

# 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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No. 167

## EDITORIAL

As this is being written the Chicago Group has not had its October meeting and so the usual notes from this small group of devoted workers is missing from this issue. The chairman of the auction committee complains that the gift material was very small and so the lack of profits will reflect the apathy of our members. He received two packets of stamps on consignment to be sold at the auction on a percentage basis. Our general chairman registers his complaint that the exhibition to date looks very poor because the response to his personal letter met with no understanding from the members. Our hearts are pounding wondering what the outcome will be. Perhaps we should hold our next exhibition in New York or St. Louis where we have quite a few members who, we are sure, would take over. Could it be that we expended too much energy at FIPEX and didn't save any for our annual show? We shall know more definitely in two weeks.

Our ex-president George Blizil who is active in the American Philatelic Society's international relations writes that our very active member Down Under will be honored by The Royal Philatelic of Victoria and the A. P. S. for his active work in promoting Czechoslovak philately in Australia. Our Society, which owes much to the help of Bill Russell joins these societies congratulating him on the honors bestowed upon him which he so richly merited. Our good friend, Bill Purvis promised to write to us and report on this celebration. We submit herewith a copy of the letter sent to member Russell which, we are sure, expresses the sentiments of all his fellow members in the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society.

October 18, 1956

William L. Russell  
Moonee Ponds W. 4  
Victoria, Australia  
Dear Mr. Russell:

The American Philatelic Society takes great pleasure in joining with the members of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria in presenting you the "International Award for Philatelic Achievement."

Not only have you been an active member of your Society for many years, but during these years you have been an inspiration to the hobby and a guiding light to younger collectors with whom you have shared unsparingly of your philatelic knowledge and wisdom. For years you have been a "Champion" of Czechoslovak philately "Down Under"; you have served on numerous stamp exhibition committees, as well as the "Design Committee" for your Post Office Department,

So today, "The Bill Russell Night" at the October meeting of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria, we pay homage to you, Mr. Russell. Through this Award we convey to you the esteem and congratulations from the Philatelic World.

With our best wishes for your continuing good health, wisdom and success, I am

Respectfully yours,  
George A. Blizil, Chairman  
International Relations Committee  
American Philatelic Society

GAB:LB

The October Specialist was held over purposely to enable the auction committee to send bid sheets and catalog to all members residing in North America. We are sorry the European members are denied the opportunity to help the auction, but time is limited. Even air mail both ways could not help.

In a way we are glad there isn't much to write about as this will help reduce the feature articles now in the hands of our printer. There is so much valuable material in the printery that the members will be more than compensated by our self-imposed silence.

Lest we forget! The year is coming to a close and that means that dues to your Society will soon be due. Before you spend all your money for Christmas presents spend some to buy yourself the finest Christmas gift of all, a year's membership in the Society. If you can afford an associate or patron membership, do so; you'll not regret it.

Any member wishing to exchange stamps with a collector in Czechoslovakia may contact Mr. Ladislav Kubicek, Osek cp. 192, p. Komarov, Czechoslovakia.

#### REPORT OF THE NEW YORK GROUP

The New York Group met Friday, September 21, at the Collectors Club with 10 members present, a result of 47 invitations to the meeting, which included those people who signed the guest book at our lounge at FIPEX. It is hoped that the next meeting will be attended better.

"Future activities" was the theme of this meeting. As mentioned in a previous issue of the Specialist our New York group is privileged to meet at the Collectors Club every third Friday of the month. This was approved by the Club's Board of Governors and the stipulation is that the group's sessions will be conducted on the level and no business transactions will be allowed. For the upkeep of the Club the New York group will contribute \$25 per year and will present a gift to the office staff at Christmas. It is expected that the expenses of the New York group's meetings will amount to about \$45 per year. It was deemed necessary in view of these circumstances to assess the members \$4 per year to meet these very necessary bills. (Note of the editor: Our reporter Joseph Stein suggests that money in excess of expenses could revert to the Specialist fund. While this would certainly gladden our heart, we know that money is hard to raise and we want the group to build up a treasury. We in Chicago may not have New York's problems because we meet in one another's homes.) Joseph Stein was appointed secretary-treasurer and George Koplowitz was elected program director. Next meeting Friday, Oct. 19 and the following Nov. 16. All New York area members are urged to attend these meetings. An exhibition is planned for the spring.

Member Horechny has several orders for pictures published in the June Specialist of our FIPEX dinner and will soon forward the money to the treasurer and send the pictures to those who ordered them.

