

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

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Czechoslovak Philatelic Society

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EDITORIAL

Our membership total, at the end of November when this editorial is being written, is 280. We must take into account that during the year of 1964, six of our members passed away and four either resigned or were dropped for non-payment of dues. Therefore our total gain in eleven months has been fifty members. We believe that this increase in membership well illustrates the interest in our specialty and wish to welcome these members warmly with the usual request, i.e., please support your Editor by giving him information on your studies of the issues of Czechoslovakia. *

We have commenced the task of a good translation of the book *Padělky Československých Poštovních Známeč*. This will take some time and we will begin publishing it in the *Specialist* when we have enough material on hand to insure continuity. We will again have those special pages in the center of the *Specialist* as in the past to enable the interested member to remove them and have the pages together for better study of the Czech book. We wish to emphasize that we will stress accurate terminology and will endeavor to give the reader a text in correct English. In our humble opinion if a job is to be done it should be done well. We consider the book *Padělky* one of the finest philatelic publications in recent years and it deserves the best possible treatment.

According to newspapers and philatelic publications a Sokols Physical Fitness stamp will be issued this year to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Sokol movement in the United States. The actual founding of the movement occurred on February 14, 1865 in St. Louis, Mo. One account has it that the first Sokols were organized in Europe in Galicia which had been incorporated into Austria in 1772 and which again became part of Poland in 1918. According to that source the movement spread southward into what now is Czechoslovakia. The most important aim of the original Sokol movement was the desire to impress upon the members the urge toward freedom from alien domination. In the United States, the Sokols emphasize physical fitness and apparently in recent years the greatest number of such organizations has been composed of individuals of Czechoslovak origin. We discussed the movement with a Polish friend of ours and he stated that in his youth the Poles had fine clubs but in recent years they no longer concern themselves with the maintenance of such clubs.

We wish to state categorically that the Sokol movement originated in Bohemia sometime after the revolutionary year of 1848.

We do not know why the statue of a Greek discus thrower designed by Norman Todhunter was selected to represent the Sokols, especially as a number of good sketches with other symbols were submitted for consideration. However, we believe it is fine that the Sokols are now included in the issues of this year!

We have just received a small book of 100 pages from Jan Karásek entitled "Jak Upravit Sbirku Poštovních Známeč" (How to arrange collection of postage stamps). This is a very interesting educational booklet giving suggestions and recommendations and there is a discussion of incorrect arrangement of pages. The examples taken from recent international exhibition material are well presented. This fine treatise deals also with how to write up pages and how to make them more presentable. Pofis is selling this 100 page book for Kč 7.00.

Inadvertently we omitted to mention in our reporting on the show at Nojex that member Wm. A. Sandrick of Arlington, Va., honored us with his presence at the meeting.

Once more we urge our members to pay their dues to the Treasurer, Joseph Stein, 585 East 21st Street, Brooklyn, N. Y. 11226. The dues are: active member \$3.00, sustaining \$5.00, and patron \$10.00. We impress upon you the need to support our Society to the best of your ability and please choose the highest type of membership you feel you can afford for the benefit of the Society.

Member Gosta Hedbom received a silver-bronze medal at Philatec, Paris, and member Laddie S. Pata was awarded the Grand Award at the annual show of the Bedford Club in Ohio. Both showed Czechoslovak material. Congratulations!

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"Travel with the man who was born there".

An 18,000-Mile Journey to the Czechoslovak Army

This article was reprinted from "Independent Weekly Českoslovák Special English Edition" apparently published in 1940 in England. The content gives much valuable background information to the collectors of postal items of the Czechoslovak Army in France and in Great Britain.

Some of the men now serving in the Czechoslovak Army in Great Britain have covered a distance equal to half-way round the world to get there; they made their way back from the French front, through German-occupied France, were interned at Agde, where they arrived just after the last transport had left, and in spite of that made an entirely unauthorized journey, on the strength of faked documents, to Casablanca. From thence some of them got via Tangier to Egypt, while others, after dramatic events which may not yet be fully described, reached Martinique in the West Indies. Here they acquired from the natives a small canoe, carved out from a single tree-trunk, in which they crossed the twenty-five miles of stormy sea separating them from the British island of Santa Lucia. Here the British authorities took care of them, and, in agreement with the Czechoslovak Government in London, brought them as part of the load of a great convoy of fifty-three vessels to their final goal—the Czechoslovak Army in Great Britain.

