

# THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

A publication of the Czechoslovak  Philatelic Society of N. America

Copyright 1960 The Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of North America  
Editor Frank J. Kovarik, 8748 Rockefeller Ave., Brookfield, Illinois

Vol. XXII

December 1960

No. 208

## EDITORIAL

A recent issue of the Czechoslovak philatelic magazine *FILATELIE* contained a notice of the death of artist Mario Stretti who had been responsible for many stamps of Czechoslovakia. The date of *FILATELIE* issue is Sept. 5; the notice states "a few days ago."

The majority of the officers agreed that our dues must be raised from \$2 to \$3 or \$5 for 2 years. We are not sending special ballots to the members but if we get too many protests we shall reduce the number of pages to conform to the state of the treasury.

Member Frank Zaviska who has taken care of the expediting of the *Specialist* for the last three or more years finds that because of the pressure of other duties he must resign. The president appointed member George V. Havlik to this task.

Member Velek has been working on his manuscript for the Hradčany issues and our secretary Jiranek checked it against his collection. As soon as this work has been double-checked and edited it will be re-typed and re-checked a second time it will be sent to member Billig who has consented to publish the work. It will be up to the members to purchase the booklet when it is put on the market; our Society publications didn't go over so well.

In the list of new members appears the name of Miss Judith Lowey, daughter of our founder. She attended a member-exhibit of the New York Chapter and decided that the best way to honor her father is to belong to the Society he organized. We welcome the young lady and are sure Joe, too, would be happy about this.

Our president, Dr. Matejka, will show movies of his trip to the London International and to Czechoslovakia. It was decided to publicize this meeting in the Chicago press because it has a membership-gaining potential. All members and their friends are invited to meet with the Chicago Chapter Sunday, Dec. 11, 1960, at 2 p.m. Coffee and donuts will be served free.

Work on Compex 61 has begun and a report is in order. Many members are of the opinion that Compex is for the Chicago members. Nothing is further from the truth. Your Society received over \$200 from the last Compex enabling the treasurer to wipe out the debt incurred by the publication of the Bohemia-Moravia Handbook and continuing the *Specialist* to the end of the year. Every year it was necessary to send pleas to individual members to exhibit. Most member-clubs within Compex charge \$2 per frame (that is the sum the Society must advance as a retainer for the Hotel halls), though it is true that another Society may charge its members nothing. Societies with no publication to sponsor are in for the fun of it; we are in it for the money we can earn. We have about 90 frames and these must be filled by members, not from Chicago, but from all of the United States and Canada and the rest of the world. Kindly contact member John Velek who is exhibition chairman

for 1961. Your editor is elected editor of Compex 61 and at his suggestion it was agreed that every member organization in Compex prepare one or more articles. Compex will donate about 4 pages of the directory free to each club or society; only if the articles take up too much space such organization will be charged for the additional space at cost. We urge our members to contribute original articles for this purpose; if your editor gets more than enough he will publish them in the Specialist. We do need articles at all times if we wish to continue the 16 page per month publication. As you know, publishing the 100 or more page directory costs money and it is necessary to raise this by selling ads. As in the past, member Havlik is chairman of the program committee and members are urged to advertise in it. Remember, business advertising is deductible. Last but not least the theme of Compex 61 will be INTRA HEMISPHERIC SOLIDARITY and the dates for this greatest Show in America west of New York City are Saturday through Monday, May 27-29, 1961. All are invited.

A booklet of 62 pages entitled "T. G. Masaryk, Champion of Liberty," prepared by Vladimír S. Walzel, František Polák and Jiří Šolár was received by us. Your editor hadn't the time to read it but passes on the information to the members. The price is \$1 and can be had from the Research and Studies Center of C. F. T. U. F., P. O. Box 2052, New York 8, N. Y.

While on the subject we wish to call attention to the Masaryk Documentary Album prepared by member Joseph J. Janecka, 7306 Ogden Ave., Riverside, Ill. The album contains all of the information on the sponsorship of the T. G. M. stamps, spaces for stamps and covers of various kinds, plate numbers, etc. Your editor doesn't recall anything like this on any stamp or series of stamps and is sure that Janecka's idea is unique. The album can be enlarged to include other Champions of Liberty or remain as a highly specialized album of the T. G. M. stamps. The album portion was prepared by K-Line Publishing, Inc. For further information on this highly interesting publication contact the compiler and producer, Janecka.

