

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE
CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

Copyright 1947 The Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of North America
Editor Frank J. Kovarik, 2502 So. Kedzie Ave., Chicago 23, Ill.

Vol. X

June 1948

No. 6

EDITORIAL

Additional material for the Specialist continues to arrive on your editor's desk. We hope to publish all the worth-while material in due time and in the order of its importance. Just at present, your Society is publishing the maximum number of pages possible; in fact, it is now using up the surplus money saved up during the war, when paper was not too hard to get, when labor was not too high, but, when co-workers were too busy beating three dictators to make room for a fourth and had no time to write these fine articles the members can enjoy now.

We have noted with pleasure that no old-timer dropped out of the Society. Just at present we consider as an "old-timer" any one with membership number below 100, though we can safely say, not many in the 100 group were dropped for non-payment of dues. Our greatest loss of membership is in the most recent membership class. There are three classes of new members joining the Society: those who are sincerely interested in stamps of Czechoslovakia and can either learn or impart knowledge of the stamps of this country; those who have not yet made up their minds whether Czechoslovakia is really the country they want to collect in specialistic form; and, lastly, they whose enthusiasm flares to immense brightness and then, like the light of a Roman candle, dies in mid-air and is lost forever.

NEW MEMBERS

334. Martin F. Duffy, 229 Coeyman Ave., Nutley 10, N. J.
335. Elizabeth E. Penn, 512 So. Ogden Drive, Los Angeles 36, Calif.
336. Josef Kauer, Tkalcovska ul. 9, Bruntal, Czechoslovakia.
337. Frank Slivon, 52 E. 104th St., Chicago 23, Ill.
338. B. J. Miller, 264 E. 180th St., New York 57, N. Y.

CORRECTION OF MEMBERSHIP LIST

Yes, we make mistakes. Many of our members have been deprived of the membership list's importance in last month's publication and we sincerely regret our oversight. Next year should be less difficult; heretofore, our list was published in numerical order; at the request of the convention of last May, it was rearranged alphabetically and so, some errors crept in. We sincerely hope and trust that these members graciously pardon their erring editor.

16. Nicholas Bogdan, 464 Genese St., Trenton, N. J.
47. A. I. Kessler, 551 Fifth Ave., New York 17, N. Y.
97. John Schurer, 527 Buena Vista Ave., Maple Shade, N. J.
118. A. A. Wasserscheid, 59 Euston Rd., Garden City, N. Y.
120. Bedrich Pollak, 120 W. 44th St., New York, N. Y.

125. Geo. Baltheiser, 333 E. 86th St., New York, N. Y.
 141. Mrs. J. Strnad, 205 So. Ky. Ave., Mason City, Iowa
 Specialized Central Europe and especially Czecho.
 218. Paul Reiner, 19 Rector St., New York 6, N. Y.
 222. David Lidman, 64 Pascock Rd., Park Ridge, N. J.
 239. Edward S. Kral, 5320 W. 24th Pl., Cicero 50, Ill.
 267. Alan York, 4170 Drexel Blvd., Chicago 15, Ill.
 U. S., Czecho, Italy and Colonies
 285. Harold Knaus, Jr., 1438 Blaisdell St., Rockford, Ill.
 286. Carl Pitha, 40 S. Main St., Middlesport, N. Y.
 287. Emery Cibik, 31-30 84th St., Jackson Heights, L. I., N. Y.



In the above illustration, the members are privileged to meet their president, Mr. Geo. A. Blizil, as he was being presented the "Hennan Trophy" by Dr. Jack Gluck, chairman of the Hennan Committee at Garfield-Perry Club Annual Banquet, March 20, 1948. This trophy was awarded to Blizil for his outstanding services as the club's Entertainment Chairman for 1947. Cheerio, George!

OFFICERS

President: Geo. A. Blizil, 2364 Queenston Rd., Cleveland Heights 18, Ohio.
 National Sec.: John Velek, 2229 Kimball Ave., Chicago 47, Illinois.
 International Sec.: A. J. Hrivnak, 174 Addison Rd., Riverside, Ill.
 Treasurer: Guy Greenawalt, 1443 No. Hudson Ave., Chicago 10, Ill.
 Editor: F. J. Kovarik, 2502 So. Kedzie Ave., Chicago 23, Ill.
 Librarian: Mrs. M. Glawe, 9640 S. Seeley Ave, Chicago 43, Ill.
 Sales Mgr.: W. Fritzsche, % McDonald, 3317 Glenwood Rd., Brooklyn 10, N.Y.

WHICH OR WHAT IS A STAMP?
AND HOW DOES IT HELP INTERPRET HISTORY?

K. J. Woodbury

A few months ago I attended a meeting of the Rhode Island Philatelic Society at which a collector of "stampless covers" was showing a part of his collection of early U. S. Stampless Covers.

Almost at the beginning he brought out the fact that these items are misnamed. They are the covers that carried their messages because of the STAMP or cancellation on them. Later, for accommodation of the senders of letters, the idea of an adhesive (piece of paper, which could be bought at the postmaster's office) to simplify the prepayment of postage was devised. This allowed letters to be deposited at central points or in boxes for collection. The adhesive was evidence that the postage fee had been paid. The postmaster then used some cancelling device to show that the adhesive was no longer valid.

