

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE
CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

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Editor Frank J. Kovarik, 2502 So. Kedzie Ave., Chicago 23, Ill.

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No. 6

EDITORIAL

The May issue of this publication went to members who had their dues paid; we were surprised how many members were removed from the membership roll. Your officers will try to bring the delinquent members back into the fold. Frankly, we need all the old members and many new members to continue with a 16 page Specialist. Every member who knows collectors interested in Czecho stamps and postal history owe it to themselves and to their friends to interest them in our Society. When our two months vacation ends and we resume the publication of the Specialist, our members will be treated to something new and very interesting.

We wish our members a very restful and pleasant vacation. May they return to their daily tasks and to their hobby with increased vigor and interest, refreshed in body and soul.

POFIS

Newest regulations allow every collector in Czechoslovakia a maximum of one block of four of every new issue. The red tape they go through is enough to discourage many from the pursuit of the hobby. As we noted before, certain single stamps of every issue are sold ONLY through Pofis and cannot be bought in ANY post office. This according to our definition of "postage stamp" reduces the status of these from what they purport to be to valueless labels or poster stamps. It isn't difficult to spot these; look through the Pofis catalogue, labels priced inordinately above face are NOT postage stamps.

NEW YORK GROUP

As this goes to the printer the New York Group is having its last meeting of the season with Emil J. Michaelson showing his collection of stampless covers, stamped envelopes, patriotic covers, censored envelopes of World War II both domestic and foreign. Notices of future meetings of the New York Group will appear in the Specialist.

ON THE SICK LIST

One of our most ardent members, Kenneth J. Woodbury, Sr., 19 Cowesett Ave., West Warwick, R. I., is recuperating from a complication of illnesses. Let us shower him with messages of cheer to enable an otherwise very active person pass away long tedious hours of forced inactivity.

CHICAGO GROUP ATTENTION

Last regular meeting of the season will take place the third Friday of June, June 20th at 7:30 P. M. in its room in the Sokol Havlicek Tyrs Bldg., 2619 So. Lawndale Ave., Chicago. Use first door entrance as you reach the building from the north. Your editor promises to be at the meeting and bring a small portion of his collection: The Československá Pošta 1919. He'll give a short talk on the issue and answer such questions to which he hopes he knows the answers.

CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS TO MEMBERSHIP LIST

- 91. Jos. Novy, 355 W. 51st St., New York 19, N. Y.
- 99. Chas. A. Smith, 32 Cherry St., Easthampton, Mass.
- 116. Francis W. Beedon, 2171 Denmark St., Muskegon, Mich.
- 161. Mrs. Frances Osner, 9 No. Lavergne Ave., Chicago 44, Ill.
- 259. Edw. J. Sabol, 2001 Penn Valley Rd., R. D. #2, Bristol, Pa.
- 380. Max Lichenheim, Box 81, Salt Lake City, Utah.
- 425. Henry Ruzicka, 41 Queensborough Ter., London W2, England.
- 428. Maurits Reys, Marinisstraat 7, Borgerhout, Antwerp, Belgium.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

- 50. Rudolph Novy, 2503 Randolph St., Dallas 16, Tex.
- 396. Robert R. Evans, 220 Whitmore Ter., Silver Springs, Md.
- 447. Jerome C. Zajic, 135-19 62nd Ave., Flushing 67, N. Y.

AUCTION REPORT

Expenses

Rental of hall and kitchen	\$72.00
Trophies	18.51
Printing (auction cat and bid sheets)	24.50
Ribbons for committee and judges	1.93
Postage and misc.	2.69
	<hr/>
	119.63

Receipts

Rental of tables from dealers	60.00
Commissions from lots sold	106.30
Profit from lots donated	39.35
Profit on dinner	10.11
Cash donations	25.00
	<hr/>
	240.76

Recapitulation

Receipts	240.76
Expenses	119.63
	<hr/>

Clear profit 121.13

Respectfully submitted

George C. Kobylka, chairman

Audited by Frank J. Kovarik

Herewith are submitted names of members who donated auction material: Major Knox, Tex., R. Reinowski, Ill., H. Prokupek, Ohio, W. B. Bryant, Calif., G. Kobylka, Ill., F. Kovarik, Ill., H. H. Smith, Ohio, R. Novy, Texas, E. Zaludek, Ill., J. Velek, Ill., R. Van Handel, Wis., H. Nouss, Mo., C. Aikins, Canada. (If we omitted anyone, please excuse our poor memory.)

