SPECIALIST

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Editor:

William V. Schoenig, 20 Charles Ct., East Patchogue, N. Y. 11772

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Charley's Corner

By Charles Chesloe, Box 237, Willow Springs, Ill. 60480



Figure 1

This will complete the article published in the October ssue on the Hlinka issue of Slovakia with the overprint "Slovensky Stat" Scott #24-25. This issue was placed on sale April 1, 1939. The 50 heller value exists in two types of the overprint, type 1 a strong bright overprint, type II a rather dull, drab, and thin overprint. The 1 kc value exists only in type I.

A rush in preparing the issue as well as experimentation on the perforations caused many combinations of the 12½ and 10½ perforations, and also many errors such as double perforations and imperforate between both vertically and horizontally. (Figure 1.)

The 1 kc is also known imperforate (figure 2) and also with an offset of the design (figure 3).



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4

An example of the perforation combinations is the rare 50 heller 12½ x 10½. Note both horizontal rows are perforated 12½. Its the vertical rows that show both perforations 10½ and 12½ (figure 4). Both values exist with offset of the overprint, and also with the overprints strongly shifted. This issue can provide an excellent study for the specialist, it is almost unlimited in scope. Good hunting.

CZECH SCOUTS CARRIED THE MAIL

Back in 1918, between November 7th and 25th, according to a plan carefully drawn up by Josef Rossler Orovsky, President of the Scout Allianca, an estimated 96 Scouts volunteered to carry mail for the National Committee of Liberation. Due to political difficulties, names of these Scouts were kept confidential by government officials. Adultlike penmanship and three or four "signatures" for the same Scout are puzzling. Peter Duck of the Scouts Stamp Collectors Club of England, suggests that perhaps this could happen due to different adults writing the name of a scout assigned for delivery in the space marked "Dopis ad Skauta _____ " (Letter by Scout _____). Two members of the Scouts on Stamps Society International (Les Behnke and Dr. George Holland), with assistance from Dr. Velen Fanderlik, the last president of the Czech Scout organization just before the Scouts were disbanded in 1948, have been cooperatively researching the names of these Scouts from such mail in the hands of collectors, who have furnished them with copies of the messengers signatures. At the present time their list contains 39 names as follows:

Bares (Barese) Baur or Bauer (Baura or Bauera) Blaha (Blahy) Böhm (Böhma) Slava Bursik (Bursika) Chalupa (Chalupy) Dobry (Dobreho) Dub (Duba) Josef Farsky (Farskeho) J. S. Filip (Filipa) S. Friedl (Friedla) Friml (Frimla) Hiller (Hillera) Hron (Hrona) Janda (Jandy) Kalibera (Kalibery) J. Karlik (Karlika) Kral (Krale) Lanha (Lanhy) Masek (Maska) Novak (Novaka)

Novalek or Novacek (Novalka or Novacka) Honda Nusl (Hondy Nusla) Orovsky ml (Orovskeho) Otta (Otty) Panek (Panka) Pa-elek or Pavelka (Pavelka or Pavelky) Placek or Palacek (Placka or Palecka) Podofsky (Podofskeho) Poddubsky (Poddubskeho) Pospisil (Pospisila) Rasin (Rasina) Salda (Saldy) Sourek (Sourka) Stary (Stareho) Kaja Stretti (Kaji Strettiho) Gustav Sulc (Gustava Sulce) Tonda (Tondy) Zeleny (Zeleneho)

Note: the genitive case of the proper noun is shown in parentheses. The Statement "Dopis od Skauta _____" should be completed with the name of the messenger in Czech genitive case.

If you have additions or corrections to this list, please send Xerox or photographic copies of your cover to either Mr. Lester A. Behnke, P. O. Box 144, Western Springs, Ill. 60558, or to Dr. George V. Holland, 9060 Trinity, Detroit, Mich. 48228.

Page 4 January 1972

AN INTERESTING CHAPTER FROM NOVOTNY

The new Ladislav Novotny "Special Handbook for Collectors of Czechoslovak Stamps" issued in 1970 gives the following information about the period of May 1939 to March 1945. (Occupation of Czechoslovakia).

