be chosen better; Ramon Magsaysay was a true democrat. He was an avowed enemy of one party government; he believed in not only the four freedoms of the Atlantic Charter but hated the freedom of sin. He was the best loved leader among the Asians and the free world looked to him for leadership against the powers of hatred.

This issue was followed by two famous South American Champions of Liberty, Simon Bolivar and José de San Martin and by the Hungarian freedom lover, Lajos Kossuth. Later this year it shall continue in a reproduction of the first mayor of free Berlin, Reuter, and as two are issued annually from Washington, we hope the next one will honor Thomas G. Masaryk.

Kobylka's albums are unique in that they are printed for singles and blocks and those many collectors interested in plate blocks in their various combinations are enabled to enjoy their fanciful hobby to the full. As we read of the large numbers of first day covers cancelled, may we suggest K LINE explores the possibility of printing pages for this portion?

Keeping up with the K LINE is good sense. One can enjoy the moderate collecting of singles or, with extra blank pages, expand to include every branch of specialization.

The prices per section are: Pages for singles, 50c; for blocks 50c; plate number blocks of 4, small 4, \$1.75; plate number blocks small 8, \$1.75; large 8, \$1. Write to Geo. C. Kobylka, 1433 Cuyler Ave., Berwyn, Ill.

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#### **NEW MEMBERS**

659. Pracheil, Arnold, R. F. D. 2, Box 22, Crete, Nebraska  
670. Szabados, Rudolph L., 33 Clarissa Drive, Hicksville, Long Island, N. Y.

#### **CHANGES OF ADDRESSES**

- Kreischer, Peter, 3332 No. Randolph Road, Phoenix, Arizona.  
Thorne, William C., 4827 Water Lane, West Vancouver, B. C., Canada.  
Dilley, Cdr. Luther L., U. S. N., 1916 B, Scott Circle, Md.

#### **DECEASED**

- Kolesar, Andrew J.

### SECRETARY'S COMMENTS

#### President Thomas G. Masaryk "Champion of Liberty" Stamp

The continuing publicity promoting the issue of this project not only by the Czechoslovak Specialist, but primarily by Mr. Frank J. Rosner, in the Czechoslovak newspapers and all the many Fraternal organizations has done a very great service to keep this before the people of Czechoslovak origin. The volume of mail that has come in and is coming in plus the fact that a speech in the House of Representatives supporting the issuing of this stamp all have done much to make a dream become a reality. With the approach of our Society's participation in COMPEX, let us still keep the promotion of this stamp going, our efforts in this area shall certainly prove of great importance to our Society.

#### Complex 1959 Show

The April meeting of the Chicago Area Officers presented many rather fine and interesting proposals for our show. The Prospectus for our exhibit, plus the application for our new Specialist advertising, plus the application for the advertising in the COMPEX Directory all went out with the May Specialist.

As indicated in these, this 1959 COMPEX Show shall be our 20th Anniversary show and I am sure that each and every member wishes to do his part to make it the very best one we have ever put on. We shall try to carry forward the theme of the Sports Issues of Czechoslovakia to tie in with the event being held in conjunction with the PAN-AMERICAN GAMES to be held here the end of August. It is planned to allocate a Court of Honor section honoring Mr. Joseph W. Lowey, deceased, founding Secretary of our Society, by presenting some pages from his collection.

Also planned is the availability of a Courtesy Room for our Society situated on the main aisle leading to the show on the 18th Floor of the La Salle Hotel. This room shall be the merchandising center for our Handbooks, Dictionaries, Bound Specialists, Maps, Postal Stationery listings and of course merchandising of some of the pages of George C. Kobylka's Czech albums. This shall also serve as an information center for potential membership applicants, and its availability and location shall be indicated right in our exhibition area. At the last COMPEX show we did have available for distribution some 250 packets of 50 stamps each which were passed out to the visiting children to COMPEX. Since our organization was the only one that thought of it a great deal of favorable comment came to us and I am sure at this show there shall be many more that shall do just this. We are accepting donations of any types of duplicate stamps from any of our members who wish to send them in and we shall place them into approval size envelopes along with an imprinted card that these stamps are a presentation of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society. This shall be a promotional feature which shall be advertised to draw more people to our courtesy room and thereby permit us to make the most effective use of it. Should any of you have stamps of any description that you have no use for and would like to have them put to the very best use, send them along to either Frank Kovarik or myself and we shall see that they shall be packaged.

