

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 just returned from a most enjoyable vacation. The idea of a spring vacation originated last year when a Christmas card containing a legend of the dogwood blossom captivated our fancy. A sister living in Kansas assured us that the Ozarks are most beautiful when the dogwood is in bloom. We took the opportunity to visit relatives in Nebraska and sister and brother-in-law in Kansas to see the dogwood bloom in the Missouri and Arkansas Ozarks. It was wonderful!

En route we stopped in Lawrence, Kansas, to visit with the printer of the Specialist. We were guest of Mr. Miller and his family, discussed several items pertaining to the Specialist and the dictionary-vocabulary, looked over the campus of the University of Kansas and the Haskell Indian Institute and listened with sorrowful wonderment of the sufferings of the people of this part of Kansas when the floods two years ago destroyed lives and property. To our hosts: Hearty thanks!

We omit the 4 pages of our vocabulary because we are already revising it! The revision is being made for the convenience of the printer whose knowledge of the Czech language is nil. Not only that, we have told you that we have much material we should like to publish before we return to the very popular articles of member Kvasnička. The Parade of New Issues has been taking up much space in the Specialist but as we doubt we'll ever touch on these issues again we feel confident that our members will accept them as they are. After all, we must have a running account of the labels emanating from the country which was once the pride of Masaryk, Beneš and Štefaník, the heritage of St. Václav.

We have frequently been asked why doesn't the Scott Publishing Co. revise its catalog section devoted to Czechoslovakia so it would be as good as Zumstein and Senf. Our member R. L. Spofford decided to do something about this and in this issue of the Specialist you may read his "Open Letter" to the publishers of the "American Philatelic Bible". During the life of the founder of our Society, Joseph W. Lowey, changes had been made in the catalog because Joe's knowledge of the stamps of Czechoslovakia was recognized by the publishers and his suggestions were readily accepted by Mr. Clark, then the publisher. We are sure if Joe lived, the parts mentioned in Mr. Spofford's letter would have been revised. If the members of our Society get behind Mr. Spofford by writing to the Scott Co. we may obtain recognition before the 1954 catalog goes to press.

We also are publishing in this issue an article by member Barry which originally appeared in the very popular magazine STAMPS. We thank the

publisher Mr. Harry L. Lindquist, for permission to reprint this article. We sha'n't have too many opportunities to present really specialized articles on the current philatelic products coming from Praha because of the many restrictions.

The editor of the American Philatelist, member David Lidman, asked us to review the 1953 POFIS catalog for the members of the American Philatelic Society. We did so and with Mr. Lidman's permission copy the review in this issue.

To the officers and members of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society the editor wishes a very enjoyable vacation. As this is the last Specialist of the season we ask the members to save themselves 2 or 3 cents (and your editor the time it takes to answer communications) by not writing to the editor that the July and August Specialists failed to reach them. Folks, there ain't none!

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

- 40. Frank O. Vinson, P. O. Box 218, Tuckahoe, N. Y.
- 102. Richardson L. Spofford, 5056 Woodlawn Ave., Chicago 15, Ill.
- 330. Joseph Stein, 673 Hinsdale St., Brooklyn 7, N. Y.
- 426. Frank M. Stupka, 2754 Armand Pl., St. Louis 4, Mo.
- 432. E. Stork, Government Camp, Ore.

PARADE OF NEW ISSUES



J. V. Stalin Memorial Issue

To commemorate the death of J. V. Stalin, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR and Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the Ministry of Communications issued on March 12th, a memorial issue of Kčs 1.50, in black color.

The stamp showing the portrait of J. V. Stalin, was engraved by Jan Mráček after a pen-drawing by a Soviet artist, and has unlimited validity for postage as from March 12, 1953. The issue was recess-printed in the Printing Office of the Ministry of Communications in sheets of 50 copies. Horizontal form of 23½x30mm in dimension.

Along with the stamp also an official First Day Cover was issued, with a pictorial motive designed by Jindřich Schmidt, graphic artist, engraved by Jaroslav Goldschmied. The motive is completed by the following wording:

"Eternal glory to the memory of J. V. Stalin, liberator of Czechoslovakia, great friend and teacher of the Czechoslovak working people."

