

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

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

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EDITORIAL

In another part of this issue the reader will find a review of the specialized catalog, POFIS 1959, which reached us during the summer holidays. The contents are better than we expected; it is unfortunate the paper is of poor quality. A work of such importance should be printed on better grade paper unless the catalog appears in a new edition every year instead of the present ten year span between what is popularly known as the Novotny catalog (1949) and the present Pofis edition. If we tried to duplicate it we are sure the project would run into tens of thousands of dollars and the cost of the catalog would be prohibitive. It is true that to most of our members it would seem a waste of money to spend on a catalog they do not understand. May we remind you that several years ago your Society published a philatelic vocabulary of the Czech and English languages which can be of inestimable value when used with the catalog. A hard cover volume sells for \$4.50; soft cover \$3.50 and the catalog \$1.50. Order both the catalog and the vocabulary from the treasurer: G. C. Kobyłka, 1433 Cuyler Ave., Berwyn, Ill. Incidentally, you may pay him your dues, too.

By the time this publication reaches you, the U. S. government has announced the issuance of new Champions of Liberty stamps honoring Thomas G. Masaryk on his 110th birthday. Your Society plans to issue official First Day Covers commemorating this event and the Chicago Chapter sponsors a contest to select two portraits of Masaryk; one for the 4c stamp and one for the 8c. One should be a reproduction of a stamp Czechoslovakia issued at one time or another; the second a portrait which was never used for a stamp design. Do not expect a fabulous prize; just be assured the contest is not "rigged." Member Rosner regales us with a large number of portraits featuring the president-liberator. Time flies; be of practical assistance. We have chosen the artist; we had decided on a 100% rag paper for the covers. The publicity for these first day covers will be handled and directed by D. J. J. Matejka, our president, who has done so admirably with Compex where more than 25,000 covers were serviced. If there is any profit it shall revert to the Specialist.

In our last issue we mentioned that during the meeting of the American Philatelic Congress in Atlantic City a special meeting of our Society will take place. As you know, our Society is so small yet so wide-spread that it is futile to organize regular meetings and so we become a satellite and orbit around any large gathering where our members can congregate. The four Chicago members who plan to attend this meeting are anxious to meet other members (naturally, most of these will be from the New York area) and discuss plans for the furtherance of the Society program.

In this issue of the Specialist we publish a membership list of the mem-

members in good standing. If your name appears in the listing you are a member; if not, you are on the delinquent list and subject to be dropped. You don't want this to happen and you may be assured we don't either. Notify the secretary immediately if an error occurred and your status will be restored. If you forgot to pay, do so now and pay next years dues at the same time. We can make errors, but so can you. Believe us, we need every member if we want to continue our membership rates at the present level.

In our last issue of the Specialist we urged each member to vote according to the dictates of his conscience. A ballot is enclosed; the imprinted names are the recommendations of the nominating committee; don't think a candidate of your choice has no chance; even if not elected now he may be contacted by the next nominating committee, nominated and elected and proved to be the most logical choice. Often, it is difficult to choose officers and in this way you can help. Mail your ballot to the secretary, J. J. Jiranek, 5032 West 25th St., Cicero 50, Ill.

During a meeting of your officers, a letter by member Wilbur D. Knox was read in which Mr. Knox wrote that his collection consists of such specialized material that should he depart this vale of tears a lot of his work and effort would bring no fruit to his estate. Several suggestions were offered, none of which solves the problem. We are sure that in our Society of about 250 members someone can come up with a concrete idea. True, a general dealer cannot appreciate a dot after the 20, a flag on the steeple or an egg in the lap, but many have searched for these items in vain. A 2c (minimum) item becomes a 25c prize. At present we can offer an appraisal according to Scott or Minkus, but that solves no problem. Send in your suggestions to the editor who is sure this question can be resolved logically.

Next issue of the Specialist will contain a very important announcement; don't pass it up.

KOBYLKA'S ALBUM OF THE PHILIPPINE REPUBLIC

All Americans know that when the United States acquired the Philippine Islands from Spain after the Spanish-American War the acquisition was of a temporary nature. Before WWII erupted the Islands obtained a commonwealth status preliminary to complete independence, then war's intervention changed all plans. After the war, specifically July 4, 1946, less than one year after the termination of the conflict, the Philippines gained their complete independence.

We know many collectors collect this complete entity since its separation from the U. S. But the period after the Spanish-American war to the occupation by the Japanese and then the occupation itself are interesting phases which should not be ignored.

We are sure that any reader of this publication who collects this popular country will be happy to acquire this new addition to the imposing list of countries for which the K-Line has published albums. We have been accused of being partial to these albums (one does become partial to something one likes) but you can rest assured we are sincere in our recommendation of them.

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 2:30 p.m. in the Lincoln Federal Loan and Savings Association Bldg., 6635 Cermak Rd., Berwyn, Ill.

THANK YOU

The chairman of our last exhibition committee wishes to thank all who donated stamps which were distributed during Compex. This was one of the most talked about features of that show.

POFIS CATALOG 1959

During the past year or more we wrote frequently about the "forthcoming Pofis catalog." Many of the members asked the Society to publish a specialized handbook or catalog; we found few who would devote their time to the task. Knowing that if a specialized catalog is published in Czechoslovakia the sections dealing with Bohemia-Moravia and Slovakia would be omitted and feeling that such a catalog would be desired by collectors of Germany and collectors of Central Europe we published this work with an outlay of more than \$1600. We have not yet sold enough copies to pay the cost; the treasury owes about \$600 to six enthusiasts who are waiting the repayment of the loan.