They left home in January of last year, when, after successfully crossing the Slovak frontier, they fell into the hands of Hungarian frontier guards. This meant four long months of imprisonment in a stone-walled, stone-floored cell without either mattress or even straw to sleep on, forced labor, and final deportation back to the Slovak frontier, where they were warned by the frontier guards that they would be shot immediately without any further formality if they were again caught in an unauthorized attempt to cross the frontier. Two hours later, on a pitch-dark night, they tried again, more carefully this time. Thanks to their dear-bought experience, they succeeded, and after three days of wandering through fields and sleeping in haystacks, they arrived in Buda-Pest. Here a local Polish priest hid them and fed them, and, the next day, led them to the Czech refugee office. The same evening they left for the Croatian frontier, and crossed the flooded River Drava into Yugoslavia. There they were welcomed as brothers with tears, dinners, and promises, and after that things went like a cinema film: Belgrade, Salonika, Istanbul, Ankara, Aleppo, Beirut, and on the 1st of June they arrived in Marseilles, just as German machines were bombing the harbour!

That same night they left for Agde; were examined for military service on June 2nd, drafted to the 1st Czechoslovak Infantry Regiment on the 4th, and left for the front on the 6th. Then followed the whole kaleidoscope of the Marne, the Seine, the Loire, Montereaux, Montargus, Gien, and one day, when red rockets gave the signal for retreat, some of them were delayed, got left behind, and finally lost touch with their unit.

"First we had to make quite sure that we'd lost touch with the other Czechoslovak units," said one of them, "and then we found we were more or less surrounded by German advancing columns. The great thing was to take advantage, if we could, of the initial chaos and get into the unoccupied part of France. We hoped that the advancing German columns wouldn't do much marching by night, and sure enough they didn't, so under cover of night we were able to get into unoccupied France all right. Of course, that didn't by any means mean that we were safe; by hook or by crook we'd got to come to the South coast, some hundreds of miles off. It was a race for life or death, and under those circumstances a chap can become wonderfully ingenious, and can develop unbelievable powers of endurance. But when we finally got through to the

South coast on the 15th of July, we found a fearful disappointment awaiting us; the last transport carrying Czechoslovak troops had already left harbour.

"In Agde they locked us up in barracks, and watched us continually; of course, all of us that had escaped from Czechoslovakia, and got that far, were willing to try anything to join the rest of our mates in England. But it was a dashed difficult job . . ."

On August 8th they were officially demobilised, and went to Marseilles, where the Italo-German Disarmament Committee was already functioning. In spite of that they managed to get a ship to take them to Casablanca; there about fifty of them got together, all with the one aim—to get by any means possible to some British colony, and thence to join the Czechoslovak Army in Great Britain. Some of them managed to escape to Tangier, and thence somehow to make their way across the Sahara to Egypt.

The rest, cooped up in Casablanca, waited impatiently for the sailing of certain ships which should have sailed weeks before, but which still waited interminably in harbour. After the tragic incident of Dakar, everybody began to get nervous. However, one fine day, after certain events which may not yet be published, they found themselves on board ship again. They were a mixed party of Austrians, Poles, and Czechoslovaks, there being thirty-eight of these latter. The ship had been officially stated to be bound for the Antilles but when at sea, suddenly changed course and headed for Dakar; she was, however, stopped by a British warship and turned back to Casablanca, since she had, as it seemed, a secret cargo of munitions on board.

In Casablanca the steamer was rapidly converted for the transport of troops, and a few days later sailed again, arriving at Martinique after a twenty-one-day voyage, on October 24th. There the Czechoslovaks, after all their bodily and spiritual sufferings, and all their hardships, found, for once, rest and refreshment. The French were extremely kind to them, paying them at the same rate as French soldiers, and dealing with them in the friendliest manner.

After five weeks' residence on Martinique they had sufficiently recovered to begin to consider how they might make their way to one of the neighboring British islands. It was certain that the French authorities would permit no such thing, so accordingly, they got into touch with a local band of smugglers, who, for sufficient pay, were quite willing to assist them to cross the seas, which, here, are notably rough and stormy. As an advance guard, two of the Czechoslovak soldiers, who spoke English, started off in a tiny canoe of native make to get to the island of Dominica, and there to inform the British authorities of the presence of the rest, and then get word back to Martinique. They started out to sea, and were never heard of again.

