

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

A publication of the Czechoslovak  Philatelic Society of N. America

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EDITORIAL

A new season opens. Vacations are only memories. COMPEX is history. Back to work.

Some of our members may want to know the results of COMPEX 59. As far as our Society participation is concerned, we asked the exhibition chairman to present a short, concise report. As one of Compex directors we can say that the results exceed those of last year very favorably both as to attendance and finances. However, do not be surprised if 1960 goes by without this big exhibition. In our first post-exhibition meeting it was decided that two years of almost steady work is enough and that the directors are entitled to a vacation. All realized that there was not enough cooperation from the members; only about 5% of the membership did all the work. Our Society may miss the profit next year, but, remember Chicagoland members, you could have given a bigger hand. Our Society Compex meeting was attended by about 20 members; two of these had just joined and two were out-of-town: L. Markovich of Milwaukee and H. Prokupek of Cleveland.

We received a very flattering note from Mr. James Negus of London, editor of *Current Philatelic Literature* in the *STAMP LOVER*, also calling our attention to an error in the numbering of the *Specialist*. The May 1959 issue should be No. 193.

A note from Czechoslovakia states that the 40h stamp portraying A. Stodola contains the wrong date of death. Some collectors expect a correction in the form of another stamp but we doubt it.

Your president appointed a nominating committee consisting of Messrs. G. Blizil, chairman, K. Zahradnicek and H. Prokupek, all of Cleveland, who renominated all of the present officers including the president because two large projects are in the hopper which a new set of officers would find difficult to handle. One of these is the tour to London for the International in 1960 with a visit planned to Czechoslovakia and the other is the program in Washington for the Masaryk stamp if and when that is announced, with its attendant tasks. As soon as we hear from Washington that the stamp is assured, a committee is ready to start work on an official cacheted set of First Day Covers. This will mean that the Chicago chapter will have to put in many strenuous hours to make these various projects successful. If you as members choose to vote others than the present officers, give it your thought and consideration and vote when the time comes. Make sure that the candidate of your choice is willing to accept the task.

During the 24th Sojex 1959 held in Hotel Jefferson in Atlantic City, N. J., Oct. 23-25, our Society will hold a special meeting. At present it appears that at least three Chicagoland national officers will be present and it will give the eastern members an opportunity to get acquainted with one

another as well as with other members from different parts of the country. Make every effort to attend this very well known exhibition. Inquire in the hotel for particulars of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society meeting.

Before WWII only one international stamp show was held annually. FIP, the organization assigning time and place for these shows faced difficulties; many countries wanted these internationals. Now there are about three every year and next year there will be the well advertised London 1960 and the POLSKA 60 in Warsaw. Members desiring information on the latter may write to POLSKA 60, Palac Kultury i Nauki, Warszawa, Poland. The First International Philatelic Congress will be held next March in Barcelona, Spain.

Members who know they'll be broke after Christmas are admonished to send their dues to the treasurer now. Everything has gone up except the membership in our Society and therefor we repeat what we write every year: If you can afford to pay to the Society \$5 for sustaining membership you will receive at the end of the year the entire volume mailed flat. If you feel charitable and can give \$10 for the year, you will become a patron and the volume, bound in black cloth and in gold lettering will be sent to you as a reminder of your generosity.

We received word that the mother of our past president, James W. Adler of St. Louis, suffered a heart attack and as a result Jimmy could not attend Compex as he had planned. We are glad to hear Mrs. Adler's condition is improving and sincerely wish her a speedy and complete recovery.

Mr. Ralph Palmer of Chicago is on the sick list and as a result was unable to attend Compex. He sent a check to the treasury for \$10 to add to the Compex profits. We thank him and pray for his full recovery. Member Palmer also sent the following corrections to the Specialist, March 1957:

On page 42, third paragraph, it is stated "The first stamp was produced in Jana Žižky and was sponsored by the Partisan Brigade . . ."

First of all, if there is such a town, and I doubt it, it would be called "Jan Žižka," named after the victorious warrior in the Hussite wars (1420-1422). I am sure we can eliminate "Jana Žižky" as the place where the stamps were overprinted.

