

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. 172

EDITORIAL

As we write this editorial the event we are awaiting is only two weeks away. More frequently than we care to admit we wonder how we'll fare with our venture. We have staked the treasury to bring our Society into the philatelic limelight where it belongs. We hope we'll not be disappointed. Having expressed our fear to some of our members we are gratified to know that all of them are very optimistic. Our librarian writes: "I think our participation in FIPEX is not a waste of money. Come to think of it, Czechoslovakia is not represented, so, in a way our Society is doing the honors for "Free Czechs." Every philatelist in the world will know who we are. All the philatelic big shots cannot miss us at FIPEX. We should impress this on our members' minds. I'm sure we'll reap the harvest when it's over."

Another letter from our librarian tells that member Sloboda sent another parcel of material for the library. This included: STAMPS, Special Czech issue 1940; special issue March 27, 1948; special issue Oct. 30, 1948; Special issue April 2, 1949; special issue Oct. 29, 1949; tear sheet of Stamps, Oct. 4, 1947; České Slovo, an 8 page supplement illustrating Masaryk stamps in color (issue March 7, 1937). Member Sloboda has the Society's thanks.

On several occasions we took the liberty of reprinting from the Mercury Stamp Journal (522 Fifth Ave., New York 36, N. Y.) excerpts which were appreciated by many members. We have read with great interest two paragraphs from Mr. Edwin Mueller's "This and That" column in the March, 1956 issue. This is really food for thought:

In a few countries, a phenomenon which we may call expertizing dictatorship has materialized during recent years. It has resulted in a kind of monopoly, by making it necessary to have all philatelic items signed by a certain expert before they become salable in the specific country. This expert, usually a native of the country in question, has acquired this position by the knowledge he has in a limited field, usually the country where he resides. In this respect, his signature and his certificates are recognized not only in his country, but all over the world and rightfully so, because he is the best expert available in the specific field and his opinions generally can be trusted and accepted. Now it would be understandable were collectors to insist that stamps of the country in question be checked by the best expert in the field and were they to decline buying any stamps of this kind which are not passed upon by him. But our expert is not satisfied with giving opinions concerning the items he really knows; he wants to expertize all stamps of all countries of the world, and he will never decline giving an opinion nor refer a collector

to another, better qualified expert. As good as such an expert may be in his home territory, he will make error after error in less familiar fields. Even in the borderline fields of his territory he may think differently from other experts who are encroaching on this marginal territory by the power of their own research. The collectors in the country in question are not aware of this. They are accustomed to trusting the signature of their national expert in respect to the stamps of their own country and therefore trust him as well in regard to those of other countries. This has led to the grotesque situation that stamps which lack the o.k. of that national expert become unsalable in his country, although they are certified as genuine by experts in other countries who are far better qualified to render an opinion in the specific field. Such expert dictatorship is, of course, generally harmful. On the one hand, collectors in the country in question, implicitly trusting their favorite expert, will assemble quite a number of forgeries of foreign stamps in their collections, all of course signed or certified by him. Thus they are not aware that they are actually not collecting stamps but merely the signature of a given expert. On the other hand, perfectly genuine items which are certified or signed by the foremost experts in the field, recognized the world over, are refused by the same collectors, because their expert does not consider these stamps genuine and refuses to sign them. It is amazing that such expertizing dictatorship can exist, but encouraged by the specific expert, it actually flourishes, so that such an expert monopolizes the field and checks as many as 500 stamps a day from all fields of philately. For a long time we have been of the opinion that the general expert, who wants to know all stamps of the world, is a thing of the past and that the expert committees will rightfully dominate philatelic expertizing of the future. Abuses of the kind described in this paragraph seem to be the last efforts of a vanishing clique of self-styled general experts to keep their monopoly in certain countries. It is high time that the collectors in these countries become aware of the fact that their favorite expert is not the only expert whom they can trust and that for correct opinion concerning the items they possess or acquire, especially those of foreign countries, they should not rely on a single expert. They should seek the opinion of those experts who are best qualified in the specific field, be they specialist-experts or expert committees.