I understand that in Europe collectors are primarily interested in cancelled adhesives. Our collectors of pretty pictures have created a type of collector, who often loses sight of the fact that the adhesive was designed primarily to be used for the prepayment of mail; thus the mint stamp collector. However, the cancellation on the stamp or elsewhere on the cover tells the actual story of the delivery of the mail.

In the collection of Czech stamps I have become more interested in the cancellation than in the stamp in many cases. Or I might say that the actual stamp together with its cancellation may tell a story, oftentimes a history story. Such combinations, with the dates of issue and date of cancellation may give valuable philatelic data.

The few pieces of Sudeten material that came into my hands during the recent war, together with the fact that I once saw a small handbook on Sudeten overprints and cancellations, started me thinking. Here was a comparatively small area in central Europe that has had a very varied philatelic history. In the first place, some of the towns involved must have a cancellation history dating back to the first issuing of adhesives. And probably a student of the classics of Austria could give you some idea of how long that is in the equivalent of our "stampless covers."

At the end of World War I a rather fast and varied philatelic story began to take shape in the stamps and cancellations of these same towns. First the Austrian stamps then in use were still good for postage and only the date of the cancellation reveals whether the letter was carried by the postal system of the first Republic. In some cases, the new postmaster, being an ardent Czech, mutilated the old cancellation device by removing the German or Austrian name from the device, thus making the so-called transition device. In some cases a new device of temporary nature was used. Then came the new Czech stamps, often used with the Austrian stamps and thus producing the double franking. Finally came a new cancelling of the Republic and only the Czech stamps for postage.

During the first Republic some of these towns had special events at which time special commemorative cancellations were applied to the covers. During the year 1938, a new series of events took place, known as the Sudeten crisis. As the Germans took over towns, special cancellations were often used on mail to advertise the fact. Many of the cancellations seem to be in good philatelic standing. But, what of the Czech stamps that were variously overprinted? Books on philately have been printed to explain the need of these overprinted stamps in various places. Zumstein's latest catalog mentions a few of them. Many are still on the scales as to need. In any case transition from the Czech stamps to the German stamps took place.

Special cancellation for commemorative purposes were common in the Sudeten period under German rule. At the end of World War II and the return of these Sudeten towns to the second Czechoslovakian Republic, the whole process of transition from German stamps and cancellations to Czech again took place. Then began the special commemorative cancellations of the second Republic as history goes on. With the recent political events in Czechoslovakia, who can say what philatelic history may be written on the cover of a letter:— by the stamp that prepays the postage and by the stamp that cancels it?

POSTA CESKOSLOVENSKA 1919

by Frank J. Kovarik

(Reprinted by permission from, and cuts courtesy of, "STAMPS")

On December 5, 1919, the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs in Praha, issued the following decree:

"No. 10214-IV/1919. Sale of Austrian and Hungarian stamps with Overprint. From 12th December, 1919, at the Collectors' Counters Nos. 33 and 34, in the Hall of the General Post Office 1, Praha, old Austrian and Hungarian stamps of the last issues (which were returned to the Postal Administration as remainders after 1st March, 1919) will be offered for sale. These stamps are provided with the overprint "Posta Ceskoslovenska 1919." A 50% surcharge will be added to their face value. The stamps will be sold in large or small assortments, as far as stocks permit, and some values both singly and in sheets. All the stamps—Postage, Express (Special Delivery), Airmail, Newspaper and Postage Dues—will be valid for postage at their original face value, up to 31st December, 1919, inclusive, and during this period may be used to frank all postal sendings intended for Inland Postage in the Republic of Czechoslovakia. The sale of the stamps will also be continued after the expiration of their validity, until stocks are completely exhausted."

We can readily see that the official decree gives very little information. No values are mentioned; no information is offered as to quantities issued; a 50 per cent increase over face value is stated, but the decree remains silent on the reason for the surcharge; the limited validity (later the validity was prolonged to the end of January, 1920), and continued sale after the stamps were demonetized, did not make the Czech collector enthusiastic.

It is little wonder that philatelists of Czechoslovakia were angry about the whole issue because this arrangement gave some few individuals an opportunity to acquire complete sets, whereas collectors who went to the philatelic windows at the G. P. O. were compelled to purchase large quantities of the more common stamps to obtain limited numbers of the scarcer values. While Scott lists 120 and most other catalogs show 118 items, there were in reality about thirty more. These unlisted varieties were removed from the lots because very few were on hand and it was deemed wise not to include them in the sales; yet years later these "removed" stamps were sold at auctions and through dealers, proving that the fears of the collectors were fully justified. Despite the gen-



Shifted Overprint



Inverted Overprint

eral knowledge that some government officials received complete sets (these were called Ministerial series), it is not known how many of these "favor sets" were actually sold or given away, nor is it known just how complete or incomplete these sets were.