Members and readers who use the Minkus Catalogues are aware that before the first Minkus price list was published, your editor checked it for errors. Several changes were suggested and acted upon, corrections were made and ideas were presented. Last year the Minkus publishers prepared a series of abbreviated catalogs by countries or groups of countries and Czechoslovakia appeared with Poland and the U. S. S. R. This year it appears with Bulgaria and for those who collect either or both countries it is an economical price list which can be had for \$1 at any of the Minkus shops throughout the U. S. For those who must purchase through the mails we add the address: Minkus Publications, Inc., 115 W. 30th St., New York 1, N. Y.

Last year during the American Philatelic Congress in Atlantic City your Society was represented by the president, Dr. Matejka, Middle West vice-president Velek and editor Kovarik. Plans were formulated for a closer collaboration between specialist groups. This year in Chicago the Seminar was attended by Dr. Matejka and Velek; the latter presents a short report which should interest our members. Mr. Velek's letter follows:

The American Philatelic Congress Seminar met for breakfast on Nov. 6th at 9:30 a.m. Dave Lidman presided and stated that the purpose of the seminar was to discuss common problems of the societies represented.

He mentioned the fact that all of the clubs do some kind of publishing or other and have a problem of financing these publications. The chairman asked representatives of various groups to tell briefly how their publications were financed. Following are some of the ways various clubs raised money to pay for their publications: raise dues, create honorary memberships, hold donation auctions, sell first day covers or hold a raffle. One group asked for and received a subsidy from a local museum, another said they asked an

**K-LINE PAGES****CZECHOSLOVAKIA****Supplement #7 - 1959****\$1.20**

Plus 15c postage

**OTHER PARTS**

Part I, 1918-1939 .....	3.00	45c
Bohemia & Moravia 1939-1945 .....	3.50	25c
Slovakia 1939-1945 .....	2.25	25c
Part 2, 1946-1953 .....	6.25	35c
Supplement No. 1, 1953-54 .....	1.20	35c
Supplement No. 2, 1954 .....	.45	15c
Supplement No. 3, 1955 .....	.85	15c
Supplement No. 4, 1956 .....	.56	15c
Supplement No. 5, 1957 .....	1.25	30c
Supplement No. 6, 1958 .....	1.10	15c
EASTERN SILESIA, cpl. ....	1.65	15c

**OTHER ALBUM PAGES  
AVAILABLE**

CAMBODIA

GHANA

GUINEA

LAOS

PHILIPPINES

POLAND

TOGO

U. A. R.

VIET-NAM

CHAMPIONS OF LIBERTY

OLYMPIC GAMES

SPORTS

U. N.

SCOUTS

WORLD FAIRS

**K-Line Publishing, Inc.**1433 So. Cuyler Ave.  
Berwyn, Illinois**Bohemia-Moravia-Slovakia  
Handbook**

(only 600 printed)

**\$4.50****English-Czech and  
Czech-English  
Philatelic Vocabulary**

Hard Cover bound — \$4.50

Soft Cover bound — \$3.50

1 copy of the "Studie o Filatelistick-  
ych Sbirkach Postovniho Musea"  
(in Czech) — \$3.50**Bound Specialists**

On First Come—First Served Basis

We have on hand

(7)	1949	-----	3.88
(3)	1951	-----	3.88
(5)	1954	-----	3.88
(8)	1955	-----	3.88
(8)	1946-1947	---	5.88
(3)	1948-1949	---	5.88
(11)	1950-1951	---	5.88
(8)	1952-1953	---	5.88
(4)	1951-1953	---	7.88
(1)	1953-1954	---	5.88
(15)	1954-1955	---	5.88
(5)	1957	-----	3.88
(1)	1958	-----	3.88

Order from your Treasurer:

**G. C. KOBYLKA**

1433 S. Cuyler Ave., Berwyn, Illinois

"angel" to put up the money, another held an advance sale on the publication. Mr. Lidman reminded the meeting that the annual American Philatelic Congress book would publish articles that could not be published any other way.

