

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Official Monthly Journal of the  Czechoslovak Philatelic Society

Recipient of Silver Bronze Award Praga 1968

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Vol. XXXII

May 1970

Number 303

CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION

The Czechoslovak Philatelic Society will hold its Convention with an exhibition of Czechoslovak material at SEPAD in Philadelphia. This is scheduled for October 16-18 at the Sheraton Hotel and we hope that many of our members will participate. A prospectus will be mailed to each member by the Chairman of SEPAD.

We expect to call a meeting for Saturday, October 17th, at 3:30 p.m. A world-known authority on his subject, Mr. Ernest M. Cohn of Washington, D. C., will give a talk on the Balloon Mail of 1871 during the siege of Paris. Mr. Cohn is the author of a book on the subject and an excellent speaker. He will illustrate his delivery. It is recalled that Mr. Cohn translated Roger Richet's article on "The Emissions and Cancellations of Subcarpathian Russia and Southern Slovakia," which was recently printed in the Specialist.

President Janecka has appointed Joseph Stein Convention Chairman who in turn will arrange for obtaining judges for the Czechoslovak exhibits, because it is the intention of the society to present appropriate awards to exhibits by members aside from the awards adjudged by the SEPAD jury.

Anyone wishing to get additional information please contact the Convention Chairman, Joseph Stein, 585 East 21 Street, Brooklyn, N. Y. 11226.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

Edwin J. Jirousek, new Vice President, Central and Emil L. Cuhel, new Vice President, West, were recently elected to their respective positions by the council.

Congratulations to society president Joe Janecka on winning an Aerophilatelic Federation of the Americas Silver Medal for his exhibition of "Air Mails of Czechoslovakia" at Interpex. Also Joe was president of the Exhibition Committee and Program Chairman for Czechopex 1970, the 27th Annual Stamp Exhibition of the First Czechoslovak Philatelic Club of America. As in past years there was a slogan meter and the U. S. Post Office Department had an exhibition station with a special postmark.

Best wishes to the Garfield-Perry Stamp Club, the only stamp club that is a member of our society. They celebrated their 80th anniversary with an exhibition and bourse in Cleveland.

NEW ISSUES

Czechoslovakia Adds Ten Values Depicting Heraldry

Reprinted from Linn's Weekly Stamp News

For many past years, heraldry has been used as a subject for stamp designs by artists of numerous countries throughout the world. Czechoslovakia has not been on a par with these other nations in this respect, and thus Czech stamps only occasionally—usually only as a supplementary feature—do we find the coats of arms of various towns in small black and white execution.

Czechoslovakia has released its first real heraldic series—ten values consisting of nine 60 haleru and 1 Koruna denominations. The set appeared on October 21 and featured the blazons of the nation's ten regional capitals—Banska, Bystrica, Bratislava, Brno, Ceske Budejovice, Hradec Kralove, Kosice, Ostrava, Plzen, Usti nad Labem, all on the 60h and Prague on the 1 Kcs. The designer was J. Hercik.

Today, town coats of arms are the only existing form of heraldry in Czechoslovakia and depicts the towns' heritage from the past to show testimony to their establishment, growth and power. The first blazons of Bohemia, Moravia and Slovakia date from the 14th century.

However, some of the pictures and symbols on these town seals date from the 13th century, and were later incorporated in the escutcheons. The greatest spread of town heraldry, however, comes from the 15th century, from the time of the Hussite Wars to the days of the Jagellon dynasty.

It is interesting to note that Prague, the capital of the nation, has no written record of the origin of its coat of arms, which indicates that it was not officially granted to that city, but adopted by it.

In the Hussite period, it was colored somewhat differently than it is today—then the ramparts and towers were silver. In 1475 Emperor Friedrich III issued a decree whereby, in reward for the townspeople's help against the Viennese, he raised its rank by replacing the silver with gold, and adding a helmet with the imperial crown to the shield, supported by two Czech lions.

The present-day blazon dates from 1649 when Ferdinand III, King of Hungary and Holy Roman Emperor, added to the space of the open gateway an armored hand holding a sword in honor of Prague's defense against the Swedish armies.

He also topped the shield with three helmets: two are decorated with twelve flags, and the third, the center one, was capped by the imperial eagle. This form has been retained to the present day.

The only difference is the flags of the twelve town military units were replaced by the flags of the various town sectors and the imperial eagle by the Czech lion with the Slovak shield on its breast.

