

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Official Monthly Journal of the  Czechoslovak Philatelic Society

Recipient of Silver Bronze Award Praga 1968

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THE EMISSIONS AND CANCELLATIONS OF SUBCARPATHIAN RUSSIA AND SOUTHERN SLOVAKIA

By Roger Richet

Translated by Ernst M. Cohn

(continued from February issue)

THE RIMAVSKA-SOBOTA ISSUE

Rimavska-Sobota—Rimaszombat in Hungarian—is a small town of 7,100 people on the River Rima, celebrated for its reformed bishop, its canned goods and machine factories, formerly the main town of the Hungarian county of Gömör (southern Slovakia).

When it was liberated from Hungarian troops in 1945, Rimavska-Sobota also wanted to commemorate its return to the Czech homeland by a special local issue.

This little known and extremely rare issue does not have the artistic character of the issues of Chust, Roznava, and those mentioned below.



It is a very crude hand surcharge, applied to the then current Hungarian stamps (the historical and famous women series) with a rubber cancel "C. S. P." of 18 mm. length, the characters being 4.5 mm. high.

The surcharge was made by inserting rubber letters in a holder and was applied horizontally in reddish-orange, individually on each stamp and hence very irregularly.

Since the impression is coarse and each stamp was surcharged by hand,

the imprint, which would normally be on the lower half of the stamp, is not always at the same height. Some are slightly crooked.

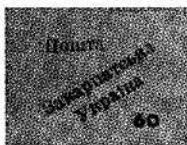
The number printed is not known but certainly was very small. Mint stamps are very scarce, and they virtually cannot be found today on cover or on piece.

This issue is certainly the scarcest and most desirable one from the liberation of subcarpathian Russia.

THE FOUR UZHOROD ISSUES

No fewer than four different successive issues appeared at Uzhorod. This constitutes the largest number of stamps issued in subcarpathian Russia. They are, so to speak, the only ones to have had the honor of being listed in European catalogues, particularly in Zumstein.

First issue: Early in 1945, Uzhorod issued a first set of Hungarian stamps, surcharged in Cyrillic letters in three lines. The topmost line is horizontal and the next two are oblique; the new value is in the right corner.



The text reads "Почта/Закарпатська/Україна," i.e., "mail in subcarpathian Ukraine."

This particularly long issue officially includes 76 postage stamps, three official stamps, and nine tax stamps, as follows:

Issue of 1939-44:

- 60 on 3 f. dark brown (Yvert 579)
- 60 on 16 f. violet (530)
- 60 on 24 f. lilac-brown (586)
- 60 on 30 f. carmine-lilac (588)
- 60 on 30 f. carmine (624)
- 60 on 40 f. gray-black (630)
- 2.00 on 50 f. clear blue (631)
- 2.00 on 70 f. dark green (632)
- 2.00 on 80 f. ochre-brown (633)
- 2.00 on 1 P. dark blue-green on yellow (634)
- 2.00 on 2 P. dark brown on yellow (635)
- 2.00 on 5 P. dark violet on yellow (635)

Commemorative stamps (Yvert 573-577)

- 40 on 10 f. green-olive
- 60 on 16 f. dark brown-olive
- 1.00 on 20 f. dark brown-carmine
- 1.40 on 32 f. brown-red
- 2.00 on 40 f. dark blue

Stamps for war wounded (Yvert 637-645)

- 20 on 1+1 f. grey-black
- 40 on 20+2 f. dark brown-red
- 60 on 4+1 f. brown-carmine
- 60 on 8+2 f. green
- 60 on 12+2 f. dark ochre-brown
- 60 on 40+4 f. dark gray-ultramarine
- 1.00 on 50+6 f. red-brown
- 1.40 on 70+8 f. dark gray-blue

Red Cross stamps (Yvert 649-652)

1.00 on 20+20 f. brown
1.40 on 30+30 f. brown-carmine
2.00 on 50+50 f. dark lilac
4.00 on 70+70 f. blue-green

Historic series 1943-44 (Yvert 612-633)

