

# THE CZECHOSLOVAK Specialist

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Editor Frank J. Kovarik, 8748 Rockefeller Ave., Brookfield, Illinois

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## EDITORIAL

Our readers may have noticed that we started the June issue with "Editor's Notes." Many members wrote that they miss the "homey" and "personal" messages of the editor. It may have hurt our pride when we dropped the "editorial"; we admit we didn't feel as an editor, merely a town crier who relayed the burgomaster's notices. This change of attitude may surprise some of our members; an eighteen year old habit becomes a part of one and a change may create harm. We hope that this return pleases most of our friends and readers. We solicit criticism and shall make it a part of our last term's policy to give our readers the very best. We have several promises of specialized articles and we are sure they will meet with the full approval of the membership.

We had many letters concerning the Masaryk stamps used on mail to Czechoslovakia. We reprint what we know about the trouble and warn all our members and their friends never to use United States Rotary 8 cents, Masaryk 4 cents and 8 cents and Refugee Year 4 cents stamps on mail going to Czechoslovakia.

A report on COMPEX 1960 will appear elsewhere in this issue. We wish to add to our list of donors to our "Stamps for Children" Compex Program the following names: Joseph Bush, Francis J. Auermuller, George A. Blizil and Henry Prokupek, Sr. If we inadvertently omitted any name please pardon us.

One of our friends writes as follows:

"And while I'm writing just want to challenge a few statements in the last issue of your Specialist on the Czech bird stamps. I have sheets of these babies as they are a very fine piece of work—but I say they are not rotary printed as stated. They are a similar job to that of the mushrooms and this kind of work requires separate plates for each color and I'd be willing to state a flatbed press. The Wifag can't do it and neither can the Stickney. They've done a very meticulous piece of work on these items and it just isn't a rotary job."

We never examine the new issues as sent to us from Praha nor do we check the information received from the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs. Perhaps one of our Czechoslovakian readers will enlighten us.

From our librarian we received the following:

Thanks to the following donors to the library:

Dr. Reiner-Deutsch and Francis Auermuller donations to the Library postage fund.

Leslie Markovich for the following publications donated to the library:

Billig's 1942 CSR Catalog, in English.

Stach 1938 CSR catalog in Czech.

Stach 1939 CSR catalog in Czech, priced in dollars and cents.

Stach 1941 CSR catalog in English, edited by Mr. Lowey.

Tribuna Handbuch 1938 CSR catalog in German.

Ekstien 1935 CSR catalog in Czech.

All above catalogs are unused, i.e., from stock. The last two are a new addition to the library. The others I have duplicates of but glad to get more because these catalogs are getting pretty worn.

On the occasion of the London International our president Dr. Matejka, our midwest vice president Velek and members Ray and Kessler visited this big show. Before the Exhibition closed Velek left London to visit Czechoslovakia and sent us a card from Praha co-signed by our well-known member Z. Kvasnicka. John wrote he learned much at the Postal Museum in Praha. We are sure he will favor us with a report. Dr. Jim sent us greetings from Praha and wrote that our Society is well-thought of in Czechoslovakia. Member Ray visited Austria and sent us greetings from Vienna. Member Kessler will remain in Europe for some time yet. We shall ask Dr. Matejka for his impressions; as head and acknowledged leader of Czech collectors of the world, his comments will be appreciated.

Dr. Wm. Reiner-Deutsch obtained a bronze medal in London for his Postal Stationery of Czechoslovakia. We have heard it said many times that Czech stamps cannot win awards at International Exhibitions; this is not so and this proves it. We congratulate Dr. Reiner-Deutsch. We have seen part of his collection and can assure our readers it is worth travelling many miles to see. To promote Czech philately we need more Reiner-Deutshs.

