

Landlocked Countries: Czech Area Carpatho-Ukraine, Czechoslovakia

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Carpatho-Ukraine 1944-45

Carpatho-Ukraine was annexed by Hungary March 16, 1939, after having declared its independence the day before.

Only one Hungarian stamp from the period under Hungarian rule 1939-44 featured a Carpatho-Ukrainian motif, a 1939 semi-postal stamp featuring Munkács Castle as part of set of five celebrating the re-integration of parts of former North Hungary.



Hungary B99,
Munkacs Castle

In 1944, Soviet forces liberated Carpatho-Ukraine between October 15 and 24, 1944, and a delegation of the Czechoslovak government in London established itself in Chust October 27, 1944. It overprinted Hungarian stamps "ČSP 1944", and these stamps were in principle valid in all pre-war Czechoslovakia, but their use was limited to areas liberated by the Soviet forces, Carpatho-Ukraine and small border areas of Slovakia.



1944 CSP issue (issue of Czechoslovak government mission in Chust, Carpatho-Ukraine)

In parallel with this Czechoslovak government delegation, a Carpatho-Ukraine government was created November 11, 1944. The establishment

of the Carpatho-Ukraine government forced the Czechoslovak government delegation to leave the area in February 1945.

The Carpatho-Ukrainian government issued its own overprints on Hungarian stamps reading Carpatho-



1944 Mi. 62, Carpatho-Ukraine overprint on Hungary stamp



1945 Symbols of Liberation, Mi. 79-80



Ukraine in Russian in 1944-45 and issued its own stamps in May and June 1945. The first set of three stamps, issued May 1, 1945, featured symbols of liberation, whereas the June sets featured a Soviet star.



1945 Mi. 84, Mi. 88 (no year, year in design)



June 29, 1945, Czechoslovakia signed a treaty with the Soviet Union transferring Carpatho-Ukraine to the Soviet Union, effective November 15, 1945.

The stamps of Carpatho-Ukraine were replaced by Soviet stamps from November 14, 1945.

In 1995 the Soviet Union printed, but did not issue, a stamp celebrating the 20th anniversary of the union between Carpatho-Ukraine and the Soviet Union.



Soviet 1995 Carpatho-Ukraine 20 years (in the Soviet Union) printed but not issued

Czechoslovakia 1945-92
See the right column for Hungarian stamps overprinted ČSP/1944 issued in Chust, Carpatho-Ukraine by the Czechoslovak government delegation.

In the Czech and Slovak parts of Czechoslovakia there exist many so-called 'local issues', i.e. stamps of Germany and Bohemia and Moravia overprinted with village/town names, arms, 1945 and similar. They were private fabrications and were not recognized by the Czechoslovak Post. If stamps were not available, mail should have been paid in cash.



Left, 1945 Red Army Soldier Sc. 307 (Košice issue); right, 1945 Clasped Hands Sc. 314 (Košice issue)



The first official stamps were issued March 26, 1945, and featured a Soviet soldier with steel helmet. These stamps and further stamps issued between April 2 and May 9 with a symbolic design with

Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union shaking hands were printed in Košice.

From April 30 stamps produced in Bratislava were issued featuring the arms of Czechoslovakia and a linden leaf.



1945 Bratislava issue Sc. 271



1945 Linden Sc. 256A (Prague issue)

May 23 an issue printed in Prague and showing linden leaves and buds or flowers were also issued. From July 16, 1945, till March 5, 1946, stamps printed in Moscow and showing a portrait of Czechoslovakia's first President, Thomas Masaryk were issued. Stamps also were issued for the two other leaders credited responsible for the founding of Czechoslovakia, President Edvard Benes and Milan Stefanik.

All these first issues after the war were inscribed Czechoslovakia (Československo).



1945, left to right: Benes, Stefanik, Masaryk Sc. 299, 301, 264



1945 war heroes Sc. 283-86 (London issue)

A series of 16 stamps portraying war heroes and printed in London was issued August 18, 1945.

August 29, 1945, five stamps commemorating the first anniversary of the Slovak uprising against the German-supported regime in Slovakia appeared. A souvenir card with the same stamps was sold at a premium for the widows of fallen heroes of the uprising.

The tenth anniversary of the uprising was commemorated on two 1954 stamps, and in 1959, the 15th anniversary was remembered with three stamps that also commemorated the 40th Anniversary of the Slovak uprising was commemorated with three 1964 stamps, and the 25th anniversary with two 1969 stamps, one of them showing General, later President Svoboda with partisans. The



1945 card picturing the five stamps for the 1944 uprising, Sc. 288-92. Shown, Sc. 288 pictures the flags of Russia, Great Britain, USA and Czechoslovakia.