The exhibit our Society put forth at the last show was really very wonderful and it is very difficult to see how this year's show can be much better, but I am sure that we have among all of our members some of the most beautiful stamps of Czechoslovakia than can be found in any other place in the world. In addition to the previously mentioned themes, several nice showings of MASARYKANA might be very effective as a promotion for the CHAMPION OF LIBERTY STAMP. It would be my wish to have just as many exhibitors show at our 20th Anniversary Show as possible to indi-

**KOBYLKA ALBUM PAGES**

Price Post.

**CZECHOSLOVAKIA**

Part 1, 1918-1939 .....	9.00	45c
Bohemia & Moravia 1939-1945 .....	3.50	25c
Slovakia 1939-1945 .....	3.25	25c
Part 2, 1945-1953 .....	6.25	35c
Supplement No. 1, 1953-54 .....	1.20	25c
Supplement No. 2, 1954 .....	.45	15c
Supplement No. 3, 1956 .....	.85	15c
Supplement No. 5, 1957 .....	1.25	20c
Supplement No. 6, 1958 .....	1.10	15c
EASTERN SILESIA, epl. ....	1.65	15c

**POLAND**

Part 2, 1944-1955 .....	7.00	50c
Supplement No. 1, 1956 .....	.55	15c
Supplement No. 2, 1957 .....	.80	15c
Poland Air-Mail's, epl. to 1956 ..	1.20	15c
Supplement No. 1, 1957 .....	.40	15c
GENERAL GOV. ....	3.85	35c

**CAMBODIA**

Part 1, through Feb. 1957 .....	1.65	25c
Part 1, 1957 .....	.50	15c

**GHANA**

Part 1, 1957 .....	.50	15c
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**LAOS**

Part 1, through Feb. 1957 .....	1.35	25c
Supplement No. 1, 1957 .....	.40	15c

**TOGO—Republic**

Part 1, 1957 .....	.60	15c
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**VIET-NAM**

Part 1, through Feb. 1957 .....	1.25	25c
Supplement No. 1, 1957 .....	.40	15c

**INT. OLYMPIC GAMES**

Part 1, 1896-1952 .....	3.00	35c
Supplement No. 1, 1956 .....	2.25	30c
Sup. No. 1A 1957 (1956 games) ..	1.00	15c

**SCOUT STAMPS**

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Supplement No. 1, 1957 .....	1.35	20c

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ych Sbirkach Postovniho Musea"  
(in Czech) — \$3.50

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(7) 1949 .....	3.88
(3) 1951 .....	3.88
(5) 1954 .....	3.88
(8) 1955 .....	3.88
(8) 1946-1947 .....	5.88
(3) 1948-1949 .....	5.88
(11) 1950-1951 .....	5.88
(8) 1952-1953 .....	5.88
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(15) 1954-1955 .....	5.88
(5) 1957 .....	3.88

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cate to all of the visitors that we are a team organization that really has a great deal of depth to it. Please, as a member in good standing, go over your collection, select some material that you particularly like to look at, and see if it would not be possible to show even one frame, so that your name shall thereby be forever on the roster of the exhibitors who supported the 20th ANNIVERSARY SHOW OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY. We need you each and everyone.

Joseph J. Jiranek, Secretary

## Parade Of New Issues

Commemorative stamps on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the founding of the Pioneers' Organization



To commemorate the 10th anniversary of the founding of the Czechoslovak Pioneers' Organization, which falls on 24th April, 1959, the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications in Prague has issued a series of four postage stamps with the following values, motifs and colors:

- a) 30h, a pioneer girl with a puppet, blue and yellow;
- b) 40h, a pioneer-tourist, dark grey and blue;
- c) 60h, a pioneer at a wireless set, dark grey and violet;
- d) 80h, a pioneer girl planting the trees, dark brown and green.

