

# THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

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## The Karlštejn Castle Mail

By Jiří Nekvasil (Prague)

Written exclusively for the Specialist



The famous Karlštejn Castle built by the Czech King and the German Emperor Charles IV (1316-378) southeast of Prague as a repository for the Czech crown jewels is—owing to its historic past and its beautiful scenic setting on a hill high above the river Berounka—undoubtedly one of the most thrilling showplaces in whole Central Europe.

This fact is probably an additional reason for its being one of the favored subjects on many Czechoslovak stamps and entires. The first Czech stamps with this castle were designed by the late Czech graphic artist T. F. Šimon and issued in years 1926-1931. They were issued in the following denomina-

tions: 20 haleřů (heller), 1.20, 1.50, and 2.50 Kč. The engraver was the late Karel Seizinger who engraved the majority of the Czech stamps issued before 1938. Another stamp with Karlštejn Castle motif was issued after the Second World War in 1957; its denomination was 60 haleřů. The latest Czech stamp with Karlštejn Castle—also 60 haleřů denomination—was designed by Professor Jaroslav Švab for his series called the "Castles issue" showing the most important old castles of Czechoslovakia. The POFIS catalog numbers of all these Karlštejn stamps are: 209, 212, 214, 215, 216, 220, 222, 925 and 1106. (Respective Scott Cat. numbers are: the first unlisted by Scott, 109, 110, 111, 123, 133, 135, 788, 975).

But the Karlštejn Castle appears also on several types of Czechoslovak postal stationery, especially on postcards with imprinted stamps. Already in 1929 the first such entire was issued (Novotny Catalog No. 39/9). And the last one is included in a special series of picture-post cards issued in 1965 in commemoration of the 20th anniversary of liberation of the Czechoslovak Republic after the Second World War.

However for the oldest entires with the Karlštejn Castle we must turn to the Austrian postal material. In 1908 the Austrian postal authorities commemorated the Prague Jubilee Exhibition with two special and handsomely designed 5 heller green picture postcards which on their reverse sides had the likeness of the ruling Emperor Franz Joseph I in his coronation robes, flanked on the left with the picture of Karlštejn Castle and the picture of the Prague Royal Castle, Hradčany on the right side.

Finally the most interesting philatelic material related to the Karlštejn Castle undoubtedly are the special postmarks used by the Czech postal authorities every Sunday from 1942 until 1951 to cancel all mail posted by tourists and sightseers directly at the Castle. These special postmarks were intended to serve as a convenient advertisement and enticement of prospective visitors of the Karlštejn Castle.

Postal-wise, these postmarks are and should be classified as a curiosity.

As domicil they bore the legend "HRAD KARLŠTEJN" although the adjoining village of BUDŇANY and its post office were located under the castle. The appearance of these postmarks is very attractive with the simplified but distinct silhouette of the castle under the date bridge. Originally due to the Nazi occupation of the country, these postmarks were bilingual (Czech-German) but after the liberation in 1945 they were "nationalized" with the removal of the German text of the legend in the upper part of the postmark (see illustration).

In 1951 the postmark was modified with addition of correct name of the post office—"BUDŇANY" on top and the "HRAD KARLŠTEJN" at the bottom. The Registered Mail stickers and other types of mail sent from the castle had undergone the same changes. These however are rather rare.

Another change came in 1952 when the Budňany village and its postoffice were officially renamed Karlštejn and those special Sunday postmarks were discontinued. The Karlštejn post office then received the standardized type of cancellations used by other Czech local post offices with code letters "a" and "b". In 1948 a special commemorative postmark was used with special legend "HRAD KARLŠTEJN—1348-600 LET—1948" commemorating the 600th anniversary of the castle.

The color of these special postmarks was originally brown-orange, but subsequently was changed to black.

The postal history of these Karlštejn Castle postmarks and mail is now another closed but interesting chapter of the Czechoslovak philately, which may tempt our collector-specialists to recreate it in their collections.

Adapted and translated by lhv

**EDITORIAL**

We are exceedingly pleased to start off our message to the membership with the news that our International Secretary and very good friend, George A. Blizil, has again been appointed to serve on the International Jury and at this time, naturally at Praga 1968. No better person could have been picked for this specific assignment and we are particularly interested as we hope to be there ourselves. As a matter of fact we expect a number of collectors from the States to participate personally in all the events planned to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Republic.

All of you received a copy of Linn's Weekly Stamp News and we believe you enjoyed reading the fine articles on Czechoslovak Philately, which has elicited a chorus of approval. We were extremely pleased at the wonderful cooperation from our members which indicates quite well that much more could be done with our Specialist if a goodly number of members were willing to aid actively in its publication. We cannot really complain about the support we are receiving in this country and from Czechoslovakia but we are aiming at still greater accomplishments. This may mean more work for us but that is unimportant if we can produce far more for the benefit of our Society.

