

# THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Official publication of the



Czechoslovak Philatelic Society

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## Editorial Board:

Dr. Wm. Reiner-Deutsch, Editor, P. O. Box 24, Bayside 61, N. Y.; W. Fritzsche, Canandaigua, N. Y.; C. J. Pearce, Coalgate, Okla.; J. Velek, Chicago, Ill.; J. J. Verner, Poznan, Poland. Editor Emeritus: Frank J. Kovarik.

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## TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY NUMBER

### II

#### EDITORIAL

We, like millions of others, were shocked and grieved by the horrible tragedy on November 22, 1963. One of the finest young men in the history of our country, President John F. Kennedy, was killed by the bullets of an assassin which put an untimely end to his efforts in a noble program. His memory will live on forever in the hearts of his countrymen.

We have just learned that our European honorary members Kvasniča and Karásek received silver medals at the Istanbul International Exhibition and that our member in Sweden, Gösta Hedbom, also was awarded a silver medal for his Czechoslovak entry at Nord 1963.

It is indeed very interesting that twenty-two years ago member Horechny was asked by us to undertake the Editorship of the Specialist during our term of office as President. This year we are the Editor and Lolly has taken the office of President.

The question has been raised by some members of our society as well as by collectors belonging to larger philatelic organizations interested in Czechoslovak philately, whether it is practical for us to publish so many articles on the Hradčany issue. Our job is to be entirely impartial in the matter in spite of our special interest in that issue. Furthermore, we wish to say that we have more collectors with the willingness to write articles on their specialty, the Hradčany issue, than others who would take time to describe interesting features on the numerous other issues. This latter may be the chief reason for the extensive literature on the Hradčany. We wish to quote a few lines from a letter from our highly valued collaborator Mr. Skopecek. "Personally I think many collectors have gone overboard for all the blemishes that appear on the stamps of this issue and call them plate defects or varieties. These blemishes, such as color spots, white dot smears and others, were caused mostly by poor printing. When we consider the equipment and material available at that time, it is a wonder that the printing was not worse. I have done enough of printing to know how an almost invisible piece of dry ink or other matter stuck to the plate or the ink roller can show on the print in various ways and may affect a whole day's run. When I print, every time I pull a print, I inspect it for a defect. Of course, on a machine run of millions of stamps it was not possible

to stop the press for inspection unless something of real importance showed up. Anyway, I do not think there was efficient inspection. Everybody can collect anything they please, anyway they want, but I do not think they should hang the wrong name on mere printing blemishes. There are plenty of plate varieties without adding some phony ones." We wish to invite our Hradčany specialists' comments on this at their pleasure.

We have another very interesting communication from one of our U. S. members which we will quote in this Editorial. "The last Space Research set of six stamps had been planned, as per usual, a year or more ahead. Then, when in the beginning of this year (1963) a big space research exhibition was to open, someone (most likely Artia) came up with the suggestion that a miniature sheet be issued for the opening of this exhibition which would sort of put a finishing touch to the whole set (also to bring in money for the State and premiums to the Artia people). This was easier said than done however, for the opening was only a month or two away. So they took the die of one of the rocket stamps, changed the value, rocked in 12 subjects on a steel plate and then hurry, hurry, the artist did the designs of stars and dots by hand all around the 12. Because of the haste in which the whole job was done, it was discovered only after the plate was hardened and the printing in full swing that the artist did not think it important to keep his dots and dashes exactly alike. And that was how these suspicious twelve types were born. That Artia or rather its American agent are having these sheets heavily on their hands is proven by the fact that we have seen advertised in the U. S. press FDCs with these miniature sheets—which are not like the official ones sold in Czechoslovakia." The correspondent feels that the sheets do not deserve the "black blot" of the APS because the types were not produced intentionally. We feel however, that when the error, or let us say the neglectful art work was noted, no more stamps should have been produced. As a matter of fact, the entire issue should have been discarded.

We do not wish to omit mention of our pleasure regarding the widespread concurrence by members with whom we we have been in personal communication, in the nomination of Frank Kovarik to honorary membership.

**MEMBERS PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES AT YOUR EARLY CONVENIENCE. WE HAVE MENTIONED A NUMBER OF TIMES THAT OUR SPECIALIST WILL NOT PUBLISH THE NAME OF ANYONE WHO HAS NOT PAID HIS DUES BY THE TIME WE ARE READY FOR OUR MEMBERSHIP LIST. THE PUBLICATION WILL NOT BE MAILED TO THE MEMBERS WHO NEGLECT TO PAY THEIR DUES.**

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#### CHANGES OF ADDRESS

- 490 John G. Tomcik, 924 No. Wolcott, Chicago, Ill. 60622  
 688 Henry I. Lasch, 237 Outpost Drive, Los Angeles 28, Calif.  
 525 Maj. Richard S. Steffel, AO 1543644, Hq Tuslog Box 53, APO 254, New York, N. Y.

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#### NEW MEMBERS

- 744 Wm. A. Sandrik, Quarters "K" Barracks 8, Arlington, Va. 20390  
 745 John A. F. Austin, 4 Brampton Court, Brampton Grove, Hendon, London N. W. 4, England.

**THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST**  
1939-1964

**Frank J. Kovarik, Editor Emeritus**

When I decided to write a story of the Czechoslovak Specialist I found it difficult to devise an introduction without touching on the formation and launching of the Society. An organization was necessary first, then came its official organ which not only told of its workings and aims but, especially, gave information on the stamps of Czechoslovakia, from the organization of the Posts long before the country became a stamp issuing entity, thru its crisis 1939-1945, even unto its present. So if mention is made of the Society, it is because the organ is so much a part of it.

Some time in 1938 I received a letter from a Mr. Joseph W. Lowey of Bronx advising me of his efforts to organize a society of collectors of Czechoslovakia. I immediately wrote him that since it was impossible to organize a small group within the American Philatelic Society, how could he presume to organize a society which would be self-sufficient? His answer was immediate and stated that many collectors refuse membership in the A. P. S. I replied I was willing to go along with him but insisted that an organization such as he proposed must be able to give its members something for their money. He answered a plan was ready to print a modest publication devoted to the stamps of Czechoslovakia and to the affairs of the Society. He also added that a professional newspaper man was found to edit the bulletin: he was Tod Raper of Columbus, Ohio.

**The Tod Raper Era**

The first issue of the Czechoslovak Specialist appeared in May, 1939, which was a modest publication of four pages. It contained a brief story by Lowey explaining the reasons of the organization, a greeting from the president, George J. Smyth, notes from the secretary, Joseph W. Lowey, and a notice from the editor about the newly-issued overprints for the Protectorate, a message from the librarian, J. M. Stephens, and a list of the temporary officers.

