

# THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Official Monthly Journal of the  Society for Czechoslovak Philately, Inc.  
A.P.S. Unit 18 S.P.A. Branch 284  
Vol. XXXVIII January 1976 No. 1, Whole No. 356



## CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Official Monthly Journal of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately

*Silver Bronze Award Praga 1968*



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**"NEW LOOK FOR THE SPECIALIST" CONTEST**

Turn to page 3 for details

## ♦ ♦ EDITORIAL PAGE ♦ ♦

### The Years Ahead

In your hands is a new issue of The Czechoslovak Specialist. With the new year, many changes are being introduced to make the Specialist even better, if that is possible, after so many years of excellent service to our members. At the outset of the Bicentennial year, I, as the new editor, will strive, with the help of the editorial board and the Board of Directors of our Society, to provide you each month with a journal worthy of its name. Many members of our Society know me personally, and more members know me from my articles published in the Specialist. I would like personally to know you all, but as the truly worldwide dissemination of our members poses difficulties for personal contact, I would at least like to know you by mail. Let the Specialist and your letters be our meeting place and the Society's forum every month.

Our editorial staff includes, for the start, two "old hands" with the know-how and experience, Charles R. Collins and Wm. V. Schoenig, former editor of the Specialist himself. The "new blood" is James F. McKeown and Miroslav V. Schubert, both having zest for hard work and eagerness to contribute to the cause of our Society. Welcome aboard! I am looking ahead to add some of you to our staff in the future. We need hard workers in every corner of the world, wherever our Society is established. Do not stand aside, but join us in contributing to the rewarding work of promoting our common interest—stamp collecting. When the Society grows and the knowledge of our member deepens, you benefit as well. Grow with us.

Any hobby publication, to be worthwhile, has to fulfill three main objectives: to inform, to educate and to entertain. Upon closer examination the criterion for all three prerequisites is, in effect, the same. The more information you receive, the more educated in the field of the hobby you will be, and by definition, you are entertained just by reading about your hobby. If it were otherwise, you would not subscribe to and read a specialized journal at all. Therefore, my prime concern will be to print as much general and specialized information about all the periods of our hobby. I will also give priority to the goal of enlarging our journal to twenty pages monthly on a regular basis and offsetting the increased cost by selling more advertising space.

In closing, I would like to appeal to you all to communicate with us as much as possible. Share your knowledge, send information about your "corner of the world," ask questions, comment or criticize, or just be in touch.

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and Miroslav V. Schubert

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Your ideas, comments or criticism are not only welcome, but vital to our work. The Specialist is yours and is written for you.

With the hope that our program will meet with your approval and support, I would like to send each of you from all of us our best wishes for a coming year filled with good health, success, and pleasure in your hobby.

For the Specialist's staff, Richard Gray, editor.

## CONTEST

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SCP members have voice in the choice of a new masthead.

At the November meeting of the Board of Directors at Nojex, a decision was made to recommend a new masthead for our Society's monthly journal, The Czechoslovak Specialist. The new masthead will, at the same time, reflect the new official name, Czechoslovak Specialist, by dropping "The" from the title.

The new design appears on the front page of this issue. It is the same size and equally spaced as the old one in order to make it easier for our members to compare them for making their choice. The Specialist is your journal, and we feel that your voice in such an important matter should be decisive. You can vote simply by cutting out the design you prefer for our new masthead beginning in the September 1976 issue. You can also mix a title part of the design with the picture part or alter the old design, if you wish. For the members who like our journal so much that they do not want to mutilate this issue, we have made provision for replacing it, when so requested in your letter. It is important that you vote and help us to choose the design preferred by the majority of our members.

The Specialist is now in its 37th year. It goes every month to members throughout the whole world. It is established as a high quality philatelic journal and has gained top honors in international competition many times in the past, the latest being a Silver Bronze medal at PRAGA 1968. We believe that a journal of this caliber has to grow not only in quality, but in good looks as well. There will be more international shows and we intend to compete in them in the future. We are confident that we will walk away with top honors again. The constant improvement is mandatory, and you can help us to achieve our goal by involving yourself in our projects.