The need for a generally recognized philatelic terminology is a crying one, which fact is frequently acknowledged by many philatelic writers but up to now has not resulted in action. When we scrutinize our philatelic weeklies and magazines, we find that, aside from a few screwballs, all reliable philatelic writers almost uniformly use the same philatelic terms in their writing as far as general philatelic matters are concerned, by which we mean those terms which are of importance to the general collector. Only for about 5% of these terms, mostly on the fringes of this territory, there is disagreement among the various authors and two, three or even more different terms are employed for the same thing. The great divergencies in the usage of philatelic terms are apparent in the fields of the specialist as well as in the various philatelic sidelines. There is still some general agreement as to the terms used, but to a rather limited degree. Most writers in these fields seem to believe that their specific territory has its peculiarities which are not comparable to those of any other field and that therefore a special set of philatelic terms is needed. Without any reliable guide, they evolve independent terms, which usually not only contain some new word creations but also frequently conflict with the use of the same term by other authors. The result is confusion and often the well-developed project of a philatelic student boggs down through the use of such confusing terminology. This is already bad in the mother tongue of the author; it is still more damaging when a translator misunder-

stands some of the unusual terms and translates such an article into a series of confusing or factually erroneous statements, which do not at all reflect the meaning of the author. In this way, the individualistic terminology of some authors does great harm, but it chiefly affects the more advanced collector. The loose use of philatelic terms by less experienced writers, which most editors are incapable of preventing, because of their own shortcomings, results in general confusion and gives the philatelic newcomer a feeling of insecurity. A good example for this is the misuse of the terms "reprint" or "re-issue" for new printings of current stamps. Editors and writers believe that they have a good excuse for saying that "the current 5¢ stamp was re-issued in a slightly darker shade" or that the "25¢ airmail stamp will be reprinted in green," because such misleading terminology is often used by postal administrations in their official announcements. But philatelic terminology must stand by itself and can not depend on official postal names or on manufacturers' and trade terms. Strictly philatelically speaking, reprints and re-issues are new printings of stamps for collecting purposes, made at a time when such printing for postal purposes had ceased. Successive printings of stamps for postal purposes are either "new printings," when no major changes are made, or "new issues," when such changes, for example of the color ("new color") took place, but such stamps were not "reprinted" or "re-issued" as many writers and editors erroneously call the process. The failure of the foremost philatelic organizations to produce a standard philatelic terminology is obvious. The "Glossary of Philatelic Terms," compiled by the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain, is the only real effort in this respect, but it is far from satisfactory, covering on the one hand only part of the field and almost none of the sidelines of philately, but including on the other hand many features which are out of place in philatelic terminology. We are more and more forced to the conclusion that the basic work for a general philatelic terminology will have to be made by an individual and not by a group. Only after this basic work has been completed and published, could a committee of the most prolific philatelic writers in the English language be formed and, building on experience, create a kind of "official" terminology, which would have the blessing of the leading philatelic organizations, magazines and writers in the English-speaking world. We will in this way not succeed in abolishing the loose and misleading terminology in those weeklies and magazines whose editors do not care to conform, but we would create a reliable standard and a healthy uniformity for terms in philatelic publications whose editors believe that the present terminological confusion is one of the scourges of philately.

This issue of the Specialist will reach you very late because those responsible for the expediting of the Specialist will be in New York. It is possible the June issue will be even later than the May issue. We hope to present a complete report on our participation at FIPEX and some of the high spots of the Show itself.

Our secretary, Melvin Klozar asks: "Who has a Novotny Catalog for sale?" We are sure many of our members are asking the same question. Can anyone help Mel?

NEW MEMBERS

- 542 Lawrence Linhart, Jr., 87 St. Catherine Ave., La Grange, Ill.
- 543 George B. Koplowitz, 51 Stratford Dr., Brooklyn 18, N. Y.
- 544 Norbert Feiwelsohn, 357 E. 26th St., Brooklyn 26, N. Y.
- 545 Henry J. Ruzicka, 41, Queensborough Terrace, London W. 2, England.

REINSTATED

- 332 Stephen M. Kmecik, R. F. D. #1, East Springfield, Pa.

May 1956

March 20, 1956

Dear Frank,

As you so very well know the club here is host to the APS for its convention next September. I know that you intend to be here for the affair, and I expect that several other of our members will be in attendance. Therefore I have undertaken to schedule a meeting of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society for Thursday, September 6, 1956 at 2:00 P.M., at the Jefferson Hotel.