In the second issue (June) a short resumé of the new Bohemia-Moravia issues from the pen of the untiring founder, J. W. Lowey, covered the first page. On the second page of this issue we again found the listing of the officers of the Society with the addition of Fred W. Peters as vice-president and a group of three members of an "expert committee" of which I was one. I may have been considered an "expert" 25 years ago, but with all the experience I gained since then I fear I'd now disclaim the title. Lowey mentioned that new officers will be elected at the first "convention" of the Society which was set for June 17, 1939, in New York. A. J. Hrivnak of Chicago invited the members to exhibit and attend the Illinois Central Federation Exhibition to be held in Chicago in 1940. Altho this was only the second issue of the Specialist, the editor already had expressed a fear that the annual dues (\$1.00 per year) were insufficient to keep the Society solvent. We must remember at that time our country was still in the throes of the depression and even a dollar was a sacrifice to many. The death of the Reverend D. Losa, D.D., of Pittsburgh, roster no. 13, was reported in this issue. Lowey warned of the plethora of fakes of the earlier Czecho stamps then on the market. The last page of this issue of six pages contained the first ad of Alfons Stach, whose ads filled the last page of many issues as also additional pages of his mail auctions.

The July issue started with a translation of a small booklet "Field Posts of Czecho-Slovak and Allied Armies in Siberia and Their Postage Stamps" by Captain Anthony Novotný, formerly head of the Czecho-Slovak Field Post in

Siberia. The booklet was published in Brno in 1923. Perhaps the most important article in this issue was a report of the first convention of the Society held June 17 and 18. The secretary decried the absence of many New York members but allowed an excuse in the terrific heat which beset the City. It was interesting to mention the members present at the dinner held in the Narodni Dum (National House).

In his column "Overprints" the editor mentioned the few members who visited the World's Fair on June 18. Lowey took a picture of the group in front of the Czecho-Slovak pavilion. I either lost or misplaced this snapshot. If any one of the old-timers has this, the writer would like to borrow it. I recall that during my visit to this meeting I had occasion to visit with some of the members and their wives at which Mr. Lowey regaled us with stories of his life in New York.

The August issue contained a listing of the library material available to the members. It is unfortunate that some of this material was not returned to the librarian by the borrowers.

An account of the Pavilion Overprints of the Praga 1935 sheet and the Bratislava Newspaper sheet was noted in the September copy. The first published list of the members of the Society appeared in this issue and it is interesting, also disheartening, that of the 46 names published, only 14 are still members in the 25th year of the Society. Of course, we really should add one more; Mrs. G. R. Skopecek died several years ago but her husband retains a membership in her memory. In this issue appears a notice "Author predicts fate of Czechoslovakia," in which the author predicted the dissolution of the Republic. He was and is our well known Philadelphia member, Vincent Domanski, Jr., and I am sure he is happy that the country did not meet the dire fate he expected for it.

Mr. Arthur I. Kessler, then located in Montreal, was introduced to the membership in the November issue. It was noted that "up to a few months ago Mr. Kessler was the most prominent stamp dealer in Czecho-Slovakia with offices at Prague for the past 17 years. Though being a specialist in the stamps of Czechoslovakia, Mr. Kessler is very strong in the classic issues of Europe." By way of postscript it should be stated that upon his arrival in New York, Mr. Kessler associated himself with the Cross Stamp Co. from which time he advertised in every issue of the Specialist and does so even now though he is again an independent dealer.

The November issue contained an official invitation to Chipex to be held at the LaSalle Hotel in Chicago, February 16-18. In this issue the translation of the booklet on the "Field Post of Czechoslovak and Allied Armies in Siberia" was concluded.

The December issue contained an item entitled "Convention plans pushed as Chipex date nears." It was announced that Frank Voticky would show 20 frames and several volumes of his world-famous plate number collection which won top honors in Czechoslovakia at national exhibitions. Practically complete, housed in 27 large, de luxe albums, it contained plate number blocks of four thruout. The gems of the collection consisting of the presidential types of 1925-27 were shown complete, including all types and eight different water-marks. The outstanding piece of the latter classification was the 3Kč value, plate number "Anna". In this issue the treasurer called for dues: \$1.00 for United States and Canada and \$2.00 for those in foreign countries. Dues had to be paid by Jan. 31, 1940, and non-payment meant dropping from the rolls. In this issue the advertising rates were reduced and these rates remained in force for a long time. We also read that the Society sponsored an exhibition sheet to be issued for Chipex and prepared by members J. W. Lowey and F. R. Ferryman. These souvenir sheets are a fine reminder of the early days of the

Society. On the last page of this issue appeared a reprint from the American Philatelist (Vol. 52, nos. 6 and 7) of the Hradčany issues of Czechoslovakia, by J. W. Lowey.

This is a resumé of the first volume of the Czecho-Slovak Specialist. We must remember that at that time only 100 copies were printed. The same is true of the second volume. These complete volumes are really rare. At present they sell at most auctions for at least \$10.00 a volume, even tho our specialty is not very popular.

We now progress to the second volume. It was natural that Chipex appeared on the first page of the new volume. A mast-head, designed by our human-dynamo secretary Joe Lowey graced the first page of every issue from December 1939 thru to June, 1942. A note mentioned that the Society added to its rolls two well-known collectors as members. One was Felix Brunner, an outstanding dealer in the better issues of Czechoslovakia and the classics of Europe. The other was Ernest Berka, whose collection was the basis of the outstanding monograph of the stamps of Czechoslovakia by Hirsch and Franěk, published in Czech and German in 1935 by Fr. Borový. To this day it is the most authoritative work on the stamps of Czechoslovakia.

The February issue disclosed the program of the second convention of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of North America. It is not historical but very interesting. Herewith a reprint of the program:

Friday February 16

2:00 P. M. View exhibition of the Chipex at Hotel LaSalle

7:00 Luncheon at Little Bohemia Restaurant followed by organization meeting

Saturday February 17

7:00 P. M. Chipex Banquet

Sunday February 18

2:00 P. M. Meeting; discussion of Czecho issues, how to bring our findings of a specialized nature before the membership thru our magazine.

According to an announcement in this issue every member received a copy of the Souvenir Sheet. Unnumbered sheets were printed on a white wove paper and sold at five cents each. Wholesale orders were filled by Mr. Ferryman at a "substantial discount." A worthwhile article written by the founder, Mr. J. W. Lowey, on "The Transition Postmarks of Czecho-Slovakia."