Send your letters with your cut-out to the editor, Richard Gray, 3466 Mildred Dr., Falls Church, Va. 22042 NOT LATER THAN FEB. 15, 1976.

**YOUR BALLOT HAS TO BE SIGNED TO QUALIFY!!!**

Every valid ballot with an enclosed self-addressed envelope with a stiff inlay and 26c postage will receive a nice philatelic souvenir by return mail. Only one to a SCP member.

—R. G.

The results will be published in the April issue of the Specialist.

## OLECH W. WYSLITSKY, SCP MEMBER, SUBMITS NEW MASTHEAD DESIGN

Both of the new designs were conceived and also beautifully executed by our member from the N.Y.-N.J. branch, Mr. Olech W. Wyslitsky. Some of our members know his name from reading in our journal about his medal winning collection at the Compex show in 1974. Olech designed on very short notice a strikingly extremely piece of commercial art. His great effort on behalf of all our members is highly appreciated, and if chosen, his design will enhance the quality of our journal for years to come. Let it be his reward as an artist, with the sincere thanks from all of us for a job well done. Olech, we love your art work and you too!

R. G.

## ◆      Clip For Reference      ◆

The Board of Directors voted a 15% increase of the advertising rates in the Specialist effective Jan. 1, 1976. With the rising cost of publishing our Journal, the increase was postponed as long as possible. The new rates are streamlined, and the average increase is slightly less than the 15% voted by the Board. With the increased circulation in the past few years, the rates are still a big bargain, and we hope that many new patrons will use this service in order to reach our growing membership.

—R. G.

### ADVERTISING RATES OF THE SPECIALIST

Amount of space	One issue	Three issues	Consecutive in	
			Five issues	Ten issues
Full page	\$16.00	\$45.00	\$70.00	\$130.00
Half page	11.00	30.00	42.50	90.00
Quarter page	7.50	21.00	32.50	60.00
Eighth page	5.00	14.00	22.50	42.50



## FOR SALE THROUGH THE SPECIALIST

To purchase any of the books listed below, please send check issued to the CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST to the editor (Richard Gray, 3466 Mildred Dr., Falls Church, Va. 22042). Be sure to add 70c for postage and insurance for the first book and 40c for each additional book ordered.

1. Monografie vol. 2—1919 to 1923, w/black print (ČERNOTISK) Czech 18.00
2. Monografie vol. 13, part I—Cancellations to 1918 A-O, w/black print (ČERNOTISK) Czech, German notes ----- 14.50
3. Novotný spec. Handbook, to 1968, w/black print (ČERNOTISK) Cz. 18.75
4. Boh.-Moravia Handbook (SCP publication, hard bound) English --- 3.75
5. English-Czech/Czech-English Philatelic Vocabulary ----- 3.25
6. Same, hard bound ----- 4.25
7. R. Richet: The Issues of Sudetenland, profusely illust., French ---- 5.50
8. R. Richet: The Issues and Cancellations of Carpatho-Ukraine and Southern Slovakia, illustrated, French ----- 4.00
9. R. Richet: The Issues of the Czechoslovak Legion in Siberia, illustrated, French ----- 2.00
10. The Birth of Czechoslovakia, collection of historical Allied documents, 1915-1918, Siberian Legion docum., rare photos, English ----- 5.00
11. Translation of "Padelky" (Forgeries), as published in the Specialist, 18 issues, unbound, English ----- 4.50
12. Translation of R. Richet: Carp.-Ukraine (book #8 above), as published in the Specialist, 10 issues, unbound, English ----- 4.00
13. Official List of Town Equivalents (48 pages unbound) ----- 1.00
14. Higgins & Gage '74 ed. of Czechosl. Stat. Cat./10 year Spec. Index 3.00
15. POFIS 1975 Specialized Cat. of Czechoslovakia, Czech ----- 4.50

Order early, as some items are in very short supply.