Some mail bidders believed that floor bidders 'copped' all the auction plums. Ten mail bidders were successful at this auction; they obtained various lots totaling \$120.12.

To all who were instrumental in any way to make this show and auction a financial as well as moral success, go the sincere thanks of

The Entire Committee

PARADE OF NEW ISSUES



International Women's Day 1952

"International Women's Day 1952" the first part of which, 1.50 Kčs value, blue, issued on March 8th, 1952. The design by Anna Podzemná-Suchardová, shows two women, one employed in Industry, the other in Agriculture. The engraving is by J. A. Švengsbir. Validity for postage from March 8th, 1952.

The second part of this series comprising two values of Kčs 2.— brown, and Kčs 3.—, red, was issued to commemorate the International Conference for the Defence of Children taking place in Vienna from April 12th to April 16th, 1952. At this conference participated the progressive delegates of the whole world to demonstrate again for Peace and to point out the destructive consequence of every war for children.

The design by the same authoress shows a Korean child embracing a woman—the mother, a white child and a negro child. The design is completed by the inscription "Mezinárodní konference na obranu dětí 12.—16.4.1952" (International Conference for the Defence of Children) on the bottom of the stamps. The engraving is by Jindra Schmidt.

All three stamps are recess-printed in sheets of 70 and 35 copies of vertical form, 23x30 mm in dimension. Validity for postage of the latter two stamps is from April 12th, 1952.

An official First Day Cover (with the stamps of Kčs 2.— and 3.— only) designed by the authoress of the stamps shows a design in a childlike fashion of a decorated lorry carrying a peace-dove, and bears the inscription "Mezinárodní konference na obranu dětí Vídň 12. - 16. dubna 1952" (International Conference for the Defence of Children Vienna April 12 to April 16, 1952).

A Collection Sheet with the complete set was also issued.

International Day of Solidarity of Fighters Against Fascism

Comprising two values of Kčs 1.50 light brown and Kčs 2.— ultramarine. The design by Stanislav Ježek shows an antifascist fighter—builder of a new social order and a ruin in the background—a warning symbol of the last destructive world war. On the bottom of the stamps is the lettering: "11.4.1952 Mezinárodní den solidarity osvobozených politických vězňů" (International Solidarity of Fighters against Fascism).

The stamps are photogravured in sheets of 100 copies in vertical form,



23x30 mm in dimension. Validity for postage from April 11th, 1952.

An official First Day Cover designed by the author of the stamps, engraved by Ladislav Jirka, shows a hand holding a hammer—a symbol of labor—and the letters SPĚ (Svaz protifašistických bojovníků—Union of Antifascist Fighters) and the text 'Mezinárodní solidaritou proti fašismu—za mír' (With International Solidarity against Fascism—for Peace).

A Collection Sheet was issued at the same time.

*—EDITOR'S NOTE: Correct translation is: International Day of Solidarity of Liberated Political Prisoners.

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THE LATEST ISSUES — Like Them or Not

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445-7	Women	.30	466-69	Sokol	.32
448-49	Lanska	.14	470-73	Jirasek	.42
450-51	Agriculture	.10	474-75	Smeral	.15
452-54	Recreation	.20	476-78	Ostrava	.30
455-59	30th Anniversary	.60	479-81	Movies	.18
460-63	Musicians	.23	482-86	Army Day	.35
464-65	Hybes	.11	487-89	Friendship	.25

POSTAGE DUES MINT

J1-14	1918-20	7.00	J42-49	1926	1.25
J15-19	1922	.50	J50-56	1927	.75
J20-31	1923-26	11.00	J58-69	1928	1.00
J32-34	1924	1.00	J70-81	1946-48	.40
J35-41	1925	1.25			

