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## Bohemia and Moravia

### 1943-1944



Bohemia and Moravia issued the three stamps shown above on January 20, 1943 to raise money for the German Winter Relief Fund.

The three designs depict King Charles IV (1313-1378), Peter Parler (1330-1399), and King John the Blind (1296-1346). Charles IV and John the Blind

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were Bohemian born Holy Roman Emperors, and Peter Parler was an architect, active in Bohemia and Germany at that time.



A new set of newspaper postage stamps was issued on February 15, 1943. The set is shown above.

These are similar in design to the ones issued in 1939, but the inscriptions are different, and the denomination name abbreviation does not appear after the denomination numerals.

The Michel catalog indicates that sheets of these stamps were privately perforated by various commercial firms. No other information is given. A collection of these privately perforated varieties, especially on cover, would be a great enhancement to any Bohemia and Moravia philatelic study.

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The two stamps at the top of the image above were issued on April 20, 1943 to commemorate the 54th birthday of Adolph Hitler.

Both of the stamps depict a portrait of Hitler, standing at a window of Prague Castle, and looking out onto a panoramic view of the town of Prague.

The three stamps at the bottom of the image above were issued on May 22, 1943 to commemorate the 130th anniversary of the birth of Richard Wagner (1813-1883).

The three stamps depict a scene from the opera "Die Meistersinger", a portrait of Richard Wagner, and a scene from the opera "Siegfried". Wagner is probably best known for his four epic mythological operas, known as the "Ring" or "Der Ring des Nibelungen". They are: "Das Rheingold", "Die Walküre (Valkyrie)", "Siegfried", and "Götterdämmerung".

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The stamp at the upper left was issued on May 28, 1943 to commemorate the first anniversary of the death of Reinhard Heydrich, the Reichsprotektor of Bohemia and Moravia.

The design features the SS symbol and the death mask of Heydrich.

This design also exists in a miniature sheet, containing one perforated stamp. The sheets were only distributed to people attending the funeral of Reinhard Heydrich, and they were never sold to the public. The sheets are exceedingly rare and are pretty much unobtainable. The Michel catalog value for one is € 20,000.00.

The stamp shown at the upper right was issued on September 16 to publicize and raise money for the German Red Cross.

The stamp is printed in black, with the design featuring an eagle standard with a red cross in front of it.

**Take a look at the surtax amounts on these two issues and on the following issues.** At this time, the Germans REALLY started squeezing stamp collectors and Czech citizens of Bohemia and Moravia for cash to support the German war effort! The Heydrich stamp above has a postal franking value of 60 Haleru with a charity surtax of 4.40 Koruna ... thus, for someone to use this stamp to mail a postcard, they would have to pay 5.00 Koruna for the single stamp! The stamp at above right is even worse. The Red Cross stamp has a postal franking value of 1.20 Koruna, along with a surtax of 8.80 Koruna, thus, that stamp would cost the patron

10.00 Koruna at the post office.

**Note:** All of the stamp issues from the Red Cross issue onward are now inscribed "**GROSSDEUTSCHES REICH**" (Greater German Empire) instead of "**DEUTSCHES REICH**".



The three stamps at the top of the image above were issued on March 15, 1944 to commemorate the 5th anniversary of the establishment of the "Protectorate".

Two of the stamps depict a couple wearing native costumes, and the other stamp depicts the Nazi emblem along with the arms of Bohemia and Moravia.

A Czech stamp collector would need to pay 40.00 Koruna for these three stamps, which have a face value of 15 Koruna!

The two stamps at the bottom of the image above were issued on April 20, 1944 to celebrate the 55th birthday of Adolph Hitler.

The two stamps depict a portrait of Adolph Hitler, standing at the entrance of the City Hall in Bruno.



The two stamps at the top of the image above were issued on May 12, 1944 to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the death of Bedřich Smetana (1824-1884), a famous Czech composer and pianist.

The two stamps at the bottom of the image above were issued on November 21, 1944 to commemorate the 600th anniversary of St. Vitus Cathedral in Prague.

In May 1945, Germany surrendered to the Allied forces, and the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, along with the state of Slovakia,

once again became the Republic of Czechoslovakia.

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## **eBay Auction and Store Links Germany - German Occupations**

The following links feature category-focused **affiliated seller listings on various eBay sites worldwide**. They may enable visitors to shop for and to buy specific items for the particular collecting subject they've just read about.

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