

# THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE  
CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

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## EDITORIAL

Our last issue was sent to the printer only one week ago and present circumstances compel us to work on this issue now. It is delightful! Since 1941 our vacations were spent at our summer home, either to work on the Specialist, get caught up on our correspondence or just get the rest we needed. Last year we split our vacation three ways, but every portion of it was spent in the interest of Czecho philately. Now we are preparing for a real vacation, see a part of our country we never saw, visit friends we missed many years and philately is merely incidental. We trust, dear member, when you get your vacation, you'll enjoy it as much as we enjoy our preparations.

## NEW MEMBERS

- 313. James Beal, 200 Kenmore Ave., Warren, Ohio
- 314. Joseph Koenig, 3399 W. 136th St., Cleveland 11, Ohio
- 215. F. W. Svec, 4264 W. 49th, Cleveland 9, Ohio

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

- 105. W. F. Barden, 18 N. Main St., Attleboro, Mass.
- 124. F. S. Meisel, 5 Esgrrove Dr., Toronto 12, Ont., Canada
- 174. Mrs. E. D. Fairchild, 1320 No. State St., Chicago 10, Ill.

## NEWS AND VIEWS

by the Editor

The second and final portion of our bombast against mulcting dealers who traffic with labels they call essays and printer's waste they term errors, is found in this issue. We had this in readiness for a long time, but so many timely articles needed earlier publication, we were forced to postpone it. A lengthy article on this subject is in preparation, but it is a big job and requires much work and time. Meanwhile we are ready to serve our readers the type of reading matter they want.

\* \* \*

Our Praha dealer member Mr. Hugo Svoboda, sent us a first day cover of the new Benes stamps, regular issue. Mr. Svoboda's son was a student at our Northwestern University; we made several attempts to get together, but aside from several brief telephone conversations, were very unsuccessful. The young man is back in Praha and we hope his brief sojourn in our country was of lasting benefit.

Our good friend Zdenek Kvasnicka favored us with several auction catalogs, which were very interesting. It would be more interesting if he could supply us with prices realized at these auctions for some of the scarcer items.

He also sent us a small lot of meter cancellations entire covers. If any member is interested in this type of collecting, the editor is ready to turn them over. But, there is a catch to this; we expect an article from the recipient on this phase of our hobby. We are sure there are members who collect this material.

Mr. K. also sends us a list of commemorative cancellations. We would gladly use this list for publication, but it is not as complete as the listings we presented on the cancellations of 1945 and 1946. There is a bigger demand for these cancellations than we expected; when a complete listing of the 1947 material comes to hand, we shall again favor our readers with the listing and translation.

\* \* \*

The Druffla catalog 1948 we mentioned a few months ago is now here in a limited quantity. Those who ordered them should have them by now. If you haven't received your copy, please notify the editor and if you send a postal note for 60 cents, it will be mailed to you postpaid.

\* \* \*

Kindly correct your 1948 Scott in the Czechoslovakia section to read:

C6a ..... mint 27.50

\* \* \*

In our News and Views column in February we asked our members to let us know their collecting specialties and when the membership list is published in May, we'd insert this bit of information. Only one member wrote, but he sent in information on 18 members. Thank you, Mr. Fritzsche.

\* \* \*

The following gentlemen have promised to act as judges at our show this month: Messrs. Ben Reeves, Ernest Polachek and Julius Steindler. Alternate: Mr. Anthony C. Russo. Auctioneer at the auction the very genial, witty, Mr. Jack J. Domar, his alternate: Mr. Ben Reeves. We thank these gentlemen for the time they donate to our group and its activities. All these men are well known not only in Chicago but throughout the United States as good Philatelists.

\* \* \*

No matter what happens in Czechoslovakia, our Society shall remain a philatelic and not a political organization. At home we are permitted to express our opinion, but we must be careful not to injure our members over there.

FUTURE ISSUES

A bulletin from the Ministry of Posts dated 17. March, 1948, imparts the following information:

On 15. February, 1948, new postage stamps with the portrait of Pres. Benes were issued in the following denominations and colors:

1.50Kcs — brown      2 Kcs — red violet      5 Kcs — blue



The engraving is the work of prof. Karel Svolinsky from a photograph by prof. Em.

