

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Official publication of the



Czechoslovak Philatelic Society

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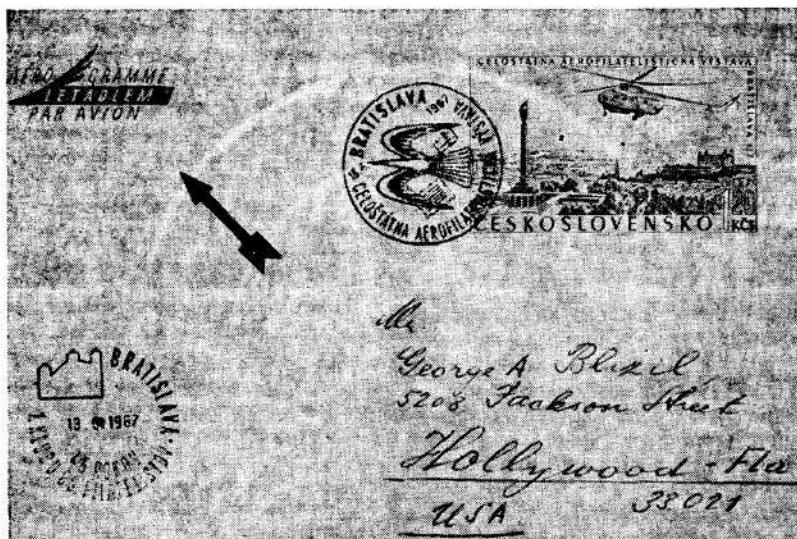
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1967 Czechoslovak Exhibitions

By George A. Blizil



The stamp exhibition scene in Czechoslovakia was jam-packed with activity this year. It all points up to a prelude to the gigantic PRAGA 68 international exhibition that will be held in Praha next June 22-July 7. As a prelude to next year's extravaganza, four 1967 major exhibitions were sponsored by the Union of Czechoslovak Philatelists (the Czech Federation).

Possibly the largest of the four shows was the national exhibition of air-mail stamps AERO BRATISLAVA 67. This week-long show, held in Bratislava's Slovak National Museum, started June 18. One of the guest exhibits was a soviet-owned collection of air covers from Arctic and Antarctic scientific stations. Possibly the world's finest collection of Zeppelin covers and stamps, was another display.

The government produced a commemorative aerogramme for AERO-BRATISLAVA 67, as shown above. The issue was limited to 5,000. An identify-

ing line, "AERO-BRATISLAVA 67" is imprinted in light red (arrow), and the blue 1.20 Kcs. stamp is similar to the September 24, 1960 airmail adhesive (Scott C50) which is the 2.80 Kcs. green and buff stamp issued for the 1960 National Stamp Exhibition, also held in Bratislava. Across the top is legend "Celostatna Aerofilatelisticcka Vystava," and at the right, "Bratislava 1967." The stamp was designed by J. Balaz and engraved by B. Roule. Two commemorative postmarks are applied to the illustrated cover. The first is the official exhibition postmark with aero emblem, and the second is for the 45th anniversary of the Bratislava Stamp Club, hosts of the event. In connection with this airmail exhibition, a special helicopter flight was made for the occasion—Bratislava to Praha and return. All mail carried was backstamped.

The second important show was held in Pardubice June 13-20. It was the Second National Young Philatelists Stamp Exhibition. 150 youths entered this exhibition which was judged by a jury headed by H. Danesch, chairman of the F. I. P. Youth Commission. All F. I. P. rules were observed and top award was a silver medal age group under 15 (for Bulgarian stamps) and another silver for age between 15-18 (for Luxembourg stamps). A special commemorative cover with imprinted stamp was issued for the occasion of this Youth Exhibition. The writer hasn't seen this piece of postal stationery yet. One of the "gimmicks" employed at this Pardubice show was a recreation of placement and delivery of exhibition mail in an ancient mail carriage—and the youngsters loved it!