It is therefor with a certain amount of pleasure we received our copy of the Pofis 1959 catalog. The first thing we looked for was the return of illustrations depicting Masaryk, Beneš and Štefanik; satisfied on that score we continued. Like every catalog it begins with instructions in its use, an explanation of the symbols employed to avoid repetition or too many lengthy words. The first section is devoted to a tabulation of the stamps of Austria and Hungary used in the new Czechoslovak state.

This was followed by a moderately specialized listing of the Hradčany stamps; the perforated and imperforate stamps, the various official perforations, a separate listing of the gutter varieties, a comprehensive explanation of types including the 75h spirals and "7", various plate varieties (only the better known), an explanation of the trial printings and reprints of the Věprty fakes designed to cheat the government. This section, as well as the following, can be classed as mildly specialized.

The issue for the benefit of "Widows and Orphans of the Legionaires" notes the various perforations known to exist as well as the commemorative cancellations used. The Pošta Československá 1919 should have been listed a little more thoroughly by explaining sub-types, but because of the high cost of many items in this issue, we are sure this will please the vast majority. The arrangement of this section is excellent.

The 1920 Masaryk issue marks the return of T.G.M. into the family portrait stamp album. The 50h, 1200h and 2000h essays are treated lightly. It is said that more of the latter can be found in the United States than in the country of origin; this may account for the superficial treatment of essays and trial printings.

The rest of the catalog follows along this vein up to the outbreak of WWII; the war period is entirely forgotten and the last stamp of 1939 is followed by the Košice issue and on.

At the close of this listing appear the various types which are found on the issues from 1945 to 1958. Then in this order follow the listings of air posts, special delivery, newspapers, postage dues and officials, also known as service stamps. Eastern Silesia (excepting the Poland stamps) is treated the same as the stamps of the mother country in a mildly specialized manner, as are the Scout stamps and the Field Posts in Siberia. A mention is made of the revolutionary stamps of 1918 and again those of 1945.

A listing of the quantities issued and the period of validity of each stamp closes this interesting paper covered volume. The price of this 329 page catalog printed in the Czech language is \$1.50 and can be ordered from the treasurer, George C. Kobylka, 1433 Cuyler Ave., Berwyn, Ill.

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 Editor—Frank J. Kovarik, 8748 Rockefeller Ave., Brookfield, Ill.

Staff

Sales Manager—Wolfgang Fritzsche, Box 402, Geneva, N. Y.
 Librarian—Frank J. Kosik, Route No. 3, Box 463, Delevan, Wisc.

1959 MEMBERSHIP LISTING

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No. Member Name and Address

386 Adler, James W., 6452 Nashville Avenue, St. Louis 10, Mo.
 408 *Aikins, Clifford, 45 Armstrong Ave., Toronto 4, Ontario, Canada.
 496 Ales, Francis B., 1371 First Ave., New York 21, N. Y.
 634 Amyx, Clifford, 321 Dudley Road, Lexington, Ky.
 422 Anderson, Judge Leslie L., Court House, Minneapolis, Minn.
 671 Anthony, Marie, Sister, Indian Mission, Marty, So. Dakota.
 280 *Aronson, Howard S., M.D., 1719 Pacific Dallas 1, Texas.
 663 Auermuller, Francis Joseph, 685 Chestnut St., Arlington, N. J.
 611 Baar, Stanley, 21971 Church, Oak Park 37, Michigan.
 612 Baranak, Mrs. Albina, 1831 No. Whipple St., Chicago, Ill.
 358 Bardoun, Frank, 3877 E. 123rd St., Cleveland, Ohio.
 241 Barry, Milo, 14653 Roscoe Blvd., Van Nuys, Calif.
 576 Barta, William, OSB, Mt. Angel Abbey, St. Benedict, Oregon.
 129 Bauer, William, 25 Holden St., Clifton N. J.
 636 Baxted George, Apt. 10, 470 Maitland St., London, Ontario, Canada.
 346 Beck, Walter, 97 Katherine Ave., Clifton, N. J.
 116 Beedon, Francis W., 2171 Denmark St., Muskegon, Mich.
 535 Beller, Helen F. Bily, Mrs., 2230 So. Oak Park Ave., Berwyn, Ill.
 427 **Benchik, Jack, 115 Fairfield Dr., Shelbyville, Ind.
 327 Benes, Frank, 304 So. Harding Ave., Chicago 23, Ill.
 96 Berka, Egon, 941 E. 54th Place, Chicago 15, Ill.
 508 Beyer, Millard K., 65 Radnor Ave., Croton-on-Hudson, N. Y.
 155 Billig, Fritz, 168-39 Highland Ave., Jamaica 3, N. Y.
 465 Blastik, Charles, 3006 S. Kildare Ave., Chicago 23, Ill.
 407 Blinn, Mrs. Earl F., 132 Progress Ave., Woodbury, N. J.
 173 Blizil, George A., 2364 Queenston Road, Cleveland Heights 18, Ohio.
 575 Bobek, Jerry V., 3040 West 54th St., Chicago 32, Ill.
 579 Bodlak, Vladimir, 1126 So. Austin Blvd., Oak Park, Ill.
 629 Bogdan, Nicholas A., 464 Genese St., Trenton, N. J.
 523 Boucek, Richard J., M.D., 516 Federal St., Pittsburgh 12, Pa.
 574 Breeding, Robert E., 20 Hathaway Ave., Thompsonville, Conn.
 586 *Brincil, Robert, R. D. #1, Cambridge, N. Y.
 398 Britt, John J., 545 W. 111th St., New York 25, N. Y.
 53 Brown, Clayton E., 25 Hampden St., West Springfield, Mass.