Mr. Lidman closed by saying that he hoped representatives present got some ideas that would be helpful. A couple of them stated that they did get ideas that would be of use.

Interested in exchange of stamps of the U. S. and Central America: Boleslav Vachutka, Šumperk, Třída Rudé Armády 23.

Interested in exchange for used U. S. and Canada and mint U. N.: Jan Horky, Praha 4 - Nusle, u Pernštejnských 8.

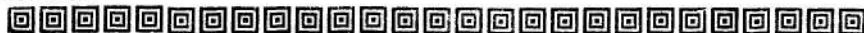
The officers of your Society wish you Beautiful Christmas Holidays and a Stamp Filled New Year.

**NEW YORK MEMBERS' EXHIBIT**

The New York Chapter of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society held a Members' Exhibit October 15th, 1960, at the Collectors Club, 22 East 35th St., New York, N. Y. The following members participated:

Frame No.	Exhibit	Exhibitor
1-2	Official Mail of Pre-Republic Czech Army Units	Dr. W. Reiner-Deutsch
3-4	Early Postal History of Czechoslovakia	Dr. Wm. Reiner-Deutsch
5	Hradcany issue, Specialized	Lolly M. Horechny
6	T. G. Masaryk issues	Lolly M. Horechny
7	Tete-Beche issues, selected pages	Lolly M. Horechny
8	Towns and Castles	Geo. B. Koplowitz
9-10	Commemorative sheets	Joseph Stein
11-12	Air mail issues	Frank Stern
13-14	Postal Stationery	Pat L. Flynn
15-16	1945-1959 Issues	Geo. B. Koplowitz
17-18	First Day Covers	Norbert Feiwelsohn
19-20	Bohemia-Moravia	Emil J. Michaelson

It proved to be a very fine show and all present admitted it was among the finest held. New York Area members are asked to attend the meetings of the New York Chapter and thus help publicity for the stamps of Czechoslovakia.



**WORLD FAIR SHEETS**

ANY ONE OF THE FOLLOWING

**Each 75c**

1939—Black overprint on Bratislava, Praga or Newspaper Sheet.

1939—Canadian—Black overprint on Praga Sheet.

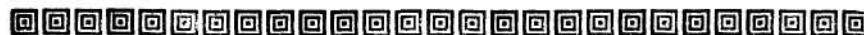
1940—On Praga Sheet—Black, green, red, blue or gold overprints.

All with folders. Limited Quantities.

**B. J. MILLER**

264 E. 180th St.

New York 57, N. Y.



## WHEN DVORAK FOUND INSPIRATION IN IOWA

By Martha Swearingen

(Reprinted with permission from the Kansas City Star)

Tomorrow and next Wednesday, the little town of Spillville in North-eastern Iowa will celebrate the centennial of its picturesque Church of St. Wenceslaus which, during the summer of 1893, boasted as its organist the most famous musician ever to serve an American community of its size.

Spillville, then a predominantly Czech village of a few hundred citizens, had been a musical center from its very beginning. Its famous temporary resident was Antonin Dvorak, whose "New World" symphony is one of the most popular of all symphonic compositions.

It was a bad case of homesickness that brought the Bohemian composer to Iowa. The previous September, the bristly-bearded, bull-eyed Dvorak had arrived in New York City to serve as director of its new Conservatory of Music. With him he brought his wife, Anna, and the two eldest children Otilie and Antonin. With him, too, as interpreter-secretary, came a young music student, a native of Spillville, Joseph Kovarik, who had met Dvorak in Prague.

With the coming of spring, Kovarik sensed in the master signs of nostalgia. "Everything is good," Dvorak would sigh, "but home is best."

So Kovarik urged, "Come with me to Spillville for the summer. You'll feel at home there. It's peaceful and quiet like your country place at Vysoka, and you'll find plenty of your beloved horses and pigeons. Folks there speak Czech. They play your favorite card games, too. And," Kovarik played his own trump card, "just wait till you taste that Spillville beer!"

