

THE CZECHOSLOVAK Specialist

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No. 4, Whole No. 349

The 2h and 5h 'Special Delivery' of 1919

By C. J. Pearce, SCP

Due to lack of published information on the Special Deliveries in Czechoslovakia and elsewhere, very few collectors have made a serious effort to specialize in this issue.

However, with a little effort a very interesting collection can be built around this issue. Like the Hradčany stamps, issued at about the same time, this series is rich in minor plate varieties. Paper and printing varieties of all types can be found as well as essays, proofs, color trials, black prints and printers' trials or printers' waste combined with Postage Dues, Newspaper, Hradčany and the First Anniversary issue.

It is a real challenge to find this issue postally used on card, cover or newspaper wrapper. Though issued in the millions, very few such items were saved and consequently are very hard to find today.

One thing to take into consideration with this issue is that they are not Special Delivery stamps in the true sense of the word. The special delivery rate for first class mail at the time of issue was 60 hellers; not 2h, 5h or 10h!

These stamps were issued strictly to speed up delivery of printed matter; circulars, newspapers, etc. and should possibly be classified as "Printed Matter Special Delivery" stamps.

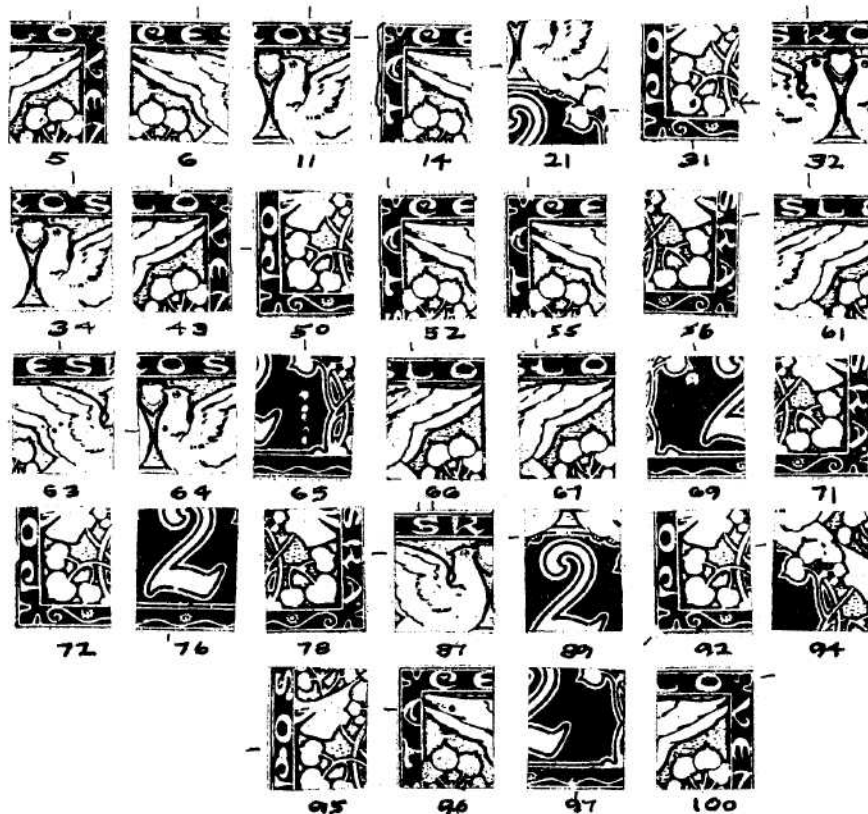
Austria issued such stamps in 1916 and they were listed in Scott for several years under this heading. However, this was changed about ten years ago to "Special Handling Stamps for Printed Matter Only."

All printed matter at that time was classed with and given the same service as parcel post. The printed matter rate was 3 hellers for each 20 grams, if marked as printed matter; i.e. Tiskopis, Drucksachen, Imprime.

If the sender wanted it to be handled as first class mail, he had to add the 2h "Special Delivery" stamp or the 5h value could be used alone (3h plus 2h). Such usage is probably rare, as the printed matter rate was raised to 5h on May 15th 1919. The latter date is five days short of three months after issuance of the 2h and 5h values. These stamps were for domestic usage only and could not be used on letter mail. However, the 2h value was permitted to be used on the 8h Austrian and Hungarian post cards to up-frank to the new 10 heller rate. Later the 5h value could be used for up-franking when the post card rate was raised to 15 hellers. Though forbidden on first class mail, they were tolerated and examples can be found on both domestic and even foreign mail.