President Klement Gottwald Memorial Issue

To honor the memory of Klement Gottwald, the President of the Czechoslovak Republic, who died on March 14th, 1953, the Ministry of Communica-

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tions issued on March 19th, 1953, on the day of the funeral, a memorial set of two stamps, a Souvenir Sheet and a First Day cover.

The stamps of 1.50 and 3.— Kčs show the portrait of President Klement Gottwald, designed by Jindra Schmidt, graphically arranged by professor Karel Svolinský, who also arranged the Memorial Souvenir Sheet (value of the stamp Kčs 5.—), designed the First Day Cover, and the memorial postmark. The color of the stamps, the souvenir sheet and the cover are black.

The inscriptions:

On the stamps: "Československo, 1.50 (3.— Kčs)
23. 11. 1896 K.G. 14. 3. 1953"

On the Souvenir Sheet: "Eternally will live in the hearts, minds and deeds of the Czechoslovak working people the name of Comrade Klement Gottwald".

On the First Day Cover: "Eternal glory to Klement Gottwald who opened a large perspective of a bright socialist future to the working people of Czechoslovakia. Czechoslovak Post."

The engraving of the stamps is by Jindra Schmidt, the engraving of the Souvenir Sheet and of the cover is by Jaroslav Goldschmied.

Dimension of the picture 23x30 mm. Dimension of the Souvenir Sheet 67x100 mm. The selling price of the Souvenir Sheet is Kčs 5.—.

The stamps were printed in the Post Printing Office in Prague on white paper in sheets of 50 copies. The Souvenir Sheet was recess-printed on flat plate in the same Printing Office. The cover was printed by "IMPRESSA" in Prague.

Validity of the stamps and Souvenir Sheets temporarily unlimited.

The Collection Sheet with the 1.50 and 3.— Kčs stamps and with the Souvenir Sheet was issued at the same time.



Commemorative postage stamp "Inauguration of the Museum The Beginnings of the Czechoslovak Labor Movement in Praha-Břevnov"

As the first part of the series MAY DAY 1953, the Ministry of Communications issued on April 7th, 1953, a commemorative postage stamp "Inauguration of the Museum THE BEGINNINGS of the CZECHOSLOVAK LABOR MOVEMENT in PRAHA-BŘEVNOV". This is the 75th anniversary of the First Congress of the Czech Social-Democratic Party in the inn "U kaštanu" at Břevnov.

The stamp shows the portraits of Josef Boleslav Pecka, Ladislav Zápotocký and Josef Hybeš, the most significant personalities of the Czech Labor Movement at that time. The upper border of the stamp shows the inscription in Czech: "Honor and Glory to the First Pioneers of Socialism in our Country".

Design by Jaroslav Kaiser and Jindřich Koukolský, engraving by Bedřich Housa.

The 2.— Kčs value, red-brown.

The stamp was recess-printed in the Post Printing Office, in sheets of 50 copies. Dimension of the picture 23x40.5, format horizontal. Validity for postage from April 7th, 1953.

An official First Day Cover showing the design of the inn "U kaštanu" by Jaroslav Kaiser and Jindřich Koukolský, engraved by Jaroslav Goldschmied and a Collection Sheet were issued at the same time.

More offerings from the "HILSBOS" collection

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 B46 50h Due, used ----- 50.00
 B70 70f Due, used ----- 70.00

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AN OPEN LETTER TO MR. GORDON HARMER
EDITOR, SCOTT'S STANDARD POSTAGE STAMP CATALOG

Dear Mr. Harmer:

It is well known that in your position as editor of the standard American stamp catalog you are constantly faced with the problems involved in improving the existing catalog on the one hand, both by your own investigations and by the contributions of others, and on the other hand by the need for publishing a catalog of the greatest use to the largest number of collectors at a price which they can pay. As I see it, there can often be conflicts between the claims of interested parties and the physical limitations of the size of a page. In addition, there may be difficulty in verifying claims made by such persons.