#### The Peter Kreischer Era

No issue of the Specialist appeared after February in 1940 until in May, which was number 3 and edited by Peter Kreischer. Mr. Kreischer's real specialty at that time were the British Pacific Islands and especially Australia but in a spirit of the collecting fraternity, he saw a crisis develop and accepted the editorship of the Czecho-Slovak Specialist.

The first editor obtained the services of the Miller Print Shop in Lawrence, Kansas. Mr. Kreischer saw no reason for a change, nor have his successors and Mr. Miller prints the Specialist to this day. He is a philatelist and because of this virtue, he prepares a very creditable publication. Later he was influenced to adopt the diacritical marks of the Czech language which is a great help to our collectors. The second membership list appeared in this issue of the Specialist. Of the new members listed, 13 in number, only three are still members. In many cases, death took a severe toll.

The June issue contained a very interesting account written by the secretary entitled "A Canadian Vacation."

July featured an article by Peter Kreischer and J. W. Lowey entitled "Names and Men behind Guarantee Marks." It is interesting to note "our dealer members Stach, Kessler and Brunner were recognized as such in Czechoslovakia and their signature, if applied to stamps, was a sufficient expert guar-



antee." Toward the end of the article "Kaplánek, Ekstein, Nohejl, Štědrý and a few others" (this is too broad for us) and somewhere in the article the names of Ervin Hirsch, Rudolph Gilbert and Jaroslav Lešetický, are put forth as experts. At present I could add the names of Jan Mrňák, Ursini, Šůla and our members Zdeněk Kvasnička, Jan Karásek, and Arthur I. Kessler.

Mr. Kreischer's editorial in the August Specialist (No. 6) was very ap-ropos for the time. Altho his suggestion was not actually acted upon "we should continue to accept only such applicants whose character makes them eligible," it was generally accepted as a directive.

Now we come to the first actual error in the publication of the Specialist. The September issue was again numbered "6" and many of the bound copies of Volume 2 contain as No. 6 either the August or September copy, but seldom the two. I must confess that even my bookbinder made the mistake and discarded the September issue. I was unaware of this for many years, but was fortunate to obtain the missing number. This is a very important copy to possess because it contains the conclusion of Mr. Lowey's article about the Hradčany stamps as reprinted from the American Philatelist.

In the October 1940 issue we learn that the library was moved to Chicago and was entrusted to member "M. G." (Mrs. Mildred Glawe). A very fine article on the 1930 Air Post stamps written by Mr. Guy Greenawalt began its appearance in this issue. Another article on the stamps of the Czechoslovak Field Post in Russia appeared which was a sort of philatelic sequel to the translation of Mr. Novotný's booklet on the Siberian Posts.

The December issue of Volume 2 contained an article edited by Kreischer but was actually a translation of an article which appeared in a Czech philatelic magazine. The translation was the work of our member August J. Hrivnak. It featured the 1928 Jubilee issue, one of the really beautiful issues of the country.

Thus ends a very brief resumé of the two first volumes of the official organ. These two volumes were microfilmed, the first by member Henry O. Nouss and the second by past president Dr. James J. Matejka, Jr., and the films were donated to the library. It is possible to get copies of these reproduced; as the cost of reproduction may vary from time to time, consult the librarian how to obtain copies.

The first issue of the 1941, volume 3, saw the completion of the article "The Jubilee Issue of 1928." The addition of six new members was of interest of whom only two remain on the roll and one of them became president of the Society.

The February issue contained two amendment to the Constitution, both presented before the January meeting of the New York Unit and seconded by Frank Kovarik, chairman of the Rules Committee.

"1. Dues must be in the hands of the treasurer not later than February 25. Members defaulting will be dropped immediately.

2. Members who have resigned or had been dropped for non-payment of dues may be reinstated again. They will, however, not receive their original number, and in addition to the regular dues, will pay a reinstatement fee of 50 cents."

The librarian announced five additions to the library. A very interesting article "Commemorative Postmarks of Czech-Slovakia and their Historical Background," from the pen of our indefatigable founder, Joseph W. Lowey. The editor had a short article about the Masaryk Birthday Commemorative of 1935.

A look forward to what may be expected is the notice that member "Lt. Col. J. Leo Chapman is the first member of our Society to be called to the U. S. Army for active duty." In the "Commemorative Postmarks" article con-

tinuation there was a first full page of illustrations of some postmarks.

A program of the "Third Annual Convention and Banquet" was publicized for May 17, 1941, in the April issue with an article by member Norman Hill entitled "Czecho-Slovakia Autoposta" (automobile post office service). The first ad of the United Stamp Company, proprietor Frank O. Voticky, appeared in this issue.

Our Australian member W. L. Russell wrote an article on the "Arras Commemoratives" for the May copy. Bill is well known as a serious collector "down under" and many of his literary endeavors appeared in the Specialist thru the years.

A report on the New York convention appeared in the June issue. All those attending were from the New York area.

That year the editor adopted a policy of not publishing the Specialist during July and August. This provided a vacation for the editor and gave the treasury a little break.

W. L. Russell authored an article on "Jan Evangelist Purkyně," which appeared in September. A complete report by member Wolfgang Fritzsche of the Sales and Exchange department, as also an illustration of a postmark of the crucified Christ on the 1Kč Masaryk and comments on what it may mean (later fully explained) and an illustration of a Field Post cancellation used in England, comprised this issue.

The October issue featured an article about "The Postage Due Stamps of Czecho-Slovakia" which was continued in November and December. An illustrated article, reprinted from "Stamps" entitled "The Czechoslovak Field Posts" by our secretary, J. W. Lowey, completed the third volume of our official paper. This article was reprinted in several publications, one of which was not philatelic.

#### The Lolly M. Horechny Era

We all remember what happened December 7, 1941. The attack on Pearl Harbor by Japan threw our country into a war for which we were not prepared. Production of civilian goods was all but stopped and factories were quickly remodeled to manufacture instruments of war. Workers accustomed to 40 hour weeks were suddenly asked to work 70 hours. Most men and many women who had leisure time were confronted with long and unusual work shifts. The editor, Peter Kreischer, saw he could not serve two masters at one time and deemed it necessary to send his resignation to the president of the Society, Dr. Wm. Reiner-Deutsch. The president chose Mr. Lolly M. Horechny of Newark as Kreischer's successor, a not enviable position, with no advanced preparation. Mr. Horechny possessed great courage to take over.

In the January 1942 issue Lowey's article on the Czechoslovak Army Field Posts was completed. In his editorial the new editor gave praise to his predecessor, mentioned the library and issued a notice for the 1942 dues. He served notice to the delinquents that the March issue would contain a revised membership list.