We received a letter from Jan Prins of the Perfins Club asking us to secure the assistance of a member of the Society who could help him with data on the Czechoslovak perfins. His address is: 411 Waupelani Drive A-302, State College, Pa. 16801. There is a letter here also from Alan Warren of the American First Day Cover Society requesting an article for their publication on Czechoslovak First Day Covers. His address is: 220 Locust St., Apt. 26-G, Philadelphia, Pa. 19106. If interested, please contact either of the two or both. In addition we have a note from member L. Gonville, 35 Bressy Grove, South Woodford, London E 18, England, who would like to get UN FDC for which he could give similar items from his country.

Members we shall soon ask you to pay your dues for 1968 and we wish to urge you to raise your membership status to sustaining membership. We realize that many of you could pay the \$5.00 annual dues and we request your serious consideration in this matter. There are no societies we know of which furnish 160 pages of printed publication for less than \$5.00 dues. We are a small organization and it is very difficult to turn out a Specialist with illustrations when one must pay for the cuts. We would like to feel free to do a better job and also would be very much interested in publishing original articles in our Specialist without having to farm them out for later reprinting just for the sake of economy. Please think this over with care when your dues notices reach you in November. We will remind you then!!!

Finally, may we ask you again most urgently to cast your ballot soon.

**ITEM FROM PRAGUE NEWS LETTER**

At the beginning of April there was an exchange of opinions among philatelists, postal authorities and cosmic space experts concerning whether or not the stamps in the set "Investigation of the Universe" (P. N. L. March 18, 1967) are too scientifically complex to be understood by children who are their most avid collectors. As though in answer to the question, the editors of the youth daily, "Mladá Fronta," received a phone call from a 13-year-old boy pointing out that "the mathematical equation on the 60-heller stamp, used for calculating orientation on the moon, is incorrect: the Greek letter Phi is upside down." He was right. This engraver's error appears on all the 60-heller stamps.

## The Rarest Of All Czech Stamp Rarities

By Karel Basika from Filatelie

We are pretty sure that all our readers know what we have in mind: the famous 50 over 50 postage due Chainbreaker stamp!

Its discovery in 1928 caused a real sensation among Czechoslovak philatelists. This overprint error was made by mistake and was discovered in October 1928. Let's recapitulate briefly all the facts and events which had led to this error.

These postage due provisionals were issued in successive stages and represented a very extensive stamp production. This is confirmed by the fact that it took more than six years—from 1922 until 1928—until all stocks of these overprinted postage dues on the regular issues—were completely exhausted.

Behind these overprints was the decision of the Czech postal authorities to change their typography process of printing stamps to the more modern rotogravure recess print method. But they had very large stocks of several first issues on their hands which had to be used first. So it was decided to use these remaining stocks for postage due purposes. There were four different such issues for such disposal: Hradčany, Allegory (Science and Economy), Chainbreaker issues and remnants of the first, original (1918) postage due issue, designed by Alphonse Mucha. All these stamps were then gradually overprinted with the word "DOPLATIT" (postage due) and with a respective new denomination. The only one stamp among this overprinted remainder stocks kept UNchanged from its original denomination was the 100 Haleru chainbreaker stamp.

Altogether there were 40 different postage due provisional stamps issued. But there were also provisionals with overprints in different colors. With these stamps and different perforations, etc., the total then rose to no less than 55 stamps! And counting some other irregularities and type differences, we may get an even higher total. Quite an accumulation!

The printshop which printed these stamps—The Czech Graphic Union—did a tremendous job: between 1921 to 1927 it printed a total of some 180 millions of these overprinted postage due provisionals. And in spite of great care devoted to these overprints, the printer made a mistake which resulted in a stamp which we may rightly consider as an extraordinary Czech stamp rarity.

From the Chainbreaker issue, three stamps were selected for this operation. These were the 20 haleru, 50 haleru and 150 haleru stamps, all, incidentally, in red color. However the remainder stocks of the 50 haleru stamps were pretty well exhausted so this stamp was eliminated by the authorities from the overprint operation. The error print 50 over 50 haleru was very likely made during the overprinting of 20 haleru stamps to 50 haleru denomination (50 over 20).

Of course the 50 over 50 overprint was a tremendous shock for the Czech philatelists. However at the beginning, the collectors were wary and suspicious about this stamp. Only after the experts confirmed that this was a genuine error, made during the printing, the stamp was officially recognized by the philatelists. It seemed obvious that these stamps were used exclusively by the Praha branch post office No. 14—Praha-Holešovice—without being discovered by mail clerks who mechanically pasted the rare stamps on postal material without sufficient postage. By coincidence, all these stamps were placed on business mail.