STRESS NATURALLY ON CZECH ISSUES  
IN STATE'S STAMP SHOP IN PRAGUE

by Ted Hallock

Special to Western Stamp Collector and reprinted therefrom

PRAGUE—Spending two days browsing in POFIS is like spending an evening in a Turkish bath after a day on the desert—contrasted with or compared to my philatelic experiences in the Soviet Union during the past month. POFIS (the philatelic agency of Czechoslovakia) has its retail headquarters in a clean, efficient, well-lighted, well-run shop in the heart of this city; the best stocked stamp store in the country.

The clerks are either collectors or, like any sensible stamp merchants, have philately at heart and have bothered to master the nomenclature of the hobby in English, French, German, Russian and Czech—albeit being grammatical masters of only one of these tongues. But in Prague I have proved that certain grimaces, gestures, and composite words are internationally understood by members of our addicted fraternity.

Naturally, stress here is on Czech material, and it is superb. I'm not a specialist in this country, nor do I even collect it, but like most assiduous advocates I've a fair knowledge of the rarity of certain Czech items. They don't use a Scott catalogue for reference; a 1955 Zumstein is on hand. Prices are dear, but less dear now with the special tourist exchange rate recently innovated. We received 21 koruna (crowns) per dollar as compared with a normal exchange of seven per dollar. However, we can spend only \$22 per day during our stay.

POFIS has, mint, such items as the early overprinted air mails, the "S. O." overprints, and the "Posta Cescoslovensko" overprints on Hungarian stamps, ranging in price from \$3 to \$200 depending upon rarity. I found no errors of any country's emissions.

My interest was in Czech military posts for Siberia. I obtained all of these stamps (almost the entire issue) for about \$10. However, there were no Carpatho-Ukraine, as listed in Zumstein (and considered by some as being Hungarian material rather than Czech).

Russian and Chinese stamps are ridiculously cheap here when compared with Moscow—about five times less costly. Mint Russia (no matter how old) sells at just a fraction over face, but it's probably our exchange rate that accounts for it. The new Czech catalogue is out, there is a monthly philatelic journal published here, and a special souvenir booklet for the Czech national philatelic museum is also available—illustrated with pictures of dies used to print the first Czech stamps.

No stamps available from Korea or Viet Nam, yet produce from Viet Nam (lace, wood goods, ivory, rattan) is available in many shops and there is an abundance of Chinese cigarettes, pineapple, pipe tobacco and other goods. No stamps of any East German provinces (1945 Soviet zone locals), nor was there any in Moscow. And by the way, an East German surveyor in Moscow (who is also a collector) told me that possession of the Hitler heads—whether obliterated by overprinting or not—is illegal now in East Germany, which seems to me a monumental paradox.

There is also a philatelic association (state controlled) here. It supervises exchange of stamps between collectors here and abroad; one must send his stamps to the association first, from which they are relayed to individual collectors. Haven't had time to get addresses for any of these organizations, but a letter simply addressed to POFIS, Prague, will get you an answer, and in English.

(This is the third article Mr. Hallock has written for Western Stamp Collector about his philatelic experiences behind the Iron Curtain. His home

is in Portland, Ore., where he is director of public affairs for the investment firm of J. Henry Helser & Co., and visited Soviet Russia this year to get material for a series of radio broadcasts. Since he is an enthusiastic stamp collector, he picked up as much about philately behind the Iron Curtain as he could. POFIS, mentioned in this article, is the abbreviated name for Czechoslovakia's state-controlled corporation which enjoys a monopoly on sale of stamps in the country and is in control of exports and imports of philatelic material.)

#### NEW MEMBERS

- 560. Bures, Robt. E., R. #2, Box 369, Naperville, Ill.
- 561. Dalton, Mrs. Eve, 18 Pequot Ave., Port Washington, N. Y.
- 562. Kozik, John, Box 2284, Miami Beach 40, Fla.
- 563. Kearfott, Mary T., 51 5th Ave., New York, N. Y.
- 564. Kovacs, Joseph, 6119 Lawndale St., Philadelphia, Pa.
- 565. Havlik, George V., 2336 56th Ave., Cicero 50, Ill.
- 566. Taussig, Sidney Z., 34-29 41st St., Astoria, L. I., N. Y.
- 567. Stromberg, Henry J., 5419 So. Dorchester Ave., Chicago, Ill.
- 568. Janda, J. J., 2429 61st Ave., Cicero 50, Ill.