10 on 1 f. gray-green
10 on 2 f. red-orange
10 on 3 f. dark ultramarine — red surcharge
10 on 3 f. dark ultramarine — black surcharge
40 on 2 f. red-orange
40 on 5 f. vermilion
40 on 8 f. dark olive
40 on 10 f. brown olive
40 on 12 f. blue-green
40 on 18 f. gray-violet
40 on 20 f. dark red-brown
60 on 1 f. gray-green
60 on 2 f. red-orange
60 on 3 f. ultramarine
60 on 4 f. brown-red
60 on 5 f. red
60 on 6 f. dark blue-gray
60 on 8 f. dark olive
60 on 10 f. brown-olive
60 on 12 f. blue-green
60 on 14 f. dark gray-lilac — red surcharge
60 on 14 f. dark gray-lilac — black surcharge
60 on 20 f. dark red-brown
60 on 24 f. lilac-violet
60 on 30 f. red-carmine
2.00 on 50 f. blue — red surcharge
2.00 on 80 f. brown-olive
2.00 on 1 P. dark green

Christmas stamps (Yvert 646-648)

60 on 4 f. dark green
60 on 20 f. blue
60 on 30 f. red-brown

Kossuth stamps (Yvert 653-656)

40 on 4 f. brown-yellow
60 on 20 f. dark green-olive
60 on 30 f. brown-carmine
1.00 on 50 f. blue-gray
2.00 on 50 f. blue-gray

Issue of Famous Women (Yvert 657-622)

40 on 20 f. brown-olive
60 on 20 f. brown-olive
60 on 24 f. lilac — red surcharge
60 on 24 f. lilac — black surcharge
60 on 30 f. brown-red
1.00 on 50 f. dark blue
1.40 on 70 f. red-brown
2.00 on 50 f. dark blue
2.00 on 70 f. red-brown
2.00 on 80 f. brown-lilac

Official stamps (surcharged with three horizontal lines and value at right bottom), perf. 15, on tax stamps for foodstuffs

- 40 on 10 f.
- 40 on 20 f. blue
- 60 on 50 f. green-emerald



Postage dues stamps of 1941-42 (Yvert 139-152, brown-carmine)

- | | | |
|------------|-------------|---------------|
| 10 on 2 f. | 20 on 10 f. | 60 on 3 f. |
| 10 on 3 f. | 30 on 12 f. | 60 on 4 f. |
| 20 on 8 f. | 40 on 20 f. | 1.00 on 40 f. |



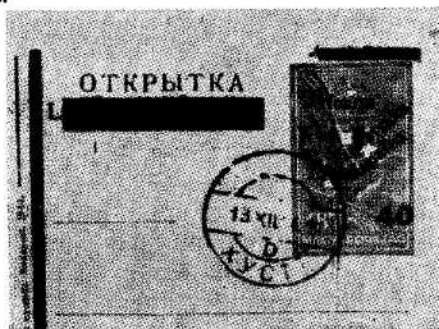
Even some Hungarian fiscal stamps were surcharged in this manner to serve as postage .

Possibly other values, in very small quantities, may have been issued during those days and are in specialists' collections, such as the official stamps mentioned above with the numeral on the left.

Inverted surcharges are also known.

All these stamps were issued by the post office of Uzhorod in accordance with a decree of the National Committee of Uzhorod. All were used on regular mail. All are rare, especially on cover and on piece.

A curious situation existed at that time. Although the territory was by law still under Czechoslovak domination, the Czech government did not actually govern in fact.



Finally, it should be mentioned that some stamps from the issue of Chust "C. S. P.—1944" were surcharged with the cliché of that issue. Such was the case for the postal card we show above.

* * *

Previous to that first Uzhorod issue, a first provisional trial set had been produced on stamps of the historic series (Yvert 612-631) by hand-surcharging with a metal stamp in black.



This first provisional set had the same arrangement and wording as the definitive one but had a coarse impression as concerns both legibility and inking. There was no change in value with this surcharge.