#### STAMPS NOT ADMISSABLE

Some members may have received mail they sent to Czechoslovakia with a stamp attached to the envelope with the legend "Nepřipustné—Non Admis", especially mail bearing the Masaryk stamps. Late in February we had hints sent to us that the TGM stamps will not be admitted to Czechoslovakia and so your FDC committee placed your editor's return address on all FDCs going to Czechoslovakia. Of all we sent only two were returned to us. Many collectors asked that their FDCs be sent under separate cover with their return addresses thereon. Your editor sent about 20 such packets and only two were returned; in other words all mail going to that country IS censored. We know of registered covers which were sent there and the return receipt bore a marking which stated that the packet was delivered without stamps. We know of a person who took mint Masaryks to Czechoslovakia to distribute among friends; the stamps were confiscated and the "culprit" got a very strong dressing down.

Following is a reprint from the New York Times and a press release from the Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield:

#### PRAGUE BARS MASARYK STAMPS; RETURN OF U. S. MAIL PROTESTED (New York Times)

The State Department is looking into complaints that Czechoslovakia has refused to accept for delivery letters bearing United States postage stamps commemorating the 110th anniversary of Thomas G. Masaryk's birth.

The stamps honoring the founder and first President of the Czechoslovak Republic were issued as 4 and 3-centers in the "Champion of Liberty" series on March 7. Masaryk's face is shown in profile on a medallion with the dates of his Presidency, 1918-35.

Reports that letters from this country were being returned, presumably

because of the Masaryk stamps, reached the Post Office Department in Washington. Such complaints were said to be concentrated in the Middle West, particularly in Cleveland and Chicago.

Under the Universal Postal Agreement, it was said, postal services are supposed to notify countries of origin whenever postage is not acceptable. Because no notice had been received from Czechoslovakia the issue was referred to the State Department.

Juan Herben, editor of the Czechoslovak desk at Radio Free Europe, disclosed that tape for a broadcast on this question was sent to Munich yesterday. He noted that "quite a few thousand" Czechs were puzzled by the lack of letters from this country recently.

Packages carrying Masaryk stamps were delivered, but with the stamps removed and the same thing was true of registered letters, Mr. Herben added.

Two letters written by a New York woman to friends in Prague were produced as evidence here yesterday by Dr. Zbislav Peters, a former Czechoslovak Olympic hockey player and golf champion. Each bore a stamped "Retour" and a sticker with the words "Non admis Neprepustne"—French and Czechoslovak for inadmissible.

When the stamps were announced last November, Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield said: "The ties between Thomas Masaryk and the United States were especially strong. These stamps commemorating him as a 'Champion of Liberty' will mark not only the strong friendship between the peoples but their common aspirations for freedom."

#### WASHINGTON NOTES

Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield "deplored" the action taken by the Czechoslovakia Government in barring mail bearing U. S. "Champion of Liberty" stamps honoring Thomas G. Masaryk, the father of the first Republic of Czechoslovakia.

"On March 7, 1960, the U. S. Government issued two new postage stamps of the 4c and 8c denominations honoring Thomas G. Masaryk the founder president of the Republic of Czechoslovakia in Oct. 1918," Mr. Summerfield said. "These stamps are part of a series paying tribute to the great contributions to freedom made by great foreign born leaders."

"An impressive ceremony was held here in Washington on that date with large numbers of American citizens of Czechoslovakia birth or ancestry in attendance. Americans used these new Masaryk stamps for mail addressed to their friends and relatives in Czechoslovakia."

"To our amazement we were informed that mail bearing the Masaryk stamp was being delivered in Czechoslovakia with the Masaryk stamps removed and envelopes marked 'received without stamps.' We protested this practice but received no reply from the Czechoslovakia Postal Authorities. Later they began returning such mail marked 'not admitted.'"

"The procedure being followed by Czechoslovakia is used when international mail is received which is objectionable to the country of destination. The Universal Postal Convention, to which the United States and Czechoslovakia are signatories, prescribes that each member country of the Union has the right to determine what articles shall be prohibited in its service, and there is no effective way in which another can take exception to such determination."

"When a nation establishes a prohibition, it normally notifies the other country or countries from which the objectionable matter is being sent. The Czech postal authorities failed to follow this universally accepted obligation."