The **Kanska Bystrica** coat of arms dates from the 15th century, and actually it is the Hungarian blazon known in heraldry as "Old Hungary." In the Middle Ages, the number of stripes on it was not constant—neither in that of the town nor the land. The same is said to be true of the colors on it.

However, from the very beginning the shield was held by an angel, whose popularity in Hungary is perhaps tied with the House of Anjou, for whom the angel was the shield-bearer of the coat of arms of the French kings.

The **Bratislava** blazon was given to the capital of Slovakia in 1436 by Sigismund, Holy Roman Emperor and King of Hungary. A like picture, however, can be seen on the town seal of more than a century before.

It is of interest to compare Bratislava's coat of arms with that of the Prague escutcheon of Sigismund's reign—they are almost identical.

The **Brno** coat of arms is very simple, yet very puzzling. Its present form is the same as that of the town seal of 1315, but there seems to be no explanation for it; however, it is reminiscent of the Austrian blazon.

In 1646, as a reward, Emperor Ferdinand III had this shield placed on the breast of a two-headed eagle of the Holy Roman Empire and above it his initial; however, after 1918 this was deleted from the emblem.

The **Ceske Budejovice** blazon of today has retained the simple form of the original with the colors identical with those laid down by the Town Privileges issued by Vladislav II in 1479.

The shield of that date was supported by two armed warriors. In 1649, the same year, he changed the Prague escutcheon, Emperor Ferdinand III added to Ceske Budejovice's coat of arms, an angel before the ramparts and the Czech lion with Austrian shield to the helmet.

The **Hradec Kralove** coat of arms has very little known about its origin. It would seem that the present form is that of a fairly recent date—from the 18th century—and is the combination of two elements from the old town seal.

In the mid-15th century, a shield bearing the letter "G" was discovered (perhaps the first letter of the name "Gretz" as the town was called at that time). Then there is also a seal with the shield depicting the Czech lion and around it symmetrically arranged are the letters spelling out the name of the town. Above this is the letter "G."

The **Kosice** blazon is known to have undergone a number of changes before it acquired its present-day form. The first escutcheon was granted to the town by King Louis the Great as early as 1369 (a unique instance amongst Czechoslovakia towns).

Depicted are the red and silver stripes of Hungary and above them the blue head of the shield with three fleur-de-lis of the House of Anjou to which the King of Hungary belonged.

In 1423 Emperor Sigismund added an angel as shield-bearer and in 1453 King Louis placed an open crown atop the shield. The final adaptation dates from 1502 when King Vladislav of the House of Jagellon added half of the Polish eagle alongside the Hungarian stripes as a reminder of his origin.

In the lower part of the shield he placed the Evereux blazon from the large escutcheon of his wife's family, and also substituting two helmets in the place of the crown topping the shield.

The **Ostrava** coat of arms is something of a puzzle. The shield with the horse facing left first appeared on the town seal in 1426. At a later date the horse was turned around and faced right since this is more customary in heraldry, and a rose was added to the shield.

It is difficult to espouse a theory, but it is quite possible that the motif of the saddled horse is linked also with the Polish-Lithuanian heraldry.

The **Plzen** blazon has a very complex history. Its present form dates from 1578 when it was adapted by Pope Gregory XIII. The small central shield is actually the town seal of the late 13th century featuring the figure of the Bohemian King and a girl holding the ensigns of Bohemia and Moravia.

The original coat of arms, however, was the greyhound, in the fourth compartment of the present large shield to which Emperor Sigismund added a camel.

The upper compartments of the blazon were the contribution of Pope Paul II in 1466 for the town's faithfulness in the period of Hussite Wars, and are an interesting testimony to the hand of Rome in Czech heraldry, which otherwise was subject only to the King of Bohemia.

The **Usti nad Labem** coat of arms has a much simpler history. The town seal of the first half of the 14th century was shield with a Czech lion, on its

head a helmet topped with an eagle's wing.

This has remained as the town's blazon to this day with the only change being the addition of the leg-armor to the lion's front paws.

EDITORIAL

This edition of the Specialist starts the English translation of the very fine book, Handbook of Czechoslovakian Postmarks of Austrian and Hungarian Origin, by Frederick Leitenberger. It will be printed serially in the center pages of the Specialist for the convenience of those who want to keep together all the parts of this monumental and classical philatelic work on Czechoslovakian philately. All things considered, this is a giant in its field and almost flawless with one small exception.