1959 Slovak uprising 15 years Sc. 932



CS 1964 Slovak uprising 20 years Sc. 1255



1969 Slovak uprising 25 years Sc. 1639



1984 Slovak uprising 40 years Sc. 2525

30th anniversary was marked with a single 1974 stamp, the 40th anniversary with a 1984 stamp, and the 45th anniversary with a 1989 stamp. Slovakia issued two stamps for the 50th anniversary of the uprising in 1994.



Slovakia 1994 Slovak uprising 50 years Sc. 190

WWII victory was celebrated May 5, 1946, with two semi-postal stamps and a miniature sheet with St. George and a dragon as motif.



1946 Independence Day Sc. 318-21 (with President Benes)



1948 death of President Benes Sc. 360



Top, 1946 Victory Souv. Sheet, Sc. B158
Bottom, margin pair, Sc. B156



Czechoslovakia 1994 Edvard Beneš Sc. 2918

The 1946 set of four stamps for independence day featured a portrait of President Beneš. He was also portrayed on three 1948 definitive stamps, and in September 1948, a single stamp was issued on his death. The Czech Republic issued a stamp with his effigy in 1994 for the 110th anniversary of his birth. Three 1946 semi-postal stamps were issued to support the repatriation of refugees and emigrants.



1946 Repatriation Fund Sc. B160-62



1947 Lidice 5 years (since atrocities) Sc. 329-31

In June 1947 three stamps were issued in remembrance of the victims of the German destruction of the village of Lidice near Prague June 10, 1942. More than 170 men and some women and around 80 children were gunned down, the rest of the women were sent to the Ravensbrück concentration camp where many of them died. The few remaining children were renamed and raised as Germans. After the massacre, the village was burnt.



1943 Reinhard Heydrich Germany Sc. B20

All this was done as a retaliation for the assassination of the German Governor of Bohemia and Moravia, Reinhard Heydrich. In 1943, the first anniversary of his death was mourned on a Bohemia and Moravia stamp. Czechoslovakia in 1992 honored the partisans who assassinated Heydrich on a stamp and on a Czech Republic 2012 pre-stamped postal card.



1992 assassins of Heydrich Sc. 2857

The tenth anniversary of the destruction of Lidice was remembered with two 1952 stamps, the 15th anniversary with two 1957 stamps, and



1952 Lidice 10 years Sc.532



Czech 2012 Lidice 70 years, Sc. 3538

the 20th anniversary in 1962 with one stamp and a second stamp for a similar fate for Ležaky where almost all residents were killed June 24, 1942, also as a retaliation for the assassination of Heydrich.

The 25th anniversary of the Lidice atrocities in 1967 was remembered with a set of six stamps presenting the Jewish heritage of Czechoslovakia.



CS 1967 Jewish Heritage Sc. 1477-78



Czech 2012 Ležaky 70 years

The Czech Republic issued two 2012 stamp commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Lidice and Ležaky atrocities.



1965 Terezin concentration camp Sc. 1288

The 20th anniversary of the Nazi concentration camp at Terezin (Theresienstadt) was remembered with a 1965 stamp. Terezin was the largest Nazi concentration camp, established October 1941 as a ghetto and transit camp for Czech Jews and Jews from several other countries.

The camp was made to deceive the world of what the Nazis did to the Jewish population and for visitors the camp looked like a peaceful village with shops and cultural activities, while in reality more than 100,000 Jews were killed there or in the extermination camps to which they eventually were sent.



Theresienstadt stamp on piece from a parcel package

The Nazi authorities even issued a stamp-like label that camp inmates could send to friends and relatives that in turn could use then to send parcels to them. The labels were also printed in small sheets of 4 used as gifts to foreign Red Cross delegates visiting the camp.

A 1968 set of three stamps commemorating the 30th anniversary of the Munich Agreement that led to the Nazi takeover of Sudetenland, Bohemia and Moravia, and Slovakia, showed drawings by children in the Terezin concentration camp.



1968 drawings by children in Terezin Sc. 1566-68

In 1972, the 30th anniversaries of the Terezin concentration camp and the atrocities in Lidice and Ležaky were all remembered on a set of stamps. The 40th anniversary of atrocities in Lidice and Ležaky was remembered with two 1982 stamps, and the 45th anniversary with two additional stamps in 1987. The 40th anniversary of the Terezin Memorial was highlighted on a 1987 stamp.



When Soviet and US forces were gradually entering Nazi-controlled Czechoslovakia, the Germans destroyed fourteen villages in 1945, and this atrocity was remembered 30 years afterwards with three 1975 stamps.



CS 1972 Terezin, Lidice and Lezaky Sc. 1800-02



1975 destruction of 14 villages 1945 Sc. 1992-94 (30th anniversary)

To Be Continued