In this period the Czechoslovakia Post Office did not issue stamps, temporarily over the whole occupied territory, Czechoslovak stamps of the last few years were used, either alone or in conjunction with stamps of the Protectorte, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Poland, and the Slovak State. Later on only stamps of the occupying powers were used.

In foreign lands, due to speculations, variously overprinted sheets of Bratislava 1937 and Praga 1938, are private issues. The so-called London sheets are only commemorative items without philatelic value.

During the occupation the following Czechoslovak stamps were for sale at post offices:

Scott #152-56, 158 Coat of Arms, 5, 10, 20, 25, 30h perf., and the 20h coil. #168 50h Masaryk, #212, 217 1kc Masaryk, 60h Stefanik. 218-226,240 Landscapes 1.20 kc, 10 kc;#227 50h Benes, #234 2 kc Masaryk Mourning, #241-42 Sokol Games, 50h, 1 kc; #243-45 Military Machmac, Vouziers, Dos Altos, #246-48 Fügner 50h, 1 κc, 2 kc; #249-50 50h Pilsen, Kosice, 251 50h Stefanik; B150-52, Children 1938 50+50h, 1 kc+50h, sheet 2 kc+3 kc, B153 Jubilee sheet 2 kc+8 kc, #253-54 Jubilee 2 kc, 3 kc.

It's natural that possibly other stamps were used, which the post office did not sell anymore, but which were still valid for postage.

The above stamps were used alone or with mixed franking, cancelled with Czechoslovak cancelling devices without any corrections (especially in Slovakia) or with Czechoslovak cancelling devices with the Czech text removed, further with cancellations of field posts of the occupying powers, with temporary Germany, Polish, Hungarian, Austrian cancellations or with new cancellations of the occupying post office (for example the Hungarian propaganda cancels). Old Czechoslovak cancelling devices were often used for the production of new ones.

German cancels were used primarily in the border territories such as Usti n/L (Aussig a/E), Karlovy Vary (Karlsbad) and in Slovakia in Devin and Petrzalka. Polish cancels in the years 1938-39 were used on Czechoslovak stamps in the towns of the Orava territory and in Silesia.

From the historical point of view and interest are (1) the frankings of temporarily occupied places in Czechoslovakia, (2) with stamps of the occupying powers, or (3) mixed frankings with Czechoslovak stamps. The frankings sometimes show very interesting cancellations.

In the territory of the Czech: slovak Republic, in the period of 1939 to 1945 the following stamps were used: German stamps in the territory ceded to Germany by the Munich agreement: in Slovakia in the towns of Devin and Petrzalka. Polish stamps were used from October 1938 in the Tesin territory and in some occupied towns of Slovakia: Cierne Skaliste, and Srvcinoves in the Cadca district, Sucha Hora and Hladovka in the Orava district, and in the Javorina district the towns of Lysa, Majerec pri Dunajci, Lesnica, Medzibrodie. After the Hitler invasion of Poland the General Government stamps were in use a short time.

In the Tesin territory, German stamps were in use and in Slovak towns, Slovak stamps.

Hungarian stamps were in use from October 1938 in the occupied southers territory of Slovakia, from Samoryn in the west to Cop in the East. In March

1939 the occupied territory was enlarged to Stakein and Velke Kapusany. Hungarian stamps were also used for a short time in the town of Ceklis near Bratislava. The town was then returned to Slovakia.

In the period of issuance of the Protectorate stamps and stamps of the so-called Slovak State, mixed frankings with Czechoslovak stamps were very common. The same situation existed after the liberation in 1945, when we find mixed frankings of Hungarian and Czechoslovak stamps. In Southern Bohemia some mail shipped by the U. S. Army field post were franked with American stamps. Russian stamps were used in the Eastern Slovakia towns temporarily occupied by the USSR.