Each value was printed from two plates of 100 subjects each, without plate numbers or markings. The plates for this issue as well as the Hradčany issue were not mounted on individual blocks. Blocks were removed when an-

2 Heller — Plate I



other value was to be printed. When a plate was to be used again it was not always nailed down in precisely the same place because the old nail holes would not hold the plate securely. Slight movement of the plate during printing would give a blurred print. This accounts for the different nail markings in the border to the right of position 100. These marks do not designate the plate number but rather the printing.

The first printing has no markings in the border of position 100; later

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printings suggest two dates. This can be verified by comparing plate marking of individual stamps in each plate.

This holds true for the 2 heller and 5 heller values but no marking have been found on the 10 heller value. Due to the much smaller issue of this value, there was probably only one printing.

The following plate varieties have been noted on the basis of observations of full and reconstructed sheets:

- 5 Dot in top of wing of right dove
- 6 Break in feather outline of left dove
- 11 Scratch in upper border between O and S
- 14 Extra line at top of left border
- 21 Break in breast of right dove, break in first and second leaves of right center group
- 31 Dot in second leaf, lower left group
- 32 Dot in K of Ceskoslov
- 34 Break in top frame line between O and S
- 43 Break in top frame line over O
- 50 White dot on P of Posta
- 52 Break in top frame line left corner
- 55 Break in top frame line left of C
- 56 Dot in right border between S and K
- 61 Break in top frame line between S and L
- 63 Dot in neck of right dove
- 65 Five white dots right at figure of value
- 66 White dot below L of Ceskoslov
- 67 White dot on left side of L of Ceskoslov
- 69 White dot left of figure of value
- 71 Break in right frame line over A of Posta
- 72 Break in left frame line over P of Posta
- 76 Break in lower outline of figure of value
- 78 Break in right frame line over K
- 87 Two breaks in S of Ceskoslov
- 89 Break in frame line over figure of value
- 92 Break in outer frame line lower left corner
- 94 Break in second and third leaves of center right group
- 95 White spots on P and S of Posta
- 96 Large dot upper wing of left dove
- 97 Break in vignette in lower border
- 100 Break at top of right frame line
(to be continued)

From the Editor's Stock Book

We are happy to report that not only have we a Nebraska Branch of the SOCIETY in the making (see last month's issue), but a reactivation of our Cleveland Branch as well. Jack Benchik, former Editor of the SPECIALIST writes that he has moved to the Cleveland area and hopes to re-institute monthly meetings and other Branch activities enjoyed both by members and their wives (or girls in general). If you live in the Cleveland area, be sure to write to Jack at his new address given elsewhere in this issue. In addition, Jack writes that he is considering forming a Slovakia study group, and asks for all those interested in participating to contact him.

Mr. Jaroslav Herink (Prokupkova 7, 320 05 Plzeň, Czechoslovakia) is looking

for a U. S. exchange partner. Mr. Herink is an old-timer and corresponds in Czech only.

The American Philatelic Society Translation Committee is in dire need of Czech and Slovak translators. Those interested should contact Mr. Paul G. Partington, Chairman, APS Translation Comm., 7320 South Gretna Ave., Whittier, CA 90606.

The February issue of the SPECIALIST contained a "CALL FOR NOMINATIONS" with respect to the election of five (5) directors of the SOCIETY to serve for a four-year term starting in 1976. To keep our SOCIETY on its present course of growth, and for the sake of our hobby, I appeal to you to give this matter your careful consideration. Any two members of the SOCIETY in good standing may nominate any other member of the SOCIETY, except for Messrs. Blizil, Fritzsche, Lisy, Vondra and Hahn whose terms will not expire until the end of 1977, and Messrs. Chesloe, Meeks, Janecka, Stein and Mrs. Sterba whose terms will expire at the end of this year, but who, according to our Bylaws, can not succeed themselves. Nominations close on April 30th, and should be sent to either Mr. Edward Lisy, 87 Carmita Ave., Rutherford, N. J. 07070 or Mr. Mirko L. Vondra, 143 Staunmore Place, Westfield, N. J. 07090.