- 665 Broz, Edward J., 1806 So. Lombard Ave., Berwyn, Ill.
 61 *Bryant, W. B., 1430 Glencoe Drive, Arcadia, Calif.
 657 Bukofsky, Morris F., 294 Orchard St., Bridgeport 8, Conn.
 114 *Buresch, Thos., Box 333, Vauxhall, N. J.
 651 Burian, Oldrich A., 15 Allen Place, Hartford 6, Conn.
 519 Bush, Joseph E., 425 Wood St., Philadelphia 6, Penn.
 606 Capes, Sydney John, 12 Harley Close, Wembley, Middlesex England.
 144 *Cerny, Charles, 5167 Theodore Ave., Maple Hts., P. O. Bedford, Ohio.
 546 Cervený, Joseph, 2324 So. 59th Ave., Cicero 50, Ill.
 77 *Chapman, Leo J., 321 Creymon Dr., W. Palm Beach, Fla. (Lt. Col.)
 509 *Chesloe, Charles, 83rd & Wolf Rd., Hinsdale, Ill.
 644 Chudacek, Karel J., 1121 New Hamp. Ave., N. W., Apt. 601, Washington, D. C.
 623 Chvatal, Louis J., 2222 Clarence Ave., Berwyn, Ill.
 247 Cifka, Anthony J., 1827 Glenarm Place, Denver 4, Colo.
 646 Clark, William Stuart, 51 South Terrace, Surbiton, Surrey, England.
 670 Collar, George M., 399 Melmore St., Tiffin, Ohio.
 604 Cooper, Mrs. Margaret E., 255 Hammond Ave., Waterloo, Iowa.
 643 Cork John T., 5136 So. Sacramento Ave., Chicago 32, Ill.
 237 Cowell, Eric G., 6 Corbett-Scott Ave., Epsom, S. E. 3, Auckland, N. Z.
 554 Cronenberg, Milton, 66 Hill Hurst Blvd. Toronto Ontario, Canada.
 549 Cuhaj, George, 31-50 33rd St., Astoria 6, N. Y.
 668 Curry, Harold B., 1708 So. Ninth St., Monroe, Louisiana.
 561 Dalton, Mrs. Eve, 18 Pequot Ave., Port Washington, N. Y.
 103 Dilley, Cdr. Luther L. L., 12525 Atherton Dr., Silver Springs, Md.
 530 Ditsky, John, M.D., 18940 Albion, Detroit 34, Mich.
 573 Dobry, Joseph, 1716 Lucile St., Wichita Falls, Texas.
 598 **Dodge, Mrs. Helen Washington, 417 Park Ave., New York 22, N. Y.
 607 Dolak, Joseph F., 12838 Hlavin Ave., Cleveland 5, Ohio.
 473 Dolezal, George J., 123 Grattan St., San Francisco 17, Calif.
 46 Domanski, Vincent, Jr., 4545 N. Carlisle St., Philadelphia, Pa.
 661 Dowd, Mrs. Helene, P. O. Box 305, Huntington Sta. Long Island, N. Y.
 478 Dube, Herbert, 200 Bay St., Toronto, Canada.
 83 Dubey, Bohunil, 285 Trumbull, Hartford Conn.
 507 Dukat, Henry N., 916 Mercer Park Rd., Omaha 3, Nebr.
 524 Dunajcik, John, 5429 Gertrude, St. Louis 16, Mo.
 580 Eaton, Leo, 2444 So. 58th Court, Cicero 50, Ill.
 645 Edelstein, O., P. O. Box 4, Dalton, Georgia
 339 *Elliott, Herbert J., 20 S. Fleming Ave., Atlantic City, N. J.
 544 Feiwelsohn, Norbert, 357 East 26th St., Brooklyn 26, N. Y.
 518 Ferguson, J. A., 4 St. Lukes Ave., Ilford, Essex, England.
 584 Fischmeister, Ladislav Vladimir, M.D., St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Washington 20, D. C.
 158 Fiser, Oldrich L., 29250 Harvard Rd., Cleveland 22, Ohio.
 495 Fleischer, Vladimir, 1901 Amhurst Rd., Hyattsville, Md.
 638 Fisher, Charles, 486 East 74th St., New York 21, N. Y.
 528 Flaska, Dominic J., 310 Sheldon Ave., Downers Grove, Ill.
 449 Flynn, Patrick L., 43-33 41st St., Long Island City 4, N. Y.
 26 *Fritzsche, Wolfgang, Box 402, Geneva, N. Y.
 532 Ftacek, Albert E., Box 169, Ottawa, Ill.
 Garfield-Perry Stamp Club, Hotel Manager, Cleveland 14, Ohio.
 129 Gauer, William, 25 Holden St., Clifton, N. J.
 309 Glueck, Mildred A., 5144 S. Mozart St., Chicago 32, Ill.
 658 Goldman, Irving, 135 Oak St., Bridgeport, Conn.
 153 Goldman, Leo, 2264 Gladstone Ave., Windsor, Ontario, Canada.
 649 Gonnille, L., 35 Bressay Grove, South Woodford, London E18, England.

