

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE
CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

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Editor Frank J. Kovarik, 2502 So. Kedzie Ave., Chicago 23, Ill.

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EDITORIAL

Every true collector loathes the collector-speculator. Especially so if this speculator asks too much information from the true collector; information that does not deal with stamps, but with the possibilities of stamps as an investment. Despite our loathing for these leeches, let us not forget they are a necessary adjunct to our hobby. The greater their holdings, the better access have we to their material when they think it time "to dump on the market" and the greater our savings on their investment. We never try to dissuade these wolves from sharpening their teeth to tear to pieces the unsuspecting collector. On the contrary, we encourage them. We have been a collector long enough to remember when Columbian and Trans-Mississippi dollar values were selling below face; when during the "little depression" we purchased 1000 sheets of the 2 cent black Harding at \$1.75 a sheet; when most speculators were dumping their material at cost and less between 1930 and 1933. Those are the golden days of the true collector.

Every real collector spends much money and more than that in precious time to learn about his stamps. He subscribes to philatelic periodicals, joins clubs and societies, purchases handbooks and, very often, learns the value of stamps the hard way, after he was fleeced by a clever manipulator or a more than clever counterfeiter. Why should we divulge trade secrets to the speculator? Why should we give to him in one sitting information it took us years to glean? It should be our practice to pay them with their own species. Give them information, but not all of it. Naturally, none of us knows how values will fluctuate, but, we have a general idea and in the interest of our hobby as a hobby and not a miniature Wall Street, we should pamper these highwaymen by giving them all the information they want by telling them what fortunes were made in stamps but holding back the information on losses. A bitter tear for them.

NEWS AND VIEWS

by the Editor

Elsewhere in this issue you will again read about the exhibition and the benefit auction sponsored by the Chicago group for the benefit of the Society. When you read the words "for the benefit of the Society" remember that means "for the benefit of the Specialist." Your publication has been getting bigger and better every year and despite the high cost of printing, photography and cuts, the dues have remained unchanged. It is true we have had a fine growth in membership, but that would not cover last year's expenses if it hadn't been for the March auction and the generosity of Mr. Stach, whose last page ad has appeared in our publication more than one year. It is up to every member to aid this benefit auction either with a donation of Czecho stamps or a list of

liberal bids on material which will be offered for sale. Your editor's goal last year went over the top, in 1948 he plans to give you 120 pages. Help him increase that number of pages by making it financially possible. The officers thank you.

* * *

We presume you read the previous paragraphs, now probe your conscience a bit. Have you paid your 1948 dues? You haven't? Aren't you ashamed of the neglect? If every member was as forgetful as you, how long do you think the Specialist could appear? Neither the printer nor the maker of cuts live on alfalfa and Uncle Sam asks payment of stamps on delivery. Since 1860s mail is not delivered unless paid for in advance by the sender. (Yes, we know about the exceptions.) So send in that dollar now. If you can afford it, make it two; if you feel flush, flash a fin; and if you feel generous, well, the sky is the limit!

* * *

We seldom start work on the Specialist before the first day of the month in advance of the issue. The January issue is the exception. Your editor doesn't earn his bread and oleomargarine (too poor to buy butter) by editing this almost serious publication, but is compelled by circumstances to labor in the U. S. Post Office in Chicago and December is our "heavy" month. Our 24 hours each day are divided into only two periods: work and sleep with just a little time out for lunch and the ride to and from work on the Chicago street cars. To get the January issue to the members on time, whatever that means, we start on this issue long before the printer returns to us the fruit of our labor expended on the December copy. It may happen that the sequence is lost, that there seems to be little connection between the December and January issues. Anyway, this is the explanation.

* * *

We shall not print information on U. S. stamps from now on. In the November-issue we mentioned that very few members evinced any interest for or aversion to this feature. We are gratified to know that many of our readers read our scribbling because letters from members assure us that it is information on Czech stamps they want and nothing else. After all, friends, this is YOUR paper. We are your servant. Our aim is to please the largest number of members and we bow to your wishes. Thanks a lot.