On the first page of the February issue appeared an editorial written by the secretary. The significant portion of this editorial was the hope that the membership roster would reach 100. How happy would Lowey be today with a Society of about 250 members, fully paid up. A report of the New York Branch (then called Group) in which we learned that the group had been invited to hold its subsequent meetings in the auction room of Alfons Stach. There also appeared an explanation of the "Crucifixion" postmark and a notice of importance from the Sales and Exchange Department. A small notice advising the members that the revised membership list would appear in the April edition.

A complete listing of the material then in the library was published in March. A notation "In this issue we start a series of letters from our member Alfons Stach," gave promise of something interesting for the future. Unfortunately, the first letter was also the last. A very brief article on the 1920 Masaryk stamps appeared on page 3 and a reprint from "Stamp Collecting" entitled "History of the 1918 Provisional Overprints" concluded this paper as also the efforts of Mr. Horechny as editor, who due to war efforts was forced to resign.

#### The Frank J. Kovarik Era

An urgent request from Dr. Reiner-Deutsch, president of the Society, that I take over the editorship of the Czechoslovak Specialist disturbed me considerably. I was certain some other member could handle this task better than I. My schooling was limited and I never professed to be a specialist in any issue of Czechoslovakia. I was more or less a general collector. If I could claim title to any specialization it was in United States plate numbers. Because of my financial condition I never aspired to any more than one copy of a number. I realized that the hope of the continued existence of the Society was in its publication and accepted the task on a temporary basis.

Mr. Lowey volunteered an editorial which was gratefully accepted. His last sentence in the editorial produced an incredulous smile on my face, yet he must have known me better than I. A new Czechoslovak catalog was announced which was compiled by Mr. Kesler. An article on "The Hradčany Issues" was the only philatelic article I had on hand and this I used in the April issue. The Sales Manager had an article in this issue in which he deplored the nasty action of some member who removed a good copy from a circuit and replaced it with a poor specimen.

In the May issue of 1942 I presented my first editorial and from then on an editorial was seldom omitted. As I look back over the years I am pleased that most of the letters I received were in praise of my editorials. The complaints registered were few, but these were vociferous. The Hradčany article was concluded in this issue. I also included a mild satire "I am a Specialist."

Besides the editorial, the first page of the June copy contained the news that our president, Dr. Reiner-Deutsch, was called to the colors. The "Sudeten Surcharges and Overprints" by J. W. Lowey filled the balance of this issue.

A new masthead appeared in September. We remember that from the time of the organization of our Society the name of the country was hyphenated at the request of one Adolf Hitler. Later this same Hitler was responsible for the dismemberment of the country. One part became "Bohemia and Moravia," a "protectorate" of the Third Reich and the other part became "Slovakia," a puppet state of this same Third Reich. This new masthead dropped the hyphen. Six new members were listed and only one of these remains a member now. The ever busy J. W. Lowey found time to write an article on "Artists and Designs."

In the October issue the editor gave one of his "lectures" on doing our best to win the war. A reprint from the S. P. A. Journal of an article "A Modern Classic" written by our member John Velek, dealt in a special way with the 40h Hradčany stamp.

This article was concluded in the November Specialist. From the beginning of the Specialist, editors "farmed" out articles to other publications and these would then be reprinted and often a tidy sum was saved because the other magazines supplied the cuts.

Member Vincent Domanski, Jr., wrote an article for the S. P. A. Journal on the "Plebiscite Stamp Issues for Eastern Silesia" and this was reprinted in the December issue. It contained a listing of all the stamps of Czechoslovakia



which obtained an S O overprint. Those of Poland which were similarly overprinted were slightly more specialized. Mrs. Mildred Glawe wrote that the library received from member C. H. Osbourn a literal translation from the German of Frederick Leitenberger, a treatise on the cancellations used in Czechoslovakia. Thus ended the fourth volume of the Specialist. It had 50 pages, containing much information on the stamps of Czechoslovakia which would be unobtainable to most collectors of the country.

The fifth volume began with a plea from the new president, Mr. Rudolph Secky, to members who could afford it to enter in one of the other two membership categories. Printing costs had gone up, yet the dues remained one dollar per year. "The Legion Stamps" (1934) was the title of an article by member W. L. Russell. The feature article in the February issue was written by the editor and its title was "Sts. Cyril and Methodius Issue." The second article on Czechoslovak watermarks was written by Guy Greenawalt and F. J. Kovarik. Kovarik's "Little Entente Issue" and Greenawalt's and Kovarik's "Jubilee Issue 1923," "Olympic Congress Issue of 1925" and "VIIIth All Sokol Meet 1926" really filled the March issue. Credit here must be given to the authors of the Hirsch-Franěk Handbook and several philatelic magazine editors who gave me permission to use their works. Greenawalt and Kovarik wrote a sort of an introduction to the "Masaryk Issues of 1925-27" and promised to deal with these stamps in a chronological order. Altho this was the April issue the treasurer still found it necessary to prod the members to pay their dues. The promised article dealing with the Masaryk issues began in May 1943. The listing of officers and members disclosed an increase of both associate (now sustaining) and patron members. Of the officers listed all but two are members to the present day and I am sure this is some kind of a record. The June copy carried an article "Where is my Home?" by our good friend from down under, W. L. Russell; another "January's Child" by member Francis W. Beedon and "Hebrew Postmarks of Czechoslovakia" by J. W. Lowey. The "Masaryk Issues" was continued and an account of the "Arras Counterfeit" was discussed. The September issue carried an article "The Czechoslovak Flag" by Dr. Vladimír Palič, First Secretary of the Czechoslovak Legation at Washington, reprinted from the S. P. A. Journal. An Article on the "Overrun Nations Stamps" of the United States, especially dealing with the stamp honoring Czechoslovakia was written by the editor. An article "Thomas Garigue Masaryk" written by J. W. Lowey was reprinted from the magazine "Covers" and an account of an exhibition of Czecho stamps rounded out this copy. The October copy presented a request by J. W. Lowey anent a cover. I wonder if the mystery was solved. Also, this issue contained a translation by W. L. Russell from the Hirsch-Franěk handbook on the "Pošta Československá 1919" overprints. "Bedřich Smetana" and "Antonín Dvořák" by Greenawalt and Kovarik filled the pages of the November copy. The year was rounded out with a continuation of "The Pošta Československá 1919" and "Corrections and Additional Information to 'A Modern Classic'" by member Rudolph Novy. I read a poem in The Saturday Evening Post which affected me so much I had it reprinted in the Specialist with permission from the publishers. Thus closed the fifth volume of our beloved publication.