Stamps from that issue are practically unobtainable today.

* * *

Concurrently with this first provisional issue, Uzhorod used the material left behind by Hungarian authorities.

Hungarian postal cards with 18 f. imprint were surcharged obliquely with a two-line black typographed legend "Zakarpatska Ukrajna," while at the same time the rate was changed to 1.—.

The reproduction below shows the cancel of Uzhorod.



Hungarian army postcards were also surcharged. This was done in an elegant fashion with the aid of a whole series of typographic ornament, so as to mask the origin and to adapt them for the rates in use. This case may be mentioned as one of the most artistic ones, to our knowledge, of provisional usage of old postal stationery.

This first Uzhorod issue was provisional, while awaiting the definitive issues to follow, which we shall call the second, third, and fourth Uzhorod issues.

Second issue:

On May 1, 1945, Uzhorod issued three lithographed stamps of large format, engraved by T. Moschkovits at the Lam printing works that carried out the work.

These three stamps, reproduced below, are generally poorly perforated 11½.



They are of very poor quality as far as engraving and printing go. Perhaps they were made with very poor material and under technical conditions with whatever was at hand.

Many imperfections can be found that are the delight of specialist collectors: inverted or missing imprints, missing perforations, fugitive ink giving rise to an infinite variety of shades, oversize or undersized stamps, etc.

Even the paper was variable, generally thin, and sometimes pelure.

Following are the details for this three-stamp second issue of Uzhorod:

1.—60 red-carmine 37x24 mm.: Helmeted silhouette overlooking a vague landscape;

2.—100 dark blue, 37x26 mm.: Chain with central link broken;

3.—200 red and blue, high format 38x24 mm.: Chained fist with broken chain link.

The monetary unit is not shown on these stamps because in that unstable period, people accepted Hungarian fillers, Czech halerus, and Russian kopeks interchangeably.

These three stamps carry the Russian insignia, even though by law, as we said above, the Czech government still held these territories.

All stamps carry the name of the engraver at the bottom in Cyrillic letters, T. Motchak*, on the left for the 60 blue and on the right for the other two values.

The 60 and 100 stamps were printed in sheets of 50 each, of which the last three rows on the bottom carry on each side a label with the Soviet star in the color of the stamp, the star being 8 mm. in diameter.

On the last label on the left is the number of the impression 1, and on the label on the right the mention "Lito Lam 1945" the imprint of the Lam printing works that made the various printings.

The 200 value was printed in sheets of 60, 5 rows of 12 stamps each.

The last vertical row on the right is separated from that on the left by a "blank coupon" carrying the 5-pointed Soviet star and the printing number 1 or 1A (see illustration above).

The two last stamps of this series, the 100 and 200, occur imperforate but are rare thus.

Even today one can find some un gummed imperforate proofs of the 200, or with the red center inverted. There are also some vertically imperforate specimens.

The stamps at the sheet margins that are normally perforated are imperforate on the outer edges. Finally, the sheet margins vary considerably, from one to four centimeters in width.

*Translator's Footnote: The stamp clearly indicates T. Motchk., though I cannot exactly reproduce the English equivalent of the Cyrillic Tch. I think therefore that this is not MotchAk but the abbreviation for Moschkovits.

(to be continued)

Original booklet in French may be purchased for \$2.00 from the author:
Roger Richet, 58 Rue Bourbonnoux, 18 Bourges, France.

ELECTION RESULTS

Listed below is the official election count of the votes as certified by the tallying committee composed of Edward Lisy, Chairman, and Emil J. Michaelson, member:

For President:			
Joseph J. Janecka	83	John Velek	38
For Vice President, East:			
Dr. Otakar Kutvirt	82	Henry Hahn	37
For Vice President, Central:			
Mark G. Snow	81	Bernard Hennig	40
For Vice President, West:			
George J. Dolezal	80	G. R. Skopecek	41
For National Secretary:			
George W. Schabow	87	Ray Van Handel, Jr.	32
For International Secretary:			
George A. Blizil	83	Frank Kosik	39
For Treasurer:			
Thomas Meeks	84	C. J. Pearce	37
For Editor:			
Edward J. Benchik	80	Richardson Spofford	40
For Councilor, East:			
Edwin J. Hanish	82	Dr. J. H. Jakes	37
For Councilor, Central:			
Charles A. Matiaska	75	Charles Chesloe	44
For Councilor, West:			
John Knollmueller	81	A. J. Cifka	38