OFFICIALS MINT

O1-7	1945	.30	O8-15	1947	.35
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Czechoslovak Stamps Overprinted "S O 1920" for Eastern Silesia

by Z. Kvasnicka

(Reprinted from STAMPS of 3/22/52)

A part of former Austrian Silesia is known as Teshin and for centuries it has been territory in which many neighbors of the Czechs showed considerable interest. There are large steel mills, a very rich coal seam, and it is intersected by the very important railroad, the Kosice-Bohumin line. Up to the year 1918 Austrian stamps were valid here (Ill. 1). After the fall of the Austro-Hungarian Empire Poland, which at that time began its national and economic program of expansion, occupied this territory (Stamps of Poland, Ill. 2). The Czechoslovakian Army, under the leadership of General Snejdarek, liberated Teshin and pushed the Poles back to Skocovo on the river Visla (Stamps of Czechoslovakia, Ill. 3 and 3a). At this time a very interesting mixed franking could be employed as the stamps of Czechoslovakia, Austria and Poland were all valid for postage in this territory (Ill. 4).

Early in February 1920 an agreement was reached by the Allies, the Czech National Committee, and the National Council of Poland, and a line of demarcation was established to which the Czechoslovakian Army retired (Czechoslovak stamps, Ill. 5). Further negotiations to bring the subject to a peaceful solution failed completely; therefore on September 27, 1919, the Allied Commission decided that the final decision would be left to the population of the area by a plebiscite vote (Stamps of Eastern Silesia, Ill. 6). Before I continue a more detailed description of these stamps I wish to touch lightly on the further fate of Teshin.

Plebiscite Abandoned

The plebiscite did not materialize because both countries accepted the decision of the Spa Conference of July 10, 1920. The Teshin area continued within the boundaries of Czech-

oslovakia where it belonged from ancient times (Czechoslovak stamps to 1938, Ill. 7). During Czechoslovakia's tragic days in 1938 the Poles again lay claim to this area (Polish stamps Ill. 8). During World War II in 1939 Germany occupied the entire area (German stamps, Ill. 9); they retained part of it, and returned the balance to the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia (Bohemia-Moravia stamps, Ill. 10). Until after the end of the war in 1945 all of Teshin was returned to Czechoslovakia (Ill. 11).

