

# THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE  
CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

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

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## EDITORIAL

We have been privileged to attend the NAPEX in Washington. There is always something fascinating about philatelic exhibitions and conventions. Some come with enthusiasm about what they hope to see; others expect to find sleepers among the stamps in stocks of the many dealers who participate in the bourse; most, however, come to take part in the friendly camaraderie so evident at these gatherings. These, in our opinion, gain the most lasting benefits. All hobbies have this in common; because of the large numbers of disciples of philately, more friends can be gained in the pursuit of stamp collecting. Friendship is a beautiful flower which must be cultivated; the only fertilizer necessary is to want to get along with one's neighbor. \* \* \* Of all the stamps shown, none represented Czechoslovakia except stamps with coupons or tabs in a topical collection. Are all collectors in our group as busy (or is it lazy?) as your editor? Our visit to Washington via New York was a vacation, the first in many years which was not almost entirely devoted to our Society or its publication. \* \* \* We are very fortunate to have a series of articles ready for the next several issues. In this October issue we omit our Praha letter and all news of interest to Czecho collectors. We hope to do better in the November issue. \* \* \* The October 28 issue of STAMPS will contain an article on the 1920 issue of Masaryk stamps from the pen of a member who prefers to remain anonymous. It has been translated from the original Czech by members Skopecek and Spofford who help the editor with some of these arduous tasks. We advise our members to obtain this issue of the magazine STAMPS, or, better yet, subscribe to this publication which so helpfully assists us in disseminating knowledge on our particular phase of stamp collecting. \* \* \* In the previous paragraph we mentioned that the author wants to preserve his anonymity. It is surprising how frequently readers write to authors that they have large accumulations of the material the author is interested in which they are willing to sell. It usually turns out that the material is not as described. These readers fail to realize that the author himself has large accumulations for, how else could he write about the stuff?

## NEW MEMBERS

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- 428. Maurits Reys, Marinisstraat 7, Bergerhout, Antwerp, Belgium.

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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- 366. Gerald P. Glanton, 1115 12th Ave., Oakland, Calif.
- 126. F. J. Kaps, Quaker Church Rd., Amawalk, N. Y.

### PARADE OF NEW ISSUES

Commemoratives in honor of the  
II. International Students World Congress at Praha



The Czechoslovak Post, honoring the II. International Students World Congress, held from August 12th to 24th at Praha, has issued a set of 4 values of the following denominations:

- a) Kcs 1.50 green, depicting the Liberation of Colonial Nations
- b) Kcs 2.00 brown, depicting the Fight for Peace
- c) Kcs 3.00 red, depicting the Democratization of Education
- d) Kcs 5.00 blue-violet, depicting the International Students Solidarity

The stamps have been designed and engraved by:

- a) Bohumil Dolezalova—Jan Mracek
- b) Olga Andersova—Ladislav Jirka
- c) Jirina Adamcova—Bedrich Housa
- d) Jiri Mikula—Jindra Schmidt

The stamps are 37x23 mm in size, arranged horizontally and were printed on the Stickney rotary press in sheets of 70 and 35 respectively. They were placed on sale on August 14th.

A cacheted FIRST DAY COVER as well as a COLLECTION SHEET have been issued, too.

The First Day Cover bears an emblem of the International Students Union, engraved by Frantisek Jezek. The Collection Sheet is also attractively designed, bearing a special first day postmark.

### QUESTION BOX

This answer came to a request published in the last "Specialist." Dobruska (Dobruschka) located in N. E. CSR, 50° 17' N, 16° 10' E, G. M. I believe it is in the Opcno province. Thank you, George Skopecek.

### FOR SALE

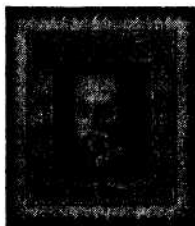
#### Large blocks of Czecho. — Hradcany issue

I have duplicate reconstructed mint sheets of 100 of the following Scott types A1 & 2: 1h, 15h, 50h blue, 50h violet, 80h (block of 50), 80h overprinted S. O., 100h overprinted S. O. (block of 70). Also blocks of 20 or larger: 1h, 50h blue, 50h violet, 75h, 80h, 30h S. O., 75h S. O. and 80h S. O. All priced at half catalogue. John Velek, 2229 Kimball, Chicago 47, Ill.