Included with the stamps issued with the overprint are stamps which were never sold in any post office within the boundaries of the new Republic. Among these are the three airmails which were used only on the Wien-Krakow-Lwow line; the 4K and 10K Austrian postage stamps on granite paper (these were issued in Vienna after Czechoslovakia became an independent state) and the same can be said of the Hungarian 10f and 20f inscribed "Magyar Posta." Of course, it is possible that postmasters exchanged the stamps of Austria and Hungary for the new Czechoslovak stamps to patrons after the date fixed by the P. O. D.

Philatelists of Czechoslovakia asked the Ministry of Posts for a detailed account of what was overprinted and in what quantities, but the answer they received was both vague and surly. We quote from the Hirsch-Franek Handbook "Ceskoslovenske Znamky" the excerpt from this document:

"... The Minister for Posts and Telegraphs has refrained from making a public announcement of the individual values on account of the large quantity of overprinted stamps and the quantities issued was not divulged partly on account of the disproportionate numbers, and partly because some values at hand were very meagre. The matter of speculation is at the commencement, since the majority of the stamps has not arrived in firm hands yet. Offices other than the Praha Collectors' Counter (philatelic window) will not be given a share, in order to save a great deal of work which would be necessary to provide a useful assortment of stamps with varying issue quantities. There were no official unissued essays, since all values—whether sold at the Collectors' Counter or at the Central Administration—belong to the official issue. In connection therewith, if stamps issued by the State are abundant and obviously only for collectors, the onus is either on the collector to decide which stamps to ardently collect and which to regard as superfluous, or as on the dealer, who finds in them a rich source of profit..."

In other words, take it or leave it.

In his monograph on this issue of stamps, Jaroslav Leseticky quotes quantities, and this information at one time was considered semi-official. Leseticky worked in the Post Office, and it seems he tried to justify the Department's action. Later his work was disqualified because his figures and other information were proved wrong.

There are many counterfeits of these stamps. Most collectors would not expect a stamp which catalogs two cents (and can be had for a small fraction



Block of 4 containing pair without overprint



Overprint reading down

of this minimum catalog price) to be among those counterfeited, but simple logic proves that it paid good dividends. As a rule, the counterfeit of a cheap stamp was used to prove the "genuineness" of the higher priced stamp.

Any collector buying these should obtain a written guarantee from the dealer, if not of genuineness, at least of a promise to refund the money paid for the stamp if it is later proved a fake. We realize that a dealer cannot know every stamp; even experts sometimes disagree. Fortunately, most counterfeits of this issue are very crude. If we know that the stamps received the overprint from a power press, much of the difficulty in establishing the genuineness of these stamps fades away. Most of the forgeries we have seen have the contour of the overprint "raggy" instead of a fairly well defined ridge.

Another fake we have, and which can be easily detected, is Scott B34 changed into a B35. Here a genuine 2h stamp with a blue overprint has been "painted" over with black ink. Most used copies of this issue are faked, but these are readily recognized because the overprint is placed over the cancellation.



Fig. 1—A home made instrument used to test genuineness of these stamps

A very good way to test these stamps is to obtain genuine copies of the five cheapest types. Then, with a sharp instrument, cut out the center portions of all three lines of the overprint (as illustrated in Figure 1). By placing this home made instrument over our copies, we note if the overprints match in width, height as well as in spacing. While this is not always a 100 per cent surety, it is almost so.

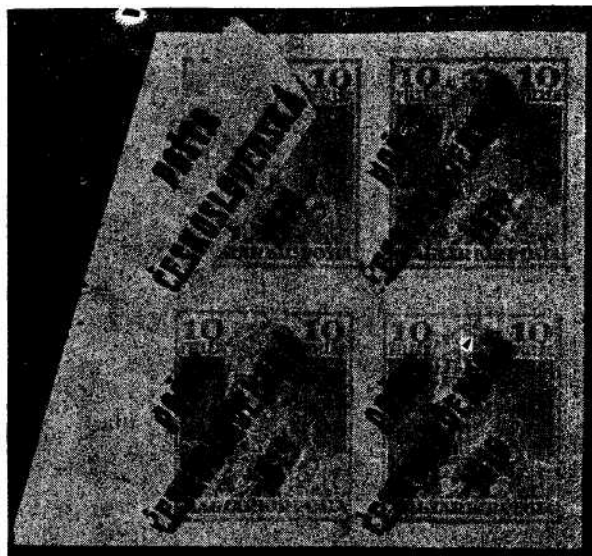
There were seven types of overprints to produce this issue and a resume is here presented:

- A—On Austrian Postage stamps.
- B—On Austrian Triangular Special Delivery, Airmails and Provisional Postage Dues
- C—On rectangular Special Delivery and Hungarian Parliament stamps.
- D—On Austrian Newspaper stamps and heller values of the Austrian Postage Dues.
- E—On Austrian Crown value Postage Dues.
- F—On Hungarian Postage stamps (except the Parliament), Newspaper and Special Delivery stamps.
- G—On Hungarian Postage Dues.

In the following plan are shown the characteristics of the individual overprints, i.e., size, degree of slope, etc., as referred to in the A to G listings above.