- 462 Goodman, Mrs. K. F., 110 Brunswick Rd., Ealing, London W 5, England
 650 Goode, Charles, 1528 W. Highland Ave., Chicago 26, Ill.
 4 Greenawalt, Guy, 1215 Cleveland St., Wilmette, Ill.
 433 Gubler, Fred A., 854 Culver Road, Rochester 9, N. Y.
 284 Hajek, Joseph J., R. R. 1, Augusta, Kansas
 504 *Hajicek, R. F., 1627 Clarence Ave., Berwyn, Ill.
 613 Halik, John M., 516 Isbell St., Lansing 10, Mich.
 602 Hanak, Joseph, Brno 12, Vodova 44a, Czechoslovakia.
 565 **Havlik, George V., 2336 So. 56th Ave., Cicero 50, Ill.
 464 **Helm, Robert A., 2473 Elm Place, New York 58, N. Y.
 628 Hill, Bernard L., 1524 Taylor Ave., Elkins, W. Va.
 475 Hlava, Frank, 1927 S. Clarence Ave., Berwyn, Ill.
 664 Hoch, Albert A., 2312 So. 59th Court, Cicero 50, Ill.
 624 Hollenbeck, Henry T., P. O. Box 385, Leesville, La.
 539 Honc-Dix, Vladimir, Morelia 35, Mexico 7, D. F.
 34 *Horechny, L. M., Box 146, Stockholm, N. J.
 485 Hosek, George, 3161 Fowler Ave., Omaha 11, Nebr.
 266 Houda, Joseph J., 1440 S. Austin Blvd., Cicero 50, Ill.
 627 Hovorka, Oldrich, 2521 So. Pulaski Rd., Chicago 23, Ill.
 9 **Hrivnak, A. J., 174 Addison Road, Riverside, Ill.
 520 Hromadka, M. L., 211 12th Ave., Cedar Rapids, Iowa.
 468 **Janecka, Joseph, 2723 So. Central Park Ave., Chicago 23, Ill.
 592 Jankovic, Alexander M., 5218 So. Green St., Chicago 9, Ill.
 571 Janousek, Joseph, R. R. 1, Box 330, Glendale, Ariz.
 597 S. P. 2 Jasinski, John, Apt. 1, 1663 Gilpin St., Denver 18, Colorado.
 548 Jerie, Richard M., 381 Fourth Ave., New York 16, N. Y.
 357 **Jiraneck, Joseph J., 5032 West 25th St., Cicero 50, Ill.
 570 Jirousek, Anthony T., 2648 So. Harding Ave., Chicago 23, Ill.
 159 Jirousek, Edwin J., 13718 Southview Ave., Cleveland 20, Ohio.
 608 Jorgensen, Paul, 1434 Circle Ave., Forest Park, Ill.
 600 Brother Joseph, Adrian, F.S.C., Manhattan College Parkway, New York 71, N. Y.
 512 Julis, Anthony W., 380 Elm St., San Carlos, Calif.
 126 *Kaps, Frank J., Quaker Church Road, Amawalk, N. Y.
 603 Karasek, Ing. Jan, Merhautova 154, Brno 2, Czechoslovakia.
 666 Katz, Mano, 8A Richmond Mansions, Old Brompton Road, London, S. W. 5, England.
 635 Katz, O. J., P. O. Box 8059, Johannesburg, Union of South Africa.
 47 **Kessler, Arthur I., 221 E. 78th St., New York 21, N. Y.
 610 Klain, Ambrose, 13210 Forest Hills Ave., East Cleveland, Ohio.
 533 Kleinschmidt, Wm. R., 1426 No. Kildare Ave., Chicago 51, Ill.
 206 Klozar, Melvin F., 601 Tuxedo Ave., Cleveland, Ohio.
 531 Knauer, John G., MD, Harrisburg Hospital, Harrisburg, Pa.
 71 **Knollmueller, John, 2159 Preston St., Salt Lake City 6, Utah.
 350 **Knox, Wilbur D., 2436 Fraeland Avenue, San Angelo, Texas.
 227 **Kobylka, George C., 1433 So. Cuyler Ave., Berwyn, Ill.
 320 Kolesar, Andrew J., 345 6th Ave., Huntington, W. Va.
 316 Kopcok, Andrew M., 4109 W. 49th St., Cleveland 9, Ohio.
 543 Koplowitz, George B., 51 Stratford Road, Brooklyn 18, N. Y.
 288 Kosar, Mrs. Mildred, 83 14 Pettit Ave., Elmhurst, N. Y.
 515 *Kosik, Frank J., Box 463, R. F. D. 3, Delavan, Wisc.
 626 Kostell, Frank C., 9906 McCracken Blvd., Cleveland 25, Ohio.
 115 Kotab, William J., 12706 Melgrove Ave., S.E., Cleveland 5, Ohio.
 614 Kotek, Jerry A., 216 E. Ruby Ave., Palisades Park, N. J.
 564 Kovacs, Joseph, 6119 Lawndale St., Philadelphia 11, Pa.
 5 *Kovarik, Frank, 8748 Rockefeller Ave., Brookfield, Ill.