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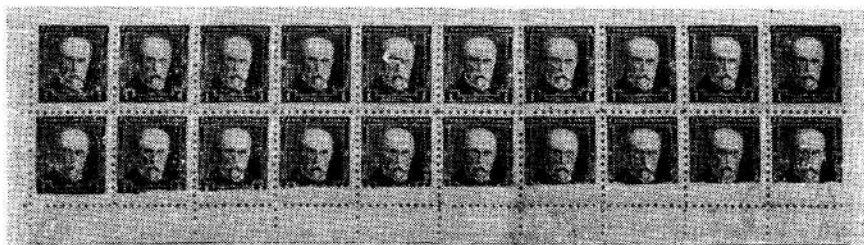


Fig. 1

This month we will discuss some rather interesting varieties.

Figure 1 shows the 1 Kč Masaryk regular issue of 1930 in a block of twenty. Note that the bottom row has a progression of incomplete printing probably due to an overlay of paper.



Fig. 2

Fig. 4

Figure 2 shows a block of the 1.50 Kč B.I.T. issue of 1937. Note that this block is the triple overprint variety.

Figure 3 shows a Strip of 5 of the 2 Kč B.I.T. 1937 issue showing an upward progression of the overprint, from left to right.

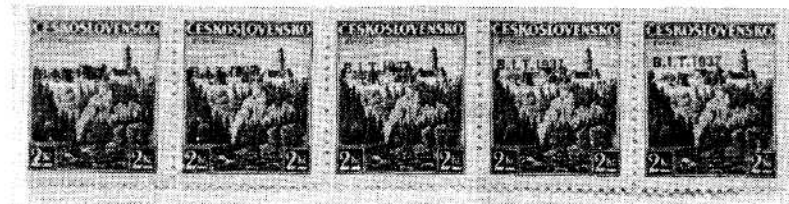


Fig. 3

Figure 4 shows the color trial essays of the 1938 independence issues. These color trials were printed on gummed stamp paper and exist in blue, red, green, and brown colors. Note that the value is 1 Kč which was never issued.

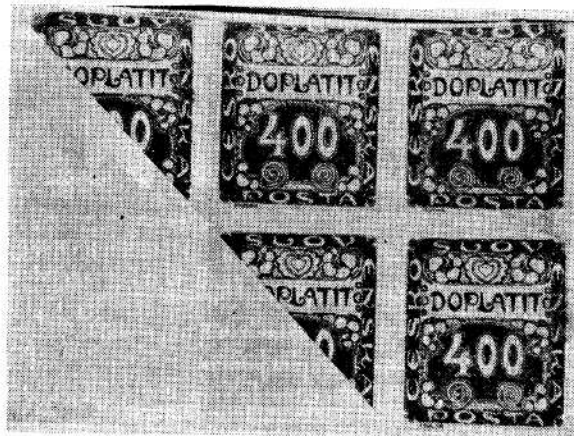


Fig. 5

Figure 5 shows a block of 6 of the Postage due 400h rose printed on the gummed side. This was due to a foldover as noted by the diagonal unprinted portion.

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The Issues, Surcharges, Cancellations and Vignettes of the Sudetenland (1880-1970)

By Roger Richet, SCP — Translated by Anne Vondra

Note: The original French edition of the book contains some 300 illustrations which greatly enhance the enjoyment and undertaking of this unillustrated, serialized translation. Serious students of this topic are urged to purchase the original, paper bound French edition from the SOCIETY. Please see advertisement appearing elsewhere in this issue.

(continued)

After the occupation of Czechoslovakia on March 15, 1939 Hitler, by a simple fiat of his own wish, broke the country into two parts, the better to keep his hold on it:

1. The Protectorate of Bohemia-Moravia, which lasted from March 15, 1939, to May 8, 1945. Its first official stamps were issued on July 15, 1939 (the capital—Prague)
2. The Slovak State, where the first philatelic item dates from January 18, 1939, but the first official issue came out on March 21, 1939 (capital—Bratislava).

During the whole time that France was occupied, the territorial and philatelic situation of Czechoslovakia remained unchanged. This brave country was quite literally martyred by Nazi herdes. (The complete obliteration of the towns of Lidice and Lezaky in reprisal actions is the cruel evidence of this.)