Kind of Overprint	Kind of stamp	Height of Opt.	Length of Opt.	Height of letters	Degree of slope
A	Austrian Postage	18.5	27.5	4. mm	55
B	Triangles	10.5	20.5	2.6mm	0
	Airs, Provisional Dues	10.5	20.5	2.6mm	28*
C	Oblong Specials and Parliament	16.	27.5	4. mm	24, 25, 22
D	Aust. Newspapers and heller Dues	15.7	24.	3. mm	45, 42, 41
E	Aust. Crown Dues	17.5	27.5	4. mm	55
F	Hung. Post., Spec. and News.	15.7	24.	3. mm	55
G	Hungarian Dues	16.	24.	3. mm	35

* On the 1h Karl VI the degree of slope is 43.



Fold in sheet which took part of overprint

The catalog prices for this issue are a fairly good sign of the relative scarcity of these stamps. Because most collectors fear these stamps, the value is not as high as the scarcity warrants. In Czechoslovakia these stamps bring much higher prices than in this country.

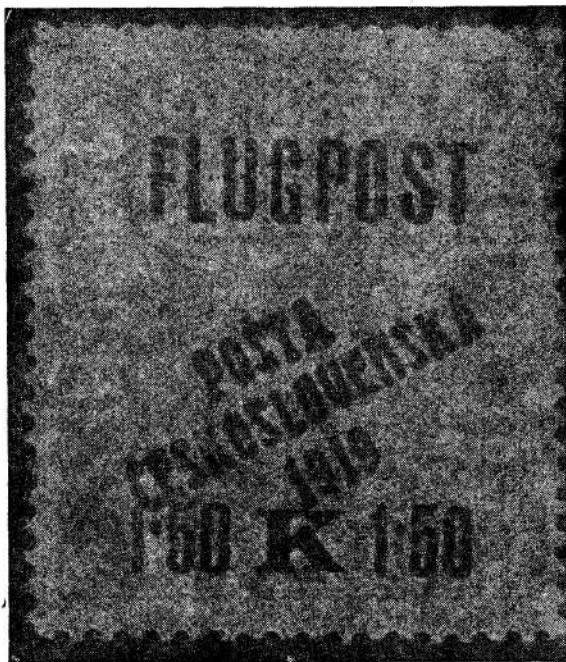
A specialized collection of the cheaper stamps of this issue is very interesting. While many of the "freaks" came out of the printery in an underhanded manner, they are quite reasonably priced because they "poured" out in sufficient



Type A



Middle stamp has 45 degree overprint



Type B



Type



Type D

Czechoslovakia — Plating the Stamps of the First Issue

By John Velek, A. P. S.

(Reprinted by permission from The American Philatelist)

Continued

Position 84. Part of the frame is missing over the TA of POSTA. (Billig No. 7hh) This variety was transferred to Plate II but Plate I has an additional variety—a white spot in the base of the vignette under the large bush.

quantities to keep the prices down. Inverted overprints, overprints half inverted, shifted prints, double prints, etc., add to the pleasure of collecting these "Cinderellas" of Czechoslovak stamps.

This article was not prepared to give a detailed study of these stamps. Such a study would require much space. But if we have taught the reader only a little of this very interesting set of stamps, we are satisfied.



e C



Type F



Type E



Type G

Position 85. The left frame line is broken over the lower scroll and over the K of CESKO and the top line has a break above the O of POSTA. (Billig No. 7x) There are two small dots in the left margin near the top; two others in the tail of the left dove and two more above the first tower at the right. There is a tiny dot over the left point of the 4 and another enclosed in the 0 of 40.

Position 86. There are two breaks in the lower half of the left frame line (not to be confused with similar varieties on this position in Plate II). The regular dot is missing over the second tower at right. There is a colored dot in the margin over the E of SLOVENSKA.

Position 87. The left frame line is partly doubled from top to bottom. The amount of the doubling varies in different printings. There is a break between

the E and S of CESKO. There is a dot on the left tip of the 4 of 40. (Billig No. 7s) The UC of MUCHA is underlined.

Position 88. There is a dot in the top heart at right and another to the right of the 0 of 40. There is a dot above the sun and two others to the left of the second tower on the right. The left frame line is partly doubled near the top.

Position 89. The 0 of 40 joins the tablet line at the bottom. (Billig No. 7g) This is duplicated in Plate II. The left dove has a break in the wing line.

Position 90. The left dove has a prominent dot of color on the wing line. There are two short lines in the left margin opposite the dove. A white spot is located under the arch to the right of the large bush.

Position 91. The right top scroll line is forked, ending in a broken top frame. (Billig No. 7f) This variety also occurs in Plate II. There are two dots in the left dove and two others in the left top heart. There is a dot on the tablet line under the 4 and a large dot on the line above the 0 of 40. All the stamps of the bottom row have control numbers in the lower margin about 4 mm. from the stamp. The first one is under this position—number 4:—(ten vertical stamps times 40 haleru equals 4 koruny).

Position 92. There is a three mm. break in the top line over the A of POSTA. There is a short line in the top of the left dove's wing and the left frame line is thicker at the bottom. The control number is 8:—.