* * *

A special notice to California members. Your editor plans a vacation in your state some time in March. He will reside in Long Beach and if side trips can be conveniently arranged, he would like to meet especially those members he knows through correspondence.

* * *

Mr. Van Handel's theory on the production of the Hradcany stamps is exceedingly interesting and we think it is a fitting introduction to the reprint of Mr. Velek's article on the 40h Hradcany, which at present appears in the American Philatelist (official organ of the American Philatelic Society.) We hope to present the first portion of Mr. Velek's article in the February issue of the Specialist.

* * *

A special "Czechoslovak Issue" of "Stamps" will appear in late March, just before our spring auction. We are flattered to know that Mr. Lindquist considers our modest publication the "best in foreign fields published in the U. S." We ask our members to watch for this issue; after its appearance a word of appreciation to the publisher would not be amiss. The Czechoslovak issue of the late "Philately" brought 17 new members; a special issue in stamps should beat that record.

ATTENTION CHICAGO GROUP

At our last meeting it was decided that only those members who signify a wish to receive special notices of our group meetings shall receive these through the mail. A special charge of 25 cents per year is assessed recipients of this service. Otherwise consult the Stamp column in the Chicago Sunday Sun-Times for notices of future meetings.

OUR SPRING SHOW AND AUCTION

At our last meeting the committee decided to hold the Auction April 4, 1948, at the Olympic Hall in Cicero, Ill. March 7 is a historical date in Czech history (birthday of T. G. Masaryk), but this date was considered too early. March 21 happens to fall on Palm Sunday and members thought this may deter some from participation. So, April 4 was accepted; it is the first Sunday after Easter, is still in the busy philatelic months and, it seems, does not conflict with any other philatelic activity planned in Chicago.

Our printer informs us that another raise may be expected soon in the production of our paper. These raises have been popping at us with a painful regularity. We do not want to reduce the size of the Specialist now, we are so happy we brought it through the war to what it is today and we don't want its growth stunted. On the other hand we don't want the dues raised (by the way, have you paid your dues for 1948?); we do not want to lose a single member.

Now we come to the point. To continue the publication of the Specialist it is imperative that our auction is a success. We must raise enough money to continue the publication of the paper as well as the continued purchase of cuts for illustrative material. We have been fortunate in obtaining illustrations from other sources, but despite this help, our bills for cuts run quite high. Our president has obtained many illustrations for us and all the payment he received was "thank you." Stamps, Gossip, Linn's, American Philatelist, Svornost and others have loaned or given us cuts.

Most of us have duplicates. We don't mean common used stamps, but good worth-while material. It has been laying around in our desks long enough. Why not gladden the heart of another member by donating the material to our benefit auction, thus doing two good turns with only one deed? And those who have no duplicates, do bid generously. At our March 1947 auction stamps with attached coupons, commemorative cancellations and such type material brought as high as 100% over Scott.

If you wish to exhibit, kindly notify Mr. George Kobyłka, 3453 W. 23rd St., Chicago 23, Ill., what you wish to show and how many of the five allotted frames you are ready to fill.

If you have Czech material you wish to donate to the auction, kindly mail it to Mr. Alfred Weiner, 5056½ N. Kenmore Ave., Chicago 40, Ill.

Remember. Anything you do to insure the success of this auction, you are doing for yourself and for your fellow members.

NEW MEMBER

309. Mildred A. Glueck, 5144 S. Mozart St., Chicago 32, Ill.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

10. Mrs. A. Vedra, 501 N. Farragut, Bay City, Mich.
 126. Frank J. Kaps, P. O. Box 701, Chappaqua, N. Y.
 248. Allen H. Seed Jr., 932 Northwestern Bank Bldg., Minneapolis 2, Minn.

NEW ISSUES

The Czechoslovak government publishes a bulletin entitled "Vestník Ministerstva Post" (Bulletin of the Ministry of Posts). Unlike the bulletins Uncle Sam publishes, it is issued as the need presents itself; is printed on good paper and is of special interest to the stamp collector. While it is not sent out promiscuously, it is available to all philatelic publishers; because it is published in Czech or Slovak it is almost without value unless the recipient is able to read these languages or can obtain a translation. It is the desire of your editor to translate those bulletins which have a special bearing on new issues and which will become a permanent and valuable record for your information.

