

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

This is the last issue for the season; the next Specialist should reach you toward the end of September or early in October. We intended to publish the membership list this month but due to material which we want completed without a two month interruption, it must be postponed. We wish all members a very enjoyable vacation.

There seems to have developed among our members a complacency about the U. S. Champions of Liberty stamp honoring T. G. Masaryk. This stamp is not in the bag until the POD makes an official announcement concerning same. In the meantime start saving your pennies for a possible pilgrimage to Washington for the first day ceremonies. It is the intention of the Society to induce travel agencies to run special excursion trains, planes and busses for the event. As soon as we hear something definite we'll try to arrange hotel accommodations for the visitors. We shall try to incorporate a banquet into these festivities and, as the saying goes: First come, first served. These excursions are planned from Chicago, New York, Cleveland, St. Louis and Omaha; possibly other centers where Czechs predominate.

Last two months we ran classified ads for the members but outside of the Chicago area, no member took advantage of them. This is an added service plus revenue to keep the Specialist going on a 160 page per annum basis; besides, it can help you obtain specialistic material a dealer hasn't the time to look for. That it is effective is evidenced by the fact that your editor has been able to obtain certain items of philatelic literature which appear on his want list.

Our members have certainly read about the "Shanahan robbery" in Dublin. Your editor turned down their ads several times; the entire organizational set-up seemed cockeyed. Since the exposé or what appears to develop into one we received a very fine catalog of the first two parts of the Burrus Collection. We are sure this will be a fine "museum piece" of literature.

NEW YORK CHAPTER MEETING

This meeting was held on May 15 and was the last regular meeting of the season. Dr. Reiner-Deutsch showed some interesting covers with cancellations of the October 1918 to February 1919 period in Bohemia and Slovakia. Mixed Czech-German and Slovak-Hungarian cancellations, including free franks, with the Doctor's comments made for a very interesting and informative meeting.

After that Mr. Dan White, vice-president of the Flatbush Philatelic Club, showed the mounting of his stamps, from his first simple book to a snake-

skin bound album. Also the evolution from hinges to do-it-yourself plastic pochettes. The assembled 12 members appreciated not only Mr. White's interesting talk but also his displays and demonstrations.

In lieu of a meeting the New York Chapter closed the season with a dinner in the Národní Budova (National Building), which was especially enjoyed by the non-Czech members.

COMPEX NOTES

Notice to Chicagoland Members Something Every Society Member Should Know

We are certain that members from other parts of the country plan to visit Chicago not only to view Compex the biggest stamp show except for the internationals staged in New York about once every 10 years, but also some facet of the Pan American Olympic Games. In its Court of Honor, Compex will show pages from collections of distinguished South and Central American philatelists. There are even rumors that at least one country will issue stamps honoring COMPEX.

Herewith we present portions of the program of especial interest to our Society:

There will be a special guest room for members of our Society on the 18th floor of the Hotel LaSalle during the 5 days of Compex. In this room we shall sell the dictionary, Bohemia-Moravia-Slovakia handbook, bound Specialists, postal card listings and maps and extend such information as the visitors may desire. This room is your official headquarters during Compex; make good use of it. It will be the equivalent of our lounge at FIPEX in 1956. A special meeting of the Society will be held in the room Saturday, August 29 at 2:30 P.M. where future policies of the Society will be discussed and decided.

Your Compex committee is very disappointed in the lack of enthusiasm for the show. Up to the present writing only 8 exhibits have been announced; one from New York, one from St. Louis and 6 from Chicago. One from Czechoslovakia is officially assured and its owner has already advised it will consist of various Field Posts. As some phases of this are of interest to many members it may be photographed and the slides will remain in the Society archives. If we show lack of interest this year it is possible Compex will cut down on the number of our frames for next year which will mean a sharp decline in our profits. As we wrote on several occasions before, we can get out of Compex only as much as we put into it. We have 102 frames in the show, 54 are taken, 48 to go. Let us not be perpetual procrastinators or worse yet, do nothings.