Position 93. The left side of the 4 has a sharp point (Billig No. 7t) and there is a small nick in the inside edge of the O. In the value tablet there is a dot near the left edge and another on the upper right tablet line. The right dove also has a dot on the breast. A short diagonal line follows the word MUCHA. The number 12:— is in the lower margin.

Position 94. The small bush has a small dot in the top branch. There is a dot in the second leaf in the right group and another over the first tower of the right pair. 16:— is the control number.

Position 95. There is a colored dot in the lower right heart and a white dot above the large bush. There are two dots just above the long ray, another over the first tower at right and a very faint one between the center tower and the spire. The number below the stamp is 20:—.

Position 96. There is a small colored dot on the right edge of the spire, another beside it and still another just above the spire. The sun has a prominent dot of color on the right side. (Billig No. 7bb) The large bush has a dot in the top branch. The left frame line is thick near the bottom. The number in the bottom margin is 24:—.

Position 97. The left frame line is partly doubled above the word CESKO. There is a heavy line of color near the lower right corner. (Billig No. 7ii) Of the last five stamps in the bottom row (Positions 96-100) showing a doubling of the left frame line at the bottom, No. 97 is the most prominent. This defect in the stamps may have been caused by excess pressure on the corner of the plate by the press. This position also has two dots near the spire similar to position 96. The control number is 28:—.

Position 98. The tower furthest to the right has a large colored spot above it. There is a tiny dot on each side of the center tower. 32:— is the control number.

Position 99. There are dots of color along the left frame line. There is a dot on the sun, another over the first tower at right and a pair of dots above the second right tower. Number 36:— is in the lower margin.

Position 100. There is a curved line in the margin above the T of POSTA. The left dove has a dot above the wing line. The left frame line is heavy near the bottom. The control number under the last stamp is 40:—.

PLATE II

Position 1. The left dove has a dot in the wing. The word MUCHA is clipped at the bottom. The left frame line is broken above the O of CESKO. There is a break in the fifth leaf of the left group.

Position 2. There is a large white spot between the right arch and tower. (Billig No. 7i). The spire has a small dot of color over it.

Position 3. A line is missing between two left branches of the large bush.

There is a small white dot between the OS of POSTA. There is a tiny dot of color on the bottom frame line below and to the right of 40. This is a rather difficult position to spot and a good magnifying glass will be helpful here.

Position 4. The third leaf of the right branch has a dot near the top. There is a second dot beside the tower furthest to the right. A small dot of color is located on top of the sun.

Position 5. The 0 of 40 encloses a small dot. The left frame line is broken between the ES of CESKO.

Position 6. The word SLOVENSKA has a large white spot in the K. (Billig No. 7v). The top frame is missing between the OS of POSTA. There is a colored dot on the right side of the spire, another on the first right tower and still another in the fourth leaf at right. There is also a prominent colored dot in the top left heart.

Position 7. There is a white dot below the P and a colored dot in the O of POSTA. (Billig No. 7y). The left frame is missing over the CE of CESKO.

Position 8. The long ray has a colored dot at the top. There is a short heavy line in the tail of the right dove. The top frame is broken before the P of POSTA.

Position 9. In the word POSTA the downstroke of the P is short and the right leg of the A is thick. (Billig No. 7aa). The spire has a diagonal line above it. The top line is broken just before the P of POSTA.

Position 10. The top frame line is broken at the right. There is a white dot on the roof below the sun. The fifth leaf at right is broken on the bottom and the third has a dot on the top line.

Position 11. The frame line is broken over the C of CESKO and over the O and E of SLOVENSKA. There is a hairline of color thru the O of CESKO.

Position 12. The right branch of the large bush is extended but does not reach the branch as it does in the same stamp on Plate I. The long ray is missing as is the dot over the right tower. There is a large white spot on the main roof and the sun on the right side.

Position 13. There is a white spot on the center tower famous as the "clock" variety. (Billig No. 7c). The top frame is broken over the PO of POSTA. The right branch of the large bush has a small colored dot in the top fork; also a dot near the tip of the second right tower.

Position 14. There is a two mm. break in the top frame line just before POSTA. The sun has a small dot on its right side. There is a dot on the tablet line below the 0 of 40.

Position 15. The two lines in the tail of the left dove are closed. There is a small dot on the bottom frame below the left heart and a tiny dot in the top right heart. The left stroke of the 4 has a tiny nick on the inside edge.

Position 16. The tip of the spire is bent to the right. There is a tiny dot above the dot over the second right tower.

Position 17. There is a white spot under the K of SLOVENSKA. (Billig No. 7W). There is a dot over the sun and another on the sun just above the point of the roof. A dot is located on the value tablet line to the left.

Position 18. The roof has a large white spot below the sun. (Billig No. 7e) The top frame line has a dot over the OS of POSTA. The second tower on the left side has a nick near the bottom.

Position 19. There is a dot in the tail of the left dove near the top. The left frame line has two tiny dots above the C of CESKO and the top frame has a dot above the left scroll line.