A third, and important, Czechoslovak exhibition was OSTRAVA 1967, held in that city June 25-July 2. This was a thematic display. This exhibition contained the best of Czechoslovakia's thematic and topical collecting, as well as special branches of philately. Although 329 collectors applied for exhibition space, the committee was only able to accomodate 157 entries with 4,944 album pages—due to the smaller-size hall.

The fourth and final exhibition of summer 1967 was held July 16-August 6 in Liberec. Eighty stamp clubs in the Bohemian region participated in LIBEREC 67. Its competition classes contained Czechoslovak national collections, European and non-European collections, as well as topical, airmail and youth collections. The show was staged in the North-Bohemia Museum and was an independent part of the "Liberec Exhibition Fair 1967," an annual display of the latest fashions, glass and porcelain.

The winning collections from all four of the 1967 national exhibitions will be included in PRAGA 68. One would be facetious to say that philately is on the wane in Czechoslovakia today. In closing, your attention is called to the fact that 10,000 frames (16 album pages each) are planned for PRAGA 68.

NEW YORK BRANCH SEPTEMBER MEETING

On Thursday, September 28th, our new meeting night, we had a most thought-provoking evening. We may state that this was one of the finest meetings we have had in a long time. The speakers were members Hanish, who spoke on the Bohemia and Moravia issues and Beede, who presented items of the 1939-45 period from the Protectorate. It is very interesting to hear fine students in their particular field describe the research they have put in while studying their subject matter. Mr. Hanish has very carefully studied the B-M stamps and found a number of markings on them never before described. Mr. Beede in his research on Field and Dienst Posts of the German postal service has come across numerous postal markings which cannot be found in reference books. The members spent a most pleasant time at the Collectors Club that evening.

EDITORIAL

We have been notified quite recently that all the cuts for the research articles in *Filatelie* are being mailed to us. All of you may have noted that we utilized such a cut in our October issue of the *Specialist*. We feel that such cooperation of the Federation of Czechoslovak Philatelists with us is of the utmost value to Czechoslovak Philately and of course to our Society.

When we mentioned in our last issue that we must urge you all to raise your membership status to \$5.00 or even to \$10.00 we did not realize how very timely our urging would become. We have been notified by our printer, Mr. Miller, that to his great regret he will have to raise the printing cost considerably due to the great increase in the cost of production. We can only repeat what we have said before that Mr. Miller has been very considerate all these years and even with the increased cost in the printing of our monthly, he has given us a "break." Members, the rise in cost may necessitate a decision to increase the dues. We hope that most of you will choose sustaining membership and that there will be no need to increase the dues formally. Enclosed you will find your dues envelope. **Do send your check to the treasurer promptly.**

We must inform our members that in none of our statements was it made clear that the Chicago members **did not submit** any slate in 1965, contrary to the story described in paragraph three of their unsigned circular letter to the membership. We repeat: **No slate was submitted to the secretary in 1965**, and that paragraph three in their letter dealing with this phase of the recent lamentable actions is **completely untrue**. We learned about it by the letter in September 1965 in which we were accused of wrongdoing without any foundation whatsoever. You the membership must be the judge of this horrible affair. We realize that many of you are interested mainly in getting the services of the society including the *Specialist*. You surely have been satisfied with the *Specialist* for the past six years and we can assure you we have worked earnestly to give you a publication of high calibre. The post of the editor is of course being made very hard with all these unfair and society-undermining practices. We hope that justice will prevail, these diversions will subside and we will be able to devote our full energy to our jobs!!!

ATTENTION MEMBERS

Members who change their addresses are requested to inform Mr. Wm. A. Schoenig, 20 Charles Court, East Patchogue, N. Y. 11774, at least thirty days prior to moving. Due to rising costs of printing and postage no free copies of the *Specialist* will be sent to members who lose an issue because of change of address. For replacement, a charge of fifty cents will be made.

WASHINGTON BRANCH SEPTEMBER MEETING

At the September meeting the first order of business was the election of officers for the coming year. Members Hahn and Sandrik were re-elected unanimously for a second term as Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer, respectively.