## T. G. MASARYK

1850  $\frac{3}{7}$  1950

By F. Skromny

Fifth Anniversary of the  
Republic issueOlympic Congress overprint  
in 1925

The strongest argument for democracy is the belief in man, his spiritual value and his immortal soul—that is true equality in abstract. According to moral principles, democracy is the political realization of love for a fellow-being. The human soul cannot be indifferent to eternity and by the same token it cannot abuse, take advantage of, or violate eternal Providence. True democracy, founded on the love and respect of one mortal for all others, is the realization of God's command on this earth.

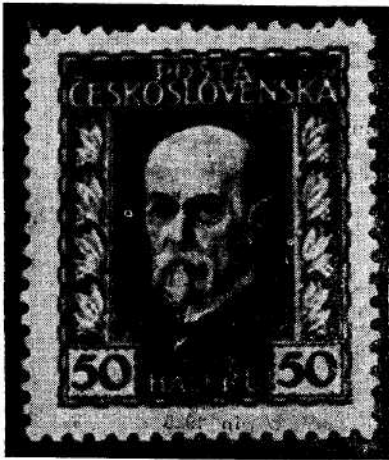
That was the philosophy of one born more than a hundred years ago—March 7, 1850 in the small Moravian town of Hodonin. Yes, it is one hundred years since Thomas Masaryk, son of a teamster, blacksmith's apprentice, student, professor, philosopher, deputy, liberator of his nation, and the first President of the Czechoslovak Republic, saw the light of this world. With him a new democracy was born, a benign democracy, anticipating the world by some ten years.

"Jesus, not Caesar!" He loved everybody and in return was revered, but above all, he was loved by the whole nation. It is not surprising that the collectors of Czechoslovakian stamps are particularly drawn to those bearing his portrait. Looking through our collections, they remind us of his 100th anniversary.

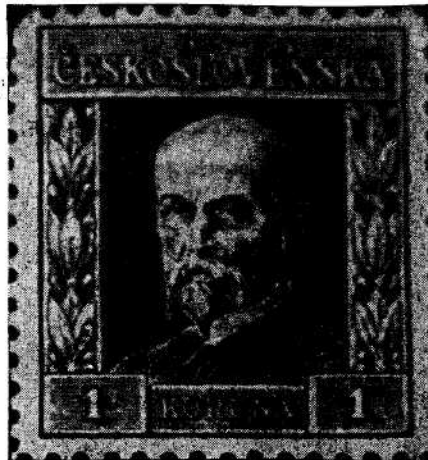
The first stamps with the portrait of T. G. Masaryk were issued in 1920 in three values. The portrait was from a pencil sketch by M. Svabinsky. Next the 1923 issue, called the "Jubilee," deserves special attention because it commemorates the fifth anniversary of the Czechoslovak Republic. This issue was the basis for practically all other issues of Masaryk stamps. The Jubilee set is in four values: 50h green, 100h red, 200h blue, 300h brown. They were printed from steel-engraved flat plates of 100 stamps each, on paper with the watermark in four positions. The watermark is a stylized linden twig and the positions were caused by the different ways in which the paper was fed into the press. The perforations are 13%. The paper is of two thicknesses, so a specialist would need at least eight sets of these stamps to have all varieties. This does not include those with the CSP monogram in the gum, which sometimes is inverted. Of course, this is visible only on mint stamps.

When this set was issued, the postwar monetary inflation was declining. That, and the 100 per cent surcharge, caused their sale to fall off to such an extent that only 140,000 sets were sold. Another cause for such a small sale was the fact that collectors did not pay much attention to watermarks. It was two years before the different positions were established.

To commemorate the International Olympic Congress of 1925 the postal authorities used some of these stamps by overprinting three values—50h, 100h, and 200h—with a steel-engraved overprint "Congres Olymp. Internat. / Praha 1925."



Neotype



Type II

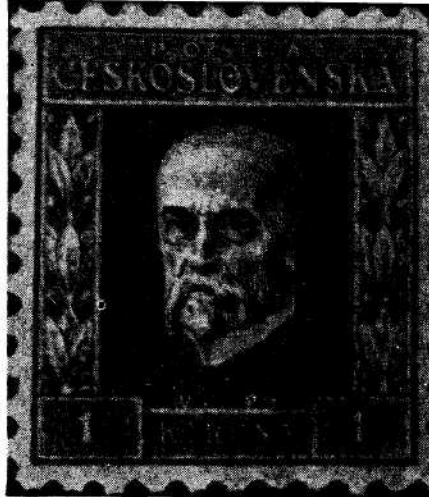
This overprint is blue on the 50h and 100h and red on the 200h. Some varieties appeared, such as off-center overprint, wrong color, etc. Again the specialist requires a minimum of eight sets. The sale amounted to 50,000 sets, sold at double face value.