## Did you know

Ing. Dr. Rudolf Gilbert, dean of the Czechoslovak stamp experts, is convalescing after an operation. We wish him a speedy recovery. "Pan profesor" (Mr. professor), as he is affectionately known to thousands and thousands of collectors, not only in Czechoslovakia, but literally in the whole world, will celebrate his 80th birthday this year. During most of his adult life he has examined and expertized Czechoslovak stamps, even after his retirement from the professorship at the Industrial Graphic Arts School in Prague. His signature attesting to the genuineness of the stamp has worldwide recognition. Before his illness, he was expertizing stamps twice weekly in and for Pofis, which is the governmental buying and selling center in Prague. The official trading center for international stamp dealing is Artia in Prague, which gets the stamps from Pofis. According to our sources, this poses a problem, because the foreign customers, mostly from Austria and the German Federal Republic demand a certificate signed only by Gilbert or Karásek, who lives in Brno, far from Prague. It is also very interesting that many Austrian and German dealers requested "re-examination" by Gilbert of stamps signed by Jan Mrňák, the well known and respected expert of Czechoslovak stamps, who died in 1968. Prof. Gilbert in not one instance questioned Mrňák's certificate and signed the submitted stamps. This was not the case with the stamps signed by Lešetický, whose signature exists on many known forgeries and therefore his signature does not have the trust of collectors in Czechoslovakia. Let us hope that Prof. Gilbert who has decided not to expertize stamps anymore will change his mind and examine our stamps for many more years. The grapevine has it that the new expert appointed to the Pofis office will be Pavlíček who is unknown outside Czechoslovak philatelic circles.

● Monografie českosl. známek vol. 14, Czech cancellations to 1918, P-Z, by Ing. Emil Votoček, is completed, and the manuscript was submitted to the editors. It is expected to be in our hands within a year. Also the long awaited Monografie vol. 3, which will encompass the stamps of Czechoslovakia issued in the pre-Munich Republic (to March 1939), is already in the hands of the editors and soon will be in the hands of the publisher, according to the editor in Filatelie. The period covered in this work is from the year 1923, the Pres. Masaryk semi-postal issue, to the Karpatho-Ukraine Congress commemorative stamp, issued March 15, 1939.

● The word from Prague is, that after the initial jump in price to about 80Kčs per set for the Ice Hockey Champions overprints, Pofis released some of its stock in the market for the Pofis catalog price of 50Kčs per set. It appears that the market was not saturated and the demand is still strong for this set. Strong enough to prompt some enterprising individuals in West Germany to manufacture an unknown number of the overprint forgeries and distribute them in Prague. They might appear here in USA too, so do not lament that you were not warned. So far, no trace of them here.

● Citizens in Czechoslovakia can purchase stamps from the Main Post Office in Prague with 10% discount, if they can prove that they have legitimate business contacts abroad with heavy mail requirements and the purchase of stamps is for more than 300 Kčs. Not long ago, the miniature sheets issued in 1968 (Scott No. 1554), were purportedly available under these conditions. I received several of them on my mail.

● Dr. James J. Matejka, M.D., gold winning member of our Society from Chicago, Ill., was re-named to the fourteen-member Citizens' Stamp Advisory

Committee. This group of distinguished members recommends the subject matter of US postage stamps to the Postmaster General of the U. S. Our sincere congratulations to the honor bestowed on our member, Dr. Matejka.

—R. G.

## From the President's Stock Book

Henry Hahn, 2936 Rosemoor Lane, Fairfax, VA 22030

I would like to open my newest stock book by wishing our members and friends throughout the world a Happy New Year. For those of us living in the United States, this will no doubt be a year to be remembered—both patriotically and philatelically.

When we refer to this Nation as the "great melting pot," all we really mean to "melt" are the negative aspects of our diverse origins; those which breed hatred and mistrust. As we thankfully observe our Bicentennial, we take note of the immiscibility of that part of our diverse backgrounds which encompasses the rich heritage brought here by our forefathers (or even ourselves). Let us ponder the role of our hobby—philately—in preventing the erosion of that mosaic of cultures which makes America unique in the world. Without claiming the largest role in this process of preservation, we can nevertheless take considerable pride in what philately has done in this regard. Looking toward the next century, we cannot fail but notice the increasing challenge to the preservation of "national" or "country" philately (vis-a-vis topical) and the danger to the overall future of our particular area of specialization.