Also at this meeting member Vydra brought up that he had been approached by representatives of the Washington Branch of the Czechoslovak National Council of the USA, requesting the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society to prepare an exhibit of philatelic items pertaining to the Czechoslovak revolutionary activities abroad, in connection with the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence by President Masaryk, on October 18, 1968. The decision was reached to seek Society endorsement in this matter.

Lidice: 25 Years Past—And Not Forgotten

By Edwin J. Hanish

Every stamp has a story behind it. This is the story behind several stamps relating to an event which occurred on June 10, 1942. On June 9, 1967 Czechoslovakia issued a 30h value to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the destruction of the town of Lidice during the Second World War. She has made a similar tribute every five years, beginning in 1947, to recall the terrible events of that June 10.

Although many stamp collectors are familiar with these Czech stamps, and possibly with the fact of the event commemorated, there are still others who do not, but should, know in some detail exactly what happened and—more importantly—why it happened.

When compared with the slaughter and destruction then in progress throughout the world, Lidice was a relatively small occurrence; 173 men were killed. But Lidice, for the first time in the war, showed the nations battling Hitler's Third Reich, the true nature of their adversary and increased their resolve to bring about its downfall.

Oddly, the fate of Lidice was sealed by the action of a German naval court of honor in Berlin in April 1931. A 27-year-old lieutenant was dismissed from the German Navy because of his involvement in a scandal. In June 1931 he joined the Nazi party and was introduced to Heinrich Himmler, the Reichsfuehrer of the SS. Himmler, immediately impressed by this young man, appointed him head of the embryo SD (the Security Service within the SS). Reinhard Heydrich was on his way to an infamous place in history.

Heydrich, an able and ruthless administrator, rapidly advanced within the SS until his position was second only to Himmler. He was deeply involved in the intrigues resulting in the Third Reich's pre-war conquest of Austria and Czechoslovakia. When the war began in September 1939 he was head of the RSHA (Reich Security Main Office) which was responsible for, among other things, the policing of Germany and the occupied areas, and the mass executions of Jews and other "inferior" people. Heydrich was the prime architect of the "final solution." Men such as Adolf Eichmann jumped at his commands.

In September 1941, in addition to his other offices, Heydrich was appointed Reich Protector of Bohemia and Moravia, the portion of Czechoslovakia annexed by Germany in March 1939. During his predecessor's reign the Czechs had demonstrated increasing resistance to the German authorities. Heydrich's objective was to "pacify" the Protectorate using any means at his disposal. A combination of acts of terrorism and gestures of generosity were applied to the people. Such was Heydrich's success that to the outside world, especially the Czech government-in-exile in London, it actually appeared that the populace was yielding to his methods and cooperating with the conquerors.

Into the picture there now step two Czech soldiers stationed in England—Jan Kubis from Moravia, and Josef Gabcik from Slovakia. A few days before Christmas 1941 these two men parachuted into Czechoslovakia. Their sole purpose was to kill Heydrich—a blow intended at revitalizing the Czechs' seemingly waning will to resist.

Kubis and Gabcik did not get an opportunity to carry out their mission until May 27, 1942. For several weeks before the assassination attempt they had planned their attack by timing Heydrich's movements from his home at Panenske-Breschen, about 12 miles from Prague, to his headquarters in the capital. On the morning of May 27 Heydrich, who always traveled in an open



On 9th June 1967, the Czechoslovak Postal and Telecommunications Administration issued a commemorative stamp of Kcs .30 devoted to the 25th Anniversary of the destruction of Lidice. It was designed by Professor Karel Svolinský and engraved by Ladislav Jirka. The stamp was printed by rotary recess print combined with heliogravure in sheets of 50 copies. Colors, black and red. The dimension of the stamp picture is 23x30 mm. A first day cover designed by the author of the stamp and engraved by Jaroslav Goldschmied shows a motif of a crown of thorns.

—Frank Kosik, New Issues

car scornful of security measures, rode to his death.