For this reason, the others came to a new arrangement with the smugglers; one day they set out in a tiny crazy sailing vessel, and after a ten-hour voyage over a stormy sea, they arrived at the island of Santa Lucia. They were utterly worn out, and soaked to the skin, since their tiny craft had been wave-swept throughout the voyage, and they had only kept her from filling and sinking under them by frantic and continuous baling with half-coconut shells.

However, all the hardships of the voyage were instantly wiped out in the overwhelmingly splendid certainty that at last they were definitely in safety, on British soil.

The British authorities welcomed them warmly, and took every care of them. There, on Santa Lucia, they could at last feel with devout thankfulness that they were really safe, free, and within reach at last of their goal. It must have been a lovely experience; one of them got engaged to be married there, a second actually married, while all of them ever since speak of Santa Lucia only in superlatives.

As soon as arrangements had been concluded with the Czechoslovak Government in London, the British authorities sent our soldiers—it was now February 1st—as part of the load of a great convoy of fifty-three ships to their final destination—Great Britain. They had a short halt at Bermuda, where the chairwoman of the Soldiers' Welfare Society, Mrs. Gilbert, inscribed her name for ever in the hearts of the Czechoslovak soldiers by her motherly care of them. Then a relatively short journey across the North Atlantic to Liverpool. On the voyage they lived through several submarine alarms, saw a magnificent submarine hunt by four destroyers, giving them a perfect sidelight on the splendid work of the British sailors, their bravery, and their cool-headedness. Also they saw the destructive effects of a frightful explosion, which sank a great tanker in under five minutes, together with its crew. This, however, made no great impression on them—they were safe under the escort of British warships, and on their way at last to their own place; to the Czechoslovak Army Units in Great Britain, which had been the goal of their dreams through over 18,000 miles.

Today all are in battle-dress, waiting to be sent off to a new front, from which the journey home will, perhaps, be shorter!

Editor's Note: We wish to express our sincere thanks to past president Rudolph Secky for having presented to us much interesting and valuable library material. This includes detailed accounts of the activities of the Czechoslovak Legion in France in which Mr. Secky saw service.

NEW MEMBERS

- 791 Mrs. Irene Stern, Leibnitz #8 Dept. 14, Colonia Azures, Mexico, D. F.
 792 C. Ralph Swap, Box 1117, Juneau, Alaska
 793 Karl H. Nelson, 1676 Buccanan Drive, Pomona, Calif. 91767
 794 Charles A. Patzelt, 160-63 19th Ave., Whitestone, N. Y. 11357

ADDRESS CORRECTIONS

- 779 Frank Batka, 8361 S. W. 91st Terrace, Miami, Florida 33156
 773 Wm. J. Rosol, Jr., 1536 St. Paul, Denver, Colo. 80210

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

- 427 Capt. Jack Benchik, 1124½ Bowman Street, South Bend, Ind. 46613
 Best wishes to Capt. Benchik on his promotion!

Sudetenland

CROSS INDEX (SCOTT-MICHEL)

By George E. Kuhn

Reprinted from the German Postal Specialist

When the Germans began occupying the Sudeten area of Czechoslovakia, as an aftermath of the Munich conference, many of the current stamps of Czechoslovakia were overprinted in various ways. These are listed in the Michel Germany Catalog. Unfortunately, this catalog does not provide an illustration of all such issues, and unless one has access to a Michel Europe Catalog, it is impossible to properly identify these items.

In the Michel Germany, the publisher assigned a number to the Sudeten issues and identifies the major Czechoslovak stamp on which the overprint appears by inserting the Michel Czechoslovakia number in parentheses.

For example: For Rumburg, the catalog listing would be:

14. 2.50 Kc. dunkelblau ----- (354) 11.— 12.—

As many of us do not have a Michel Europe Catalog, but do have a Scott

Catalog, the problem is to translate the parenthetical numbers into something we can use. The following list is intended to do just that.