What then is the answer? In "real world terms," this calls for a continuing effort to increase our membership, a dynamic youth program and membership drive, and an interesting program of services to our membership at reasonable cost. That is a big order, but based on our recent Board meeting at NOJEX, our newly elected Directors and Officers are already addressing themselves to these challenges. I intend, in this column, to frequently report on our progress.

INTERPHIL '76 (May 29 to June 6th) is only four SPECIALIST issues away. We still do not know whether we will be able to secure a booth. However, we plan to operate a hospitality suite at the Bellevue Stratford Hotel during the FIRST WEEKEND of INTERPHIL, at which to meet and hold our '76 Convention. Members wishing to stay at this hotel—which is also the SPA (Society for Philatelic Americans) Convention Headquarters—should make their reservations immediately through Franklin R. Bruns, Jr., 7215 13th Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20012. Mention the fact that you are an SCP member, which is SPA Branch 284.

We are hoping to publish an advance listing of Czechoslovakia exhibits as well as any other exhibits by members of our Society. If your exhibit has been accepted or you know of any in the above categories that have been accepted, please let me know.

## SELL - SWAP - WANT

Every member is entitled to one free 15 word ad each year. Word count does not include name and address. Send ad to Richard Gray, editor, 3466 Mildred Dr., Falls Church, Va. 22042.

SWAP—Looking for exchange partner in USA in thema "Space." Write to, Dr. Ivan Hrdina, Skretova 1, 120 00 Praha 2—Vinohrady, Czechoslovakia.

SWAP—Will swap, buy or sell large blocks of P. Č. 1919 for plating. Write before sending. Frank Kaps, 931 Du Pont Ave., Winter Park, Fla. 32789.



## 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 understanding 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)

35—50 h. red, violet overprint (60) 700 issued

36—60 h. red, violet overprint (61)

37—1 Kc ultramarine, red overprint (62)

38—2 Kcs ultramarine, red overprint (63)

(Picture)

39—5 Kcs ultramarine, red overprint (64)

40—10 Kcs ultramarine, red overprint (65)

41—20 Kcs ultramarine, red overprint (66)

Masaryk series 1937-38:

42—50 h. black, red overprint (331)

Masaryk sheet:

43—2 Kcs black, violet overprint (332), sheet 5

44—2 Kcs+3 Kcs black, red overprint, sheet 5

Presburg (Bratislava) sheet:

45—dark blue, red overprint, sheet 3

46—dark carmine, violet overprint, sheet 3

Portrait series 1938:

47—50 h. blue-green (Sokol), violet overprint (33)

48—1 Kc carmine lilac (Sokol), violet overprint (334)

49—50+50 h. dark green (Masaryk), red overprint (335)

50—1 Kc+50 h. carmine (Masaryk), green overprint (336)

51—50 h. dark green (Legion), violet overprint (337), 120 issued  
(picture)

52—50 h. blue-green (Legion), violet overprint (338)

53—50 h. blue-green (Legion), violet overprint (339)

54—50 h. blue-green (Fügner), violet overprint (340)

55—1 Kc. brown-red (Fügner), violet overprint (341)

56—2 Kcs dark blue (Fügner), violet overprint (342)

Prague sheet 1938:

57—50 h. dark blue, red overprint, sheet 6

58—1 Kc deep carmine, violet overprint, sheet 6

Cities 1938:

59—50 h. green (Pilsen), red overprint (343)

60—50 h. green (Kosice), red overprint (344)

Number of stamps issued is not known in the case of some of these issues. Only a few could have been issued judging from the high values given in the rare specialized catalogs which mention them. The figures appearing here were provided in 1942 by Dr. Dubb, the famous German expert today, who was then Director General of Post Offices for the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia.

Some of the Karlsbad overprints were inverted, but they are rarities. Among these was No. 59 (Pilsen, Yvert 343, red overprint).

Since the Karlsbad overprint was applied by hand, there are a great many variations in placement, some being higher, some lower and some at an angle, all of which gives the specialized collector particular delight.

Besides the stamps listed previously, three pieces of postal stationery received the type I Karlsbad overprint:

1. Post card, 1.50 Kc carmine, portrait of President Masaryk (green overprint).
2. Post card, Coat of Arms type 50 h. green (red overprint).
3. Post card 50 h., dark green, portrait of President Beneš with scenic view (red overprint).