Heydrich's car, like all other vehicles, had to slow almost to a stop in order to negotiate a hairpin turn in the road at Holesovice, a suburb of Prague. At this turn Kubis and Gabčík waited. Heydrich's car slowed at the turn, and Gabčík pulled the trigger on his machine gun. It jammed. Kubis then threw a grenade which exploded under the back of the car. Heydrich, apparently unhurt, and his driver leaped from the car and opened fire. Kubis and Gabčík fled.

However, Heydrich had been injured; small pieces of the car's upholstery and metal splinters had been blown into his spleen at the base of the spine. They could not be removed and he died of blood poisoning on June 4. He was given an elaborate funeral in Berlin on June 8.

A stamp depicting Heydrich's death mask was issued by Bohemia and Moravia in May 1943 to commemorate the anniversary of his death. A small quantity of miniature sheets each containing one stamp with a serial number in the lower left corner were also distributed to the officials who had attended the funeral.

After the assassination attempt, Kubis and Gabčík hid in various places in Prague and finally took refuge in the crypt beneath the Orthodox Church of Sts. Cyril and Methodius on Resslova Street in Prague. Five other Czech soldiers were also concealed there. The location of the hiding place was revealed to the Germans by Karel Curda, one of their associates in the resistance movement, who was hanged after the war for his betrayal. The Germans attacked the crypt, sustained heavy losses, but succeeded in killing all seven Czechs.

Josef Gabčík's portrait, in the uniform of a parachutist, appears on the 40h and 4Kčs values of the definitive set issued by Czechoslovakia in 1945.

Heydrich's assassination so outraged the Germans that they proceeded to think only of revenge, to strike a blow so devastating that no one would ever again dare raise a finger in resistance to them. Their vengeance fell on Lidice, a little town about 20 miles northwest of Prague.

On the night of June 9, 1942, SS troops surrounded the town. No one

was allowed to leave, but some men returning from work at the mines in nearby Kladno were permitted to go to their homes in the town. The next morning, June 10, all the residents were rounded up, the women and children were locked in the school, and all the men over age 14, a total of 173, were herded into a field behind the house of a farmer named Horak. There, they were shot and buried in a mass grave. The women and children disappeared into concentration camps. Few survived, eventually to return home. The town was then razed to the ground. Shortly thereafter a similar fate befell the small village of Lezaky in Moravia.

The Germans justified their action on the grounds that the people of Lidice had given assistance to the assassins, a totally untrue allegation, and then proclaimed that "Lidice has been erased forever." How far from the truth this was. Lidice became a battle cry which resounded over and over again until the Third Reich collapsed in ruin.

Lidice was rebuilt after the war a short distance from the site of the original town. The mass grave and the remnants of the houses which had been blown up are still there as a reminder of that terrible day 25 years ago.

This has been a rather long story, but one which could not be told adequately in a few lines. A country's stamps relate its history. Lidice will always be a part of, not only Czechoslovakia's, but also the history of man. This is one of those events which will never be forgotten.

POSTAL STATIONERY COLUMN

By Wolfgang Fritzsche

Corrections and additions to the Czechoslovakia Section of the Higgins and Gage Postal Stationery Catalogue.

Postal Cards

- #91 has heading: Carte Postale.
- #133, set has 11 cards
- #155 should read: "same as #147" (not same as #56)
- #165, text correction: Chocen od 20. zari do 4. rijna.

Addition to catalogue:

1966. (August) same as #164 but reply card 30 plus 30 dark gray on white

Envelopes

- #16, correct reason for issue: for the Allstate meeting of Czech philatelists in Prague on May 30, 1965

Addition to catalogue:

- 1966 Size 216x112 mm, issued for stamp exhibition of the young philatelists in Prague, June 1966. White paper. Stamp shows Queen Ann palace Belvedere and St. Veit's cathedral in background.
- #17 60h blue
Alstate stamp exhibition in Brno Sept. 1966. Size e. on white or yellow paper. Stamp similar to the 2 Kc value Brno stamp of 1965.
- #18 60h blue
Same as No. 18 but now in size 221x211 mm.
- #19 60h blue
Issued for exhibition of specialties in philately, postal stationery, field-post, cancellations and postal history. Praha. Size c. White paper. Stamp shows historical mail coach on Charles bridge.
- #20 60h brown red

Airmail

#6, 2000 were issued NOT ONLY 500.