American collectors use the Scott catalog so widely that it might almost be said that they feel they have a vested interest in its continuing appearance and improvement. While it is seldom that one proposes changes in a field in which he does not have an interest, yet everyone welcomes improvements regardless of the countries involved, both for immediate reference value and as an indication of enlightened editorial policy. To use an analogy, airplane pilots have been known to crash on mountain peaks because their air navigation charts erroneously showed the peaks as having elevations a few thousand feet lower than they actually were. Similarly, collectors everywhere are benefited by improvements in the navigational aids available to them, as they may often find themselves in strange territory. Accurate descriptions and prices are essential. It is therefore in a spirit of friendly and constructive criticism that the following suggestions are offered regarding changes in and additions to the listings of countries in which other collectors and I are interested.

The 1923 issue of Czechoslovakia, Scott #92-94, should be presented in more detail. Three easily distinguishable types exist; #92 and 94 exist in all three types, while #93 is found in types II and III only. Clear descriptions may be found in any specialized catalog and in the Zumstein catalog. The latter, as you and most of our other readers know, is a standard European catalog of European countries, published in Switzerland. With respect to Europe, it is comparable to the Scott catalog. Its prices are quoted in a stable currency. Generally speaking, with the exceptions of Germany and Switzerland, it is no more specialized than Scott. The varieties of #92-94 are the result of deliberate alterations in the plates and are not due to printing variability or to accident. They are as significant in Czechoslovak philately as the varieties of the 1925-26 Masaryk issue (Scott #98-108), which you list in some detail. As varieties, they should be as important as the types of the United States 2c Washington of 1922. Since these varieties are obvious, significant, non-controversial and have been known for 30 years, separate listing would be desirable.

There are, in addition, two perforation varieties of all except one stamp in one type (#94, Type I). It would be too much to ask that each type be listed separately by perforation; that is more the function of the specialized catalog. It would be well, though, to indicate their existence as is frequently done in heavy type at the beginning of a set.

The 1925-26 engraved Masaryk issue of Czechoslovakia (#98-108) should be augmented by the two unlisted varieties of the 1K value. Again, these may be found in the Zumstein and any specialized catalog. In the former, they are Types VI and VII (#201-203). They are also well described in the Kessler specialized catalog (New York, 1945) as Types V and VI. Again, these types are at least as important as those of the United States 2c Washington stamps of 1908-19 and 1922. The Scott catalog does an adequate job

of listing the other 1925-26 types and it would be both logical and easy to complete them.

The 1919 semi-postal overprints (B1-B123) of the same country represent a favorite group for study by the Czechoslovak specialist. Catalog prices have recently been revised for many of these, a good job for which the editor should be complimented. The revision should, however, be extended to include two more stamps. I refer to #B24 and B25. Both are among the world's rarest stamps, although they are not widely recognized as such by persons not versed in philately of this country. The great rarities of British Guiana, Mauritius, Hawaii, the United States, Austria, etc. are known to most collectors, most of whom have seen few if any of these stamps and who have only a vague idea of their actual rarity or value. Compare the number of extant copies of almost any classic rarity with Czechoslovakia B24 and B25 and it will be apparent how little publicity these have had. Of the former, a leading expert says four copies only are now known and of the latter, approximately eight.

Reasons for this lack of knowledge on the part of collectors generally are easy to offer. Czechoslovakia is a much newer country than those which have issued the classic rarities, it is less widely collected (though no less enthusiastically by its devotees), the stamps themselves are not old enough to offer the same aura of impeccable respectability and glamor as that enjoyed by owners of the famous 19th century rarities, and finally, being overprints on inexpensive stamps, they are considered more likely to be counterfeited.