The sixth volume put on a different appearance. Instead of the customary two columns to a page, only one column was employed. When asked to explain the reason for this change I pointed to several articles where not only for esthetic reasons, but for convenience in presenting philatelic information as best shown in the December issue of the fourth volume this seemed reasonable. Member Joseph Novy had an article on "Sketches for United States stamps honoring Czechoslovakia"; it was hoped a stamp honoring the martyred town of Lidice would be issued by this country. The article "Pošta Československá

1919" appeared as occasion permitted thru the years 1944-45. Additional information on the Jubilee Issue of 1928 was produced by Greenawalt and Kovarik and was printed in the March issue. A short necrology "In Memoriam—Ernest Berka" by Lowey reminded us that one of Czechoslovakia's greatest philatelists passed away. It was Ernest Berka who pointed out to me, in particular, how I was mulcted by dishonest dealers who sold me counterfeits of P Ć 1919. In the May issue our Canadian member, C. H. Osbourn, introduced to many of our members the fascination of collecting "Czech and Slovak postmarks on Austrian and Hungarian Stamps." Members of the Chicago area were notified that our secretary Mr. Lowey would visit Chicago. In the next issue Lowey told of this trip. The annual membership list appeared in the June issue. "The Story of a One-Day Stamp" by Russell and the first installment of a "Military Postal History of Czechoslovakia" by Lowey took care of the September Specialist. Most of the last three issues contained Russell's translation and Lowey's article.

The 1945 volume 7, started with a cumulative index which appeared on page 2 and was the work of member Wolfgang Fritzsche. Thru an error this volume was labeled as volume "6" and not until the November issue was this corrected after our member, the late Dr. Jaffrey of Canada called it to my attention. This was a happy new year. Despite the Battle of the Bulge, every citizen felt that the end of the war could be in 1945. The Allies advanced in Europe and the Japs were pushed further north, island after island. Most people worked long hours, but these seemed less and less frightful. The January and February issues saw the conclusion of Lowey's "Military Postal History." In the April issue Greenawalt and Kovarik published an article "Ninth All Sokol Meet—Dr. Miroslav Tyrš, 1932." Russell had a short story entitled "A Stamp Speaks" in the June issue. The September issue contained some stories about "Pošta Československá 1919", a fitting conclusion to the Russell translation of the chapter on these stamps from the Hirsch-Franěk handbook. There was a two page illustration of mats prepared and sold by member C. J. Pearce to specialists of the early issues of Czechoslovakia. The October issue was prepared by the editor while he was in bed because of heart trouble. Most of the last three issues of this volume contained philatelic notes about the new stamps of a reborn Czechoslovakia. Greenawalt and Kovarik again came forward with a Sokol story about "Jindřich Fügner" and a listing of the "Commemorative Cancellations of Czechoslovakia dealing with the Sokol Movement" and other gymnastic organizations. The day after I mailed the January copy of the Specialist to our printer, I was rushed to a hospital with a bleeding ulcer and the day after Christmas a surgeon removed most of my stomach. It was not necessary to call for editorial help, I returned from the hospital in time to get the February copy ready for the printer. It should be mentioned here that the issues of the Specialist published between May 1949 and June 1945, tho more plentiful than those printed earlier, are getting quite scarce and some are now unobtainable.

The year 1946 started with a new secretary, John Velek of Chicago, while his predecessor, J. W. Lowey, took upon himself a new office, international secretary. It was the hope of the officers that with the liberation of Czechoslovakia many new members would join our ranks, especially from the old country. Unfortunately, it was not so. In the January issue we find a fine column entitled "News and Views" by J. W. Lowey which was continued as long as Mr. Lowey's health permitted. An article about "Lusatia" was introduced in this issue. I felt sure that the remainder of the Lusatian Serbs would get recognition after the war. In the February issue 17 new members were introduced to membership, of these only three retain their membership at present. An article by Geo. A. Blizil, former president of the Society, about the "Phila-

telic Activities of the Czechoslovak Army in Britain" appeared in the issue. A headline error appeared in the March issue. Instead of "Kozina", the short article was called "The Košice Issue." A letter from Karel Basika, secretary-general of the Czechoslovakian Philatelic Federation about stamp activities in Czechoslovakia during the war, was very interesting. This issue also contained an article by member C. J. Pearce on "The Plate Varieties of Czechoslovakia No. 1" and another by W. L. Russell "The Allegory of the Chain-breaker." A very healthy membership list appeared in the June issue. "The Masaryk Issue 1925-27" article was continued and appeared more or less regularly until its completion. Several members who were not interested in specialization asked for a listing of the new stamps of the country and from September 1946 even to the present day a column of new issues appears regularly. Rudolph Novy wrote an article on the "Air Mail Stamps of Czechoslovakia 1920-27" for the S. P. A. Journal and this was reprinted in September. Before the outbreak of World War II we frequently read about the "Sudetens" whom Hitler wanted to liberate. Most Americans, for that matter, most of the world did not know who these Sudetens were and the editor, desirous of explaining this controversial people, obtained permission to print a short article on the subject by Joseph Martinek. This volume of the Specialist contained 82 pages and was the best published to that time.

Volume IX, 1947, started with the column "News and Views" by the editor. He "pinch hit" for Mr. Lowey in the last two issues because of Lowey's illness. A new American stamp magazine appeared on the scene and this was edited by member David Lidman. In one of the first issues published was an article by George A. Blizil entitled "The Sudeten Story" which appeared in the Specialist as a reprint with the permission of the publishers of "Philately." In the February issue an article entitled "St. Václav" by F. J. Kovarik was also reprinted from the same magazine. At this time, the colorful commemorative cancellations of Czechoslovakia were very popular and in answer to many requests, Mr. Ladislav Kropáč of Praha compiled a listing of these and George Skopecek of California translated the legends. This appeared in the April issue and continued from time to time until the novelty wore off. There was a report on the Chicago show of March and its auction for the benefit of the treasury, as also a notice of a New York meeting scheduled for May 22 during CipeX. A short plug for collecting Czech, Moravian, Silesian and Slovakian cancellations on the early issues of Austria and Hungary was included, as also an article on the "Hradčany Issue" by John Velek, reprinted from Philately. The secretary reported 176 members of which 8 were patrons, 71 associate (now sustaining) and 97 regular. A story of the "Sea Scouts" was reprinted from Philately in the June issue. With an announcement of the tenth anniversary issues of the President-Liberator, Masaryk Memorial, a short story on same by Frant. Langer. Attending the New York Dinner and meeting were two collectors from Praha, Jan Burián and Zdeněk Kvasnička. Of these, the latter became a member and soon after his return home sent an article for the Specialist entitled "How to Collect and Evaluate Trial Printings of Czechoslovak Stamps." This was only the beginning of many interesting articles from the pen of this very good member. The 1947 volume concluded with the "Czechoslovak Field Posts in France—1939-40" by Lowey; "Lidice Lives Forever" by Blizil. This volume contained 108 pages.