- 472 *Kozak, Clarence J., 4005 Trowbridge Ave., Cleveland 9, Ohio.
562 *Kozik, John, 230 N. W. 100th St., Miami Beach, Florida.
239 Kral, Edward S., 2612 S. 60th Court, Cicero 50, Ill.
20 Kreischer, Peter, 758 E. Pierce St., Phoenix, Arizona.
639 Krejci, Charles E., 260 25th Ave. S. W., Cedar Rapids, Iowa.
540 Krejci, Otakar M., 8702 Ridge Road, Bethesda 14, Maryland.
577 Kusy, Charles, 1442 So. Oak Park Ave., Berwyn, Ill.
453 Kutvirt, Otakar, 220 Valley Road, Rochester 18, N. Y.
292 Kvasnicka, Zdenek, Praha XII, Lubkovicove, Nam. 9 II, Czechoslovakia
621 Lehocky, John A., 736 Pear St., Vineland, N. J.
572 Leigh Southgate, Jr., MD., 712 Botefourt St., Norfolk, Va.
662 Levi-Castillo, Dr. Roberto, Tunjurahua 801, P. O. Box 3606, Guayaquil, Ecuador, South America.
380 Lichenheim, Max, Dr., Box 81, Salt Lake City 10, Utah.
212 *Lichtman, Morris, 830 Market St., Rm. 605, San Francisco 2, Calif.
329 *Lindner, Carl H., R. F. D. 1, Fremont, Mich.
167 Linhart, Edward C., 1820 So. Ridgeland Ave., Berwyn, Ill.
542 Linhart, Lawrence, Jr., 807 So. Catherine Ave., La Grange, Ill.
419 Lisy, Edward, 87 Carmita Ave., Rutherford, N. J.
1 Lowey, Mrs. Hedy, 234 S. W. 48th Ave., Miami Beach, Fla.
235 Ludlow, William G., 38 Milsom St., Bath, Somerset, England.
452 Lustig, Joseph E., Box 11, New York 24, N. Y.
641 Lucy Sister M., O.S.B., Our Lady of Grace Convent, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove, Indiana.
483 Maresh, Charles, Jr., 36 Sycamore St., Somerville, N. J.
188 Maresh, Ferdinand, 1915 Robinson Ave., Havertown, Pa.
414 **Mankovich, Leslie, 5501 W. North Ave., Milwaukee 8, Wisc.
307 Martin, David, 10091 McMichael Drive, Garden Grove, Calif.
590 Marton, Steve, 3627 East 106th St., Cleveland 5, Ohio.
469 Marusic, Paul, Sr., 1720 S. Clinton, Chicago 16, Ill.
501 Marusic, Paul R., Jr., 1720 S. Clinton, Chicago 16 Ill.
338 **Matejka, James J., Jr., MD., Suite 216, Hotel La Salle 10 No. La Salle, Chicago 2, Ill.
132 *Matiaska, Charles A., 11217 Methyl Ave., Cleveland 20, Ohio.
124 *Meisel, F. S., 5 Esgore Dr., Toronto 12, Ontario, Canada.
615 Metro, S., Devan, Conn.
67 *Michaelson, Emil J., 1833 Arbor Lane, Union, N. J.
470 Mikrut, Joseph, 1925 S. 59th Ave., Cicero 50, Ill.
338 *Miller, B. J., 264 East 180th St., New York 57, N. Y.
583 *Miller, Kenneth D., M.D., 59 Fairview Ave., Madison, N. J.
595 Mitchell, Robert E., 3833 S. Oak Park Ave., Berwyn, Ill.
368 Morrissey, John D., Jr., 501 National Bank Bldg., Edwardsville, Ill.
405 *McInnes, Alexander, Radcliff, Overton Crescent, Renfrewshire, Johnstone, Scotland.
122 *Neufeld, Irwin, Dr., 103 E. 86th St., New York 28, N. Y.
377 *Nouss, Henry O., P. O. Box 2775, Hamilton Sta., Pampano Beach, Fla.
179 Novak, Emanuel H., 4340 W. 21st Pl., Chicago 23, Ill.
91 Novy, Joseph, Falls Village, Conn.
50***Novy, Rudolph, 2503 Randolph St., Dallas, Texas.
66 **Osborn, C. H., 60 McLaughlin Blvd., Oshawa, Ontario, Canada.
193 Ostadel, Vilem, na Zlichove 36, Praha XVI, Czechoslovakia.
516 *Palka, Rev. Paul, St. Joseph's Church, Marblehead, Ohio.
547 *Palmer, Ralph A., 11630 Wallace St., Chicago 28, Ill.
505 Patzelt, Charles A., 25-95 45th St., Long Island City 3, N. Y.
17 *Pearce, C. J., Coalgate, Okla.
25 Pearl, Julius, M.D., 23 Chestnut St., Audubon, N. J.