"Our efforts to correct this situation date back to May 10, when we wrote the Czech postal authorities protesting the removal of the Masaryk stamp from letters."

"Then on June 8, we cabled them again to protest the removal of the stamps. And, in the same cable, we also asked them for an official explanation of the many complaints which we had received protesting their return of letters with the Masaryk stamp marked 'not admitted.'

"It is clear that we have made substantial efforts to get satisfaction from the Czech postal authorities. While they are technically within their legal rights in determining what mail may enter their territory, it is deplorable that they should bar communications from this country to loved ones in Czechoslovakia because of stamps honoring a brilliant scholar, author and patriot who fought with the powerful weapons of ideas, logic and eloquence and who won the admiration and active support of freedom loving peoples everywhere."

#### COMPEX 1960

Your Society, with eleven other philatelic groups in the Chicago area, staged a mammoth stamp exhibition known as Compex 60. This is the third year of its existence and as usual it was a big success. The theme of this year's show was the "People to People Program" as suggested by president Eisenhower and put into effect in various ways. The hobbies section is conducted by Mr. Harry L. Lindquist, well known publisher of "Stamps" magazine, member of the Stamp Advisory Committee and a recognized leader of the stamp collectors in the United States.

At the last meeting of the Chicago Chapter of our Society, Joseph J. Janecka, Jr., was reelected delegate to Compex 61—if there is another; Frank J. Kovarik as alternate and Dr. James J. Matejka, Jr., also alternate. These three gentlemen admitted that as representatives of the Society they are subject to a lot of work, spend much of their free time at this task but, it is fun and the compensation comes when one sees the fruits of his labor.

The following is a list of exhibitors and winners of the Society trophies. Other awards were made but your editor misplaced the list and there is no duplicate; we shall not hazard a guess on either the awards or the winners. We trust we are forgiven.

Douglas Room Exhibit — The Czechoslovak Philatelic Society	
Frames	Exhibitor
1	Officers of the Society.
2-12	Joseph J. Janecka Jr., Riverside, Ill. T. G. Masaryk "Champion of Liberty" issue. First Day Cancels on Covers, etc. A documented display of the First Day Ceremony. Second Award.
13-14	Joseph J. Janecka, Jr., Riverside, Ill. Photographs of the T. G. Masaryk First Day Ceremonies in Washington, D. C., March 7, 1960.
15-18	Dr. Wm. Reiner-Deutsch, Bayside, N. Y. Postal History. Forerunners. Official mail of pre-republic Czech Army Units. Selected pages from a specialized collection of military postal history of Czechoslovakia. First Award.
19-25	Frank J. Kovarik, Brookfield, Ill. Czechoslovakia Forerunners. Thimble cancellations on Austria with Czech, Moravian and Silesian town Postmarks. (Not for Competition)
26-32	Frank J. Kovarik, Brookfield, Ill. Selected pages of Czechoslovakia. (Not for competition)
33-35	James W. Adler, St. Louis, Missouri Czechoslovakia—Trial printings, proofs, printers waste, etc. of all issues to 1925 (including Tete-Beche.) Second Award.



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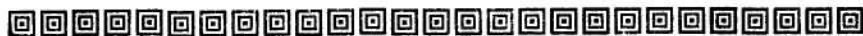
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New York 17, N. Y.