These post cards are very select items and their present value ranges from 10 to 30 DM apiece.

#### The Konstantinsbad Issue

Konstantinsbad (Konstantinovy-Lazné) is a tiny village of 500 population in the forests on the German border in the mountains of the Böhmerwald near the Czech town of Plana (in German: Plan) on the Eger (Cheb)-Budejovice rail line.

This elusive issue, of which few stamps are extant of the very few originally produced, was probably executed by the pro-Nazi postmaster of the little neighboring village of Plana to show his enthusiasm for the great German Reich.

The Konstantinsbad issue consisted of a typographic overprint "Sudetenland" in Gothic letters applied to Czech stamps in use at the time. This overprint measures 15 mm in width and 1.4 mm in height as regards the small letters. The whole list of 35 values is as follows:

(picture)

Coat of Arms series, 1929-31:

- 1—5 h. blue (252)
- 2—10 h. brown (253)
- 3—20 h. red (254)
- 4—25 h. green (255)
- 5—30 h. lilac (256)

The Coat of Arms series can be found with the same varieties in perforation as the regular stamps in use in Czechoslovakia at that time.

Portraits, 1935-36:

- 6—40 h. dark blue (308)
- 7—50 h. dark blue-green (309)
- 8—50 h. blue-green (324)
- 9—50 h. blue-green (298)
- 10—60 h. lilac-violet (310)
- 11—1 Kc. carmine (302)

Views, 1936-37:

- 12—1.20 Kc lilac (311)
- 13—1.50 rose carmine (312)
- 14—1.60 olive (312a)
- 15—2 Kcs dark blue-green
- 16—2.50 Kcs dark blue (314)
- 17—3 Kcs dark lilac-brown (315)
- 18—3.50 Kcs lilac-violet (316)
- 19—4 Kcs lilac-violet (317)
- 20—5 Kcs dark grey-green (318)
- 21—10 Kcs dark blue (319)



## Famous People, 1937-38:

- 22—50 h. slate (Purkyně) (329)
- 23—1 Kc rose carmine (320)
- 24—50 h. black (Masaryk mourning) (321)
- 25—2 Kcs black (322)
- 26—50+50 h. green (Masaryk and child) (325)
- 27—1 Kc+50 h claret (326)
- 28—50 h. green (Fügner) (340)
- 29—1 Kc red-brown (341)
- 30—2 Kcs dark blue (342)

## Legionnaires and Pilsen-Kosice series, 1938-1939:

- 31—50 h. green (337)
- 32—50 h. green (338)
- 33—50 h. green (339)
- 34—50 h. green Pilsen (343)
- 35—50 h. green Kosice (344)

Obviously, the stamps of the Konstantinsbad issue are extremely rare and almost impossible to find.

## The Marktgemeinde Overprint

Marktgemeinde (Markvartovice) is an insignificant little village of northern Moravia, situated on a line with Olomouc in the Sudetenland, a short distance from the border of Silesia, not far from Bohumin.

In order to express their joy at their annexation by Germany, they, too, were persuaded by Nazi propaganda to issue their own local overprint, perhaps to call attention to their little "bump in the road," which can't be found on any but the most detailed maps of Czechoslovakia.

The Marktgemeinde overprint was just a swastika, imprinted in violet ink by means of a stamp, which seems to have been carved in a little block of wood, judging from a flaw which appears in the swastika design wherever it was used.

This swastika appearing without any inscription looks very imposing. Its overall dimensions are 12 mm and its arms are 2 mm thick. Because it was applied by hand it is not always perfectly centered.

This overprint was applied to all the stamps in use in Czechoslovakia in October 1938, especially the "coat of arms" and "Portraits."

There is an amusing little postal history item which points up the unimportance of the little village of Marktgemeinde.

This village had probably never sent a registered letter. When the pro-Nazi elements of the population, which produced the overprints we have been discussing, wanted to send some registered mail as souvenirs to friends, the post office didn't own any booklets of registration labels and had to ask Breslau, postal center for the region, to send over a booklet of labels, which they then proceeded to stamp by hand with "Marktgemeinde".