All Chicago area members are urgently requested to help the chairman of the exhibition committee Jiranek. Sunday Aug. 23 at 2 PM all members are requested to be at the home of Joseph Janecka, 2723 So. Central Park Ave., Chicago, to mount the collections in frames. Tuesday Aug. 25 at 7 P.M. all will assemble at the LaSalle Hotel to set up the easles and the frames. Sunday Aug. 30 be ready at 6 P.M. to dismantle the show. We will need a second truck—one to bring and haul away the easles and part of the frames and Janecka will handle most of the frames in his truck.

We all brag about the fine organization we have, let us brag we helped make it what it is. Members in Canada, Australia and Czechoslovakia contribute to build the Society, let us Americans not be too far behind.

Please Mention this Magazine when writing Advertisers. Thanks!



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WANTED, first flights, Czechoslovakia Zeppelin covers or special flights of Czechoslovakia, contact J. Jiranek, 5032 West 25th Street, Cicero, Illinois.

10-59

WANTED, CZECHOSLOVAKIAN OFFICIAL ESSAYS, Unofficial Essays, Proofs and Trial Printings, contact J. Jiranek, 5032 W. 25th Street, Cicero, Illinois.

10-59

WANTED Covers from Siberia, from France, and from Italy, World War I, Slovakia, Hungarian invasion, Munich Mobilization, Czechoslovakian Army in France and Britain, World War II. J. Jiranek, 5032 W. 25th Street, Cicero, Ill.

10-59

SPECIALTY First Day Covers. Foreign stamps and covers including flights. Frank J. Rosner, 2325 61st Ave., Cicero 50, Ill.

5-60

WANTED Czechoslovakia Die Proofs. All Czecho material in connection with Siberia. Czech flight covers. Dr. Matejka, 216 Hotel LaSalle, Chicago.

5-60

INTERESTED in every phase of Czecho philatelic literature. Let me know what you have and your price. Kovarik, 8748 Rockefeller, Brookfield, Ill.

5-60

WANTED—Liberation overprints—1945, of Czechoslovakia, on Bohemia-Moravia, Slovakia, Hungary and Germany. Chas. Goode, 1528 W. Highland, Chicago 26, Ill.

PRESIDENT'S APPEAL

Members of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society, I have not made an appeal to you heretofore, nor have I troubled you with long and tedious articles on the affairs of the Society. I feel, as you do, that almost all of you are interested in philatelic data of our specialty and nothing else. Further, that you have enough faith and trust in the officers that you yourselves have elected to let the political end up to them. I can assure you that no one officer can do anything detrimental to the Society nor can any former officer do anything for his own personal remuneration. But, this is not the point. I come to you in this issue to **STAND BACK OF ME** in COMPEX 1959! You must! you are obligated to! I will not debate the point with you that I have had anything to do with the foundation of COMPEX, but let it be said that I was there when it began. The Czechoslovak Philatelic Society stood in the foreground 100% in 1958 and in 1959 will continue to be an integral part of this year's 14 Chicagoland clubs venture. However, this is not enough. It is not enough for you to exhibit in COMPEX in the 102 frames which we are allotted. Here one vies for an award in some manner or means. **BUT**, it is necessary for each one of us to contribute ad space, in other words each member should go out and get at least one ad. This is not a Chicago chapter of the Czech Society involved herein, it is all of us! The profits, and there were plenty last year, are for each and every one of us, and do not go into the Chicago Chapter treasury. There is no such thing. **THE PROFITS GO INTO THE GENERAL TREASURY OF WHICH OUR OWN GEORGE KOBYLKA IS THE TREASURER.** Please remember this. Now with this in mind, will you please contact your barber, your baker, your store where you buy your groceries and gasoline, to please take an ad in the COMPEX directory. These merchants expect to spend a certain amount each year for this purpose, and this is your time to help our Society in furthering the handbook fund of the future. Please do not feel bashful—if a merchant declines, then go right to another and get an ad. Remember that the money you send for an ad goes right back to the Society 100% and is not divided up with the other 14 clubs in respect to ad receipts. Only the bare cost of the printed page is deducted and the balance is profit to us, **CREAM TO THE SOCIETY.**

So COME now, please get behind this movement to fill the COMPEX directory with ads—with ads from the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society. This done, and I'll personally be proud of each and every one of you! God Bless You All!