Addition to catalogue:

1966

#7 Pigeongram, Peace and friendship celebration in Brno, May 8. Size 130x 35 mm, 10,000 issued, stamp like on #18 and 19. 60h light red on yellowish paper.

Military Occupation

Numbers 4 and 5 belong under Bohemia-Moravia.

Parcel Post

- Numbers 16 to 19 and again 34 to 35 are only form cards, the imprint is a revenue stamp, not a postage stamp, therefore does not pay 50h postage

Postal Collection cards

In the heading for No. 8 and 9 it should read Fig. 14, NOT Fig. 54.

Correction and addition:

In place of numbers 20, 20a and 21 we should have:

1953/60. Fig. 56, Czech text, b

#20a, 60h purple on gray, shades without printing date.

#20b, 60h, with date on inside of return card

1954

II-1955

III-1955

I-1956

III-1956

IV-1957

II-1959

III-1959

II-1960

#21, same as #20b, 60 h claret, gray paper, printing date IV-1960

1964/66. Fig. 57, same as before but heading now reading Poste instead of Postovnimu uradu. 60 h red to dark red, on grey in various shades.

Printing dates: III-1964

II-1965

III-1965

IV-1965

II-66

III-66

Additional illustrations would be needed to show envelopes 17, 20, and Postal Collection card fig. 57.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

George Mrzena, 21-49 41st St., Astoria, N. Y. 11105

Mrs. Edward L. Sheppard, 708 First St., White Bear Lake, Minn. 55110

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Alfons Stach, Box 386 Shenandoah Sta., Miami, Fla. 33145

RESIGNED

John J. Kratochvil

NEW MEMBER

859 Emil L. Cuhel, 3836 Broad Lawn Drive, Hollywood, Calif. 90028

Philatelic War Orphans

The Perforations of the 25 Haleru Czechoslovak Stamps of 1919

By Dr. O. Kutvirt

Reprinted from Linn's

Due to the urgent need of replacing the Austrian and Hungarian stamps circulating in the territory of Czechoslovakia, the first issues of Hradčany were imperforate. However, already in the very early part of 1919 perforated Hradčany made their appearance. Close to 21,000,000 of Hradčany 25 haleru blue were officially perforated.

It is customary to classify the perforated Hradčany 25h blues as follows:

1—Official perforations: Stamps perforated by the printer at the request of the government. Most of the official perforations were Line 11½ and Comb 13¼x13½. Other "official" perforations are in existence, since the printer used—sometimes—two different line perforators on the same batches of Hradčany.

2—Semiofficial perforations: A number of large stamp users, such as individual stamp offices, banks and business firms, had sheets of stamps privately perforated to facilitate their legitimate handling. The following instruments were used for this purpose:

a) Privately owned perforating machines; b) various pinking wheels, serrated knives or cookie cutters that produced rouletted perforations (zig-zag, serrated, line, hole, etc.); and, c) sewing machines and similar devices that made pinholes.



Defective perforations—and in quantity—resulted when the urgency to provide quantities of new, perforated Czech stamps, plus poor equipment and inexperienced workmen—forced care and caution to be sacrificed to quantity. This block shows two parallel horizontal rows (center) and wavy horizontal perforations with unevenly spaced holes.



Zigzag roulette

Lined rouletted $9\frac{1}{2} \times 7$

3—Private perforations: Using any of the devices mentioned above, individuals created unusual perforations with the sole objective of defrauding philatelists. Many of them were "manufactured" after the demonetization of the Hradčany issue.

4—Trial perforations: Some of the stamps that were perforated by the printer for trial purposes somehow reached the public.

All of the various perforations most probably will never be known. Needless to say, it is also impossible to distinguish—with any degree of certainty—between the four types described above.