The discovery of this rarity created a huge "treasure hunt," perhaps the largest in the Czech philatelic history. Mountains of discarded mail with all kinds of postage due provisional stamps were sifted over piece by piece by eager and frantic collectors. All private stocks of these stamps were checked

and re-checked and one large business house in the borough of Holešovice had all its correspondence files thoroughly searched resulting in the discovery of several 50 over 50's on its mail. But in spite of all this candor the total was disappointingly small: until 1935 only 11 pieces of this rarity had been found, all cancelled by the Praha post office No. 14. And up to the present only 17 of these postally used rare stamps are known.

There are several possibilities as to the origin of this error. First, one full pane of the 50 haleru stamps was enclosed with panes of either 20 haleru or 150 haleru denominations and overprinted with the text "50—DOPLATIT—50", or, second, incomplete panes of stamps of the two above mentioned denominations were supplemented in presses with a part of a 50 haleru stamp pane. It was known that during the printing, the incomplete panes of stamps were also overprinted. The authorities even requested that all post offices had to return any quantity of unsold stamps of the above mentioned series stamps to be overprinted.

As usual in case of such a rarity, the fakers and counterfeiters went to work almost instantly after the discovery of this error. Some of them tried to manufacture the rarity by retouching the numeral 1 on the original 150 haleru stamps. But these counterfeits were easily recognizable—the numerals on this stamp are of entirely different type than on the 50 haleru stamps. Others again tried to fake the 50-50 overprint.

There is no question that the genuine "50 over 50" error is a real rarity among the Czechoslovak stamps and also undoubtedly one of the most extraordinary errors in world philately. The exact number of owners of this stamp in Czechoslovakia is unknown. The Philatelic Museum of the Czechoslovak Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs has two of these stamps. It is possible, that in some small collection of Czech stamps there might be—still unrecognized—another of this rarity awaiting its lucky discoverer.

We here in the United States know that one such stamp is currently available. It appeared originally in 1957 when a New York stamp dealer, the Cross Stamp Company, offered it among other Czech stamp rarities (10 crown Pošta Československá 1919 granite paper type and other most expensive of the Czech stamp rarities) in auction. Its catalog listed the price \$1000/1250. The same stamp was listed earlier this year by the well-known stamp dealer Fritz Billig in his auction catalog for sale with minimum suggested bid of \$1400, but the stamp was withdrawn from auction. Finally, some time ago, the Alcon Stamp Company offered the same stamp to one prominent collector of Czech stamps in Washington, D. C., and the price tag was \$1950! To our friend it seemed a little too steep. So, very likely it is still available!

—Adapted/translated by lhw

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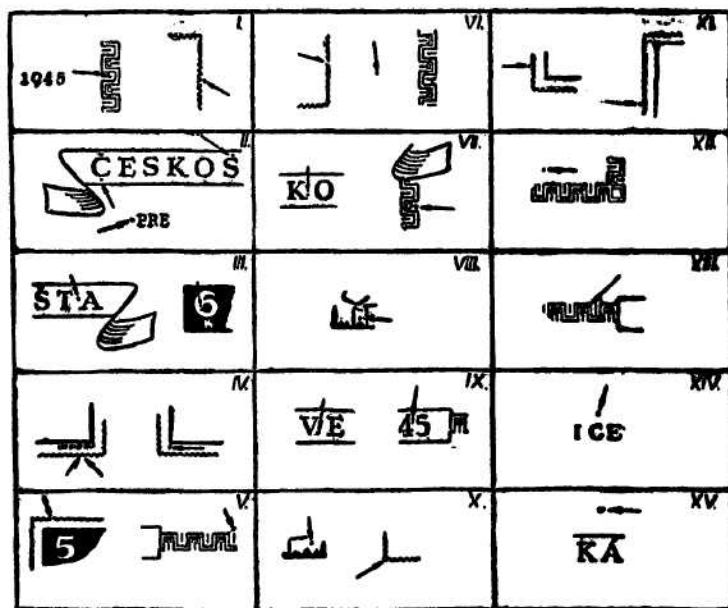
## The 1945 Kosice Souvenir Sheet

From Filatelie

The first postage stamps bearing once again the name "Ceskoslovensko" and issued on the territory of Czechoslovakia towards the end of World War II were the "Košice" issue. Comprising 7 stamps, this series was issued on March 26, 1945, in Košice (Eastern part of Slovakia) in wake of the Red Army advance. The Postal authorities at Košice also planned the issuance of several souvenir sheets commemorating the return of President Beneš from London. But this met with several technical difficulties. The task was given to a local printing shop at Košice but after printing about 600 sheets it was discovered that there was not enough paper of a uniform quality. Therefore, the order was dropped and souvenir sheets already printed were destroyed. In April 1945—when the Postal authorities had moved from Košice to Bratislava—a new try was made. This time the job was given to the printing firm "Neografia" in the city of Turč. Sv. Martin. Preparatory work was completed on May 1, 1945. It was decided that the subject of the souvenir sheet should be the same as of 3 of the original 7 stamps of the mentioned series, i.e. a head of a Red Army soldier.

