THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

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EDITORIAL

Your editor finished the summer season by opening the philatelic season. A convention and exhibition of the Society of Philatelic Americans in Grand Rapids, Mich., the last full week end of August and a convention and exhibition of the American Philatelic Society the second week end of September held in St. Louis, gave him a good start for the 1956-57 philatelic year.

The show in Grand Rapids was immense with more than 800 frames but participation was very weak. At no time were there enough people on the floor to make anything like a favorable impression. The dealers did not even find it worth their while to remain at their booths. Yet the participation of our members was good. We have noted the following visitors: Nouse, Fla.; Adler, Rheme, St. Louis; Woodbury, R. I.; Matejka, Kreischer, Kovarik, Chicago; Lindner, Beedon, Mich. Member exhibitors were Fritzsche and Matejka.

The highlight of this convention was the philatelic writers' breakfast. As a member of the fourth estate we are especially glad to meet these gentlemen for it is possible to learn much from their statements and comments. It was not surprising that the very things which trouble them harass us. The discussions were led by Messrs. Zinsmeister, Rich, Russo, Kramner, Reeves, Meyer and Dr. Sneller. Among the facts mentioned are these: Outside the catalog, no philatelic book sold 1000 copies. The only books which showed no deficit were those subsidized by philatelic philanthropists. At the present time three volumes are ready for the printer; all that is necessary to start the presses rolling is money. Several authors have tried to raise money for the publication of their works by appealing to their friends for direct contributions but so far it looks as if only one had the good fortune to reach this goal. Mr. Rich promised to use his influence to have one of the three mentioned works published serially in the Collectors Club Philatelist. This still leaves one monumental (so we are told) opus begging for publication. One author mentioned that he frequently has requests for the loan of books but has lost so many that he answers these requests by furnishing information where they can be purchased and the cost. (This is not a novel experience; your editor is poorer by several books the same way.) One publisher, Mr. H. L. Lindquist, is helping authors and organizations to dispose of their surplus volumes by selling them in bundles at greatly reduced prices. This enables the Society to retrieve some of its investment for either other publications or bolstering its depleted treasury.

Another discussion centered around the oft misused phrases: philatelic research, philatelic knowledge and philatelic study. By reading a few articles and books and then copying them verbatim we do not become researchers.

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A good transcriber may take the positive knowledge, the proven word, from several authors and assemble this material in a compact, understandable form to present a good work, but even this must not be called research. Very frequently an erroneous statement by one author may be copied by other plagiaristic writers, thereby doing more harm than good. It was pointed out, however, that this is not the reason for financial failure of philatelic works. Collectors depend almost entirely on the knowledge of someone else and then cry if they feel they are mulctd even though the dealer who tried to help them acted in good faith.

The A. P. S. convention and exhibition in St. Louis was a very successful affair. Only about half the number of frames shown in Grand Rapids but the attendance was better than average. While no dealer occupying a bourse table will admit he does a land office business we are sure those attending the St. Louis Show cannot complain. The organization of the entire spectacle was excellent and we congratulate the men responsible on a task well done.

The program scheduled a meeting of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society at 3 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 6. Promptly at 3 with our National President Adler presiding the meeting opened. Your editor told of the philatelic writers' breakfast in Grand Rapids and noted that last year we published the English-Czech Czech-English Philatelic Vocabulary. Five hundred copies were printed; of these about 30 were sent to various philatelic magazines for reviews and less than 200 copies were sold. The sale price of those sold does not approximate the cost of the publication. He said the members are clamoring for a handbook. The entire handbook is divided into three parts: 1918-39; 1939-45 and 1945 to date. As the second portion would be of interest to collectors of Austria and Germany as well as to collectors of Czechoslovakia, it is good business to publish this part first. But good business or bad, the Society must have money and not promises. It was suggested the members be assessed the sum of 3 dollars for the year 1957 but your editor was opposed to the use of any strong-arm methods. An alternate suggestion was made that members loan the Society a sum of money, 5 dollars or more and when the handbook is published it is sent to these backers at a cost slightly less than the publication price and this sum is then deducted from the loan. In fact, even future dues could thus be deducted and as soon as the money the publication cost would revert to the treasury these kind members could then be reimbursed. This proposition is placed into the hands of the members. Your response, or lack of it, will determine the future policies of your Society.

