

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.

Vol. XII

February 1950

No. 2

EDITORIAL

Democracy is a working institution in Czechoslovakia. Every citizen is permitted to express his views publicly. All statements to the contrary are manufactured lies. Your editor is in constant touch with collectors over there and with collectors over here who are in constant touch with still others on the east side of the Atlantic. In issue no. 10, volume 1949 of *Filatelista*, issued in Bratislava, are comments on the rulings of *Orbis* written by the mere collector and not some self-imposed god of philately. The first is entirely satisfied to get only one set of every commemorative issue at face and one first day cover on a specially prepared envelope. He ends with the words: Take what you get and be satisfied (this is liberally translated). Another letter, written by one who is not satisfied, is published in the same issue. The writer explains: I have always collected singles and blocks mint, one set used and one on cover. I have several correspondents in other countries with whom I exchange stamps. I doubt there is a collector worthy of the title who can do with less than 10 sets of each and every issue. The government is stifling philately, while it is dishonestly helping the chiseler. Then comes a third letter. Evidently written by an ardent philatelist, the writer deplores the possibility of studying the stamps in a specialized manner as no collector can afford the exorbitant price *Orbis* is charging for anything above one set mint. Even then the monopolistic society reserves the right to send 35 or 70 singles instead of complete sheets. Perhaps the editor of this modest publication could suggest that there is a possibility that the man in charge can check on all stamps printed and if anything out of the ordinary appears, he is in a position to hog all this material and thus make a handsome profit. In other words, this person has the chance of becoming the chiseler the government of Czechoslovakia is trying to oust out of the stamp business, with only one difference. This person can lay his hands on all existing supplies without competition.

Your editor wishes to take this opportunity to thank the many members who sent him holiday greetings, especially to those who placed fine commemorative stamps in the strategic position on the envelope so that the cancellation would register smack on the nose. It is a financial impossibility to reciprocate; your editor assures you he is pleased with your thoughtfulness.

As we prepare our February issue, we remember that the father of our Society, Joseph W. Lowey, died just one year ago. It is fitting that at this time we recall his work to make this Society possible and progressive. There are few collectors of the stamps of Czechoslovakia in the 1930s who haven't heard from our dear departed friend, Joe. He intensified his work in the early years of the last decade because he knew that letting Nature take its course would be disastrous to our movement. At that time Hitler, a name more hated than Lucifer, proclaimed himself "protector" of Czechoslovakia. Stamps overprinted

"Bohmen und Mahren," then stamps with this inscription, later incorporated into the grand reich, have stifled the desire to collect Czechoslovakia. It was friend Joe who by fearless example showed the difference between Czechoslovakia and the so-called "protectorte." His valiant battle seemed won when the war ended and Benes was reaccepted as head of the State. Joe has always been a stalwart champion of Russia and communism, was happy that Russia contributed to the liberation of Czechoslovakia. His illusion was of short duration. He saw what was happening to the true friends of real democracy, especially among those who were true communists at heart. Joe was the idealist and never the materialist.

* * *

Your editor has had several members remind him that in his pleadings for dues he failed to include the address of the treasurer, Mr. Sabol. We are sure that very few members throw away the Specialist. It should be no difficult task to look into the back issues of our paper for the address of the treasurer. With this issue of the Specialist it is our intention to enclose an envelope and a reminder to every member of the Society to pay the 1950 dues. It is true not every member is sufficiently interested in our Society to continue his membership. Such a member, in all decency should use the enclosed envelope to notify the treasurer of his resignation. Each copy of the Specialist costs us about 6 cents, postage 2 cents, cuts and addressograph expenses about 5 cents. If a member who loses interest in the Society resigns he is saving us money and time. No, no, we are not inviting resignations, we are asking consideration for the rest of us. Better yet, if a member has any particular beef, whether with the Society, its officers or with the Specialist, he should apprise us of this and we promise to make amends in the very near future. If, however, an envelope is not enclosed with this issue, mail your dues to the treasurer Mr. Ed. J. Sabol, 237 Radcliffe St., Bristol, Pa. If you receive an envelope but had already paid your dues just disregard it.

* * *

One of our members works within about 300 feet of our home. In his spare time he drops in occasionally for a friendly chat. One question he brought up is very important. Do you keep secret from your family what you have tied up in stamps? Do you know that your family may throw your collection into the ash heap after your demise or, at best, may sell your treasures for a pittance? Make provision in your last will how the estate should dispose of your collection. If you are in doubt, write to the secretary, John Velek, 2229 Kimball Ave., Chicago 47, Ill., and if enough members are interested, we should bring up an idea of a legal department in our June convention.