Mi. No.	Scott No.	Mi. No.	Scott No.	Mi. No.	Scott No.
15	P4	344	B146	381	236
16	P5	345	213	382	237
17	P6	346	214	383	238
190	P7	347	215	384	239 Souv.
191	P8	348	216	385	Sheet
249	118	349	217	386	240
277	152	350	212	387	241
278	153	*351	218	388	242
279	154	352	219	389	B150
280	155	353	220	390	B151
281	156	354	221	391	B152 S.S.
282	157	355	222	392	243
294	178	356	223	393	244
303	C10	**357	224	394	245
304	C11	358	225	395	246
305	C12	359	226	396	247
306	C13	360	227	397	248
307	C14	361	B147	398	251 S.S.
308	C15	362	B148	399	
309	C16	363	B149	*400	249
310	C17	364	P17	*401	250
313	186	365	P18	404	253
318	191	366	P19	405	254
321	194	367	P20	P55	J58
326	P14	368	P21	P56	J59
327	P15	369	P22	P57	J60
328	P16	370	P23	P58	J61
336	206	371	P24	P59	J62
337	207	372	P25	P60	J63
338	208	373	228	P61	J64
339	209	374	229	P62	J65
340	210	377	232	P63	J66
341	211	378	233	P64	J67
342	B144	379	234	P65	J68
343	B145	380	235	P66	J69

* 351-356, and 400-401 are also available in pairs with gutter.

** Mi. 357-359 are also available with label attached.

SOME CURIOUS WEEDS

David M. Stirling

Reprinted from Linn's Weekly Stamp News

(Editor's Note: The fakes herein described refer to reproductions of stamps Scott 241-244.)

Quite recently, a large number of colored reproductions of pre-war Czech stamps have appeared on the market. These are printed rather crudely on glossy white paper, each stamp being reproduced in six different colors: black, blue, green, vermilion, orange, and rose.

These items are from a U. S. A. source and I cannot really understand why anyone should go to the trouble of producing them. They are not likely to deceive any collector.

The Emergency Military Issue of the U. S. Army In Czechoslovakia 1945

by Eberhard Keiler

(Reprinted from "Der Deutschland Sammler," January, 1954, issue)

Translated by B. R. Beede

Advancing east, a portion of the U. S. forces reached the northwestern part of the Sudetenland on April 18, 1945, and installed a Czechoslovak civil administration at Franzenbad in their area of occupation.

The Czechoslovak territorial commissioner wanted, among other things, to introduce postal service immediately. Instructions from the new Czechoslovak central postal administration in Prague were still lacking. The Czechoslovak civil commissioner regarded special control of postal receipts necessary, considering the fact that the local postoffices were still manned by the old German postal officials, and got in touch with the occupation authorities to attain this control through the issuance of postage stamps. The order was given by the commandant (Major Margolis) with the injunction that no stamps or cancels with emblems of the Third Reich might be used.

It did not appear necessary to the army of occupation and the civil administration to have a special issue of stamps produced according to a special design since the assumption of postal administration by the central postal authorities in Prague within a reasonable space of time could be reckoned with. On the other hand, the AM-postage stamps of Germany were not considered for this area. (Note: Use of AMG stamps would have been undesirable because their denominations were in Pfennigs and Marks. Moreover, their use might have been interpreted in Czech circles as Allied recognition of the German annexation of the Sudetenland.) Thus, with the lack of remainders of old Czechoslovak stamps they hit upon the alternative of providing German commemorative stamps without Hitler emblems with an overprint. The only quantity of commemorative stamps that they had at hand were 1250 sets of the Postal Comradeship III (Scott B272-7) and 1000 of the Fulda issue (B270). To be sure these remainders were small, yet they reckoned that postal demand would still be small initially and that, besides, the Czechoslovak central postal administration would soon find another way out of the catastrophic stamp situation.

Overprinting took place in a printing shop at Franzenbad under the supervision of the occupation authorities. A protocol concerning this production in the English and Czechoslovak languages was composed and was signed by the director of the Czechoslovak civil administration, Mr. Slawik, and the representative of the army of occupation. The issue bore the four-line overprint: "(Designation of value) U. S. Army, v. C. S. R., 18 IV. 1945."

On May 25, 1945, the stamps were handed over to the occupation authorities and in agreement with the Czechoslovak civil commissioner, were distributed to the postoffices in the area of occupation in Franzenbad, Eger, Falkenau, and Wildstein, as well as ordered which cancels could be used.