All these factors should and do have the effect of holding down the market price of these stamps, for philately is not immune to the economics of supply and demand. Nevertheless, it does not appear reasonable that a stamp of which four copies are known should be listed at \$1500 nor one priced at \$1000 when eight copies are known. While comparisons with other stamps must be viewed with caution, I would like to suggest two with other desirable stamps in the same issue. Number B18a is listed at \$450, but as far as rarity is concerned, ten copies of this stamp might constitute a fair exchange for one of B25 listed at \$1000 as about 100 copies of the former were issued. I should also like to compare the price for #B40 (\$400 with that of \$1500 for #B24, which is claimed by one authority in the United States to be the rarest stamp of the 20th century. The late leading Czech expert, Leseticky, states that 30 copies of #B40 were issued, and a leading American dealer has said that ten copies of the latter would be no more than enough to exchange for one #B24, even though the ratio of copies in existence is about 7 to 1. Admittedly, such comparisons are statistically inadequate without much more evidence, but a disproportion between rarity and price is evident, and all four stamps compared are subject to the same factors influencing collector interest and demand.

Further, it does not appear consistent to raise the catalog price of other valuable stamps of the 1919 issue and leave the two outstanding rarities untouched. Reasonable catalog values for B24 and B25 might be \$3000-\$4000 and \$2000-\$3000 respectively. Since these represent substantial increases, perhaps it would be preferable to make them in instalments. The Zumstein catalog prices them at approximately \$5000 and \$4000 respectively. I would like to add that neither I nor any friend nor business associate owns a copy of either.

Eastern Silesia is a country of interest to most collectors of Czechoslovakia. It has its share of stamps not regularly issued, chiefly varying colors of the overprints, but I believe in the interests of consistency, it would be legitimate to list #21 with a black overprint. The 500 haleru (#19) and the special delivery values (#E3 and E4) with black overprint are listed. Every other important catalog recognizes this variety, including the Zumstein, Ek-

stein and Novotny, the last two published in Czechoslovakia. It is also given regular listing in the specialized catalogs of Stach and Kessler, published in this country.

There are a few stamps listed in the catalog but unpriced, concerning which enough data are available to state a catalog price. Doing so would not require more space and would be appreciated by collectors of Czechoslovakia, Poland and Russia. They are:

- 1) Czechoslovakia J52a. This may be the third rarest stamp of the country, about 11 used copies being known. Many scarcer stamps traded less frequently are priced.
- 2) Eastern Silesia 24a and 26a. Information should be readily available.
- 3) Siberia 36-45. The Zumstein catalog prices these, and pricing in the Scott catalog would serve to warn collectors against counterfeits offered at a low price. This, of course, is applicable to any unpriced stamp of value.

Sincerely yours,
Richardson Spofford
Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of North America

POFIS 1953 KATALOG ČESKOSLOVENSKÝCH ZNAMEK OD ROKU 1945
(Pofis Catalogue of the Stamps of Czechoslovakia 1945-1953)

In the forward to this booklet the publishers avow it was issued primarily to propagate the stamps of the "Peoples' Democratic Republic of Czechoslovakia". Then it continues to explain that every endeavor in a Peoples' Republic is bent in only one direction: to propagate and foster the ideals and aspirations of a society conceived along Lenin-Marxist lines. They further explain that this catalogue is not merely a check-list (they avoid the term price-list) but a historic document of the Peoples' Democratic Republic. On page 17 is a free ad "Collect the stamps of USSR, German Democratic Republic and friendly Peoples' Democratic States".

We hate to date ourselves but we recall when the fatal year 1917 rolled around and we were stationed at Camp Logan, Tex., we were told that Lenin and Trotsky signed a separate peace treaty in Brest-Litovsk with Germany. We were warned that Germany can throw the brunt of its force against the Western Allies. The war against German imperialism was being sabotaged by the Bolsheviki who, avowing friendship for the workers, opened the way for severe German thrusts which, however, were successfully parried by Britain and France until America could send matériel and man power to destroy the Kaiser hydra.

A second sabotage of democratic ideals was perpetrated by USSR when its representatives signed a mutual pact with Germany and Hitler's schemers. Simultaneously the two countries attacked a small and helpless state, Poland. Then things began to happen fast and World War II became a reality. Both Germany and Russia distrusted one another, despite their mutual pact. Then the Democracies of the world had to help the USSR out of the hot soup into which it walked voluntarily. Through some War Conference mistakes the Commies persuaded the Allies to forestall their eastward offensive and thus the Reds convinced the dumbest it was the Red Army which liberated them from the Nazis. Afterwards the "liberators" became worse tyrants than the oppressors.