* * *

We hear our member Mr. Jos. J. Houda is ill. This touches your editor deeply for Joe has been a school chum. We hope and trust the good Lord will return health to him for he, though not an outstanding philatelist, is an outstanding gentleman.

* * *

We have received word that early in February our president, George A. Blizil, will be guest of the Philatelic Museum in Philadelphia. George is to give a lecture on some phase of Czechoslovak philately accompanied by illustrations of his collection projected on the screen. Our librarian, Mrs. Mildred Glawe (who has just moved with her member husband, Bill, to 12122 S. Ann St., Blue Island, Ill.) was asked to loan some books from our library for this gala occasion. Knowing George, we are confident he will make a fine impression in the city of Brotherly Love. (Lucky George and Lucille! They are on their way to Florida to spend a vacation with George's folks.) In the last elections at Garfield-Perry, George was elected president of that well known Cleveland stamp club.

* * *

In one philatelic publication in our country a writer made a hazardous guess on the meaning of "ROH" in a commemorative cancellation which appeared recently with the first day covers on the "Trade Union Congress" issue. The writer "thought" it means "year" (erroneously stating that "roh" is Rus-

sian for "year" and that it may be coupled with the Five Year Plan.) We were positive this writer was wrong, so we contacted sources where true information could be had. We now know that "ROH" are the initials for "Rada Odboroveho Hnutí" (Council of Trade Union Movement).

SHOW — AUCTION — CONVENTION

In our last issue we notified the members that the next convention of our Society will be held in Chicago, June 10 and 11, 1950. At the same time the Society will prepare a philatelic exhibition and for the first time will permit the showing of material other than that connected with Czechoslovakia. It is natural that stamps of Czechoslovakia will retain a prominent place at our show; it is our intention to show that our members are not narrow in their perspective and collect material other than C. S. R. An auction will be held. No committees have been appointed yet, but in the next issue of the Specialist you will be notified of the chairmen of the various committees. Now, get ready. The sooner you make your contribution to the auction the more will it bring into the treasury. Last, but not least! An election of officers will be held in June; a new constitution and by-laws are to be presented to the members for adoption or rejection. Let us get busy and in this year, the 100th of the birth of the great Thomas G. Masaryk, make our 12th year, outstanding in every respect.

In connection with this celebration, STAMPS, the leading philatelic weekly publication in our country, will again prepare a special Czechoslovak issue of its magazine. Your editor is already in receipt of a very fine article of great interest from the old country (it must be translated) and we urge every member who has slight literary leanings, but who knows his stamps, to prepare an article for this issue. All copy plus illustrations should be in the hands of your editor before April 15, 1950.

PHILATELIC LITERATURE

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Czechoslovak Stamps

WITH VIEWS OF LANDSCAPES, CASTLES, AND TOWNS ON WATERMARKED PAPER

by G. S. and R. S.

(Based on a monograph by Hirsch and Franek)

Reprinted from Special Czechoslovak Edition of STAMPS, Oct. 29, 1949

After conquering the intricacies and technique of the Stickney Hyspeed Rotary Press on which the stamps with the portrait of President Masaryk were printed, the Czechoslovak Post Office in 1926 and 1927 began to make preparations for another program of issuing another set of stamps. This program was directed not only for better and faster production using the rotary press, but also as a campaign to advertise the natural and man-made beauties of the republic.

Of course, it is debatable whether stamps are a proper medium for such propaganda. In the first place, the size is such that even with the best engraving, the true natural beauty cannot be shown. Second, the color of ink which may be right and proper for a stamp may not show the views well; and finally, the cancellation may spoil the main features of the picture. Thus the best one can say for propaganda is that it is effective only among philatelists. This view was concurred in by many other countries which issue stamps for mailing purposes and not for speculation.

On the other hand, it cannot be denied that those stamps with various views (natural and man-made) do call for admiration from those who appreciate beauty, and surprise many who appreciate technique in production, especially the perfection of engraving. Greatest credit for the success of these and the following issues belongs to engraver Karel Seizinger (born 1889 in Hildburgnausen, Germany), who, from given designs produced many masterpieces of engraving on steel, than which there is nothing more difficult. It was unfortunate he did not have an opportunity to confer with the originators of these designs and thus his work was marred by improper design. These pictures by artists



Karlův Týn Motif



Pernstyn Castle



Orva Castle



Strahov Monastery



Museum with State St. Vaclav foreground

were not intended for reproduction on postage stamps and were not properly designed for this purpose. Stamps so produced showed only a reduced picture in which the work of the engraver suffered greatly. Later this impossible situation was changed somewhat by the introduction of photographs, in which case, in spite of technical skill, the results were flat and empty.

Not until 1934 was an artist given the opportunity to design the whole stamp (the Ceska Druzina—Czech Battalions issue) which was a parting of the ways from the old method. However, the Post Office still shied away from authorizing contests by law.

