

The Partitioning of Czechoslovakia (1938 – 1939)

Exhibit Focus

This exhibit presents the stamp issues created for the various Czechoslovak territories from June 18, 1938 to August 31, 1939, encompassing the partitioning period. Postal rates and examples of their use of those issues are also displayed.

Introduction

Czechs and Slovaks were among the several Slavic peoples that sought independence from the Austro-Hungarian Empire at the conclusion of World War 1. During late October 1918, both the Czech and Slovak National Councils decided that their best chance to maintain autonomy and independence was to merge with one another to form the nation of Czechoslovakia.

Nearly 20 years later, the Munich Pact of 30 September 1938, instigated by Germany, initiated the process by which the nation of Czechoslovakia would be fully partitioned within six months. Despite territorial and political limitations, Slovakia chose to declare its independence by 14 March 1939, creating its' first Republic. Germany overran the remaining Czech territory, forming the Bohemia-Moravia Protectorate, while Hungary overran Carpatho-Ukraine within the next two days.

Exhibit Plan



- 1** ***Final Summer of Unified Czechoslovakia***
 - 1.1 Sokol Summer Games Issue
 - 1.2 Plzen & Kosice Scenery Issues
 - 1.3 Prague Philatelic Exhibition Sheet

June 1938 – September 1938



- 2** ***Munich Pact Effect***
 - 2.1 Sudetenland – Ceded to Germany
 - 2.2 Czechoslovak Silesia – Ceded to Poland
 - 2.3 Southern Slovakia – Ceded to Hungary
 - 2.4 Stefanik 50h Portrait Issue
 - 2.5 Czechoslovak Stamp 20th Anniversary Issues

October 1938 – December 1938



- 3** ***Partitioning Completed***
 - 3.1 Slovak Parliament Overprint
 - 3.2 Stefanik 60h Portrait Issue
 - 3.3 Masaryk 1K Portrait Issue
 - 3.4 Carpatho-Ukraine Moment of Independence

January 1939 – March 1939



- 4** ***Bohemia-Moravia Protectorate***
 - 4.1 Existing Czechoslovak Issues
 - 4.2 Provisional Overprints
 - 4.3 Castles, Churches, Cities Issues
 - 4.4 Linden Leaves Issues
 - 4.5 Newspaper Issues
 - 4.6 Philatelic Exhibitions Sheet Overprints

March 1939 – August 1939



- 5** ***Slovakia Republic***
 - 5.1 Slovensky Stat Horizontal Overprints
 - 5.2 Slovensky Stat Diagonal Overprints
 - 5.3 Hlinka Stat Overprints
 - 5.4 Hlinka Regular Issues
 - 5.5 Newspaper Stat Overprints
 - 5.6 Stefanik Regular Issues

March 1939 – August 1939



- 6** ***Conclusion – Reunification and Second Partition***

May 1945 – present

Key items and points of interest are accompanied with a Green Dot. (explanation underlined)