So Dvorak sent for the children he had left in Prague, and early in June two carriages rolled into Spillville from the railroad station at Calmar, five miles away. They brought a very thirsty composer (no beer on the train), Anna, their four girls and two boys, Anna's sister with her maid, and Kovarik.

True to Kovarik's prediction, Dvorak felt at home in the Old World village set against a background of gently sloping hills. He was up at 4 the next morning, strolling along its elm-lined streets and through the woods on Turkey river at the east side of town. By 7 o'clock he had found his way to the organ loft of St. Wenceslaus. Daily thereafter he played for the mass, and Anna sang in the choir.

Patterned after the cathedral at Kuttenberg in his native land, and named for Bohemia's patron saint, "Good King Wenceslaus" of the English Christmas carol, the Old World church enchanted Dvorak. "The bells of St. Wenceslaus," he would murmur as he listened to their chiming morning, noon and night, "the bells of St. Wenceslaus. They remind me of home."

The sounds of the Iowa countryside also enchanted the composer. On his walks he always carried a notebook in which he jotted down his impressions—bird calls, "the wind in the prairie grasses," as he put it, and the water tumbling over the mill dam.

No doubt thrifty Anna Dvorak bought good Iowa corn meal from this old grist mill just as Spillville housewives do today. One of the few water-wheel mills still in operation in Iowa, it was built by a German settler, Joseph Spielman, after whom the town was originally called "Spielville."

Like many Old World villages, Spillville is built around the square, and here, on Sundays and holidays in that summer of 1893, the Musikants played their lively tunes while the Dvorak family joined in the folk dancing.

During their stay in Spillville, the family lived in a 2-story red brick house which today is a museum. A plaque above the doorway reads:

Antonin Dvorak, the great composer, lived in this house while he composed "Humoresque."

## 27<sup>th</sup> MAIL SALE

Lot No.	Suggested MINIMUM bids:
1. Scout stamps *	2.00
2. Same used on pieces	2.00
3. Scout stamps on two covers	4.00
4. Budejovice set up to 1K on cover	3.00
5. Set up to 10K used	5.00
6. Srobar 8 values mint and used	5.00
7. Jehliczka, 5K block of four *	2.00
8. Same perforated in bl. *	2.00
9. Sokol Congress labels (old), 12 diff.	2.00
10. 28 cards used on Czech territory before 1918	3.00
11. Covers with Austrian stamps used on Czech territory before 1918, also cards (36)	4.00
12. Picture postcards of Czecho 59 diff. all with stamps	3.00
13. Picture postcards with ONLY Prague, 62 diff.	3.00
14. 8 stampless covers before 1950 all with Czech cancellations	4.00
15. Emergency newspaper stamps, blocks stamps altogether 18, * & used	5.00
16. SIBERIA: set of 3, 25, 50, 1R *	1.00
17. Same used perf. 11½	4.00
18. Set of lions complete * (scarce)	10.00
19. 25 kop both types *	1.00
20. Essay of this issue *	2.00
21. Small sheet with both types in diff. color than the original	10.00
22. Cover but no stamps	5.00
23. HRADCANY: 4 complete sheets * and used	8.00
24. 22 waste prints	2.00
25. Set up to the 1000 h * also perf, 29 values	2.00
26. 117 covers with Hradcany stamps	6.00
27. With "T" and D overprints (tax)	4.00
28. Coll. * and used, some varieties	5.00
29. Essays and proofs (8)	8.00
30. About 2,000, also others all used	4.00
31. A nice collection with Hradcany and all the other issues in an album, nice collection to start Czecho with, mostly used	5.00
32. Similar collection on pages	6.00
33. LEGION stamps mostly in blocks, also diff. perf., altogether 87 stps.	5.00
34. Cover with complete set	.50
35. POSTA 1919, set up to 10K, complete vf all *	23.00
36. Airmail set complete * and signed	70.00
37. 20 filler black on gr. UNissued value, scarce, signed	6.00
38. 6 different all INVERTED overprints	6.00
39. CONGRESS complete set *	10.00
40. SLET complete set *	9.00
41. Same used on piece, vf	9.00
42. 1925 vertical watermark, 2K scarce *	30.00
43. 1925 vertical watermark, 3K scarce *	60.00
44. Complete set used 1K to 5K	3.00
45. 50h green TETE BECHE superb block used	10.00
46. 20h orange TETE BECHE "long" used	4.00
47. Complete set of Allegories and Dove up to 600h perf *	4.00