—Dr. J. J. Matejka, Jr., M.D., President

HRADČANY STUDY GROUP REPORT

At this writing the following members comprise the study group: Benes, Breeding, Jiranek, Knox, Kosik, Pearce, Reiner-Deutsch, Van Handel, Velek, Verner and Wheeler. There are no extra dues or financial contributions to join the group. Qualifications to join our group are: Members in good standing, sincere interest in the Hradčany issues or postal history of that period (1918-20) and willingness to exchange information about the issues with fellow students. If you believe you can fulfill the above obligations just drop a friendly line to your librarian.

Your scribe is compiling various reports and notes from the letters of our students and this info will duly find its way into these reports. Correspondence by ALL members is invited on remarks made here.

Mr. Velek gives us this fine info which shows why it is very difficult to plate certain values correctly. "Of the Hradčany full sheets of 100, the

1000 value should be the scarcest, since it cost \$40.00 when it was issued. I doubt that collectors could stock many. Generally speaking, the scarcity of the Hradčany sheets seems to have a direct relationship to their face value. However, with the exception of the 1h value, the second issue (Type V) seems to be scarce even in the low values." . . . Among the many questions submitted to your librarian almost half are concerning the Hrad issue. Here are some answers. For instance the 30 Type V (or call it Type VI?) was the only value initially printed without control numbers. Two other values printed later have no control numbers. Initially the 200, 500 and 1000 values were taken out of stock to receive the airmail surcharge (Scott #C1-3). Later these values were especially printed for the surcharge and control numbers were omitted. The airmail issue with control numbers is not easy to find. For that matter no control numbers are just as big a problem. After enough of the air mail issue was in stock, the remainder of the 200 and 500 values especially printed for the air mail surcharge, were put back into stock with the initial printing. It is presumed that the 1000 value was completely used up for the air mail issue. Your scribe has a used copy of the 500 value and the lower selvage contains no control number. At least this shows that these special printings were put in circulation without control numbers.

For the record . . . the 30 Type V . . . the wood-cut for this value was done by xylographer (wood-engraver) Mr. Čála of Unie. Those that have read early CSR philatelic literature and have not followed up the subject are led to believe that the 30 Type V value was printed from 100 individual dies. The fact is that two forms were set up each containing 100 individual dies and from this set-up by stereotype method plates were secured, i.e., two solid plates each containing 100 10x10 impressions of the individual dies in the forms. These plates and not the forms were used to print this value. It is my hope that this straightens out the old obsolete theories. There is information in early writings of the late Mr. Lowey which is taken as a fact by those again who have not read his further work on the Hradčany and works of others. Mr. Lowey states that the Hrad issue was lithographed. This Mr. Lowey copied from info in Stamp Collecting (London) little realizing that such info was copied by the author in a German publication where it originally appeared. In later writings Mr. Lowey correctly set down that the issue was typographed (letterpress) but failed to call attention to his previous transcribed error. To show our students and members how incorrect information hastily set down without proper research gets into public print, I herewith copy down a paragraph appearing in an article entitled, "The Postage Stamps of Czecho-Slovakia" by Derek Ingram in the May 24th 1919 issue of Stamp Collecting published by F. Hugh Vallancey, London. The paragraph refers to Types I and II and the 1h value Type III.

" . . . The stamps were lithographed by the United Czech Printing Company, in sheets of 100. They were at first issued in imperforate sheets but our latest examples have perforations gauging 12½. There is no currency signified, the numerals of value appearing in the tablet reserved for them. The currency is a new one, designated as 'deniers'—obviously from the Roman denarius . . . "

Just from where Mr. Ingram received this information would be a research project all by itself. Five months after the first Hrad were issued Mr. Ingram had no idea that the currency used was Halery (Heller). Your scribe does not wish to reflect on the character and philatelic knowledge of authors mentioned but only to point out that we must continually be hungry for information and study our stamps if we want to live up to the name philatelists and students of philately.

—Frank J. Kosik,

Route 3, Box 463, Delavan, Wis.

20th MAIL SALE

I want to thank all the bidders of my last sale. I got 31 bid sheets, but I am very sorry if some of the bidders were disappointed because they did not get some of the lots . . . better luck next time.

Suggested bids are MINIMUM bids.

