

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Official Monthly Journal of the



(USPS 808300)
Society for Czechoslovak Philately, Inc.

Silver Award Interphil '76 — Silver Award Capex '78 — Silver-Bronze Praga '78

A.P.S. Unit 18

Vol. XLIX

February 1987

No. 2, Whole No. 466

FROM PRAGUE TO THE ISLE OF JERSEY

By J. K. Klein

One of the big attractions at every stamp show is roaming through boxes of covers, which one finds with many dealers. Also at Ameripex, dealers had prepared hundreds of boxes, all filled with covers from pre-stamp periods to modern material.

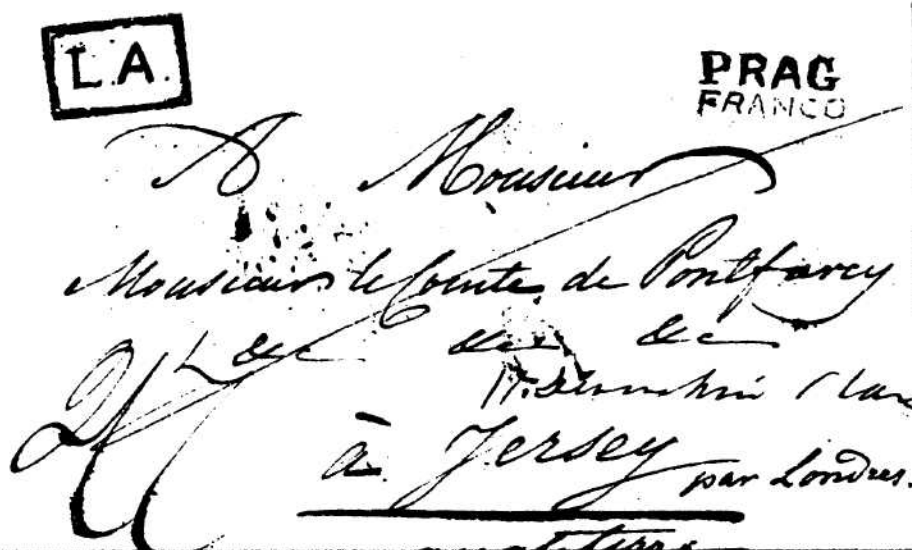
Being a collector of "Postal History of Prague," I looked at all old Austria accumulations. A cover, sent in 1834 from Prague via London to the isle of Jersey, one of the Channel Islands, aroused my curiosity, for a letter sent from Prague to Jersey was not a common destination!

Upon opening the letter I found a French text and my interest grew on reading "I showed the letter to His Majesty." First, let me give you a slightly abridged translation of the letter:

"My dear Count: I showed your letter to His Majesty, who regrets very much that his financial means do not allow him to do what he certainly would like to do for the unfortunate Frenchmen who had to take refuge in England. Nevertheless, he instructed Baron Capelle to send a small amount.

"The entire royal family is in perfect health and the Duc de Bordeaux has completely recovered from a minor illness."

As illustrated below, the letter bears the cancellation "PRAG FRANCO" and "L A" ('lettre autrichien' — Austrian mail) as well as English markings.



Of course, it is a challenge to identify the writer of the letter, who was the sovereign, who was the "Duc de Bordeaux" mentioned in the letter and who was the Count de Pontfarcy to whom the letter had been sent.

The king who sends his sympathy but who does not have the financial means to support his compatriots is Charles X, a brother of Louis XVI, who was brought back to the French throne in 1824 when he was 67 years of age and who fled France and went to Prague in 1830, accompanied by Count, later Duc Pierre Blacas de Aulps, Minister of the Royal Household under Charles X. He is the man who wrote and signed the reply; and the Baron Capelle, whose name is mentioned in the letter, was Minister of Public Work during Charles' reign.

Now for the Duc de Bordeaux: Charles X had a son, Charles Ferdinand, who was murdered in 1820 when leaving the opera, leaving behind a son, the Duc de Bordeaux, also known as the Count Chambord and as Henri V. Charles X, the grandfather, abdicated in 1830 in favor of this grandson who, as Henri V, was considered as the legal pretender to the throne of France; therefore it is quite logical that the emigrant asked for information about him.