OCTOBER REVOLUTION ISSUE

We Salute Thirty Victorious Years of the Soviet Union

Translated from the Bulletin of Posts

Thirty years is not a long time in the life of a nation, but the just past thirty years which mark the birth of the Soviet Union is of special importance. They are years of great historical significance which had repercussions over the entire world. Then, on the 7th of November, 1917, a new type of state emerged out of the victorious socialist revolution and its 30 years are filled with new greatness.

All the people of Czechoslovakia celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of the Soviet Union with feelings of love and admiration. The Soviet Union, which with its work brought victory over the fascist dastardliness, which brought the greatest sacrifices for the redemption of humanity, is honored and glorified by all people of good will all over the world. But, to us, citizens of the Czechoslovak Republic, USSR means much more. Not only the certainty that it always stood firmly at our side, not only that the Soviet army liberated our country from the German executioners and in the last days of the war saved Praha, but also the fact, that under all circumstances it will be our guarantor in the future. This is the reason why every Czech and Slovak thankfully celebrates this thirtieth anniversary and is sincerely happy in the Soviet's strength and growth. In a fraternal union with the USSR, we are assured of liberty and independence.

In the frame of this glorious jubilee our postal department issues special commemorative stamps. May they be a symbol of the unity of our people to always stand at the side of the Soviet Union in the interest of world peace and safety.

—Josef Kopta

Issue of the October Revolution Commemorative Stamps

1. In commemoration of the thirtieth anniversary of the October Revolution which is celebrated Nov. 7, 1947, The Ministry of Posts will issue on October 26, 1947, two commemorative postage stamps in the following values and colors:

2.40 Kcs red

4. Kcs blue



2. The design is the work of Jaroslav Benda, professor in the High School of Art and Industry in Praha. It shows a half figure of a young woman in a tempest, symbolic of stormy times. The remnant of chains on victoriously outstretched arms is a reminder of a liberation from old customs. A laurel branch is a demonstration of the grateful participation on this historical occasion, because the October Revolution has an effect on the liberation of Czechoslovakia.

3. The inscription "Československo" is at the bottom, the legend "Rijnova Revoluce" is at the top of the stamp. To the left and right of the left arm are the year dates "1917—1947." The figure of value is in a shield in the lower right corner, where also can be found the author's name.

4. The stamp is a horizontal rectangle measuring 29x22mm., has a comb

rotary perforation and is printed by the neotype (photo engraving) process on white paper in sheets of 100 subjects. The printing is the work of "Pravda" graphic and publishing works in Bratislava.

5. The stamp has a franking value on domestic as well as foreign mails from October 26, 1947. Post offices may place them on sale October 25, but patrons should be cautioned their validity commences October 26, 1947.

6. For the initial needs the central post office will forward these stamps. All further orders from post offices shall be placed in the usual manner.

(J. zn. /3-2040-1:59414—of October 16, 1947.)

Issue of First Day Covers with October Revolution Commemorative Stamps

At the time the commemorative stamps "October Revolution" of October 26, 1947, are issued, the Post Office will supply every participant of the new issue service with one first day cover, providing the request is placed before October 12, 1947.

The design on the special cover is the work of Prof. Kaplicky and produced by the book-print process.

The cost of this cover with a 2.40Kcs stamp is 5.Kcs.

For the requisitioning of these covers be guided by instructions announced in VMP 1 no. 48/1947, report 1036. (VMP means Bulletin of the Ministry of Posts.)

(J. zn. A/3-2044-0:59426 of October 16, 1947.)

New Issue Service

The central philatelic agency in Praha (or its branch in Brno) will mail the commemorative stamps "October Revolution" in the values 2.40 and 4.Kcs together with the commemorative stamps "Stefan Moyses" to subscribers of the new issue service with its "mailing no. 8."