The remainder of the Jubilee issue was used for the 8th All-Sokol Congress, it being the second one held in the new republic. The overprint "VIII. Slet Vsesokolsky/Praha 1926" was also made from a steel-engraved plate, this time on all four values. The style of the overprint is similar to that of the 1925 Olympic Congress, but of course with the wording different, as stated.

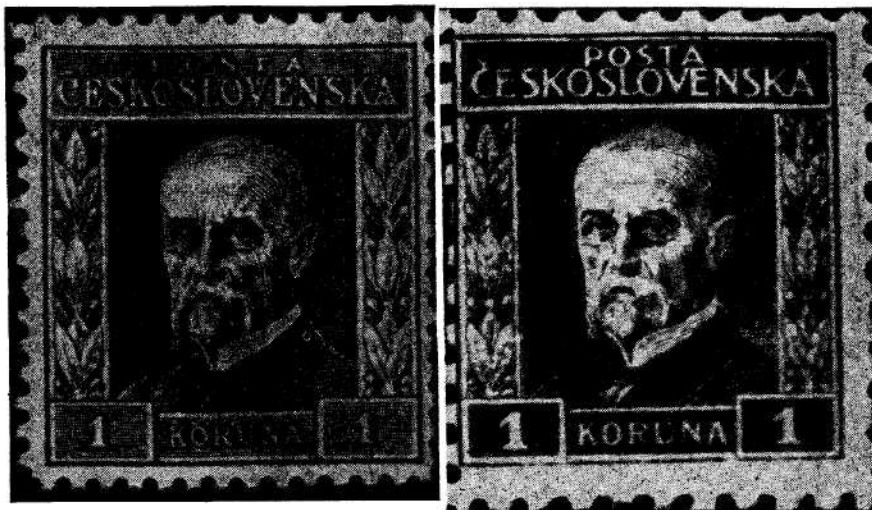
On the 50h and 100h the overprint is blue and on the 200h and 300h in red. The stamps were sold at 100 per cent over face and 60,000 sets were sold. At this point it should be remembered that the issue of lower values was much greater than that of higher ones. As before, a specialist needs eight sets for a complete coverage of all varieties. These sets are rare now, especially the



Type I



Type III



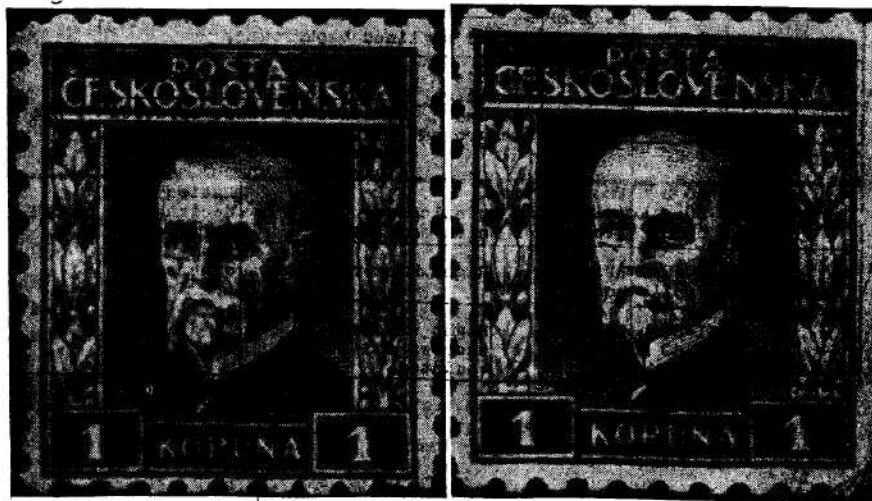
Type IV

Type V

higher values, although they were on sale at the agency for several years and there was every opportunity for their purchase. The reason for their high value is the increase in the number of collectors. To show the growth in the number of collectors of Czechoslovak stamps, 260,000 sets were subscribed for on a charity issue with a surcharge in 1936 as against the 60,000 sets of the Eighth Sokol Congress.