The stamps which fall into this category, though not issued as a set, were printed in 1926 and 1927 on watermarked paper (and later most of them also on unwatermarked paper) from steel engravings on the Stickney Hyspeed rotary press or on a large size flat-bed press from flat plates. Various ways of printing and perforating are taken up separately in chapters on the small and large sizes.

Small Size Stamps

These stamps, printed on the Stickney rotary press, have about the same appearance and arrangement as those with the portrait of President Masaryk. The actual size of the printed stamp is $18\frac{1}{2} \times 22$ mm. Because of more experience with the rotary press and also because the scenes were easier to engrave than portraits, the result was more favorable. The only thing that was not was the perforating, being too coarse. The central designs were not a product of any competition but were taken from paintings by two Academicians, Kalvoda and Simon, or from photographs. The name of each subject appears in the upper part of the skies.

The following stamps were issued with watermark.

Karluv Tyn—from painting by F. Simon

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| 20h—orange (coil), Oct., 1926 | 6,400,000 copies |
| 1.20 Kc—red violet, June, 1926 | 6,440,500 copies |
| 1.50Kc—red, June, 1926 | 9,000,000 copies |
| 2.50Kc—blue, June, 1926 | 7,050,000 copies |

Pernstyn—from oil painting by A. Kalvoda

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| 30h—green (coil), Oct., 1926 | 8,540,00 copies |
| 30h—green (sheet), March, 1927 | 7,100,000 copies |

Orava—from a painting by F. Simon

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 40h—brown, Oct., 1926 | 12,600,000 copies |
|-----------------------|-------------------|

Strahov—from a photograph

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1.20Kc—red violet, June, 1927 | 46,850,000 copies |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|

Besides the views of Karluv Tyn, Pernstyn, Orava and Strahov, there are also engraved plates (without numbers) with views of the Hradcany from the northwest and Pernstyn from designs by Simon which were not issued, so only essays of these exist.

The first issue of the 1.20 Kc., 1.50 Kc., and 2.50 Kc. values were all with the view of Karluv Tyn, and were to be used for foreign postage on cards and letters (order #49 of the Ministry of Posts & Telegraphs dated May 21, 1926). In October 1926 there followed an issue of the 20h, 30h and 40h values (order #98 of October 7, 1926) replacing the 20h and 30h of the "Dove" issue and the 40h of the Masaryk issue. The 20h value was issued in coils, and at the end



The two coils of the 1926-27 issue

of March 1927 was also issued in sheet form. In June 1927 the view of Karluv Tyn on the 1.20 Kc. value was replaced by the view of Strahov Monastery. The 1.20 Kc. value (Karluv Tyn) was invalidated July 31, 1928. The 20h, 30h, 40h and 2.50 Kc. values were valid for postage until Feb. 29, 1932. The 1.20 Kc. Strahov and 1.50 Kc. Karluv Tyn values were demonetized Feb. 28, 1937.

The printing, as mentioned before, was done on the Stickney Hyspeed rotary press, the form consisting of two curved plates, each containing 200 stamps. Usually only one set of plates was necessary for each value, the numbers of the plates being 1 and 1A as shown in the table accompanying this article. The 40h Ostrava value was printed from plates 2 and 2A. Although plates 1 and 1A were made, for some unknown reason they were never used.

Coil stamps were printed from special plates, and their numbers are shown in the table in parentheses, as the numbers do not appear on the coils. Only part of these numerals are to be found on the coils, occurring on the stamps coming from the last row in the sheet, which was shifted when cut. There were found traces of "1" and "1A" on the 30h value, appearing about 1½ mm. from the edge of the stamp. On the 20h value no traces of plate numbers so far have been found. It is possible that the numbers were either engraved farther from the stamp or no numbers were given to the plates. The 20h and 30h values were put up in coils of 1000. After every 20th stamp there appears a vertical dotted line, printed by the separator between the plates.

For orientation in making up the plate, as with the Masaryk stamp, there are dots, noticeable on almost all stamps (over the letters V, E or N in the upper frame) and on sheets, placed over, alongside or under the corner stamp of each sheet. For instance, close under the left shield of the 30h value in coils, where traces of the plate number have been found, is a dot in plate 1 and two dots in plate 1A. Imperfections such as offsets (30h coil and sheet), folds and missing perforations are not very common.

Watermarks are always horizontal, and do not always show in all positions on the individual values. In the table are shown the usual positions. Various positions of the watermark do not enhance the value of the stamp for collectors, except the 20h with position 6 and the 30h coil with position 7. These are priced higher. With the exception of the 1.20 Kc. Karluv Tyn and 30h coil, all values were printed later on unwatermarked paper. Of these, more will be said in discussing stamps without watermarks.