The designs of all stamps were executed by the painter Jozef Baláž. The gravures are by Jindra Schmidt (30h and 40h values) and by Ladislav Jirka (60h and 80h values). The second plates for the supplementary colors were made by Jaroslav Goldschmied.

The stamps were printed by the Post Printing Office in Prague by the rotary recess print combined with photogravure in sheets of 50 stamps. The dimensions of the stamp pictures are 23mm by 41mm and the dimensions of the stamps: 26.5mm by 44mm.

A First Day Cover designed by Jozef Baláž and engraved by Jaroslav Goldschmied was issued at the same time.

Validity for internal and international postal use is from 28th March, 1959, until further notice.

Commemorative stamp on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the inception of the World Peace Movement

To commemorate the 10th anniversary of the inception of the World Peace Movement, the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications in Prague



has issued a commemorative stamp with the portrait of the first president of the World Peace Council, Frédéric Joliot-Curie.

The value of the stamp is 60h and the color brown.

The design of the stamp was executed by the National Artist Professor Dr. h. c. Max Švabinský, the engraving is by Jindra Schmidt. The stamps were printed by the Post Printing Office in Prague by rotary recess print in sheets of 50 stamps. Dimensions of the stamp picture is 23 mm by 41 mm.

Validity for internal and international postal use is from 17th April, 1959 until further notice.

The design of the First Day Cover was executed by Professor Max Švabinský and the engraving by Jaroslav Goldschmied.



## WORLD FAIR SHEETS

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## 18th MAIL SALE

No.	Suggested bids:
1	BEFORE 1918—cards and covers, stamps on pieces, all OLD
	AUSTRIA, with Czech cancellations. Total 58 pieces ----- 8.00
2	Cards and covers from 1918/20, 47 items ----- 5.00
3	28 cancellations on Austrian stamps, Czech towns ----- 4.50
4	Scout stamps, mint ----- 2.25
5	same, used ----- 2.25
6	Statni Posta, overprints complete up to 10Kč ----- 18.00
7	28 Porto Hradcany, Hradcany stamps overprinted D, T, Porto, etc. 7.00
8	Jehlizska, 5 K stamp perf. and imperf. ----- 1.50
9	Srobar more than complete set mint and used ----- 24.00
10	Budejovice issue complete up to 10K used ----- 3.50
11	PROVISIONAL NEWSPAPERS, 6 very good stamps ----- 3.00
12	SIBERIA, set 13¾ complete, mint ----- 1.00
13	HRADCANY complete set perf. and imperf. (common) to 1000 ---- 2.50
14	10h green Imperf * ----- 2.50
15	20 h red SUPERB copy * Imperf ----- 5.00
16	30 h purple imperf superb mint ----- 8.00
17	3 h Original sheet with all flaws, mint ----- 3.00
18	Same PERF complete sheet ----- 3.00
19	5 h complete sheet of 100 ----- 3.00
20	10 red complete sheet with the "clock in the tower" ----- 3.00
21	20h green complete sheet of 100 ----- 3.00
22	25h blue complete sheet of 100 ----- 3.00
23	12 different sheets (6 Hradcany sheets and some others) ----- 12.00
24	62 covers franked with Hradcany stamps (some cards) ----- 7.00
25	2200 mixed Hradcany stamps all used ----- 5.00
26	22 Hradcany, all PERF mint ----- 1.00
27	38 Hradcany waste prints ----- 3.00
28	Legionair stamps, 38 better perf in blocks ----- 5.00
29	Waste prints, 14 diff. ----- 1.50
30	POSTA 1919, 10K light violet, superb ----- 18.00
31	10K Hungary Parliament, vf ----- 45.00
32	Airmails complete, superb ----- 55.00
33	10K Porto vf ----- 18.00
34	Set of 55, all vf ----- 7.00
35	11 diff. INVERTED overprints, high cat. ----- 8.00
36	Masaryk 1920 issue, 1 25, 500 and 1000h all mint ----- 1.00
37	125 h ultramarine both imperf and perf ----- 4.00
38	1923, complete issue (4) * ----- 1.00
39	Same, used ----- 1.00
40	1925 Congress complete * ----- 4.00
41	Slet complete mint ----- 4.00
42	1925 1K vertical watermark mint ----- 22.00
43	2K vertical watermark, mint ----- 28.00
44	3K vertical watermark, mint ----- 42.00