The period of the Slovak national uprising in 1944

The activity of the Czechoslovak post office was revived in the territory of the Slovak national uprising in 1944. In the rebel territory no new stamps were issued or Slovak stamps overprinted. The only exceptions were the privately printed newspaper labels of the newspaper "Nove Slovo" (New Word) in Banska Bystrica, which the post office tolerated. Shipments were franked with the current Slovak stamps or the postage was paid in cash. Cancelling devices were not altered, as these were of Slovak or Czechoslovak origin. The main postal connection went from Banska Bystrica over Liptovska osad to Korytnice and further from there by bus or train. Letters from the rebel territory cancelled at the time of the Slovak national uprising, from September 29th 1944 to the beginning of January 1945 are outstanding documents of historical and philatelic value.

The period after the liberation of Czechoslovakia in 1945

With the advance of the Red Army in the liberated territory of Czechoslovakia, the Czechoslovak post office revived its activity. At the time, when there was still war activity around Prague, new Czechoslovak stamps were already in circulation in Slovakia.

In many places in our country there were individual tendencies to misuse the situation for philatelic speculation by issuing privately overprinted stamps. The Ministry of Posts announced officially in May 1945 that it did not recognize any private issues of stamps including so-called "revolutionary issues" and that the producers and distributors of same were liable to penalties. (See magazing Filatelie #1 of 1946).

As early as May 16th 1945 the Ministry of Posts issued an order that until the new Czechoslovak stamps were issued, the mail be accepted unprepaid and the postage be collected the addressee. Postage for registered mail was paid in cash by the sender if same objected to the collection from the addressee.

It is clear that under such circumstances there was no need for temporary issues and that the so-called "revolutionary issues" in long sets were unnecessary and useless. There do exist postally cancelled letters, which does not change the fact that same are private mementos without postal necessity, and were cancelled to order.

After the liberation of Prague in May 1945 the Protectorate stamps were used for another 10 days. On May 16th 1945 their use was prohibited with the exception of newspaper stamps, which were used until the end of 1946. In Slovakia the post offices were supplied with the new Kosice issues and on April 30, 1945, the new Czechoslovak stamps with the Czechoslovak Coat of Arms (Bratislava issue) were issued. The use of Slovak stamps were already an exception. Only the supplies of Postage Due stamps were of necessity used until September 30th 1947.

-Translated by Josten

STAMP MARKET TIPS - By John G. Ross

Reprinted from "Stamps"

A long time ago I tipped a set of the Costumes as a good buy. This set issued in 1955, Scott #707-710, has gone up in price considerably since then and in my opinion will keep on going up for quite a while longer. While most stamps of Czechoslovakia had mintages of several million copies, this costumes set had a mintage of only 300,000 sets. As usual many were cancelled to order and sold at a considerable discount from the mint price. I would think that there are less than 10,000 mint sets available to the collector. Scott 1972 catalogue went up to \$13.63, the German 1972 Michel catalogue is up to \$15, retail prices in Europe are upto a bit over \$10.00 per set at the moment. Here and there one can find buy-ads for that issue, they are paying about \$5.00 per set. It still is underpriced. Make sure you get this issue as soon as possible.

MORE CONTRIBUTIONS

In answer to the appeal made by Mr. Mirko Vondra for funds for the Specialist, the following are added to the list of contributors published in the December issue: Thomas M. Austin, Joe Blazek, Anthony Budin, Emil L. Cuhel, Ed Hanish, Fred Kozlof, Frank Lukes, Emil Michaelson, and Mr. Anonymous (a sizeable donation from a member in Western U.S.A. who prefers not to disclose his identity). The society extends its heartfelt thanks. To those who have not contributed, why not do so now; every little bit helps.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

- #675 H. E. Lauffer, 169, Anderson Road, Bernardsville, N. J. 07924
- #924 Dr. Marvin J. Albinak, 1301 Brook Meadow, Towson, Md. 21204
- #816 Mrs. Karleen Sheppard, 13 Hall Lane, St. Paul, Minn. 55107
- #61 W. B. Brant, Apartado Postal 32-212 Mexico 1, D.F. Mexico
- #661 Mrs. Helene Dowd, 345 Vanderbilt Pkwy, Dix Hills, N. Y. 11746

Change of address—Due to the rising cost of postage, members who change their residence are asked to send changes of address to the editor at least 30 days prior to maving. No free copies of the Specialist will be sent to persons who lose copies due to change of address.