All post offices may place on sale the commemorative stamps "October Revolution" to all participants of the new issue service on October 25, 1947, with the admonition that their validity commences on October 26, 1947. As usual, post offices shall use for this service stamps which are well perforated and nicely centered.

(J. zn. A/3-2044-0:59427 of October 16, 1947.)

Congratulations on the Thirtieth Anniversary October Revolution Participation of Postal Employees

The postal administration issued two commemorative stamps in celebration of the 30th anniversary of the October Revolution in values 2.40 and 4. Kcs, and the Union of Friends of the USSR issued a special post card with printed congratulations to which only a signature may be added.

This provides an opportunity to the general public to transmit to the people of the USSR and its tireless leader a message of friendship, which has existed in our nation and has been transmitted from generation to generation but which could never be expressed openly as now.

Postal employees can help to insure the success of this venture of they

1. exhibit at their philatelic windows posters which they will receive from the Friends of the USSR together with a supply of the above mentioned post cards,

2. the special post cards will be sold to the public at 2.50Kcs and the sum 2.25Kcs will be sent to the Friends of the USSR, the difference 0.25Kcs may be retained by the postal clerk selling same,

3. they shall sell these post cards and stamps and display these propaganda posters from October 25, 1947,

4. they shall order additional cards from the Union of Friends of the USSR (Praha I—Masarykovo Nabr. 18) and return unsold cards there,

5. the accounting for the cards is done entirely with the Union; the payment is made with special card enclosed for this purpose with every shipment of special post cards.

(J. zn. A/1-2140-O:59566 of October 18, 1947.)

Congratulatory Cards to Generalissimo J. V. Stalin

1. The Union of Friends of the USSR in Czechoslovakia, Praha, issued in commemoration of the thirtieth anniversary of the USSR, commemorative post cards addressed to Generalissimo J. V. Stalin, Moskva-Kremlin, USSR.

These congratulatory cards may be sent through the mail directly to the addressee and may be franked with the special commemorative stamps issued by the Ministry of Posts in commemoration of the Thirtieth anniversary of the October Revolution in values 2.40 and 4. Kcs.

2. By their arrangement the cards do not conform to the U. P. U. rules and regulations (no. 113, par. 3 and 5 resp. and no. 116, par. 4). Receiver's address with symbolic signature is given along the entire length of the address side, at left in Czech and at right in Russian.

Because of congratulatory messages of a special nature and designated to only one person, so there would be no difficulties with delivery, it is permissible with the existing regulations to do this and these messages may be sent as printed matter with resultant reduction in postal rates governing same, providing the sender does not change the nature of the message on the card by additional writing.

3. All postal employees are admonished to give these congratulatory messages special care and attention so they could be delivered in as immaculate condition as possible.

(J. zn. A/2-2211-0:57373 of October 14, 1947.)

Commemorative Cancellation

The commemorative cancellation section of the philatelic agency in Praha shall on October 26, 1947, apply the commemorative cancellation "*PRAHA I* 1917 30. vyroci rijnove revoluce 1947." ("*PRAHA I* 1917 30th anniversary of the October Revolution 1947) to all postal matter submitted to it for that purpose.

(J. zn. P/4-6252-3:54830—of October 15, 1947.)

THE HRADCANY ISSUE

A Theory On Their Production

It is the general consensus of opinion among Czech collectors that the Hradcany Issues were printed from zinc plates, and that plate varieties resulted from the deterioration of these plates. This article is written with the intention of trying to prove that the Hradcany stamps were printed from electro-types made from the original zinc plates, and that all major plate varieties were present in the original plates and were transferred again and again when new electro-types were made from the originals.

This theory finds verification in the fact that despite the millions of stamps printed, the major plate varieties are constant and plating is possible as illustrated in Mr. John Velek's recent article on plating the Hradcany stamps.

The Graphic Union, Praha's largest printing concern, printed these issues and it is safe to assume that their production methods would parallel any other large printing concern of today. The actual processes of engraving and letter press printing have not changed save for the modernization of equipment. Being a large printing concern they undoubtedly maintained their own engraving plant. It is generally known that the Graphic Union undertook the assignment of printing the stamps on short notice, and with no previous experience in this field. So, it is safe to assume that they employed the methods most familiar to them in producing their everyday assignments.