The following members attended this meeting: Stupka, Dunajcik, Adler, Rheme, St. Louis; Cejka, Iowa; Matejka, Kovarik, Chicago. Guests: Tribke, Weber, Ray and another whose name we lost.

In the evening we all met in the home of President Adler where we enjoyed ourselves and met the ladies. We thank our hostess, Mrs. Adler for the many delicacies offered at the cocktail party and luncheon. Later that evening at a party in the home of S. M. Arnold, we met our first St. Louis member, Joseph Strnad and his wife, whom we visited about 1943 when we were desirous of meeting all our members.

At the banquet, the president of APS, Larry Shoemaker, read some statistics about membership which were quite revealing. Just as in our own Society, unless every effort is made to bring in new members and another effort is made to bring back the lapsed members, the Society cannot long exist. Too many members remain with us only one year; a sudden enthusiasm gripped them; or they have a collection they think they could sell through the Society's Sales Department or some other nebulous reason. We therefor ask every member to pay his dues early; bring in new members and in every way possible help keep your Society going. There will always be hitch hikers but we must hope and pray for many active good workers.

We received a trifle too late news that the New York Group will meet the third Friday of September in the Collectors Club. It seems that the meetings will be held every third Friday of every month from now on and that being the case we trust and hope our New York area members will take advantage of this opportunity. There are some conditions to be met and the cost may approximate about \$80 a year but of that more when we hear from our friend Stein.

This comes from our librarian: I am not actually complaining but when members borrow from the library please inform them to send 10 cents for each item and when they return the items they should pay the cost of the postage both ways. Had a few who sent nothing or forgot it. I hate to demand this money. At this rate there would soon be nothing in the library fund.

It is pitiful when things come to such a pass. Members, please make life more pleasant for your officers.

CHICAGO GROUP MEETING

was held in the home of Member Velek, Sunday, September 16, 1956.

Member Janecka had out-of-town visitors but deemed the meeting of such grave importance he came to present his reports. He stated that the exhibition frames are now completed and that the lighting for the frames will be ready well in advance of the Show. He asked the Chicagoland members to make an appointment with him to pick up the frames they'll need in advance of October 27th, prepare them for the exhibition at home so that when brought to the Hall they can be set up quickly. It is all those little trifles when well handled can spell the success of the Show.

Member Janecka is also chairman of the Banquet Committee and makes this report: The place originally bespoken wanted a guarantee of 40 guests and wanted to serve only one kind of food. Janeska has therefor contacted another restaurant in Cicero specializing in Czech dishes whose owner gave us good terms. All that is required is a report of how many guests are to be accomodated and what kinds of foods are to be prepared. This report must be made early Saturday, October 27, so that the dinner that evening can go off smoothly. All dinners will be \$2.50 paid in advance. Members ordering drinks will pay for these directly to the waiters. Anyone making a reservation and then for some reason cannot attend will receive a full refund. Kindly contact Joe as chairman of the above committees by addressing Joseph Janecka, 2723 So. Central Park Ave., Chicago 23, Ill.

The dinners to be served are a choice of: Pickled beef tenderloin with real sour cream gravy; 4 roast fancy Long Island duck; roast loin of choice pork or breaded tenderloin. Of course, Bohemian liver dumpling soup, koláčky as other relishes and desserts can be had. For the information of Chicago members it is Sramek Restaurant, 6144 Cermak Road, Cicero, Ill.

Member Dr. James Matejka, Jr. (address: Suite 216, La Salle Hotel, 10 No. La Salle St., Chicago 2, Ill.) our general chairman of the Show, made his report. He contacted most of the philatelic editors in this country as also some in Canada and England and asked them to participate by showing some of their stampic treasures in the Court of Honor. The chairman also noted that this year's plans call for more frames and requests all members, not only those from the Chicagoland area to send him album pages for display at this Show. All members must cooperate to make this Show truly the best our Society ever had. Of course, the Chicagoland members must not merely sit on their haunches but must also put their shoulders to the wheel. The treasury is in need of finances and by creating a good show we increase the desire of our visiting guests to come again to future exhibitions. Our repu-

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tation is good, let us keep it always well above the average.