For the border of the sheet—resembling a Greek geometric design—a blue color was chosen. The burelage consists of very fine grey-green horizontal lines. Under the state emblem and the two texts there are star-shaped ornaments. The texts are in red. The 2 K stamp of this sheet is printed in red, the 5 K in grey-green, and the 6 K in blue, same as of the original stamps issued in sheet form of 240 stamps. For the preparation of the offset plates the printing shop used the actual stamps from the original Košice series. A photo-chemical process was utilized for the reproduction.

The actual printing was done from several sets of four plates (one for each color). There were 5 rows of 3 souvenir sheets on each of the plates—15



in all. For the whole issue 4 plates for the burelage, 4 for the red color, 5 for the blue and 3 for the grey-green were used. Since so many plates and combinations were used there are many types of this souvenir sheet (some say around 200). But let's take for our study one printing, that is one set of plates. Each souvenir sheet differs somewhat from the others—so we have 15 types from one set of plates. Since not a single uncut sheet (containing 15 souvenir sheets) exists, there is no way of ascertaining the positions of the individual types on an entire sheet.

The souvenir sheets are imperforate but there are wavy lines around each stamp resembling perforation, which in the following we will call "printed perforation."

Here are the characteristics of the 15 types (see illustration):

- Type 1. A blue dot in the right hand border—near the red "1945".  
A black dot near 7th tooth of printed perforation on right side of 5 K value.
- Type 2. A blue dot 1 mm under "Č" in "Československá."  
A blue dot 1 mm over second "S".  
A red dot 2 mm to the left of "prezidenta".
- Type 3. A blue dot between "T" and "A" in "Pošta".  
A red dot in the numeral 6 of 6 K value.  
A black dot 4 mm to the right of "Košice".  
A black dot ½ mm off the lower left corner of 5 K value.
- Type 4. Two teeth of printed perforation on 5 K stamp under author's name broken.  
A blue dot 1 mm under lower left corner of 6 K stamp.
- Type 5. Fifth upper tooth on left side of 5 K stamp broken.  
A blue dot 1 mm above lower right side of border.
- Type 6. 2 K value—right side perforation—11th tooth from bottom broken.  
A black dot 9 mm from left side of border.
- Type 7. A blue dot between K and O in "Československá".  
A blue dot in right side border.
- Type 8. 6K value—a blue dot under smoke of 2nd smokestack.  
A blue and a black dot 4 mm under lower border, near right-hand corner.
- Type 9. A blue dot between V and E in "Československá".  
Three dots between "EN" and the state emblem.  
Two blue dots between 4 and 5 in the blue "1945".
- Type 10. 5 K stamp—a black spot under smoke of first smokestack.  
Lower left corner—broken perforation, and vertical part of the tooth retouched.
- Type 11. 6 K stamp—a small blue dot on left side of perforation, near 4th tooth from bottom.  
2 K stamp—a black dot near 11th tooth from the top.
- Type 12. A blue dot 5 mm above lower border—near right side corner.  
A blue dot in right-hand field 11 mm from the border.
- Type 13. 2 K stamp—a short blue line in lower left border, left of "1945".
- Type 14. A red and a blue dot 3 mm above the "C" in "Košice".  
A black and a blue dot 10 mm from left border—in line with "do vlasti".
- Type 15. A black, almost horizontal line 8 mm above "ká" in "Československá".  
Above it a trace of a parallel blue line.  
5 K stamp—7th tooth from bottom on right side broken.

In a few instances the plate of a particular color (mostly the red) was shifted and consequently the above mentioned flaws are correspondingly shifted also. All the types exist with different shades of individual stamps. The

rarest is the light red-brown color of the 2 K value. The most striking and common are the many shades of the 5 K value. There were 595,300 souvenir sheets printed.

—Adapted and translated by OK from an article by S. Kassay

—Cut courtesy of "Filatelie"

## CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S HISTORY TAUGHT BY POSTAGE STAMPS

Dr. John H. Jakes

(continued)

The fifteenth century saw Bohemia torn apart by the Hussite Wars (552, 614) which followed the preachings and martyrdom of the reformator Jan Hus (534).

In 1526, Bohemia came under the rule of the Hapsburg dynasty. The spirit of the prevailing Renaissance impressed its seal on the style of architecture in Bohemia (186, 570, 673, 575, 718, 844) and in Slovakia (132, 219, 786).

Religious disputes between Protestantism and the Roman Catholicism led to the disastrous Thirty Years' War of 1618-1648; Bohemia was one of those countries which suffered heaviest from its ravages. Bohemia's Protestant leaders (151), intellectuals (793), and artists (629) were executed or exiled, and its common people were held for the next 250 years under the heel of an absolute monarchy in a state of poverty and illiteracy.

Catastrophic epidemics of the "Black Death" swept over Europe in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, decimating the population of cities and countryside alike. "Plague Columns" (225, 790, C44) were erected in many towns as votive monuments and today serve as reminders of those tragedies.