48.	5h brown in color of 2h, Error (Special Delivery) -----	3.00
49.	POSTAGE DUES, emergencies 16 diff., diff. overprints -----	2.00
50.	5h to 2000h complete set * -----	5.00
51.	400h ORANGE in color of 250h -----	2.00
52.	Overprints incl. No. J28, set of 41 diff. all Vf and * -----	10.00
53.	50h on 400h RARE error (instead of 60h on 400) signed "Gilbert" cat. NET \$100 -----	40.00
54.	1928 5h to 20K * set -----	1.00
55.	S. O. Eastern Silesia set up to 1000h Hradcany and postage dues up to 1000h -----	4.00
56.	500h and 1000h MASARYK, vf SCOTT \$70 -----	15.00
57.	Vf collection on album pages incl. Masaryk and some better -----	21.00
58.	Plate BLOX: vf nice lot of ALL BLOX of 4 with plates, 58 diff. --	14.00
59.	Slovakia, plate blox, 16 different -----	4.00
60.	FAVOR SHEETS, sold in Praha on diff. occasions, collection 24 dif. -----	10.00
61.	STAMPS WITH COUPONS, 28 some used and * -----	2.00
62.	6 different gutter pairs -----	2.00
63.	11 different miniature sheets * and used -----	2.00
64.	Collection of 32 different N. Y. World's Fair sheets -----	25.00
65.	50h Benes autographed by the president Eduard BENES, sold at the fair for \$15 -----	6.00
66.	3 sheets used, actually on covers at the fair with U. S. stamps ----	2.00
67.	Czech fieldposts in England, 3 covers -----	2.00
68.	Czech fieldposts in England, 5 nice covers -----	3.00
69.	4 French stamps used, "ARMEE czechoslovaque en FRANCE," very rare -----	8.00
70.	SUDETEN, 26 cards used during the Sudeten crisis -----	6.00
71.	CZECH FIELDPOST in England, 4 covers -----	1.50
72.	20 different Sudeten stamps * and used -----	6.00
73.	Airmail set from 50h to 20K -----	1.00
74.	Bohemia, Moravia, cover collection consisting of 126 covers used during the occupation -----	14.00
75.	Specialized collection with sheets, covers, proofs, reprints, vf on album pages -----	25.00
76.	SECOND REPUBLIC Scott #307 to 309 VERTICAL GUTTERS * -----	6.00
77.	Same HORIZONTAL GUTTERS * -----	6.00
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
83.	SLOVAKIA, complete country on album sheets incl first set signed -----	42.00
84.	33 covers all diff. -----	4.00

Books close on December 31, 1960

The sooner we get the bids the better we can take care of them.

**ALFONS STACH**

P. O. Box 387

Lenox, Mass.

This statement is not quite true. Presumably Dvorak did receive his inspiration for "Humoresque" while in Spillville, and certainly he made notes and sketches for it here, but he did not actually write it down until after his departure.

Just before leaving New York the composer had completed his "New World" symphony, and while in Spillville he perfected this work, incorporating in it some Iowa bird calls.

When three medicine men of the iroquois tribe came to Spillville to sing and dance to the beat of their drums, Dvorak was fascinated, going every night to watch them. The musical ear can detect this Indian influence in his "String Quartet in F Major" and in the "Quintet in E Flat Major," both of which he composed while in Spillville.

In August Dvorak went to the Chicago World's Fair, where on Czech day he conducted a concert of his own compositions. Thirty thousand Czechs came from America and Europe to applaud him.

In September he visited the Bohemian editor of the Omaha Bee, then went on to Minnehaha Falls in Minnesota. Here again he found Indians singing and dancing. Having no paper with him, Dvorak jotted notes on his stiff white shirt cuffs. These notes he used in the second movement of the "Sonatina for Violin and Piano" which he wrote for his children. It was this movement that Fritz Kresler rearranged and popularized as "Indian Lament."