45	5K vertical watermark, mint and used -----	1.00
46	Complete set vertical watermarks, used -----	3.00
47	DOVE & ALLEGORY, complete set of TETE BECHE used ----	10.00
48	DOVE & ALLEGORY, same Unused -----	15.00
49	AIRS, first set, superb mint -----	5.00
50	Second set perf, superb mint -----	10.00
51	The rare perf of the fourth set, mint -----	6.00
52	1930 Masaryk with coupons (lower) mint -----	2.00
53	Same upper coupon, mint -----	2.00
54	TYRS complete set in blocks, superb mint -----	8.00
55	Same lot -----	8.00
56	Special Del. stamps, all of them and the error and white paper --	7.00
57	S. O. complete set up to 1000 h (postage) -----	1.75
58	Complete set of dues -----	1.00
59	Masaryk stamps, superb mint (Scott \$70) -----	15.00
60	Set up to 1000h used, scarce -----	3.00
61	7 diff. errors -----	7.00
62	6 covers with S. O. stamps -----	3.00
63	B & M, nice specialized coll. with tabs, coupons, gutter pairs, favor sheets, reprints, covers in album -----	18.00
64	136 covers Boh. & Mor., vf lot -----	12.00
65	1200 1948 third rep. stamps used, some on covers, nice lot, high cat.	8.00
66	130 covers, second and third rep. -----	12.00
67	5,000 stamps of Czech., Boh. & Mor., also bundles -----	5.00
68	Album with nice stamps, value at least \$100 -----	50.00
69	Box with duplicates, covers, booklets -----	10.00
70	3 small coll. of Czecho, nice, value \$40 -----	18.00
71	Box with about 60 postcards of Czechoslovakia with stamps -----	6.00
72	100 postal stationery, mint and used, some very rare -----	10.00
73	Lot of 16 covers all prior to stamps, cancel on Czech terr., stampless	16.00
74	Nice lot of postwar stamps 1945-47 all mint incl the gutter pair set of the helmet set -----	12.00
75	Czech ducat, vf (gold) -----	5.00
76	Mozart proof, signed by engraver -----	2.00
77	Collection housed in a Kobyłka album containing the I, II, III repub- lic, all mostly mint, very high catalogue value (2 books) -----	115.00
78	2300 stamps, all used in complete sheets -----	10.00
79	IIIrd Republic cards and covers, lot of 124 -----	6.00
80	42 favor sheets, from the I, II, IIIrd Republic -----	6.00
81	Lot of different proofs, essays, waste prints and reprints, altogether 118 items -----	11.00

End of Sale

Books close on July 15, 1959

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## Czechoslovak Postal History During 1918-20

By Dr. William Reiner-Deutsch

(Reprinted with permission from "Postal History Journal")

On October 28, 1918, the independent state of Czechoslovakia was proclaimed. That day was the birth date of Czechoslovak Philately. The new government which at that time was the Národní Výbor (National Committee) declared that all Austrian and Hungarian stamps on hand at postoffices were valid for use in the new republic. Considering the fact that these stamps were also in use in the remaining territories of Austria and Hungary as well as in the other states to which areas of the former monarchy had been ceded, only those stamps which were postally used in that republic may be considered provisional Czechoslovak stamps.

The order permitting the use of such stamps throughout the country was an innovation, inasmuch as Austrian stamps became valid in Slovakia (former Hungary) and Hungarian stamps in the historic provinces, Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia (former Austria). However, only occasionally are Austrian stamps found to have been used in Slovakia and so far no Hungarian stamps have been found on mail matter in the historic provinces.



Fig. 1. Nationalized Postmarks. Left, postmark is Austrian in Czech with German name blocked out; right, postmark is Hungarian with changed date line.