The short account of Slovakia's history can most charitably be described as saying that Leitenberger is not in sympathy with the Slovak cause. Actually it borders on being downright anti-Slovak. He does not give the same fine objective and factual summary about Slovakia as he did for the other areas of Czechoslovakia. Why Slovakia was singled out is not apparently known and it might never be because Leitenberger has already met his maker. In keeping with this journal's policy of fairness, his distorted rendition is printed as the author wrote it. For an unbiased perspective on Slovak history and nationalism, the reader is referred to a few of the many recognized works on the subject, such as: Slovak Nationalism, by Buc; The Slovaks: Their History and Traditions, by Yurchak; Slovakia and its people, by Oddo; Slovakian Culture in the Light of History, by Palicher; and Slovakia, A Political History, by Mikus.

Ing. Mihai Cotic, Str. Republicii 65, Braila 1, Roumanie desires to exchange stamps. He corresponds in English.

Please note on the front page the first notice about the Society's convention and exhibition for this year. If at all possible plan to attend and give it your full support. You will find that it's a very worthwhile activity. See you in Philly!

POSTAL STATIONERY COLUMN

Wolfgang Fritzsche

Towards the end of 1969 two items appeared unannounced:

1 envelope, size 175x125 mm, 60h stamp brown, head of Pres. Swoboda.
1 double postal card, 30h stamps, brown, view of Praha, sales price 35h. Both cards are alike (no indication of either message or reply), similar to current regular card. (The sales price for cards is 70h.)

The same card is to have been issued for Slovakia with 30h Bratislava stamp.

As of Jan. 1, 1970, there are higher postal rates, therefore it is expected that new stationery will be issued: Postal card 50h, double card 50h and 50h, envelope 1.—Kč, and COD card 1.—Kč.

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HANDBOOK OF
Czechoslovakian Postmarks
OF AUSTRIAN AND HUNGARIAN ORIGIN

By Frederick Leitenberger

Translated by C. H. Osbourn

Explanatory Note

In all countries active in Philately in recent years, the knowledge of postmarks has won more and more importance. In the first rank, there is the classic society of philatelists which stirs up the zeal to investigate and which has come to know the various books on the subject, while the study of postmarks was neglected till of late.

There are two world wide mistakes which act as a check upon interest in postmarks in recent times. Above all the opinion is current that the realm of postmarks is too extensive, even boundless, to be mastered as a whole. This is only partially correct for the collection of the new postmarks, if it is rightly handled, can be confined in a small space and time while keeping the standard of the specialist, so that the infinitely great number of the new postmarks forms no hindrance for the collector. The second difficulty which confronts the collector who has not already drawn back from the difficulties, is the idea that the exploration of the new postmarks will be considered a too easy undertaking. And since difficult subjects charm the philatelic searcher, this apparently too easy subject is passed over carelessly by many who however having once interested himself in postmark lore will soon make the discovery that research among newer postmarks meets with quite unexpected difficulties whose overcoming is really worth the sweat.

The great difficulty for the newer postmark knowledge consists namely, strange as this may sound to many, on the quantity of material. While one will be able to find suitable material of the cheaper values of the classical issues in the shop of every dealer, also on pieces of mail and letters; one must seek in vain for much necessary material for the postmark collector in the newer issues. On letters there is as good as nothing remaining, almost all is washed and lost. From time to time the post office authorities of the different states sell their "remainders," that is old money orders, postcards, etc. Though the lack is only partly helped by this, since many postmarks are only to be found on letters. And also the "remainders" vanish quickly as they are washed and the stamps come into stock, whereby for the postmark collector they are lost. The earlier the newer postmarks are collected, the richer is the prospect of a successful collection.

The most advantageous field of postmark knowledge has been the postmarks of those states whose national independence has changed. The two last decades have given us an abundance of new material. The world war with its deep-rooted revolution of nations has created a number of new states. Large sections of some countries were allotted to others and in these territories a revolution was wrought in the manner of the postmarks. The postmarks mirror the historical events at the beginning of the present European era and display the collecting sphere.