#### CHANGES OF ADDRESS

- 377. Nouss, Henry O., Box 1056, Panipano Beach, Fla.
- 85. Havers, John L., RFD #2, Box 385, Johnstown, Pa.
- 403. Rosner, Frank J., 2325 61st Ave., Cicero 50, Ill.
- 320. Kolesar, Andrew J., 263 Kenna Dr., Bldg. 424, So. Charleston 3, W. Va.
- 262. Schwartz, George L., 5015 58th St., Sacramento, Calif.
- 401. Pfisterer, A. W., 285 Merritt Ave., Bergenfield, N. J.
- 395. Zdenek, James G., 611 E. 34th St., Tacoma 4, Wash.

#### PARADE OF NEW ISSUES



#### Commemorative Stamps "Frontier Guard's Day"

On the occasion of the "Frontier Guard's Day 1956" the Ministry of Communications issued on July 8th, 1956, a set of two commemorative stamps showing two different motives by Zdeněk Brdlík, painter-artist.

(1) 30 hal. stamp, blue, shows a soldier member of the Frontier Guard watching the state frontier bounded by a stream.

(2) 60 hal. stamp, green, shows a member of the Frontier Guard and his dog, both partly hidden in the thicket.

The engravings of the stamps are by Bohdan Roule and Jan Mráček.

The First Day cover was designed by Zdeněk Brdlík, engraved by Bedřich Housa.

The stamps were recess-printed by the Post Printing Office, Prague, in sheets of 50 copies. Vertical form, dimension of the stamps 23 mm by 30 mm.

Validity for postage from July 8th, 1956.



# New Album Releases

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(1956 Games ready in January)

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## HUNGARIAN POSTMARKS

### Oblong-P

Cancels set up in one line are rarely found on Czechoslovakian stamps. In comparison with the Austrian cancels, which in Czechoslovakian lands were mostly bilingual, the Hungarian cancels, used in Slovakia were always only in Hungarian. They were well designed, the type in them used is block or antique.

P-1 One line

P-2 Two lines framed.

Some postmarks of type P-2 do not have letters P.U. after the name of the postoffice. These letters mean PALYA UDVAR RR station. (Trenczen P. U. Privigya P. U. and others.) These letters were cut out of the Galanta postmark. ZSOLNA PÁLYUDVAR postmark with the name in the first line and the date in the second has not been discovered on any Czechoslovak stamps, although it is possible that some will show up.

### Special-Z

In this type are placed all special and emergency postmarks used for cancelling stamps. We find these mostly on Postage Due stamps, although they were assigned to other functions, as Special Delivery, Express (fig. 4) Kifizettet = paid (fig. 5) Arúnyilatkozat bevanatott = advice of goods cancelled (fig. 6) Nyustya-likér kiadatott = name of postoffice on top, bottom Issued. In the center date without year and last Déletott = A. M. or Délután = P.M. (fig. 7). Porto in a circle meant insufficient postage (fig. 8). One circle with date (fig. 9), and the cancel used in the Bratislava P. O. for cancelling Postage Dues on mail refused by addressee (fig. 10). Hexagonal postmark for money orders has the name on top, date in the center Pénzrovalás = money account.

### Single Circle-J

Circles are of various sizes, type is either block or antique. Nationalization was accomplished by rearranging the date. The year was shown by two or three figures (1920 -20 or 920).

J-1 Single circle, name of P. O. on top, date in the center.

J-2 Single circle, name of P. O. on top, below specific location (Nyitra V. M. = Nitra county, Pozsony V. M. = Bratislava county) Postmark Szil-  
iácshas Fürdő = Spa. Kisutalv(ány) means a small amount, Koczi-  
posta is parcellpost.

J-3 Same as J-2, but the name of the P. O. is on the bottom. On top is Pénzutalvány meaning postal order. (Poprad, Kežmarok).

### Bridged-M

This type is very well designed and ornamented with the St. Stephan crown. The vertical hatching and ornamentation in the bottom sector differs in the various postmarks. The letter N. or E. meaning A. M. or P. M. are often left out in the bottom sector. The nationalization of the Postmark was done by blacking out or cutting out the crown and rearranging the date. In some instances the numerals were blocked out. Postoffice Felsőbótfalu had the date insert badly damaged and had to write the date in long hand. Postoffice Leibicz used numeral instead name of the month (9-5-919 instead of 9 mai 919).

M-1 Double circle, name on top, bottom ornament. Hatched crown in the top sector, time in the bottom sector.