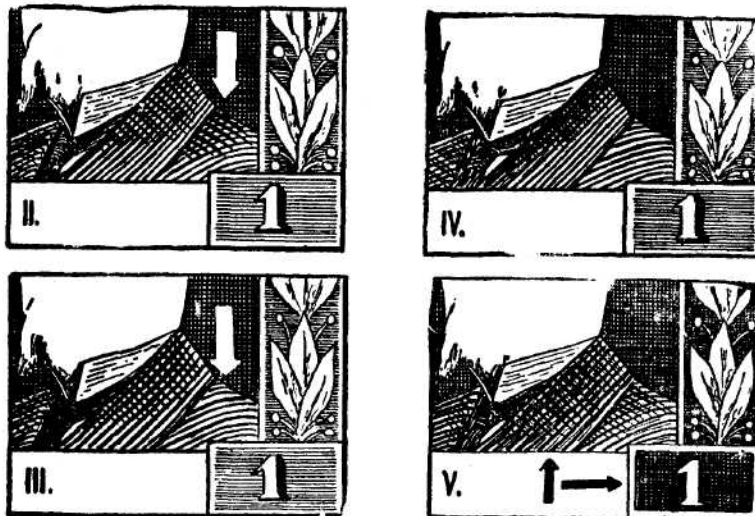
We now return to March 7, 1925 when three values were issued for the 75th anniversary of T. G. Masaryk. The stamps, with the portrait from a pencil sketch by M. Svabinsky, were printed by photogravure (neotype), which process gave these stamps this name.

The three values, 40h yellow, 50h green, and 60h violet, were issued with-



Type VI

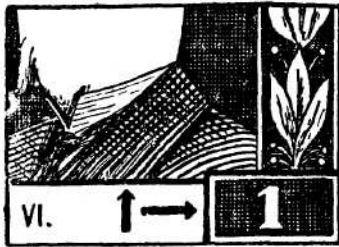
Type VII



Type	Old Type No.	Value	Characteristics of types.		Perf.
I	I	1 Kc 2 Kc 3 Kc 5 Kc	Legend at top on 23 horizontal lines. Large format: A. 19½ x 23 mm. (vertical wmk. positions) B. 19 3/4 x 22½ mm. (horiz. wmk. positions)		
II	II	1 Kc 2 Kc 3 Kc	Smaller format 19 x 22 mm.	Legend at top shaded on 20 horizontal lines. Left shoulder crossed.	13 3/4
III	II/I	1 Kc		Ditto. Left shoulder lined.	9 3/4
	IV	3 Kc		Unshaded legend on crossed background.	
IV	III	1 Kc		Legend on lined background.	
V	IV	1 Kc	Legends on square crossed background.	Shields of value bordered by thin lines.	9 3/4
VI	IV/I	1 Kc		Shields of value bordered by thick lines.	
VII	IV/Ia	1 Kc		Same, pointed whiskers. (always on unwmkd paper)	
H	H	40 h 50 h 60 h	Photogravure. (all other printings from steel engraved plates)		13 3/4
R	V	I-50 h Coil	Printed only on rotary press.	Rightwhiskers longer.	9 3/4
	Va	II-50 h 60 h 1 Kc		Right whiskers shorter and pointed.	

Illustrations and Characteristics of the Types

out surcharge for prepayment of all postage. Printed on watermarked paper of a regular thickness, the watermark is vertical in positions 1 to 4. There are in existence some rather rare stamps of this issue with the horizontal watermark in positions 5 to 8, also some printed on parchment paper and grayish paper. Perforations are line 13½ and comb 13½ x 13½. Having eight positions



of the watermark, two perforations and at least two kinds of paper, a collector must do some hard digging to get them all. The total issue was 25,200,000, of the 40h; 224,530,000 of the 50h; 48,290,000 of the 60h.

Now comes the most interesting part of collecting the Masaryk stamps. The process of printing Czechoslovak stamps was being shifted from neotype to steel engraving. This shift is very interesting from a philatelic standpoint, though artists may have some objections to it. After the very successful printing of the "Koruna" issue from the steel plates, supplementing the "Haleru" issue, the postal authorities went completely over to steel engravings. The "Koruna" issue is in four values: 1Kc red, 2Kc blue, 3Kc brown, 5Kc green.