The overprint is in four lines 1) Č. S. P., 2) Part. brig., 3) Jana Žižky; and 4) 1945. The second and third lines apparently mean: "První Partizanská Brigáda Jana Žižky," in other words, the brigade was named after Jan Žižka. The question still remains: Where were the stamps overprinted?

Page 43, last paragraph, in regard to stamp No. 15, the overprint "OSVOROZENE." The photostat shows definitely an "R" where a "B" should have been. The word is "OSVOBOZENÉ," from "SVOBODA" — freedom.

In the COMPEX 59 Court of Honor we saw a showing of a very beautiful collection of Ecuador displayed by our member Dr. Roberto Levi-Castillo of Guayaquil. We are proud to number member Levi-Castillo among us.

As is always the case this is the month when the editor could issue a 24 page Specialist. We omit the Membership List as also Reviews of Kobylka's Philippines, a new addition to his family of fine albums and the new specialized POFIS catalog. These we hope to present to the members in the November issue of this publication.

GEORGE C. WHEELER

Through the good offices of our New York member and vice-president for the Eastern States, Joseph Stein, we received the sad news of the death July 2, of one of our pioneer members, a patron from the time this type of membership was instituted, a modest but perfect student of the Hradčany

stamps, George C. Wheeler. It has been our pleasure to visit member Wheeler in his office across from the Grand Central Station as often as time would permit when we were in New York. He was vice-president and eastern manager of the New York office of OFFICE APPLIANCES MAGAZINE. To the widow, sons and daughter, in the name of the Society, we express our deepest sympathy.

R. I. P.

20th ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITION

The Czechoslovak Philatelic Society's participation at the very outstanding five day Philatelic Show, August 26 to 30, 1959, held under the auspices of COMPEX, 1959, was a wonderful philatelic milestone for our Society. The exhibit marked the 20th year since the founding of our Society under the leadership of Joseph W. Lowey. The first three frames were devoted to pages of Mr. Lowey's collection, shown with the permission of his wife.

The very wonderful showing, though rather heavy to postal history, contained exhibits predominantly from out of town exhibitors, from Prague, Czechoslovakia, Australia, Canada, Cleveland, New York, New Jersey, Denver, St. Louis, Milwaukee, etc., really did in some manner indicate the broad geographic base of our Society after 20 years. Many of the distant exhibitors sent their material at great personal expense, one of our members spent one-months salary to send his exhibit by airmail to arrive in time for the show.

The very fine material, beautifully mounted and annotated brought in very favorable comments from many guests. Again this year as last we had the same area assigned for our exhibits and all the other organizations had their frames of assorted sizes and types mounted upon tables, but our exhibit was mounted in the metal frames which were set into metal easles, each row of easles with a metal flag of Czechoslovakia, making our exhibit very easy to locate and identify. The frames and easles were again supplied to us by our member Joseph Janecka who manufactured them.

The judges, just as those last year, found a very tough job to select the best of the very wonderful material. Because of the weekday start of the show, the judges did their deliberations individually, but with the exception of one award all were unanimous. The Society's thanks go out to the judges, chairman, Samuel Ray, Dr. L. F. Kozakiewicz, and Joseph Vondrak. Their awards are as follows:

GRAND AWARD

Z. Kvasnicka 12 Frames Prague, Czechoslovakia
Czechoslovak Military Postal History, World War I, Czechoslovak Army in Siberia, Czechoslovak Army in France, Czechoslovak Army in Italy, Military post of the invasion of Slovakia. Included were original design drawings of the Silhouette and the Lion Issue, plus an outstanding selection of covers from all areas. The Grand Award was given with the felicitations of the judges.

CHAMPIONSHIP CLASS AWARD

Dr. James J. Matejka, Jr. 10 Frames Oak Park, Illinois
Czechoslovakia—the dies of Karl Seizinger showing the original drawings, essays, engravers models, color trials and the finished stamp. The various pencil sketches, water color printings and other progressive drawings proved of great interest to many who may never have considered the art work that goes into the preparation of a stamp.