- 479 Pearson, George, 19 Exford Ave., Westcliffe-on-Sea, Essex England.
 640 Pecina, Godfrey, 839 Jersey Ave., Elizabeth 2, N. J.
 559 *Pekurney, Paul, 58-32 83rd Place, Elmhurst Greens, L. I., N. Y.
 467 *Pesek, Laddie J., 4491 East Blvd., Garfield Hts., Ohio.
 401 Pfisterer, A. Wm., 285 Merritt Ave., Bergenville, N. J.
 581 Pobuda, Edward G., 42-04 Layton St., Elmhurst 73, N. Y.
 631 Pokorny, Otto Arthur, 31025 Stafford Dr., Birmingham, Mich.
 379 Polivka, Milos, 101 Montrose Rd., Berkeley 7, Calif.
 534 Porada, George, 4032 S. Euclid Ave., Berwyn, Ill.
 233 *Potest, F. Sargent, 5425 Falmouth Rd., Fairway, Kansas City 3, Kans.
 659 Pracheil, Arnold, R. F. D. 2, Box 22, Crete, Nebraska.
 591 Prochazka, Joseph James, Jr., 1912 Heathfield Rd., Baltimore 14, Md.
 402 Prokupek, Henry, Sr., 3434 W. 45th St., Cleveland 2 Ohio.
 616 Rancik, Frank, 2856 So. Drake Ave., Chicago 23, Ill.
 27 **Reiner-Deutsch, Dr. Wm., P. O. Box 24, Bayside 61, L. I., N. Y.
 210 Reinowski, Roman, Jr., 9031 W. 24th St., North Riverside, Ill.
 538 Repasky, Rudolph, 224 East 79th St., New York 21, N. Y.
 526 Rezabek, Stanley, 6524 W. 26th Pl., Berwyn, Ill.
 647 Riddle, Keith Clifford, 10 Burwood Close, Hersham, Surrey, England.
 622 *Riha, Frank, 4118 W. Cermak Road, Chicago 23, Ill.
 457 Rogers, Eric Henry, 27 Brewster Rd., Leyton, London E 10, England.
 403 Rosner, Frank J., 2325 S. 61st Ave., Cicero 50, Ill.
 42 *Russell, W. L., 1495 High St., Glen Iris, Victoria, Australia.
 265 Ruzicka, Geo. M., 5501 Sunnyside, Brookfield, Ill.
 420 Ruzicka, Louis, 18 May St., Belleville, N. J.
 558 Ryan, Timothy, c/o Stuchell, 43-35 Judge St., Elmhurst 73, N. Y.
 370 *Safarik, Henry J., Dr., 416 N. Valencia, Alhambra, Calif.
 200 Schneider, Paul, 51 West 86th St., New York, N. Y.
 404 *Schoenig, Wm. V., 7920-60 Lane, Glendale, L. I., N. Y.
 151 Schwanderla, Anthony, 108-05 Spa Pl., Jamaica 35, N. Y.
 52 *Secky, Rudolf, 1330 145th Pl., Whitestone, N. Y.
 273 **Sisson, Mr. and Mrs. Alex, 4841 Chopin, Detroit 10, Mich.
 45 *Skopeczek, G. R., Box 232, Colfax, Calif.
 632 Skrivan, Stephen, 99 South Crest Road, Chattanooga, Tenn.
 245 Skrivanek, Miles, Sr., 2443 So. Millard Ave., Chicago 23, Ill.
 653 Sladek, John, 2117 So. 61st Court, Cicero 50, Ill.
 367 Sloboda, Rudolph F., Box 56, Church Lane Road, Englishtown, N. Y.
 203 Smerza, Leo E., 5284 French Road, Detroit 13, Mich.
 99 Smith, Charles A., 250 South St., Holyoke, Mass.
 15 *Smith, H. H., 1314 Summit St., Findlay, Ohio.
 75 *Snow, Mark G., 14981 Alger Rd., Cleveland 11, Ohio.
 652 Sosolik, Charles, Box 50, Bryan, Texas.
 102 *Spofford, R. L., 4815 Woodlawn Ave., Chicago 15, Ill.
 375 *Sporka, Wm. P., 703 S. Berkley, Elmhurst, Ill.
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 443 Steiner, Frank, 5100 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles 29, Calif.
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The Theresienstadt Stamp

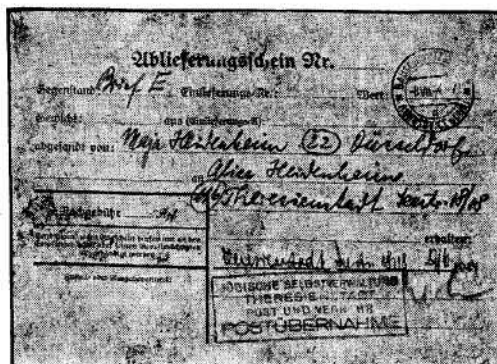
The Postal History of the Theresienstadt Ghetto

(Continued from last issue)

The writing was done according to a fixed custom. On receipt of a post card many drafts were made before the final text was committed to paper. People thought of most devious ways to inform others of their plight, like sending greetings to the "Brod" (Bread, misspelled) or "Fleischmann" (meatman) families. The censors were usually elderly gentlemen from Germany who cumberously took the cards which accorded with all the regulations to the Jewish post. On the others they marked the contraventions, and the sender thereupon received a reserve card. If this too contravened the regulations its writer had forfeited for some time his right to despatch a card. From the "Jewish Post" the cards were sent by way of the "service office" and the "Central offices" in Prague, Berlin and Vienna to the Jewish office there. Only by the latter were postage stamps affixed and the cards despatched to the addresses in the respective region. Messages for Theresienstadt went vice versa by a similar route. Despite all these difficulties a surprising amount of camouflaged messages could be sent, yet very little became known outside about conditions in the camp. A considerable part of the mail destined for Theresienstadt was not passed by the censors or did not even reach them. Thousands of cards were left en route, were lost or destroyed.