Conceivably all four of them could have been made with perforating machines of the same size; similar pinking wheels, serrated knives or sewing machines might have been used for both the semiofficial and private perforations.

The fact that a stamp with unusual perforation was used for postal purposes is no proof that it was officially or semiofficially perforated. It is known that cancels were forged by unscrupulous operators and that privately perforated stamps were surreptitiously used on regular mail.

While references are made to zigzag, hole and other roulette perforations, the distinction between them is far from being always clear.

Simple experimenting with pinking wheels, cookie knives, sewing machines and other "perforating" devices will show that frequently one device will leave a different mark on each of the four sides of one particular stamp (depending on the direction of paper's fibers, direction of the tear or the force used to separate the stamps) or that two different devices produce almost identical marks.

As a result, some types of roulette perforations can be easily identified,

Hole rouletted $8\frac{1}{2}$ 

Pin Hole



Pin holes through middle of stamp



Combination roulette and imperforate

others may fall into one of the possible categories, while still others cannot be described in any more specific terms than "roulette."

In some instances it is extremely difficult if not impossible to measure the perforation of one individual stamp. The roulette perforations are the case in point. The devices used for this purpose (knives, wheels, sewing machines, etc.) were not made to produce cuts or impressions at exact intervals.

Moreover, when the stamps are separated along the rouletted line, the imperfect tears in paper will distort the perforations and greatly affect the measurements.

Even stamps perforated with regular perforating machines are subject to errors and discrepancies in measurements. Older perforating machines did not always have the needles precisely spaced.

Consequently, depending on the point of the stamp from which one starts measuring, fractional differences (such as $13\frac{1}{2}$ vs. $13\frac{3}{4}$) can be detected. In these cases it is hard to decide which measurement is correct if both of the perforations are known to exist.

Occurrences of this kind are quite frequent among early Hradčany (including the 25h. blue) since they were perforated with a variety of machines of all sizes and combinations of sizes.

In examining and measuring these various stamps, extreme care and caution were exercised to avoid error and to attain the maximum of precision in the results obtained, by using the following plan:



Vertical perforations omitted



By the simple process of photographing and enlarging both the subject stamp and a millimeter scale to six times normal size, differences much more minute could be recognized and measured than normal processes permit. This perforation is $13\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$.

Specimens of distinct kind and/or of different size of perforation were photographed and 6X prints were made. A millimeter ruler, enlarged in exactly the same proportions, was used—as illustrated—for the actual measuring. This method made it possible to detect the slightest differences not noticeable when conventional methods of measuring are applied.

The urgency to issue new perforated Czechoslovak stamps, lack of printing and perforating experience, lax quality control and, finally, perforating of sheets by private individuals resulted in a variety of defective perforations, a few of which are shown here.

Also illustrated is a blank which has a) two parallel horizontal perforations and b) wavy horizontal perforations with unevenly spaced holes.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

For the More Advanced Collector

GUTTER PAIRS

209-11 St. Cyril — \$5.00	(and one set only with Pl. 1a ————— 10.00)	
	(and one set only with Pl. 1 ————— 10.00)	
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Beware of Hradčany Entires!

By Dr. F. Kubat

From Filatelie

Postal stationery and other "entires" are definitely a valuable enhancement of any advanced stamp collection. They are fitting additions to any collection of classics; a "must" in many thematic or topical collection; a "necessity" for any so called "special purpose" collection. Only with them one could adequately evidence the time and the regional and other factors related to any particular stamp series. These factors are especially important in case of a state, or group of states, which at one time either ceased to exist or split or united with another state entity. Then these entires are frequently the only proof of the actual use of certain stamps for franking purposes, which of course is doubly important in case of stamps with relatively short-lived postal use or prematurely recalled from the circulation owing to various political or postal reasons. Only entires can also prove that certain events did really happen, i.e., exhibitions, sport events, conventions and other similar gatherings. They also serve to confirm the use of certain types of stamps, first days of a flight, special flights, explorer expeditions, etc.