### Postmarks Nationalized

The Director General of Posts in Prague issued instructions to postoffices on November 17, 1918, that postmarks must not be altered, except for the removal of the Austrian eagle and the initials K. K. This order not only did not curb the national spirit but rather increased it. The result was the nationalization of postmarks by many postoffices. In Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia the most common method was the removal of German names from the bilingual cancelling device. This was done either by cutting or blocking it out. In some instances the circles on the postmarks were partially obliterated, and in some, letters of the German name remained or else some letters of the Czech name were removed. In Slovakia the Hungarian crown was blocked out and/or the date line was changed because in Hungarian dates, the year comes first, then the month, and the day, while in Slovak the day comes first, then the month and the year. In addition, at some postoffices the abbreviations d. e. (A. M.) or d. u. (P. M.) were also removed. (Fig. 1)

Finally on January 8, 1919, the Ministry of Posts ordered that postoffices submit impressions of their Austrian or Hungarian cancelling devices within three days so that an exchange for new ones could be made. However, due to the problems of changing the names, exchanges were not completed until the end of 1921. As a matter of record, some exchanges were effected at an even later date.

### Confusion Caused Unusual Postmarks

The difficulties described resulted in the most unusual postmarks and one can find covers with Hradčany stamps postmarked with the years 1910 or 1916 (when these stamps were naturally not yet in existence) or 1923 (though the Hradčany stamps were devaluated on April 4, 1920).

In the former Austro-Hungarian monarchy the delivery of postage stamps was the responsibility of the General Postoffices of Vienna and Budapest. After the proclamation of the independent state, the delivery of stamps naturally stopped. This resulted in the partial or complete lack of certain stamps at various postoffices.

Though October 28, 1918, marks the stamps of Austria and Hungary as provisional issues of Czechoslovakia, the occupation of Slovakia progressed slowly and was accomplished only early in 1919. Any Hungarian stamps used in the territory after it was occupied by the Czechoslovak army must be considered provisional issues. The occupation of any parts of Slovakia by Hungary after the Declaration of Independence is considered as occupation by a foreign power.

On November 19, 1918, the Director General of Posts issued an order instituting cash payments for postage for newspapers and magazines. For this purpose all newspaper and magazine publishers were requested to re-



Fig. 2. Cash payment for postage indicated on newspaper labels.

port honestly the quantity of the copies of their publication when delivering them to the postoffice for mailing and to pay in cash for the total postage. It was further ordered that the newspapers and magazines so posted should be clearly marked "Postage Paid In Cash". This was done by affixing labels with such a legend or by manuscript or machine markings. These labels were cancelled at the delivering postoffices instead of the receiving post-offices. (Fig. 2)