The Parcel post became more important than the written mail and often fulfilled the latter's tasks. While cards from the "Ghetto" often took over a month to reach Prague, and even more for Germany, parcels usually arrived scarcely later than the normal postal services. They could be despatched first from any post office. The first parcels arrived at the camp in October 1942 from the "Protectorate." Parcels like cards had to be addressed to "Mr. -----, Theresienstadt, Street and number, Post Bauschowitz." The parcels were forwarded from this postoffice to the "Jewish Post" in the camp. There they were sorted, and "notifications" sent to the recipients. With these each recipient received his parcel at the delivery office.

Everything in writing or printing was removed from the parcels, even sheets of old newspapers. Since Autumn 1943 the recipients had to pay up to 50 "Ghetto Crowns," according to the parcel's size on receipt of their par-



Confirmation of a Registered letter received by an inmate of Theresienstadt, with cachet of the Jewish postal administration of the Ghetto. (The same form was also used for parcel receipts.)

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Per 1	Mint:	Used:	Per 1	Mint:	Used:
307-9, 11-14 Pres. Ret.	1.75	2.75	397-8 Trade Union	.12	.05
307-9 Gutter Prs. Vert.	7.50	---	399-400 Stalin	.15	.10
310 Sheet	.25	---	401-3 Tatra Cup	.40	.15
315 Havlíček	.04	.02	404-5 Mayakovsky	.25	.10
316-17 Brno-Hodonín	.15	.03	406-9 5th Anniv. I	.45	.10
318-21 Beneš	.15	.04	410-3 5th Anniv. II	.45	.10
322-24 Reconstruction	.20	.05	414-5 Neumann	.15	.05
Coupons	1.25	---	416-7 Němcová	.25	.05
326-8 St. Adalbert	.15	.06	418-21 Stud. Congress	.35	.10
329-31 Lidice	.15	.06	422-3 Fiebich	.25	.10
Coupons	1.50	---	424-5 Army Day	.15	.05
332-3 Youth Festival	.10	.03	426-9a Block	1.00	1.00
334-5 Masaryk	.10	.04	430-1 P. T. T.	.15	.05
Coupons	.75	---	432-3 Tajovský	.15	.05
336-7 Moyses	.10	.06	434-5 New Prague	.15	.05
Coupons	1.50	---	434a Prague sheet	.25	.20
338-9 Oct. Revolution	.08	.03	436-7 Friendship	.15	.03
340-2 Pres. Beneš	.08	.03	438-9 Picasso Dove	.15	.04
343-5 Sokol I	.10	.04	440-1 Fučík	.15	.05
Coupons	1.00	---	442-4 Heavy Industry	.25	.10
346-9 Charles Univ.	.15	.10	445-7 Women's Day	.25	.10
Coupons	1.25	---	448-9 Mining	.15	.04
350 Abol. of serfdom	.03	.02	450-1 Collective Vil.	.12	.04
351-4 Sokol II	.12	.04	452-4 Recreation	.20	.04
Coupons	1.00	---	455-6 Party Anniv.	.50	.15
355-6 Kroměříž	.06	.03	460-3 Dvořák-Smet	.25	.06
Coupons	.50	---	464-5 Šmeral	.20	.04
357-9 Insurrection	.10	.04	466-9 Sokol	.35	.10
Coupons	1.00	---	470-2 Film Festival	.20	.10
360 Death of Beneš	.06	.03	473-6 Jirásek	.35	.10
361-2 Independence	.06	.03	477-8 Hybeš	.20	.05
Coupons	.50	---	479-81 Miner's Day	.25	.10
363-5 Gottwald	.10	.04	482-86 Army Day	.30	.15
366 Coupon	.90	---	487-90 Friendship	.20	.10
367 Sheet	.25	---	491-2 Jilemnický	.10	.03
368 Sheet	.10	---	493-4 Zápotocký	.15	.04
369 Alliance	.05	.02	495-6 Kollár	.20	.06
370-1 Lenin	.09	.05	497-8 Conference	.20	.07
Coupons	.50	---	499-500 Holub	.25	.10
372 Gottwald	.05	.02	501-3 Industry	.20	.06
373 February	.06	.03	504-6 Youth Day	.20	.05
Coupon	.50	---	507-8 Sevcík	.15	.05
374-9 Writers	.15	.05	509-10 Komenský	.30	.04
380-2 UPU	.75	.40	511 Women's Day	.05	.02
383-5 IX Congress	.20	.10	512-3 Children	.12	.04
386-7 Smetana	.15	.04	514-5 Anti-Fascists	.10	.04
388 Puškin	.05	.02	516-8 Collective Vil.	.20	.08
389-90 Chopin	.25	.06	519-20 Labor Day	.20	.10
391-2 Prague Fair	.25	.10	521-2 Liberation Day	.20	.10
393 Zvoleň	.15	.02	523-5 Children's Day	.20	.15
394-6 Mining Ind.	.75	.20	526-8 Myslbek	.30	.10

V. J. FLEISCHER, American Consulate General
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cels. They also received one "receipt acknowledgement card."

These cards arrived at their destination after a few days and were also used to camouflage messages.