Auction Chairman John Velek (2523 No. Newcastle Ave., Chicago 35, 111.) gave his report in which he stated that to date donations to the auction are very few. Several dealers are selling some of their material at this auction; this helps to bring to the members some really fine items but does not bolster the treasury as much as outright contributions do. A catalog of the auction as well as a bid sheet are sent first class to all North American members with this issue of the Specialist if it is ready.

Kovarik, the publicity chairman announced that Member Reinowski, the bourse chairman (9031 W. 24th St., No. Riverside, Ill.), is unable to be present but wishes to make known the fact that 8 bourse tables have already been subscribed and the balance have been promised.

Kovarik also announced that plans for continued publicity are made with the first press release going out this week with two more planned at two week intervals.

The program as tentatively set up is as follows:

Saturday, Oct. 27, 1956

7:00 AM Members meet at Stefanik Hall, 2446-50 So. Pulaski Road, to set up the Show.

12:00 M Official opening with music featuring Czech artists and composers.

10:00 PM Recess of the Show.

10:30 PM Dinner at Sramek Restaurant, 6144 Cermak Rd., Cicero, Ill. Presentation of the awards.

Sunday, Oct. 28, 1956

10:00 AM Reopening of the Show.

2:00 PM Benefit Auction

6:00 PM Closing of the exhibit

Visiting out-of-town members are requested to contact any of the committee members so you could meet as many members as possible during your stay.

P. S. We were gratified to have at our last Chicago group meeting our librarian, member Frank Kosik. Come around more frequently, Frank. All members are cordially invited to attend the Chicago Group meetings, anytime, anywhere.

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335. Elizabeth E. Penn, 8001 Laurel Grove Ave., No. Hollywood, Calif.

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New Commemoratives "Sport 1956" (1st Part)



On April 25th, 1956, the Ministry of Communications issued the first part of the stamps showing sport motives.

The stamps are of the following denominations and motives:

- 30 hal. value, IX International Bicycle Race of Peace, Warszawa-Berlin-Praha. The colored ground printed in photogravure, blue, the recessprint in green.
- 2) 45 hal. value, 5th European Women Basket-Ball Championship. The ground in photogravure, rose-colored, the recess-print in blue.
- 3) 1.95 Kč value, XVI Olympic Games in Melbourne. The colored ground in photogravure, yellow, the recess-print in brown.

The author of the designs (1) and (2) is Jan Černý, painter-artist, the design of (3) is by Anna Podzemná-Suchardová, painter-artist. The engraving of the stamp (1) is by Ladislav Jirka, numbers (2) and (3) by Jan Mráček.

All the stamps were recess-printed by the Post Printing Office Prague, by combined photogravure and recess-print.

Stamps (1) and (2) are of the vertical form, dimension of the picture 23 mm by 41 mm, the stamp (3) is horizontal format. The sheets of the stamps (1) and (2) are of 50, the sheet of the stamp (3) is of 25 copies.

Validity for postage from April 25th, 1956.

The design of the First Day cover is by Anna Podzemná-Suchardová, the engraving is by Jaroslav Goldschmied.

Commemorative Issue "Spring of Prague 1956"

On the occasion of the opening of this year's Musical Festival "Spring of Prague" The Ministry of Communications issued on May 12th, 1956, six postage stamps which at the same time commemorate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, famous composer.

The stamps show the following motives, denominations and colors:

- 1. Portrait of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, 30 hal. value, black brown, yellow.
- 2. Portrait of Josef Myliveček, composer, 45 hal. value, black brown, green
- 3. Portrait of Jiří Benda, composer, 60 hal. value, black brown, violet.
- Villa "Bertramka," Mozart's residence during his visits in Prague, 1 Kčs value, black brown, salmon.
- Two-portrait of Mozart's friends, married couple Dushek, 1.40 kes value, black brown, light blue.
- 6. Nostic Theatre (now J. X. Tyl) in Prague, 1.60 Kčs value, black brown, orange yellow.