It is not intended to be a formal meeting but a chance for all of us to get together, meet each other, and discuss our mutual interests. This meeting will be published in the Convention prospectus, as well as the APS magazine. It may provide an additional inducement for people to attend. It is also my intention to arrange a buffet and cocktail party at my home after the show closes on Thursday evening. This however hasn't all been worked out yet as the banquet is the same evening, but I'm sure I'll be able to fit it in.

I would appreciate whatever publicity you will give the Czech meeting, as well as the whole affair. We think we have thought up some good features for the show and want to do everything we can to really put it over.

Thanking you in advance, and looking forward to seeing you soon, I remain,

Your friend,

James W. Adler
6452 Nashville Ave.
St. Louis 10, Mo.

P. S. Your editor is happy to reprint the entire letter of our president. Let's have a nice get together in St. Louis!

EASTERN SILESIA ALBUM

Our tireless George Kobylka has issued another group of album pages for the collectors of Eastern Silesia, the territory administered by an International Commission of the League of Nations. As is well known stamps of both Czechoslovakia and Poland had been overprinted "S O 1920" for this territory claimed by both the Czechs and the Poles. The stamps were used only a very short time and as a result genuinely used covers are scarce and most cancelled stamps are of the "favor cancellation" variety.

The album is prepared in the meticulous manner which distinguishes the Kobylka products. The regularly listed stamps are shown independently; the varieties of perforations and overprint color varieties are shown on separate pages. In this way one may but need not specialize and yet get full benefit using the album.

For a very good article on this interesting and historical issue may we advise you to turn to the June 1952 issue of the Specialist in which our member Z. Kvasnička gave a thorough story entitled "Czechoslovak stamps overprinted S O 1920 for Eastern Silesia." Another good article and excellent checklist of these stamps (including the Polish section) appeared in the December issue of Vol.4 and this was authored by member Vincent Domanski. After rereading these you will hastily purchase the album, go through your shoeboxes and start mounting. For further particulars turn to Kobylka's ad in this issue. We recommend the album very highly.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

- 103 Luther L. L. Dilley, Cdr. U. S. N., c/o Chief U. S. Navy Advisory Group,
R. O. K. Navy, APO 301, San Francisco, Calif.
- 247 Anthony J. Cifka, 1827 Glenarm Pl., Denver, Colo.
- 376 William Sporka, 703 So. Berkley Ave., Elmhurst, Ill.

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HRADČANY NOTES By Frank J. Kosik

It is well known that these stamps were demonetized April 4, 1921, but according to information I have from the Ministry of Posts and Telegraph (1936) the following Hradčany stamps were on sale at face value (no franking power) at the Philatelic Section of the Main Post Office, Praha I.: 50, 75, 100, 200, 500 and 1000 haleru. So fifteen years after demonetization they could be purchased at the P.O. April 6, 1936, at face.

From the Ministry of Posts and Telegraph dated March 4, 1955: "... this concerns the Hradčany, Dove and Allegory issues ... the paper mills in North Bohemia manufactured the paper without the watermark and white in color. Some of the inks used in the production of stamps mentioned above have been purchased ready mixed, while some have been mixed at the printery. The inks material was purchased from INK's factory in Kozolupy near Plzeň. The gum was prepared in the gumming plant of the print shop.

CHICAGO GROUP MEETING

Though the International Exhibition has not yet opened, our meeting, held in the home of member Joseph Janecka, Sunday April 15 seemed to suggest that no one present ever heard of FIPEX. The meeting was devoted primarily to preparations for our next show and auction which will be held in Stefanik Court, 2448 So. Pulaski Rd., October 27-28, 1956.

The following Committee Chairmen have been elected: General chairman, Dr. James J. Matejka, Jr.; Bourse, Roman Reinowski; Auction, John Velek; Frames, Joseph Janecka; Trophies, Paul Marusic, Jr., Historical exhibit, Joseph Janecka; Publicity, Frank J. Kovarik. These chairmen shall enlarge their committees by enlisting the aid of other members.

It was decided to invite all philatelic editors to participate in the Court of Honor. Member Matejka told of his plan to contact ARTIA in Praha and request their assistance in promoting cooperation.