One question remained to be solved: who was the addressee and which special link existed between Prague and Hersey?

After the French Revolution a nobleman, Count de Pontfarcy, Champfleury and Arguenay, member of the Parliament of Bretagne, fled to the isle of Jersey in 1791. One year later Camille de Farcy, Comte de Pontfarcy, was born, to be exact on March 19, 1792. After Napoleon's fall and the restoration of the Bourbons, Camille joined the royal guard and was one of the active leaders of the pro-Bourbon uprising in 1832, two years after Charles X fled France after the so-called July revolt.

The revolution of 1832 was a failure; de Pontfarcy then had to seek shelter in Jersey, where he had already spent twenty years of his life. So now we understand his request for financial support from the abdicated Charles X, then living in Prague. Charles X spent some years in Prague and then went to Gorizia, in Italy near Trieste, where he died in 1836.

A friend of mine, Mr. Beimers, to whom I showed this interesting letter, found it a challenge to learn about the names and people involved. After he traced and contacted a great-great-grandson of the recipient of the letter, the Count de Pontfarcy, he was indeed able to give me all the facts.

Read the contents of the old letters in your collections; you may find fascinating historical stories and facts!

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Changes of address to International Secretary

AUTHORS AND EDITORS

By Mirko L. Vondra, President

This is an appeal, but NOT an appeal for money. The Society always needs money and all donations are gratefully accepted. But there is a more critical need at the moment. Let me express this need in these words:

Do you enjoy reading the SPECIALIST? Have you found the articles interesting and informative? If your answer is "yes," then I have one more question to ask. Have you noticed the recurrence of certain names as authors of our articles?

Authorship in the SPECIALIST is made up of two groups — the writers and the translators. Here are some interesting statistics for you to think about:

During 1986, 54 articles appeared in ten issues. Fourteen people participated in writing 48 of those articles. Three persons participated in translating six articles from Czech to English. Let me give you the list of these authors. Next to each name is the number of articles they either wrote or translated:

Articles Written

Henry Hahn	11
Gerald Van Zanten	7
J. L. Klein	6
Charles Chesloe	5
Frank Julsen	4
Fred Hefer	3
Wolfgang Fritzsche	3
Dominick Riccio	3
Otto Hornung	1
Jan Karásek	1
Edwin Lehecka	1
Ludvik Pytlíček	1
Miroslav Vostatek	1

Articles Translated

Henry Hahn	3
Paul Sturman	2
J. J. Verner	1

In addition, there were at least four articles written anonymously. I am told they are attributable to some of the same authors named above. Interestingly two of the three translators also wrote original articles. That means that sixteen of our members were involved in putting together all the material contained in one whole year of publications. Note also that three of those members — Henry Hahn, Gerald Van Zanten and J. L. Klein — were responsible for at least 27 of those articles.

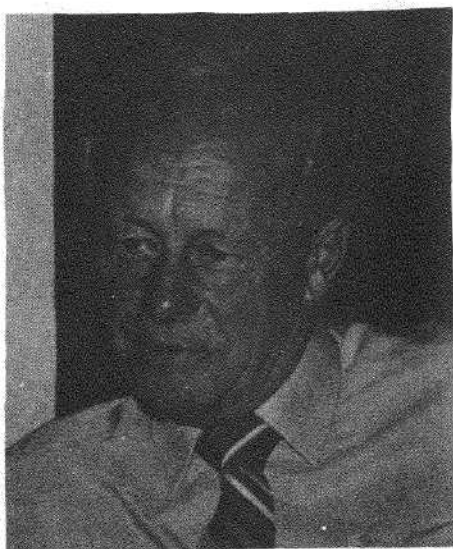
Many members have complained that they were receiving their copies of the SPECIALIST as much as four weeks late. Problems were encountered at the type-setting level, the printing level and in mailing. But problems were also encountered at the writing stage.