The stamps were rotary printed by combined recess-print and photogravure by the Post Printing Office in Prague, in sheets of 50 copies. All the



stamps are of vertical format, dimension of the stamp picture 23 by 30 mm. Validity for postage from May 12th, 1956.

A pair of First Day covers designed by professor Karel Svlinský, engraved by Jaroslav Goldschmied were released for thiis issue.

All the designs are by professor Karel Svolinský, the engraving by Jindra Schmidt.

Single Commemorative Stamp
"First National Meeting of the Svazarm (Home Guard)"



On the occasion of the First National Meeting of the "Svazarm" (Home Guard) which took place in Prague from 25th to 27th May, 1956, the Ministry of Communications issued on May 25th, 1956, a single commemorative 50 hal. postage stamp, bluee.

The author of the design is Zdeněk Brdlík, painter-artist; the engraving is by Bedřich Housa.

The stamp was recess-printed by the Post Printing Office in Prague in sheets of 50 copies. Horizontal format, dimension of the stamp picture 30 mm by 23 mm. Validity for postage from 25th May, 1956.

The design of the First Day cover is by Zdeněk Brdlík, the author of the stamp, the engraving by Jan Mráček.

Commemorative Stamps "Cultural Personalities"

To commemorate the jubilees of prominent cultural personalities the Ministry of Communications issued on 23rd June, 1956, four commemorative stamps showing the portraits of:

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Karel Havl.ček Borovský (1821-1856), Czech journalist Ludevít štúr (1815-1856), Slovak writer Josef Kajetán Tyl (1808-1856), Czech poet and dramatist Fráňa Šrámek (1877-1952), Czech poet and writer The stamps are of the following denominations and colors:

- 1. Ludevit štúr, 20 hal., dark violet
- 2. Fráňa šr#mek, 30 hal., steel blue
- 3. Josef Kajetán Tyl, 60 hal., black brown
- 4. Karel Havlíček Borovský, 1.40 Kčs, carmine red

The designs of all the stamps are by professor Max švábinský, the engraving by Jindra Schmidt. The stamps were recess-printed by the Post Printing Office in Prague, in sheets of 50 copies. Dimension of the stamp pictures 23 mm by 30 mm. Validity for postage from 23rd June, 1956.

The design of the First Day cover is by professor Max švábinský, the

engraving was executed by Jan Mráček.

Czechoslovakia

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International Exposition of Stamps "Praga 1955" By Karel Basika



A short time ago the doors were closed on the International Stamp Exposition in the capital of Czechoslovakia. The Praha Exposition was the third such affair this year, the others being in Oslo and Stockholm.

In retrospect, we must admit that the Praga 1955 exhibits were predominantly Czechoslovakian. The reason for it was that Praga 1955 did not have the support of the International Philatelic Federation, which the Oslo and Stockholm exhibits had. Such support would have made it really international in scope. However, we had the wholesome cooperation of foreign collectors, so must give thanks and credit to the philatelists of France, Denmark, and both Republics of Germany, who realized the value of this exhibition and helped in all ways that they could. Not the least credit belongs to the American Philatelic Society which contributed an Award of Merit for the best Czechoslovakian collector and aroused the interest of collectors around the world. We are sorry that only Norman Hill of Rotherham, Yorkshire, was the lone participant from Great Britain.

Altogether 344 collectors participated, of which number about 100 were foreigners. The exhibits were about average for this kind of a show and were judged by a jury of eleven foreign and seven Czechoslovakian jurors. Among the foreign jurors were two Frenchmen, including M. Lucien Berthelot, the president of FIP and one each from Denmark, West Germany, East Germany, Yugoslavia, Hungary, Poland, Switzerland and Finland. The jury spent more than a week evaluating the exhibits in an effort to be fair to all.

The GRAND PRIX, a gift of the president of Czechoslovakia, was awarded to JAROSLAV KOVAŘÍK of Praha, for his exhibit of the famous collection of Austrian issues of 1850 and 1858. Of these two first Austrian issues, the most interesting to the specialists were the Mercurys including the famous scarlet Mercury, is being one of seven in existence. The collection contains all the varieties of the first issue on handmade and machine made paper, with some rare colored cancels, including blue and red, beside the ordinary black. Watermarked paper, strips, corner blocks, pieces with the St. Andrews Cross,

covers, cut squares, with blocks and other specialties not yet listed in the Müller Special catalogue are included. The specialists were particularly intrigued with the last portion of the exhibit containing the Austrian issue of newspaper stamps—the Mercuries—in blue, yellow, rose and—of course—the scarlet. The collection was justly adjudged the best.