FIRST AWARD

Herbert Dube 8 Frames Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Part I—Postmarks of Prague: A display of the various cancellers used

in Prague starting with pre-stamp letters, letters from 1784 up to about 1880.

Part II—Czechoslovakia Forerunners: Postmarks on the first issue of Austria 1850 showing the great variety of designs used. The display includes mute cancels, railway and station cancels, also registration marks.

SECOND AWARD

Laddie J. Pesek 8 Frames Cleveland, Ohio
 "Czechoslovakia 1918." Selected pages from a collection of mint provisional, etc., issues. Includes the Budweiss, Mareš, Šrobar, and other non-Scott issues as well as the Hradčany series. This was a very beautifully mounted and annotated exhibition which brought a great deal of favorable comment for the wonderful handling of a difficult subject matter.

THIRD AWARD

George A. Blizil 8 Frames Cleveland, Ohio
 Selected pages from a postal history collection "Prag Postmarks," showing 18th, 19th and 20th Century postmarks, covers, etc., from Europe's most beautiful capital. This was a very interesting study of the various postmarks of Prague.

POSTAL HISTORY AWARD

Dr. William Reiner-Deutsch 8 Frames Bayside, New York
 Postal History. Selected pages from a specialized collection, Provisional postage stamps and postage dues, mixed franking, nationalization of Austrian and Hungarian postmarks, stampless covers, money orders, and C. O. D.'s train cancellations. This detailed study of many seldom seen items proved a very interesting exhibit to the visitors.

AMERICAN AIRMAIL SOCIETY AWARD

Joseph Janecka, Jr. 5 Frames Riverside, Illinois
 Airmail stamps and trial printings of the issues of Czechoslovakia. A very fine specialized showing of many of the interesting items of the first issues as well as a specialized showing of the later issues.

In addition to the above winners, there were very wonderful exhibits which all added greatly to the fine showing that the overall display made. Below are listed the complete roster:

Joseph W. Lowey, Deceased 3 Frames New York, N. Y.
 Founder of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society. Selected pages of the Military Postal History Collection of Czechoslovakia. Non-competitive.

John Velek 2 Frames Chicago, Illinois
 Railroad Postmarks upon the first issue of Czechoslovakia.

Liberty Stamp Shop 1 Frame Chicago, Illinois
 Selected pages of the "Posta Ceskoslovenska, 1919" semi-postal overprints. Very fine collection formerly owned by Mrnak, very wonderful Specialist in Czechoslovakia, non-competitive.

Frank Kovarik 1 Frame Brookfield, Illinois
 Thimble postmarks on the second issue of Austria, consisting of cancellations of what in 1918 became Czechoslovakia.

Lolly M. Horechny 5 Frames Stockholm, New Jersey
 Regular and commemorative issues of Czechoslovakia, 1918 to 1954.

Henry Prokupek, Sr. 2 Frames Cleveland, Ohio
 Founders of the "Sekol" (Czechoslovak Gymnastic Organization) — Sports and Olympic Games.

Leslie Markovich 5 Frames Milwaukee, Wisconsin
 Selected pages of Czechoslovakia.

Frank J. Rosner 5 Frames Cicero, Illinois
 Selected pages of Czechoslovakia.