Sale of the stamps began on May 25th; sale was only slight because it was not specially announced; moreover, control by U. S. officials excluded purchases by collectors. But during the course of May 25th, the same U. S. command post gave the order to the postoffices at Eger, Falkenau, and Franzenbad by telephone, the stamps were not, or no longer to be sold to civilians, but only to members of the occupation army and to be used as official army stamps. The order proceeded from a telephonic agreement of the commander of the occupation forces with an unknown office. By error this order did not

go through to Wildstein. Here the stamps were still issued and used, and sale to civilians only stopped on the afternoon of May 27th.

Remainders of the stamps from all four postoffices were issued to the U. S. occupation forces as official postage stamps and were used as such until the establishment of the central Czechoslovak post about ten days later.

Acceptance of this war emergency issue in collecting circles will be as diverse as that of most emergency issues, yet it is of interest, for it remains the only emergency issue of the U. S. army of occupation in contrast to the various emergency issues of the French, English, and Russian zones. (This statement is not correct, since several local issues were produced in the American zone.)

An additional document concerning this issue, signed by the adjutant of the U. S. army of occupation, Lieutenant Mikolajczyk, is also in front of the author, but cannot be used.

The Story of Emma Destin—

CZECH SINGER'S ARTISTRY WAS EQUAL OF HER NATIONAL PRIDE

by Ladislav Kropac

Reprinted from Linn's Weekly Stamp News



Emma Destin was born February 27, 1878, and died January 28, 1930, in Ceske Budejovice (Budweis). "A flying meteor" is a truthful portrait of Emma Destin's career, during the intervening 52 years. In the days when she played children's solos she was called "Wild Emmy," and indeed she could have been the heroine of a child's novel, but more tomboy than girl.

Emma Destin came from an interesting family. Her grandfather originally came to Prague as a brewing apprentice and through his diligence, industry and thrift soon gained much wealth; her father, though a bonvivant, gave large sums to cultural aims and helped artists and educational organizations.

Thus it was that Mme. Destin—then still Emma Kittle—in her early years moved about in brilliant society of young artists, especially writers and musicians.

Early in life she came into the hands of excellent Prague musical teachers, the husband-wife team Destin Loewe. According to Marie Loewe, she adopted the famous name Destin, and after five years of intensive studies she emerged a promising singer of the old Italian school of song.

In the early years of her musical career she met with several reverses and icy refusals. Surprisingly, even the Prague National Theater failed to see in her the future soprano star and refused to accept her, the same as the singing artist K. Burian.

She tried the Dresden Opera with like results. It was the Berlin Opera where she met her first success and it can be said that in an artistic sense, she gained her greatest triumphs there. Mme. Destin sang principally the Italian repertoire, but that does not mean she was not admitted to other operatic activities.

To the Germans she was a distinguished interpreter of the Wagner operas. Her "Senta" in the "Flying Dutchman" opened the road for her to Beyruth and for a while it made of her an enthusiastic Wagnerian. Later as Salome she appeared in Paris at the side of Burian, a Straussian.

At the time when her unforgettable art reached its height, she harvested success and honors truly regal. The enthusiasm of the audiences during her appearances shook the rafters of the theaters.

She sang in court appearances in Berlin and her stature was such that she could permit herself the luxury of refusals, if she was invited to lesser engagements.

Kaiser Wilhelm II understandingly waved away such refusals. After performances at court she usually received a gold bracelet studded with precious stones and embellished with the imperial monogram. During the war she had these melted down and donated the proceeds to charitable organizations.

She was invited to the coronation festivities in London in 1911. Whenever she sang in London the Royal box was always occupied and as a kind gesture of recognition she always received a bouquet of red roses.

Her appearances in New York where she appeared with Caruso, were the apex of successes such as an artist seldom experiences before large audiences.

Destin helped Czech music throughout the world and could raise her voice if someone had the temerity to downgrade Smetana. She always proudly boasted of her Czech origin so that her success could be shared by her nation.

This she stressed in Paris during the performance of Salome. Richard Strauss wrote the title role for her, just as Puccini wrote for her Punicello del West (Girl of the Golden West).

Salome had its premiere in 1905 in Berlin and in 1907 a specially selected group of artists from German theaters with Strauss at its head presented it in Paris. It was a great social, cultural and musical triumph. In the lead roles were two Czechs, Emma Destin and Karel Burian.