The following theory of the production of the plates is based on the assumption that the regular procedure of the photo-engraving process was followed.

Mucha's original drawing for reproduction, (called the working drawing) was undoubtedly many times the size of the printed stamp. Two methods could have been used to produce the complete negative of 100 positions.

The first method would have been for the photo-engravers to reduce the stamp design to its final size and 100 duplicate negatives made and "stripped"

into position on a glass pane to form the complete negative. This use of the process is unlikely because of the length of time involved in stripping.

The second method is very likely the method used. The photo-engravers produced a negative from the original drawing, probably twice the stamps size, and from this negative made 100 photo prints which were mounted up in position to form one large master copy. This master copy was then reduced to the actual plate size which resulted in one complete negative with 100 positions!

At this point many variations and plate varieties were probably born. It is the custom of the photo-engravers to touch up weak spots on "line copies" such as the master copy so that they do not "drop out" in the photo-engraving process. Lacking the deftness of an artist, the photo-engravers may accidentally have produced plate varieties in this way. Any weak lines in the prints were lost, because of the inability of the camera to pick them up.

The negative was then used to print the impression on a sensitized sheet of zinc. Carelessness in scratching the negative and dust on the negative at this point undoubtedly was also responsible for many of the flaws in the finished plate.

All parts of the stamp's design, (which are to later form a printing surface) are protected by an acid resisting chemical allowing only what shows as white areas in the design to be etched away. The zinc etchers upon receiving the plate, gave it a slight "bite" by emerging the plate in acid. This was the first of possibly four to six "bites" given plates containing fine detail.

At this point most of the varieties undoubtedly occurred. Any dust on the plate or any spots in the design were now built up into actual printing surfaces by the method used before the second "bite" is given the plate. The etcher brushes a fine red powder called Dragons Blood over the plate in four directions into the areas slightly etched. The plate is then heated and the dust becomes a hard acid resistant wall which will on the next bite prevent the printing surfaces from being undermined. This brushing process is carried out before each "bite" is given the plate, resulting in a heavier pyramid base than what the top printing surface actually is.

Before the second "bite" is administered, the etcher goes over the plate and "picks off" any specks which are not part of the design. Either because of the complex nature of the design or lack of time, many of the "specks," dots, etc., were overlooked at this point and in successive "bites" these were built up into definite printing surfaces. The dots so common in the "doves tails" and around the "sun" are the result of the oversight of the etchers in not "picking" them off in the early etching stages.

After etching, the plates were probably proofed to show the results. To say that all proofs were pulled from the original zinc plates would only be a guess, as proofs from new electro-types, cast from the original, would be identical.

We now come to the basis of this whole theory. Any plate to be used for long runs is always electro-typed. The electro-type, after showing wear, can be easily replaced by another taken from the still perfect original. The Graphic Union was known to have printed books and pamphlets which required long runs. To them electro-typing was undoubtedly an everyday procedure. Without a doubt a zinc plate of this size would be completely ruined after forty thousand impressions on a flat bed press such as was used for the Hradcany printings. Therefore, it is hardly conceivable that millions of stamps would have been printed from zinc plates. The zinc plate could have been replaced by others from the original negative but this would have resulted in an entirely different plate with etching flaws occurring in different places. This method is debunked by the fact that after millions of stamps were printed the varieties were still constant, proving that a duplication of the original plate in the form of an electro-type must have been used.

An electro-type is nothing more than a lead casting from a wax mold taken from the original zinc plate. The fine copper printing surface is supplied by the process of electrolysis.

How often the electro-types were replaced is only a guess. From the generally good impressions of some denominations, it is likely that they were changed frequently. Other denominations, such as the three haleru for exam-

ple, were probably used for long runs. Extremely worn electrotypes are evident in copies where little detail exists and the overall design appears as hardly more than a blot of color. This was caused by the color running between the rounded edges of a worn electro-type surface. This illustrates the contrast in the nature of the wear of an electro-type and zinc plate. The zinc plate becomes brittle and breaks out, while the electro-type's edges wear round and tend to form blot impressions. This tendency is very evident where the border lines merge into a single solid blot.