GEN. MILAN RASTISLAV STEFANIK REAPPEARING ON
CZECHOSLOVAK STAMP AFTER 20-YEAR ABSENCE

By J. P. Krouman
Reprinted from Linn's

After many years under a cloud, like other figures in Czechoslovakia's past who did not fit into the concept of history presented in the 1950's and early '60's, General Milan Rastislav Stefanik has been re-evaluated since January 1968.

With this re-evaluation, he has been given the credit due him for his part in the founding of the Czechoslovak Republic 50 years ago and to note this a new 60 heller Czechoslovak commemorative to mark the 50th anniversary of his death has appeared on May 4.

The recently added stamp is the work of Slovak painter Jozef Balaz and Prague engraver Josef Hercik and shows two portraits of Stefanik: one as a bearded scientist; the other as a general in uniform.

This latter portrait is how collectors know him from the prewar Czechoslovak stamps issued in 1935, 1936 and 1938 and the postwar adhesives issued between 1945 and 1947. Completing the May 4 design is the Slovak emblem and a linden twig, on the stamp's right, and in its background the

mound at Bradlo, Slovakia, where Stefanik's grave is located.

Collectors will want to know more about this man concerning whom little has been written in the past two decades.

He was born into the family of a poor Slovak farmer in 1880, the year when the national revival movement against the oppression of the Austro-Hungarian Empire reached its peak.

As a young man he was drawn to the heights, and when he pastured the sheep in the evening his gaze was always fixed on the stars.

This yearning determined his life. It led him to study astronomy, and finally to become one of the best pilots to complete the aviation academy—and in the end it even brought his death!

He studied astronomy first in Prague and later at the Sorbonne, where he took his doctorate with such success that he was the only foreigner to participate in a French expedition to Tahiti in 1911 to observe the solar eclipse.

His scientific career was indivisibly bound up with the fight for the independence of Slovakia within a Czechoslovak republic, and in this respect was one of a triumvirate together with T. G. Masaryk and Eduard Benes.

Czechoslovakia's first President, T. G. Masaryk, recalled: "I knew Stefanik as a student in Prague: I remember how he once came to me completely frozen—he had no overcoat—so I gave him mine.

"In addition, I had to have it made over for him because it was too large. It was typical of our situation; remember that almost all great men grew up in poverty and almost died of hunger—but the hungry devour the full, so they say."

Thanks to Stefanik's popularity and many friends acquired in the course of his scientific work—he became a leading figure in the Czechoslovak resistance against the Austro-Hungarian Empire in Paris.

He was vice chairman of the French National Council for the Czech and Slovak lands.

In this capacity, which resulted later in his being named the first Minister of Defense of the Czechoslovak Republic, he was able to open doors for Masaryk and Benes and others to French political and military leaders such as Briand and Marshall Foch.

It is worth recalling Stefanik's role in the French victory in the Battle near the Marne in 1915.

He made a dramatic landing near the headquarters of the French General Staff and broke in on its meeting to inform the generals of the true nature of German plans for a frontal attack, information gained on a risky flight over German lines.

For his service Stefanik was named the first foreign general of the French Army and awarded the Legion of Honor.

He distinguished himself similarly on the Italian front at Doss Alto when he located Austrian troops of whose existence the Italian Army had no idea.

As Czechoslovak Minister of National Defense General Stefanik was responsible for the establishment of Czechoslovak legions on the French, Italian and Russian fronts in the First World War.

Immediately after the declaration of Czechoslovak independence he remained in Italy to arrange for return home of Czechoslovak troops.