The paper used is white with heavier body, sometimes being faintly tinted by the ink used. This is very noticeable in the case of the 2.50 Kc. Karluv Tyn issue because of poor cleaning of the plate. Color shades are not very noticeable. The 40h value is sometimes light brown and sometimes dark brown.

Forgeries

The red 1.50 Kc. Karluv Tyn has been chemically changed to orange, in which respect it was similar to the 20h value. It was widely circulated in Bratislava in 1927 as a misprint. However, it was soon shown by the Post Office that the misprint was not possible and the statement that these bleached stamps were sold in authorized offices was a figment of the imagination.



The 5 Kc. value showing High Tatry. The same subject was used for the 4 Kcs., but the word "KORUN" appears as "KORUNY" on the 4 Kcs.

Large Size Stamps

A large size, oblong quadrangle 34x21 mm. was selected for the higher values, which in 1926 and 1927 replaced the ones with the portrait of President Masaryk. The designs selected were drawings and oil paintings of F. Simon (Hradčany) and Otakar Stafl (Lake Strb in the High Tatry). The originals had to be somewhat simplified for engraving. It is certain, however, that the stamps were very well produced. For the perfection of the graphic product credit belongs again to engraver Selsinger, and because fine steel engravings print better from flat plates than from curved plates on a rotary press, they are more useful for a large number of prints. The names of the scenic views are shown in the upper left hand corner in the clouds.

The issues are as follows:

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Prahá—Hradčany from drawing by Simon | |
| 2Kc—blue | Oct. 1926 |
| 3Kc—red | Oct., 1926 |
| High Tatry—Lake Strb from painting by O. Stafl | |
| 4Kc—dark violet | Sept., 1928 |
| 5Kc—dark green | June, 1927 |

The 2 and 3 Kc. values were issued in October 1926 (order #104 of the Ministry of Posts & Telegraphs dated October 1926) and the next year the 5 Kc. value came out (order #54 of May 19, 1927). The 4 Kc., being a new value (order #101 of Oct. 17, 1927), was first sold at the Stamp Exposition of the Club Českých Filatelistu (of Czech Philatelist) in Prahá September 25, 1927. All four values were invalidated February 29, 1932.

The stamps were printed from flat steel-engraved plates. For the make-up, two engravings of each stamp were made. Although the frame of the stamps with views of Prahá and the Tatry is the same, it was engraved twice, which was proved by the small differences in lettering and the drawing of linden leaves on the sides. Changes in values (2 to 3 Kc. and 4 to 5 Kc.) were made in the second original engraving. Also, the word "Korun" in the 5 Kc. value was changed to "Koruny" in the 4 Kc. value.

Four flat plates were used successfully in printing the 2 Kc. value. These were marked by the numerals "1" and "2" (both under the 91st stamp) and "3" and "4" (both under the 100th stamp). The 3 Kc. value was printed from two plates marked with the numerals "1" and "3" under the 91st stamp. Plate 2 was not used. For the 4 Kc. value only one plate was used, marked with the numeral "1" under the 91st stamp. The 5 Kc. value was also printed from only one plate, marked with the numeral "1" under the 100th stamp. For the later printing of these stamps without watermark, the same plates were used except for the 2 Kc. value, for which some new plates were engraved.

Types

The fact that the 3 Kc. values printed from plates 1 and 3 differ considerably proves that before finishing the new plate, certain changes and corrections were made. Typical of these are the differences in value numerals, in the word "Koruny," and mainly in the upper side of the frame and the clouds. Stamps of Type I printed from plate 1 have thin clouds and the top of the frame is smooth. Type II from plate 3 has very heavy clouds, and the top of the frame is serrated, the inclined lines forming the decoration inside the frame being drawn past the upper line.

Watermarks

These are horizontal in all four positions (5-8). Even the 4 Kc. value was printed on watermarked paper, although the watermarked paper was ordered discontinued at the time of printing this value. Several stamps of the 2 Kc. value were found with vertical watermark in positions 1 and 4. The fact that both known 2 Kc. values with watermark in position 1 are shifted is conducive to belief that they are from the same sheet and that only a few sheets were thus printed. Similarly, like the President Masaryk stamps having vertical watermarks, these are of a slightly different size from those with horizontal watermark. The printed areas are $33\frac{1}{4} \times 21\frac{1}{2}$ mm. with horizontal wmk. and 34×21



Type II

Type I

Praha design of 1926-27: Type I, at right in illustration, has thin clouds and top of frame is smooth. Type II, left, from Plate 3, has very heavy clouds and top of frame is serrated, inclined lines forming the decoration inside frame being drawn past the upper line.

mm. with vertical wmk.