## The Niklasdorf Issue

Niklasdorf (Mikulovice ve Sl.) is a border town of northern Silesia, population 4,000, on the rail line between Troppau (Opava) to Freiwalldau (Fryvaldov).

This issue, consisting of no less than 69 stamps, entailed the revaluing of the Czech stamps in use at the time by means of a typographic overprint, which set new values of 1 Kc, 1.20 Kc, 2 Kcs or 4.50 Kcs. Details of this issue are as follows:

- 1—1 Kc on 5 h. blue (No. Yvert 252)

- 2—1 Kc on 10 h. brown (253)
- 3—1 Kc on 30 h. lilac (256)
- 4—1 Kc on 5 h. blue (252)
- 5—1 Kc on 50 h. blue-green (299), no. issue—350
- 6—1.20 Kc on 50 h. green (329), no. issued—160
- 7—1.20 Kc on 50 h. black (331)
- 8—1.20 Kc on 50 h. dark green (337), no. issued—560
- 9—1.20 Kc on 50 h. green (340)
- 10—1.20 Kc on 1 Kc red-brown (341), no. issued—700
- 11—1.20 on 50 h. green (343)
- 12—2 Kcs on 5 h. blue (252)
- 13—2 Kcs on 20 h. red (254)
- 14—2 Kcs on 25 h. green (255)
- 15—2 Kcs on 30 h. lilac (256), no. issued—620
- 16—2 Kcs on 40 h. brown (257)
- 17—2 Kcs on 60 h. violet (281)
- 18—2 Kcs on 50 h. green (298)
- 19—2 Kcs on 1 Kc carmine lilac (300)
- 20—2 Kcs on 50 h. dark green (309)
- 21—2 Kcs on 1 Kc carmine lilac (302)
- 22—2 Kcs on 1.20 Kc lilac (311)
- 23—2 Kcs on 50 h. green (325)
- 24—2 Kcs on 1 Kc carmine lilac (326)
- 25—2 Kcs on 50 h. green (329)
- 26—2 Kcs on 1 Kc carmine (330)
- 27—2 Kcs on 50 h. green (333)
- 28—2 Kcs on 1 Kc carmine (334)
- 29—2 Kcs on 50 h.+50 h. dark green (335)  
(picture)
- 30—2 Kcs on 1 Kc+50 h. carmine (336)
- 31—2 Kcs on 50 h. dark green (337)
- 32—2 Kcs on 50 h. green (340)
- 33—2 Kcs on 1 Kc red-brown (341)
- 34—2 Kcs on 50 h. green (343)
- 35—2 Kcs on 1.20 Kc lilac (224)
- 36—4.50 Kcs on 50 h. green (384)
- 37—4.50 Kcs on 1 Kc carmine (296)
- 38—4.50 Kcs on 2 Kcs blue (297)
- 39—4.50 Kcs on 50 h. green (299)
- 40—4.50 Kcs on 1 Kc lilac carmine (300)
- 41—4.50 Kcs on 2 Kcs blue (301)
- 42—4.50 Kcs on 50+50 h. green (303)
- 43—4.50 Kcs on 1 Kc+50 h. carmine lilac (304)
- 44—4.50 Kcs on 2 Kcs+50 h. dark blue (305)
- 45—4.50 Kcs on 50 h. green (306)
- 46—4.50 Kcs on 1 Kc carmine lilac (307)
- 47—4.50 Kcs on 1.50 Kc carmine (312)
- 48—4.50 Kcs on 2 Kcs dark green (313)
- 49—4.50 Kcs on 50+50 h. green (321)
- 50—4.50 Kcs on 1 Kc+ 50 h. carmine lilac
- 51—4.50 Kcs on 2 Kcs+1 Kc dark blue (323)
- 52—4.50 Kcs on 50 h. (329)
- 53—4.50 Kcs on 1 Kc carmine (330)

(to be continued)