It is impossible and unfair for a Society consisting of more than 300 members scattered throughout the world to rely on 16 people to furnish the SPECIALIST with all material for publication from one month to the next — and from one year to the next.

Let me ask those of you who have experienced late mailings what effort *you* have made this past year to write a single article on Czechoslovak philately. Let me ask those who feel that our articles are either too advanced or not detailed enough what *you* have done to write something to satisfy the needs of those who agree with your views.

You do not have to be a philatelic expert or a literary giant to write a publishable article. Compose something on a subject with which you are familiar and submit it to Henry Hahn. He will edit it for grammar and philatelic accuracy. Or write an article on a philatelic experience you had either at a stamp show, at a bourse or at your local club and send it to me at 1511 Clearview Ave., Lancaster, PA 17601. I will be assisting Henry Hahn as much as possible along the lines of literary editing. If you prefer to write your article in the Czech language rather than in English, do so and send it to Paul Sturman, 1200 South Arlington Ridge Road, Arlington, VA 22202. He will be assisting both Henry Hahn and me in doing translation work where necessary. Anyone who is able and willing to help translate an occasional article from Czech to English, please contact me. Note, however, that our list of literary contributors does not include any famous names like Milan Kundera or Bohumil Hrabal.

Our own editor-in-chief, Frank Julsen, has done a remarkable job with the SPECIALIST since being appointed to the post in May 1985. Much to his credit, he is also editor of NETHERLANDS PHILATELY, the official magazine of the American Society for Netherlands Philately. Between these two jobs and countless other commitments, he has taken on more than he can handle. He therefore decided to resign as editor of our SPECIALIST. He will be succeeded as editor by Gerald Van Zanten.



Van Zanten will be editing the SPECIALIST under a major handicap that none of his predecessors had. His address is: P.O. Box 159, Napier, New Zealand. Need I say more?

We can all help our new editor by contributing one article apiece. Think of it this way: Our December 1986 membership list totals 238 members. If each of those members wrote one article, we would have enough material for four years of SPECIALIST publications. This is based on a statistical calculation showing that there were 54 articles appearing in the ten issues printed during 1986. Can each of you afford to write one article every five years? If so, this appeal will never have to be repeated. Our only need in that case will be to have three literary editors. It is a trade-off which the editorial staff will be only too happy to accept.

Speaking of the membership list, there is an error in the November 1986 issue. On page 6 under the heading "Elected Officers and Directors" the name of Wolfgang Fritzsche should be replaced with that of Edwin Lehecka. Fritzsche, who has been a tremendous asset to the Society as its sales and exchange manager, resigned as director in February 1986 but continues as our circuit manager. He was immediately succeeded by Edwin Lehecka as director. Lehecka is also our expertizing manager and in charge of publication sales.

To our outgoing editor, Frank Julsen, I wish to express the gratitude of the entire Society. He has worked hard and succeeded in maintaining the high standards that have made the SPECIALIST a four-time award winner, the latest award coming in 1985 from the Cardinal Spellman Philatelic Museum.

To the incoming editor, Gerald Van Zanten, the best of luck! Beyond that, let the individual members speak for themselves and show us their writing talents.

A PROFILE WHY DO I COLLECT CZECHOSLOVAKIAN STAMPS?

In an attempt to entice other members to also give us reasons as to how they came to collect Czechoslovak stamps in particular, I hereby give a profile of myself and how I came to collect the stamps of Czechoslovakia.

Born way back in 1926 in a very small village in the province of Drenthe called Oudemolen; yes, my country of origin is the Netherlands.

I attended primary school in this village, where my father was the schoolmaster of a two-room school. High school followed in the town of Assen, a ten-km cycle ride there and back each day, summer and winter.

Shortly after the war I was conscripted into the Dutch army and spent three years on the island of Sumatra in Indonesia.

In 1950 I came to New Zealand where for the first year I worked on a dairy farm; after that it was the big city Auckland where I got a job with an insurance company and a transfer to Napier from the start.

That job lasted 30 years; enough for me!