Lot #	Suggested MINIMUM bids:
1. Budejovice up to 1K -----	2.50
2. Budejovice up to 10K used -----	5.00
3. Srobar, 7 values mint and used -----	3.00
4. Father Jehliczka 5K block of 4 * -----	3.00
5. Father Jehliczka 5K PERF block * -----	3.00
6. Scout 10h and 20h * -----	2.00
7. Same USED -----	3.00
8. Siberia set up to 1 ruble (3) * -----	1.00
9. Lions * complete set, SIGNED -----	12.00
10. 25 kop both types * -----	.50
11. 25 kop rare proof -----	3.00
12. Austrian stamps used on cards and covers BEFORE 1918, all Czech postmarks, 46 diff. -----	5.00
13. Similar lot only cards, also stationery, 41 different -----	4.00
14. 8 stampless covers, like PRAHA, Brno, etc. -----	5.00
15. 45 Austrian postcards with Czech cancels -----	5.00
16. Emergency newspapers like: Ceske Slovo, Nar Politika, etc. 11 some * -----	4.00
17. 14 picture postcards of PRAHA -----	1.00
18. HRADCANY, 1h complete sheet -----	1.00
19. 3h complete sheet of 100 -----	3.00
20. 34 wasteprints -----	3.00
21. 68 covers all with Hradcany stamps, early time, 1918 to 1920 -----	5.00
22. 10h, 20h, 30h SUPERB copies IMPERF. -----	15.00
23. 300h in 2 different colors, proofs -----	3.00
24. set up to 1000h * (18 diff.) -----	2.50
25. 2,550 Hradčany stamps all USED, mixed (for colors & canc.) -----	5.00
26. Perf. * 17 different -----	1.00
27. Collection of only Hradčany stamps * and used on album pages, specialized, some waste prts, some reprints, some on piece, nice -----	5.00
28. Small Czech collection in stockbook, about 700 stamps, also blocks mostly used -----	5.00
29. LEGIONNAIRS, different perfs in blocks (16) -----	4.00
30. on 6 favor sheets -----	.50
31. POSTA 1919—10k light violet superb -----	20.00
32. Airmails complete set * superb -----	75.00
33. 10k blue PORTO * -----	20.00
34. 10K Parliament * -----	40.00

(all of these naturally signed)

35.	set of 48 different all *	5.00
36.	8 stamps with INVERTED overprints	5.00
37.	MASARYK 1920, 1.25, 500, 1,000 all *	1.00
38.	125 perf and imperf ULTRAMARINE	4.00
39.	1923 complete set *	1.25
40.	Congress complete *	6.00
41.	slet complete set *	5.00
42.	1925 2k with vertical watermark and PLATE number, superb	30.00
43.	5k * and used, vertical watermark	1.00
44.	vertical watermarks complete set used	3.00
45.	Dove and Allegory, complete TETE BECHE *	15.00
46.	Same USED, superb	15.00
47.	Airmails, first set *	4.00
48.	Second set * vf	8.00
49.	Third set *	1.00
50.	Fourth set *	1.00
51.	Fourth set in blocks of 4 *	4.00
52.	Newspapers first issue, 3 complete sheets	4.00
53.	Special Delivery stamps, Scott 1 to 6 PLUS the error 5h in the color of 2h *	7.00
54.	Postage Due stamps, overprints on Austrian and Hradčany (14)	2.00
55.	Def. issue set up to 2000 *	4.00
56.	Overprints complete INCL. the rare J28 *	11.00
57.	ERROR 50 on 400h (instead of 60) signed GILBERT	50.00
58.	S.O. complete set up to 1,000h (no scarce values, but compl. *	3.00
59.	5h and 15h IMPERF *	4.00
60.	500 and 1,000 Masaryk * vf	16.00
61.	Collection of S. O. on album pages all cpl. * & used incl Masaryks	22.00
62.	MINIATURE SHEETS -12 different mint and used	2.00
62a.	N. Y. Worlds fair 16 different	8.00
63.	N. Y. Worlds Fair on 5 covers used (registered mail)	5.00
64.	Different plate blocks (bl of 4) 28 vf lot	5.00
65.	Favor sheets (with stamps) sold in Prague at different occasions, 16 all different	4.00
66.	21 stamps with tabs mint and used	2.00
67.	World War II—Czech fieldpost in England, cards and covers (8)	4.00
68.	Sudeten, Boh. Mor.—18 covers and cards used during Sudeten crisis	3.00
69.	Boh. Moravia specialized collection on album pages incl. covers, sheets, cards, proofs, reprints and favor sheets on album pages, nicely collected	22.00
70.	Czecho collection * and used in German album, nice high cat.	27.00
71.	Second Republic, 89 covers, nothing rare	5.00
72.	Third Republic 880 picture stamps, mostly used, high cat.	4.00
73.	All unused stamps, face value Kčs 438	5.00
74.	54 different FDC, all vf	7.00
75.	1100 used stamps partly in sheets	5.00
76.	37 miniature sheets (duplicates too)	4.00
77.	Covers of the I and II and III Republic, altogether 306 covers	6.00