President Masaryk was already in Prague, and Stefanik was awaited on May 4, 1919 at the Bratislava airport with all honors.

Onlookers watched with horror as the plane, guided by the experienced pilot who had escaped death under fire, fell to earth like a wounded bird.

General Stefanik touched the land he had left so many years before only to be buried in it.

STAMP MARKET TIPS

By John G. Ross

Reprinted from Stamps

CZECHOSLOVAKIA—With this country so prominent in the news today, many collectors have been turning to their album pages to check on what is missing. If you notice some bare spaces in yours, one that is quite likely to be among the missing is the first air mail issue, Scott No. C4-6, especially in perforated condition. That set was issued in 1920, and has become fairly difficult to get. I am told that one can hardly find it anywhere in Czechoslovakia, and if you were to attend one of the stamp meetings that take place in Prague every Sunday morning, you could ask a great deal more for that set than it would cost in this country, and still find a lot of buyers. Several thousand collectors congregate at those meetings. The only trouble is that the value of Czech money is government-controlled, and it is therefore quite difficult to determine what you really get as you cannot exchange their money into dollars.

Over here you can still buy that set for around half-Scott, which is about \$37.00. That is a good buy, as eventually there might some day be a way to sell or exchange this set with a collector in Czechoslovakia, though the trend of things these days hold no such promise. Again, I have to caution you about the many forgeries that exist. Before you purchase that set, have it expertized.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

Our international secretary, George A. Blizil, was re-elected as a director-at-large of the American Philatelic Society.

Norwegian member, Paul H. Jensen, received a bronze medal for his "Postmarks, etc., of the Czechoslovakian Administered Eastern Silesia Plebiscite Zone" at NOJEX.

CORRECTION

It was erroneously stated in the last issue that the Postal History Journal, which is co-edited by Honorary Member Dr. Reiner-Deutsch, won the grand award in the literature class at Balpex. There was no grand award for this class, nevertheless it did receive the highest award, the Sylvester Colby Trophy, in the literature class for the best specialty journal.

While on the subject of award ratings for philatelic literature at stamp exhibitions, it has been mistakenly publicized that the Specialist received the second lowest award from Praga '68. To place things in their proper perspective, the winning of this medal was the first time this journal received recognition at an international show. To win an award, even if it's the lowest at an international exhibit is quite an honor as not every entry earns an award. The Specialist did not receive the lowest or second lowest award. The placings given at Praga '68 for philatelic periodicals were from the highest to the lowest: vermeil, silver, silver bronze, bronze and diploma. This magazine was awarded the silver bronze. Using the "lowest" frame of reference, the Specialist received the third lowest award, which is the same as the third

highest. By the way, a silver bronze is an excellent placing for a specialty journal, such as ours, to be awarded. Again expressing awards using the "lowest" designation, one could say that the vermeil was the fifth lowest.

In the same light, there is a story about a certain country's ability at the game of semantics—the skillful use of words to conceal facts or pervert meaning. During the Brussels World Fair, a country, call it X, had an automobile on display. Another country, Y, also showed one of its cars. Someone had the idea of having a neutral automotive engineer compare the two, and then make a decision as to which was the better. After a conscientious evaluation, the engineer gave his opinion: the car from country X was the better. The official news agency of country Y boastfully reported to its citizens: "In comparative tests of our and foreign automobiles, ours ranked second, while the car from country X was next to last."

EDITORIAL

The officers and staff wish each and every one of you and your family a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. May there be peace on earth and the brotherhood of mankind prevail.

In keeping with the spirit of the season, let's have peace in our society and may the dissentient factions come together with the rest of us once and for all. To those who are unhappy with such things as election results, personality conflicts, ill feelings, etc., why not join with the majority of the society to cast prejudices, gripes and hatred aside in order to make the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society the best ever. Only by means of co-operation and consideration of our fellow man will we prosper. "United we stand, divided we fall," is what Aesop said 2500 years ago in his fable of "The Four Oxen and the Lion." More than ever this still applies today. The decision is up to you, as to whether you want more bickering and fighting, or the placing of the society above self-interest and personal gain. During this holy season is an appropriate time to begin working together toward the common goal of improving our society for the betterment of Czechoslovak philately, instead of wasting time, effort and money battling one another.