Thus a more experienced philatelist would never destroy an entire in order to get a single or more stamps as long as there is an indication of its unusual or extraordinary philatelic character. Such entire must of course be very carefully checked before it could be included into a collection. The rarer or more extraordinary it is, the more thorough this check must be, because especially, the latter kind is very often the target for counterfeiters, resulting usually in too many "manufactured" products.

As far as the Czechoslovak stamps are concerned, the richest field in entires was tied-up with the first Czechoslovak stamp issue—the Hradčany 1918-20 issue. Not because there were some unusual rarities in this postal stationery area but because of extraordinary amount of varieties of these entires, for example, mixed or provisional frankings, bisects, local and emergency franks, etc. Especially the category of provisional stamps has drawn the attention of many "producers" from the very start. Even now their successors continue to flood the unsuspecting and trustful philatelist with their spurious products. To overcome these pitfalls, a collector of entires must have a thorough and extensive knowledge of many branches of philately and postal history. He must be thoroughly familiar with all the Czech postal stationery of all periods, he must know the official rules and regulations related to them, and in this particular field, he must be aware of all types of postal stationery which could have been used and tied to the Hradčany stamps. Further, he must know in detail the postal rates and any fees of that particular era—since there were no less than four different postal rate periods. He should be also familiar with all different postal stickers, special delivery, registered, c.o.d. and other mail services; also special routing stickers for parcel post, etc., which existed and were in use when Hradčany stamps were in circulation. Then he should have a comprehensive knowledge of cancellations, their rarities and also of some extraordinary changes which they had undergone between 1918 to 1920. He too must know in detail the so called "postal service cancels," especially the district control cancels used on Czech parcel post stationery. These consisted of combination numbers of Roman and/or Latin numerals, each designating one postal district and the respective post offices, sort of internal Zip code which enabled the postal personnel to conduct—if necessary—tracing or identification of misrouted or damaged parcel post packages and other articles, and other various functions. These

control numbers designated and identified each postal district in Czech lands, and in Slovakia—which inherited temporarily the Hungarian postal system, district postal directorates at Bratislava, Košice, Budapest and Veszprém.

Few examples will demonstrate the importance of this specialized knowledge: Some time ago I was given a parcel post stationery with the request for proper identification. This entire was cancelled with an Austrian type cancel of village Kúty which apparently came from the Slovak village of this name. However the district control number (Roman numeral IX) affixed close to the regular cancel, showed—conclusively and immediately—that this entire came from the POLISH village of the same name.

Likewise, some years ago I discovered in an accumulation of entires, a parcel post stationery with mixed franking—one 12 heller Austrian stamp with one 3 heller Hradčany stamp—cancelled with a Praha cancel. At once I was intrigued by the control number 672 which was assigned to the post office branch at the Prague borough of Kralovské Vinohrady 2 (Praha post offices were assigned control numbers VII 1 to 27). Then there was the insufficient postage. The minimum official rate for the package was—during 1918—25 hellers. Since there was NO additional stamp to make up the difference, I easily concluded that this was a manufactured “mixed” franking entire where the original 25 heller stamp was replaced with the above mentioned stamps and these then cancelled by request. Only some years later I found out that this was my first piece of the only counterfeit cancel of that period!