The richest gain has been brought to us by the downfall of the Austrian-Hungarian monarchy. The old Austrian, Hungarian and Bosnian postmarks,

including the Field and Base Post Office postmarks, were at first kept in use and were widely changed under the new administration. Soon after in point of language or in other respects the postmarks were changed by the new rulers and adapted to the new circumstances. Only later were new postmarks of different form issued. The transition time in which the old Austrian and Hungarian postmarks were used in their original form or in a changed form, constitutes the most pleasing and interesting branch of the new postmark study. However only very little has been up till now accomplished. Only the postmarks of the present Polish part of Austria-Hungary have been explored (see "Austrian-Cancellations on Polish Stamps" by A. B. Piaskowski and W. V. Rachmanow; and copies of "The Postage Stamps" of Vienna in 1925 and 1926). If now this work covers the Czechoslovakian field, it fills a noticeable need. The writer has undertaken to bring the voluminous and many-sided material into one comprehensive and clear system, which it is hoped will be the foundation for wider study.

Foreword

"To the discussion belongs the question." Is price noting and cataloguing of postmarks to be desired in the interest of the collector? In answer to this question attention is being directed to postmarks through the so-called specialist collection, and through careful attention to the best liked postmarks. The question of the rarity of single values is brought up, although however no individual collector would have a desire to pay a ridiculously high price for stamps for the sake of the postmarks.

It may be, from the standpoint of the collector, that the cataloguing of postmarks is time wasted. The question, what influence would the setting down of prices of postmarks have towards the raising of the price of stamps, was answered by Herr v. B. in pointing out that the influence of the Reinheimer Catalogue is so great among collectors that it would result in higher prices.

One should not forget we have learned differently in many things—we today, no longer as formerly, stick stamps in our albums with paste—we no longer clip the stamps, in order to fit them into the little printed squares—so also we have learned to value postmarks. It is not an exaggeration to say that the interest in the study of postmarks stands today on an equal footing with other areas of philately. The important fact is that on the one side there is the necessity for attention to postmarks, while on the other there is the impossibility of being able to do without the company of philately in their common territory. Not less important is the commonly recognized fact that the collection of postmarks yields the same pleasure as the collection of stamps. The necessity of a knowledge of postmarks was brought about by the forger. The partial turning away from the collecting of only stamps, without regard to postmarks, was a result of the numberless swindles, speculations (unnecessary and superfluous) and all other issues which go beyond the borders of legitimate needs. Therefore the collecting urge of philately found also its many sided satisfaction in postmarks.

It has been said postmarks do not present the interesting features of stamps, but whoever learns to read them inside and out, will find that they have many intriguing possibilities, just as the stamp collector finds in his stamps. If it is a matter of playing up the advantages of stamp collecting over another hobby, usually the high educational value in geographical, historical, nature and knowledge of peoples is generally emphasized. This now is recognized that the collecting of postmarks serves exactly the same pur-

pose. Especially is this true in those nations whose postmarks show the composition of nationals in the population, something which is only rarely evident in the stamps. We meet with such a case in the postmarks of Czechoslovakia, as well as in those taken over from the previous regimes.

The title page of this Handbook places three postmarks before us: "Pressburg—Poszony—Bratislava." For the uninitiated, three meaningless words without connection. For the postmark collector however, a piece cut out of history, and it could not be more eloquent; out of the Austrian PRESSBURG in 1867, came the Hungarian POSZONY, and in 1917, the Slovak BRATISLAVA. Could it be possible that in the short span of a few years the national character of this city could be so changed? Since this is not so, there is only one explanation, that individuality must give way to the majority, and in this case that national character of the state takes precedence over the location. The census reports prove this. When Hungary in 1867 attained its independence, the national composition of Bratislava was as follows: German 80%, Magyars 18%, Slovaks 2%; until the year 1918, there was a division of 60% Germans, 36% Hungarians and 2% Slovaks. After the incorporation of Slovaks into Czechoslovakia the population figure in 1921 was German 24.95%, Magyar 17.61%, Czechs and Slovaks together 54.06%. Today (1930) the ratio is estimated at 40% German, 25% Magyars and Czechs and the remainder Slovaks. To the comparison of these figures from 1867, till today it will have to be added that the form of the inscriptions on postmarks, always follows the state's nationality, and the changes in language offer sign posts of the history of a country.

By this example, no political discussion is intended, it is merely to make understood under what circumstances the changes in the postmark inscriptions were brought about. And naturally the whole business of collecting material is entirely apart from any nationalistic ideas. It is necessary to explain this, in order to prevent a wrong impression. The silent postmark is able in its own language to speak.