Various shades of color are found in all values, the most pronounced being the 2 Kc. value, known to vary in shade from ultramarine to dark blue.

All paper used is white and slick. Different thicknesses are known. The 2 and 3 Kc. values were also printed on rough, gray, hard, glazed paper wrongly called parchment. The watermark on this paper is rather hard to distinguish.

Imperfections are more numerous in printing from flat plates than from curved plates. For instances, there are spots, horizontal lines, narrow and wide folds, offsets, etc.

Perforation is 13%. A most frequent fault in perforating is the absence of holes; less frequent is a whole line of vertical or horizontal perforations omitted on the edge of a sheet (2 and 3 Kc.). Very seldom is there a double perforation in the corner stamp of the sheet.

Unwatermarked Stamps

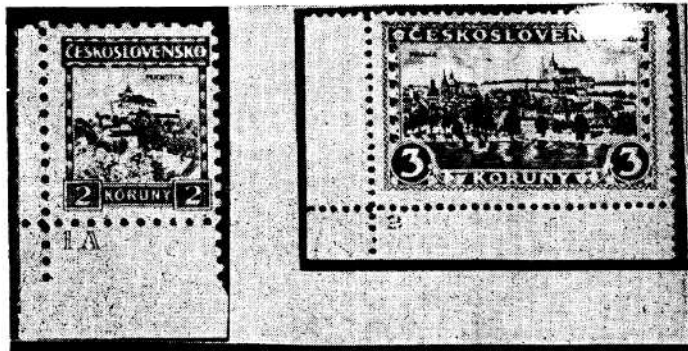
In the latter part of 1927 the Czech stamps lost one of their philatelic characteristics—the watermark. After June 1, 1927, no issue was printed on watermarked paper. Order #57 of the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs, promulgated May 25, 1927, announced that after June 1, 1927, postage stamps printed from steel-engraved plates, which up to that time were printed on watermarked paper, were to be printed on unwatermarked paper gradually as stamps on hand were used up.

This decision included all stamps with the portrait of President Masaryk and the scenes printed at that time. It was arrived at for economical and practical reasons. The practical one was that the difficult technique of printing from plates engraved on steel was a sufficient guarantee against forgery to the detriment of the Post Office. The economic point was the ability to use thinner and cheaper paper which is better adapted to this style of printing and adhered better to the envelope.

Technically, the production of stamps on unwatermarked paper was only a continuation of the previous printing, as for most values old plates were used and only gradually were new plates engraved. Paper so much thinner when gummed and quickly dried in the rotary press warped so that it came out of the press to the perforating machine in poor condition. To counteract this, a rubber roller with lengthwise grooves was incorporated in the press, which corrected the difficulty. These grooves left parallel traces in the gum. This grooving is not always the same. Sometimes it is very pronounced, sometimes hardly noticeable, even on the same sheet. As the grooves show only on the

(Illustrations on opposite page)

Showing positions of plate markings: "1A" on 2 Kc and "3" on 3 Kc in position under Stamp No. 91. Below in illustration is seen "5" on the 3 Kc in position under Stamp No. 100. The block of the 2 Kc shown at the bottom is from Plate No. 4, the plate number not visible in illustration, nevertheless appears in the lower right hand corner below last stamp. (See text for full details on positions.)



SUMMARY TABLE

| Design | Value | WATERMARKED | | | UNWATERMARKED | |
|--------------|--------|-------------|---------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | | Position | Pl. No. | Date Is. | Pl. No. | Date of Issue |
| Karlův Týn | \$.20 | - 6 7 8 | (1-1A) | Oct. 16 '26 | (1-1A) | Feb. 25, '28 |
| | 1.20 | - - - 8 | 1-1A | June 1, '26 | .... | ..... |
| | 1.50 | - 6 - 8 | 1-1A | June 1, '26 | 1-1A | Sept. 10, '29 |
| | 2.50 | - 6 - 8 | 1-1A | June 1, '26 | 1-1A | Nov. 11, '27 |
| Pernstýn | .30 | 5 - 7 - | (1-1A) | Oct. 16, '26 | .... | ..... |
| | coil | | | | | |
| | .30 | - - - 8 | 2-2A | Mar. 22, '27 | 2-2A | July 20, '27 |
| | sheet | | | | 3-3A | |
| | | | | | 4-4A | |
| Orava | 2.00 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1-1A | June 30, '29 |
| | .40 | - 6 7 8 | 2-2A | Oct. 16, '26 | 2-2A | Jan. 27, '28 |
| | 3.00 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1-1A | May 15, '31 |
| Strahov | 1.20 | - 6 - - | 1-1A | June 1, '27 | 1-1A | Nov. 25, '27 |
| Praha Museum | 2.50 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1-1A | June 12, '29 |
| Praha | 2.00 | 1 - - 4 | 1-2-3-4 | Oct. 19, '26 | 3-4-5-6 | May 20, '28 |
| | | 5 6 7 8 | | | | |
| Tatry | 3.00 | 5 6 7 8 | 1-3 | Oct. 19, '26 | 3 | Apr. 10, '28 |
| | 4.00 | 5 6 7 8 | 1 | Sept. 25, '27 | 1 | June 27, '28 |
| | 5.00 | 5 6 7 8 | 1 | June 1, '27 | 1 | July 10, '27 |