In the interviews requested by the French press, Emma Destin insisted she be listed as a Czech, and in accordance with her request the readers were so informed even before the performances.

Of the Czech operatic works she had a warm heart for Smetana and Dvorak. She also loved Czech folk songs.

As a human being, Destin was a woman of rich, emotional background. She appreciated not only singing and music, but all creative art. She had a large library with many prize volumes, especially old classics, which she collected from all over the world.

Her home consisted of antique furnishings which she later moved to her castle in Straz where she spent involuntary imprisonment during the First World War. In Ceske Budejovice a heart attack ended her life.

The Czechoslovakian government issued in her honor a stamp of 30 heller value in 1953, designed by Karel Svolinsky and engraved by Jindra Schmidt. This sheet was printed from a ten-subject plate.

34th MAIL SALE

This time we will sell a Czechoslovak collection which was formed in Vienna. There are many fine items and bulk material which has to be sold—the prices are NOT catalog prices but suggested minimum bids.

1.	A box with covers and cards all w stamps used before 1918, abt 100	\$10.00
2.	100 postcards of Praha with stamps	4.00
3.	Scout stamps, 10h and 20h UNused	2.00
4.	Same used on piece	2.00
5.	Same on 2 covers	5.00
6.	Šrobar issue complete, 29 values USED	35.00
7.	I. Štatni vlada complete set with special del., all stamps signed	22.00
8.	II Štatni Vlada, compl. with special delivery, all signed	22.00
9.	Budejovice, set up to 10K, black overprint	6.00
10.	Same, set up 10K RED overprint	6.00
11.	Skalice, complete *	14.00
12.	Jehlička 5K red block of four	2.00
13.	Hradčany, the good values, 10h, 20h, and 30h, imperf, signed, large margins	25.00
14.	On covers, about 100	10.00
15.	6 complete sheets	12.00
16.	86 waste prints—a very fine lot	8.00
17.	Collection mostly used on album sheets (varieties, etc.)	10.00
18.	About 10 blox * of diff. Hradcany	5.00
19.	Pošta 1919. 1K with black overprint	10.00
20.	20h Karel LIGHT green	5.00
21.	10K light violet superb	20.00
22.	10k DARK violet, superb	20.00
23.	Collection of about 60 diff. values	8.00
24.	11 diff. INVERTED overprints, all signed	11.00
25.	Hungarian Parliament set, til 5K	12.00
26.	Hungarian postage due stamps (red) complete	15.00
27.	20 filler black Porto	10.00
28.	Masaryk issues, 1920, 1,25, 500, 1,000 *	1.00
29.	Scott 101A to D complete *	50.00
30.	Same, used	5.00
31.	1K (Raminko) Scott No. 102	10.00
32.	1923 complete *	2.00
33.	Same, used	2.00
34.	Congress * vf set	20.00
35.	Slet, complete set * vf	15.00
36.	Tyrs complete set *	2.00
37.	Bohemia Moravia collection complete	12.00
38.	Same, used	12.00

39.	Very specialized with most of the coupons and gutter pairs vf Retail \$100 -----	32.50
40.	Theresienstadt imperf (signed) -----	3.00
41.	Same, perf. (signed) -----	3.00
42.	Allegory and Dove complete * Tete beche -----	15.00
43.	Same used -----	15.00
44.	AIRMAILS, first set * -----	5.00
	Second set * -----	10.00
	third set -----	1.00
45.	S. O. complete set only the common up to 1,000 and dues -----	3.00
46.	500 and 1,000 H Masaryk, Scott \$70 -----	18.00
47.	Coll. of S. O. on pages incl. the S. O. Masaryk -----	25.00
48.	SIBERIA, the 3 values perf. 13½ -----	1.00
49.	the 3 values IMPERF -----	8.00
50.	the 3 values perf 11½ -----	7.00
51.	Lion, complete, large saber -----	15.00
52.	Same, small saber -----	15.00
53.	A Siberia cover -----	10.00
54.	A proof of the "lion" stamp -----	4.00
55.	N. Y. Worlds Fair 1939-40, 21 * and used -----	21.00
56.	SUDETEN, cards and covers (22) -----	10.00
57.	A complete collection of Czecho in nice album, high cat., nice -----	28.50
58.	SECOND REPUBLIC, collection of nearly all the stamps -----	10.00
59.	Covers, about 100 -----	10.00
60.	Gutters of the soldier stamps -----	10.00
61.	THIRD REPUBLIC, 200 picture stamps -----	1.00
62.	67 FDC, vf lot -----	6.00
63.	1500 stamps, part in sheets, part loose -----	8.00
64.	50 Miniature sheets of all periods -----	5.00
65.	Accumulation of covers, all periods, about 250 -----	5.00

We have many items left too small or hard to describe.