NEW MEMBERS

- #940 Mrs. Frank C. Clarke, 36 Fairview Ave., Atherton, Ca. 94025
- #941 Robert Houska, 11 South Peach St., Bethpage, N. Y. 11714
- #942 Capt. Gilmore K. Creelman, 26 Combt. SPT. Gp. Box 6083 APO N.Y. 09012
- #944 Ax. Tipsmark, Humlevanget 20, 5800 Nyborg, Denmark.

A REMINDER

Have you paid your dues? Why not do so now, and save the society the cost of another billing?

HANDBOOK OF CZECHOSLOVAKIAN POSTMARKS OF AUSTRIAN AND HUNGARIAN ORIGIN

By Frederick Leitenberger - Translated by C. H. Osbourn

(continued)

The introduction of the double language postmark was bound by the order that the German place name always must be at the top, and the other language must be underneath. Since however, the control of the head office over postmarks was not centralized at Vienna, their use was left the more in the keeping of the individual postmasters and accordingly, the postmarks were handled, , not after the Austrian national system, but following the opinions of the senarate postmasters, and often the inscriptions appeared in the reverse order. All this is apparent in the way the hour of issue has been changed about in the postmark (E2), and there are many examples of the German inscription above, as well as many with the German inscription below. For the foreign speaking user of this Handbook, however we must desist from such a division, and give up trying to figure which comes first, since the place and postmark names shall be listed according to the order of the stamp inscription; so those postmarks with the authorized inscriptions appear in alphabetical order, equally with those which have the place name at the top, and the place number underneath, which bespeaks the official postmark. For example: Brno has the place number 167, so that all official ordered, double language postmarks of Brunn-Brno are put under that division, while the postmarks which depart from this authorized form, come to stand between 152 Brims and 153 Brodeck, to which position they are clearly entitled.

D14 Double circle postmark,

Inscription double language, divided above and below

D15 Double circle postmark, Inscription double language, divided above and below Star decoration between at left and right.

D16 Double circle postmark,
Inscription double language, divided above and below
With a post office number.

D17 Double circle postmark Inscription double language, divided above and below With the hour of issue.

D18 Double circle postmark,
Inscription double language, divided above and below
With the hour of issue, with the post office number.

D19 Double circle postmark,
Inscription double language, divided above and below
Postmark letter between at the left,
With the hour of issue, with the post office number.

D20 Double circle postmark,
Inscription double language, divided above and below
Postmark letters between at left and right,
With the hour of issue, with the post office number.

This order of the inscription was not, of course, according to the wisnes of the non-German peoples of the Monarchy, wherefore in the middle of the ninetieth year, they went over to a new order, taking positions at the left and right, instead of above and below. The political situation brought about even a further compromise; the placing in first position of the place name in that language which was used by the national majority of that particular place.

Page 8 January 1972

In the heading "Nationalization of Postmarks," we have already pointed out, that many were changed over to a nationalized form, through the inversion of the parts of the date and this was particularly so among the stamps with the left and right arrangement of the inscription.

For this matter of position, whether it concerns a German-foreign language or a Foreign-German language postmark, attention must be drawn here, to the following important consideration; that such a "nationalization" is only possible with those postmarks which have no postmark letters in the under part of the double circle, also only where between the two inscriptions a star decoration stands.

We can now leave the general discussion of these transition forms, and proceed to the separate stamps.

D21 Double circle postmark

Inscription double languages, divided left and right, Star decoration between at the top and bottom.

In this place, the introduction of the nationalized postmark (D21a) becomes necessary; since otherwise, no very good place appears for it.

As may be seen in the illustration, it must have been a double language, double circle, left and right divided postmark, with star decorations above and below, only the inscription and upper star have been omitted, and later the name "Praha" set in. This opinion arises from the fact, that in original postmarks of this sort, the bottom of the inscription rests on the inner circle, whereas in this case, it stands with its head towards the inner circle.

D21a Double circle postmark D21,

All the inscription but the under star omitted—with a new word, turned around, set in.