The nineteenth century saw an awakening among the ethnic minorities in the Hapsburg Empire of Austria and Hungary. Strong efforts were made to revive the Czech and Slovak language as a literary one (213, 355, 495, 922; Slov. 77, 704, 705). When a spirit of revolution against the existing monarchies swept over the countries of Europe in 1848, it found ready followers among the Slavs in the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Efforts to achieve recognition of Slav rights were made in 1848 in Bohemia (315, 355, 705) and in 1860 in Slovakia (357-359, Slov 62). Some limited success was obtained, as personal serfdom was abolished in 1848 (350), Bohemian scientists, engineers, and explorers were able to take an active part in the development of the time (232, 499, 770, 807, 817). The year 1862 saw the founding of the Sokol Movement (187, 241, 246), a patriotic athletic association which rapidly spread to represent the Pan-Slav idea throughout the world wherever Slavs were living.

The last decades of the nineteenth century brought forth a large generation of Czech scientists (1097, 1102), writers (416, 473, 699, 924, 1039), and artists (159, 522, 627, 816, 1019). Composers like Smetana (386) and Dvořák (460) became world famous; The Czech National Theater (625) and its actors (627, 999, 1037) rose to high dramatic achievements. The Czech lands became industrialized (249, 770-771, 891-893, 915, BM 36) and their output (849, 853) accounted for 60 per cent of the total production in the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

The World War of 1914-1918 gave the Czechs and Slovaks a chance to fight for their freedom from the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. Many thousands of soldiers deserted from the Austrian Army to fight on the side of the Allies against their oppressors. They proved themselves on the battlefields



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of Russia (195, 228, 243), France (196, 206, 244), and Italy (245). At the end of the war a large army of Czechoslovak soldiers, trapped by the Russian Revolution in the Ukraine, fought their way across Siberia to the Pacific to be transported home from there via the United States and Western Europe (B124, issues of the Czechoslovak Army Field Post in Siberia).

Thomas G. Masaryk (61), Eduard Beneš (216), and other diplomats had in the meantime worked tirelessly to gain support among the Allied governments for the right of independent self-determination of the Czechs and Slovaks under the terms of the Versailles Treaty. Their efforts came to a successful conclusion when the independent Czechoslovak Republic was proclaimed on October 28, 1918 (1, 142, 253).

The First Republic lasted for twenty years, until its destruction by Hitler's Germany. Thomas G. Masaryk was the first president until 1935 (204), followed in office by Eduard Beneš (216). Czechoslovakia entered with Romania and Yugoslavia into the Little Entente (230) to protect herself against a resurgence of the former Austro-Hungarian Empire. An economic boom in 1922-1923 brought great advances in industry (736-739); Czech and Slovak science bloomed (923, 1100, 1103). Commercial airline connections to Paris, London, and Warsaw were instituted in 1920 (C1-6), and a Czech airline was founded (634) which soon extended its range to practically all European countries (C45). Czechoslovakia joined the Universal Postal Union (380) and the International Telegraph Union (1333). The Czechoslovak Red Cross (B 130) was organized by Dr. Alice Masaryk, the president's daughter. New universities were opened in Brno and Bratislava (683). The works of Czechoslovak sculptors (700), engravers (877), and painters (1040) became well known beyond the country's borders. Composers (599, 804-806, 1000, 1001) and performing musicians (507, 624, 803) upheld the worldwide reputation of their homeland. Many writers and poets in Bohemia (875, 998; 758, 926) and in Slovakia (571, 671; 432, 701, 784) flourished in the atmosphere of freedom which prevailed in the Republic.

In the 1930's the government had to defend its democratic philosophy against increasing pressure from the political left as well as from the right. Social Democrats (464, 587), Communists (455, 1004), Slovak Populists (Slov. 24), and the Party of the Sudeten Germans acted as powerful opposition parties.

At the Congress of the German Nazi Party in Nuremberg in September 1938 (Germany B120), Hitler demanded self-determination for the Sudeten Germans. This was the signal for the dismemberment of the Czechoslovak Republic which was to cost the country one-third of its territory and population. In vain were the efforts at the Munich Conference to stop Hitler's aggression. The German armies moved into the Sudeten areas of Czechoslovakia, expelled most of the 740,000 Czechs residing there, and incorporated the Sudetenland into the Reich (Germany B132). Polish troops marched into the Teshin area (Poland 334), and Hungary took a slice of Southern Slovakia including Košice (Kassa) (535, B101). The State was reconstituted as Czechoslovakia (256, C18), with a new way of spelling to indicate that the country had ceased to be a centralized State. Its end as an independent nation came when Hitler's troops marched into Prague in March 1939. The provinces of Bohemia and Moravia were organized into the German Protectorate Böhmen-Mähren (BM1-61) and considered a part of the incorporated area of Greater Germany (BM 62-90).