The tenth volume began with a theory on the production of the Hradčany stamps by Ray Van Handel, Jr., and a translation from the Hirsch-Franěk handbook by W. L. Russell about the stamps with allegorical designs. In February Geo. Skopecek translated an article by Dr. Belo Polla about the stamps commemorating the 150th anniversary of Dr. Stefan Moyses, also a reprint on the plating of the 40h Hradčany by J. Velek, from The American Philatelist.

George A. Blizil, who was elected new president of the Society, wrote an article on "The Early Postal History of Slovakia." 137 lots were offered for the benefit auction conducted during the Chicago Branch stamp show held April 1. A reprint of an article published in Stamps on the "Pošta Československá 1919" by Kovarik. There was so much material on hand that the editor, with the approval of the officers, issued a special issue of the Specialist in July. This contained an article about "The First Red Cross Stamps of Czechoslovakia" and another by J. W. Lowey on "The Commemorative Postmarks of Czechoslovakia." From Linn's Stamp News appeared a reprint about "600 Years of the Charles University" by George Blizil and an article on the "Mareš Issue" by August J. Hrivnak. This volume closed with a "Concise Cumulative Index of the Specialist" volumes 1 thru 10. This volume closed with 136 pages.

František Novotný, formerly editor of Filatelistická Revue, *Narodní Sběratel* and *Zpravodaj Naší Filatelie* wrote us about "Thirty Years of Czechoslovak Stamps" and this was the opener for Volume 10. W. L. Russell's "Romance and Drama Lie Hidden in the Stamps of Czechoslovakia" was also included in the January issue. February contained an article "The Prague Town Hall Clock" by G. A. Blizil. The March issue brought the sad news of the death of Joseph W. Lowey, founder of our Society. A new feature was introduced, "Our Praha Letter" by J. Z. M. A reprint from "Stamps" of Kovarik's "The Legionnaire Issue of 1919" and a listing of the donated material for the auction to be held April 3 was also included in this issue. "Music Sheets Counterfeits" by Milo Barry appeared in the April issue, while another article on the same subject written by "Seeing Eye" was reprinted from the "S. P. A. Journal" in May. "The Allegorical Designs" by Kovarik was the feature in June and "The Nitra Issue" by Charles Waldmann, a reprint from "Stamps" appeared in September. "The 30h Hradčany Dark Violet Imperforate," written by E. Hirsch and translated from "Československá Filatelie" by G. Skopecek and "Occupation Issues" by Vernon McKenzie, reprinted from "The Weekly Philatelic Gossip" appeared in The October issue. This volume contained 4 pages less than the previous.

By now the reader may be tired of the various "articles listed" in this story but I thought best to enumerate them all or almost all to show how difficult it was, especially in the first years, to fill even four pages with material worth the membership fee. Getting new members during the war years was a problem and so was the raising of money.

In 1956 the volume started "whole issue numbering" and the January Specialist was not "Vol. XVIII No. 1" but "Vol. XVIII No. 159." As early as March, the first error in numbering appeared and instead of No. 161, it was printed as No. 170. And in the very next volume, the March issue was again printed as February, but the numbering was correct: 170 (February) and 171 (to be March).

The use of Czech diacritical marks was initiated in January 1951 which was a boon not only to all the collectors of Czechoslovakia but especially to collectors of postmarks and cancellations. Of course, some mistakes occur here because most manuscripts received by the editor were without supersigns and in editing, this was easily overlooked.

In the period of Kovarik's editorship there were many Czech authors who helped and who really made the Specialist what it was and some of them were: W. L. Russell, C. J. Pearce, J. Velek, G. Greenawalt, Z. Kvasnička, F. Novotný, L. Kropáč, M. Glueck, J. J. Jiranek, F. J. Kosik, G. A. Blizil, A. I. Kessler, W. Fritzsich, K. Woodbury, W. Reiner-Deutsch, J. W. Lowey, C. H. Osbourn, W. D. Knox, R. Van Handel, Jr., and others.

Those who helped with translations were for the most part G. R. Skopecek and J. J. Jiranek. R. L. Spofford frequently helped with editing the especially difficult articles.

In the early years of our publication the editor addressed all envelopes by hand. Once my brother-in-law happened to visit me while doing this tedious job and volunteered the use of his Union's addressograph. Plates were procured and after that I'd visit my brother-in-law three or four times a year merely to address envelopes for three or four months at a time and to correct the plates after the publication of the membership list. For a long time George Kobyłka's wife helped stuff the envelopes, affix the stamps and mail the Specialists. Later Frank Zaviska offered to take care of the addressographing and mailing the Specialist. He was officer of an organization which owned an addressograph machine and had ready access to it. When Zaviska could no longer handle this work, George Havlik took over. With the help of Dr. Matejka, they ran off a year's supply of envelopes. With this system the mailer must be careful to delete dropped members and add new members as also all changes of addresses. This also means the handling of exchange copies and those sent to some philatelic museums and agencies. This is exacting work.

#### The Dr. Wm. Reiner-Deutsch Era

During the last two years the Specialist has been in the able hands of Dr. Wm. Reiner-Deutsch. He came not as a tyro but as one experienced in the workings of a philatelic editor.

Going thru the 19 issues (1962-63) it is seen that many of the authors who worked with Kovarik have contributed their efforts to the last two volumes. Two new authors were added to the staff: Ing. Jan. Karásek of Brno and J. J. Verner.

The dispatching of the Specialist, at present, is entrusted to F. Kovarik and the addressographing is done by Dr. J. Matejka. It is important that the members notify the secretary of every change of address.

In conclusion permit me to plead with you: Help your editor as much as possible. Show him your appreciation by encouraging him and do not waste time throwing brick bats. If you have ideas for an article, especially if you have significant material for an article but you hesitate to commit to paper, send it to the editor who will find someone to write it for publication. Remember, this is a philatelic magazine and not an erudite publication testing your knowledge of the English language.

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#### PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

For the purpose of more efficient functioning of the Society, five members of the Council herewith propose the following Amendments to the Constitution as per Article Ten of said Constitution:

Article III, add to paragraph 3 as follows:

Associate members may hold an appointive but not an elective office.

Article V, paragraph 2 change

"first day of December" to read "15th day of January"

Article V, paragraph 6 change first sentence to read:

There shall be a nominating committee appointed by the President during the first week of May of an election year.