Stamps of the 1.50Kcs value were printed at the Unie in Praha, those of the 2. and 5. Kcs denominations at Pravda in Bratislava. All are printed from

line engraved steel plates on white paper, in sheets of 100 subjects and comb perforated. (This information is not correct; they are definitely not line engraved but photogravures. Ed.)

To advertise the Winter Sokol Games in the High Tatra Mountains, and which take place 15. to 22. February, 1948, the Ministry of Posts issues a series of illustrated post cards with a printed postage stamp bearing the new portrait of pres. Benes from a photograph by prof. Ehm. They consist of:

- a. 8 various themes for inland postage with 1.50Kcs stamp
- b. 8 various these for international postage with a 3 Kcs. stamp.

On March 7, 1948, the Ministry of Posts will issue a series of postage stamps to advertise the XI. All Sokol Meet in Praha this summer. These commemorative stamps were designed by prof. Max Svabinsky and represent the Sokol pledge of loyalty to the Republic.

1.50 Kcs — brown      3. Kcs — red      5. Kcs — blue



The engraving will be done by Jindra Schmidt, the stamps will be printed from line engraved steel plates in sheets of 100 subjects and the margins will contain coupons; the design for the coupon as also for the first day envelope is the work of Svabinsky.

The 600. anniversary of the Charles University will be celebrated April 7, 1948. Prof. Karel Svolinsky prepared two designs for this issue (one of which



is here illustrated) and they will probably be issued in the following denominations and colors:

1.50 Kcs — brown      2. Kcs — red brown      3. Kcs — red      5. Kcs — dk. blue

I am seeking exchange of stamps of the U. S. for stamps of Europe.

**Ant. Zouhar, Zlin, Kvitkova 34, Czechoslovakia**

Member Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of North America #306

I am very anxious to exchange stamps with fellow members of the society. Kindly address your communications to Ing. Klimes, Svehlovo Namesti 12, Min. Dopravy, Praha II, Czechoslovakia.

## HOW TO COLLECT AND EVALUATE TRIAL PRINTINGS OF CZECHOSLOVAKIAN STAMPS

by Zdenek Kvasnicka — translated by R. Skopecek

(continued from November, 1947, issue)

The essay of a stamp differs from a stamp as issued, while a proof is a trial print of a stamp to be issued. It is a tryout of various papers, inks, perforations and gums. The proofs are more important to the collector than essays, because they show the various stages in the manufacture of a stamp. One can find some very fine and interesting specimens among proofs, but they are not supposed to leave the printing establishment. If they do, as for instance the proofs and essays of stamps issued after 1923, it is plainly seen the material left the printery illegally.

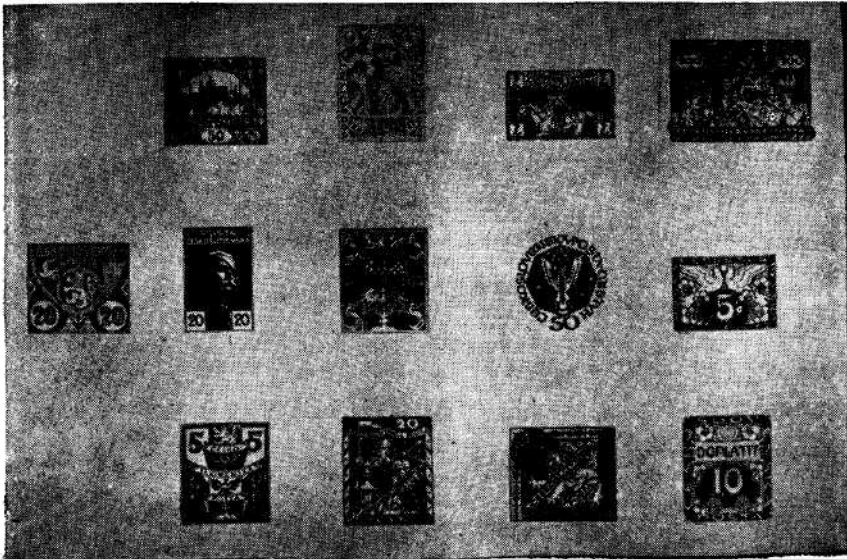
Proofs of stamps issued before 1923, and which include the Hradcany, Charity Legionnaires, Liberation of the Republic, Dove, Hussite, Husbandry and Knowledge (this group is generally known as "the Allegory" issue), Newspaper, Special Delivery, Postage Due and 1920 Masaryks, appear in large numbers. Blackprints of these are offered at 5.Kcs to 10.Kcs a copy. Proofs in actual colors and sizes, as for instance the 1920 Masaryk 125, 500 and 1000h, are valued higher.