Ask for an approval.

Books close on February 28, 1965

Send your bids promptly.

Alfons Stach

P. O. Box 387

Lenox, Mass.

Mirko Hanak, Designer of Czechoslovak Animal Stamps

By Helena Hodkova

Reprinted from STAMPS



1963 set of Czechoslovakian animal stamps

The academic painter and graphic artist, Mirko Hanak, is fond of the sport of hunting, and for this reason he welcomed the opportunity to design the series of six Czechoslovak stamps showing animals living in the Czech mountains and forests, which was issued December 14, 1963.

Mirko Hanak belongs to the younger generation of Czechoslovak creative artists. He studied at the Academy of Applied Arts under Professor Novak. He originally planned to devote his talent to the painting of murals. But the magic of the woods and the enjoyment he got out of hunting led him to themes of nature, the graphic technique, and the art of illustration.

His work has a distinctive individualistic character, and whether it be a book for children, a journal, a poster, or postage stamps, his subject matter is always linked with nature, with fauna. As he himself confesses, it was his love of hunting, his unforgettable experiences in the world of nature that led him to express his artistic ability in this field.

Mr. Hanak is not himself a philatelist, but he views the postage stamp as the companion of letters, and thus deserving of more than the mere expression of the rate of postage. He looks upon stamps as something which should bring a message of pleasure to people all over the world as they travel to the four corners on letters.

Mirko Hanak was supported in his efforts to produce these little messengers showing animals of Czechoslovakia by the engravers of this series: Ladi-

slav Jirka and Jindra Schmidt. They succeeded in transferring his designs to the metal with great precision. The flat recess print in four colors faithfully reproduces the color harmony of the original.

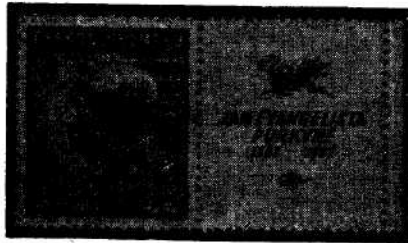
The 30 Kcs. shows a chamois; the 40 Kcs., a capricorn; the 60 Kcs., a moufflon; the 1.20 Kcs., a roebuck, the 1.60 Kcs., a fallow deer; and the 2.00 Kcs., a stag.

The Animals set of stamps has proven very popular with collectors, and the artist and engravers who produced it are gratified that their efforts have been so well received.

PURKYNE'S CONTRIBUTION TO CRIME DETECTION

By W. L. Russell

Reprinted from Stamps



Purkyne Commemorative of 1937

At first glance there does not appear to be any connection between the stamp shown here and the detection of crime. Nevertheless, it is a fact that the famous physiologist, professor, and poet, whose profile appears on this stamp of Czechoslovakia, was the first man to explore the possibilities of fingerprints in crime detection. His researches into this field (which was a very minor part of his life's work, by the way, formed the basis of the Bertillon method in criminal identification now adopted in nearly every part of the world.

Jan Evangelista Purkyne was born on December 17, 1787, in Libochowitz, near Leitmeritz, Bohemia. He studied philosophy, medicine and natural history in Prague. Through his scientific activities he came into contact with Goethe, whom he highly esteemed. On Goethe's recommendation he was appointed Professor of Pathology and Physiology at the University of Breslau, and there in 1839 he founded the first Physiological Institute. He was the founder of experimental physiological and microscopic anatomy in Germany.

Among his discoveries were the excretory ducts of the perspiration glands and the embryological evolution of the bones, cartilage, and teeth. Incidentally, he is said to be the first scientist to project his preparations with the help of a magic lantern.

In 1850 Purkyne went back to Prague as professor of physiology. In addition to his natural history activities, he was one of the promoters of the National Czech movement, and fought strenuously for Czech freedom from the might of Austria. His literary efforts included the editing of the Czech Revue of Natural History—"Ziva" ("Life"), and the translation of a portion of Schiller's poetry into the Czech language. Purkyne died in Prague on July 28, 1869.