Position 20. There is a white dot between the two bushes. (Billig No. 7ee) This variety was transferred from Plate I. The left dove has a colored dot on the neck and on the tail. The value tablet has a dot near the left side.

Position 21. There is a large break in the right frame over the E of SLOVENSKA. (Billig No. 7h). The first right tower is bent to the right. There is a dot in the third leaf in the right cluster.

Position 22. The base has a white dot under the small bush but it may not show up clearly on heavily printed copies. However, there are other plating marks to help identify this position—a dot in the tail of the left dove, tiny dot on the left side of the 0 of 40 and the regular dot over the last right tower is missing.

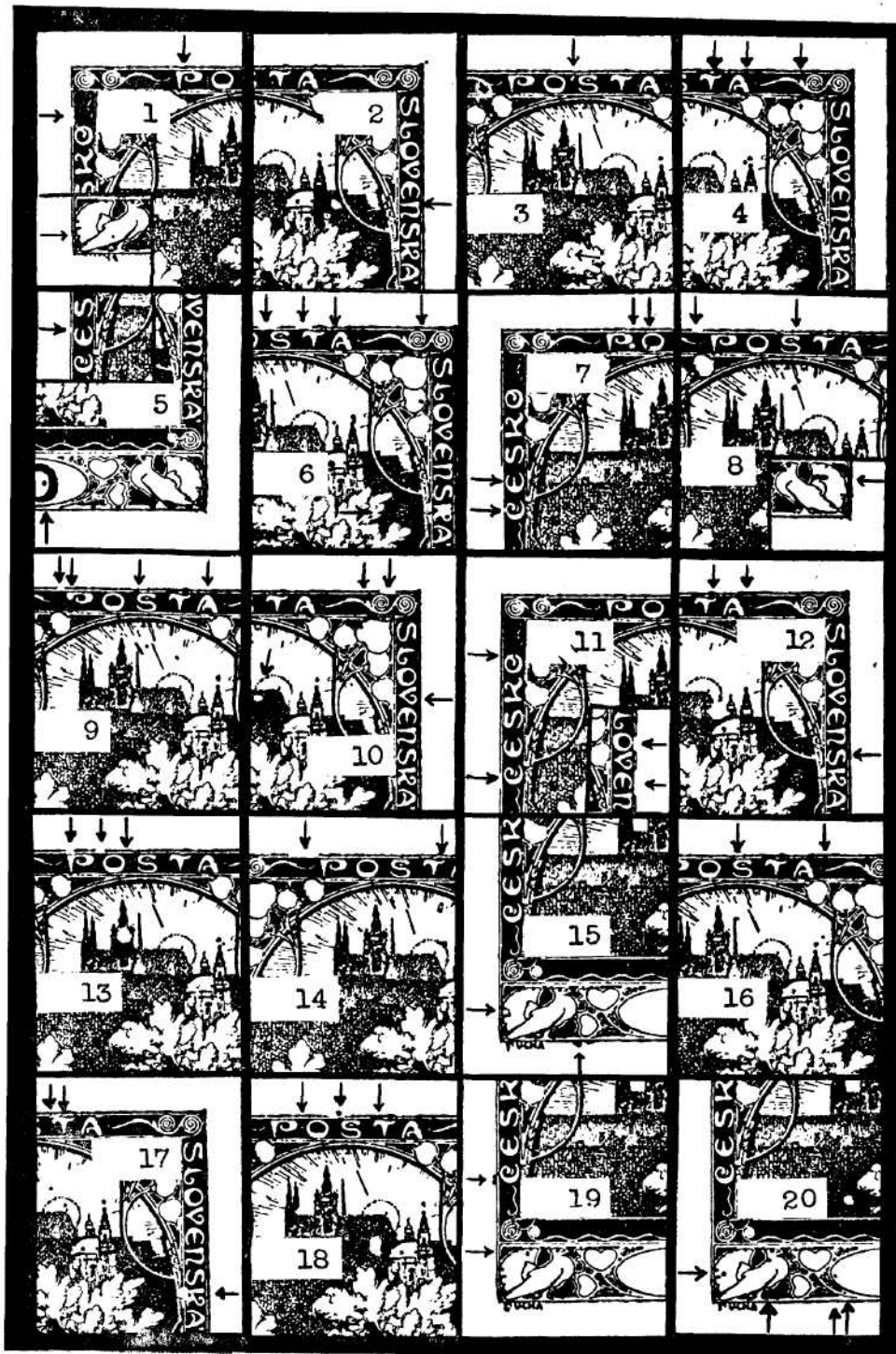


Fig. 6—40 haleru Plate II Positions 1-20

Position 23. The right frame has a small break over the E of SLOVENSKA. The dot is missing over the second tower at right. There is a dot in the sun, another in the wing of the left dove and two short lines in the third leaf at right.

Position 24. There is a white dot to the left and below the large bush. The top of the tablet line is connected with one of the ornaments on the right.

Position 25. The ring in the tablet is repeated in this position on Plate II. A short line joining the ring to the tablet line associates this stamp with Plate II. (Billig No. 7a).