The liberation on May 8, 1945 by Allied American and Russian armies re-established Czechoslovakia's original boundaries of 1937 except for Ruthenia (Carpatho-Ukraine) which was handed over to the Russians a few months later after a popular referendum. I have already dealt with this matter in my work "Issues of Carpatho-Ukraine and Southern Slovakia."

Liberation brought a delirium of joy to the Czech people, causing the proliferation of local liberation issues, as much in Bohemia-Moravia as in the Sudetenland.

There won't be any further German minority problem in the Sudeten area of Czechoslovakia; the few German citizens in residence there dwell there as alien nationals, like any French or Spanish nationals.

In the philatelic study which follows, we are dealing only with the Czech Sudeten territories, that is, those lands located south of the Sudeten mountain chain, and not the German Sudeten territories of the slopes north of the Sudeten Mountains which had always belonged to Germany up until 1918. After 1945, certain German Sudeten towns passed into Polish hands and are now the Jelenia Gora region. We mention this just for the record.

Chapter II

Philatelic History of the Sudetenland

This history may be divided into four main periods which I shall examine in chronological order as befits a historical study.

In each period we will examine the various philatelic topics which interest every specialized collector: the stamps (postage, tax, newspaper), and revenue stamps used for postal purposes, postal cancellations, registered mail labels, the special cachets of railroad station post offices and of airport post offices,

cachets of financial offices, cachets of the traveling railway postoffices both civil and military, postal stationery, franking machine imprints and, whenever appropriate, correspondence cards of prisoners of war.

The surcharges of the occupation of 1938 and the surcharges of the Liberation of 1945 will be found in chapters III and IV.

A. Period Before October 28, 1918

(Up to the birth of the Czechoslovak Republic)

As is the case with most countries, the philatelic history of the Sudetenland derives from the history of the area and thus, to tell the philatelic history of the Sudetenland before 1918 is to describe the philatelic history of the old Austro-Hungarian Empire.

Stamps and Cancellations:

Up to October 28, 1918 the stamps (postage, newspaper, revenue) in use were the same as those of Austria at that time.

Just as in the rest of the Empire there were postage, postage due and newspaper stamps cut in two for use at half-value after July 1918 when the scarcity of stamps was being felt everywhere.

In the Sudeten territories where Germans were often in the majority, cancellations were only in German. In certain towns where Germans were in the minority, as in Bohemia and Moravia, with a Czech majority, the postmarks were bilingual German-Czech—from before 1915.

(Pictures)

These postmarks were of varying sizes; in general, they were large, 35mm. in diameter but one can find them in a 28mm diameter format and even smaller ones of 19mm. These last were quite rare, however.

After 1915, doubtless due to the pressure of the awakening nationalities which began to appear in Austria-Hungary as a result of the First World War, postmarks in the Sudeten territories became generally bi-lingual, in German and in Czech. Use of these bilingual postmarks spread gradually all over, but in spite of this, in many Sudeten towns with a very large German majority, these continued to be in German only until 1919.

(Pictures)

Railroad and banking postmarks:

The Sudeten railroad postmarks follow the historical pattern of those of Austria (Bahnhof). In the beginning, until about 1875, small size postmarks, 25 mm. in diameter were in use; later, large ones of 31 mm. in diameter were introduced and remained in use up until the First World War, along with medium size ones of 28 mm.

(Pictures)

Octagonally shaped postmarks of the banking services, somewhat elongated in multiple horizontal bars, fairly general in Austria, also appeared in the Sudetenland, although not used as much in the Czech-German sections.

One does find them, however, for a while in certain windows where money orders, registered letters and other pieces of mail were handled after post office hours. These octagonal postmarks were especially to be found in use at the registration and financial windows and in the post offices of the railway stations.

Traveling railroad and military offices:

(Pictures)

Postmarks of traveling rail post offices were almost always in German only because of the length of the legend on the cancellation, which consisted

of the names of the two terminals of the railway office. These were generally made up of a circle within a circle, with the number of the train at the bottom.