Faint impressions may not always have been the result of the lack of ink, but lack of "squeeze" on a worn plate. "Heavy" impressions result not only from too much ink, but from "padding" worn plates. This is done by sheets of paper slipped under the plates to raise the printing surface.

Because of the speed at which the stamps were printed and the regrettable impressions resulting, it is possible to assume that this same negligence was practiced in the production of the plates.

Despite the great obstacles confronting the Graphic Union, it supplied the new nation of Czechoslovakia with its first postal issues, and subsequently the specialized collectors of the world with one of the most interesting studies in Philately.

Written by, Raymond Van Handel, Jr.
929 N. 5th Street, Sheboygan, Wisconsin
(Advertising Artist, Studio of the Commercial Eng. Co., Sheboygan)

STAMPS WITH ALLEGORICAL DESIGNS

Translated from the Hirsch-Franek Handbook by
W. L. Russell



The general phrase "Allegories" is applied to 30 stamps with different allegorical designs, which were gradually issued from June 1920 to May 1926.

The hitherto existing stamps all possessed the character of "preliminary" stamps. None could be accepted as the final expression of Czechoslovakia's philatelic efforts. The Hradcany issues, due to the haste with which they were produced, were graphically insufficient. The "Legion" issues, in view of their character as commemoratives, had a predetermined and short period of validity, and could not be considered. Nor could the overprinted stamps with "Posta Ceskoslovenska 1919" be used.

The Postal authorities early endeavored to obtain designs for a definite issue. They advertised a competition as early as November 30, 1918, at a time when the Hradcany stamps were first being issued, which however brought in no practical subjects. The second competition for definite issues of stamps took place on February 3, 1920 (the one for the "Legion" stamps had already been held) and brought the Postal authorities four suitable subjects from the artists Benda, Brunner, Mucha, and Obrovsky. Jaroslav Benda gave expression to his view of the postal services with an allegorical design of a Dove with letter in beak; V. H. Brunner expressed the allegory of the Freed Republic; Alfons Mucha characterized by the allegorical figure of a Hussite priest a glorious period and the sense of Czech history, whilst Jaroslav Obrovsky, with his allegory of "Husbandry & Knowledge," depicted the period since the end of the war. The names of Benda and Brunner (the latter with the initials V. H. B.)

are under each stamp design, and the name Obrovsky is in the lower part of the design of the stamps of 100 to 400h.

The stamps in the individual designs do not constitute independent series, but individual values of a varied lot of designs (properly speaking, the three Masaryk stamps by Svabinsky, described in the previous chapter, also belong in the group) which originally comprised the following value-groups;—Dove, 5 to 15h; Chainbreaker, 20 to 30h; Hussite, 80 and 90h; Husbandry & Knowledge, 100 to 400h. In the course of time these series were frequently disarranged, so that individual values with two different designs appear. The duration of validity of the stamps in this series was not uniform. Some values were withdrawn after a comparatively short time, others remained valid to 1932. The issue of the stamps, the alterations in design, and the withdrawal from circulation were, for the most part, decided on the grounds of postal requirements; However, political considerations (as in the case of the Hussite) also came into the matter.

The printing of all stamps was executed by the United Czech Printing Co., of Praha. Book-print was used, with the exception of the two Hussite values. Production was commenced on May 25, 1920 (5h blue and 10h green, Dove) and some values were still being printed in 1929 (10h olive Dove). All values were printed in enormous numbers, according to the long period of use foreseen for them. With the majority of values, however, considerable stocks remained with the Post, either because accurate estimates of consumption were impossible, or because a value had to be quickly withdrawn from circulation. Although a part of the Husbandry & Knowledge issue of three stamps were changed by overprint into Airmails in 1922, and later 11 values were changed into Postage Dues, on the grounds of economy the Philatelic Bureau still sells the greater part of the stamps in this group. (Translator's note—the foregoing, of course, was written in 1935 and does not necessarily now apply!)