W. L. Russell 3 Frames Glen Iris, Victoria, Australia
 Selected pages of Czechoslovakia.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Per 1		Mint:	Used:				
				185	with ornam. marg	1.50	1.00
1-10	Hradčany	.50	.05	187-90	Tyrš	2.25	.08
5a	25h ultram.	3.25	---	191	Tyrš 60h	.04	.02
13-20	Hradčany perf.	.30	.05	192-93	Nitra	.90	.05
23-40	Hradčany imperf.	2.75	.25	194	Smetana	.10	.02
41-53	Hradčany perf.	.75	.40	195-98	Legionaires	1.00	.15
43a	10h imperf.	2.00	1.50	199	Dvořák	.10	.02
45a	20h imperf.	8.00	5.50	200-01	Nat. Anthem	.50	.10
47a	30h imperf.	12.00	8.50	200a-01a	Sheets	60.00	---
61-63	Masaryk	1.20	.25	200b-01b	Sheet singles	2.00	2.50
61a	125h ultram.	3.50	---	202-05	Masaryk	.75	.15
65-73	Dove, Rep. 9 val.	.30	.07		Red Cancel	---	.50
71a	Tete beche	.75	.60	206-07	Arras	.45	.08
71a	Tete beche gutter	1.50	1.25	208	Stefanik	.04	.02
73a	Tete beche	1.25	1.00	209-11	Cyril-Meth.	.30	.10
73a	Tete beche gutter	2.50	2.00		Gutter pairs	3.50	3.75
74-75	Hussite Priest	.15	.10	212	Masaryk	.03	.02
76-81	Agriculture	3.50	.18	213-14	K. H. Mácha	.15	.05
82-91	Dove, Republic	3.25	.25		Coupons	.75	---
82a	Tete beche	.75	.50	215-17	Portraits	.10	.02
82a	Tete beche gutter	1.50	1.00	218-26, 40	Views	.65	.15
83a	Tete beche	.85	.60		Gutter Pairs	4.00	4.50
83a	Tete beche gutter	1.75	1.25	227	Beneš	.02	10/05
84a	Tete beche	6.25	4.00	228-29	Zborov	.10	.04
84a	Tete beche gutt.	12.50	8.75	230-31	Little Entente	.25	.10
87a	Tete beche	10.50	4.50		Gutter Pairs	3.50	4.50
87a	Tete beche gutt.	16.50	9.50	232-33	Purkyně	.15	.05
92-94	Agriculture	2.00	.05		Coupons	.20	.20
95-97	Masaryk	1.00	.03	234-35	Masaryk	.10	.05
98-101	Masaryk	2.75	.10	235	Coupon	.10	---
	Red Cancellation		.75	236-38	B. I. T.	.15	.15
101A-D	Masaryk	P.O.R.	4.50	239	Bratislava Sheet	.10	---
102	Masaryk	16.00	.10	239a, b		.10	---
103, 4	Masaryk	1.75	.03	241-42	Winter Games	.10	.05
105	Masaryk	.40	.02		Coupons	.15	.10
105a	Masaryk	4.50	.02	243-45	Battlefields	.15	.06
106, 108	Masaryk	1.50	.03		Coupons	.20	.10
109-11	Karlstein	.90	.20	246-48	Fuegner	.15	.06
114-18	Castles, Masaryk	2.25	.40		Coupons	.20	.25
119-22	Hradčany	3.75	.50	249-50	Cities	.06	.02
123-25	Coils	.75	.50		Gutter Pairs	.25	---
126-36	Castles, Views	3.75	.15	251	Praga Sheet	.20	---
137-40	Hradčany	3.90	.25	251a b		.20	---
141	Coil without Wmk.	.25	.10	252	Stefanik	.02	10/05
142-51	Independence	1.30	.85	253-54	Republic	.20	.05
152-57	Coat of Arms	.30	.04		Coupons	.65	---
159-63	St. Wenceslas	1.10	.50	255	Stefanik	2.00	---
164	Nat. Museum	.15	.02	256	Masaryk	.03	10/05
165-67	Pictorials	2.50	.10	256A-62	Leaves	.10	.03
168-70	Masaryk 3 val.	.40	.02	266-71A	Coat of Arms	.15	.10
175-78	Masaryk 4 val.	1.40	.90	272-87	War Heroes	.35	.12
	Coupons up or dn	3.50	3.50	288-92	Nat. uprising	.20	---
183	Church	1.20	.20	292A	Sheet	.70	---
184-86	Castles	1.25	.20	293-304, 325	Portraits	.70	.10
				305-6	Kozina	.08	.04

V. J. FLEISCHER

American Consulate General—MTC, APO 108, New York, N. Y.