Happy as he had been in Spillville, the explosive Dvorak made a most unseemly exit from the village. Within four hours, so Croy says, he packed up his family, hired a carriage, and drove madly to the railroad station—all because his daughter, Otilie, had fallen in love with a village lad of whom he did not approve. (The faithful Kovarik also returned to New York where for many years, after Dvorak's return to Bohemia, he played the viola in the Philharmonic orchestra.)

But Dvorak did not allow his disapproval of the Spillville suitor to cloud the memory of an otherwise peaceful and fruitful summer.

"I was happy among these people," he wrote after his return to New York, "and they all like me, too; especially the old men and women were happy when I played Czech religious songs for them in the church."

## Czechoslovakia On Stamps

by Otto S. Leib

Reprinted with permission from Weekly Philatelic Gossip

(continued from last issue)

### Soviet Influence and Take-over

Under the government of President Benes, who undertook the re-establishment of the Czechoslovak state with a provisional government, democratic institutions were recreated and laws protecting freedom of peaceful assembly, free speech and freedom of worship reinstated. On postage stamps, however, the new political forces which were at work could be observed much easier. When the provisional Benes-government was established at Kosice, the first new stamps of the Czechoslovak republic showed the coat-of-arms of the nation, but with the picture of a steel helmeted Soviet soldier.

The souvenir sheet celebrating the same occasion shows the same stamps. The April-May issue from Kosice shows the map of Czechoslovakia with the flag of the Soviet-Union and Czechoslovakia on the left and right sides, superimposed by Russian and Czechoslovak clasped hands. Today after the events of the last twelve years, one can imagine that the Russian hand in reality never let go. Among the twenty cabinet ministers in the provisional



government, seven were Communists and the most important post of Minister of the Interior with control of the police was filled by a Communist. Decrees published at this time were the nationalization of key-industries and banking, the expulsion of all Germans and Hungarians who could not prove to have been anti-Nazi and the settlement of Czechs and Slovaks in the depopulated Sudeten area. The establishment of a functioning government as early as at the liberation of Kosice guaranteed the impossibility of outright acquisition of Czechoslovakia as an integral part of Soviet-Russia. The Carpatho-Ukraine, however, was not as lucky. When the Soviet army entered the Carpatho-Ukraine, alleged delegates from National Committees held a rally at Uzhorod at which they "petitioned" the Soviet-Union to incorporate the Carpatho-Ukraine into the Soviet state. The Soviet-Union complied at once, without communicating with the government of Czechoslovakia and made that province one of the Russian Soviet republics. The Russian armed forces in Czechoslovakia showed complete disregard for agreements made between the two governments. Especially the deportation of over 7,000 citizens of Czechoslovakia, residents of the province of Slovakia, the majority of which never returned, was a flagrant breach of confidence. But there was nothing to be done except protesting, since Russia now bordered on Czechoslovakia, after the Carpatho-Ukraine was turned over to the Soviet giant.

Early in 1948 the Communist party on orders from Moscow decided to take over completely since indications of dissatisfaction with Russian domination were already visible. The government had accepted an American invitation to participate in a planning conference for the Marshall Plan and the Social Democratic party had replaced its pro-Russian leader with a more independent one. Student elections showed that the Communist party might lose quite heavily of its 38% of the total vote, which it had gained in 1946 with the 1948 elections drawing near. First of all, the Communist propaganda ministry attacked all other parties violently in publications and the Minister of the Interior replaced democratic elements in the police force with Communist appointees. The Minister of the Interior, together with the other Communist cabinet members, then defied the majority of the protesting non-Communist ministers, who then resigned.