M-2 Same as M-1 but in place of an ornament distinguishing letter (AB)

M-3 Same as M-1 but an ornament on both sides of the distinguishing letter

MALNAPATAK

P1

FENYVESVÖLGY GÖLNICZBANYA

P1 BATORKESZI P1

P1

MEZŐKASZONY

P2

BATYU

P2

TRENCSÉN.P.U.

P2

EXPRESS

4

NYUSTYA-LIKÉR 10 DÉL-  
KIADATOTT I ELŐTT

ARÚNYILATKOZAT  
BEVONATOTT

6

KIFIZETETETT

5

7



- M-4 Same as M-1 in the bottom sector specific location. (County, RR station)
- M-5 Same as M-4, with the addition of distinguishing letter A.
- M-6 Same as M-1, distinguishing letter placed at both ends of the bridge.
- M-7 Same as M-1, bottom sector cut by a large letter, designating the P.O. number.
- M-8 Same as M-1, distinguishing letter on both sides of P. O. number.

- M-9 Double circle, bridge cuts the inner circle. Date gives year, month and day (or reverse) and the hour. In the Pozsony S 1 S postmark the hour is removed. Distinguishing letter is on both sides of the P. O. number.
- M-10 Same as M-9, but without the distinguishing letter.
- M-11 Double circle. In the bottom part specific location. (County or P. U.) The bottom sector is hatched vertically.
- M-12 Same as M-11, Ornament in the bottom sector.
- M-13 Same as M-11, distinguishing letter in the bottom sector.



Ks. Od.  
ROZSAHEGY V1





- M-14 Same as M-11, in the bottom sector specific location, (County, P.U., Fördó or Spa)  
 M-15 Same as M-13, but without the crown.  
 M-16 Same as M-13, bottom sector fully hatched.

#### Train-V

All train postmarks in the territory of Hungary are always in Hungarian only, except where trains entered Austria, then the name of the Austrian town is in German. (Oderberg). The postmarks of Muranyaija—Pelsöcz were changed to locals (figs. 10, 11). Postmarks of this type are scarce as very few letters were saved. On the Budapest-Oderberg trains many different cancels were used, which however have not all been found on the Czechoslovak stamps. There is also a possibility of discovery of postmarks from the Tatra Mountain Railroad, Szentivanyi-Csorba. This road was put into service shortly before the political upheaval.

- V-1 Two line, abbreviation Ks. Od. mean Kassa-Oderberg (Košice-Bohumín)  
 V-2 Two line, top direction, bottom number of the train. Date is shown as year, month, day. In the top sector is vertically hatched St. Stephan crown. Bottom sector, also hatched, has a place for the time.  
 V-3 Double circle, date as in V-2. Top sector with hatched crown. On top is the direction, bottom number of the train.  
 V-4 Same as V-3, after the train number are letters S Z.  
 V-5 Double circle, direction divided top and bottom. Date line includes time of day. Train number above bottom half circle.  
 V-6 Double circle, Time shown with the date. Bottom sector is cut by a large figure designating the number of the train.  
 V-7 Same as V-6, Distinguishing letter is on both sides of train number. Three place date.  
 V-8 Same as V-7, Top sector without the Crown.  
 V-9 Double circle. Direction divided top and bottom. Time of day included in date line. Vertical lines in space top and bottom omitted. At top train number, at bottom letter "SZ".

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#### CORRECTION

In the 1956 membership list published in the September Specialist an error occurred. The line devoted to member Beck omitted his town, so please correct your copy by inserting the town "Clifton." To member Beck our apologies.

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## CZECHOSLOVAKIA Plating the First Issue

By John Velek

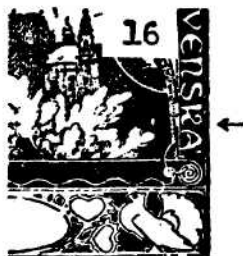
Reprinted with permission from the American Philatelist.

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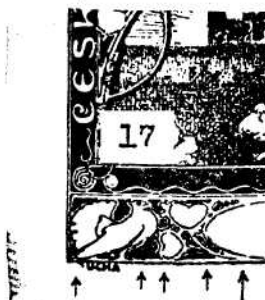
Position 15. There is a nick on the inside of the 3. There is a break in the wing line of the left dove and in the tail of the right dove. The fourth left leaf is broken. There is a line thru the P and O of POSTA.