- James W. Adler 5 Frames St. Louis, Missouri
 "Slovakia" from a specialized collection mounted according to the recently published handbook of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society.
- Joseph J. Jiranek 5 Frames Cicero, Illinois
 Selected pages of Thomas G. Masaryk, Champion of Liberty, stamp, Revenue, postal stationery, Essays and Proofs issued in his honor by Czechoslovakia, the country he battled for so many years. Non-competitive.
- Anton J. Cifka 3 Frames Denver, Colorado
 Selected pages of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

TOPICAL AWARD

- Mrs. Vlasta Vinson 3 Frames New York, N. Y.
 Selected collection of the United States-Mexico, June 22, 1936, First International Rocket Stamps on Covers.

I want to thank on behalf of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society each and every exhibitor who sent in his material, and all of the fellows here in Chicago who helped assemble, mount and set up and take down our exhibit. Without the cooperative efforts of all of these fellows the exhibit representing all of our members would not be possible. The only regret on the part of the writer is that this very fine philatelic material that was on exhibit could not in some way be available for viewing to each and every member of our Society as I am sure that all would find great pleasure and inspiration in viewing the outstanding material sent in to our exhibition.

Our Society's effort was only one of the organizations who joined together under the extremely able leadership of the officers and delegates of the COMPEX organization led by Dr. James J. Matejka, Jr., president of COMPEX. Dr. Matejka's dream of a combined show, combining the planning of many local organizations to put on a really big show, was a wonderful success in 1958 and really developed into a very terrific 5 day show in 1959. Our Society should well be proud to have chosen a man such as this to serve as our President.

Our Society shall probably participate in the COMPEX Exhibition next year and after reading about the lineup of very fine exhibits that were sent in this year, if your own specialty was not represented, get busy to get in shape for next year, so that your name shall be on the exhibition roster.

Joseph J. Jiranek, Secretary

NEW MEMBERS

661. Dowd, Helene, P. O. Box 305, Huntington Station, Long Island, N. Y.
 662. Levi-Castillo, Dr. Roberto, Tanurahua 801—P. O. Box 3606, Guayaquil, Ecuador, South America.
 663. Auermuller, Francis Joseph, 685 Chestnut Street, Arlington, N. J.
 664. Hoch, Albert A., 2312 So. 59th Court, Cicero 50, Illinois.
 665. Broz, Edward J., 1806 So. Lombard Avenue, Berwyn, Illinois.
 666. Katz, Mano, 8A Richmond Mansions, London, S. W. 5, England, Europe
 667. Trojek, Rose Mary, 31 Manor Avenue, Roslyn Hts., N. Y.
 668. Curry, Harold B., 1708 So. Ninth Street, Monroe, Louisiana.
 669. Vinson, Mrs. Vlasta, 3 Lamesa Avenue, Eastchester, New York

MEMBERSHIP RE INSTATEMENT

490. Tomcik, John George, Jr., 3207 W. Cortland St., Chicago 47, Ill.
 572. Dr. Leigh, Southgate, Jr., 712 Botetourt Street, Norfolk, Virginia.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

597. Jasinski, John, Bldg. T-6106-C, Ft. Carson, Colorado.
 636. Baxted, George, Apt. No. 10, 470 Maitland St., London, Ont., Canada.
 473. Dolezal, George J., Dept. of Fish & Game, Ferry Bldg., San Francisco 11, Calif.

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Supplement No. 2, 1958	.35	15c
TOGO—Republic		
Part 1, 1957	.60	15c
Supplement No. 1, 1958-9	.50	15c
L. A. R.		
Part 1, through Oct. 1958	1.50	20c
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23	1918 emergency newspapers, mint and used, 15 copies ----- 7.00
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25	3h complete sheet, mint, with plates and flaws ----- 3.00
Masaryk Issues:	
26	1920, 125h, 500h, 1000h vf. set mint ----- 1.00
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29	Same set used vf. ----- 3.00
30	Scott #102 vf. ----- 12.00
31	Scott #103 block of four vf. ----- 3.00
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33	Same used ----- 1.00
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39	Same used ----- 1.00
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41	CONGRESS same set used ----- 4.50
42	SLET Scott #B140 to 143 vf. set mint ----- 4.50
43	SLET same set used ----- 4.50