Railway or highway military offices (K. K. Post Ambulante) were quite rare. A few operated in the Sudetenland but the majority of these offices operated in the military jurisdictions of the South: Bosnia, Herzegovina, Dalmatia, etc. Postmarks of these offices were at first linear and rectangular, later, circular and are all highly prized by specialists in such cancellations.

Postal Stationery:

Austrian postal stationery items were of course used in the Sudetenland as well as in the rest of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and naturally the cancellations are often in German only. Other times, the cancellations were bilingual, German and Czech.

(Pictures)

Postal money orders:

Postal money orders used in the Sudetenland underwent the same types of changes as those of Austria in the pre-World War I era, with or without the use of postage stamps.

(Pictures)

Customs labels:

As the Sudeten area was on the frontier, there were many customs offices there, and stamps and custom labels are varied.

(Pictures)

Commemorative cancellations:

During this pre-war era, there were a certain number of important events in the Sudetenland which provided the occasion for some interesting philatelic cancellations. The principal such events are listed below:

Teschen (Téšín)—September 5-19, 1880—Silesian Exposition.

Aussig (Ústí nad Labem)—July 24, 1889—Day of Philately of Ferdinanshöhe.

Troppau (Opava)—August 1 to 30, 1893—Local exposition.

Schreibwald (Pisarky)—June 28-July 6, 1901—13th Regional Championship of Tir.

Aussig (Ústí nad Labem)—June 14 to September 30, 1903—Exposition.

Reichenberg (Liberec)—May 19 to September 19, 1906—Expo 1906.

Troppau (Opava)—1908—80th Birthday of Franz-Joseph I.

Karlsbad (Karlovy-Vary)—August 20 to 24, 1909—21st Day of Philately.

Troppau (Opava)—August 24 to September 1909—Expo 1909.

Freudenthal (Bruntal)—June 3 to September 20, 1913—1913 Exposition of Silesia.

Komotau (Chomutov)—June 3 to Sept. 20, 1913—Regional celebration of German Bohemia.

Tetschen (Děčín)—June 25, 1913—Festival in honor of the 50th anniversary of the firefighters.

Leipa (Česká Lípa)—July 24, 1913—100th Anniversary of the Colors of the Imperial and Royal Shock Troops.

Karlsbad (Karlovy-Vary)—September 28, 1913—Festival of the 100th anniversary of the Firefighters.

Haidi (Bor u České Lípy)—October 20, November 2 and 9, 1913—Local flight of the Zeppelin "Schiff-Sachsen."

Warnsdorf (Varnsdorf)—July 18 to 20, 1914—Local festival.

Friedland in Böhmen (Frydlant u Čechách)—July 25, 1914—900th anniversary

Böhm. Kamnitz (České Kamenice)—July 25, 1914—32nd Gymnastic Meet of Northern Bohemia.

Steamship cancellations:

Before ending this part of the philatelic history of the Sudetenland before 1918, we should mention as a matter of some interest the cancellations of steamships bearing a name with some connection with the Sudetens. The following is a list of Austrian merchant ships given a Sudeten name before 1918, as given in the Czech journal *Filatelie* (No. 1, 1967):

(3 such cancellations pictured)

"Danubio," 320 tons launched in 1866
 "Bohemia," 4,316 tons, launched in 1896
 "Moravia," 3,690 tons, launched in 1897
 "Palacky," 3,890 tons, launched in 1897
 "Silesia," 5,164 tons, launched in 1899
 "Karlsbad," 3,817 tons, launched in 1909
 "Gablonz," 8,448 tons, launched in 1913
 "Marienbad," 8,448 tons, launched in 1913

It goes without saying that all these ships were long ago out of service, many having been lost during the First World War.

B) Period from October 28, 1918 to October 1, 1938

(Between the World Wars)

The philatelic history of the Sudetenland during these thirty years is essentially the same as the philatelic history of the Czechoslovak Republic from its inception up to the Nazi occupation just before World War II.

Postage stamps:

(Pictures)

From October 28, 1918 until the appearance of the first two stamps of the new Republic (the Castle of Prague, 5 h., green (Yvert No. 2) and the 10 h., red (Yvert 3)) which appeared in the morning and afternoon of December 18, 1918, respectively, Austrian stamps continued to be legal in the Sudeten territories, just as in the rest of Bohemia and Moravia, while Hungarian stamps were legal in the Slovak areas.