Article VI, paragraph 2 change second and third sentences to read.

On or before July first following the appointment, the Nominating Committee shall certify these nominations to the Secretary. Additional nominations may be made, but such nominations shall be valid only if presented over the signatures of at least five members in good standing and received by the Secretary before July first of an election year.

Article VI, paragraph 4 change to read:

The Secretary shall request the Editor of the Specialist to prepare the ballots,



to have them printed and mailed out with the September issue. The ballots are to list all the names placed in nomination by the Nominating Committee as well as by the members.

Article VI, paragraph 3a change to read:

Each member shall mark his ballot according to instructions and shall transmit it to the National Secretary not later than by October 31st. The President shall appoint tellers, three in number if feasible, living in the same area, with instructions that the ballots mailed by the Secretary to the Chairman of such committee be promptly counted so as to have the results in the hands of the Editor by November 10th for publication in the December Specialist.

Article X of the Constitution specifies that these proposals be published in the Specialist and that members shall vote on them. Send your vote to the National Secretary, Mr. Frank J. Kosik, Route 4, Box 286, Delavan, Wisconsin 53115. These Amendments will become part of the Constitution 30 days after the receipt of this issue of the Specialist, unless a majority of the voting members disapproves.

#### ATTENTION: COUNCIL MEMBERS

Pursuant to Article III, Paragraph 4 of the Constitution of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society the undersigned members of the Council in the form of a resolution herewith propose:

Whereas Frank J. Kovarik, Roster #5, Charter Member of our Society, has been active these twenty-five years in support of our Society

Whereas Frank J. Kovarik had held the strenuous post of Editor of the Czechoslovak Specialist for twenty years and

Whereas an expression of appreciation by the members of the Society is appropriate

Be it resolved that

Frank J. Kovarik

be nominated for Honorary Membership in our Society.

Lolly M. Horechny, Wm. Reiner-Deutsch,

George B. Koplowitz, Joseph Stein, Emil J. Michaelson

January 1964

Editor's note: We are indeed pleased to bring this resolution to the attention of our Council as well as that of the membership.

We earnestly request the prompt approval of the Council members by sending cards to us so stating.

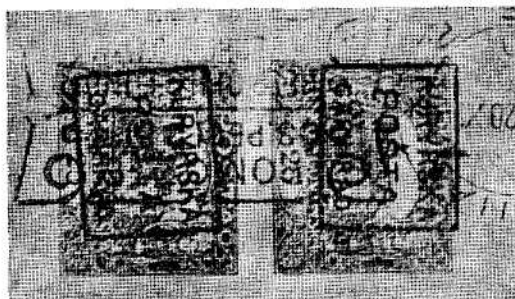
#### QUESTION AND ANSWER DEPARTMENT

- Q. The Parade of New Issues in the October Specialist shows two stamps and calls them Moravian Krast. I have never heard of such a region nor can I find it on the map. Can you clear this up? (G. R. Skopecek)
- A. Moravian Krast (Czech Moravský Kras) picturesque region of limestone formations W. Central Moravia, just E. of Blansko. Noted for stalactite caves, precipitous cliffs, underground streams and prehistoric sites; famous Macocha chasm is 600 ft. deep. Main tourist centers, Ostrov (E.) and Sloup (N.) of Blansko. The Columbia Lippincott Gazetteer. (W. R-D.)
- Q. Could you put me on the right track concerning the official color of 25h type I (Hradčany) designation, supplier, etc.
- A. For this denomination the ink came from Auerbach-Weissberger Co., Kozolury at Pizen. Catalogued by this firm as #301 Berlin blue. Officially the Črs Ministry of Post and Telegraph called it blue. Later the printery mixed its own ink resulting in runs of various shades of blue. (F. J. K.)

**CZECHOSLOVAK COURIER MAIL—CONSTANTINOPLE-PRAGUE  
1920**

by Ed Machaty

Reprinted from Filatelie — Translated by J. J. Verner



After the termination of World War I the Czechs and Slovaks residing in Constantinople (now Istanbul) and Asia Minor formed a repatriation center with the direction entrusted to Dr. P. P. Klemen, former chief surgeon of the Austro-Hungarian hospital. This center was responsible for maintaining contact with the occupying authorities and in addition establishing contact with the foreign office at Prague. This center later became the first office in Turkey to have officers assigned from Prague. It was not until 1920 that a Czechoslovak diplomatic representative, Dr. Světlík was sent to Turkey.

In the meantime the Czechoslovak colony in Constantinople increased with the addition of many Siberian and other repatriates from Russia. All these were gradually sent to the homeland. Since direct postal communication between Czechoslovakia and Turkey had been disrupted, diplomatic couriers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs periodically gave the center the needed contact with Prague. To enable the Czechoslovak colony to reestablish better contact with their country it was decreed that until the resumption of normal postal communications the Czechoslovaks could send letters to Prague via the diplomatic couriers. Unfortunately the couriers arrived in Constantinople all too infrequently.

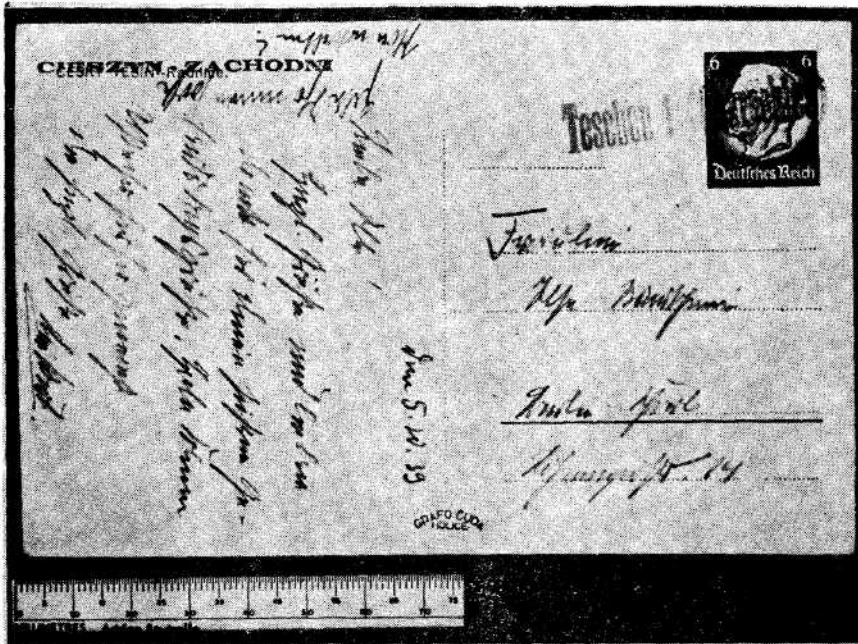
The representative office in Constantinople assisted in franking letters by supplying the current regular Czechoslovak stamps (the Hradčany issue). Couriers carried these letters to Prague. There the Courier Section of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs turned over the letters to the Post Office for processing and delivery to the addressees.