D22 Double circle postmark,

Inscription double language, divided left and right, Star decoration between above and below, With the post office number.

D23 Double circle postmark,

Inscription double language, divided left and right, Star decoration between above, postmark letter between below.

D24 Double circle postmark,

Inscription double language, divided left and right, Star decoration between above,

Postmark letter between below, with the post office number.

D25 Double circle postmark.

Inscription double language, divided left and right,

Star decoration between above and below, with the hour of issue.

D26 Double circle postmark,

Inscription double language, divided left and right, Star decoration between above and below, With the hour of issue, with the post office number.

D27 Double circle postmark.

Inscription double language, divided left and right, Star decoration between above,

Postmark letter between below, with the hour of issue.

D28 Double circle postmark

Inscription double language, divided left and right, Star decoration between above, postmark letter between below, With the hour of issue, with the post office number,

(a) With the hour of issue above the year figure.

(b) With the hour of issue under the year figure.

(b) RAILWAY STATION POSTMARKS

Explanation under 1. Single Circle Postmarks, and (b) railway station postmarks.

- B4 Double circle postmark
 Inscription single language, divided above and below,
 (Has the word "bahnhof"—station)
- B5 Double circle postmark
 Inscription single language, divided above and below,
 With the hour of issue
- B6 Double circle postmark
 Inscription in two languages, divided above and below
 (With the abbreviation "BLF")
- B7 Double circle postmark Inscription in two languages, divided left and right Star decoration between above and below, with the hour of issue

(c) TRAIN POSTMARKS

Explanation under 1. "Single Circle Postmark," (c) train postmarks.

- Z9 Double circle postmark Inscription in one language, divided above and below, above F.P.A. (travelling post office) under—a long mark besides the train post office number.
- Z10 Double circle postmark

 Inscription in one language above, train post office number below

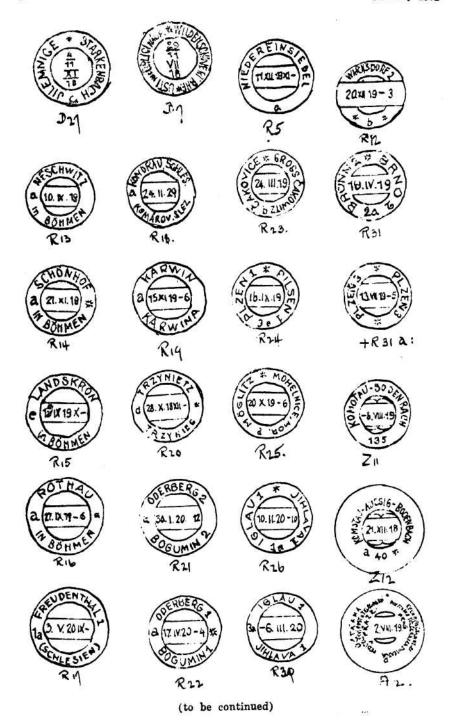
 The date between four segments of a circle in the inner circle.

(d) WHEEL POST MARKS

While all the place postmarks encountered up till now were the so-called "inset" postmarks, because the date and the hour were set into the postmark with separate type, we find now, in the wheel postmarks, that the date figures were on the movable rim of a wheel, and required for their insertion, merely a rotary motion. Always from the circumstances, or the letters of the name, the date opening runs either to the inner or the outer circle.

(d1) PLACE POSTMARKS

- R1 Wheel postmark Inscription in one language above, postmark letter below.
- Wheel postmark, Inscription in one language above, postmark letter below. Star decoration left and right, from letter.
- R3 Wheel postmark
 Inscription in one language above, postmark letter below.
 With the post office number.
- R4 Wheel postmark
 Inscription in one language above, postmark letter below.
 Star decoration left and right, from letter.
 With the post office number.
- R5 Wheel postmark
 Inscription in one language above, postmark letter below.
 With the hour of issue
- R6 Wheel postmark
 Inscription single language above, postmark letter below
 Star decoration left and right, from letter.
 With the hour of issue



The Sudetenland Story

By George A. Blizil

Reprinted from the German Postal Specialist (continued)



The Michel Spezial Catalog lists 5 official varieties of Sudetenland overprints for Asch; 60 official varieties for Karlsbad; 69 unpriced varieties for Niklasdorf; 89 varieties for Reichenberg-Maffersdorf; 30 unpriced varieties for Konstantinbad; and 46 varieties, some unpriced, for Rumberg.