## Stumped On Stamps? ? ?

By Richard Gray, 3466 Mildred Drive, Falls Church, Virginia 22042

During the last two years I have received several questions about the positions of the watermarks on the stamps of Slovakia. The watermark in the shape of a patriarchal cross standing on three hills (symbol of the Matra, Tatra and Fatra peaks in the Slovakian Tatra mountain range) can theoretically exist in four different positions: top of the cross pointing up, down, left or right, when observing the stamp from the BACK (GUM) side. This point is very important when communicating about the watermark position. In the prewar and, to some extent, post-World War II period, collectors of Czechoslovak stamps described the watermark from the FRONT (PRINTED) side of the stamp. At the present time we conform to the accepted worldwide rule and describe the watermarks as they are seen from the back of the stamp. The owners of the SCP publication, Boh-Moravia and Slovakia, please note that in this book the position of the watermark is described in the old fashion!

Most of the watermarked issues of Slovakia are fairly consistent in the watermark position. If you have three or four sets of the same issue for a cross-check and you know that they are not from the same pane you will find that the watermark is horizontal or vertical only. If it is horizontal you will possibly find some to the left and some to the right. The vertical watermark will be also positioned up or down. It is not dependent on the size of the stamp but seems to be consistent with the horizontal or vertical design of the stamps. As I do not specialize in Slovakia, I cannot tell you if stamps actually exist with all the four positions of the watermark. We do not have any specialized handbook written recently that I know of any I feel that much more research in this field is needed. I would like to hear from anybody to the contrary and would like to see some stamps having more than two positions (vertical or horizontal) of the watermark.

I also received more questions about the value of cancelled stamps versus stamps on envelope (entire). Questions like that will require several issues to answer in detail, and it will be necessary to deal with specific stamps to do justice to the subject. I will attempt to answer in general terms, and you can form your own "rule of the thumb" on the subject. Disregarding the less desirable CTO (cancelled to order) stamps on one hand and collecting entires for specific reasons (specific period of time such as immediate postwar postal reconstruction, revolution or any other political or memorable event, collecting cancellations when the stamp(s) is of secondary consideration, and FDC's of recent vintage) on the other, you have to assess certain facts known about the stamp(s). How many stamps were issued, for what purpose (Regular issue, Airmail, Semi-postal), how long were they officially in use, and under what conditions (War, remote facilities, disrupted postal service), how many stamps of the initial issue number were destroyed (on purpose or by accident) and if the denomination of the specific stamp is not too high for the payment of the normal and expected postal service. It is quite obvious that the answer in general terms is about as easy to come by as to acquire the pink Merkur in your friendly corner stamp store. Surprisingly enough, the state of the economy of the period also has a big influence on the use of postal service by the population and has to be added to the assessment total. Last but not least, the popularity of certain issues (flown Zeppelin covers) will influence the value considerably.

I would like to cite a few examples to illustrate the "hidden causes" which drive the value of the stamp on the cover much higher compared to the same stamp off the cover. Fairly constant in this respect are the Air Mail

issues from the pioneer days of the Air Postal Service. In Czechoslovakia this period spans about 10 years, 1920 to 1930. Service was not established with the public, rates were high and the service, in the beginning, unpredictable. Many of the stamps were cancelled for the collectors during the days of special events which in effect were the humble beginnings of today's mass produced CTO's. The number of letters actually handled by the postal service was small, especially the number of registered letters. In the postwar times the only stamp valued higher on a flown cover was the 24 Kčs (Scott No. C25). This stamp was valid for the postage but one day, the day of the first flight from Prague to N. Y. There were 43,006 reg. letters and 14,283 1st class mail letters carried on June 17, 1946, but the number of the issued stamps was 620,800! How important it is to have all the available information (in this case just by carefully reading your catalog), will be shown with this example: in 1948 the retired second president of Czechoslovakia, Dr. E. Beneš died. A commemorative stamp was issued on Sep. 28, 1948. The number of stamps issued was large—1,800,000. Postal service functioned normally, no stamps were destroyed, the denomination was for a regular letter rate. But the official period of use was set only up to Oct. 27, 1945, even though use of all the other stamps issued as early as 1947 was officially permitted up to Dec. 31, 1948. The length of officially permitted use was cut just one day before the Czechoslovak Independence Day, Oct. 28, and lasted altogether less than one month, 29 days to be exact. We have hundreds upon hundreds of this stamp CTOed available to us for pennies. The mint stamp is not valued much higher and both are readily obtainable, but I wonder, how many covers with this stamp, postally used, are in the hands of stamp collectors, especially the "back-stamped" Registry covers.