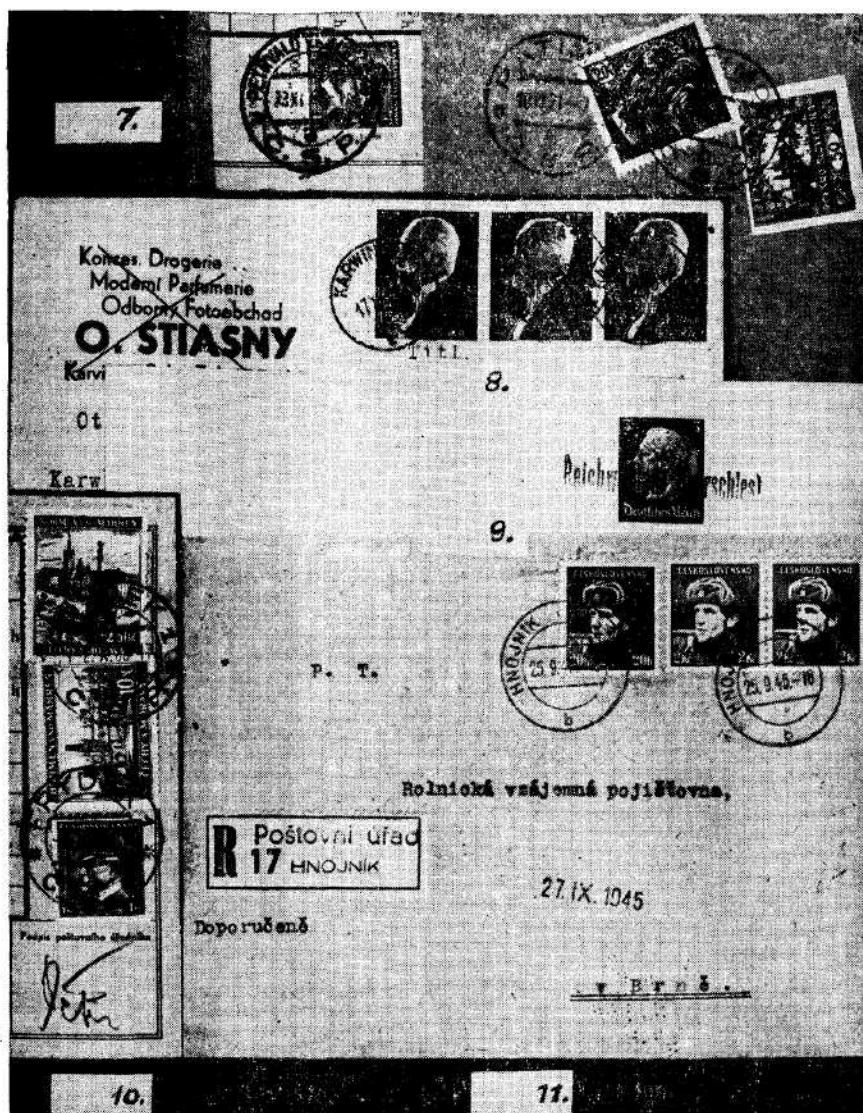
Plebiscite Area

The Teshin area was spread also into territory formerly held by Hungary, and comprised the Spish and Orava districts. This, too, was decided by the Plebiscite. All Hungarian post offices had their distinctive cancellation devices, which we find on the first stamps of Czechoslovakia and later on the stamps of the plebiscite area (Ill. 12 and 13).

The International Commission, whose task was to conduct the plebiscite, took over the government of the area February 2, 1920, with headquarters in Teshin. Thus came into existence a small and independent territory, a transitory state with its own customs, boundaries, and legislative powers. The contested area was divided by a line of demarcation, which also became the administrative boundary. On one side the laws of Poland were administered, and on the other, the laws of Czechoslovakia. To accentuate the sovereignty of the Commission it was decided to prepare the current stamps of both Poland and Czechoslovakia with an identical overprint, on February 3, 1920. The secretary of the Commission suggested the letters "S O," which could mean the latin "Silesia Orientalis" (Eastern Silesia) as well as "Spish-Orava." To these two letetrs was add-



In the above illustration No. 1 shows use of Austrian stamps in Teshin; No. 2, Poland stamps used in this territory after fall of Austro-Hungarian Empire; No. 3, 3a, stamps of Czechoslovakia, in use after Czech army liberated Teshin; No. 4, mixed franking, with stamps of Austria and Czechoslovakia at a time when stamps of these two countries and Poland were all valid for postage in this territory; No. 5, Czechoslovak stamps and an Austrian stamp when line of demarcation was established; No. 6, stamps of Eastern Silesia in period when the plebiscite vote was being considered.



No. 7 shows Czechoslovak stamps in use in Teshin area when idea of plebiscite was abandoned; No. 8, Polish stamps used when Poland again laid claim to this area in tragic days of 1938; No. 9, German stamps in use when area was occupied by Germany in 1939; No. 10, Bohemia and Moravia stamps under "Protectorate"; No. 11, Czechoslovakian stamps in use in 1945 when all of Teshin was returned to Czechoslovakia at end of World War II.

ed the year date "1920". Comparing the overprints on Czechoslovakia and Poland, we notice a difference in the size of the letters, and that Poland used periods after "S" and "O". Po-

land overprinted only ten varieties, whereas Czechoslovakia came forth with a large set of forty stamps. Due to the short period of use and the comparatively small land surface ser-



Nos. 12, 13, Hungarian cancellations used in Spish and Orava districts; No. 14, 15, the "S O" overprint with year date "1920" and Railway Postal Service cancellation.

vised by these stamps, genuinely used covers are very scarce.