Proofs of stamps issued after 1923 are very scarce and appear as incomplete stamps, such as the Sokol Winter Games, the Mourning sheet in red color, etc. This is the material which reached the market through irregular channels.

Original engravings, in various stages of completeness, which appear in various colors and on paper of various thicknesses, are also very scarce. Printings in black of Tyrs, Smetana and landscapes of the intermediate size, are known to repose in collectors' albums. Prices for this type of material vary greatly, because only a few proofs are usually pulled.

Such a specimen, received by a Slovak collector is a prize in 1934, was an incomplete Bratislava Souvenir Sheet.

In this category belong also the overprinted "Ceskoslovenska Posta 1919" on Hungarian Postal Savings Bank stamps, Austrian 1h, etc.



A group of essays showing three Mucha designs which became stamps.

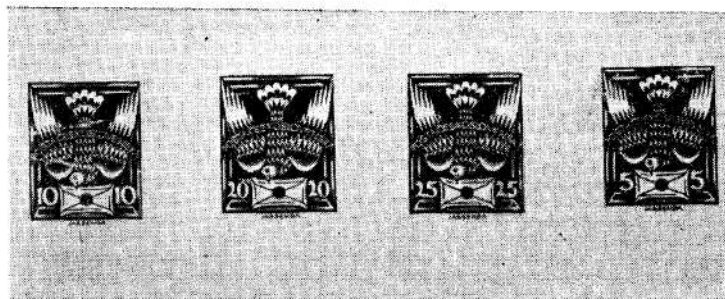


A few essays appearing on one sheet. Among them are essays for the 1920 Masaryk and the Chainbreaker design.

#### Printer's Waste

Under this heading come all the stamps with various faults and which were passed up by the inspectors. They include folds, creases, offsets, double prints, prints on both sides of the paper, smeared prints, shifted perforations, shifted or inverted overprints or surcharges, etc. Such material is quite alright to embellish a collection and their value depends on what kind of prints they are. Misprints produced by typography are plentiful, steel engravings are scarce. Less valuable is the so-called printer's waste which consists of varicolored papers used to clean plates before and after printing, by being run through the presses several times, so that a number of impressions are on top of one another, often of several values.

Many sheets of this printer's waste were sold to the collectors through the General Post Office. In the case of the Hradcany issue, this amounted to several tons. This material is practically worthless, except those of one color, gutters, margins, etc. The 10h Hradcany green imperforate is very much in evidence and prices asked for it are out of all reason. These embrace double prints, prints on both sides of the paper, etc., and were at one time recognized by some Czechoslovak experts, as legitimate collector items. It is believed, however, that for a beginner a fine specimen of the 10h green Hradcany imper-



Die proofs of the Dove type.

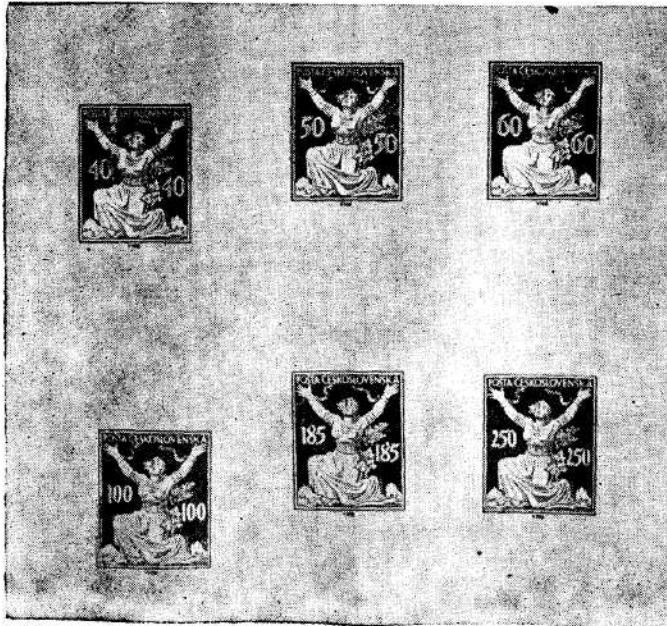


An essay showing figure of value at right only.