In 1956 I married my wife Val, who came from Newcastle-on-Tyne. It was around this time that I happened to be listening to short-wave radio and picked up radio Prague.

They requested reception reports and I obliged, receiving the usual QSL card. On a subsequent day I heard a stamp quiz from radio Prague, answered the three questions posed and in return received the FDC with the stamps in question; many more followed.

They were a good addition to my 50 or so stamps of Czechoslovakia I had in my collection since childhood.

After a year or so I asked radio Prague to advertise for me in a stamp magazine for a contact there. I had around 400 replies!! And they kept coming in for years afterwards.

One of the original ones is still a correspondent, others have been added, two have since passed on, and in general I now have a reasonably sound basis to work with.

In 1978 I attended PRAGA '78 and very much enjoyed the experience, staying with one of my good friends.

Two years ago it was time to also introduce my wife to Czechoslovakia, so we made a round-the-world trip, calling on Henry Hahn while in Washington, seeing relations in England and Holland, and from there on to Prague where we spent 10 days, afterwards on to Bratislava to see friends for 4 days.

All in all we had a wonderful time in Czechoslovakia and saw a good deal of the country as well. Back home through Singapore.

During this trip I made enough contacts to enable me to get information for the New Issues Chronicle for the SPECIALIST.

Meantime, I have managed to build up a small library on the subject of Czechoslovakia, which in turn is most useful for the odd article submitted; there will be more!

It is understandable that people of Czech origin collect Czech stamps, but on looking through the membership list there are a number whose origins don't appear to be Czech.

Let's have your background and reasons why you have chosen to collect stamps of Czechoslovakia. I am sure members would like to read about it and perhaps we will get to know each other better, and that is what it is all about, isn't it?

Other collecting interests are: Japan, postcards of Czechoslovakia — older ones with subjects: SOKOL, folk costumes and town scenes.

You have been reading about Gerald M. van Zanten of Napier, New Zealand.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

It is with genuine regret that I must leave the post of Editor of *The Czechoslovak Specialist* effective with this issue. Press of personal affairs is such that I cannot devote the time necessary to do an effective job of producing the magazine. There is one consolation in that during the past year and one-half a reasonably exact publication schedule has been achieved. The expectation that this will be continued is bolstered by the appointment of member Gerald M. van Zanten as my successor, whom I have found to be a thoroughly dedicated proponent of Czech philately. Gerald and I have been working closely within the past weeks to ensure a prompt and orderly transition. It is my plea that he be accorded the same high degree of help and cooperation from the membership that I received.

For my part, let me offer my thanks to all who helped me in many different ways. During my tenure as Editor I have established many deep, and, hopefully, permanent friendships. It was a pleasure being part of the SPECIALIST "team."

1393 Frank W. Julsen

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By Henry Hahn and published by the Society. A handbook on all Czech stamps showing Masaryk with background information. In English.

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Westfield, New Jersey 07090

A GENTLEMAN TO REMEMBER: MATĚJ ŠINDLER

Late last year a gentleman of 77 years rode his bicycle in Telč, was hit by a truck, and died. His name was Matěj Šindler. You probably never heard of him unless you read the dedication in my little book, "Postal History of Telč and Vicinity."*

Hundreds of young collectors who grew up in Telč, including myself, owe the enjoyment of our hobby to Mr. Šindler. As a barber in his pre-retirement years, it was his practice to keep his young customers reasonably still during hair cutting by putting a stockbook in their laps, most often filled with English and French Colonies issues,

picturing wild animals, natives and scenes that formed a background to tall tales of native ritual and even cannibalism. Our hair stood up for easier cutting. Sometimes barbering was interrupted when an adult collector came to the barbershop for a "major" philatelic transaction.