- 36 John Velek, Chicago, Ill.  
Czechoslovakia—A study of position 78 of the 20 Heller stamp of the first issue.
- 37-54 Dr. James J. Matejka Jr., Oak Park, Ill.  
The Postage Stamps of Czechoslovakia portraying Thomas G. Masaryk. (This collection was on exhibition in Washington, D. C. during the Champion of Liberty Series first day ceremony March 7, 1960 for the Thomas G. Masaryk Issue. Championship Award.)
- 55-62 Maj. W. D. Knox (Ret.), San Angelo, Texas  
Czechoslovakia—Hradcany, specialized. Replatings of both plates of the 3, 25 and 40 Heller values, color trials, essays, covers, etc. Grand Award winner.
- 63-67 Frank Rosner, Cicero, Ill.  
Masarykana. First Award.
- 68-71 George V. Havlik, Cicero, Ill.  
Czechoslovakia—2nd Republic—The sheetlet stamps complete, including the Air Mails, from 1951 to the present. Third Award.
- 72 Paul Hale, Brighton, Ill.  
Our very own "People to People" program, featuring stamps on covers from many Czechoslovakian friends. Third Award.
- 73-82 Joseph J. Jiranek, Cicero, Ill.  
Czechoslovakia—Allegorical series of 1920 to 1924. Essays, proofs, stamps and postal stationery.
- 83-90 Joseph J. Jiranek, Cicero, Ill.  
Masaryk "Champion of Liberty." Czech issues honoring President liberator T. G. Masaryk. Essays, proofs, stamps, issues of the Czech armies in France and England during World War II and Postal stationery. (Not for competition.)



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## Parade Of New Issues

### New Commemoratives "V. I. Lenin"



To mark the 90th anniversary of the birth of V. I. Lenin, the Ministry of Posts issued on 22nd April, 1960, a stamp bearing the portrait of V. I. Lenin. Its value is 60 h and the color is black.

The graphic design based on a photograph is by Prof. K. Svolinský, engraving by Ladislav Jirka.

The stamp was printed at the Post Printing Office in Prague by the rotary recess print in one color in sheets of 50. Dimensions of the stamp pictures are 23x41 mm.

Validity of the stamp in internal and international postal use is from 22nd April, 1960, until further notice.

The First Day Cover was designed by Prof. K. Svolinský and engraved by Jar. Goldschmied.

**New Commemoratives "15th Anniversary of Liberation of Czechoslovakia"**



To commemorate the "15th anniversary of the liberation of Czechoslo-

vakia," the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications issued on 5th May, 1960, a series of five commemorative stamps of the following values, designs and colors:

- a) 30 h Soviet soldier holding a child, red-brown and blue
- b) 30 h Soviet soldier with a liberated political prisoner, green and blue
- c) 30 h a child—symbol of prosperity of today's Czechoslovakia, red, pink
- d) 60 h heavy industry—a welder, blue, orange
- e) 60 h agriculture—a tractor driver, brown and green.

The following academic artists participated in designing the stamps: sub a) Mario Stretti, sub b) and c) Anna Podzemná, sub d) and e) Viktor Poláček. The stamps were engraved by Jiří Švengsbir (a, b, c), Bedřich Houda (b) and Jan Mráček (e).

The stamps were printed by the rotary recess print combined with photogravure in the Post Printing Office in Prague.

The dimensions of the first three denominations, of vertical rectangular shape, are 23x41 mm. The dimensions of the remaining two horizontal rectangulars are 41x23 mm.

Two official First Day Covers were issued, designed and engraved by Jiří Švengsbir, one of them bearing the stamps sub a) b) and c), the other sub d) and e).

Validity in internal and international postal use is from 5th May, 1960, until further notice.

#### New Commemoratives to Mark the Occasion of Parliamentary Elections to the National Assembly



To mark the occasion of the Parliamentary Elections to the National Assembly, the Slovak National Council and the National Committees, the Ministry of Posts issued on 24th May, 1960, a set of two commemorative stamps of the following design, value and color:

- a) 30 h—a smelter, red-brown and gray
- b) 60 h—a country woman with child, olive-green and blue-green.

The stamps were designed by the painter Jan Podhájský, engraved by Jan Mráček.

The stamps were printed by the rotary recess print combined with photogravure in the Post Printing Office in Prague in sheets of 50. The stamp picture measures 41-23 mm.

Validity for internal and international postal use is from 24 May, 1960, until further notice.

The First Day Cover was also designed by Jan Podhájský and engraved by Jan Mráček.

#### New Commemoratives to Mark the Occasion of the Congress of the Czechoslovak Red Cross and the Czechoslovak Union of Firemen

The values, designs and colors of the stamps are as follows:

- a) 30 h—member of the Czechoslovak Red Cross holding a peace dove, red and green

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- b) 60 h—three-member fire guard, blue and gray.