The regular Hradčany stamps normally used on the letters were marked by the Czechoslovak representative office in Constantinople with a special rubber stamp in blue ink "Kurýrská Pošta Čařihrad" (Courier Mail Constantinople) 20x17 mm in size with letters 2¼ to 2½ mm high as can be seen on the illustration. It also shows the 25 type V pair postmarked at Praha 20 VI 1920.

We assume that this marking from Czechoslovak Levant (if we may call it such) will be a much sought item in Czechoslovak collecting circles.

**Editor's Note:** If any of our members has such an item as described above, please contact our secretary Frank J. Kosik, Chairman of the Hradčany Study Group.

**TESCHEN 1938-1939**  
by B. R. Beede



After stamp collectors began to include stamps on cover in their collections, they gradually began to study the covers themselves. Thus, interest developed in such fields as Civil War patriotics, quaint "corner cards," and the like. European covers are, of course, quite as rich sources of such interest as American material.

The card illustrated well reflects one small facet of the troubled history of Central Europe in recent times. The coal mining center of Teschen was long the focus of a three-sided struggle between Germany, Czechoslovakia, and Poland. After World War I, when Germany was temporarily removed from the picture, Poland and Czechoslovakia engaged in sporadic fighting in 1919 and 1920 over possession of the city. Eventually, the area in dispute was divided between the two countries, and Czechoslovakia received the town itself.

On September 30, 1938, Poland demanded the cession of the city and the remainder of the Teschen area which it had not obtained in 1920. Faced with German, Slovak, and Hungarian, as well as Polish pressure, the Prague government had little alternative but to surrender the area, and Polish troops marched in on October 2, 1938. Less than a year later, of course, Teschen shared the fate of both Czechoslovakia and Poland; it was occupied by the Germans.

Evidently, this card was originally produced some time before September 1938. Note the imprint at the upper left, which includes the Czech name for the town, Tešín. This has been overprinted with another line showing the Polish name, Cieszyn; this must have been done some time between October, 1938, and August, 1939. Evidently, the card must have lain about until October 5, 1939, when it was used after the German occupation. Note the German stamp and German language provisional cancel.

## THE 100h RED OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA

by C. J. Pearce

Reprinted from Compex Directory 1963

By all the rules, the 100h red of the redrawn Agriculture and Science issue of Czechoslovakia should be one of the most common stamps ever issued by that country.

Not a commemorative, not a topical, just one of a regular series with an original face value of only three cents and issued in the astronomical amount of 381,120,100 copies.

But this is not the case, Scott lists this stamp in mint condition at 50c with a footnote stating that it exists in three types and two perforations making a total of six varieties. Minkus lists it as high at \$10.00 and Michel tops it at \$12.50.



Type I

However, do not expect to buy blocks of four from your favorite dealer as they are very hard to find and will take much hunting to complete the set.

There are several reasons for the scarcity of this stamp in blocks. First the Nu-Europe craze that started with the emergence of a score of new countries at the end of World War I was beginning to wane. Not too many dealers specialized in new issues at that time and collecting of blocks was just beginning to gain popularity.

For some reason this stamp was not printed from solid plates of 100 as were previous issues but from plates of 100 made up of small units of ten, in two horizontal rows of five, and single horizontal strips of five.

The three types as illustrated above are easy to distinguish.

Type I Rib of leaf below O of Posta is straight. White triangle over book, left side of stem only. Figures of value thin. Right end of scroll blunt.

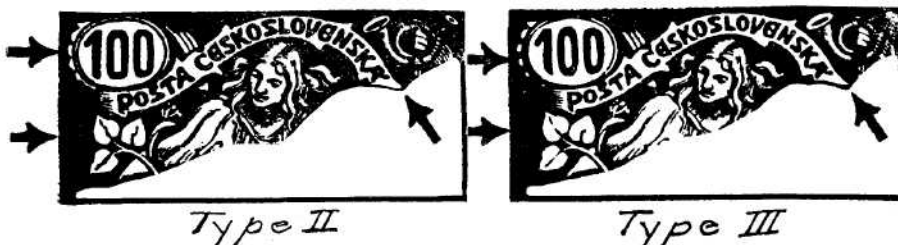
Type I of this stamp was issued January 24th, 1923, and all types were demonetized December 31st, 1925.

Type II Rib of leaf below O of Posta crooked. Triangle over book protrudes on right side of stem. Figure of value thick, O flat at bottom. Right end of scroll longer than type I.

Type III Rib of leaf below O of Posta very short. Base of P clean, not mutilated as in types I and II. 1 in 100 pointed at base.

Right end of scroll ends in sharp point.

That there were many differences in types, or perforations was not discovered until about 1927 and by that time they were no longer available at the Post Office.



Dates of issue of types II and III are not known but from dates on cancelled copies it has been established that type II was issued in March, 1923, and type III in May of 1924. Check your used copies carefully. There is always the chance that you may be able to discover an earlier date.

As you can see from the quantity issued there was great demand for this value. In the rush of production, different types of the 5 stamp cuts were put in some plate setups, resulting in pairs showing two types. These are very rare.

To date the only variety reported, are pairs showing types II and III. However, other combinations may exist and there is always the possibility of a find. Many minor plate errors can be found as well as shades and paper varieties. If you would like to form a "one-stamp" collection, one that will give you a challenge, one in which it is still possible to make new discoveries, yet one within the financial reach of most collectors, then don't overlook the 100h red!

## HRADČANY SPECIALIZED

by John Velek

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## Parade Of New Issues

Edited by Frank Kosik

Stamps Honoring Olympic Games In Tokyo 1964



The Czechoslovak Board of Management of Telecommunications issued on October 26, 1963, a set of six bi-colored commemoratives honoring the 18th Olympic Games which are to take place in Tokyo in 1964.

- 1) 30h canoeing
- 2) 40h volley-ball
- 3) 60h free-style wrestling
- 4) 80h basketball
- 5) 1.— Kcs boxing
- 6) 1.50 Kcs gymnastics

Designer: Rudolf Klimovič, academic artist.

Engravers: J. Mráček, L. Jirka, B. Housa.

Print: Rotary recess combined with photogravure in sheets of 25. Dimensions of the stamp picture: 30x49 mm.

Two First Day Covers were issued with this emission, designed by Rudolf Klimovič and engraved by J. Goldschmied.

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