Truly liberal men took over a liberated Czechoslovak Republic. Yet, in February, 1948, a coup d'État placed a very weak communist minority into the Hradčany Palace. A sick Beneš retired, Jan Masaryk died a violent death (to this day 90% of the Czechs consider it murder and not suicide, arguing that a man who jumps out of a window cannot latch the window

from the inside before jumping).

This history is easily evidenced by the catalogue we review. Most stamps are illustrated but on page 10 we find listed the "portrait issue of 1945-47", sans illustrations. Mentioned are: "Portraits of T. G. Masaryk (a), Dr. Beneš (b) and M. R. Štefanik (c)". All through the booklet one cannot find a portrait of either of these three illustrious founders of the Czechoslovak Republic.

The May 1946 issue pictures St. George slaying the dragon. The editor of the catalogue didn't know what the design represents so merely mentioned it as a symbolic painting by J. Manes.

On page 15 #464-466 doesn't mention that the portrait is that of Dr. Beneš, second president of Czechoslovakia, twice liberator of his country, whom the Reds exiled into his own home less than three years after the second liberation. At the top of this same page is a notation that #458-459 were issued to remember the tenth anniversary of T. G. Masaryk's death.

And so it goes on and on, an effort to obliterate the accomplishments of the first Republic and to deprecate the actions of Eduard Beneš and the two Masaryks who gave their all to revive democracy.

But the joke comes in the prices asked for the stamps. In each issue since the advent of the "Peoples' Republic" one stamp is issued short and this is reflected in the valuation. We turn at random to pages 46 and 47 (they are not the exception but the strict rule). In the first column is the catalogue number, then the face value, followed by the catalogue value mint and finally used:

644	1.50Kč	1.50Kč	.50
645	2.00	12.50	2.50
646	2.00	17.00	3.50
647	3.00	3.00	.50
648	1.50	21.00	4.00
649	2.00	2.00	.50
650	3.00	3.00	.50
651	3.00	3.00	.50
652	4.00	25.00	5.00
653	1.50	1.50	.50

We doubt any capitalist country in the world would care to besmirch its escutcheon with such highway robbery. The reviewer of this catalogue has associated himself with Czecho philately for many years and strongly advocates that these stamps which could never be bought in mint condition over the counter in any Post Office at face be named labels and be deleted from all catalogues or at least a mention be made of their true status. The catalogue is valuable in that it gives information on the subject portrayed and the authors and engravers of every stamp. In the last pages of the booklet are listed the always popular stamps with plain or ornamental tabs as also the especially prepared sheets (mistakenly called "presentation sheets") with first day cancellations and First Day covers. The cost of the catalogue is 12.Kč (24 cents U. S.) and can be had from "POFIS, Praha I, Na Příkopě 13, Czechoslovakia.

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10% discount to members.

Types and Varieties of the Prague 1950 Souvenir Sheets Printed at the Show

by Milo Barry

(With author's permission reprinted from the magazine STAMPS)

(Editor's Note: The editor wishes to acknowledge with thanks the assistance of R. L. Spofford of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society in editing this manuscript.)

The last issue of the Prague souvenir sheet of 1950, printed at the philatelic exhibition in Prague, surprised many collectors, particularly those who are strictly specialists. The issue gave them a lot of extra work, and is an excellent field for wide research. The sheet is also known as the building stamp of Prague, because the motif is the rough work of a bridge under construction, including the scaffolding.

Originally the sheets were to have been printed in blocks of twelve, but this plan was changed because of unsatisfactory experimental work. However, at the exhibition a block of four was printed and shown to the general public as an added attraction. As soon as the printing was started, it was obvious that there would be many varieties and types in the block. Collectors noticed in the first sheets they received that the second stamp in the sheet differed from the others. They were therefore alerted from the start to watch for varieties. The more serious collectors decided to determine the number of plates used for the printing according to the different markings and other variations.