But turning back once more, to our starting point of postmark collecting, it is apparent that it now has complete equality with the remainder of philately. And that is also shown by the fact, that there are only proportionately a few states whose postmarks have not been subject to special study. We are considering here the extensive work done on old German, old Italian, and countless others, and not least on the old Austrian postmarks; but there are also cases where the postmarks of some states have been given a scientific study as the stamps.

The pioneer work of Reinheimer in the form of his "Catalogue of German Cancellation Methods of 1849-1875," which appeared in 1890, has in spite of many opposing opinions, resulted in a form worthy of notice. If in connection with postmarks, only his name is mentioned, it is because there were at that time many other philatelists of repute who brought the same interest to the material, and gave their knowledge to produce expert literature. Under these circumstances, Reinheimer naturally could not claim completeness and unquestioned correctness for his work.

This was also of decisive importance in this book. It must be considered a hazardous enterprise for an individual collector to attempt to investigate the postmarks of a newly formed or reformed nation at the point of time when it is really already too late. Too late in so far as the material already has been scattered to the four winds, and certain investigations in definite directions connected with the changed conditions often meet with insurmountable difficulties. Official support in spite of its occasional presence, is all too often missing; and almost always the other necessary sources are lacking.

The study of a relatively unexplored territory, like that of the Czechoslovak postmarks of Austrian and Hungarian origin, can therefore only lead to worthwhile results if it is energetically pursued. Matters are quite different with stamps, which can be much more easily comprehended in a definite space of time than the infinite variety of postmarks, which are so subject to national influences. The stamps owe their distribution everywhere to one central office, but that is not the case with the postmarks which come from every little place. To capture them completely, the existing collectors of Czech postmarks would require a big net indeed. However, even the small results which are laid down in this Handbook, should reach nearly to completeness, although it is only a forerunner of a system on the same subject later to be completed.

For this first attempt, surprisingly few fellow-laborers were found. Although it is certain that a large number of collectors are concerned with the same material. Only so much more highly then, should those be honored who contributed to its success.

The first promoter was Mr. Edward Fleischmann of Prague. In the summer of 1928 he had taken the first glance into the rough framework of the postmark system. He then published in his supplement called "The Postage Stamp Collector" of the daily newspaper "Bohemia," an appeal for fellow-workers. In numbers the response was very small, only two collectors and two dealers. Of these only the first two could be considered as helpful and even of these only one was able to be of any real assistance, Major Branny, Commandant of the recruits' barracks at Brno. His great enthusiasm for work, his sharp power of observation, and inborn feeling for system, served well especially when we consider the demands which active military service make. Thanks to the advertisement of Mr. Fleischmann, still another energetic worker was found, Mr. Carl Schultz of Aussig. What this 73 year old helper accomplished cannot be too highly valued; tireless in exploration of doubtful cases; always seeking after new forms; zealous and detailed in his correspondence, which was brief and good. Dr. Victor Weinert of Bratislava had the enthusiasm to undertake to look through, arrange and gather the Hungarian postmarks, so that he became an expert in this field. Official support was provided by Mr. Henry Prochazka, a postal assistant at Konigswald, who placed his resources at their disposal. Also the Reichpost Ministry at Berlin patronized the study of postmarks most generously.

The source of the collection of Mr. Edward Schmidt of Kosten, also contributed to success. In both the German and Czechoslovak press through their advertisements, attracted an expanding number of recruits. As the final helper, in the series of those of whom this Handbook has been made use, is Mr. Fritz Seifert of Leipzig helping with advice and deed. He is most gratefully remembered. To all the foregoing, as well as the fellow laborers, Messrs Branny, Schultz and Fleischmann, to all these in the name of the science of postmarks, warmest thanks are expressed. May they find their reward for all the trouble, time and means which had to be used for its success, and may they find satisfaction in the conviction that they have served well the subject of postmark study.

The manner in which the subject was handled deviates in many details from the form previously used; the postmark expert will look upon this as a blemish. As an explanation, not a justification, attention is called to the following facts.

The real value of the collectors' research can accrue, it goes without saying, only to the expert, because of his own studies of the material. Thereby, in the majority of cases, comes the error of setting out the subject with the

assumption that everyone has the writers own understanding of it. So it comes about that many an interested person does not become a real adherent. Because the results of research were presented to him in a too concentrated form, instead of leading him one step at a time, and well prepared beforehand from one stage to the next till he reaches the goal. Every study has its foundation principles, and to the understanding of the former, the knowledge of the latter is necessary.