Germanization of the entire country was attempted. The Czech schools and universities were closed (B154). Many thousands fled the country to escape the terror of Nazi occupation. Among those refugees were almost the entire working force of the Bata Shoe Factory in Zlin (BM 35) who, with

their tools and machines, emigrated to Canada and founded a new town which they named Batawa.

In the province of Slovakia, the "Independent State of Slovakia" (255, Slov. 1) was established, with Monsignor Tiso (Slov. 43) as its leader. It was a clerico-fascist type of vassal state under German military control, with military units (Slov. B2) and youth organizations (Slov. B8) patterned after similar ones in Germany and Italy.

When World War II broke out in September 1939, Slovakia sided with Hitler's Germany (Slov. B14-16) against Poland, while in London the Free Czechoslovak National Committee was constituted. It had Beneš as its President and was recognized by the Allies as the official government-in-exile.

Czech soldiers and officers began a mass exodus in order to join the forces opposing Hitler. Many escaped to Russia where they joined the Soviet Army fighting the Nazis (274), and five years later they fought their way back to Czechoslovakia (353, 679). A majority became members of the different Western Allied armed services in which they helped battle the Nazis. They enrolled in the French armies (388, 391), the French Foreign Legion (390), the British Forces in North Africa (387, 394), or the Royal Air Force (393, C19). Many served on missions as secret agents, being dropped by parachute into Nazi-occupied countries (392), to aid the local resistance movements and Partisan units (457). One of these missions was the assassination of Reichsprotector Heydrich (BM B12), a deed which resulted in increased Nazi terrorism and the retaliatory destruction of the Czech villages of Lidice (329, 522) and Ležáky (1119). During the years of Nazi occupation, half a million Czechs were sent to jails and concentration camps (491, 580) and 75,000 were put to death (374, 440, 580). Over 80 per cent of the country's Jews were killed, many in the concentration camp of Theresienstadt (1288). An unsuccessful uprising of the Slovaks (289-292, 931) against the German and Tiso forces in August 1944 resulted in heavy losses to the Slovak Partisans (376, 663) and severe retaliations against the civilian population.

In the spring of 1945 the tide of war turned against Germany. President Beneš entered Slovakia in April 1945 with the advancing Soviet armies (310) while the U. S. Third Army under General Patton advanced from the West. On May 9 the Free Czechoslovak Government entered Prague (521) behind Soviet tanks.

A program for Czechoslovakia's postwar policies (409) was announced. It provided for close ties with the Soviet Union in foreign affairs while strengthening relations with the Western Powers. Elections were held after the end of the War. President Beneš (204, 318) was the new government head, Klement Gottwald (363) became Prime Minister, and Antonín Zápotocký (617) became Vice President.

Gradually post-war Czechoslovakia regained its strength. The Czech universities were re-opened (B154). Direct air line connections were expanded to New York (C25) and to the Near East (C46). A Two-Year Plan for Economic Reconstruction (322) was proclaimed—financial institutions, industries and health resorts (322) were nationalized, and farm lands were distributed to small farmers.

About two and one-half million Germans who could not prove to have been anti-Nazis had to leave Czechoslovakia, and Czech families were settled in the depopulated areas. One hundred thousand Magyars had to leave for Hungary while the same number of ethnic Slovaks were received in return (B160), mainly from Hungary's North Province that had been annexed by Hungary in 1938 (Hung. 535). The province of Sub-Carpathia (C-U 1) was ceded to the Soviet Union and added to the Ukrainian Socialist Republic as Trans-Carpatho-Ukraine.

In February 1948 in a coup d'état (577), the Communist Party under Prime Minister Gottwald seized control of the government. The life of the entire country was organized along Soviet pattern. About 55,000 persons escaped from Czechoslovakia to the West. A new constitution was proclaimed whose structure corresponded to the Soviet theory of state. The country's planned economy, through Five-Year Plans (731, 992) became geared to fit into the scheme of the Communist orbit.

All organizations existing before 1948 were ordered disbanded or fused into the Communist framework (466, 987). Commerce and industry became further nationalized (442). Workers were trained as factory militia (408, 456), their rights represented through the Trade Union Movement (397). The farmers were organized into cooperatives and state farms (795, 903) and their equipment was strongly mechanized (516, 734). The youth were indoctrinated as Pioneers (523, 908-911), later as members of the Youth League (657), before becoming eligible to join the Communist Party (455). The powerful Czechoslovak-Soviet Friendship League (436) grew to a very large membership; its objective was to popularize and applaud Russian culture (388, 665) and scientific (938, 1031, 1105, 1264) achievements.

President Gottwald died in 1953 (583). He was succeeded by Antonín Zápotocký (605), and in 1957 by Antonín Novotný (870). In 1960 a new Socialist Constitution was adopted, and the country's name changed to Czechoslovak Socialist Republic (1003).