In the first place, the method of printing and the conditions under which it was accomplished must be taken into consideration. The sheets were first printed by the flat process from a steel plate, each sheet being printed sep-



The 1950 Prague Souvenir Sheet



Enlarged reproduction of the stamp which formed the subject for the 1950 Prague Souvenir Sheet

arately. Because the demand was great and the printing press at the exhibition was too small it became necessary to use a large press at the printing shop. It is certain that another plate was used whereby more sheets could be printed at one time, later to be separated by cutting them apart. The text above and below the sheet was done by letter-press. Wear or damage to the type necessitated its being replaced during the process of printing.

The original paper intended for the printing of a twelve-subject block was gummed in advance. Because of the two-line inscription at the top, they had to be fed into the press twice, once for the inscription and again for the design. Later the sheets which had been gummed in advance were cut before printing, but at all times all lines of text were printed first and the last printing was the actual block of stamps. The purpose of gumming the paper first was because of a desire to preserve the relief in the stamp design, and the authorities did not want to take any chances of spoiling the effect in the gumming process.

The main classifications of varieties would be (1) Types of the stamps; (2) Plates used for the printing; (3) Varieties of the printing in the headings; (4) Combinations of the heading printings; (5) Errors, etc.

As to point (1)—when the stamps were printed the impressions were uneven, especially in the center of the sheet. There was time to make a new plate so some of the faint lines were re-engraved directly on the old plates. Stamps from the re-engraved plates were available at the exhibition, especially during the first few days. The two different stamps on the two plates can be very easily distinguished.

As a matter of convenience, we will call the original impression, in which all of the perforated sheets appear, Type I. It is clearly shown in Figure I.

Type II appears on the first stamp from the first plate, having re-engraved lines on the first part of the scaffold board, deeper engraving of the last three horizontal boards, and a double guy wire. The three crosslines at the hoist tower are heavy at the top, thinning to a fine line as it goes down-

Type I.

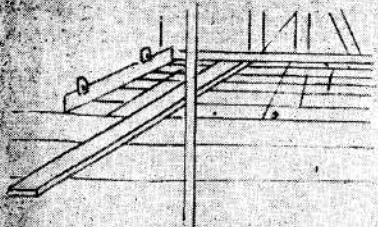


Fig. 1
Type III

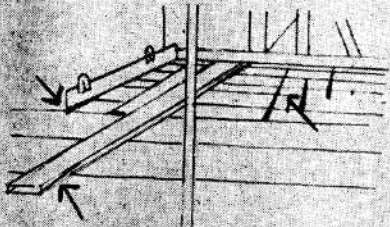


Fig. 3
Type V

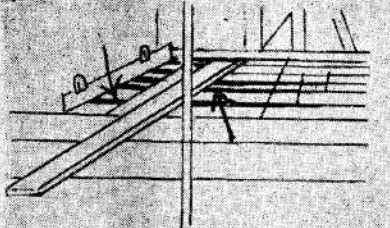


Fig. 5
Type VII

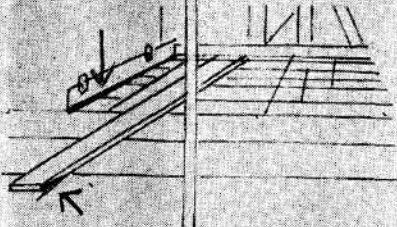


Fig. 7

Type II.

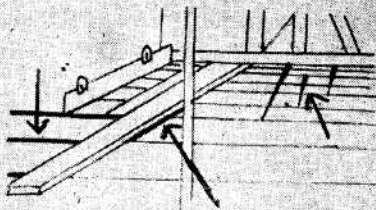


Fig. 2
Type IV

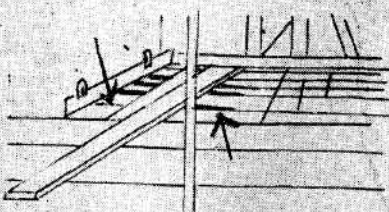


Fig. 4
Type VI

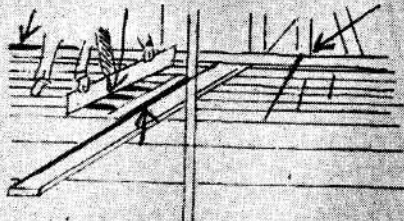


Fig. 6
Type VIII.