A criticism of this book should only be made after consideration of this viewpoint. For the rest, it is only to be wished that they take their advice seriously, that they would not confine themselves to general criticism. Only a strong constructive criticism can bring this undertaking to the hoped for result. Every piece of advice, every suggestion, every differing opinion shall be welcome. But also every offer of further help in the work.

With the wish, that this first step in the investigation of Czechoslovak postmarks may find a suitable reception, and may be the inspiration for tireless study of the subject, this book is given to the public.

Leipzig—Summer 1930.

The History of Czechoslovakia

To write the history of a country which can look back on no more than eleven years of life, is impossible for the simple reason that such a state certainly has no history. Still more difficult would this undertaking be in the case of the Czechoslovak Republic, whose territory had formerly belonged to three other states, and whose people is made up of not less than six nationalities. It is necessary here, to write either the history of Czechoslovakia, or that of the separate states which comprise it. The correct picture may only be given on the ground of the actual territorial changes, and so, these different countries come into question: Bohemia, Moravia, Silesia, Slovakia and Carpatho-Russia, as well as the Hultschin countries.

Bohemia

Was first settled by Celtic people, who about 60 B. C. left the country, which now came into the possession of German counts. After their withdrawal, in the 6th century, Slavic Czechs wandered into the high plateaus, though Germanic peoples still held the border country. The first Slavic kingdom was founded by the Frankish merchant Samo, about 624 A.D. After his death, princelings ruled who acknowledged the overlordship of the Greater Moravian Kingdom (Svatopluk 870-894)—incidentally these boundaries were practically the same as those of Czechoslovakia as set up in 1918. After the fall of the Moravian Kingdom, they did homage to the German king Arnulf in 895. The foremost position among these petty princes, was held by the Przemysl family which ruled over Prague, and which, under Spithnew I won great power. The nephew of the latter, Wenzel I the Holy, was probably in 929 murdered by his brother Boleslaw I. In the same year, Bohemia was forced to recognize as overlord the German Henry I, though many battles were fought before the German king was able to join the territory to his kingdom (936-1526). Duke Vratislav II received in 1085 from Kaiser Henry IV, the kingdom which was set up in 1212. Under Ottokar II (1253-1278) the country blossomed forth, many cities were founded, and German colonists were sent in. Ottokar acquired, after the death of their ruler, much of what is now Austria, though he lost these lands to Rudolph von Hapsburg. Later Ottokar fell in the Battle of Marchfelde (1278). With Ottokar's grandson, Wenzel III, the Przemysl family came to an end in 1306. From 1310 to 1437

Bohemia was ruled by King John of Luxembourg (1310-1346), the son of Kaiser Henry VII. King John also won Silesia. His son, Karl (who became the German Kaiser Karl IV) improved the country through the encouragement of art, castle building, trade and industry. Under his son, Wenzel IV (1378-1419), the Hussite disorders broke out. After the ending of these, George von Podiebrod in 1458 succeeded to the throne. Under Wladislaw (1471-1516) and Ludwig (1516-1526), Bohemia and Hungary were united (1490). After Ludwig had fallen in the Battle of Mohacs, the nobles chose the husband of his sister, Ferdinand I of Austria (1526-1564) as king, and the latter declared in 1457, Bohemia to be a hereditary kingdom. Under Matthias (1611-1619), unrest broke out in Prague, against restrictions on religious freedom, which marked the beginning of the Thirty Years War. During the short reign of Frederick V, the Elector Palatine, there followed after the Battle of the White Mountain, November 8, 1620, the most fearful reaction. Protestantism was suppressed, and parliamentary rights were taken away through the new "Land Order" (1627). After the death of Charles VI (1740), King Charles Albert of Bavaria raised the claim to Bohemia, though still Maria Theresa ruled the country following the War of the Austrian Succession. The decree for liberation of 1848, brought to light the contrast between Germans and Czechs. The double-faced tactics of the Austrian Government in the following years sharpened the differences, and gave rise to the separatist movement of the Czechs, which was to lead in 1918, to a provisional government in Paris, and the recognition of the Czech Legion as a powerful instrument of war. There followed, on the 28th of October 1918, the proclamation of independence. The government of the country in an inner province of German Bohemia, removed after the taking over of the German Bohemian territory, to Vienna, and lasted there till September 24, 1919. But eventually it came to be a constituent part of Austria, since the widely separated Sudetenlands had, in the Peace of St. Germain, been promised to Czechoslovakia.