Originally all four designs were proof-printed in gravure, but later—either because of protests by the designer of the Dove, or because gravure was found unsuitable for both the Chainbreaker and the Husbandry & Knowledge designs—the book-print process was finally selected and only Mucha's "Hussite" was produced in gravure.

The stamps were issued perforated throughout. Imperf pieces, including those values which by mistake arrived at some PO's, should be viewed as uncompleted, unissued stamps. Together with correctly printed stamps, small lots of incomplete prints (offsets, folds, defective prints, jazz perfs, etc.) as well as some imperf pieces found their way to the counters. The majority of these are proof-prints, essays, printers' waste, etc., which arrived only by illegal means from the Printery to the Public.

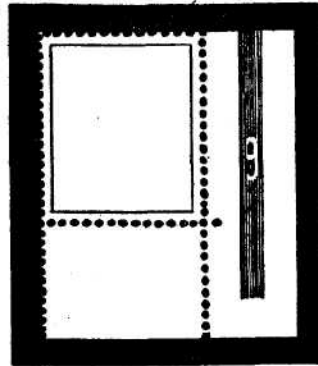
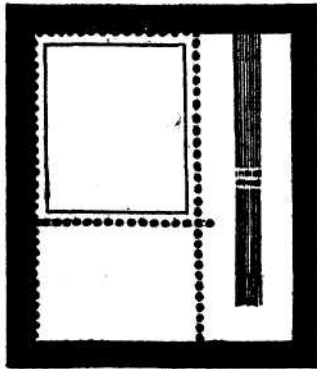
The important differences in color, paper, and gum are a result of the great quantities of the stamps, which were produced over a long period, with numerous new plates.

The colors show many and often striking shades. The paper, at first yellowish, thin, and sometimes thick, was later white. The inferior gum is yellowish or colorless.

The majority of the Values were printed from forms consisting of 4 plates set together. Each of these plates contained 100 stamp designs (they were not in individual clichés). For varying arrangement of the plates see under "Inverted Prints"). Only some rarely used values were printed with two-plate forms, for example the 5, 15 and 30h Dove. It is possible by means of the plate marks on the different plates to follow the color changes of the individual issues, the printing defects, the placing together of the forms, as well as to establish the total number of plates used.

Before we treat more fully the subject of the Printing and the Plate-marks, let us discuss the principal kinds of marks. At first there was no system of plate-marking, but later an ordered system was evolved. In the first printing period (1920-1921) the plates were not clearly marked. The only, and almost imperceptible mark (which a layman might easily overlook) consists of various kinds of breaks in the dash after the control figures under the 91st, 92nd, or 100th stamp in the sheet. The second period, 1921-1922, brought an alteration of the plate arrangement, as these plates were furnished with broad or narrow

Group 1
Plates not marked or numbered in any manner whatsoever.

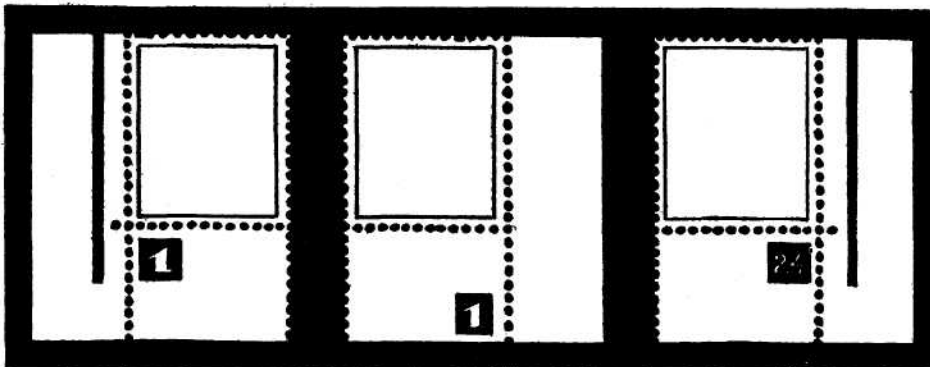


GROUP 2

Plate numbers made by means of horizontal, oblique, or vertical white lines in the lateral protective strips at either left or right hand side of the sheet.