Position 26. There is a colored line in the tail of the right dove and a dot in the lower heart on the same side. The second right tower is extended to reach the dot above it.

Position 27. There is a small white dot to the right of the T of POSTA. The center tower has a short line on the right side near the top. The 0 of 40 has a dot at the top.

Position 28. The design is broken below the S of POSTA. There is a dot on the tablet line below the 4 and another just right of the base of the 4.

Position 29. Small dots of color are the guides to this position. There is one near the bottom of the long ray, one in the lower left heart, one in the upper right heart, another on the left side of the value tablet and three in the tail of the right dove.

Position 30. The left frame is broken between the KO of CESKO. There is a dot in the lower right heart, second leaf at left and above the 4 of 40.

Position 31. The left end of the top frame line is broken. (Billig No. 7ff). Later printings show this broken end to be almost entirely worn away. There is a short heavy line and two tiny dots in the lower heart at left. The tablet line has a small break on the left side and there are two tiny dots below the 4 and two more to the right of the 0 of 40.

Position 32. The top frame line is extended on the left end and is broken over the P and S of POSTA. The sun has a dot on the top of the roof.

Position 33. The top of the right frame line is missing. (Billig No. 7ii). The left line has a tiny break below the top scroll.

Position 34. The left frame line is broken over the S of CESKO. There is a dot of color in the tail of the left dove, top edge of the first leaf at right and a very faint one to the right of the spire near the bottom.

Position 35. There are two tiny dots on the tablet line below the 4, another to the right of the 0 and a short spur on the bottom of the 0. The left frame has a tiny break over the C of CESKO.

Position 36. The left dove has three small dots on the wing and the lower left heart has a dot near the center.

Position 37. The long ray has a dot on the top. There is a short line in the wing of the left dove and faint dots over the O and S of POSTA, in the sun, in the top of the tail of the left dove and on the tablet before the 4 of 40.

Position 38. There is a strong dot on the tablet line at the lower left and another in the fifth leaf in the right group. There are faint dots on the upper left of the tablet, inside the top of the 4 and in the tail of the right dove. The top frame is broken to the left of the P of POSTA.

Position 39. The left dove has a large and a small dot in the tail. Both the 4 and 0 are slightly damaged—the 4 in the foot and the 0 on the lower right side. There are two tiny dots on the right side of the tablet and another on the top left heart.

Position 40. This is the Plate II version of the famous "flag" variety. (Billig No. 7b). Other plate markings are: dots in the third left leaf, dot on the bottom of the long ray, dot to left of sun and break above the P of POSTA. There is a large position dot in the margin 8 mm. to the right of the stamp.

Position 41. The design is broken over the E of SLOVENSKA. The right dove has two dots on the wing. The long ray is broken about two-thirds of the way from the top.

Position 42. There is a small dot on the top frame line above the T of POSTA. The top frame line has a very small break above the first scroll at the left. These small marks are the only clues to this position and are hard to find except with a glass. The plater can consider himself fortunate if he is