The stamp sub a) was designed by the painter Iva Vraná-Šnajdrová, sub b) by the academic artist Jiří Lukavský. Both stamps were engraved by Bohdan Roule.

The stamps were printed by the rotary recess print combined with photo-gravure in the Post Printing Office in Prague in sheets of 50. The dimensions of the stamp picture are 41x23 mm.

Validity for internal and international postal use is from 26th May, 1960, until further notice.

The First Day Cover designed by Jiří Lukavský and engraved by Jaroslav Goldschmied.

#### Commemoratives on the Occasion of the II<sup>nd</sup> National Spartakiade and the XVII<sup>th</sup> Olympic Games in Rome



The Ministry of Posts issued on 15th June, 1960, a series of six commemorative stamps: the first three to commemorate the II<sup>nd</sup> National Spartakiade and the remaining three to mark the occasion of the XVII<sup>th</sup> Summer Olympic Games in Rome.

The stamps are of the following values, designs and colors:

##### I. Spartakiade—

- 30 h—two school-girls performing the exercises with the red playballs, red and green
- 60 h—a man exercising with a stick, black and red
- 1 Kčs—three young women performing the exercises of "Joyous Youth" with hoops, blue and orange.

The stamps were designed by the academic artist Anna Podzemná, engraved by Jiří Švengsbir.

##### II. Olympic Games—

- 1 Kčs—two sprinters starting for a race, black and orange
- 1.80 Kčs—a woman exercising on the bar, black and pink
- 2 Kčs—aquatic sports, black and blue.

The designs of the stamps sub a) and c) are the work of the academic



artist Mario Stretti. They were engraved by Jindra Schmidt. The stamp sub b) was designed by the academic artist Zdeněk Adámek, engraved by Bedřich Housa.

The stamps were printed by the rotary recess print combined with photogravure in the Post Printing Office in Prague. The dimensions of the stamps issued on the occasions of the Spartakiade are 23x41 mm, and there are 50 stamps on a sheet. The dimensions of the Olympic stamps are 49x30, a sheet containing 25 stamps.

The FDC bearing the stamps sub 1) was designed by Anna Podzemná, and engraved by Jiří Švengsbír.

The FDC bearing the Olympic set was designed by Zdeněk Adámek and engraved by Jaroslav Goldschmied.

Validity in internal and international postal use is from 15th June, 1960 until further notice.

#### Commemoratives for the National Philatelic Exhibition at Bratislava 1960 (1st part)



On the occasion of the National Philatelic Exhibition at Bratislava, the Ministry of Posts issued on July 11th, 1960, the first part of a commemorative series of the following values, designs and colors:

- a) 60 h—a philatelist holding in tweezers two postage stamps, the upper of which is a minute reproduction of the 1 Kčs value; black and yellow.
- b) 1 Kčs globe with the map of Czechoslovakia. Both stamps display a reproduction of the 10 Kčs stamp (released in 1936) depicting the castle at Bratislava. Color, black and blue.

Both stamps were designed by the academic artist Josef Baláž and engraved by Bohdan Roule. They were printed by the rotary recess print combined with photogravure in the Post Printing Office in Prague in sheets of 50. The dimensions of the stamp picture are 41x23 mm.

The First Day Cover was also designed by the painter Josef Baláž, and according to a drawing by Bohdan Roule was engraved by Jaroslav Goldschmied.

The stamps are valid in internal and international postal use from July 11th, 1960, until further notice.

#### Emission of Stamps to Propagate the Third Five Year Plan

To propagate the Third Five Year Plan, the Ministry of Posts issued on July 25th, 1960, a series of five stamps having the following denominations, designs and colors:



- a) 10 h, head-gear tower of the "Stalin Mine" at Ostrava-Heřmanice; black and green.
- b) 20 h, power station at Hodonin; red and green-blue.
- c) 30 h, new "Klement Gottwald" iron works at Kunčice; grey-blue and crimson.
- d) 40 h, grubber; olive green and blue.
- e) 60 h, naphtha refinery; green-blue and orange.