My first encounter with the high value of stamps took place at Mr. Šindler's side. While at a boys' summer camp in the resort of Luhačovice, Mr. Šindler stopped by and got permission to "borrow" 8-year old Hanuš (my Czech name) for the afternoon. We decided for a swim but Mr. Šindler had no bathing suit. Hence, we headed for the fanciest store in the resort, and my mentor selected a colorful terrycloth robe and trunks to match. The storeowner wrote out a bill — a huge sum, of over 100 Kč — and Mr. Šindler, in a slow but deliberate move went not for his wallet but for a little stock book in his breast pocket. The storeowner was enraptured. He finally selected a single stamp, wrapped up the goods and handed Mr. Šindler two 100 Kč banknotes. Outside the store Mr. Šindler said "a tak se to dělá" — i.e., "this is how it's done."

Had there lived a Matěj Šindler among us, the average age of our Society's membership might have been twenty years lower. Mr. Šindler taught us, inspired us and exposed us to the wondrous ways of our hobby. While active in the Telč Philatelic Club, he never achieved nor sought prominence among his peers. He was the only dealer in Telč in my day, serving adults as well as youngsters. Surely many of us who owe him our philatelic roots have shed a tear when we heard of his passing.

Henry Hahn

SCP Publication, 1980.

NEW ISSUES

By G. M. van Zanten — Courtesy ARTIA of Prague

On the 1st December a 1 Kčs commemorative stamp was issued for the "DAY OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK POSTAGE STAMP."

Design K. Svolinský, engraving J. Herčík. Rotary steel engraving combined with multi-coloured photogravure in sheets of 50 stamps with the pictorial part of the stamp 49×19mm. Printing by Tiskárna spojů in Prague.



This year Vratislav Hugo Brunner, a stamp designer, is shown. He lived from 1886 to 1928. His stamp "the Liberation of the Republic" was issued in different variants in the years 1920 to 1922. Brunner was an outstanding personality in the sphere of modern creative art and influenced the graphic layout of beautiful books, stage design and other branches. One of his works also appears on the 1 Kčs value of this year's art series.

Colors of the stamp are: Blue, red, brown and ochre; the numeral of the value is in gold.

CHARLEY'S CORNER

Continued from January issue

Somewhat out of context chronologically, but very interesting, Fig. 36 shows a cancel honoring the Siberian Legion's victory at Zborov in 1917.

P.C. 90



N.T

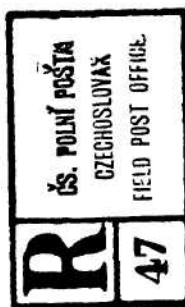
Mr.

Charles A. MATIASKA,

11217 Wethers Avenue

CLEVELAND, Ohio.

U. S. A.



written in czech.

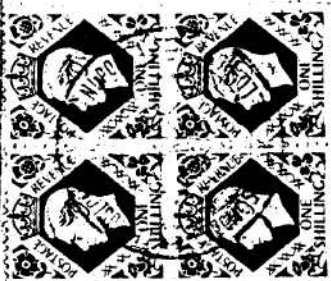
Assent to Station C, Cleveland, Ohio.

Mr. Charles A. MATTIASKE

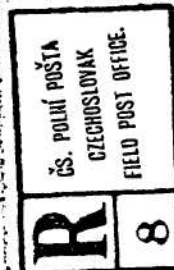
11217 Methyl Avenue,

CLEVELAND, Ohio.

U.S.A.



P25H



22 G L S T E R E D.

Figure 37

EXAMINER
1753

345

1943

POVOLENO ČESKOSLOVENSKOU VLÁDOU
BY PERMISSION OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT

© 2004 Blackwell Publishing Ltd *Journal of Internal Medicine* 255: 103–110

Cancel lightly.

EXHIBITION
OF
CZECHOSLOVAK
STAMPS
IN
LONDON

This stamp is now
Blotter - not filed
Keep in Clara
P.O. (in answer book)

EXPRESS
POST OFFICE
DELIVERY

Charles Mariaska
11217 Mayhew Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio.

U. S. A.

Figure 38
Reduced

BEVRIJDING VAN TSJEZKOSLOWAKIJE

POSTZEGELTENTOONSTELLING
BRUSSEL



AMITIÉS
BELGO - TCHÉCOSLOVAQUES

CELOŠTÁTNÁ VÝSTAVA POŠTOVÝCH ZNÁMOK



Figure 39

Nº 010116

VERKOCHT TEN VOORDEELE
VAN HET DORP LIDICE.
Prijs : 25 fr.