The second prize was awarded to a collection of Czechoslovak stamps exhibited by a specialist and member of the Board of Experts of the Association of Czechoslovak Philatelists, Mr. Jan MRŃÁK of Praha. The exhibit showed to the visitors of the Exposition the popular and distinguished parts of a specialized collection of which the most interesting was the complete issue of Pošta Československá 1919 showing all the varieties together with an intensive study accomplished by the owner of all types of the overprints.

Another large part was dedicated to the field post of Czechoslovakian Legions attached to the foreign armies during the emancipation struggle in 1914-22.

Among the other exhibits receiving gold medals was that of another member of the Board of Experts, Mr. Karel Basika, showing the first stamps of the world—the 1 penny and 2 penny Great Britain of 1840. This collection, which has been shown in more than ten international expositions, was exhibited as a whole, presenting to the visitors all that a Czechoslovak philatelist was able to assemble in thirty years. The first part contains the two values of the first stamp of the world, namely, 1 penny black and 2 penny blue with specimens from all known plates, nos. 1 to 11 of the 1 penny and nos. 1 and 2 of the 2 penny, as well as specimens from plate 11 in red. The attention of the specialists was drawn to the rare colored cancels in yellow, magenta and brown, and particularly to a red cancel on the 1 penny of 1841. There was a rare block of 8 2 penny blues of 1841 and an envelope franked with 14 2 penny blues of 1841 in vertical and horizontal strips. The plating and reconstruction of whole sheets, cancels on British stamps used in foreign countries and specimens of 1841 embossed issue of 6d, 10d and 1/ caused very favorable comments.

Following the three Czechoslovakian collectors we must mention the foreign exhibitors, all French, who also received gold medals and honorable mentions. The first one is Mr. Michel Lupschutz of Neuilly sur Seine, with his exhibit of Russian stamps at the time of the Czars. It is rich in specimens of stampless covers, first issues, 10 kop. singles and on covers and many rare Zemstvo stamps. It rightly received a Gold Medal and Honorable Mention of PRAGA 1955, even as in Stockholm. The collectors of Russian stamps had a field day examining this exhibit.

Another French winner was Mr. Pierre Savelon of Le Vésinet, whose collection of material of the Siege of Paris, 1870-71, was composed mostly of letters forwarded from the besieged city by balloons, pigeons and by water It drew the attention of collectors and historians. This exhibit also received a Gold Medal and Honorable Mention at Stockholm.

The third French winner was Mme. Christiaine de Dampierre of Paris, with her rich collection of worldwide airmail stamps and letters, showing the erudition of a French philatelist.

Three Gold Medals were also awarded to Czechoslovak collectors. One to Leopold Vališ for a collection of Czechoslovakia, another to Julius Tatát for a collection of Austria and the third was to F. Ketzek for a collection of the United States. The seventh Gold Medal was awarded to F. Sternwald for his exhibit of Austria. It was really an erroneous award and should have been given by all rights, to the Danish collector Eigil Rathje for his four exhibits of very high philatelic order, consisting of stampless covers of the Venetian republic of 1434, a large collection of Danish stampless covers, a collection of Russian entires of 1845-70 and a collection of the first Turkish issue of 1863. For all this, the Danish collector was awarded four goldplated medals!

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Other collectors, local and foreign received 12 goldplated and 29 silver medals. There were also 42 small silver, 81 bronze medals and 99 diplomas.

Six exhibits were congratulated by the jury.

The Expósition was located in two Praha Exposition buildings, that is, in several large halls on Slovan Island and in the chambers of the Mánes Pavilion, where 26 postal administrations including the United Nations exhibited the latest and the best in stamp production. The postal administrations of Czechoslovakia, USSR, Canada, Australia, Austria and Switzerland had official delegations at the exposition. The most patronized was that of Austria, which, among other things exhibited a document signed by the Emperor Francis Joseph I, authorizing the issue of Austrian stamps.