Accordingly to the bulletin of the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs of February 13, 1920, the plebiscite area was divided into four parts:

1. Prefecture of the eastern part. Polish stamps were valid in this area except that part of the city of Teshin which was under Czechoslovak law. Here was used a postmark with the text "Postovní úrad ceskoslovenske prefektury v Tesine" (Post Office of Czechoslovak Prefecture in Teshin) (Ill.16).

2. Western part of Eastern Silesia to which belonged twenty-three Czechoslovak Post Offices.

3. Administrative commission in Karvinna for the western part of Frystat which consisted of sixteen Czechoslovak Post Offices.

4. Territory of the subcommission

for Spish and Orava which contained a total of thirty-six Post Offices and substations.

A grand total of seventy-six Post Offices in the plebiscite area used the overprinted Czechoslovak stamps from February 13, 1920 to August 11, 1920. It is important to remember these dates, as many stamps were cancelled by favor after these stamps were no longer valid.

Of course, because of various reasons, letters have gone through the post in a legitimate manner before date of issue as well as after the cessation of use of these stamps. These stamps are also found legitimately used from offices where the stamps with overprint were received by error, e.g., Kezmarok or offices which disregarded rules and used stamps with or without overprint as in Moravska Ostrava, Privoz, etc. Stamps cancel-



In the above illustration No. 1 shows use of Austrian stamps in Teshin; No. 2, Poland stamps used in this territory after fall of Austro-Hungarian Empire; No. 3, 3a, stamps of Czechoslovakia, in use after Czech army liberated Teshin; No. 4, mixed franking, with stamps of Austria and Czechoslovakia at a time when stamps of these two countries and Poland were all valid for postage in this territory; No. 5, Czechoslovak stamps and an Austrian stamp when line of demarcation was established; No. 6, stamps of Eastern Silesia in period when the plebiscite vote was being considered.

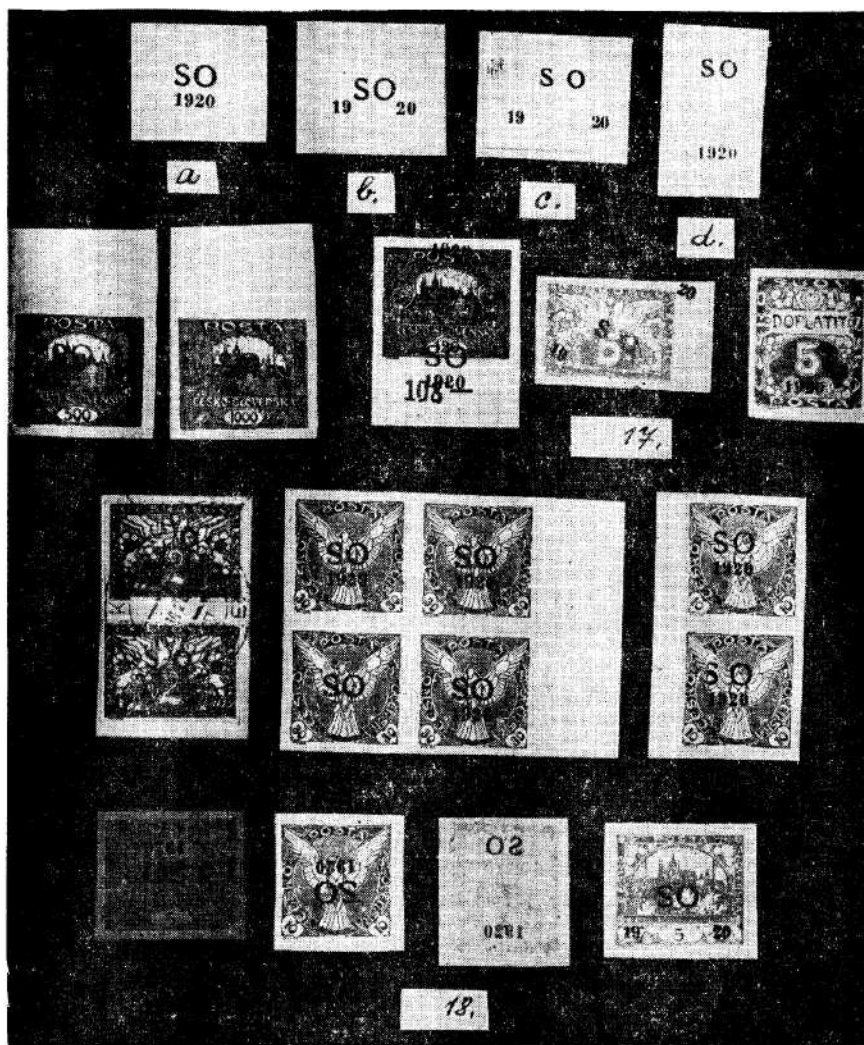
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UNITED STAMP CO.