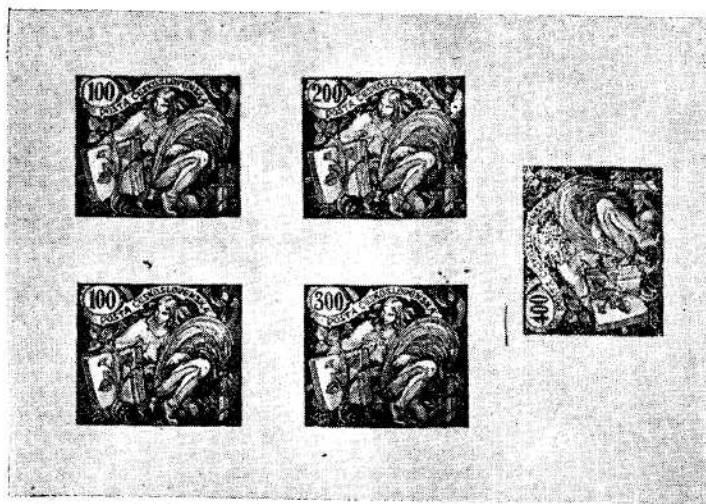
forate is worth a lot more than this questionable stuff.

Somewhat more interesting is the printer's waste of later issues of which only a very small number reached collectors, as for instance the air post stamps on pink paper, Masaryk neotypes, etc.

Taken as a whole, this sort of material is very good for filling out and embellishing a collection, but it is far more important to have one good specimen than a lot of imperfects.



A group of die proofs on one sheet showing the Chainbreaker design.



Die proofs showing the Husbandry and Knowledge design.

## Czechoslovakia — Plating the Stamps of the First Issue

By John Velek, A. P. S.

(Reprinted by permission from The American Philatelist)

Continued

Position 12. The right branch of the large bush is extended to reach the arch. (Billig No. 7i). This variety is duplicated in Plate II and Plate I can be recognized by a prominent colored dot below the crossbar of the numeral 4. This position also has a white dot in the lower loop of the S of POSTA and a tiny colored dot in the sun near the point on the roof. The ray above the sun is very short, about one-third of the normal length.

Position 13. There is a colored dot on the inside edge of the 4 of 40. Two tiny dots are located to the left of the center tower near the top.

Position 14. There is a short and a long break in the frame line just to the left of the word POSTA. Dots in the left dove are located in the tip of the wing and in the bottom of the tail. In the same dove the tail line has a short break near the top. There are several small colored dots around the sun similar to those in the illustration.

Position 15. A colored dot is in the top heart to the left of the value tablet. Both doves contain colored dots—the right one near the short tail feathers and the left on the outer edge of the breast and another near the lower wing line.

Position 16. The ray over the sun is very short. There is a small colored dot over the sun slightly to the left and another in the bottom of the value tablet below the numeral 4. A third dot is located over the regular dot above the second tower on the right. The illustration in Figure 1 shows the position of three small dots in the right dove.

Position 17. There is a narrow break in the frame line and the design over the S of CESKO. (Billig No. 7z). The illustration for this position shows the location of dots in the left margin but in some printings the left frame line is so ragged as to almost absorb the dots shown. A small dot is in the upper heart at right.