The last week-end of August has been selected as an outing to Grand Rapids, Mich. It is hoped we'll be able to charter two railroad cars on the Pere Marquette; this leaves soon after midnight Saturday morning; upon our arrival we check in the hotel, then after a short rest we'll be able to attend the S. P. A. Exhibition. Our departure home would be about 6 P.M. Sunday arriving in Chicago about 10:30 P.M. This outing is sponsored by the Federation of Stamp Clubs and promises to be an enjoyable affair.

Member Kovarik announces that to date only one member suggested a name for the new Society Exhibition frames. Surely this one member is not the only one with ideas!

Several members suggested to the editor that he state in the Specialist that the Chicago Exhibitions are not a local affair but are projects of the Society. Last year we had a 108 frame exhibition; most of the exhibitors were from the Chicago area. This year we hope to have 144 frames and it is the sincere wish of the Chicago group that all members participate. If the Chicago group could raise over \$200 last year for the Society surely with the combined efforts of all the members we could do much better.

Member Kobyłka explained the difficulties encountered trying to get old volumes of the Specialist bound in time for FIPEX. We are sure that even if we don't sell them during the big Show we should be able to dispose of them eventually to new members.

The next meeting Sunday May 20, 2:30 P.M. in the home of Dr. Matejka, 614 No. Elmwood Ave., Oak Park, Ill.

Our regular June meeting day falls on Fathers' Day so the members decided to postpone it one week. Remember our June meeting will take place June 24, 1956 at the home of member Charles Chesloe, 8300 Wolf Rd., Hinsdale, Ill. Bring your swim togs with you.

New Commemoratives "Second Five Year Plan 1956-60."



To propagate the "Second Five Year Plan of the National Economy Development 1956-60" the Ministry of Communications issued five commemorative postage stamps of the following motives and denominations:

1. Electrification, 5 hal., red violet
2. Mechanization of the coal output, 10 hal., brown
3. Building of panel houses, 35 hal., brick red
4. Mechanization of agriculture, 30 hal., green
5. Ironworks combinat, 60 hal., blue.

All the motives were designed by František Hudeček, painter artist, the engravings are by Bohdan Roule (1), Ladislav Jírka (2, 4), Jan Mráček (3) and Bedřich Housa (5).

All the stamps were recess-printed by the Post Printing Office in Prague in sheets of 50 copies, horizontal form, at dimension of the stamp pictures 20 x 23.5 mm.

Validity for postage from February 20th, 1956.

The design of the First Day Cover is by František Hudeček, the engraving by Jaroslav Goldschmied.

New Commemorative Issue "Czechoslovak Spas"



To propagate the Czechoslovak Spas in foreign countries the Ministry of Communications issued on March 17th, 1956, a set of Four postage stamps

showing the motives of the health-resorts Karlovy Vary, Mariánské Lázně, Piešťany, and Vyšné Ružbachy in Tatra Mountains.

All the motives were designed by Mario Stretti, painter artist. The engravings are by Jan Mráček, Jaroslav Goldschmied and Jindra Schmidt.

The denominations and colors of the stamps are the following:

1. Karlovy Vary, 30 hal., olive green
2. Mariánské Lázně, 45 hal., brown
3. Piešťany, 75 hal., brown red
4. Vyšné Ružbachy in Tatra Mountains, 1.20 Kčs, blue violet.

Format vertical, dimension of the stamp picture 22.5 mm by 40.5 mm. The stamps were recess-printed by the Post Printing Office, Prague, in sheets of 50 subjects.

Validity for postage from 27th March, 1956.

The First Day Cover was designed by Mario Stretti, engraved by Jaroslav Goldschmied.

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CZECHOSLOVAKIA Plating the First Issue

By John Velek

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THE 3 HALERU PLATE I

(continued)

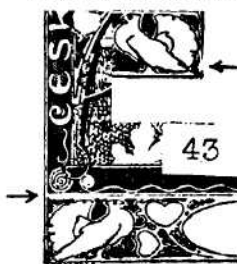


Position 41. The design is broken over the O of POSTA and over the K of SLOVENSKA. There are two short lines between the center and left towers. The right frame line is very weak in some printings. There is a position dot in the left margin 10 mm. from the stamp. This is not present in a later electrotype.



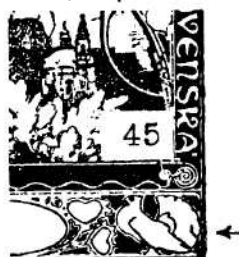
Position 42. There is a dot to the right of the second left tower. There is a large and a small dot high above the spire.