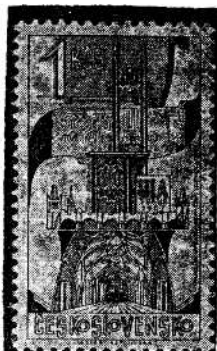
Finally the third example: during the 1962 Praga International Stamp Exhibition a friend brought me to an exhibit which included—among other things—a mixed franking entire with one 10 crown Austrian stamp and one 80 heller Hradčany stamp. He very much wanted to prove me wrong since I always claimed that there never existed such a mixed franking combination. However, thanks to my experience with the above described counterfeit Praha cancel allowed me to tell my astonished friend flatly that he had a neatly “manufactured” fake in front of his eyes! He just could not believe that I was able to be so unequivocal and sure without any thorough examination of the exhibited piece of stationery. I pointed to the cancel. It was Praha cancel all right, with number of a branch post office, but with the control number 2N combination. And it had the postmark February 26, 1919 (26.2.19). And I remembered an article about that counterfeit cancel, published some 30 years ago in the Czech philatelic magazine, Tribuna of Philatelists. This cancel has been stolen from the Praha 1 post office but without the removable and exchangeable postmark part. The theft was registered in the official Postal Bulletin. The thief then removed the branch office number 1 from the cancel with intent to make its identification more difficult. Nevertheless, thanks to the control letter/number combination 2n, the cancel was easily traceable to the post office branch 1. But the thief also permanently easily inserted the post mark 26.2.19 (Feb. 26, 1919) and while manufacturing many diverse entires he used a rather thin postmark ink. He used this fake cancel profusely on all kinds of stamp issues of that period, including the “Pošta Československá 1919” stamps, various bisects, also provisional “Porto” overprinted stamps, etc. Now the material in question had in addition to this faked cancel again too high postage affixed—according to the then existing postal rates. The final “clincher” was the 80 heller Hradčany stamp. In the newly liberated Czechoslovakia the validity of former Austrian stamps on all the mail lasted until February 28, 1919. However the 80 haleru Hradčany stamp was not issued until April 22, 1919!! So here is the word to the wise: Beware of all unusual Hradčany entires!!!

Adapted and translated by lhw

Parade Of New Issues

Edited by Frank Kosik

Ninth Congress of International Union of Architects—June 10, 1967



The stamp of Kčs 1 was designed by the academic painter Josef Liesler and engraved by Jindra Schmidt. Printed by rotary recess print combined with heliogravure in sheets of 50 stamps in black and gold-ochre. The dimensions are 23x41 mm and it shows architectonic motifs of Prague, where the Congress takes place. A first day cover showing a composition of architectonic objects was issued according to the design of the author of the stamp, engraved by Jaroslav Goldschmied.

Praga 68 — June 22, 1967



A commemorative stamp of Kčs 2 showing the reproduction of the auto-portrait of the famous French painter Henri Rousseau, intended for the propagation of the coming World Stamp Exhibition of Postage Stamps PRAGA 68. The stamp bears the inscription "I—portrait—landscape 1890—Henri Rousseau 1844-1910—National Gallery in Prague." The engraving for the reproduction of the painting on the stamp is the work of the academic painter, engraver and graphic artist Jiří Švengsbír. Printed by flat plate in blue, red,

yellow, brown and black, in sheets of four stamps with a gutter-pair bearing the design of the building and the inscription "National Gallery in Prague—Sternberg Palace—World Stamp Exhibition" and the official sign of the Exhibition "Praga 68." A first day cover with the design of an air-balloon and the sign of the exhibition has been designed and engraved by Jiří Švengsbir.

The Day of Czechoslovak Postage Stamp—December 1966



The stamp was designed by the Academic Painter and Graphic Jaroslav Kaiser and engraved by Jindra Schmidt. Stamp dimensions are 49x19 mm colors blue and yellow. Printed by rotary recess print combined with photogravure. First Day Cover designed by the author of the stamp and engraved by Jaroslav Goldschmied.

Sports — April 17, 1967



Kčs 0.60—20th International Bicycle Race Berlin-Warsaw-Prague. Colors: red and black. Engraver: Jan Mráček.

Kčs 0.60—World Championship in Women Basket Ball. Colors: black and blue. Engraver: Jan Mráček.

Kčs 0.60—5th World Championship in Water Sports (Kayak) 1967. Colors: black and blue. Engraver: Jindra Schmidt.

Kčs 1.60—10th World Championship in Water-Slalom 1967. Colors: blue and violet. Engraver: Jindra Schmidt.

All four stamps were designed by the academic painter and graphic artist Jaroslav Fišer. The stamps were printed by the Post Printing Office by rotary recess print combined with photogravure in sheets of 50. Dimensions 23x41 mm. Three First Day Covers were issued, designed by the author of the stamps and engraved by Jaroslav Goldschmied.

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