GROUP 3

Plate numbers consisting of white figures in the lateral protective strips, either at left or right hand side of the sheet —occasionally both. The figures are sometimes horizontal.



Normal position of
Plate number

Position of Plate number
reversed with year number

Normal position of
Year number

Group 4

White figures on colored rectangles under the 91st and 100th stamps, and consisting respectively of plate numbers and year figures. These are sometimes reversed, so that the plate number comes under the 100th stamp.

protection strips on the vertical sides, to regulate the physical side of the printing. On these strips, lower left or lower right, one to four cross-lines were filed, which indicated by their number the particular plate in the form. A further alteration in plate-marks came about the year 1923. In the protective strips at the sides, in place of the engraved lines, small or large arabic figures were engraved. In the final stage, the longest period (1924-1929) the plates were marked with a succession figure in the lower left corner and with the two last figures of the year date in the lower right corner. The order of this was often reversed. The numbers are engraved in white on colored squares, placed

under the lowest corner stamps in the sheet. The large number of different sorts of plate-marks is explained by the large number of forms, consisting of at least two, and often four, differently marked plates.

Reversed Prints

(i.e. Tete-beche). The only exception in regard to the arrangement of the sheets and their number of stamps was caused through preparations for the issue of stamp-booklets in the year 1921. At the suggestion of the "Piras" Advertising Agency in Praha, which was ready to bear the expense of producing the stamp-booklets, provided they were given the use of the blank pages for advertising purposes, some values being printed at that time were issued in sheets which were expressly altered for this purpose.

In order always to be able to separate the printed sheets into 15 strips each of six stamps, the 5 and 10h Dove, the 40, 50, and 60h Chafnbreker stamps were printed in sheets of 90, and the 20h Dove in sheets of 60 (here 30 fields remained unprinted). Three vertical rows in the middle of each sheet are printed in inverted position in relation to the others, so that in each horizontal row of stamps two tete-beche pairs are found; one pair se-tenant, the other separated by a field which is printed with two colored strips, as are customarily found on the sheet borders. Below is shown a plan of the complete horizontal rows of the 5h stamp (the same plan operates in the 10, 40, 50, and 60h) and the 20h stamp; in the sheets 10 such rows are found. (Translator's note—the plan referred to is shown on page 222 of the Handbook).

Originally it was intended that each booklet should contain stamps of 5, 10, 40 and 60h. After the increase in the postal tariff (1st January 1922) stamps of 20, 50 and even 100h were included. In order that the selling price of the booklet should come to a round sum in Kronen, one sheet of the booklet carried only four 20h stamps instead of six; this meant that in this value some fields remained unprinted.

However, negotiations with the firm of "Piras" miscarried, and the booklets were not issued. The postal Administration (through permit Z.247107-IXb/21) gave the stamps which were printed to the Philatelic Bureau, and later also to other Post Offices. On December 5, 1921 the values 5, 10, 40, and 60h were so issued, and on June 18, 1923 the 20h and 50h. From the considerable space of time between the two issues, it follows that the most important reason for the failure to issue the booklets was the raising of the postal tariff which took place on January 1, 1922.

Later, when the values of 20h and 50h required by the alteration to the tariff were being printed (to which the 100h stamp of the same series was to be added) these values were abruptly withdrawn from circulation, and again the issue of the booklets was frustrated.

The sheets for these stamp booklets caused excitement amongst collectors by reason of the tete-beche pairs, although these were purposely printed thus, and hence do not possess the rarity-value that they would were they accidental. Though many stamps from the sheets were used for franking purposes, there still remains a large part of the tete-beche pairs from the considerable original editions. The philatelic Bureau also sold individual tete-beche pairs.

One other, and not the least important, characteristic mark of these sheets—though one long disregarded!—is the fact that they are LINE PERF 13 $\frac{3}{4}$, whilst the normal sheets are COMB PERF 14. By this means the individual stamps in one's collection can be valued. The different perf, however, was established comparatively late, and many stamps had by then already been used for franking letters.

(to be continued)

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