Position 43. The right frame line is broken at the bottom and very thin along the word SLOVENSKA. The thin line between the bottom panel and the base of the vignette is missing at the left end.



Position 44. There is a thick line and a dot in the right dove and a dot on the upper right heart. There is a line on the O and a small spur on the A of POSTA.

Position 45. The right dove has a curved line on the tail. There is a dot on the top frame near the A of POSTA.



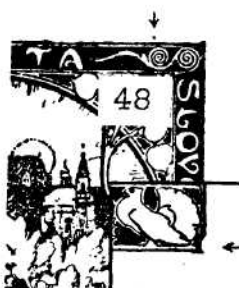
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Position 46. The downstroke of the P of POSTA is thick. There is a dot on the top frame over the S of POSTA.



Position 47. There is a dot beyond the lower left corner. A cluster of tiny dots is located high above the spire.



Position 48. There is a dot in the margin over the first upper right scroll. The right frame line is dented at the bottom.



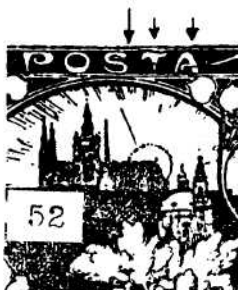
Position 49. The frame line is weak or altogether missing over the VE of SLOVENSKA. There is a dot in the upper left heart. The spire is broken at the base.

Position 50. The top frame is broken over the T of POSTA. There is a dot between the spire and the long ray.

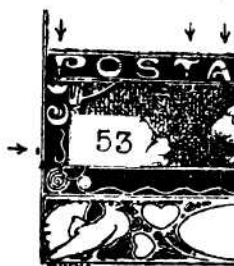


Position 51. The spire has a spur on the right side at the center.

Position 52. The long ray almost touches the sun. There is a line thru the T and A of POSTA. The left branch is broken in the middle.



Position 53. There are lines thru the P, O, T and A of POSTA. The bottom frame has a dot below the 3 and the left frame has one about a third of the way from the bottom.



Position 54. The A of POSTA is broken in two places. There is a dot in the top margin above the T of POSTA.



Position 55. The P of POSTA is short and there is a line thru the O and the A. There is a dot between the long ray and the sun.



Position 56. The T of POSTA is short. There is a dot on the sun and another just above it. The right margin has a dot near the dove.

Position 57. The top frame is broken at the left end. There is a short line between the sun and the spire.



Position 58. The spire is broken near the top. The two dots usually found high above the spire are missing in this position.

Position 59. There are two dots above the sun. A ray touches the second right tower.

Position 60. The top frame is broken in two places near the left end. There is a tiny break in the tip of the fifth left leaf. There is a position dot in the right margin 65.5 mm. from the stamp. This dot was removed in a later electrotpe.



Position 61. There is a white dot in the top panel to the right of the second left scroll. The first left leaf is broken. There are two tiny breaks in the top frame above the OS of POSTA.

Position 62. There is a spot of color on the third right leaf. The bottom frame line has a dot below the 3.

Position 63. The right frame is broken between the L and O of SLOVENSKA. There is a break in the top of the sun.

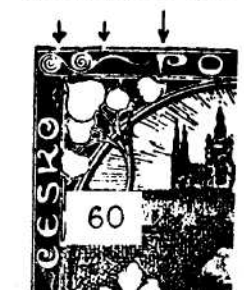
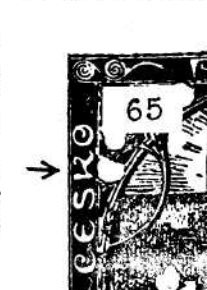
Position 64. The T of POSTA is short. There is a dot on the frame below the foot of the left dove and another to the right of the second left tower.

Position 65. A very difficult position to identify but the left tower and the ends of the rays form a perfect white triangular space with a very short line in the center.

Position 66. There is a line thru the right side of the O of POSTA. There is a dot in the third right leaf near the stem.

Position 67. There is a break in the E of SLOVENSKA and the frame has a break over the K. The left frame has a dot near the top.

Position 68. The right frame is broken over the E and the N of SLOVENSKA. The second left tower is nicked on the left side.