mint stamps and disappear when the stamp is used, it is not considered philatelically or economically a "must" in collecting. Practically all stamps printed on the rotary press exist with or without these grooves in the gum, and in listing stamps no notice is taken of this condition.

Stamps with Views of Landscapes, Castles and Towns on Unwatermarked Paper

The majority of stamps already described were gradually printed on paper without a watermark. It is a continuation of the same process, only on different paper.

Small Size Stamps

Stamps printed on the Stickney rotary press were all on unwatermarked paper with the exception of the 1.20 Kc. Karlův Týn value. The stamps are as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| Karlův Týn | |
| 20h—orange (coil) | Feb., 1928 |
| 1.50 Kc—red | Sept., 1929 |
| 2.50 Kc—blue | Nov., 1927 |
| Pernstýn | |
| 30h—green | July, 1927 |
| Orava | |
| 40h—brown | Jan., 1928 |
| Strahov | |
| 1.20 Kc—red violet | Nov., 1927 |

Previously engraved plates were used for this printing (see table), except the 30h brown for which new plates were gradually engraved with the plate numbers 3, 3A, 4, 4A. As for the production, make-up, perforations and validity the same is true as of those printed on watermarked paper. Inasmuch as the Post Office did not take the watermark into consideration when fixing the limit of validity, the values of 20h, 30h, 40h and 2.50 Kc. were valid until Feb. 29, 1932. The 1.20 Kc. and 1.50 Kc. values were demonetized Feb. 28, 1937.

Besides the values which were printed on watermarked paper and gradually on unwatermarked paper, two other values of the same size and style were issued on unwatermarked paper. They are:

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| Pernstýn (as on the 30h value) | |
| 2 Kc—green | June, 1929 |

Orava (as on the 40h value)

3 Kc—brown May, 1931

Issue of these values was authorized by order #43668 of the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs dated July 16, 1929, for the 2 Kc. value and order #30682 of May 8, 1931 for the 3 Kc. value. Both are still valid (as of 1935).

For the plate make-up, previous engravings were used, so the design on the 2 Kc. and 3 Kc. values is the same as on the 30h and 40h, except that the value numerals are white on a quadrilled background on the former, while on the 30h and 40h values the numerals are colored on a white background. Also, on the 2 Kc. value the word "Ceskoslovensko" is on a background of parallel lines, while on the 30h value the background is quadrilled. For printing both values, so far, only one set of plates was used, marked "1" and "1A."

In a similar frame but with a new central design, another value on unwatermarked paper was issued. The design shows the statue of St. Vaclav with the National Museum in the background and "Praha" in the upper right corner.

Praha (from drawing by J. Setelk)

2.50 Kc—steel blue June, 1929

The authorization is dated May 25, 1929—order #32164. So far only one pair of plates, by the engraver Goldschmied, was made. This is about the poorest stamp in the Scenic Views set, not only from the standpoint of engraving, but also from an artistic point of view. To squeeze into such a small space a museum building with the statue of St. Vaclav in the foreground is unpardonable. The coarseness of the engraving also shows that the engraver was not very familiar with work of this nature.

Unwatermarked stamps of the Scenic Views set all have the regular vertical grooves in the gum, although some stamps exist without them. Explanation of these grooves was given previously. Imprint irregularities such as offsets, spots, narrow and wide folds, etc., are unusual.

Large Size Stamps

The four large size stamps were also printed on unwatermarked paper.

Praha—Hradcany

2 Kc—blue May, 1928

3 Kc—red (Type II) April, 1928

High Tatry—Lake Strb

4 Kc—violet June, 1928

4 Kc—dark blue July, 1927

These stamps were printed from flat plates used formerly, except for the 2 Kc. value for which two new plates were made. Following are the plate numbers of this value: old plates 3 and 4 and new plates 5 and 6. The 3 Kc. Type II numbers are 3 and 4; the 4 Kc. number is 1; and the 5 Kc. number is 1. Validity expired Feb. 29, 1932. Perforations, color shades and other imperfections are about the same as in the case of stamp with watermarks.