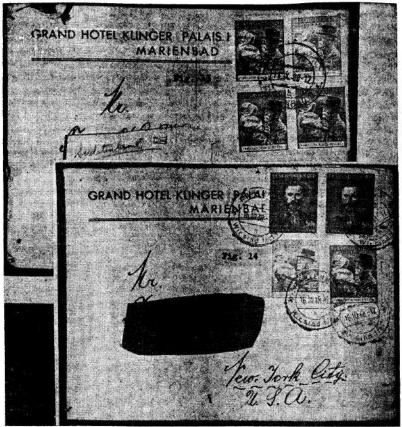
The German army marched in on October 1st and from this date until Oct. 20th occurs the second phase of the short philatelic history of Sudetenland. This was the period of the provisional postmarks, due mainly to the fact that as the Czech postmasters retired they took their stamps and postmarkers. The Germans were forced to use various forms of temporary postmarkers, and some hundreds of types are known. Most included the swastika insignia and inscriptions were in German only.

Fig. 11 is a legitimate use of a postmark on a 6Pf stamp from Eger (11.10.38 Wir Sind Frei). Fig. 12 is a 2-color "Day of Liberation" postmark at Teschen a.d. Elbe, 3.10.1938. Many of these postmarkers were subsequently replaced with new postmarkers, bilingually inscribed, but certain provisionals were in use as late as August 1939.

Only a small percentage of Czechoslovakian stamps were legitimately overprinted in the Sudeten area. But nearly all communities employed provisional and/or commemorative-type postmarks. The late Kenneth Woodbury had several hundred Czech and Slovak towns listed in his postal history study on the subject. An interesting transition of postmarks is shown in Figs. 13 and 14. Illustrated are two covers from Marianske Lazni (Marienbad), a famous spa in northern Bohemia. As an emergency measure the Czech name "Marianski Lazne' was removed from the canceller on 14.X.38. Only the German "Marienbad" remains, as per Fig. 13. Two days later, on 16.10.38, a typical Sudeten Marienbad canceller was in use, complete with swastikas and "Wir Sind Frei," as shown in Fig. 14.

A fine censored registered cover from Jägerndorf is shown in Fig. 15.

Page 12 January 1973



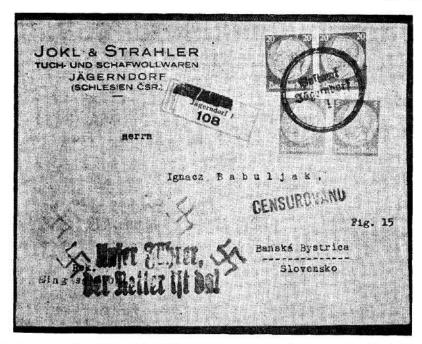
Patriotic Hitler slogans were applied in the lower left in connection with the town's annual Day of Stamp on October 3rd. Note the provisional "Postamt Jägerndorf" postmark on the Hindenburg stamps (exact rate) . . . very early use of German postage in this Czech city.

Fig. 16 shows mixed franking from Maffersdorf on 8.Okt.1938. It is a commemorative-type postmark for Konrad Henlein's Day of Stamp event in that city. The 50h (Benes) rubber stamp overprint is Michel 8.

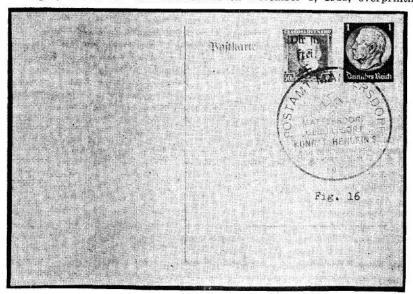
Of unusual interest is the mixed frank cover Fig. 17 from Marienbad. Tied to cover in upper right is the blue-green Konrad Henlein "patriotic" label . . . actually a donation to the Nazi party. Henlein was Hitler's representative in the Sudetenlands and it was he who engineered the groundwork for the easy Nazi take-over.