The First Day Covers are of the following designs:

1. Mounting of a revolving horizontal drill VPM, Sezimovo Ústí.
2. Housing construction.

The stamps as well as both First Day Covers were designed by the academic artist František Hudeček, engraved by Jaroslav Goldschmied according to a drawing by Ladislav Jirka (10 h), Jan Mráček (20 h, 40 h) and Bedřich Housa (30 h, 60 h). Both First Day Covers were engraved by Jaroslav Goldschmied.

All stamps were printed by the rotary recess print combined with photo-gravure by the Post Printing Office in Prague in sheets of 50. The dimensions of the stamp picture are 30x28 mm.

The stamps are valid in internal and international postal use from July 25th, 1960, until further notice.

The First Day Cover ad 1) bears denominations of 20 h and 60 h, od 2) of 10 h, 30 h, and 40h.

#### CHANGES OF ADDRESS

- 535. Mrs. Helen Beller, 108 Pine Street, Deerfield, Illinois.
- 531. John G. Knauer, M.D., 12 Country Club Place, Camp Hill, Penna.
- 565. George V. Havlik, 1618 South 58th Avenue, Cicero 50, Illinois.
- 162. Leo F. Vrzalik, 4315 Penn Ave., Baltimore 6, Md.

#### CHAPTER MEETINGS

The New York Chapter meets every third Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the Collectors Club, 22 East 35th St., New York City.

The Chicago Chapter meets every second Sunday of the month at 2:30 p.m. in the Lincoln Federal Loan and Savings Association Bldg., 6635 Cermak Rd., Berwyn, Ill.

## FAKES OF THE

**First Overprint Series of Czechoslovakia**

have discouraged many serious collectors but JAN KARASEK points out the varieties that can provide an interesting collection

Translated by Jaroslav J. Verner

(Reprinted with permission from The American Philatelist)

Much ink has been spilled over the first overprint series of Czechoslovakia and the arguments revolving about it are legion. These controversies, and the fact that many fakes of this overprint are known to exist, have tended to discourage even the most serious collectors from collecting and studying the "POSTA CESHOSLOVENSKA 1919" overprint series. The fact remains, however, that even the specialist can learn much and at the same time develop an extremely interesting collection by studying this issue.

When the state of Czechoslovakia was proclaimed on October 28, 1918, the postal system was part of the Austrian and Hungarian postal systems. Since there were no stamps available to replace those of Austria and Hungary, the new government reluctantly allowed the old stamps to be used until new ones could be issued. The old stamps were accepted at all post offices until February 28, 1919, when their use was forbidden. Post offices were then ordered to forward their stock of Austrian and Hungarian stamps to the central postal administration in Prague where they were to be disposed of after an accounting had been taken. Individuals could exchange Austrian and Hungarian stamps in their possession for new stamps at various post offices through the end of February 1919.

It seems that these Austrian and Hungarian stamps were not originally intended for overprinting; for some reason, however, (probably through the influence of philatelists) it was decided to overprint them. The overprinted stamps were put on sale, with a 50 per cent surcharge over face value, at the philatelic windows of the main post office in Prague on December 19, 1919. They were valid for all postal matter until January 31, 1920, an extension of the original December 31, 1919, deadline. The actual overprinting was done by the firm of A. Haase in Prague.

The plates for the overprinting can be divided into seven major classes, each with several constant types and sub-types. The study of these constant plate types need not be restricted to the specialized collector; in fact, a knowledge of these plate characteristics is the general collector's best insurance against spending good money on bad stamps. The first thing the collector must remember about these overprints is that typography was used in their production. Here the usual characteristic of this printing method is present—very sharp lines, creating the impression of a heavy outline of the letters. This characteristic alone will eliminate the majority of fakes; the rest may be disposed of by a study of the plate types.