Thus, the study of the postage stamps of Czechoslovakia illustrates the history of many centuries and tells the country's story against that historical background. Postage stamps like those of Czechoslovakia serve today all kinds of purposes: they portray a country's history, they advertise its beauty and cultural treasures, and beam into all the world its political philosophy and messages. They are also evidence that the required postal rate for carrying mail has been prepaid.

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## POSTAL STATIONERY COLUMN

Wolfgang Fritzsche

January 27, 1967. Pictorial postal cards with 32 different views. For Czech views 30 h Praha and for Slovak views 30 h Bratislava were used. Picture is front left, there are three address lines and the sale price of 335 h is in the center bottom. The color is grayish and Dopisnice is vertically in the center. It is similar to No. 168 of the Postal Stationery catalogue of Higgins and Gage.

The following towns were illustrated:

With Praha stamp: Brno, České Budějovice, Gottwaldov, Hradec Králové, Jablonec, Jihlava, Karlovy Vary, Karlštejn, Kladno, Konstantinovy Lázně, Krivoklat, Kroměříž, Kutná Hora, Liberec, Mariánské Lázně, Melník, Náchod, Olomouc, Pisek, Praha (House of Artists), Praha (Huss Movement), Stříbro, Tábor, Vyšší Brod.

With Bratislava stamp: Bratislava, Levoca, Piešťany, Trenčín, Vysoké Tatry (cable car).

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## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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## DISPLAY IN LONDON

Reprinted from the LONDON PHILATELIST

The display of Czechoslovakia in the frames, was by Mrs. K. F. Goodman. In the course of the afternoon, the President complimented Mrs. Goodman on her collection. He had been particularly impressed by the way in which she had illustrated the various towns at a time when the country formed part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. He had very great pleasure in presenting to her the Society's plaquette as a souvenir of the occasion.

## Additional Notes

The Czechs are a people who, like the Poles, have a long and passionate history of a struggle for independence, and the country we now know as Czechoslovakia only came into being with the Treaty of Versailles in 1918.

The real history of Bohemia may be said to have started as far back as the year 910 following on the collapse of the Great Moravian Empire, which, at the summit of its power, had included a considerable portion of Austria and Germany. In 1526 the Estates of Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia offered the Crown to Ferdinand the 1st, and thus began the Rule of the House of Hapsburg and the foundation of the Austrian-Hungarian Empire. During the next three hundred years, many insurrections and uprisings were attempted but none was successful.

World War I brought matters to a head when Czech and Slovak soldiers in the hands of the Allied Armies formed independent units which by 1916 were fighting in Russia and later in France and Italy. Meanwhile people at home were resisting the Hapsburg regime and Independence was officially recognized and proclaimed on 28th October 1918.

The first frames displayed pre-stamp covers showing a variety of the early hand stamps, followed by pages of Austrian stamps used in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesian Towns with the various types of cancellations—straight lines; boxed; fancy circles, circles with single language and bi-lingual, etc., and finishing with "T.P.O." Railway postmarks.

Then came cancellations on Austrian stamps used in towns in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia; Hungarian stamps used in Slovakia, all pin-pointed as to their location by outline maps of the areas concerned.

After the Declaration of Independence in 1918 Austrian stamps were overprinted with a shield and are known as "the Prague Revolutionary Issue." Stamps overprinted with the Lion and "Slovensky Stadt" were unofficial overprints applied by stamp dealers.

After the Republic was formed the Official mail between the National Committee of Liberation and the various Government Offices was carried by the Scouts, for which purpose two stamps were printed. These were shown together with examples on covers.

One of the first tasks of the new Republic was to reorganize the postal system and to issue new stamps. Professor Mucha designed the first definitive issue depicting Hradčany Castle in 1918. Due to wartime conditions, scarcity of material and inadequacy of printing facilities, shades and varieties abound. Pages shown included proofs, private perforations of the imperforate stamps (made by some dealers); shades, varieties and covers with mixed frankings. This issue was then perforated by several machines giving rise to the large number of compound and perforation combinations shown.

In 1919 the design was re-drawn and again issued imperforate. A second die was produced and both Die I and Die II were then used for the perforated series shown fully detailed on the sheets.

The First Anniversary of Independence included a special sheet made up

of a block of four and sold in aid of War Orphans.

In 1920, President T. G. Masaryk, the first President, was portrayed on stamps.

The Definitive issue of 1920-25 included illustrations of the various plates, proofs, color trials, varieties and covers with examples of the "tete-beche" in both normal and inter-panel positions.

The Three Plate varieties of the 1923 redrawn Agriculture stamps were fully illustrated, again with color trials, proofs, varieties and covers. The Airmail issues of 1920-22 were followed by the definitive issues with many shades. The 1930 Airmails with various perforations and covers; Commemoratives and the rare 1934 National Anthem Miniature Sheets. Special and fancy cancellations shown included those with two and three different colors in the hand stamps. First Flights and a small section of the Autoposts (Highway Post Office); Miniature Sheets of Bratislava and Prague Philatelic Exhibitions.