Send your bids soon — Books close on July 28th, 1959

ALFONS STACH

P. O. Box 387

Lenox, Mass.

Czechoslovak Postal History During 1918-20

By Dr. William Reiner-Deutsch

(Reprinted with permission from "Postal History Journal")

(continued from last issue)

It will be attempted to enumerate briefly the provisionals used during the period described:

The following were used as regular postage stamps: (Figs. 6, 7, 8, 9)

- Austrian postage stamps 1908-13, 1916-18
 - Without overprint
 - With overprint "Franco"
- Austrian postage due stamps 1908-13, 1916
 - Without overprint
 - With overprint "Franco" or "Franko"
- Austrian newspaper stamps 1908, 1916
 - Without overprint
 - With overprint "Franco" or "Franko"
- Austrian special handling stamps 1916-17
 - Without overprint
 - With overprint "Franco" or "Franko"
- Austrian revenue stamp 1910
- Bisected Austrian postage stamps
- Bisected Austrian postage due stamps



Fig. 6. Austrian stamps used for regular postage. High values are quite rare.

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, 1946-1953	6.25	35c
Supplement No. 1, 1953-54	1.20	25c
Supplement No. 2, 1954	.45	15c
Supplement No. 3, 1955	.85	15c
Supplement No. 4, 1956	.55	15c
Supplement No. 5, 1957	1.25	20c
Supplement No. 6, 1958	1.10	15c
EASTERN SILESIA, cpl.	1.65	15c
POLAND		
Part 2, 1944-1955	7.00	50c
Supplement No. 1, 1956	.55	15c
Supplement No. 2, 1957	.80	15c
Supplement No. 3, 1958	1.00	15c
Poland Air-Mails, cpl. to 1956	1.20	15c
Supplement No. 1, 1957	.40	15c
GENERAL GOV.	3.85	35c
CHAMPIONS OF LIBERTY		
Singles	.50	15c
Blocks	.50	15c
Plate No., matched, big 8c	1.00	15c
Plate No., matched, small 8c	1.75	15c
Plate No., matched, 4c	1.75	15c
Blank pages (15)	1.00	15c
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Part 1, through Feb. 1957	1.65	25c
Supplement No. 1, 1957	.50	15c
Supplement No. 2, 1958	.25	15c
GHANA		
Part 1, 1957	.50	15c
Supplement No. 1, 1958	.70	15c
LAOS		
Part 1, through Feb. 1957	1.35	25c
Supplement No. 1, 1957	.40	15c
Supplement No. 2, 1958	.35	15c
TOGO—Republic		
Part 1, 1957	.60	15c
Supplement No. 1, 1958-9	.50	15c
L. A. E.		
Part 1, through Oct. 1958	1.50	20c
VIET-NAM		
Part 1, through Feb. 1957	1.25	25c
Supplement No. 1, 1957	.40	15c
Supplement No. 2, 1958	.36	15c
INTERNATIONAL FAIRS		
Brussels No. 1 (16 pages)	1.60	25c
Supplement No. 1	1.30	20c
Supplement No. 2 (Final)	.70	15c
U. N. (The World)		
Part 1, A to Laos	5.00	40c
Part 2, L to Z	5.00	40c
Supplement No. 1, 1958	4.60	40c
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
SPORTS STAMPS		
Part 1, 12 Countries	2.85	25c
Part 2	4.30	40c
SCOUT STAMPS		
Part 1, through Feb. 1957	3.00	40c
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Extra blank pages for any of the above— 20 for \$1.00 plus 20c postage.		
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(5) 1954	-----	3.88
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(8) 1946-1947	---	5.88
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(11) 1950-1951	---	5.88
(8) 1952-1953	---	5.88
(4) 1951-1953	---	7.88
(1) 1953-1954	---	5.88
(15) 1954-1955	---	5.88
(5) 1957	-----	3.88