(Author's Note: In compiling this article the stamps were grouped according to their designs in preference to the chronology of issue, they having been issued in a hit-or-miss manner, not forming any regular sets.)

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CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S STAMP "TABS"

Reprinted with permission from Western Stamp Collector

by Eric G. Cowell

From Czechoslovakia comes the announcement that henceforth there will be no more of the coupons or tabs so well known to and popular with the many collectors of the stamps of that now unhappy land.

Although these tabs of various styles and sizes extend as far back as 1930 and are common to even the war time issues of many of the stamps of Bohemia Moravia and Slovakia they receive no special recognition in the standard catalogs of Scott and Gibbons, but nevertheless they are keenly sought after by all serious collectors of Czechoslovakia.

The interest in the tabs has of late so increased that collectors have been prepared to pay many times the face value of the relevant stamp in order to secure the same with the tab attached and this has resulted in dealers in Czechoslovakia buying in the complete sheets, removing the stamps with the tabs attached and then disposing of the remaining stamps in the sheet at a discount. This procedure has met with the strong disapproval of the authorities and so the edict has gone forth—**no more tabs.**

In a catalog such as Drufile, many of these tabs are illustrated and one is definitely attracted by the fine designs and the manner in which the artists responsible have sought to capture something associated with the purpose of the particular stamp and thus one can readily understand why the stamps plus tabs have come to be regarded as single units for the serious collector.

Various reasons have been given and published from time to time for the reasons why these tabs were so designed and printed, but the truth is that the tabs were introduced to overcome the peculiarities associated with the process of printing employed in Czechoslovakia where postage stamps are printed on "Stickney" rotaries which do not permit the changing of the printing plate during the printing process.

Endeavors for economy in the use of the special stamp paper have resulted in three stamp sizes being generally used—small size (e. g. Scott's 212), medium size (e. g. 213), and large size (e. g. 175).

The printing roller on this type of machine or press consists of two half rollers and the imprint of each half roller represents a sheet of 200 small sized stamps.

All the ordinary postage stamps are so printed in this fashion in the small size.

However when a more important issue is being printed the imprint of the



Tabs on 1946 Air Mail issue



Lidice—with tab



half roller represents only 150 stamps of the large size and the sheets are then cut into panes of 100 and 50. The largest size is reserved for special commemorative stamps.

If the entire space of the roller plate and paper were to be utilized the size of the small size stamp as was adopted in the case of the issue of the four stamps issued in 1934 to commemorate the 20th anniversary of Czechoslovakian Legion which fought in World War I (Nos. 195-198).

This particular size, from the printer's point of view, proved most unsatisfactory and it became necessary to find a solution which would avoid the wasting of paper in the unprinted margins which sometimes had amounted to as much as one quarter of the complete sheet. The result was the introduction of the tabs and as in the printing of the more general large size stamps it was necessary to place the first stamp on one side of the sheet and the one hundredth stamp on the opposite side, the remaining space used to be left unprinted until the introduction of the tabs.

These tabs then are a consequence of a technical set-up in the process of printing which in effect made use of waste printing paper and gave to the sheet as released by the printers a completed appearance.

Beginning with some simple drawing or motto usually connected with the subject matter of the stamp these tabs or coupons came over a process of years to represent the skilled work of very often the artist or designer of the stamps and thus have been accepted as an essential part of the stamp and as such a definitely collectable item.

Unless the authorities in Czechoslovakia have introduced a different type of printing press the printers will once again be obliged to revert to those blank spaces and sheets cut in various sizes and our album pages will become a little less attractive for the loss of the artistic tabs.



St. Albert—with tab

TYPES OF THE HRADCANY SHEET

Josef Kalal

The active collaboration of our readers, for which I asked in No. 4 of "Ceskoslovenska filatelie," brought in some good results. It proved beyond any doubt that the length of heavy dashes in the frame line above the dove's head is not a decisive sign of a type or a characteristic of a three-sheet plate. It did, however, point to a very good way of systematizing the types and even to the reconstruction of a sheet.

We have received information from C. Franta of Brno and J. Sobotka of Ostrava about a new sort of sheet. This, the ninth, I would call subtype II_d, because the dash is 3 millimeters long. This sheet also differs from the others in that the third line of text is shifted to the right. Less noticeable is the dislocation of the date line, which can be proven by extending the left line of the stamp. It will cut back of the numeral "1" in "1918." Occasionally a very faint dot in front of "L" in the word "Let" is visible and then only with the help of a magnifying glass and so is unsuitable for any practical purpose of identifying the type. With only this evidence on some of the lately received sheets, I have not yet decided on which type it is. To complicate matters further, there is sometimes a defect in printing in the shape of a ball on the end of the second "1" in "1918."