There was a "New Look" in collecting, topicals, which were very well represented. Beside the Czechoslovakian exhibits the majority were from East Germany with more than 50 collections. The most interesting of topicals was the exhibit of a young Czechoslovak collector titled "Personalities on the stamps of USSR", the exhibit of Brno philatelists, entitled "Struggle for Liberty", showing portraits of battlers for liberty of common people, beginning with those of the French Revolution, and an exhibit by pupils of one of the Praha schools titled "The progress of the engrs. Zikmund and Hanselka."

The special Award of Distinction presented to the Exposition by the American Philatelic Society, was awarded by the jury to Karel Basika, in recognition of his efforts in publicity, collecting, exhibition and lecturing.

That the Exposition Praga 1955 was successful is proven by the large number of paying visitors, some 100,000, besides the large number of officials and philatelic groups. Delegations of philatelists from 14 countries, postal administrations from 26 and the visit of more than 200 foreign guests fully confirm the great interest of outsiders in the exposition.

The foreign visitors were greatly surprised at the technical arrangement of the exposition, for which the architect Albert Jonáš and a corp of assistants received full credit. The Finnish representative, in whose country the International Philatelic Exposition will be held next year, requested the aid and advice of A. Jonáš in planning it.

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CZECHOSLOVAKIA Plating the First Issue

By John Velek

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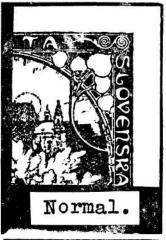
(continued)

The 3 Haleru Plate II

As in Plate I, at least two electrotypes were used in the printing of stamps from this plate. An unusually interesting retouch was made of the major variety on position 90 and it is illustrated below.

Plate II of this stamp can be recognized by the missing decimal point in the control number —90.







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Position 1. The bottom frame is broken under the left dove. There is a break in the upper left heart. There is a dot to the right of the second left tower.

Position 2. There is a dot and a curved line on the value tablet. The left dove has two breaks in the breast line. There is a break in the fourth right leaf.

Position 3. The left line is broken in several places and the top line is broken over the P of POSTA. There are two breaks in the top of the tablet line. There is a break in the short tail feathers of the left dove.

Position 4. There is a diagonal line on the tip of the spire; also found in Plate I. The bottom frame has a break near the value tablet.

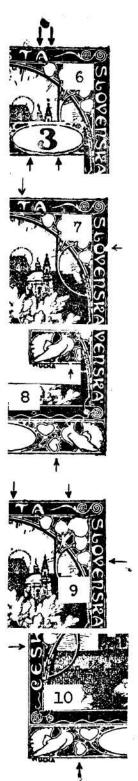
Position 5. There are two large white spots in the upper right corner. The right side of the roof is missing. The left frame line has several breaks.

Position 6. The tablet has two breaks at the top. The tip of the first right tower is bent to the left. The second right tower has a dot over it. On this plate this dot is found only on positions 6, 17, 39 and 91. There is a break in the tail of the left dove and another in the wing of the right dove.

Position 7. There is a break above the O of SLOVENSKA and another below the T of POSTA. The upper right heart is broken.

Position 8. The bottom frame is broken below the left heart. There is a break in the lower right heart and in the fifth right leaf

Position 9. There is a break between the second and third right leaves and parts of their stems are missing as is also the case in Plate I. There is a dot above the sun and two rays join the second right tower to the branch. The left frame is broken near the C of CESKO.





Position 10. The left branch is broken. There is a break in the lower left heart and another in the frame line above the 3. The top frame is broken over the O of POSTA.

Position 11. There is a dot on the P of POSTA. The left frame is broken near the top.

Position 12. The right dove has a tiny dot on the wing. There is a break in the upper right heart. There is a dot in the fourth left leaf.

Position 13. The top frame is broken near the A of POSTA and there is a dot beyond the right end. Two dots replace the long ray. There is a break in the fourth right leaf and another in the lower right heart.

Position 14. The right scroll line is forked. There is a break in the second right leaf and in the upper left heart. There is a spur on the left frame near the bottom.

(to be continued)





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