A good way to start off right is by paying your 1970 dues as early as possible, thereby saving your society the additional and needless expense of sending notices reminding those who are in arrears. To repeat what was said a couple of editorials ago, try Patron membership this year! As a Patron member you will receive a bound volume of the coming year's Specialist besides all the regular advantages of membership.

NEW ISSUES

October 1967—Airmail stamps, World Stamp Exhibition PRAGA 1968, 30h, dark red, blue, light red; 60h, "Istanbul '63", dark brown, green, red. Kčs 1—"Philatéc Paris 1964", red, blue, black. Kčs 1.40 "WIPA 1965 Wien" dark violet, green, red. Kčs 1.60 "SIPEX 1966 Washington," dark blue, grey blue, violet. Kčs 2—"Amphilex 67 Amsterdam," dark brown, ochre, red. All but last engraved by L. Jirka, last by J. Herčík. Rotary recess print and photogravure in sheets of 15. 30x49mm. Below each stamp is a coupon with



the emblem PRAGA 1968 and inscription in two languages. Commemorative sheet, 5 Kcs, PRAGA 1968, yellow, red, pale blue, dark blue, black. Engraved by J. Herčík. 40x50mm, Printed by flat recess print in five colors in sheets of 4. In the center is a coupon with airmail and philatelic motif and inscription in Czech and Esperanto. FDCs issued.



Nov. 7, 1967—50th Anniversary of the October Socialist Revolution—30h, 60h and Kčs 1.00. Designed by Michael Romberg, engraved by Josef Herčík. Rotary recess print and photogravure in sheets of 50. 23x41mm, red and black. FDCs issued.



(illustration reduced slightly in size)

November 1967—"Art"—60h Conjurer with Cards, 1934, František Tichý (1896-1962). 80h—Don Quixote, 1937, Cyprián Majerník (1909-1945). Eng. by Jiří Švengsbír. Yellow, grey, blue-green, red-brown, brown. Kčs 1—Promenade in the Park, Norbert Grund (1717-1767). Engraved by Bedřich Housa.

Yellow, red, green, blue, brown. Kčs 1.20—Self-portrait, Peter J. Brandl (1668-1735). Engraved by Švengsbir. Yellow, blue, red, brown. Kčs 1.60—Epitaph to Jan of Jeřeň—Czech master, 1395. Eng. Josef Herčík. Gold, blue, green, red, brown-black. Printed by multicolor recess print in sheets of 4. 40x50mm. FDCs issued.

Please mention this publication when answering ads. Thanks!

Advertising Rates of the Specialist

(Effective Jan. 1, 1970)

Amount of space	One issue	Three issues	Five issues	Ten issues
Full page	\$12.00	\$34.50	\$54.00	\$100.00
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Quarter page	6.00	17.10	27.00	48.00
Eighth page	3.40	9.80	15.30	27.20
Sixteenth page (4 lines across page)	1.80	5.10	8.10	14.40
Thirty-second page (2 lines across page)	1.00	2.80	4.50	8.00

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2. Discount of 10% for members from total cost if they so desire.
3. For the sixteenth page (4 lines) and thirty-second page (2 lines) ads, there are 70 characters per line for all letters, numbers and blank spaces between words.
4. Have your ad double spaced between lines and typed or legibly printed.
5. It is the advertisers responsibility that his or her copy is correct (proper spelling, abbreviations, punctuation, etc.), as the ad will be printed exactly how it is received.
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1951	3	4.50
1951-53	3	8.50
1952-53	4	6.50
1953-54	1	6.50
1954	5	4.50
1954-55	3	6.50
1955	8	4.50
1958-59	1	6.50
1959	3	4.50
1960	5	4.50
1961	2	4.50
1962	1	5.50
1963	2	5.50
1965	1	5.50

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