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62	6 different gutter pairs -----	2.00
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68	Czech fieldposts in England, 5 nice covers -----	3.00
69	4 French stamps used, "ARMEE czechoslovaque en FRANCE," very rare -----	8.00
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78	THIRD REPUBLIC, 300 different stamps, used, mostly picture stamps, also a sheet -----	2.00
79	40 different first day covers -----	4.00
80	Unused stamps, face value KC200 -----	2.00
81	1000 used stamps in sheets -----	5.00
82	Covers and Second Rep. total 140 covers (some commons) -----	3.00
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84	33 covers all diff. -----	4.00

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86	MUSIC SHEETS, the 1 Kc and 2 Kc in folder, vf. -----	35.00
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88	COLLECTION of Czechoslovakia mostly used NICE -----	6.00
89	COLLECTION of Czechoslovakia ONLY * vf on album pages --	12.00
90	Bohemia Moravia first set on two covers -----	3.00
91	2,800 stamps all USED, Scott cat. \$180.00 -----	15.00
92	20 complete sheets USED all different -----	6.00

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PARADE OF NEW ISSUES

Commemorative stamps on the occasion of the 4th National Trade Union Congress in Prague



This Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications in Prague will commemorate the 4th National Trade Union Congress, held in Prague in May, 1959, by the issuing of two commemorative stamps, the values, designs and colors of which are as follows:

- a) 30 h, an industrial plant with blast furnaces and a pit headgear, red and yellow;
- b) 60 h, a dam with a summer recreation center, grey-yellow and blue.

The designs of the stamps were executed by the painters Victor Polášek (30 h value) and Zdeněk Brdlík (60 h). The gravures are by Jan Mráček. The second plates for the supplementary colors for both the stamps were made by Jaroslav Goldschmied.

The stamps were printed by the Post Printing Office in Prague by the rotary recess print combined with photogravure. The dimensions of the stamp picture are 41 mm by 23 mm. The sheet contains 50 stamps.

The design of the First Day Cover was executed by the painter Victor Polášek; the gravure is by Jaroslav Goldschmied.

Validity of the stamps for internal and international postal use is from 13th May, 1959, until further notice.

Postage stamp commemorating the Regional Stamps Exhibition 'Zvolen, 1959'



On the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the Slovak National Uprising and of the 10th anniversary of the founding of the Pioneers Organization the Slovak Section of the Center of the Czechoslovak Philatelists has organized a Regional Stamps Exhibition, "Zvolen, 1959."

To commemorate this exhibition the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications in Prague has issued a postage stamp with the design of the Castle of Zvolen. The value of the stamp is 60 h and the colors brown-yellow and yellow. The design and the engraving were executed by Jiří Švengsbír.

The stamps were printed by the Post Printing Office in Prague by the rotary recess print in sheets of 50 stamps. Dimensions of the stamp picture are 40 by 23 mm.

Validity for internal and international postal use is from 13th June, 1959, until further notice.

The design and the engraving of the First Day Cover were also executed by Jiří Švengsbír.

Commemorative stamps "The International Fair in Brno"



The Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications in Prague has issued three commemorative postage stamps to advertise the International Fair in Brno, held from 6th to 20th September, 1959.

The values, designs and the colors of the stamps are as follows:

- a) 30 h, the general view of the Fair area in Brno, colors, violet and yellow;
- b) 60 h, the emblem of the Brno Fairs, in background the map of the world, blue;
- c) 1.60 Kčs, the new Fair pavilion "Z" in Brno, blue and orange.

The stamps were designed by the painter František Hudeček (a and c) and by Adolf Pražský (b). The engravings are by Ladislav Jirka (a), Bedřich Housa (b) and Bohdan Roule (c).

All the stamps were printed by the Post Printing Office in Prague by the rotary recess print, combined in the cases of (a) and (c) with photogravure. The dimensions of the stamp picture are 41 mm by 23 mm. One sheet contains 50 stamps.

Validity for internal and international postal use is from 20th July, 1959, until further notice.