Position 18. There is a break in the design over the O of CESKO. Several

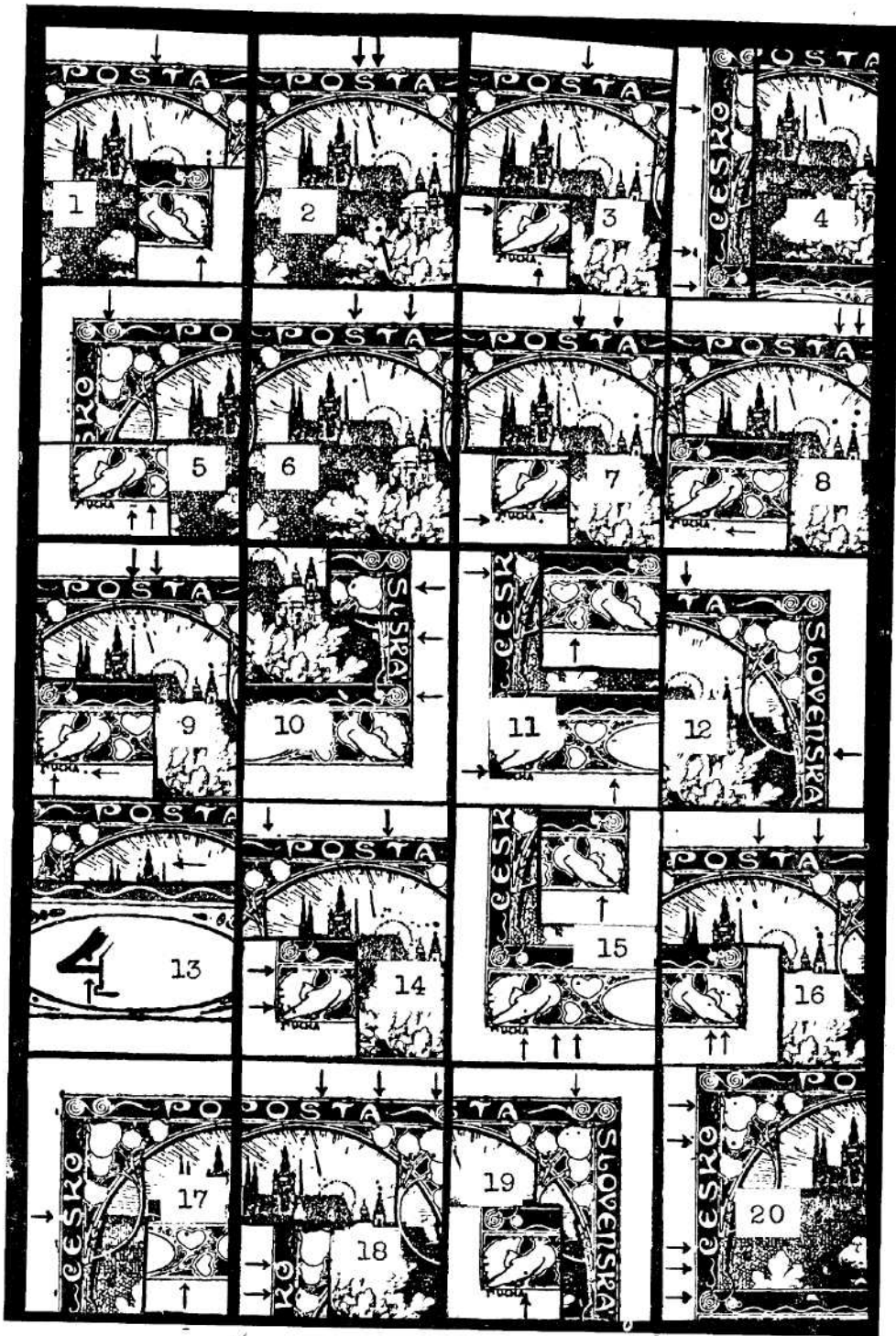


Fig. 1—40 haleru Plate I Positions 1-20



small colored dots are located in the area above the castle—one directly over the spire, one slightly to the left of it; two are between the sun and the long ray and another to the left of the ray. There is also a dot above the second tower to the right—beside the regular dot that is part of the design. Two of the linden leaves also contain dots; the first leaf on the left side of the design and the third on the right. There are three other dots in the design: after the word MUCHA in the tail of the right dove and a very prominent one in the right branch of the left bush.

Position 19. There is a colored dot on the wing of the left dove. In the third leaf on the right there are two tiny dots about one mm. apart. To the right of the 0 of 40 there is a small break in the bottom of the tablet line.

Position 20. There is a white spot between the two bushes. A similar variety occurs on this position in Plate II but a short thick white line in the base below the white spot will identify the stamp as Plate I. (Billing No. 7dd). There is a break in the frame line over the C of CESKO. The left group of leaves has a colored dot in the second leaf and two in the third leaf.