The last two souvenir sheets (Figs. 39 and 40), sold at the Brussels, Belgium Philatelic Exhibition in 1945, were made from the Bratislava sheet of 1937, the proceeds being donated to the fund to rebuild the Czech town of Lidice.

LIBÉRATION DE LA TCHÉCOSLOVAQUIE

EXPOSITION PHILATÉLIQUE
BRUXELLES



AMITIÉS
BELGO - TCHÉCOSLOVAQUES

CELOŠTÁTNÁ VÝSTAVA POŠTOVÝCH ZNÁMOK



Figure 40

Nº 012165

VENDU AU PROFIT DU
VILLAGE DE LIDICE.
Prix : 25 Fr.

An addition to this chronicle of Czech-inspired philatelic activities in the Western Hemisphere after the German take-over:

Figure 23a



Figure 23a, the 1938 Jubilee souvenir sheet signed by T. G. Masaryk's son and Prime Minister, Jan Masaryk, is cancelled in conjunction with a relief benefit for refugees at Chicago, Illinois, on December 24, 1941.

This covers the majority of special souvenir sheets issued in support of the Czech cause during and after World War II. They represent a colorful and historically fascinating phase of Czech determination.

Charley Chesloe

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

"TARAPEX '86" was held in New Plymouth from 17 October to 28 October 1986 in the A & P complex.

There was a total of 466 entries in the competitive class with 7 entrants from the United States showing 10 exhibits, including the "Ukrainian Philatelist," a Society with around 300 members, in the literary section. The total Czechoslovak entries amounted to only 3 by New Zealand Society members.

G.M. van Zanten (2)

Mrs. J. Davidson (1)

G.M. van Zanten showed: "Some Aspects of Czechoslovak Posts"

containing: Pre-postal covers, the First Republic from 1919-1939 including colour trials, some tete-beche items, a number of rare gutter pairs and hidden engraver's marks.

The other entry was: "Discovering Prague," an unconventional collection, as it showed only one stamp per page and an old or new card showing a similar view. We have a look at Prague Castle, the Old Town Square, some important buildings, the Jewish Quarter, Dvorak museum, theatre musea, modern buildings, windows and even an old house sign.

Mrs. J. Davidson showed: Bohemia and Moravia 1939-1945. Her exhibit was an introduction to the definitives and commemoratives issued by the German Protectorate "Bohemia and Moravia," which only existed during WW II.

Gerald's "Aspects" gained a bronze, his "Discovery of Prague" a Certificate of Merit. Jeanette's B&M was awarded a bronze.

Also at the exhibition was member Vladimír Králíček, with whom my wife, Val, and I had the pleasure of sharing breakfast at his hotel, which event is shown on the enclosed photo.



Members Vladimír Králíček and Gerald van Zanten

The next large exhibition to be held in New Zealand will be a "WORLD" at Auckland and I hereby invite all our members to exhibit there, putting our Society on the map "Down Under"; and of course it is hoped that many of you combine this with a vacation in New Zealand in 1990.