The breakdown of the classes and types will follow that used in Czech literature on this subject, notably by Ervin Hirsch in "Studie o Filatelistických Sbírkách Postovního muzea" (Studies of the Philatelic Collections in the Postal Museum), Prague, 1956. The classes will be further divided according to the method of the overprint's origin into the known varieties: varieties of composition and varieties of placement. These are listed by class, group, and type, and, for the reader's convenience, the catalogue number of the stamps.

Composition varieties;

Group		Type &	Cat. numbers		Genuine POSTA CESHOSLO-			
Class	sub-type		Minkus	Scott	VENSKA 1919 overprints have the following dimensions:			
A	I, II, Ia, IIa		72-94	B1-B25	Class	Type	Ht.of ovpt. in mm	Length of letters
E	I, II		123-125	B55-B57				Ht.of ovpt. Angle
C	I, II, III		104-105	B34-B36				
			151-158	B83-B90				
Placement varieties:					A	I, Ia	18.5	27.5
						II, IIa	18.8	
					E	I, II	17.8	27.5
					C	I	16.0	27.2
						II	16.5	27.5
						III	16.0	27.2
					D	I	15.7	24.0
						II		3mm
						III		
					F	I-IV	15.7	24.0
					G	I-III	16.0	24.0
						IV		3mm
					E	a/I-III		
						b/I, II	10.5	20.5
						c/I, II		2.6mm

### Overprint Class A

The main distinguishing marks in the Class A overprint are: In Type I the diacritical mark over the S in POSTA touches the letter and in Type II the mark is square and does not touch the S. Also the letters in the overprint have a vertical relationship as seen in Figure 1. This vertical relationship of the letters is very useful in identifying fakes, especially for the more dangerous perfected fakes of the higher values of the Austrian stamps. In this Class A overprint the outside curve of the base of the second 9 in 1919 usually (see exception below) is flattened.



Figure 1



Figure 2

Six plates, five original and one corrected, were used for the Class A overprint, though the first plates are the most interesting. Only the 3h Austrian stamp was overprinted with plate 1, while plate 1a, the corrected plate, was used on the 3h and 15h. Plate 2, which might also be considered a corrected plate, was used to overprint the 3h, 5h, 25h, and 50h denominations.



Figure 4



Figure 3



Figure 5

Some time ago it was pointed out that in certain plate positions the so-called "full nine" appeared in the second 9 of 1919 (see Figure 2). Though this nine is regular in other classes of the overprint, in Class A it is an exception. The full nine is known only on the 3h, 5h, 15h, 25h, and 50h values of the regular Austrian stamps, that is, on those overprinted with the first plates. This nine appears in all the printings of the 15h (plate 1a), 5h, 25h, and 50h (plate 2), but only in plate positions 50, 60, 90 and 100. Let us designate these as Types Ia and IIa depending on which of the basic types is involved. In the composition of plate Ia (15th value), type IIa appears three times and Type Ia only once in the entire sheet. Figure 3 shows a pair of the 25h value joining Types IIa and Ia (positions 50 and 60 in the sheet).

The situation of the 3h value is a bit more complicated since some years ago a partial sheet was found on which a full nine also appeared in plate position 40. Theoretically only plates 1a and 2 should have the full nine, but then only in four positions. Either a full sheet of this overprint or at least the appropriate parts of this sheet will be required to determine how many and where the full nines are to be found in the 3h value.

Many fake overprints of Class A have appeared, mainly because of the rarity of some values, such as the 2K, 3K, 4K, and 10K Austrian stamps. Though most of these fakes are quite primitive (see Figure 4), care must be taken not to miss the more deceptive perfected fakes.

#### Overprint Class E

The main distinguishing mark of the Class E overprint is the open (Type I) and the closed (Type II) K in ČESKOSLOVENSKA. This class always has a full nine in 1919. Fakes are to be found in all values, but almost inevitably are rather careless, i.e. letters are of the wrong form, wrong size, the nine is cut off, and so on. (See Figure 5).

(to be continued)

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