Austrian stamps were accepted for postal use for a 4 month period ending on February 28, 1919, but one can find instances of their use after this date.

The same holds true for postage-dues and newspaper stamps, correspondence cards, postal money orders and registrations—Austrian stocks were used until February 28, 1919, but gradually replaced by Czech varieties as they were issued.

Thus, one finds in the Sudetenland, as in all of Czechoslovakia at this time, mixed franking with both Austrian and Czech stamps on mail as well as for payment of taxes on money orders cancelled by ordinary hand stamp or by cachets of concentric circles. These mixed frankings could even be found in exceptional cases after February 28, 1919, when the further use of Austrian and Hungarian stamps in the Czechoslovak Republic was forbidden.

There were also cases of franking oddities, such as the use of Czech or Austrian postage stamps as postage dues and the use of postage dues as regular postage. In the latter case, the postage dues were often stamped "FRANCO" by rubber hand stamp usually in black; this was the case in Bautsch (Budisov) in Eastern Silesia.

(Pictures)

(to be continued)



(Advertisement)



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Czechoslovak Telegrams on Credit Account

By Jiří Nekvasil, SCP

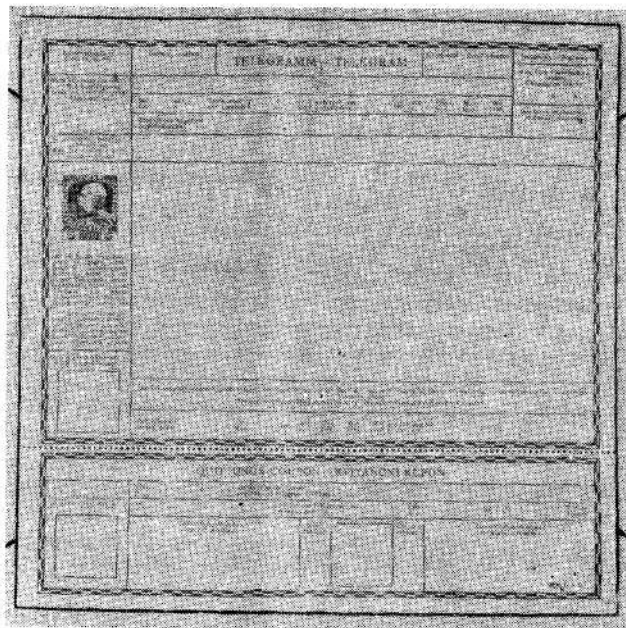


Fig. 1

The majority of collectors of Czech postal stationery devote themselves to the study of cards with printed stamps; but other, far more interesting items of postal stationery have for years been neglected. Such neglected items include the so-called "large postal stationery" items which include parcel-accompanying cards, coupons, postal regulations, postal money orders and especially telegrams charged against credit accounts. Such postal stationery was already in use on Czech territories, introduced by Austrian or Hungarian postal authorities prior to 1918. After the creation of the Czechoslovak Republic use of such items was continued except that the various texts were printed in Czech or Slovak and the imprinted stamps were those of Czechoslovakia. In this brief paper I should like to discuss telegrams with delayed payment i.e. telegrams charged to credit accounts.

The "large" items of postal stationery during the First Republic were issued bearing sequentially the stamps of the first (Hradčany) issue, the Dove issue, the Chain Breaker issue and the Intermediate State Seal. After 1945 these issues, in the original form, were discontinued.

Let us note the actual telegram forms used for charging to credit accounts. Such forms were issued in Austria as early as 1910, with a second issue appearing in 1916. All these issues bear an imprinted green stamp with the portrait of the Emperor Francis Joseph the First, derived from the Austrian commemorative issue. The first issue of the forms appears in two versions, namely one having the text only in German and the second version having the text in German as well as Czech (see Fig. 1). The second issue (1916) is entirely in German. One can distinguish and identify these by noting the date of printing which is located at the bottom edge. The dimen-