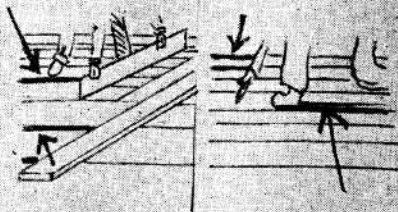


Fig. 8

Type IX.

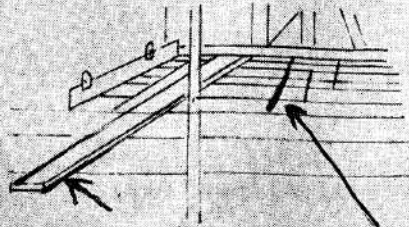


Fig. 9

ward. (See Figure 2.)

Type III is the second stamp from the first plate. The extended board has a crossed line, and that which in the stamp design is held by a workman has a thicker line, and is thicker from the second board going up. The three cross-lines are in the opposite direction from those in Type II. (See Figure 3).

The third stamp from plate one is Type IV. This has three thicker lines between the second, third, and fourth, boards held by the worker. There are also heavier lines on the board to the left. (See Figure 4.)

The fourth stamp from the first plate is Type V. There are three heavier lines, as in Type IV, but the lines are longer. (See Figure 5.)

Type VI is the first stamp from the second plate. There are heavier lines near the front of the extended board. The lower line of the board held by the worker is heavier from the top down. One line of the three cross-lines is extended to the foot of the tower. The lines at the board by the legs of the worker are heavy; also the left line of the extended board is heavy. (See Figure 6.)

Type VII is the second stamp from the second plate. The extended board has the appearance of being split at the end. The lines of the board held by the worker are again heavy; the lines on the horizontal boards are also heavier. (See Figure 7.)

The third stamp from the second plate is Type VIII, showing the heavy horizontal lines—first, second, and fourth under the foot of the worker bending over at left; also two heavy lines by the kneeling worker's hand, and one extra engraved line by his knee, as well as a shadow line by his left foot. (See Figure 8.)