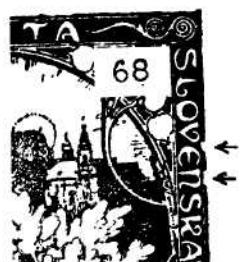
Position 69. There are three prominent white dots in the design. One above the large bush, another below its right branch and a third below the right dove. These also occur in Plate II.

Position 70. The left frame is broken near the C of CESKO. There is a dot in the fourth left leaf.



Position 71. A heavy white line joins the large bush with the right branch. The design is broken over the K of SLOVENSKA. There is a dot in the bottom margin below the right heart.

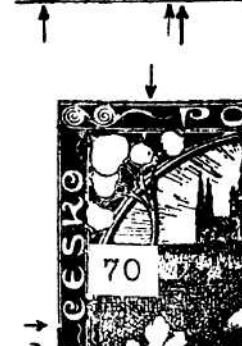
Position 72. The upper left heart is broken at the right. There is a white spot below the second and third right leaves. This is also found in Plate II.



Position 73. This is a very difficult position to reconstruct and I hope anyone trying to plate this sheet will find a pair or a block to fill it in. However, there is a tiny dot on the frame line below the right dove and a ray touches the top of both left towers.

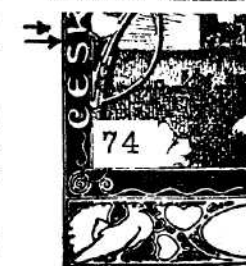
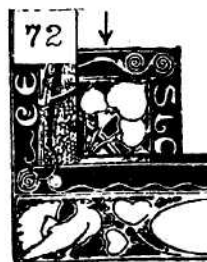


Position 74. There are two breaks in the left branch and a tiny one in the first left leaf. The U of MUCHA is broken at the bottom. There is a dot in the margin below the right dove.



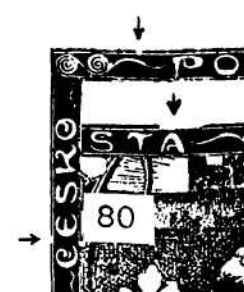
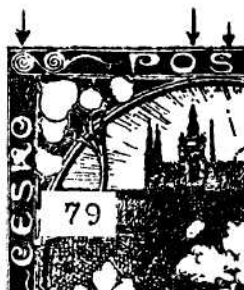
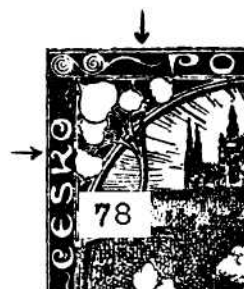
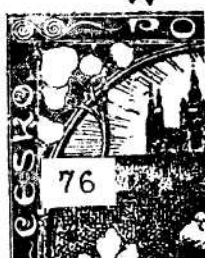
Position 75. The T of POSTA is short. The lower end of the long ray is slightly bent to the right and there is a tiny break in the sun.

Position 76. The P of POSTA is short and there is a line thru the T. There is a curved line on the first left tower.



Position 77. There is a break in the O of POSTA. The right dove has a break in the top of the tail. There is a dot beside the top of the long ray.

Position 78. The fourth left leaf has a break at the right. There are two short rays and two dots to the left of the first left tower.



Position 79. There is a large white dot on the K of CESKO and another above the large bush. This variety was transferred to Plate II. The long ray is broken. The 3 has a nick at the top.

Position 80. There is a large break in the top frame line over the A of POSTA and a small one near the left end. The left frame is broken between the C and E of CESKO. There is a white spot on the first S of SLOVENSKA but this does not appear on some electrotypes.

Position 81. The bottom frame line is broken below the value tablet. There is a dot before and after the word MUCHA. The top frame line is broken near the right end. There is a curved line in the left margin. As is true with the other marginal markings on this plate, it was removed in a later electrotpe.

Position 82. There is a dot and a curved line below the bottom frame line. The right branch has a line across it near the top.