The possibility of despatching parcels became known first in the "Protectorate." In other countries, especially some regions of Germany, it took a long time for people to hear of it. Only in the "Protectorate"—and later in Denmark—people understood the vital importance of aid by means of nutritious foodstuffs, which were economical in use. Nevertheless, valuable parcels also arrived from all other countries in the course of time. The great number of parcels caused an S. S. dictated regulation to be published by the Protectorate Ministry of Posts on July 5, 1944:

"The Central Office for the Regulation of the Jewish Problem in Bohemia and Moravia supervised the postal communications of the Jews accommodated in the Theresienstadt Ghetto. For the direction of the parcel and package traffic an admission stamp will be introduced as from July 10, 1943. The admission stamp will be issued in limited quantities to the Jews in the Ghetto by the Theresienstadt camp commandant's office. The former may send them to relatives domiciled in the Protectorate.



(Above.) Upper part of a postcard despatched from Theresienstadt with un-conspicuous sender's address and postmark of nearby Bauschowitz.
 (Below.) Printed parcel receipt of 1944 used by recipient—contrary to the strict regulations—to convey additional messages to the sender.

The admission stamps have to be affixed on the parcel itself. In all cases they are to be cancelled with the date stamp. Parcels and packages may therefore only be accepted if they bear an admission stamp. Parcels and packages for Jews in Theresienstadt Ghetto, originating from places outside the Protectorate, are not affected by this regulation, and need not bear an admission stamp."

This was a hard blow, but it did not work out so harshly, as evidenced by the "Rules" of the Prague Council of Elders of August 1943 already mentioned above:

"The admission stamps are nontransferrable. With one stamp one parcel only may be despatched to the receipt specified on the form issued. The Council of Elders of the Jews in Prague distributed the admission stamps according to a maximum weight of 20 Kg. only may be dispatched.

The addition of smaller packages, destined for persons other than the recipient of the postal parcel is forbidden. The despatch of packages, parcels and samples without admission stamp is forbidden. Despatches without admission stamps reaching Theresienstadt or the Bauschowitz postoffice will neither be delivered to the addressees nor returned to the senders. We again point out that a contravention of the current regulations seriously endangers not only the sender but also all postal communications with Theresienstadt.

Everyone in Theresienstadt was permitted to enter one "application for the grant of an admission stamp" at the "Central Secretariat—Transport Section" in the course of one "Cycle." The applications were forwarded to the "Central Office" which granted them in the framework of the current contingent. The first cycle lasted for almost half a year. Later cycles were shorter by up to four months.

THE THERESIENSTADT STAMP

By K. Heimann, Kassel

The following is the translation of a chapter in the article "Die Postverhältnisse in der Judenstadt Theresienstadt" which appeared in "Der Sanmerdienst", Coburg.

The stamps were printed in gummed sheets of 25 (5x5). The perforation was 10½. The printing was performed by the Government Printer of the then Protectorate. The artist is unknown, but it is to be presumed that he was not one of those confined in Theresienstadt, at the time.

The number of stamps printed is unknown. One may estimate, however the appropriate number of stamps used for the confinees of the Ghetto. From July 1943—the date of issue of the stamps—till October 1944 there was an average of 35,000 Jews in Theresienstadt, and as from October 1944 till May 1945 about 12,500. Of these about 40% were Jews from the Protectorate. They only had a claim on the stamps. Each of these prisoners (for the first phase about 14,000, for the second about 5,000) had the right for an admittance stamp at intervals of four months, later of two months. Accordingly, it may be presumed that till October, 4x14,000 equal 56,000 and as from October 1944, about 3x5,000 equal 15,000 admittance stamps were required by the prisoners, thus a total of about 71,000. These stamps were certainly both handed out and made use of. How many stamps, in addition, were issued to Jews not hailing from the Protectorate and therefore not really entitled to admittance stamps, cannot be traced. It may, however be supposed that in effect not more than 75,000 stamps were actually used.

The unused stock left over must have exceeded this number considerably.

The number of used stamps in good condition is very limited. The stamps had to be affixed on the parcels themselves, and will, in most cases, not have survived intact the journey to Theresienstadt. On arrival, the ad-

mittance stamps were in most cases detached by the postal officials themselves, and exchanged and sold.

The inhabitants of the Ghetto are reported to have but scarcely ever seen the stamps. According to the decree of 5 VII 43, the admittance stamp was issued as from 10 VII 43. This day, accordingly, as the stamp had to be applied for first by the confines of the Ghetto. Between July and August 1943, the Theresienstadt stamp can be found with the postmarks of all post offices of the Protectorate.

In addition to the regular sheets of 25 stamps, we also know of small sheets of 4 stamps, printed in black, brown and dark green. Normally, these blocks are imperforated and ungummed, though some can be found with perforation. These "Souvenir Sheets" were prepared for propaganda purposes. In 1944 an international commission paid a visit to the Ghetto, which had been given "high polish" by the S. S. for this purpose. Besides other falsifications of the real conditions prevailing in the Ghetto, these sheets were also used to mislead the Commission. Each visitor, in addition to a propaganda booklet containing photos and explanations on the Ghetto, also received one of these "Souvenir Sheets."

It cannot, so far, be stated, whether stamps of the "Souvenir Sheets" in green color were also used for postal purposes. Nor is it known how many of these small sheets were printed. They should, however, be considerably rarer than the single stamps.

(to be continued)

WILLIAM G. LUDLOW

Our Oklahoma member, C. J. Pearce, sent us a letter received from England notifying us of the death of our member Mr. William G. Ludlow of Bath, Somerset, England. He passed away quite suddenly after three days in a hospital, but after a rather lengthy illness. To the widow, Mrs. Christine Ludlow and to the son the Society extends its sympathy.

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