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Illustrations 17 and 18, showing "S O" overprints.

values were furnished as they came from the Unie printery of Praha and not as complete sets. The very last stamps to be issued were the 1h, 20h red, 30h violet perforated, 50h blue and 60h orange imperforate. The 500 and 1000h with portrait of Masaryk did not reach the territory in time to be used. "Used" copies of these were cancelled as a favor, and can have no philatelic value.

Stamps featuring the Hradchany Castle were being taken from the

regular stock, and therefore the same varieties of printing, paper, gum, etc., can be found on both the regular and the overprinted stamps.

In the year 1921 the Post Office Department published statistics on the stamps overprinted "S O 1920". In this report no regard was taken whether the stamps were perforated or imperforate, nor was any effort made to separate the colors used in the overprinting process. Valuations as found in the catalogs have been es-

established over the years by the relative scarcity of these items as found in the philatelic markets.

List of Hradchany stamps. In quantities issued it is understood that some are perforated and some imperforate.

Hradchany Stamps

Val. & Color—Overprint	No. of Pieces
1h brown—black	515,000
3h violet—black	470,000
5h blue-green—black	1,105,100
10h yellow-green—black	1,100,300
15h brick-red—black	908,100
20h carmine—black	1,170,000
20h blue-green—black	
25h violet—black	920,000
30h olive—red	1,150,000
40h orange-red—black	250,000
50h blue—black	
50h violet—black	400,000
60h orange—blue	230,000
75h black-green—red	220,000
80h olive—red	230,000
100h brown—black	280,000
120h gray-black—carmine	160,000
200h ultramarine—carmine	242,700
300h green—carmine	180,000
400h violet—red	170,000
500h brown—black or blue	160,000
1000h red-violet—blk. or blue	120,000

Stamps With Portrait of Masaryk

500h gray—carmine	5,000
1000h brown—violet	5,000

Special Delivery, Imperforate

2h red-violet—blk. or blue	380,000
5h yel.-green—blk. or blue	300,600

Newspaper, Imperforate

2h green—black	540,000
6h orange-red—black	220,000
10h violet—black	170,000
20h blue—black	160,000
30h brown—black	160,000

Postage Due, Imperforate

5h olive—black or blue	330,000
10h olive—blue	360,000
15h olive—blue	280,000
20h olive—blue	300,000
25h olive—blue	180,000
30h olive—blue	220,000
40h olive—blue	180,000
50h olive—blue	140,000
100h brown—red	150,000
500h green—red	110,000
1000h violet—red	110,000

To this day it is a mystery why such large quantities of stamps were overprinted for so small a territory, with the knowledge that the stamps were only a provisional issue. It is possible that someone in power had philatelists in mind. It is possible that some values legitimately used cannot be found and could be placed into the same category as the two Masaryk stamps. Of course, the entire issue can be had cancelled to order. The very scarce 10h green and 20h red imperforates were found in the offices Karvinna and Frydek.