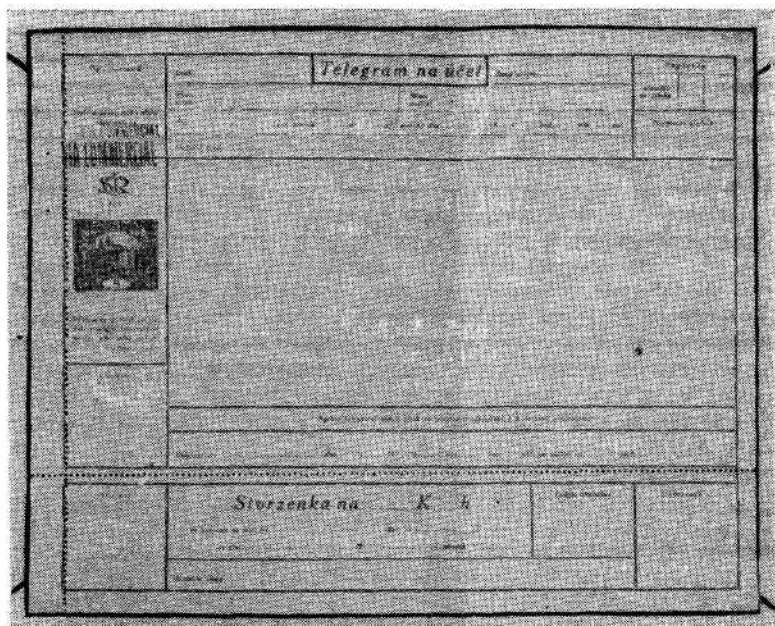


Fig. 2

sions of the form are 235x230 mm, with the five heller stamp printed toward the left of the center—upper portion. The entire form consists of the actual telegram form, which along its entire length is separated by perforation from the invoicing coupon. After the sending of the telegram, the invoicing coupon was torn off and constituted a receipt for the departed telegram. Used coupons of this type are not in the hands of collectors since they remained and were held at the post offices. The printed stamps did not actually prove the payment of postage, since payment for such telegrams occurred through the debiting of prepaid accounts held by particular telegraph or postal offices. It is for this reason that these forms are called "Telegramy Na Účet" (telegrams on account).

In 1921 there was issued such a form bearing the title "TELEGRAM NA ÚČET" (telegram on account) having the dimensions 227x182 mm and arranged similarly to the Austrian issues, but bearing an imprinted blue-green stamp, i.e. the 5h Hradčany. The purchase price was 10 h. and this price is given above the imprinted stamp, below the monogram ČSR (Fig. 2).

In the first volume of *Morografie** illustrates only one such item with Czech text. The item was printed on brownish or white paper. The *Novotný*** handbook lists three such "telegrams on account" having texts in Czech only, in Slovak only, and in Czech / German. I have never seen the last two, either used or unused. An advantage of these forms was to enable large commercial companies and banks to send expensive international cables without on-the-spot cash payment. The international telegraphic services in Czechoslovakia were primarily performed by such companies as Commercial, Western Union, Italcable, Radio France, and others whose rubber stamps may be seen on the various used pieces. After the first of May 1920 the price of the stamp on the form increased from 5 h to 40 h. with up-franking of the forms being generally accomplished with the use of ordinary postage stamps.