Position 16. The tablet line is broken at the right and there is a line to the left of the 3. The bottom frame is broken below the right dove. There is a white dot between the bushes and another above the right branch of the large bush. There is a period after MUCHA. The long ray is broken and both ends of the sun line are missing. The left frame is broken between the S and K of CESKO and there are breaks in the third and fifth left leaves.



Position 17. The left stroke of the M of MUCHA is short. There is a break in the left dove and several tiny breaks in the lower left heart and the tablet line.



Position 18. There is a white spot above the large bush. (Transferred from Plate I.) The third right leaf is broken. The ray is short and there is a dot over the sun. There are two breaks in the tablet line at the top.



Position 19. There is a line thru the T of POSTA. There is a break and a dot in the third right leaf. The left dove has breaks in two places.



Position 20. There is a white spot on the S of SLOVENSKA. The lower left heart is broken.



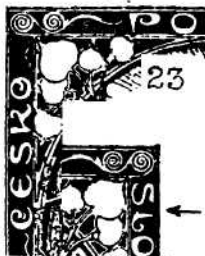
Position 21. There are numerous breaks in the right frame and the design is broken over the second S of SLOVENSKA. The tail of the right dove is broken. There is a tiny nick in the 3 and a dot below it.



Position 22. There are several breaks in the top line at the right end and a point on the upper right corner. The left frame has two breaks near the bottom.



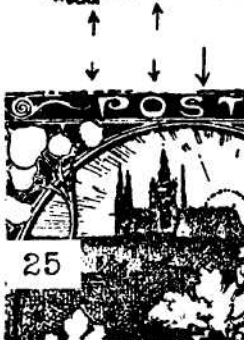
Position 23. There are two breaks in the third right leaf. There is a break in the fourth left leaf and the stem of the fifth leaf is missing. The long ray is broken.



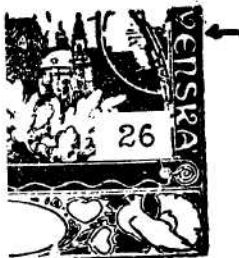
Position 24. The bottom frame is broken at the foot of the left dove. There is a tiny break in the lower left heart. There is an unusually long ray over the two left towers.



Position 25. The top frame line is broken and partly missing over the word POSTA. The third and fifth right leaves are broken. The long ray is broken near the top.



Position 26. The right branch is broken and there is a nick in the arch near the first right leaf. There is a break in the tablet line and in all four hearts. The spire is broken. The left frame is broken near the bottom.



Position 27. There is a break in the second left leaf and the first right leaf. The panel line below the small bush is broken. The tablet line is broken on the right.



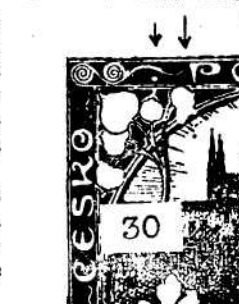
Position 28. There is a break in the fifth right leaf and the fourth left leaf. The bottom of the long ray is missing and it is broken at the top.



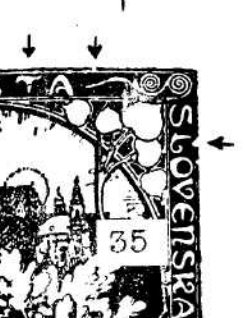
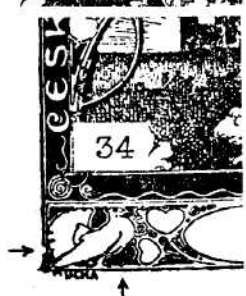
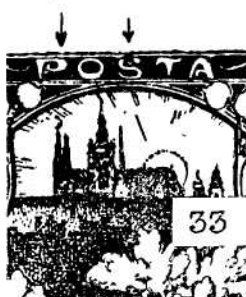
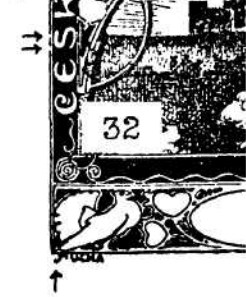
Position 29. The top frame line is broken over the A of POSTA. Parts of the long ray are missing. The breast line of the right dove is broken.



Position 30. There is a large break in the arch and the fifth left leaf. There is a white dot above the fourth left leaf. The right dove has a break in the top wing line and the long ray is broken at the top.



Position 31. There are breaks in the first three right leaves. The right frame is broken over the N of SLOVENSKA. There



are three breaks in the upper right heart.

Position 32. The M of MUCHA has a long curved downstroke. There are two breaks over the S of CESKO and two more over the O of SLOVENSKA. The top line has a break above the S of POSTA. The ray over the sun is short.

