

World of Stamps:

Landlocked Countries: Czecho-Slovakia, Czechoslovakia, Czecho-Slovakia, Sudetenland, Bohemia and Moravia, Carpatho-Ukraine, Czechoslovakia, Czech Republic, Slovakia

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Left to right, Czech 2016 events of 1916, Czech 2017 events of 1917, Czech 2018 events of 1918

The first world war paved the way for Czech and Slovak statehoods. In 2016, the Czech Republic commemorated 1916 events on the way to Czech statehood outside the Austrian Empire in a souvenir sheet. A similar sheet was issued in 2017 featuring 1917 events in the statehood struggle, and in 2018 featuring 1918 events.

Czechoslovakia was established in October 1918 when the Czechs of Bohemia and Moravia of the Austrian part of the Austrian-Hungarian Empire and the Slovaks of Northern Hungary (part of the Kingdom of Hungary, itself a part of the Austrian-Hungarian Empire) united to form the Republic of Czechoslovakia.

October 1, 1938, Czechoslovakia ceded Sudetenland to Germany as a result of the September 30, 1938, Munich Agreement between Germany and Great Britain, France and Italy and when British Premier declared "Peace for our time". Many local stamps were issued by the German communities in Sudetenland before German stamps became available.

As a result of this, Slovakia got its own parliament January 1, 1939, and a few new stamps were issued with the country name with a hyphen: Cesko-Slovensko (Czecho-Slovakia).

March 15, 1939, a Carpatho-Ukrainian parliament was also inaugurated, and one stamp was issued for this occasion, only to be withdrawn the following day when the region was occupied and annexed by Hungary.

March 14, 1939, Slovakia left the union with the Czechs and declared its independence, and two days later, the Czechs had to accept a German protectorate named Bohemia and Moravia.

When Bohemia and Moravia and Slovakia were liberated by Soviet forces between October 1944 and May 1945, the Republic of Czechoslovakia was re-established with the exception of Carpatho-Ukraine, which was under Soviet administration until incorporated into Soviet Ukraine November 15, 1945.

Czechoslovakia was dissolved December 31, 1992, and the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic became independent January 1, 1993. **Czechoslovakia 1918-1938**

Initially, the Republic of Czechoslovakia continued to use Austrian and Hungarian stamps, but before the official stamps of the new republic were issued, semi-official and private stamps were issued, and some of these were tolerated on mail. These include the stamps of the Prague scouts



1918 Prague Scout Post stamps and November 1918 cover carried by Sea Scouts of Prague postal service for the National Committee of Liberation. Each cover was signed by the messenger Sea Scout upon delivery (lower left). This cover is from the Panayotis Cangelaris Scouts on Stamps collection, at <https://cangelaris.com/excze.htm>.



Stamp of Austria overprinted, Sc. B1

The first official stamps of Czechoslovakia were issued December 1918 and depicted the Hradčany Castle in Prague. The first stamps were issued imperforated and were inscribed 'Česko-Slovenska' with hyphen between Czecho and Slovakia. Further varieties of this design and later also perforated versions were issued 1919-20, still inscribed Czecho-Slovakia, although all other stamps were inscribed Czechoslovakia from 1919 onwards.



1919 Hradčany Castle, Sc. 1



1919 Hradčany Castle, 1000h high value, Sc. 40



1919 1st anniv. of independence, Bohemian lion breaking its chains, Sc. B124

In October 1919 a semi-postal series of six stamps in two different designs were issued to celebrate the first anniversary of Czechoslovakia. They were issued with several different perforation gauges.

In 1958, the 40th anniversary of these first stamps of Czechoslovakia was commemorated on a single stamp, the 50th anniversary



in 1968 with a showing two of the first Hradčany stamps, the 70th anniversary in 1988 with a souvenir sheet.



Postage stamp anniversaries; above, 1978, 1958, left, 1988; below, 2018 Hradčany stamp design centennial and 2020 version



1918 1988



SEDMDESÁT LET ČESKOSLOVENSKÉ POŠTOVNÍ ZNÁMKY



In 2018, the centenary of the Hradčany Castle design was celebrated with a Czech stamp reproducing the design. The stamp was printed in sheets of 9 stamps and 12 labels. The labels could also be personalized. A similar stamp was issued in 2020.