On the 150th anniversary of his birth Czechoslovakia honored his memory with the issuance of two stamps. Both values show the head and shoulders

portrait of the savant, taken from a plaque by the sculptor, Professor O. Spaniel.

The stamps were engraved by Bohumil Heinz, and were issued on September 2, 1937. They were valid for postage until the end of that year. They were printed in sheets of 100 in the T-shaped format, which was peculiar to Czechoslovakia at that time, i.e., sixteen stamps in the top row and then six rows of fourteen stamps, with tabs down both sides. In some earlier issues these tabs were left blank, but in the case of the Purkyne stamps they were printed with the inscription "Jan Evangeliste / Purkyne / 1787-1937" and the staff of Aesculapius above the inscription.

The Arras Commemoratives

By W. L. Russell

Reprinted from Compex Directory 1964



The beginning of the second battle of Artois (also called the battle of Arras) which took place on May 9, 1915, was of great importance to the Czech people in their fight for freedom. It helped in no small measure to put them "on the map" with the Allies.

The "Na Zdar" company of Czech legionaries consisted of Czech volunteers who reported for service in Paris at the beginning of the war. They had undergone training at Bayonne and were hardened during six months on the Champagne front where they fought with the Moroccan divisions. After the first winter of the war, when the French decided to stop the German advance and to penetrate their lines in the vicinity of Arras, the Czechs played a magnificent role. They formed part of the 10th French Army Corps, whose objective was the timbered hills, the crest of which controlled the country east and north-east in the direction of Lille and Douai.

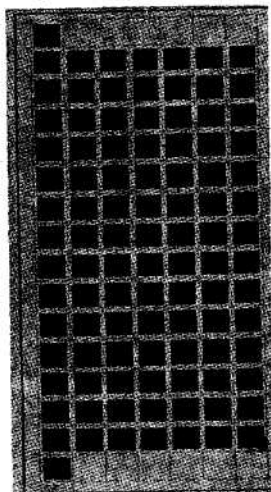
It is hardly credible, but nevertheless true, that only the Czech regiment reached its objective in the important encounter on the first day. Reached it, too, after only 90 minutes, with most of their officers gone, rows of wounded and many killed, fighting with indescribable elan, and sacrificing themselves without stint.

Today, near Arras, a memorial stands, almost in the middle of the battle field, dedicated to the Czech volunteers. Eternal lights shine from it to remind the passersby of those who fell. On it is a tablet bearing the names of the dead, and this inscription in French: "Here, on the 9th May, 1915, the Czech Volunteers fought for their Country and for France."

The monument, which is the work of the Czech sculptor Jaroslav Hruska, is depicted on two stamps which Czechoslovakia issued 20 years later to commemorate the battle.

These stamps were rotary printed from steel engravings on white, unwater-marked paper. There are 100 stamps to the sheet, which was printed in a peculiar format of sixteen rows, the first and last of which had only one stamp, and fourteen rows of seven, making the 100 stamps. The six stamp places on the first and last rows were left blank. This format is the same as that used for the 1935 issue commemorating Dr. Masaryk's birthday. In that case, however, the sheet was turned around and the row of 16 stamps formed the top of the sheet, with the 6 blank spaces down each side. One finds the same style

of make-up in later issues—the Purkyne commemoratives, the Sokol issue, and the three issues dealing with the battles of the Legion. In these issues the blank spaces, or coupons, carry a design.



Reverting to the Arras stamps; there were two values issued, 1K red and 2K blue, and they appeared on May 4, 1935, remaining valid until February 28, 1937. The size of the design is 29½ mm. x 22¼ mm. Rotary perforated 9¼. The engraving was carried out by Karl Seizinger (you can find his sign S at the top of the first tree on the left hand side, if you've a good glass!) and the printing by the United Czech Printing Co., of Prague.

A special cancellation in blue was provided by the Post Offices at Prague and Trutnov, which were the headquarters of the "Na Zdar" battalion of the disbanded Czech Army.

These stamps are becoming increasingly hard to pick up in mint condition, particularly the blocks of "Three's" (three stamps and one blank space) from the top and bottom left corners of the sheet.

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