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## Charley's Corner

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I sincerely hope, that in the last few months, many of you have been able to add some interesting items to your collection. It is an inspiration when this happens and peps up the zeal for collecting.

This month we will discuss and illustrate some of the overprint varieties of the 1918-20 newspaper stamps overprinted "S O 1920".

The 2h, 20h, and 30h values exist with the offset of the overprint and some, like the 10h and 30h values, with an offset of the original design. The 2h, 10h, 20h and 30h values also exist with a trial overprint in dark-blue color. The trial printing of the 20h in the dark-violet color (trial color printing) was also overprinted in black, and inverted overprints are known.

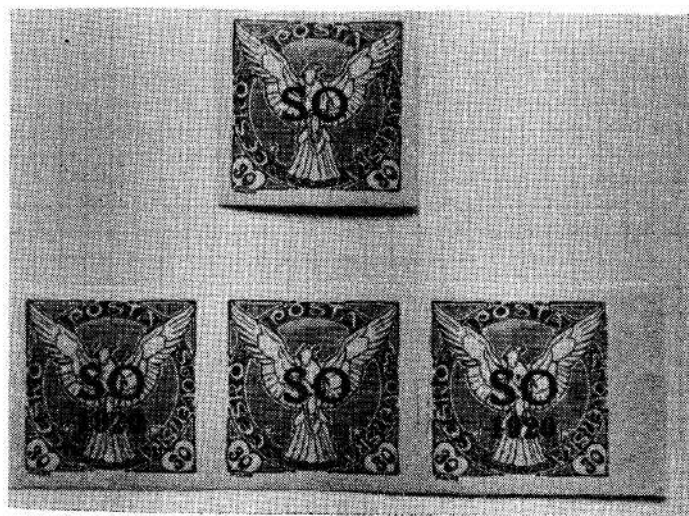


Fig. 1

Fig. 1 illustrates on the 30h value the popular plate variety with the year 1920 missing in the overprint. This is the 49th stamp of the sheet overprinted with plate III. This variety also occurs on the 6h value. The only inverted overprint listed in Pofis is the one shown in Fig. 2 and with the exception of the one listed above on the trial printing of the 20h I do not know of any other value having an overprint inverted.

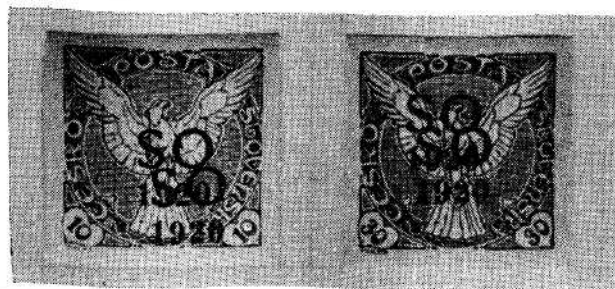


Fig. 3



Fig. 2 (left)



Fig. 4

Perhaps the most striking varieties are the double and triple overprints, which exist on the 10h and 30h values (Fig. 3 and 4). The 10h, 20h and 30h values also exist with the overprint strongly shifted. In future months we will discuss some other varieties of the "S O 1920" overprints.

In the meantime, good hunting.



## New Issues

The month of September enriched the stamp output of Czechoslovakia with two sets of commemoratives. One set was issued September 29, with the theme "Czechoslovak motorcycles." Each stamp of the six in the set depicts a motorcycle of Czech manufacture. 20h (CZ, 150ccm), 40h (Jawa, 250 ccm), 60h (Jawa), 175ccm, 1Kčs (Itar), 1.20 Kčs (Orion), and 1.80 Kčs (Laurin & Klement) are the denom. and the stamps are printed by rotary recess print combined with three-color photogravure in sheets of fifty. Official FDCs were issued with a cachet of a motorcycle racing rider also on Sept. 29.



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