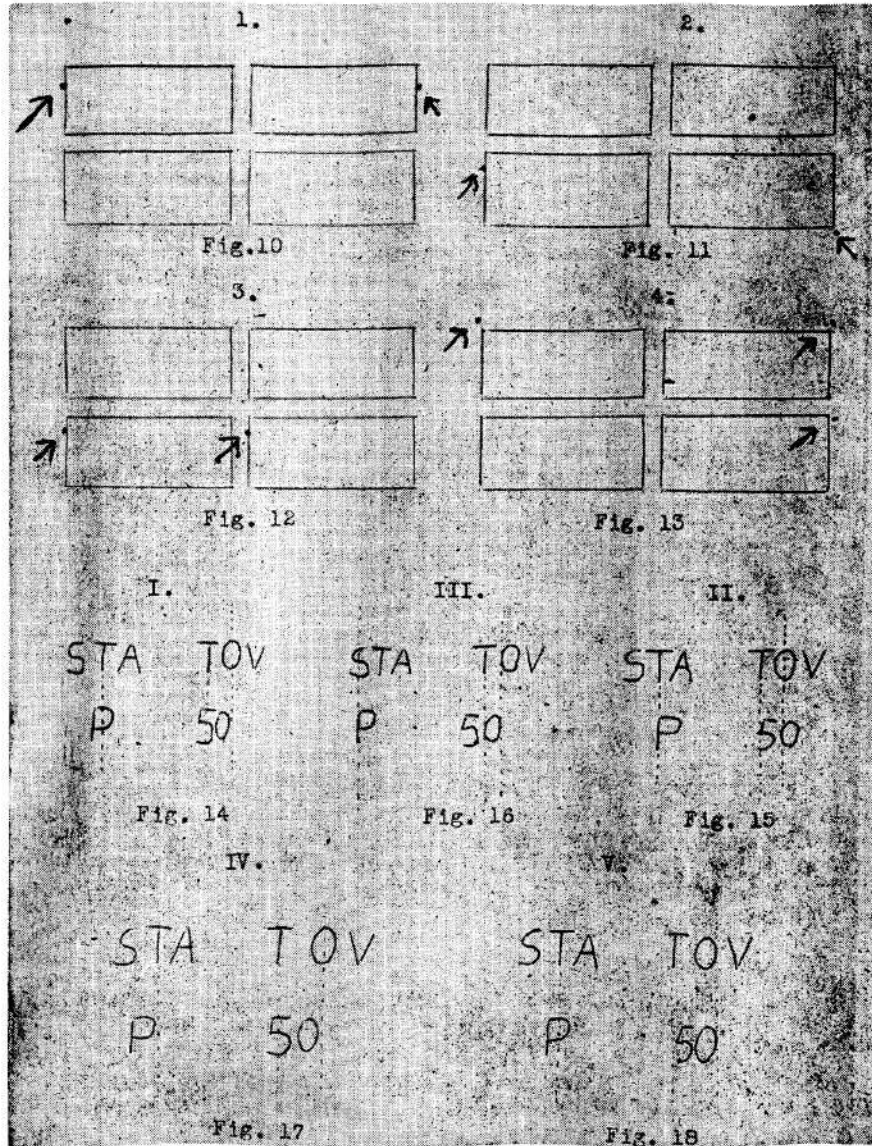
Type IX is the fourth stamp from the second plate. The lower lines on the extended board are heavy; the lines of the boards to the left are a little heavy, and the one cross-line is split at the lower part. (See Figure 9.)

Now to take up point two, the plates used for the printing. It is very simple to distinguish the plates. Plates for previous issues had numbers, but that practice is no longer in use. Instead of plate numbers the later issues have secret markings, either dashes or dots. Figure 10 shows the markings in Plate 1; Figure 11, Plate 2; Figure 12, Plate 3; Figure 13, Plate 4. To my knowledge there are no other plates known. Under the conditions of secrecy existing in Czechoslovakia at the present time it is possible, but I think not probable, that other plates were used but have not been seen.

Now as to point three, varieties in the printings of the headings. The speed at which the sheets were printed caused some variations in the lines of text. Here are a few combinations. Figure 14 shows what may be found on the first and second plates; Figure 15, on the second and third plates; Figures 16 and 17 are from the third plate; Figure 18 appears on the third and fourth plates. So far I know of eight different plates and twelve printings of the inscriptions.

We conclude with point five, the errors or variations resulting mostly from damaged plates. There are many, but I shall describe only a few of the more common ones. The first stamp in the upper left has a rounded corner. The second stamp has a damaged border line at the lower left part of the stamp, about five to fifteen mm. long. The value numerals of both stamps at the right are light blue. There are incomplete prints and offsets on the gummed side. The distance between the stamps and the words printed above varies, because the sheets were fed into the press separately by hand, so in this respect we could almost have as many varieties as we have sheets. The distance between the stamps and the printed lines varies from three to fifteen mm., with lines pushed to the left or right. Some lines are even printed sideways, and sometimes one line is sidewise and the other normal.

The color of the stamps ranges from deep steel-blue to light gray-blue. Stamps from the first printings have a more bluish hue. Due to the irregular pressure in printing, all stamps in each individual sheet are not evenly colored, and there are also some albinos known, without any coloring. The color of the inscriptions is usually red, sometimes a deep red, or ranging from light red to rose. There are some known with badly damaged type. These color conditions are not typical for some types.



Figures 10 to 18 as referred to in accompanying article on the 1950 Prague Souvenir Sheet.

The gum is white, is evenly distributed, and mostly glossy. Sometimes the gum is porous. The paper is white and medium thick, but there are some sheets known with double thickness of the paper.

There are quite likely other types that have not come to my attention, and I would very much appreciate hearing from other collectors about any varieties not described here.

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