These stamps were printed from flat plates on paper of regular thickness with the watermark in positions 1 to 4. Immediately there appeared some varieties in the size of the stamps and positions of the watermark, to which collectors devote much time in investigations. Inasmuch as the first watermarks known were vertical, they were given positions 1 to 4 and the horizontal watermarks positions 5 to 8. That explains why the first of the 1923 issue has watermark positions 5 to 8 and not 1 to 4.

The variations in watermark position were caused by sheets of paper being fed into the press in different ways, which also caused two variations of stamp sizes to appear. The stamps with the vertical watermarks are narrower and taller, while those with the horizontal watermarks are wider and shorter. When all these facts were ascertained, the stamps with the vertical watermarks were sold out, so collectors had little chance to buy very many. That makes the issue quite a rarity. There are very few collections which can boast of mint sets. Even the used stamps are not plentiful.

The next issue deserves our particular attention, not because it is a new type, but because it was sold out at the post office before all the variations



50h Type I



50h Type II



50h Gail



Rotary

Data on the printing of watermarked stamps with the portrait of President Masaryk.

Type	Value	Number of Forms Plates		Subjects per plate	Printing commenced	Placed in Circulation.	
H	40 h	4	4	100	March 7, 1924.	March 7, 1925.	
	50 h	41	56				
	60 h	11	15				
I	A.Vert. wmk.			100	December 12, 1923 December 22, 1923 January 4, 1924 April 12, 1924	March 7, 1925.	
	1 Kc	12	12				
	2 Kc	14	14				
	3 Kc	7	7				
	5 Kc	1	1				
	B.Horiz. wmk.			150 **	August 13, 1924 May 10, 1924 February 14, 1924 February 1925.		
	1 Kc	25	50				
	2 Kc	51	95				
3 Kc	42	80					
	5 Kc	16	32				
II	1 Kc	1	1	200	April 22, 1925	May 1925	
	2 Kc	2	2		August 1, 1925	November 1925	
	3 Kc	3	3		May 28, 1925	August 1925	
III	1 Kc	1	1	200	July 2, 1925	August 1925	
	3 Kc	1	1		July 20, 1925	January 1926	
IV	1 Kc	3	6	200	May 9, 1925	August 1925	
V	1 Kc	1	2		July 1925	September 1925	
VI	1 Kc*	1	2		April 1926	July 1926	
VII	1 Kc**	1	2		November 1926	Sept. 16, 1927	
R	1 -50 h	1	2	200	June 1926	July 20, 1926	
	50 h	1	2		September 1926	Oct. 27, 1926	
	coil						
	II -50 h*	3	6		March 1927	April 15, 1927	
	60 h**	1	2		July 1926	Nov. 20, 1926	
1 Kc***	4	8		May 1927.	Oct. 1, 1927		

\* later without watermark.

\*\* exceptionally in 100.

\*\*\* Only without watermark.



were noticed. Then collectors could not find them. The demand for the "Koruna" issue was such that the printing shop had a hard time keeping up, flat plate printing being a long and tedious process. The various trial runs produced some unintentional varieties, which the collectors class as types. Smaller pictures and crosshatching of the shoulder produced Type II. Values are 1Kc red, 2Kc blue and 3Kc brown.

Type III differs from Type II in that the shoulder is shaded with straight lines. This appears only on the 1Kc value. The 3Kc value is the last of the T. G. Masaryk stamps to be perforated 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ . The watermark is horizontal.

Next we come to the rotary printing of Masaryk stamps. This method was adopted to speed production, so Stickney Hyspeed rotary presses were purchased in the United States. These presses, incidentally, are still in use.

The main characteristic of this issue is the rather coarse perforation of 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ . Type IV does not differ from the preceding stamps except in perforations. The watermark is horizontal and on some stamps vertical stripes in the gum are noticed.

In Type V the lettering is not shaded and the value tabs are lightly engraved.

Type VI has a few minor differences, the most noticeable being the heavy outlines of the value tabs. It is rotary perforated and the watermark is in positions 5 to 8, although part of the issue was unwatermarked.

In Type VII Masaryk's moustache is shorter and pointed. The paper is unwatermarked, but part of the issue has stripes in the gum.

At the conclusion of printing the neotype issues the printing office began preparations for printing the "Haleru" values on the rotary press, and shortly put out the following values: 50h green and 60h violet.