Order from your Treasurer:

G. C. KOBYLKA

1433 S. Cuyler Ave., Berwyn, Illinois

- Bisected Austrian newspaper stamps
 - Bisected Austrian special handling stamps
 - Hungarian postage stamps 1913-16, 1916-18, 1918-19
 - Hungarian postage due stamps 1914, 1915-18
 - Hungarian special delivery stamps 1916
 - Hungarian newspaper stamps 1914
 - Hungarian postal saving stamp 1916
- The following were used as postage due stamps: (Fig. 10)
- Austrian postage stamps 1916-18
 - Without overprint
 - With overprint "T", "Porto", "D", "Doplatit",
"Doplatne", "Portomärke", "Zustellungsgebühr"
 - Austrian postage due stamps 1908-13, 1916
 - Austrian newspaper stamps 1916
 - Without overprint
 - With overprint "T", "D", "Porto"
 - Austrian special handling stamps 1916-17
 - Without overprint
 - With overprint "T", "Porto", "Doplatit"
 - Bisected Austrian postage due stamps
 - Hungarian postage stamps 1916-18
 - Without overprint
 - With overprint "T", "P", "Porto"
 - Hungarian postage due stamps 1914, 1915-18
 - Bisected Hungarian postage due stamps
 - Czechoslovak postage stamps Hradčany issue
 - Without overprint
 - With overprint "T", "D", "P", "Porto", "Doplatit",

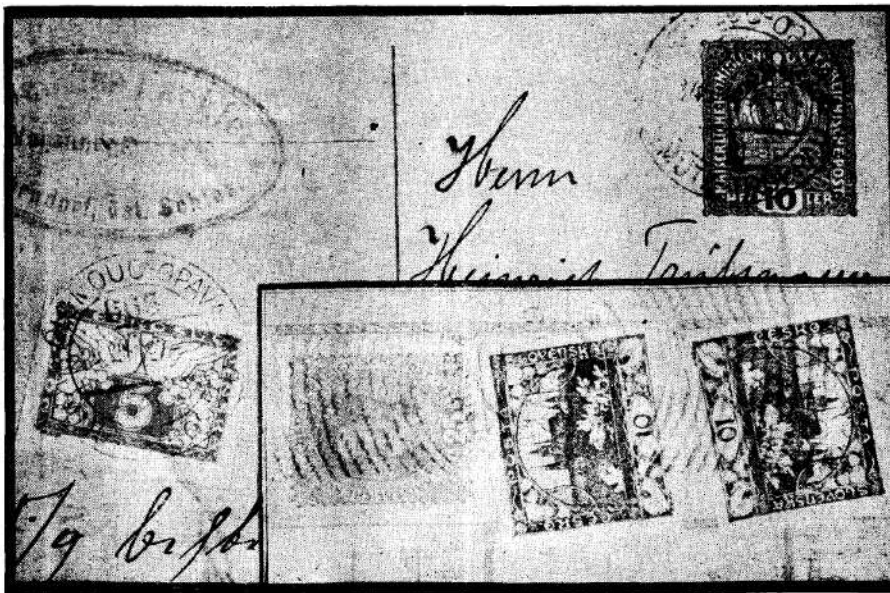


Fig. 7. Mixed Franking. Top, Czechoslovak Special Delivery stamp used for regular postage on Austrian postcard. Insert shows Czechoslovak and Austrian stamps.

“Doplatne”, “Doplatni”, “Dodavne”,
 “Portova Znamka”, “Portomarke”

With manuscript “Porto”

In Czechoslovakia the addressee pays double postage as penalty if mail matter does not have sufficient postage affixed to it. A manuscript notation by the receiving postoffice indicates the postage due. The delivering postoffice affixes the postage due stamp cancelling it at the same time.