Germany issued two commemorative semi-postal stamps on December ?, 1938, to mark the acquisition of Sudetenland. These picture a German miner and his wife. The surtax was earmarked for Hitler's "Culture Fund." (Fig. 18).

Poland and Hungary were also busy when the Germans took the Sudeterland. They seized the opportunity of annexing certain parts of Czechoslovakia, with Hitler's permission of course. The Poles took a large area of Silesia around Teschen and the Hungarians gained almost a complete province where the population was predominantly Hungarian. As could be expected, special



stamps soon appeared. The Poles issued theirs on November 11, 1938 (Fig. 19), which symbolized "The Return." The 25 gr. stamp shows Czechoslovakian Poles stepping over an upturned frontier post and being welcomed home. It might now be said these "grabs" by Poland and Hungary were only temporary, inasmuch as Hitler later whipped Poland and made Hungary an Axis satellite. Hungary issued two commemoratives on December 1, 1938, overprinting



Page 14 January 1972



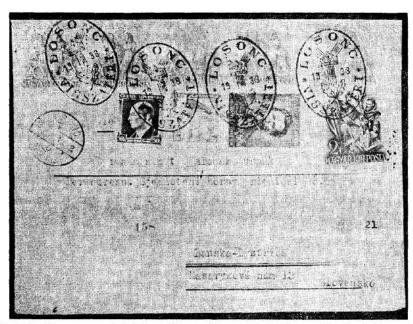
20f and 70f values "Hazateres 1938." Translation of this overprint is "The Return Home" (Fig. 20). These two stamps were widely circulated.

To illustrate Hungary's philatelic activities at the time, we illustrate a fine censored cover from Losonc (Fig. 21), formerly Lučenec in southern Slovakia. The cover is a non-philatelic mixed frank postal history item, bearing the oval postmark "Losonc has Returned" (to Hungary). A supplementary five-value set of semi-postals was issued to commemorate the area returned to Hungary (Scott B98-102). Hungary called this series "Hungary for the Hungarians."

Typical of one of the German-type Sudetenland provisionals is Fig. 22 on cover. This is a 10 gr. weight airmail letter to Hong Kong from Reichenan b. Gablonz. The rate is 1.60 Mark. Straight line cancellations, in black, show that on 31 Okt. 1938 no customery circular postmark was available at this post office. The date is handstamped, in violet, three times across the stamps. In his return address on back of the envelope, the sender uses "Sudetenland, Deutschland" after his name and street number.

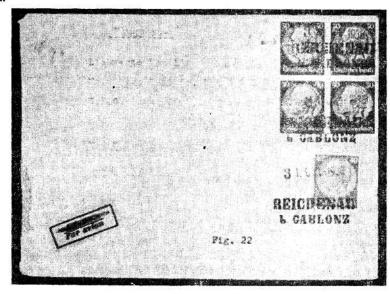
Collecting Sudetenland material is a fascinating postal history chapter for the philatelist. It covers not only Germany and Czechoslovakia, but Poland and Hungary as well. It involves official and philatelically prepared overprints on stamps, as well as postal stationery; it covers mixed franks; a study in rates; provisional postmarks of the critical nine-day period; and important





Third Reich pre-war philately. The author reminds the reader that thousands of philatelically prepared favor pieces were produced in 1938. Of course these do not have the value of Michel-listed items, even though they are interesting mementoes. As late as 1946 a Czech correspondent in a small town offered the writer the use of his overprinting devices—in return for food parcels!

Nothing in this report is intended to be political. It is intended to be a postal history report. This is the philatelic story of Czechoslovakia's Sudetenland.



WANT TO BUY

MINT CZECHOSLOVAKIA

ISSUES 1923-1926 (Scott Nos. 92-118)

Full Sheets
Part Sheets
Blocks
Die Proofs
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Plate Proofs
Rare Perforations
Varieties
Rare Watermark Positions

ARTHUR I. KESSLER

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