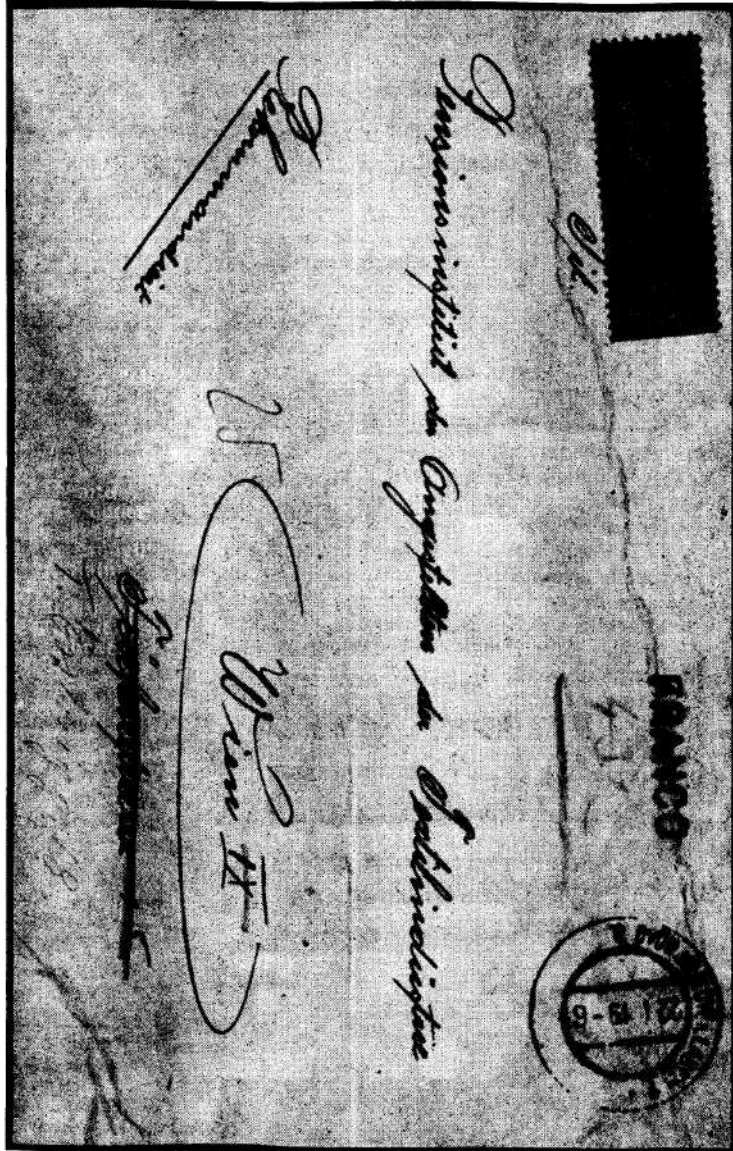


Fig. 3. Handstamp marking with rate indicating cash payment for postage. Postmark is Austrian in Czech with German name cut out.

On February 8, 1919, the Ministry of Posts issued an order devaluating the Austrian and Hungarian stamps. The order specified that such stamps would no longer be valid after February 28, 1919. This order included regular, postage due, newspaper and special delivery stamps. It stated that postal stationery would remain valid temporarily. It further stated that all mail franked with the old stamps after February 28, 1919, would either be refused transmission or would be considered unfranked and would be so handled.

However, the paucity of stamps increased to such an extent at many postoffices, even Czechoslovak stamps (the first such stamps were issued on December 18, 1918), that the Ministry of Posts issued another order on February 19, 1919, permitting cash payment for postage on all mail matter. This was recorded by various markings. These were mostly manuscript in black, blue or red pencil. However, handstamps, pen or machine markings were also utilized. (Figs. 3 and 4)

The most common markings in manuscript were:  
B. F., B. fr., Br. fr. (meaning Bar Frankiert)