On 1st October 1938 under the Munich Pact Partition of Czechoslovakia, part of Bohemia and Moravia was ceded to Germany; part of Moravia to Poland, and on 10th October 1938 part of Slovakia to Hungary. In March 1939 Carpatho-Ukraine was also ceded to Hungary, as detailed on a map. Covering that period were included two special covers, one bearing Czech stamps sent from Kassa with special handstamp and registration label in Hungarian; the other a Military Flight to Holland with combination of Czech and Hungarian stamps.

From mid-1939 to 1945 Czechoslovakia was divided into the German Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia and the Independent State of Slovakia. All issues, mint, used and many covers—mostly censored, were shown; also the very scarce used Theresienstadt Concentration Camp Postal Parcel Tax Stamp on piece.

On liberation in 1945 the stamps of Czechoslovakia were once again issued and on 18th August War Heroes were portrayed.

Then followed pages showing commemoratives; Airmails, Covers—many with special first day cancellations, the issues for each year being selected to represent the varieties of design produced, finishing with the issue of 13th February 1967 on cover of panoramic views for the International Tourist Year.

The last three frames covered Czech Field Posts giving the historical background of how in 1914-18 a Czech Legion was a regular unit of the Russian Imperial Army. When the Russian Army collapsed after the 1917 Revolution, the Czechs decided to march across Russia and Siberia in order to get to France and fight beside the Allies. The Czech Field Post started to function on 16th September, 1918, connecting the individual units along the Trans-Siberian Railway. In 1919 the Field Post decided to issue its own stamps. These were printed in the printing shop of Makuskin and Posochin in Irkutsk (during this period rented by the Education and Printing Committee of the Czech Army). The very poor porous paper used was imported from Japan.

A map was included showing the route taken, starting at Kiev and ending at Vladivostok, a distance of 6,400 miles. Color trials, stamps, and a genuine cover were displayed.

In 1939 the Czechoslovak National Committee in France, headed by the Second President, Dr. Edward Beneš, signed a treaty confirming the establishment of the Czechoslovak Army and Air Force on French soil. After the capitulation of France, the Czech Forces reached Great Britain and were reformed in 1940. In 31 sheets were displayed the complete collection of the handstamps used on covers in France and Great Britain to commemorate every possible event which was held dear to them and remind them of their Homeland.

## TOWNS IN SLOVAKIA—SLOVAK, HUNGARIAN, GERMAN, RUTHENIAN

(cont.)

Revuca	Nagyrocze	G. Gross Rauschenbach
Remetské Hámry	Remetevashyár	
Rimavská Seč	Rimasécs	
Rimavská Sobota	Rimaszombat	G. Gross Steffelsdorf
Rosvegovo	Orosvég	
Rožňava	Rozsnyó	G. Rosenau
Ruská	Doboruszka	
Ružomberok	Rózsahegy	G. Rosenberg
Sabinov	Kisszeben	G. Zeben
Sakáloš	Ipolyszakálos	
Salka	Ipolyszalka	
Šalá	Vágsellye	G. Saly
Samorin	Somorja	G. Sommerein
Sekernice	Szeklence	
Seldín	Magyarszogyén	
Semerovo	Komáromszemere	
Sená	Abauszina	
Senec	Szenc	
Senica	Szenicze	G. Szenitz
Seredne	Szerednye	
Sevľuš	Nagyszollos	R. Sevlyush
Silica	Szilice	
Sinovír	Alsószinevér	
Skalica	Szakolcza	G. Skalitz
Skerešovo	Szkáros	
Slatinské Doly	Aknaszlatina	
Slovenské Ďarmoty	Balassagyarmat	
Slov. Nové Mesto	Sátoraljaújhely	
Slovenský Meder	Tótmegyer	
Snina	Szinna	
Sobrance	Szobráncz	
Somotor	Szomotor	
Spiš	Szepes	
Spišská Bela	Szepesbéla	
Spišská Nová Ves	Igló	G. Neudorf
Spišská Stará Ves	Szepesófalú	G. Altendorf
Spišské Pohradie	Szepesvárálja	G. Kirchdrauf
Stakčín	Takezány	
Stara Dala	Ógyalla	
Stavné	Fenyvesölgy	
Strabičovo-Goronda	Mezőterebes-Goronda	
Streda nad Bodrokom	Bodrogszerdahely	
Strední Apša	Középpapsa	
Stropkov	Sztropkó	
Stupava	Stompfa	G. Stompfen
Surty	Szürte	
Svalava	Szolyva	R. Svalyava
Sv. Michal na Ostrove	Szentmihályfalva	
St. Michal n. Žitavou	Szentihályúr	
Svätý Peter	Komáromszentjéter	
Šahy	Ipolyság	
Šala	Vágsellye	

(to be continued)

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