Slovakia also issued a 2018 stamp commemorating the 1918 Hradčany stamps.

Top, Slovakia stamp for centenary of Hradčany stamps.



Below, Czechoslovakia 2018 100 years Hradčany stamps

The Czech Republic in 2018 also issued two stamps in a souvenir sheet celebrating a century of Czechoslovak stamps and reproducing Czechoslovak and Czech stamps. There was also a pre-stamped postal card for this occasion and the Praga 88 stamp exhibition related to the anniversary.

Austrian and Hungarian stamps were overprinted 'Pošta Československa 1919' in December 1919 and sold at 50% above face value for the benefit of charity and are listed as semi-postals. (See B1, left column.)

The first stamps portraying President Masaryk (1850-1937, President 1918-35) were issued between March and September 1920.

A definitive series featuring allegories of the republic, a Hussite, and an allegory of agriculture and science was issued between 1920 and 1925. Three of the designs appeared on a 1967 stamp day issue, and one design on the 1970 stamp day issue.



1920 Masaryk, Sc. 61



1967 Stamp Day issue, Sc. 1514

Another portrait of Masaryk appeared 1923 on semi-postal stamps for the fifth anniversary of Czechoslovakia and as a definitive series in 1925 and in 1926-27 with re-engraved dies. He also figured on stamps for the tenth anniversary of independence in 1928 and on 1930-31 definitive stamps. His 80th birthday



Masaryk, 1928, Sc. 150; 1935, Sc. 204; 1935, Sc. 212

was celebrated on three 1929 stamps, and 85th birthday 1935 with four stamps in two designs portraying him. He was also included with a stamp in the 1935-36 definitive series.

Masaryk was mourned in 1937 with two stamps in the same design as one 1930 and one 1935 stamps. Masaryk figured also on two 1938 semi-postal stamps for child welfare. The last issue before the dissolution of Czechoslovakia in 1939 was also a portrait of Masaryk like the 1935 definitive but inscribed Czecho-Slovakia. Only two other stamps were issued with the hyphenated version of the country name: the Carpatho-Ukraine stamp, and an air post stamp.



Masaryk 1937, Sc. 256,
1938, Sc. B151;
1939, Sc. 235

The 10th death anniversary of Masaryk was remembered with two 1947 stamps, and the 140th birth anniversary of Masaryk was celebrated on a 1990 stamp.



In 2000 the Czech Republic for the 150th anniversary of his birth. One of the Czech Republic's 2018 series featuring 1918 events leading to Czech statehood showed a portrait of Masaryk. He was also portrayed on another Czech 2018 stamp and souvenir sheet commemorating the centenary of his first presidential appointment.



Above, 2018, Masaryk as President;
2021, Masaryk in Palestine in 1927



1937 Pres. Beneš, Sc. 227

The new President Edward Beneš (1884-1948, President 1935-48, 1939-45 in exile) was first portrayed on 1936 and 1937 stamps.

During 1926-31, a definitive series featuring castles and landscapes was issued. The designs included one showing the Hradčany Castle in Prague.



1927 Hradčany
Castle, Sc. 220

New designs were added 1929-31, in 1932, and in 1936-37. Low-value stamps featuring the national arms were added 1929-37. A stamp with Hradčany was also part of a 1938 souvenir sheet for the Praga 1938 philatelic exhibition.



1938 Praga souvenir sheet, Sc. 251

Composer Frederic Smetana was commemorated on a single 1934 stamp on the 50th anniversary of his death, and composer Antonin Dvořák on another 1934 stamp on the 30th anniversary of his death.



Smetana, Sc. 194

Dvorak, Sc. 199

In 1938 two stamps were issued for the 20th anniversary of the republic and featuring an allegory of the republic. There was also a semi-postal souvenir sheet with one of the stamps.



Republic 20th Anniversary, Sc. B153

To Be Continued