Position 33. The first left tower is bent to the right. The S of POSTA is broken. There are two breaks in the top of the value tablet.

Position 34. The left frame is broken near the bottom. There is a break and a dot in the left dove. There is a break in the lower right heart.

Position 35. There is a fine line thru the P and T of POSTA. The top line is broken near the A of POSTA and the right line has breaks over the L and O of SLOVENSKA.

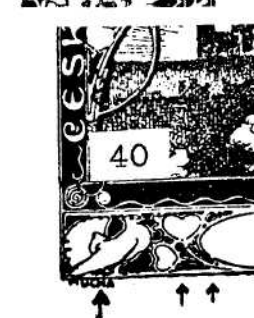
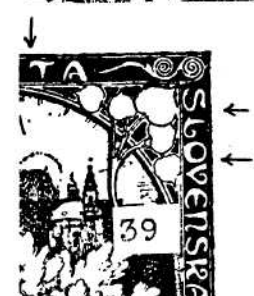
Position 36. There is a broken scratch on the plate beginning at the S of POSTA and extending thru the left towers down into the design. The top frame is broken over the T of POSTA.

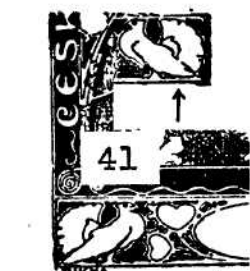
Position 37. There is a break in the tablet line and the lower right heart. There is a nick in the second right tower. The top of the second left tower is flat. There is a break in the first left leaf and the third right leaf.

Position 38. The upper left corner is damaged. There is a white dot to the left of the small bush.

Position 39. There is a dot over the second right tower and near the long ray. The third right leaf is broken. There is a fine line thru the P of POSTA.

Position 40. The left dove has a tiny break in the top of the wing line. There are three tiny breaks in the upper left heart and one in the lower left heart. The tablet line has a nick on the left side.





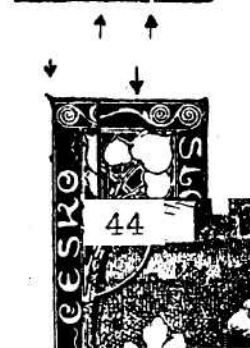
Position 41. There is a break in the tablet line and in the wing of the right dove. The top frame has a tiny break near the P of POSTA.



Position 42. There is a break in the tablet line over the 3. Most of the M of MUCHA is missing.



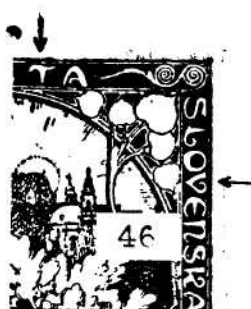
Position 43. The top and bottom frame are broken near the right end. The right frame line is broken at the bottom. There is a break in the lower right heart. There is a smear of color over the sun but it differs in size and shape with various printings.



Position 44. The upper left corner is pointed. The third right leaf is broken. The 3 is nicked on the right side.



Position 45. The P and T of POSTA are short. There is a dot in the sun. The top frame is extended on the left end. There is a white dot between the O and S of POSTA.



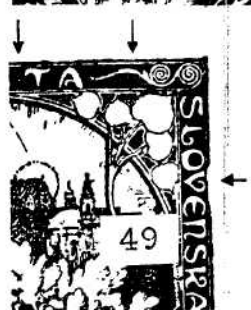
Position 46. There are two dots over the sun. The tip of the first right tower is thick. The tablet line is broken at the bottom.



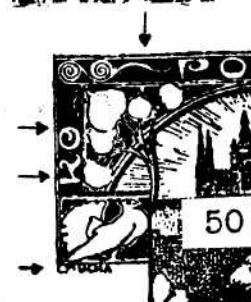
Position 47. There is a fine scratch thru the O of SLOVENSKA and extending to the left. There is a break between the second and third right leaves. There is a dot in the margin at the lower right corner. The line below the small bush is broken. The design is broken above the P of POSTA.



Position 48. The accent mark joins the S of POSTA at the top. There are three dots on the top frame near the right.



Position 49. The right frame line is bent over the VE of SLOVENSKA. The long ray is broken near the top. The second right leaf is broken at the bottom.



Position 50. The first, third and fourth left leaves are broken. A line joins the M of MUCHA to the frame. The ray is short. The bottom frame is broken below the right dove.

(To be continued)

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