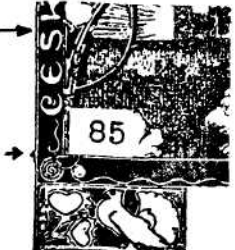
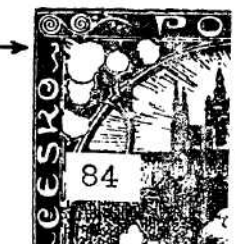
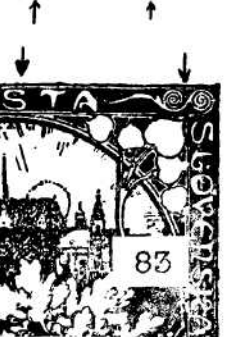
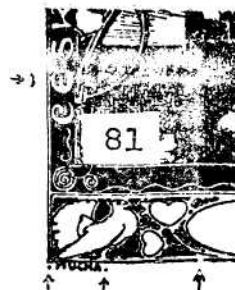
Position 83. There is a break in the fourth right leaf. There is a dot in the bottom margin below the left heart. The long ray is doubled but in some printings it is short and the second ray is only a dot.

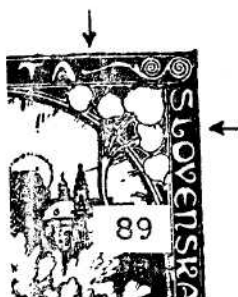
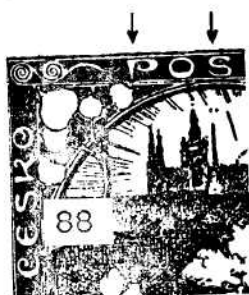
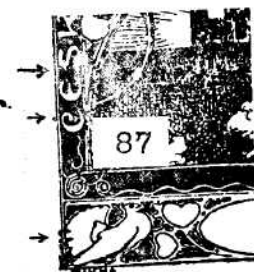
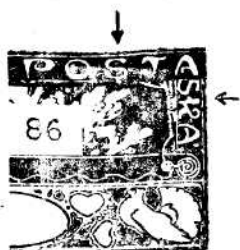
Position 84. There are two breaks in the third left leaf. The left end of the sun line is missing.

Position 85. There is a break in the left branch. The left frame has a dot near the lower scroll. There is a tiny dot on the lower right heart.

Position 86. There is a dot on the bottom frame line below the tablet. The design is broken below the S of POSTA. There is a spur on the downstroke of the K of SLOVENSKA.

Position 87. The left frame line has a dot above the C of CESKO; also it is thick at the lower end. There are two breaks in the left branch.





Position 88. There are two dots high above the spire. Of the rays to the left of the towers, one stands out, and the adjacent rays usually present are missing.

Position 89. The dot usually found over the second right tower is missing. The ray from the right branch almost reaches the second right tower. There is a tiny dot on the line between the third and fourth right leaves. Some printings have a dot above the sun.

Position 90. There is a curved line in the right margin on the early printings. There are three dots high above the spire. The O of SLOVENSKA has a white dot in the center.

Position 91. There are three dots in the top margin to the right. The dot usually found over the second right tower is joined to the tower. There is a break in the left frame line but it seems to have been retouched in a later electrotype. The control number —.30 appears in the margin below the stamp.

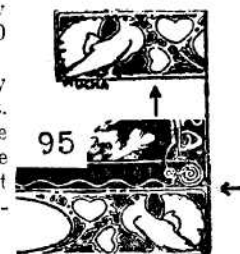
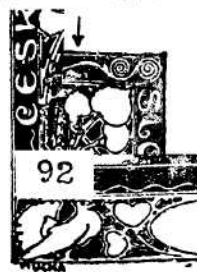
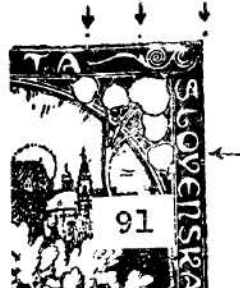
Position 92. There is a dot below the value tablet. The second right leaf and the fifth left leaf are broken. There is a dot on the top of the spire. The control number is —.60.

Position 93. There is an irregular white spot between the bushes. The left dove has a dot on the tail. The value tablet is broken at the right. The control number is —.90.

Position 94. There is a white dot below the small bush. The frame line of the arch is broken below the S of POSTA. The ray is short. The control number 1.20 is in the lower margin.

Position 95. There is a tiny break in the lower left heart. There are three breaks in the panel line above the head of the right dove. There is a tiny dot above the spire. The control number for this position is 1.50.

(to be continued)



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