Sobotka also called my attention to a correction in the upper side of the value shield, as I informed readers in No. 5 of "Ceskoslovenska filatelie." Upon my communicating with Mr. Vytopil, he supplemented his other information with more about the breaks in the bottom line of the stamp. This is shown on our cut by a numeral "2" while Mr. Sobotka's information is shown by numeral "1."

Following corrections known on each type so far, we see a correction to the original line which is found in subtypes Ia, IIa and IIb, according to my present plan. The correction at "1" and joined to complete correction made at "2" are found only in subtypes Ib, IIc and II_d, whereas in the group of subtypes IIIa, IVa and IVb there is a correction at "1" and only a partial correction at "2."

This triple regularity points to a three-sheet plate. This is further supported by the fact that the correction at "1" in the first group is somewhat more delicate than in the second group where, for instance, on IIIa the correction appears frayed at the end (fig. 1' and on IVb, as far as I could see, there is a short line between the right point of a colored spot, located between the head and tail of the dove and the frayed line. On the IIc and II_d the corrections are quite different. All this leads one to assume that the corrections or repairs were made on the plate itself. The above-mentioned changeable length of the dash and the three steps described lead me to propose to the philatelists adoption of the following arrangement for typing:

- a) Two styles of dashes—
 - 1—short (2.7-3.1 mm)
 - 2—long (4.4-4.9 mm)

- b) Three basic types of sheets as shown in the attached table.

Regarding the proposal in (a) I must admit there is difficulty in measuring the length of the dash. To surmount the difficulty I advise the use of a magnifying glass in the shape of a cube with a scale of half-millimeters engraved on the bottom. Thus the scale lies snugly on the line and measurement is not affected if one looks at it obliquely. The difference in the length of the middle dash in both groups is so slight that it is not possible to discern it without a magnifying glass, while the outside dashes in both groups are sufficiently different to be observed with the naked eye. The characteristics of the suggested division are so distinct that they are easily observed even without the help of a magnifying glass.

We did not bring up all that is known about the 12 types as originally noted, but I think that my proposed arrangement is sufficiently flexible to allow inclusion of other subtypes as they come to attention.

A few words about the control marks I am showing in my table. It seems

| Type | I. | | | II. | | | III. | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------|--------------|------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| Type characteristics | Short dashes, no retouch/1,2/ | | | Short dashes, retouched/1,2/ | | | Long dashes, retouched/1,2/ | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Sub-type | a | b | c | a | b | c | a | b | c |
| Dash length | 2.7 | 3.0 | 3.1 | 2.7 | 2.0 | 3.1 | 4.4 | 4.6 | 4.0 |
| Distance dash-stamp | 11.7 | 11.7 | 11.7 | 12.3 | 12.2 | 12.3 | 11.8 | 11.7 | 11.7 |
| Outstanding plate varieties | ↑ K K | É M | NS K K | 9 K K | P K K | K K L | ↑ K K | P K K | 10 ^{oo} Y |
| Previous listing | Ia | IIa | IIIb | Ib | IIc | IId | IIIa | IVa | IVb |

that some collectors give undue importance to various spots, dots and unfinished lines to such an extent that they consider them to be a mark of a new type. That, of course, would be wrong, as they have no connection with the design on the stamp or sheet. Their size, shape and location change if they are made by faulty printing or are not shown on all copies of the same type. At other times they are only imprints of faults made in forming the plate. These last ones may have characteristics of some type but offer no reason for creating a new type not connected with the design of the stamp. (Editor's note: These may be position data.)

However, it would not do simply to refuse consideration. It is intended to separate the permanent marks from those that are only transitory. The decision as to which is which cannot be made by any one individual alone, as he has access to only a few copies which may come from the same run. It would only be an accident if these faults started and ended in the same run. For these reasons I was most grateful for all suggestions in this respect. How important may be advice about a small defect is shown particularly by Mr. Vytopil's regarding defect #2. There are other defects and breaks in the line framing the stamp but this is the only one that is of permanent form. This one, less than one millimeter long, is the same in not only one subtype but in all three. It is well repaired in type II and not so well in III, showing that it is not a matter of a faulty plate but of a transfer roll, the corrections on which are the distinctive features of a type.

Anyway, the dots, spots, etc. appearing on all sheets of the same type, especially if they are well-pronounced, make good control points for quick recognition of a type.

My thanks to all for their advice and observations which helped to clarify this subject. Thanks to Mr. Janec of Praha who called my attention to the divergence of the two horizontal sides of the stamp. Even though it is not a deciding factor as to the type inasmuch as it appears on all sheets, it shows that our collectors thoroughly study their stamps.

(Reprinted from "Ceskoslovenska Filatelie" and translated by Geo. Skopecek and R. L. Spofford.)

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