The 50h green (Type I) was issued in sheets, watermarked positions 5 to 8, also in coils with watermark positions 5 and 7. The 50h Type Ii has a pointed moustache and watermark positions 5 to 8. The 60h violet has watermark positions 5 to 8. These were the last stamps on watermarked paper, for in 1927 they were reissued in the same form on unwatermarked paper. They are the 50h green, 60h violet and 1Kc red.

This closes one epoch of Czechoslovak philately, even though there were other stamps issued with the portrait of Masaryk. It is quite possible that some new facts may come to light about these issues, but even so they are considered among the most interesting of Czechoslovak stamps.

In closing, what can be said of the T. G. Masaryk stamps? This much is a fact—from 1920 to 1939 Czechoslovakia never was without a valid stamp with the portrait of the great European. By that the Czechoslovak republic showed her reverence for T. G. Masaryk. However, the German invaders could not tolerate the picture of this great humanist and philosopher, so it had to be hidden in the hearts of his people and the albums of their collections. Departed . . . but 100 years from his birthday, and what oceans of misery and suffering have passed over his recent grave! Readers will perhaps understand now why the collectors of Czechoslovak stamps, when leafing through their albums, think of this apostle of democracy. They cannot but be true to his teaching!

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## Stamps of the Czechoslovak Field Post in Russia

(Continued from last issue)

The overprint on the Russian 10-kopek stamp of 1909 was applied in Celjabinisk. It is believed that a stereo was made from type. Some of the stamps seen show very poor workmanship because the overprint registered incompletely.

The color of the overprint is dull black. A very small number is claimed to exist with a red overprint, but the authors have not seen a copy and doubt the existence of such.

Cancellations may have either a Russian town cancellation or the cancellation used by the Czechoslovak Field Post.

### Pictorial (Irkutsk) Issue (Silhouettes)

The Organizer of the Czechoslovak Field Post, A. Novotny, wrote that in January, 1919, and again in May, 1919, production of special postage stamps was discussed. When Gen. Klecanda was influenced to favor an issue of "charity" stamps, designs were immediately prepared. The order for the issue of these stamps was given by the representative of the Czechoslovak Government, Boh Pavlu.

Volunteers prepared several designs. Of these the following were approved: 25-Kopek. The Cathedral of Irkutsk, with an urn and a laurel branch in the foreground.

50-Kopek. Armored train "Falcon" from a small photograph. The author of these two stamps was Jaroslav Maly.

1-ruble. A Czechoslovak volunteer from a drawing by Cila.

The least pleasing of these stamps is the 50-kopek; the best of the three is the silhouette featuring a volunteer. It is from this stamp that the issue derived its name among specialists as the "Silhouette Issue"... though the other two can hardly be called that.

These stamps were not necessary because postal matter of the volunteers was accepted free. And since the funds obtained from the sale of these stamps was turned over to the "Invalid Fund" of the Czechoslovak Legionnaires, they may be termed charity stamps. At the same time they advertised the desire of the Czech soldier for independence.

In December, 1919, these stamps were sold at post offices of the field post, gummed but imperforate: 25-kopek carmine, 50-kopek green, 1-ruble red brown.

On January 14, 1920, the same stamps were issued perforated 11½ in the following quantities: 25-kopek, 35,520; 50-kopek, 34,800; 1-ruble, 20,790.

The sale of these stamps in Siberia was very small because most of the soldiers did not know of their existence. Then also, many soldiers bought the stamps, but enclosed them in the envelope, fearing (perhaps rightfully), that the stamps and perhaps the entire letter might be stolen for the sake of the stamps.

It has been said that a part of the imperforate issue was perforated 13¼ in March, 1921, in Vladivostok, but no authentic records are available and therefore the exact status of these cannot be determined.

A large number of the imperforate and ungummed remainders were sent to Praha by the last transport "President Grant." In Praha these stamps were gummed at the Unie Printing Works, perforated 13¼, and then sold. They can at best be called "unissued stamps."

These stamps were ordered by the Department of Field Posts from the Information Bureau which had rented the printing establishment of Makusin and Posochin in Irkutsk, where they were lithographed.

The designs were reduced in size photographically and reproduced on an aluminum plate six times and from this transferred to a lithographic stone. There were two stones, one for a combined printing of the 25-K and 50-K stamps—the other for the 1-r stamp printed in two sheets.

Horizontal pairs of the 50-k and 25-k with gutter between and 1-r and 1-r vertical pairs with gutter are scarce.

Plate markings. Several times, on all four corners in all values we find a marking shaped like a half-moon.

(to be continued)

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