Gerald van Zanten

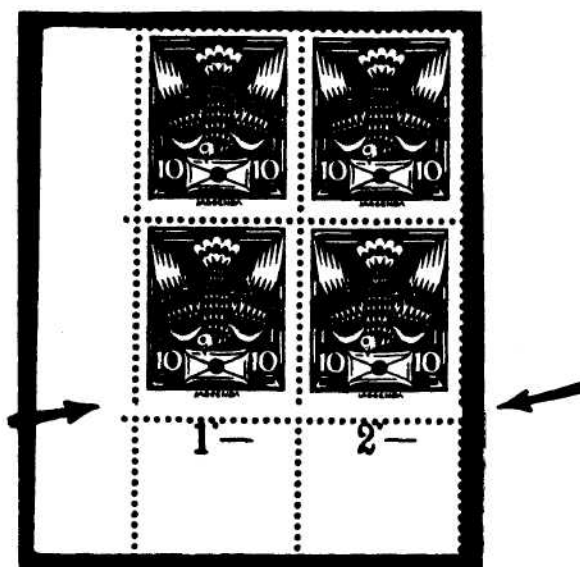
ENJOYING YOUR HOBBY

By F. W. Julsen

Sometimes, in our dogged quest for a particularly desirable addition to our respective collections, the search can become frustrating — and that means "less fun." The "fun" part, of course, comes when that particular quarry is snared, hang the cost! But it may be a long time in coming.

Meanwhile, there are many interesting and inexpensive — and not too frustrating — by-ways in Czech philately that can "spice up" one's collection without bringing on a case of high blood pressure.

For example, I am certain that the vast majority of the membership has encountered examples of the "Dove" and "Chainbreaker" stamps with a peculiar blind perf in the lower corners of the stamp:

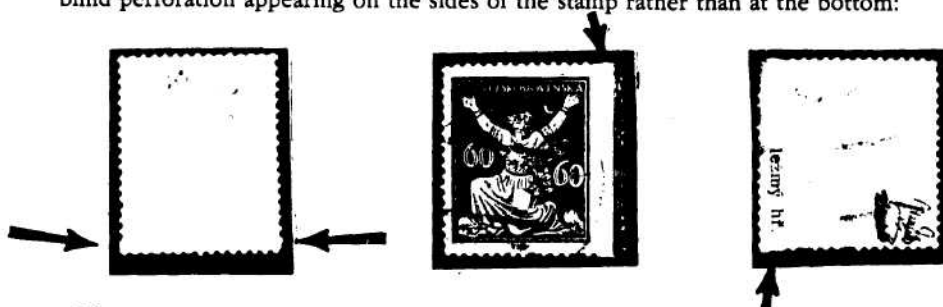


These varieties occur in the Comb 14 perforation and are the result of the perforating comb not being properly aligned for the "next" stroke of the comb when the sheet is being perforated. As you know, the comb perforates one horizontal row at a time, most usually beginning at the top of the sheet, although there is some evidence that, rarely, the perforating process began at the bottom of the sheet.

These blind perfs are not rarities; in fact, they are common enough to enable a collector to assemble complete sets of both the Dove and the Chainbreaker stamps with only the effort of keeping one's eyes on the alert for the variety. These stamps, with the possible exception of the 40h Chainbreaker, Type 1 in unused condition, are available in such huge quantities that a postmarked set is easily assembled. A little more difficult, but still attainable, is an unused set.

Because this perforation variety has not been widely publicized, there are plenty of them still lying around in one's duplicates, or in a dealer's stock book. (As a matter of fact, just as an experiment, the writer entered a few of these in one of the Society's sales circuits, properly identified, and some discerning member snapped them up. I hope he has a complete set by now!)

I should add that for a brief period of time sheets of the 40h Type 1 and the 60h chainbreaker, and the 5h violet and the 10h olive Dove stamps, were run *sideways* through the comb perforator, resulting in the scarce "Ležmý hřeben" ('Horizontal perforation') variety. Exceptionally rare are examples of these stamps where the perforating comb was not aligned for the next stroke, resulting in these instances of the blind perforation appearing on the sides of the stamp rather than at the bottom:



If ever you run across one of these denominations with the blind perfs at the sides of the stamp, grab it immediately as it must surely be the scarce "horizontal perforation" in an even scarcer form!

To paraphrase Charley Chesloe, "Good hunting"!

(Advertisement)



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- 1) They'll give you a glimpse into the heart of Europe
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- 6) You'll keep up with the latest in Czechoslovakia's industrial and scientific development, including advanced research
- 7) You'll love their motion — like illustrations of the colorful world of sport
- 8) You'll see why Czechoslovakia has gained international recognition for its advanced techniques of stamp reproduction, harmony of color and outstanding artistry
- 9) They represent the work of their finest artists and engravers
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