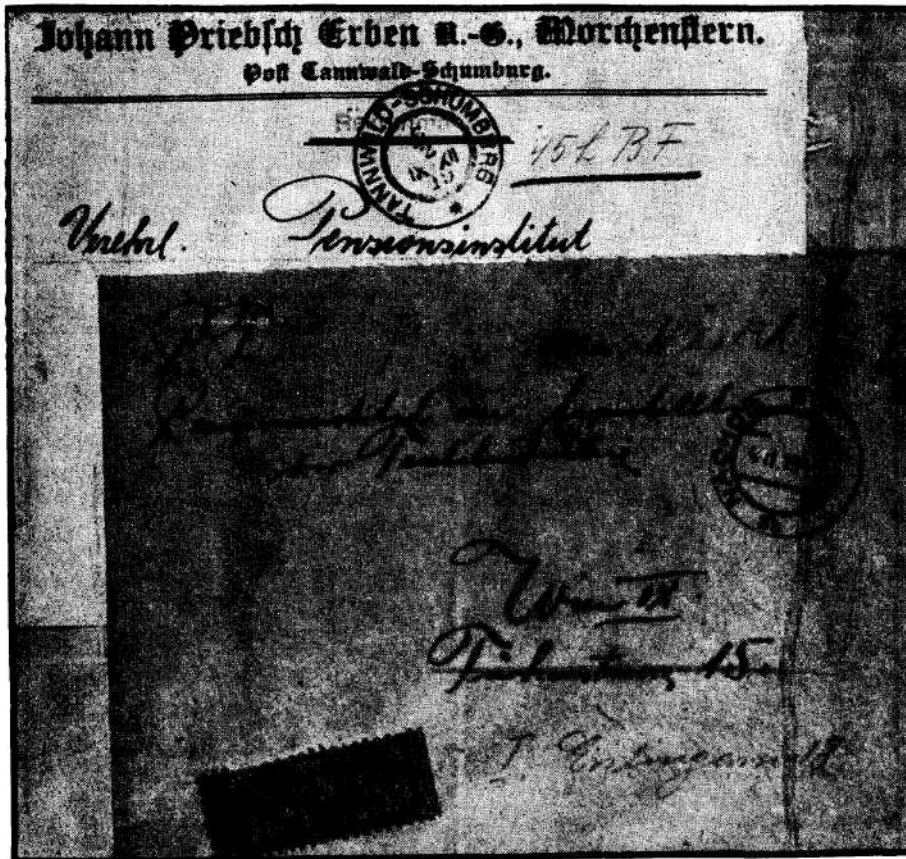


Fig. 4. Cash payment for postage. Top cover abbreviated German manuscript marking with rate and Austrian postmark in German. Bottom cover has German manuscript marking with rate. Postmark is Austrian in Czech with German name cut out.

F. h., Fr. h., F. v. h. (meaning Franko Hotove, Franko v Hotovosti)

After these markings the amount paid was added.

When, finally, sufficient Czechoslovak stamps were available, this practice was prohibited by the order of the Ministry of Posts, dated August 3, 1919.

Investigation into the use of Hungarian stamps issued late in November and early December 1918 (overprinted Kőztársaság) as well as in February 1919 (Magyar Posta instead of Magyar Kir. Posta) on Czechoslovak territory has developed two possible reasons:

1. Many postal employees left their jobs after the occupation and were replaced by inexperienced personnel ignorant of the postal regulations.

2. There were numerous employees in sympathy with Hungary who expressed their passive resistance by accepting or using such stamps for postage.

Occasionally Austrian stamps issued in December 1918 (overprinted Deutschösterreich) are encountered on mail matter. This can be explained only as an accidental occurrence.

The issuance of Czechoslovak stamps on December 18, 1918, resulted in another interesting feature of early Czechoslovak philately. Due to the short supply of stamps at most postoffices, mixed franking was instituted. Therefore mail matter may be found franked with Czechoslovak and Austrian stamps, Czechoslovak and Hungarian stamps, Czechoslovak and German stamps and, very rarely, Czechoslovak, Austrian and Hungarian stamps.

It is of interest to note that the directive prohibiting the use of Austrian or Hungarian stamps after February 28, 1919, was not strictly enforced as mail matter is found franked with such stamps long after that date without any demand for postage dues. It must also be noted that cash payment for postage on first class mail and money orders was used long before the order of the Ministry permitting such a practice. Some postoffices were forced



Fig. 5. Mixed franking with Czechoslovak and German stamps. Hlučín was taken over by Czechoslovakia on February 4, 1920.

to do this due to lack of stamps and it is even more interesting to find money orders of 1920 with the cash payment for postage notation.

Certain territories were ceded to Czechoslovakia at a later date and permission was granted for the use of Austrian, Hungarian or German stamps in those particular areas for a brief period (3-8 days). (Fig. 5)

(to be continued)

#### LEVOČA

Principal town of the district of Spiš, prominent for its Town Hall and the 13th century church of St. Jacob. The Town Hall was originally built in Gothic style, but after two destructive fires, in 1500 and 1559, when all archives were lost, it was rebuilt in a renaissance style on what remained of the original building. An ornamental door, with the date 1575 carved in it, dates the building, although it was not finished until 1615. The Gothic arcades were built up on the old battlements of the original defense works.

A 40h stamp was issued in 1928.

#### HODONÍN

Located on the river Morava, not far north of Břetislava was the birthplace of the "President-Liberator." A stamp of 1946 shows the church. After issuing thousands of stamps with the portrait of the President, the country could have issued a better stamp depicting his birthplace.

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