Whenever a return receipt is requested on a money order the fee for this service is indicated by a postage due stamp placed on the reverse side of the money order by the receiving postoffice. This stamp is cancelled by the delivering postoffice when completing the service.

Postal Rates

From October 28, 1918 to May 14, 1919

	Domestic in Haleru	Foreign In Haleru
Letters to 20 gm	20	25
Each additional 20 gm	5	25
Postcards	10	10
Printed Matter	3	3
Registration Fee	25	25
Special Delivery	60	60

From May 15, 1919 to March 14, 1920

Letters to 20 gm	25	50
Each additional 20 gm	5	30
Postcards	15	15



Fig. 8. Hungarian stamps used for regular postage. Mixed franking with Czechoslovak and Hungarian stamps.

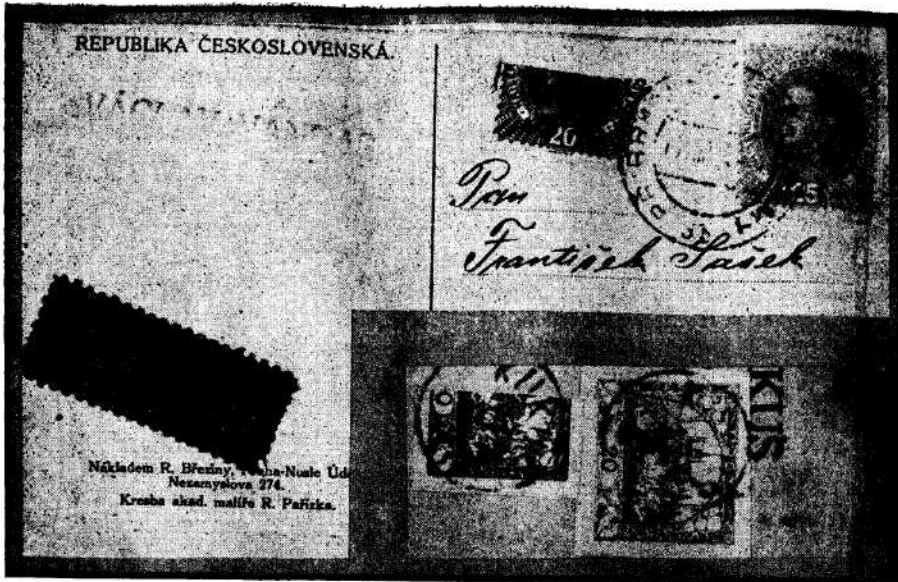


Fig. 9. Top, Austrian 20h stamp overprinted "FRANCO" and bisected with manuscript insertion of new value, 10h used for regular postage in combination with a 25h Austrian stamp. Insert has a bisected 10h Hradčany stamp used as 5h.

Printed Matter	5	10
Registration Fee	50	50
Special Delivery	60	60
From March 15, 1920, to July 31, 1920		
Letters to 20 gm	30	50
Each additional 20 gm	5	30
Postcards	20	20
Other rates not affected		

Apparently domestic rates were valid for Austria, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia and Germany during this period.

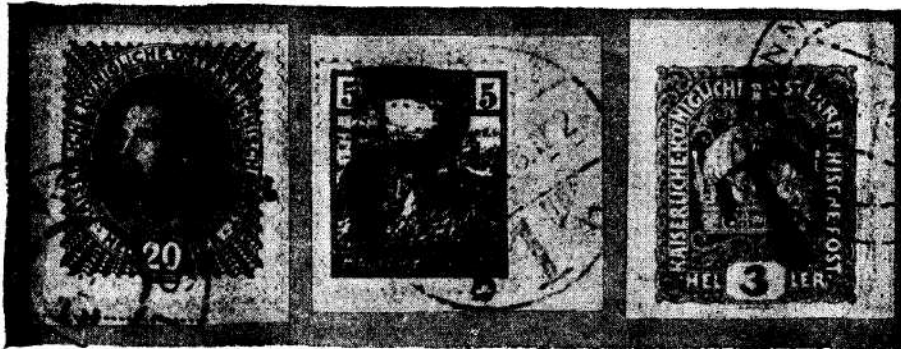


Fig. 10. Three different provisional postage dues with overprints "Doplatit", "P" and "T" respectively.