The First Day Cover was designed by František Hudeček and engraved by Jaroslav Goldschmied.

New commemorative issue to mark the 15th anniversary of the Slovak

National Uprising and the 40th anniversary of the Slovak Soviet Republic



To honor the 15th anniversary of the Slovak National Uprising and the 40th anniversary of the Slovak Soviet Republic the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications will issue on August 29th, 1959, three commemorative

postage stamps. The values, colors, motifs and designs of the stamps are the following:

- a) 30 h, a revolutionist with a flag, black and red
- b) 60 h, a combatant of the Slovak National Uprising, red
- c) 1.60 Kčs, motifs symbolizing the prosperity of Slovakia today, linden leaves and buds—sun—factory, dark blue and yellow.

The designs are by Bedřich Housa after the drawing of Anton Holly (a), Bohdan Roule after a sculpture by Ladislav Snopka "Forward" (b) and Jiří Švengsbir who was responsible for the graphic design of the stamps. The engravings are by Housa, Roule and Švengsbir, the additional engraving for the 2nd color by Jaroslav Goldschmied.

All the stamps were printed by the Post Printing Office in Prague by the rotary recess print in sheets of 50 stamps. The dimensions of the stamp pictures are 41mm by 23mm.

The stamps are valid for internal and international postal use from 29th August, 1959, until further notice.

The First Day Cover was designed by Jiří Švengsbir and engraved by Jaroslav Goldschmied.

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5-60

The Theresienstadt Stamp

The Postal History of the Theresienstadt Ghetto

Source of article: The Holy Land Philatelist, Israel's Stamp Monthly
Volume V 50/51, December, 1958 and January, 1959

Introduction

Overrun by the German armies in 1939, Czechoslovakia for a number of years ceased to exist as an independent state. A new name—"Bohemia and Moravia"—was coined for the territory.

Under this name we find listed in a good number of stamp catalogues (Zumstein, Borek, Michel, etc.) an unobtrusive stamp with the inscription "Theresienstadt." This stamp, showing a peaceful landscape, has a long and tragic story to tell.

The Theresienstadt stamp, a so-called parcel admission stamp, was issued by the Nazis in 1943. The stamp is listed in a good number of stamp catalogues under "Bohemia and Moravia." The stamps were printed in sheets of 25. Imperforated and perforated "Souvenir sheets" of four (in several colors) are known.

We reproduce here a number of articles which are telling the story of the Theresienstadt stamp and of the postal services of the Ghetto. It is to be hoped that not only "Judaica" collectors, but a much wider circle of readers will take an interest in the sinister background of a stamp issued during the fateful period of the Second World War. Theresienstadt (Terezin) is a little town in Bohemia, near the river Eger, fortified by a strong rampart and innumerable fortified buildings. It was built by Emperor Joseph II and was a garrison town with about 5,000 soldiers. The town had in addition 10,000 civilian inhabitants who were evacuated in 1941 and resettled elsewhere. 130,000 Jews had to live in quarters where formerly only 15,000 people (including soldiers) had lived.

Terezin always had a post office with its own obliterator except during the Ghetto period. During that period all postal arrangements for Terezin were made in nearby Bauschowitz. Parcels for camp inmates arrived there, and were taken into the Ghetto by prisoners. No "Aryan" civilian was allowed to enter the camp. The mail from Terezin was transported to the Community Council (Later Council of Elders) in Prague where it was distributed to the various Community Councils.

The following is an extract from an article which appeared in the "Weiner Library," London, in 1956.

"The absolute secrecy with which the Nazis tried to surround the 'Final



THE THERESIENSTADT STAMP

The above shown stamp, a so-called parcel admission stamp, was issued by the Nazis in 1943. The stamp is listed in a good number of stamp catalogues under "Bohemia and Moravia." The stamps were printed in sheets of 25. Imperforated and perforated "Souvenir Sheets" of four (in several colors) are known.

solution' of the Jewish question made necessary the creation of a model camp, a luxury ghetto, where existence would satisfy different needs at one and the same time. From the point of view of official propaganda, it was necessary to show that the treatment of the Jews, although strict and severe, remained humane. This was also necessary in order to deal with certain German Jews whose virtues, patriotism, or connections were sufficiently impressive for it to appear impolitic to send them directly to the gas chambers. Numerous "hybrids" (Mischlinge), in particular, came into this category.