Moravia

In ancient times inhabited by Germanic people, but in the 6th century was taken over by Slavic Moravians. Svatopluk set up a Great Moravian Kingdom, which after his death in 894, fell to pieces again. In 1034 Moravia was united with Bohemia. It became a county of the German Reich in 1182 and back to Bohemia in 1197. In 1469 it came into the hands of Matthias of Hungary and in 1562 to Austria. From 1849 to 1918 Moravia was a crown land of the Austrian-Hungarian Monarchy. Its remaining history goes hand in hand with that of Bohemia.

Silesia

After the wanderings of the East German tribes to the south, they settled during the second half of the fifth century in Silesia. Towards the end of the tenth century this area took part under Mieszko I in the building of the Polish Empire. Since 1162 there ruled several dukes of the House of Piasten, who especially after Henry I, placed themselves in opposition to the Poles, and in order to block them, encouraged German settlers. In 1241 cities were founded, which were set up under German law. In 1327 the Piastens recognized the overlordship of Bohemia under Hapsburg rule. After the death of the last Piasten in 1675, Silesia became an Austrian province. In the first Silesian War 1740-1742 it was stolen by Prussia, and after the second Silesian War 1744-1745, taken back again. After the breaking up of the Austro-Hungarian Empire the western part, and the western half of the eastern part

came to Czechoslovakia. Through the union with Bohemia and Austria the subsequent history of Silesia is the same as that of Bohemia.

Slovakia

Such a country as Slovakia never existed before the founding of the Czechoslovakian Republic. In colloquial usage one does indeed hear of a "Slovakia," but it was only a section of the territory of Hungary, which was populated by Slovak people. In language, culture and politically, the Slovaks looked upon themselves as a separate people, though today they are considered as a part of the Czech branch of Slavs, and present day Slovakia does not possess a history of its own. Before Hungary, under its Prince Arpad (995 A.D.) took the country in war, there was in that place a part of the actual Slovaks under the Slavic prince, Svatopluk. What is today called Slovakia, was from 996 A.D. until the 1918 revolution, in no way divided from the rest of Hungary and notwithstanding the difference of language. There did not appear in all these thousand years any strivings after independence on the part of the Slovaks, even though there were many favorable opportunities for it (the Turkish War, the Mongolian invasion, Rakocsy's and Kossuth's wars for freedom). By the Peace of Trianon, the remaining parts of the Great Moravian realm passed under the Hungarian domination, and with certain exceptions, the Slovaks combined with the Czechs, among whom, indeed in point of language, and nationality being purely Hungarian, they were easily absorbed. The military occupation of Slovakia came about with the entrance of the troops into Pressburg on January 1, 1919. For the nationality and mixture of peoples, further information is given under "Statistics."

Karpatho-Russia

This part of Hungary has no history of its own, but like Slovakia it shared the fate of Hungary. Concerning this tangle of states, the Gothic yearbook states, "It was seized by Czech troops in the middle of February 1919, union with Czechoslovakia was ratified by the Hungarian high national council on May 18, 1919, and fulfilled in the Peace of St. Germain on September 10, 1919, and certainly with the statement of guarantees of autonomy for minorities between the Western Powers and Czechoslovakia on September 10, 1919, and self government according to the decrees of April 26, 1920."

Hultschin Countries

For the little area of only 333 square kilometers the history naturally cannot be handled separately, and followed back into time, as was possible in the case of Bohemia. The geographical position of the Hultschin Lands gives rise to the opinion that they had from olden times taken part in the development and the fate of Silesia. Authentic documents concerning these lands, appear first in the 12th century. These tell of the rule of the Przemyśl Ottokar II and further of the transfer of a part of the country to Matthias of Hungary under Wladislaw (1471-1516) and finally the transfer to Ferdinand I of Austria in the year 1526. In the first Silesian War of 1740, it was awarded to Prussia, and remained until February 4, 1920 or March 16, 1923, as a part of the German Empire, at which point of time the union with Czechoslovakia followed. The following figures throw light on the national composition of the people.