Fig. 11. Šrobar issue posted at Tatranská Lomnica.

Since the purpose of this article is to deal with philatelic material postally used either within the directives of the postal authorities or at the discretion of individual postmasters, we will not go into the various so-called revolutionary issue. Though some of these were postally used by accident, they were all of local, private, origin.

However, we feel it essential to list one issue of Slovakia which has a



Fig. 12. Scout issue 10h and 20h.



Fig. 13. Scout issue overprinted "Příjezd Presidenta Masaryka".

certain degree of official character. Dr. Vavro Šrobar, Cabinet Minister for Slovakia, ordered the overprinting with "Československá Pošta" of Hungarian stamps which were issued on January 10, 1919. These stamps were sold at six postoffices: Žilina, Štrba, Trenčín, Trnava, Skalica and Tatranská Lomnica. They were valid for use until April 30, 1919. (Fig. 11)

One highly controversial issue is the Scout issue. As this particular issue of two values, 10 h and 20 h, is listed in some foreign catalogues, we wish to describe it with our comments. (Fig. 12) It has been stated in different publications dealing with early Czechoslovakia philately, that long before the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, the Národní Výbor (National Committee), which was secretly functioning, authorized J. Roessler-Ořovský to have stamps designed for use in mail service to and from members of the National Committee. He was to utilize the Boy Scouts, which group he headed, for this hand-to-hand mail service. A central office was set up in the Obecní Dům (City Hall) where the Národní Výbor was also located, after October 28, 1918. Letters were picked up by the scouts at this central office, stamps were affixed and the scouts delivered these letters to the addressee who paid for the postage. In the presence of the addressee the scout signed his name and at the same time the addressee signed his name also, acknowledging the receipt of the letter. The cover was then returned to the Central Office by the scout. Three different handstamps were used on the cover, either for cancellation or for marking. "N. V." in a circle, "Národní Výbor Československý v Praze" in an oval or "Pošta Skautů Praha 1918", with manuscript inscribed date in center, in a circle.

We have studied numerous covers of this type, most of those from the collection of a world-famed collector in Europe. Careful scrutiny reveals that this issue must have been for the sole benefit of Roessler-Ořovský. He was a stamp collector and a member of the Národní Výbor. All covers were returned to the Central Office, i.e., to the hands of the above collector. Some covers franked with these stamps were addressed to individuals in the same building where the Národní Výbor was located. This would suggest that someone on the third floor had sent a note to a person on the second floor via this Scout Mail Service. In addition, we have seen covers mailed from

outside of Prague to the Národní Výbor in Prague, franked with Austrian (valid) stamps and the scout stamps were added to the cover at the Central Office and cancelled with one of the devices mentioned above. This "Scout Mail Service" took place between November 7 and November 25, 1918.

These same stamps were used at another time for one day only. They were overprinted "Příjezd Presidenta Masaryka" and were used on December 21, 1918, on the day of the arrival of President Masaryk. Again we find the same objections to the validity of this issue. (Fig. 13)

We wish to add one additional thought to this Scout issue. Anyone well acquainted with the former Austro-Hungarian Monarchy will confirm that the only large organization existing purely for the purpose of keeping alive the aspirations of the Slavic people was the Sokol. This was ostensibly a gymnastic organization but the applicants were scrutinized strictly for their political leanings and no one not in favor of the propagation of Slavic ideals would be admitted. On the other hand, the Scout organizations in the historic provinces as well as in Slovakia were definitely not of Slavic national composition. Therefore one may ask, how it was that Roessler-Ořovský was asked to conduct such a highly confidential mail service with his scouts.

In conclusion one last issue must be mentioned. By order of the Ministry of Posts all Austrian and Hungarian stamps still on hand at postoffices were recalled in November 1919 for overprinting with "Pošta Československá 1919". These overprinted stamps were sold at a 50 per cent surcharge at the postoffices and their use at face value was permitted. Due to the short period of postal validity, December 12, 1919 to January 31, 1920, only a small number of these stamps were postally used. (Fig. 14)

Except for the two sets of Scout stamps from the collection of Mr. L. M. Horechny, all items illustrated are from the collection of the author.



Fig. 14. Austrian and Hungarian stamps overprinted POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ 1919.

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.

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