It was to satisfy these various needs that the ghetto of Theresienstadt in Czechoslovakia was created at the end of 1941. It had a Jewish administration and there were no gas chambers. Almost 130,000 German, Austrian, Czech, Dutch and Danish Jews were interned there, most of whom were evacuated to Auschwitz, where they shared the common fate. At the end of the war the ghetto had no more than 20,000 internes. It was, therefore, from the point of view of the size, a camp of secondary importance, especially if compared with the camp at Auschwitz, with its approximately three million victims.

"COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE OUTER WORLD"

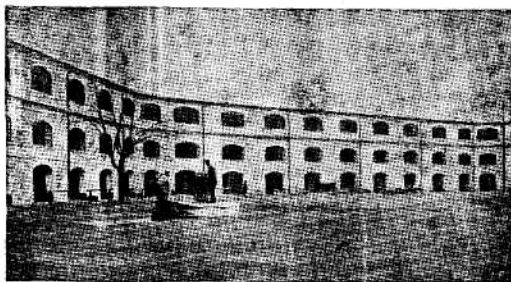
By H. G. Adler

The following is the translation of an extract from a chapter under the above heading which appeared in the comprehensive work "Theresienstadt 1941-1945" by H. G. Adler, published in German by J. C. B. Mohr (Paul Siebeck, Tuebingen, 1955).

The Nazi S. S. aimed at two objects by completely isolating its prisoners from their surroundings:

1. The victims were to be worn out.
2. Other people left in ignorance of their fate.

Both objects were achieved to a great extent. This "Ghetto" was in many ways better isolated than some concentration camps where more correspondence was sometimes permitted than here. Only after September 1942, following the abolishment of the general prohibition of correspondence, were regular postal communications made possible, according to changing S. S. directives. Practically no legal private mail entered or left the camp before that time. Some more months went by after the general permission for correspondence was granted until some order was established in the postal services around March, 1943. The sending of news was restricted according to complicated regulations which were over-anxiously interpreted by pedantic Jewish postal censors. Permission was given to write on one side of the post cards, limited to 30 words including the heading and signature. Of course, nothing was allowed to be written about conditions in the camp,



A square surrounded by barracks in Theresienstadt.



A street with military buildings in Theresienstadt.

and the writers had always to be very careful. They could write that they were permitted to receive parcels but not what they wished to be sent. They therefore circumscribed their wants. More favorable regulations were applied to the "Council of Elders," "Prominent" inmates and Dames.

Rules for Postal Communications

The receipt of messages was similarly limited. In the "Rules for Postal Communications with Theresienstadt" of August, 1943 the "Council of Elders" of the Jews in Prague explains:

Post cards (from the "Protectorate") may be sent to Theresienstadt only via the "Council of Elders of the Jews" in Prague or its branch offices. The cards may bear 30 words apart from the date, heading and signature. Only cards legibly written in printed letters in ink will be forwarded. Sufficient space must be left between the words. The height of the letters must be not less than 5 mm. The cards may also be typewritten. If the text of the card is written in ink, the signature must likewise be in ink. Typewritten text may be signed by pencil. In no case may the card be written or even signed, with a colored pencil. Mention of the position or department of the "Council of Elders of the Jews" where the sender is employed is not allowed. Each sender may despatch one card only at a time to the same addressee. The sender likewise to refrain from despatching a large number of cards to different addresses. Mention of parcels and despatch stamps may be made. The contents or weight of the parcel may not be given. Remarks about the extent of the correspondence as, for instance, "I write daily" or "once a week," are inadmissible. Hints like "Arian mother," or "Mixed blood" are likewise inadmissible. The despatch of a postcard size photograph once every six months is permitted. However, it may only be the picture of the sender.

(To be continued)

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