On February 25, 1948, President Benes permitted a change in the government by accepting a cabinet headed by Klement Gottwald (Czechoslovakia Nos. 363-67, 455, 487, 577-78, 584-85, 639-41). Jan Masaryk, the son and spiritual heir of his great father, was retained as Foreign Minister. However on March 10th his body was found at the front of his apartment, apparently a suicide, but public opinion in Czechoslovakia believed that he was pushed to his death. National elections in May showed totalitarian "improvements": A single slate of appointed candidates, permission to vote outside of the ballot booth with consequent inducement to voters to "prove" their Communist reliability. Those who marked their ballots in the booth stood embarrassed. 89% of the voters approved the Communist slate and the remaining 11% were branded as traitors and reactionaries. President Benes resigned two days before he was supposed to sign the new constitution into law. Klement Gottwald, up to now Prime Minister, was appointed President of Czechoslovakia. Under his administration trade treaties with Russia were designed to favor the Soviet giant, unlimited privileges were granted to Russia which permitted exploitation of Czechoslovak uranium deposits. Houses and hotels in famous Karlovy Vary (Karlsbad) were turned over to Russian worker's organizations "as a free gift." It was prevented that France concluded a treaty of alliance with the Czechoslovak republic and Marshall Plan aid was refused on orders from Moscow. On September 3rd former President Eduard Benes died.

In 1949 the Communist government requested from the Roman Catholic

church that all appointments for the lower clergy were to be made by the state and both Roman Catholic and Protestant churches were told "to put order in their relations with the republic." The traditional separation of church and state became therefore non-existent, the state taking control of religion and requiring the clergy to swear allegiance to the state. College and university education became open only to those who were "reliable." The pattern of a "People's Democracy" was established.

Philatelically, the changes in government policy are evident. Lenin (Czechoslovakia Nos. 370-71, 497-98, 635-36) and Stalin (Nos. 399-400) became subjects for philatelic honors, although they were Russian, not Czechoslovaks. Russian writers were honored on Czechoslovak stamps as Alexander S. Pushkin (No. 388), Leo N. Tolstoy (Nos. 631-32), Anton P. Chekhov (Nos. 665-63), outstanding authors, who wrote in Russian and not in Czech, Slovak or even in Ukrainian, not to speak of the minority languages German and Hungarian. Among the many dead Czechoslovak patriots, poets, sculptors, singers and scientists, who have been honored on the stamps of the Communist Czechoslovak government, probably many would have refused to get these honors from the present regime.

During 1950-51 the prescribed goal for the five years plan was not attained and, as in all totalitarian states, somebody had to be blamed. The totalitarian state's perfection in regard to production, through its "superior" structure, compared to the so-called democratic and social-democratic countries, cannot be questioned. Gottwald himself was not put on trial, but many of his associates. The majority was executed, after having been forced to confess to economical and political crimes, publicly in court. The trials were on December 3, 1952, and seem to have been a colossal strain on President Gottwald, who died the following March. The former trade union boss and Prime Minister Antonin Zapotocky (Nos. 605-06, 617-18, 676-78) was appointed President of the Czechoslovak republic.

#### The End

To those who cherish democratic liberty, especially to Americans who have inherited from the founding fathers of the American republic privileges and duties, which the Czechoslovak people have tried to secure for themselves, the relation of 1900 years of almost incessant longing for freedom should instill appreciation for what we have. Is it too much asked that Czechs and Slovaks regain their full sovereignty permanently? The fact that they live at the crossroad between West and East should not be the reason for eternal foreign domination.

Following is a list of references of sources:  
 Encyclopedia Britannica.  
 World Scope Family Library.  
 Charles Richet, Allgemeine Kulturgeschichte.  
 Otto Feger, Aus der Vergangenheit einer alten Stadt.  
 Josef Lettrich, History of Modern Slovakia.  
 Mrs. Sigrid von Blankenhagen, Excerpts from the History of the Council of Constance by Ulrich v. Riechenthal.

---

#### 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.

---

---

---

---

---

# WANT TO BUY

MINT MINT  
**CZECHOSLOVAKIA**

ISSUES 1923-1926  
(Scott Nos. 92-118)

Full Sheets

Part Sheets

Blocks

Die Proofs

Color Trials

Plate Proofs

Rare Perforations

Varieties

Rare Watermark Positions

**ARTHUR I. KESSLER**

551 Fifth Ave.

New York 17, N. Y.

---

---

---

---

---

We just bought a big stock of

**CZECHOSLOVAKIA**

and

**Slovakia**

and

**Boh Moravia**

and a VERY Specialized Collection  
of these countries

WE FILL WANT LISTS

**Alfons Stach**

LENOX, MASS.