The Prussian census in the year 1910, showed 13% of the population to be German speaking. The census of February 15, 1921, and so at the time when the Hultschin Lands, with the exception of Huatsch and Sandau, already

belonging to Czechoslovakia, showed the following facts:

| | Czechoslovaks | Germans | Poles | Jews | Others |
|----------|---------------|---------|-------|------|--------|
| | 39,209 | 7,707 | 309 | 23 | 15 |
| Percent: | 83 | 16 | 65 | 05 | 03 |

Besides this, we should not overlook the fact, that in the parliamentary election of 1925, 65% Germans and 29% Czechs were elected.

Statistics

The arrangements of the facts given here unfortunately melt into each other, more or less; but nevertheless, the main figures are in agreement, so that little differences should not be looked upon as errors. Particular minuteness of detail is unnecessary here because here only figures speak.

Composition according to size and population:

| Country | Area | Population | |
|---------------------|--------|------------|-----------|
| | | 1910 | 1927 |
| Bohemia | 52,065 | 6,769,548 | 6,670,610 |
| Moravia | 22,314 | 2,622,271 | 2,661,408 |
| Silesia | 4,453 | 608,128 | 675,392 |
| Slovakia | 48,904 | Hungarian | 2,998,266 |
| Karpatlo-Russia | 12,632 | Hungarian | 604,593 |
| Weitraer Territory | 118 | 11,067 | Bohemia |
| Feldsburg Territory | 93 | 11,032 | Moravia |
| Hultschin Lands | 333 | 49,553 | Silesia |

Total area at the end of 1927—140,368 square kilometers

Total population at the end of 1927—14,439,000 inhabitants

The possible examples of comparison with the other states are unfavorable, for in point of size the country could only be compared with Surinam and Nepal, and the population could only be compared with that of Mexico, which comparison for our purpose is useless.

Nationalities in percentage:

| | Czechs | Germans | Hungarians | Others | Ruthenians | Jews | Poles |
|-----------------|--------|---------|------------|--------|------------|-------|-------|
| Bohemia | 65.69 | 32.57 | 0.08 | 0.01 | 0.03 | 1.67 | 0.01 |
| Moravia | 76.99 | 20.56 | 0.02 | 0.05 | 0.03 | 0.56 | 0.07 |
| Silesia | 44.04 | 37.50 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.05 | 0.54 | 10.41 |
| Slovakia | 67.12 | 4.56 | 21.23 | 2.99 | 3.85 | 2.35 | 0.31 |
| Carpatho-Russia | 3.29 | 1.74 | 17.02 | 2.33 | 62.14 | 12.34 | 0.01 |
| C. S. Republic | 64.41 | 23.23 | 5.60 | 0.19 | 3.46 | 1.33 | 0.56 |
| Heer | 63.00 | 24.00 | 8.00 | — | 3.00 | 2.00 | 0.00 |

System of Government: Before 1948 Czechoslovakia was a democratic republic. The president, who is chosen for a term of seven years, is not responsible and at the same time is commander-in-chief of the army. One and the same person may be chosen only twice in succession. President T. G. Masaryk was eligible for his lifetime.

National Assembly: House of Representatives with 300 members for a six year term; and the Senate, with 150 members and an 8 year term.

Flag: White and red, with a blue wedge near the flag pole.

Coat of Arms: Quartered and overlaid with red heart shield, within it a crowned silver lion (Bohemia); left above a silver patriarchal cross on a blue three-peaked mountain and red background (Slovakia); on the right above three golden chevrons on blue, and a red bear on silver (Carpatho); on the left at the bottom, a reddish-silver eagle with wings outspread on blue (Moravia); on the right below, a black Silesian eagle on gold (Silesia).

(To be continued)

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As in past supplements, the usual fine write-up accompanies each issue. The description about the Stefánik stamp is excellent. Although at first glance it seems to be lengthy (it occupies an entire page), nevertheless this is necessary for the remembrance of this great Slovak. After all, it's been over 20 years since he was last on a Czechoslovak stamp.

The 12 pages are well printed on good quality heavy paper and punched to fit standard three ring binders. The layout of each page is well balanced and pleasing to the eye. In this supplement a milestone has been passed as page number 200 is included. The cost is a reasonable \$1.75 plus 30c postage, as this is a good buy for the collector of Czechoslovakia. Highly recommended!

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