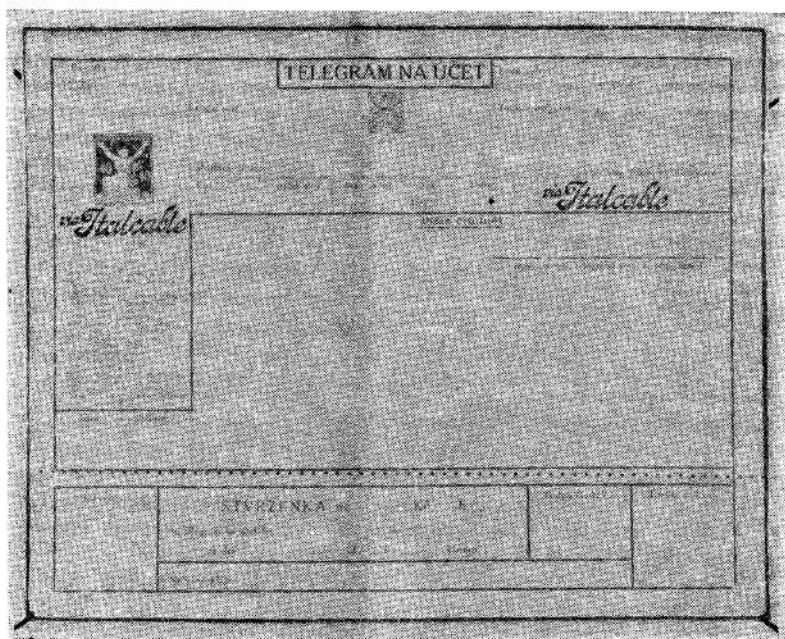


Fig. 3

Though the issuance of the new forms with the increased price was announced in the circular of the Ministry of Post and Telegrams, number 23 of April 29, of 1921, the new forms bearing the 40 h brown stamp of the Chain Breaker Set was issued only in 1924. They bear the marking "A 1924" in the lower left corner (Fig. 3). The sales price was 50 h, and the entire issue numbered 20,000 pieces. The size of the imprinted stamp is 18.2x22 mm and was made using the die containing the retouch of the dot below the leaves, which Monografie designates as V/2 RC. The form was printed on yellowish paper, smooth finished and having a thickness of 0.1mm. No other forms were announced so that it is unlikely that the reported Slovak or German / Czech forms exist. As in the previous issue bearing the Hradčany stamp, this form also contains an invoicing receipt which is separated from the telegram form 44mm from the bottom by perforations 5½. The validity of this form ended on August 15, 1928.

In 1927 there was issued a postal stationery set bearing the imprinted stamp of the Intermediate Seal, among which there was also a form for telegrams of the above discussed type. The item measures 232x181 mm (Fig. 4) and contains two portions, which again are separated by perforations. The stamp (40h brown) has the dimensions 20x24.5 mm and the form sold for 50 h. The forms were taken out of circulation at the beginning of the Nazi occupation.

In 1939 there was issued the last of this series of postal stationery items, bearing the imprinted 40 heller stamp with the design of the Linden Branch, with German / Czech text which we know as having two types. These types may be distinguished by the distance between the stamp and the text below the stamp.

During World War II such forms were not issued in Slovakia. The normal telegram forms which were used by the general public do not bear an

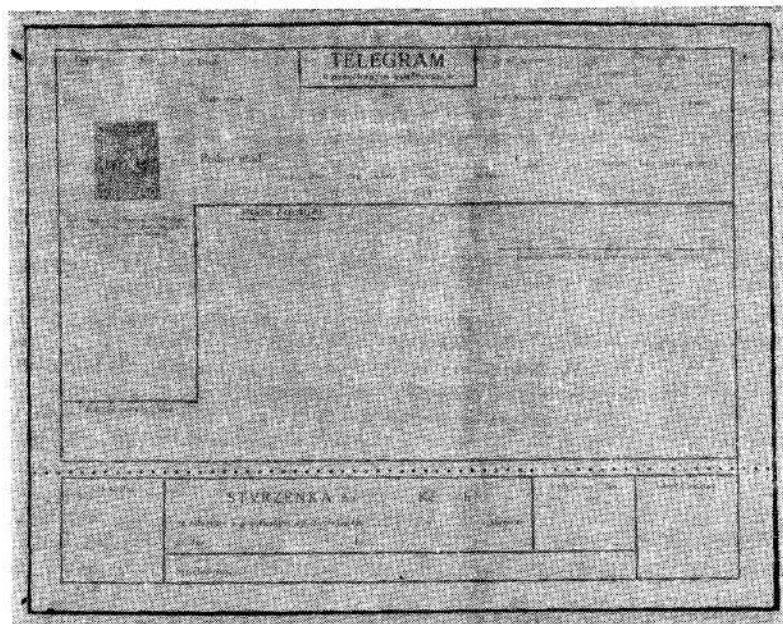


Fig. 4

imprinted stamp, and hence are not considered to be postal stationery. However, they do belong to the class known as postal forms.

Tr. by H. H.

*Monografie československých známek, Pofis, Prague 1968, p. 257.

**Novotný, L., Handbook for Collector of Czechoslovakia, Publishing House of Communications, Prague, 1970, p. 605.

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WANTED: Theresienstadt, newspaper stamps, full sheets, blocks, Scott 311-14, and Pošta Československa overprint. Prices negotiable. Jeffrey T. Browne, 1900 South Eads St., Apt. 1127, Arlington, Virginia 22202.

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