Position 21. A heavy triangular blot cover the entire first scroll and part of the second on the left side of the design. (Billing No. 7p). There is a short break near the top of the long ray.

Position 22. There is a colored dot in the margin over the T of POSTA and over the E of CESKO. There is a break in the white frame line to the left of the lower left scroll. The long ray has a tiny colored dot to the right of its top end.

Position 23. The third leaf on the right has a small colored dot on its top edge and another just below. There is a tiny dot above the first tower on the right and another just over the sun. The 4 of 40 has a colored dot below the lower right serif.

Position 24. There is a prominent colored dot in the lower heart on the left of the value tablet. Small dots are visible in the tail of the left dove, number five leaf on the right and just above the roof within the sun.

Position 25. There is a ring in the left side of the value tablet. This is the famous "ring" variety so well known among collectors of the first issue and common to both plates. (Billing No. 7a). However Plate I can be identified by the fact that the ring does not touch the tablet line. Also there are two dots in the third leaf on the left branch.

Position 26. There is a spot of color on the bottom line of the fifth leaf on the left. A small dot is located near the frame line above the S of SLOVENSKA. On heavily inked stamps it may touch the design. There is a dot on the large bush below the second tower of the right side.

Position 27. There is a break in the outer frame line over the A of POSTA. On the right side of the stamp there is a small colored dot in the top heart and another on the neck of the dove. There is a small spot of color in the margin to the left of the small bush.

Position 28. There is a small dot of color in the tail and in the wing of the left dove. The top heart on the right side has a small dot and there are several dots in the left margin over the C, E and O of CESKO. Some printings show other small colored marks in the left margins from the O of CESKO to the top of the stamp.

Position 29. There are two colored dots between the towers on the right side. The fourth leaf of the left branch has a small dot near its stem.

Position 30. There are two small dots near the left tip of the 4 of 40. In some printings the upper one joins the numeral. Each tower at the right has a dot of color over it—a tiny one on the second and a larger one on the first. The S of SLOVENSKA has a small white dot in its lower loop. There is a large white spot over the left branch of the small bush.

Position 31. There is a colored dot in the margin over the A of POSTA. The left frame line has a small break opposite the tail of the dove. There is a dot above the spire and another slightly to the right.

Position 32. There is a very small colored dot in the right branch of the small bush just above the thin line that separates the branches. The tail of the left dove has a dot near its outer edge. There is a tiny dot just above the sun slightly to the left.