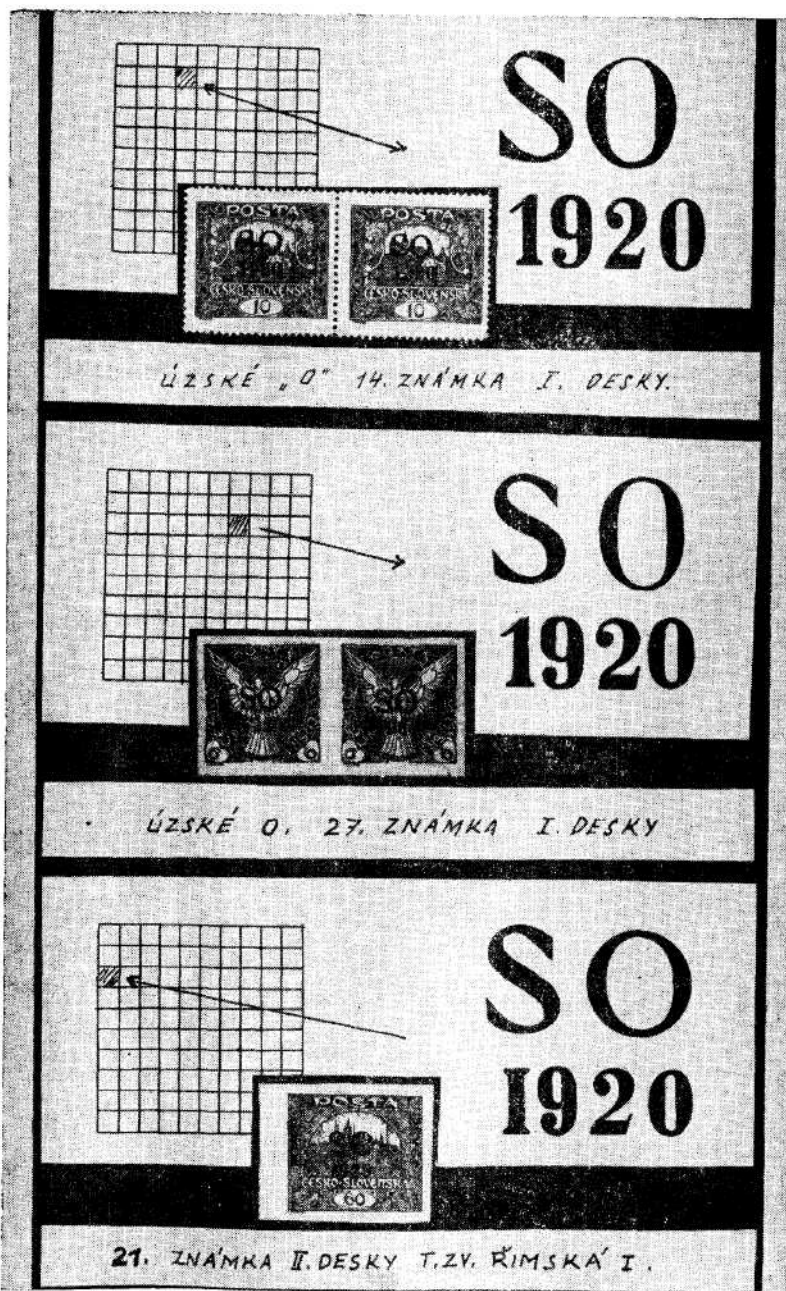
The Overprint

Four kinds of overprints were applied:

- for postage and newspaper stamps
 - for postage and Masaryk design stamps
 - for special delivery stamps
 - for postage due stamps
- (Ill. 17—a, b, c, d)

The overprint was applied by the least safe process, book-print method, from hand-set type. As the plates were prepared from individual fonts, it is no wonder that unmatched letters of figures found their way into this to create varieties. Well known are the narrow and the small "O" or the larger figure "2" in the year date. As any handy underlay was used when these stamps were printed, and as the plates were subjected to very hard usage, the type became loose and had to be corrected frequently. In this way the distance between the overprints became varied and entire rows are out of kilter. Especially noticeable is the tenth vertical row of some of the newspaper stamps. The black dot so frequently found imprinted were caused by the auxiliary material holding the type in place.