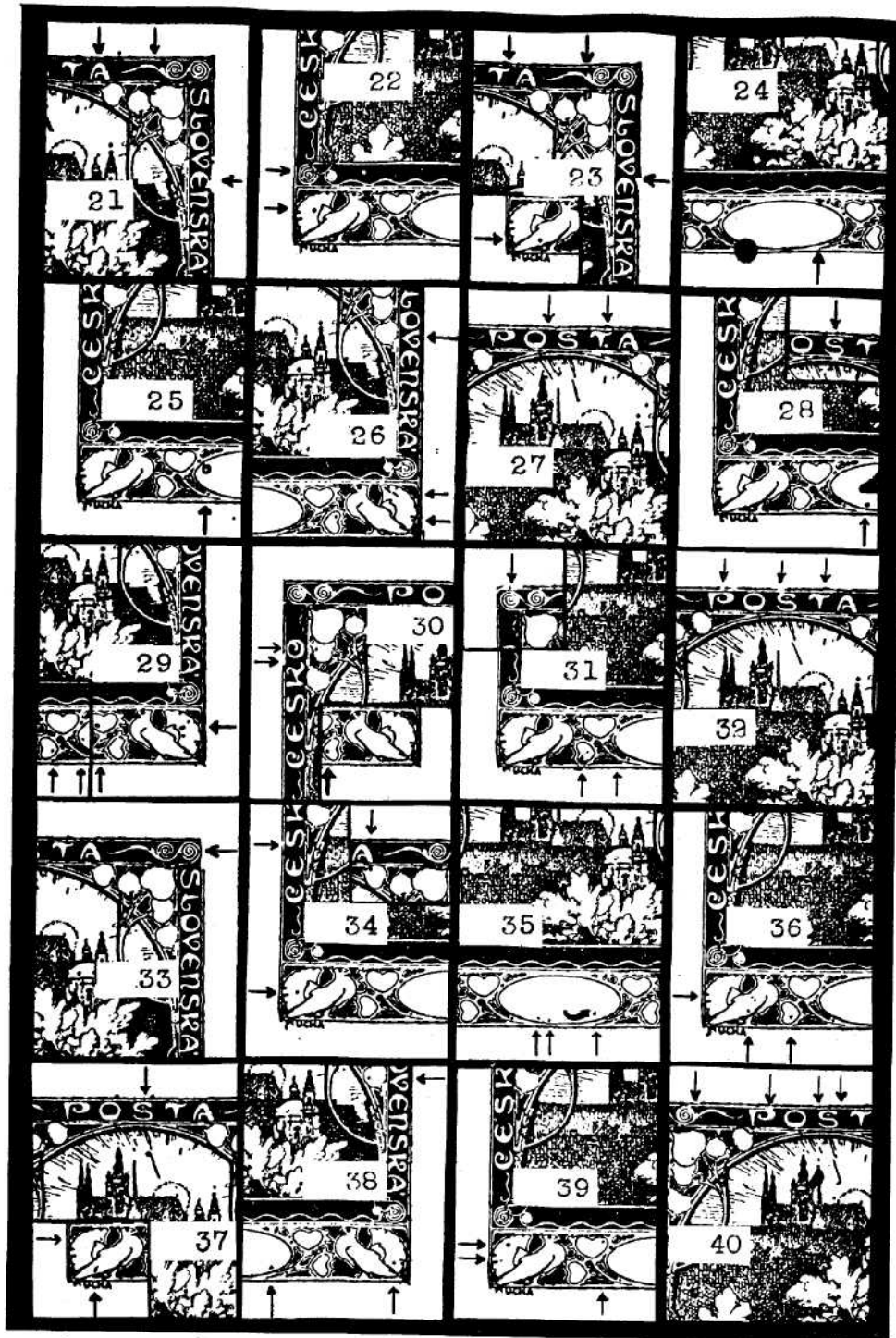


Fig. 7—40 haleru Plate II Positions 21-40

able to tie this position in with a pair or a block.

Position 43. The top frame line has several breaks on the left side. There is a small break in the left frame line near the C of CESKO.

Position 44. The right frame line is bent over the L of SLOVENSKA. There is a small dot in the third leaf in the right group.

Position 45. The value tablet has a dot of color near the left edge. There is a small dot on the left frame line over the S of CESKO and a tiny dot in the fifth leaf of the right group.

Position 46. There is a prominent dot in the tablet before the 40 and a smaller one after the numeral. The bottom right heart has a large dot in its center.

Position 47. There is a white spot between the right branch and the large bush similar to the one in this position on Plate I. (Billig No. 7k). The left frame line has a break above the O of CESKO. The left cluster of leaves has a short line in the top of the third leaf.

Position 48. The left frame is broken between the ES of CESKO. The long ray is broken near the middle. The right frame has a small dot over the V and S of SLOVENSKA.

Position 49. A thin white line joins two branches of the small bush. There is a small break in the left side of the bottom left heart. There is a large white spot in the base of the vignette above the right heart and a small colored dot in the tablet to the right.

Position 50. The top frame line is depressed to the right of the word POSTA; and broken between the OS of the same word. There is a small break in the third leaf on the left.

Position 51. A fine line of color joins the horizontal stroke of the 4 to the 0. There is a dot in the margin near the lower left corner. There is a position dot in the left margin about 7 mm. from the stamp.

Position 52. A small piece of the corner is broken away at the upper left. There is a dot between the center tower and the two left towers.

Position 53. There is a heavy line thru the K of CESKO transferred from Plate I. (Billig No. 7n). In plate II the right frame line has a small break between the LO of SLOVENSKA.

Position 54. The frame lines are broken over the O of CESKO and in both sides of the S of SLOVENSKA.

Position 55. There is a dot on the bottom right line of the value tablet and another on the short tail feathers of the right dove. The right frame line is broken above the tail of the right dove.

Position 56. There are two colored dots in the O of POSTA. There is a dot in the tail of the left dove; another between the sun and the first right tower and a third between the value tablet and the base of the vignette.

Position 57. The tablet line has a dot on the bottom right. The small bush has a dot near the top of the center branch. The left frame is broken near the top scroll.

Position 58. The top frame line is depressed on the left side. (Billig No. 7kk). The tablet line is broken on top toward the right side.

Position 59. The right dove has two dots in the tail. There is a small dot in the left margin near the dove. The dot is missing over the second right tower.

Position 60. There is a dot between the two right towers. The left dove has a dot on the wing and there is a small dot near the top left edge of the 4 of 40.

Position 61. The right frame line is missing above the S of SLOVENSKA. Part of the sun is missing on the left at the roof.

Position 62. A line of color joins the right tower and branch. The top frame line is broken between the left scrolls.

Position 63. The left dove has a dot on the wing and a short line in the tail. The left frame line is short at the top.

Position 64. The base of the vignette has a white spot below the middle of the large bush. The long ray over the sun is missing. (Billig No. 7nn).

(To be continued)

We Buy and Sell

**All
European
Stamps**

CZECHOSLOVAKIA IS OUR SPECIALTY

Of this country we have every stamp in stock

Alfons Stach

MEMBER C. P. S. N. A.

99 NASSAU ST.

NEW YORK, N. Y.

Telephone BEckman 3-0553