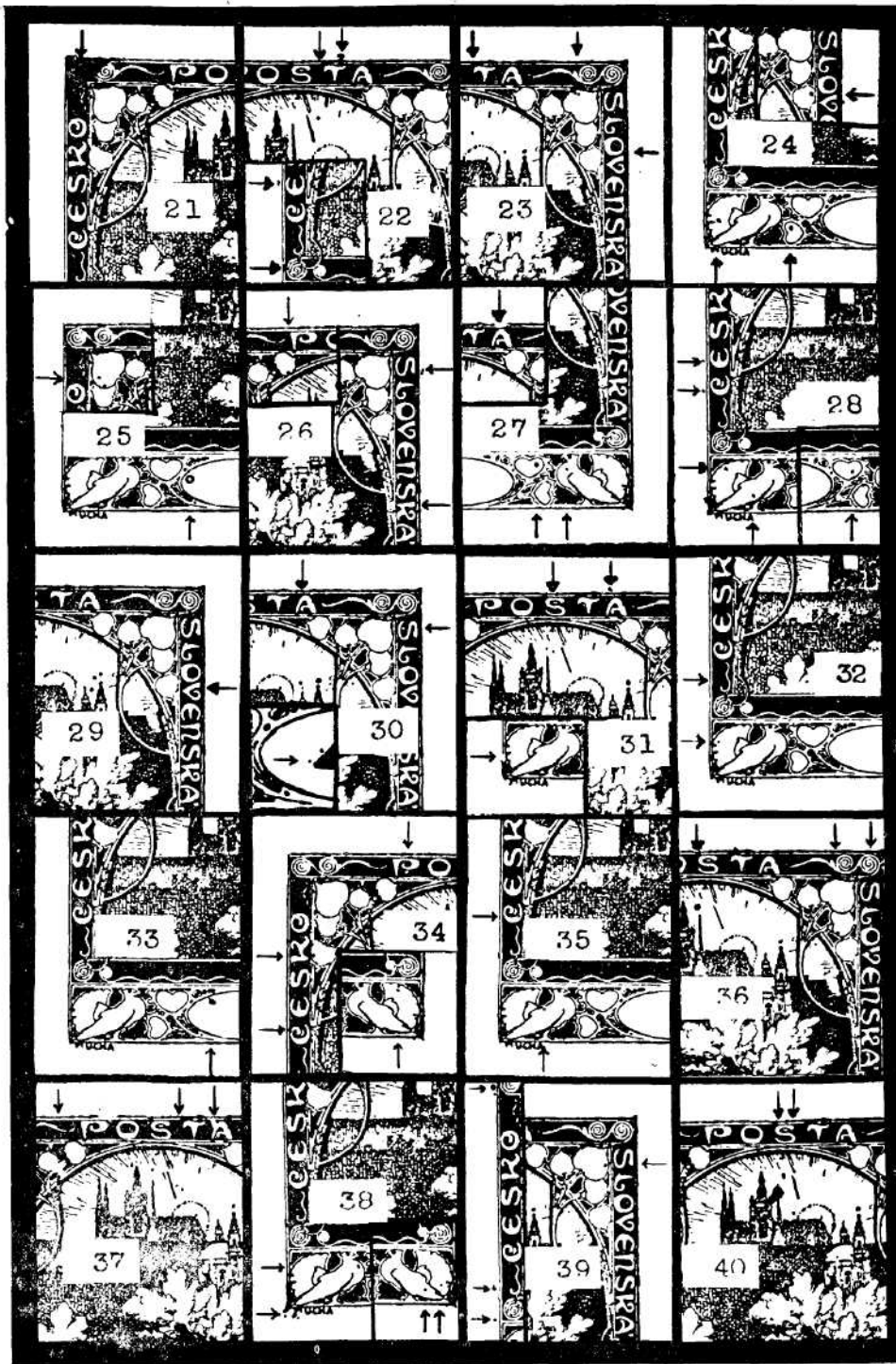


Fig. 2—40 haleru Plate I Positions 21-40

Position 33. The value tablet has a large colored dot over the upper left edge which is joined to the tablet frame by a fine line. (Billig No. 7r). The upper left tablet frame is joined to one of the ornaments by a spot of color. There is a dot midway between the two right towers.

Position 34. There is a small white dot below the P of POSTA. A short colored line joins the C of CESKO to the frame line. There is a small dot in the first leaf at left and in the tail of the right dove. There is a small dot between the 4 and 0 of the value and another in the upper part of the white section enclosed by the 0. Also a tiny break in the value tablet at the bottom.

Position 35. The C of CESKO has a tiny dot in the lower curve. There is a small dot near the top of the wing of the left dove and another just below the long ray over the sun. These dots of color are all very small and a glass should be used in locating them. Nevertheless they are constant plate varieties and will positively identify this position.

Position 36. A large colored dot is located above the spire. There is a small dot on the bottom edge of the fourth leaf in the right group. The left stroke of the V of SLOVENSKA has a fine colored line bisecting it.

Position 37. A thick white line projects upward from the left stroke of the A of POSTA. (Billig No. 7j). There is a V shaped white line breaking thru the right side of the fourth leaf in the left group. There is a short line to the left of the long ray and two dots to the right. The top heart to the right of the value tablet has a colored dot near its center.

Position 38. In this position both doves have plating marks—the left has a dot on the breast and the right has dots in the wing and tail. The ray over the sun is short. There is a spur of color above the O of POSTA. The lower left corner of the frame is extended and a dot just below the extension. The left stroke of the M of MUČHA is slightly longer and has a tiny dot beside it.

Position 39. The third leaf in the right group has a dot near its outer edge. There are three colored dots in the left margin above and below the lower scroll and opposite the upper scroll.

Position 40. There is a large blot of color connecting the spire and the center tower. This is the well known "flag" variety that is duplicated in Plate II. (Billig No. 7b) The dot to the left of the long ray and a tiny dot in each of the two hearts at left will identify this stamp as belonging to Plate I.

(To be continued)

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