Additional varieties in these stamps were caused by worn plates. Letters poured from a soft metal were easily damaged (lacerated or open "O") and loosened type fell out. Before the error was discovered many of the sheets were already delivered because the controls in the printery were very



III. 19, 20, 21. Translation of inscriptions. Top illustration, narrow "O", 14th stamp, Plate I; center illustration, narrow "O", 27th stamp, Plate I; bottom illustration, Roman "I", 21st stamp, Plate II.

lax. For this reason it is impossible to state that these varieties are typical for certain plates. A typical departure would be the narrow "O" or

the Roman figure "I". Such errors as the absence of the year date in the values 6h and 30h newspaper stamps, omitted individual letters in postage and special delivery stamps, damaged letters or year date are to be found only in parts of the issue (Ill. 17).

Colors of the Overprint

The color of the black overprint ranges from a black to gray black, the red has shades of carmine and vermilion, the blue runs a gamut from gray blue to black blue. The violet overprint has no discernible shades. It is important to remember that the pressure employed in the printing, the kind of paper itself, all affect the appearance of the overprint.

Trial Printings and Printers Waste

A large number of these items which were never to have left the printery are on the market and a specialist seeks these to make his collection interesting and informative. These overprints are found in original colors on white, yellowish and chalk papers, a whole mess of shifted overprints on various values. Overprints on Hradchany paper waste are found with the 5h value blue green and the 500 and 1000h Masaryk on a grayish blue and light brown paper as well as the original gummed paper imperforate.

Inverted overprints as well as improper colors of the overprint are found on many values. The special delivery overprint type found on some postage and postage due stamps should be classified as printer's waste and not errors (Ill. 18).

A complete listing of the many trial prints of these stamps would take up too much space. Those who are interested in a more complete check list are advised to find it in Novotny's Specialized Catalogue of Czechoslovakia (Bratislava, 1949).

Overprinting of Postage and

Newspaper Stamps

Three plates were employed to overprint these two types of stamps. The first plate or form shows the following constant and more noticeable varieties: Stamps 14 and 27—narrow O. The difference between the two is

in the distance between the letters. Stamp 20—Roman I in year date. Stamp 39—different figure 2. Stamp 74—smaller letter O. Stamp 82—figures 20 close together. Stamp 91—figure 1 cut down.

The first plate prepared for the smaller square format of the newspaper stamps shows the same characteristics and varieties.

This second plate, prepared for newspaper stamps, shows in part of the issue omitted year date on values 6h and 30h.

In the third plate: stamp 13—letter O cut at top; stamp 26—year date 1920—close together; stamp 81—figures 20 close together.

The form for the newspaper stamps shows the same varieties.

Stamps With Portrait of Masaryk

Because of the small issue of these two stamps only one plate was used and no worth while varieties exist.

Special Delivery Stamps

It is the opinion of all experts that only one plate as employed for the overprinting of the special delivery stamps. The overprint shows four varying lengths of the year date 1920. Omitted year dates or letters are not known.

Postage Due Stamps

The studies made of these stamps show that here, too, only one plate was used for the overprinting and the following outstanding varieties are found: Stamp 14—figure 2 is larger. Stamp 22—distance between 9 and 2 greater. Stamp 24—figure 2 is different. Stamp 41 and 51—S O close together. Stamp 81—year date close together.

In a part of the issue on the first stamp of the 5, 10, 30 and 40h stamps the letter "S" is inverted.

The foregoing is not a complete listing of known varieties but these are the most obvious.

Counterfeits of the Overprint

Due to the very primitive method used in overprinting these stamps, counterfeits soon got busy. Especial care should be taken with the 1000h Hradchany with black overprint and the two Masaryk stamps.

A Message to **the Collectors of Czechoslovakia**

We bought a large lot of used Hradčany as also all other issues used and are ready to sell them reasonably by the hundred. The Hradčany consist of all values from 1h to 1000h.

We also offer

50 different "printers' waste"	\$5.00
200 used Czechoslovakia35
Olympic Congress issue mint, B137-139	6.00
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