

# THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

A publication of the Czechoslovak  Philatelic Society of N. America

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Editor Frank J. Kovarik, 8748 Rockefeller Ave., Brookfield, Illinois

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## EDITORIAL

Questions concerning the TGM first day covers continue to come to us but we can add no more to them than what we wrote in our last editorials. If the government of our country can't get replies to its protests concerning the non-delivery or the return of these covers, what can a small organization such as ours? We hear that the returned Kossuth covers are selling for \$1.00; very few Masaryk covers were returned and because of their scarcity should sell for more than the returned Kossuths. At least one dealer is offering 50 cents for returned TGM first day covers.

We asked member Velek to write an article on the Praha Museum and our president about the treatment accorded him in Czechoslovakia as the leader of our Society. We stressed we want as complete a report as possible and allowed them enough time to do a thorough job. At the Chicago Chapter meeting Dr. Matejka gave a very good account of his trip thru the country of his ancestors; one of the members later told me "I'll remember that talk as long as I live." We are looking forward to publishing these accounts.

Other members of our Society were in Czechoslovakia, not as philatelists, but as visitors. One member took a sheet of these stamps of each value and sold them in Praha to a Russian officer who expressed great joy that "Papa Masaryk" (tatíček Masaryk) appeared on U. S. stamps. Another member went to visit his aged parents; they told him they are allowed to attend church services daily if they so desire, but if a younger person tries to perform his religious duties he will never be promoted on his job, may even lose his employment. He assured us there is no hunger; but there is a definite shortage of meat and fruits. He told us that you could put your meat ration on one fork, but you do get plenty of dumplings and gravy. This member's family lives in a rural area; he visited in the evening with a cousin when the loud speaker system blared out: "The following comrades will report in the town square to load fruit into trucks." Then followed the names and the cousin's name was among those called. Our member said: "You have a good excuse not to go; you have a visitor from America." The cousin knew the rules and went.

One of our members who had a great esteem for the Czechs and Slovaks was anxious to buy a history of Czechoslovakia in English. He wrote to Praha and received a very fine volume printed in Russia. Imagine his surprise when he finished reading the book and noticed that no mention at all was made of Masaryk. Yet the country calls itself a democracy.

We have a surprise for all our members. We were privileged at our recent Complex meeting to have one of our earlier members, Fritz Billig, with us and naturally, we discussed our publishing ventures with him. In this meeting we decided to try a new approach and at member Billig's recommenda-

tion, he will publish a first volume devoted entirely to the Hradčany stamps. The author is the foremost authority of this issue, John Velek. No prices will be mentioned but a point system for varieties, shades and other specialized matter will be employed as in the Bohemia-Moravia book. This volume will be not a mere check list nor a price list but a fairly thorough handbook. (Nothing is ever really "complete.") It is planned to consist of about 72 pages and will contain about as much of the authenticated material on this issue as can be assembled. Velek will ask several collectors who have large specialized collections of Hradčany to double check the manuscript. Dealers prices will be checked as well as prices attained at auctions, to arrive at a satisfactory point price for out-of-the-ordinary material. The members will not be asked to help with loans or donations; the entire cost will be underwritten by member Billig. The Society will gain from this undertaking in prestige and maybe, financially.

One of our eastern members promised to give a hundred dollars to underwrite a volume now in manuscript stage dealing with the Czecho essays from the gifted pen of our secretary Joseph J. Jiranek. The cuts for this would cost much more and it is possible others will add to this generous offer. We doubt there would be enough interest in an independent volume but we could publish it serially in the Specialist.

The date we feared finally came. We have known for a long time that the cost of printing the Specialist will go up and the notice came. A change in the Constitution must be made immediately; either the dues go up or the publication of the Specialist must be curtailed. In the recent past the cost of postage went up 50% (over 100% to foreign countries), the cost of stationery went up as also the cost of the illustrations. The reason we didn't have to raise our dues sooner is our gain at Compex and on the TGM FDCs. However, even here the costs connected with these ventures were very high and which appeared like a handsome profit was not so glorious. Of course the Society has no debts as it had when the Bohemia-Moravia book was published.

Your editor's face is red! In an earlier issue we mentioned a set of stamps honoring TGM's 100th birthday; this happens to be the issue of 1947 commemorating the 10th anniversary of Masaryk's death.

## SLOVAKS, SLOVENES and SLAVONIANS

Andrew Kopcok

(Editor's Note: About two and a half years ago we were in Cleveland and, as is customary, we held a meeting of the local members with the visitors. Incidentally, it was at this meeting that member Zahradnicek first proposed a Masaryk stamp within the framework of the Champions of Liberty. The member author took us to task for some misstatements in an editorial. After the meeting the member explained to us the difference between Slovenes and Slavonians. In our ignorance we thought the western Slavs were Slavonians. We told member Kopcok that there are other ignorant Americans who would like to be enlightened. In this brief article our readers, for the most part, will surely find something new. Slovaks are unknown to most Americans but we feel sure our members have no trouble on that score.)

Yugoslavia is composed of many parts. We will commence with Slovenia the northwest part bounding on Austria and Italy. Slovenia's capitol is Lyublanja, the language of the people is Slovenian and the predominant religion is Roman Catholic. Dalmatia, Croatia and Slavonia are on the Adriatic Coast, the capitol is Zagreb in Croatia known as Hrvatska; the language is Croatian and the religion is for the most part Roman Catholic. Many Bo-

hemians migrated to Croatia in the days of the Austro-Hungarian rule, most of them around the city of Damvar and its environs. Most of these forgot their Czech birthright and speak Croatian. Bosnia-Herzegowina with its capitol at Sarajevo, where the first World War found its birth. The languages used there are Croatian, Serbian and Turkish. The religions found there are the Roman Catholic, Orthodox and Moslem. There were Slavs in this region when it was dominated by the Otoman Empire and Christians were compelled to accept the Moslem religion. Montenegro (Crna Gora) has as its capitol Titograd (formerly Cettinye) and the religion there is Orthodox. Old Serbia and Macedonia has as its capitol the city of Skoplye, the language is Serbian and some Greek and the religion is mostly Orthodox. On the boundaries of Hungary and Romania is what is known as autonomous Voyvodina and includes Banat, Bačka, Barana and Slavonia, its capitol is Novi Sad, a city on the Danube River. I was born near that city at Bečki Petrovar. There is a mixture of languages: Serbian, German (Swabian), Slovakian, Hungarian and Romanian (in Banat). There is also a large variety of religions but for the most part Roman Catholic, Eastern Rite Catholics and Orthodox. About 100,000 Slovaks live in Banat, Bačka and Slavonia and in my home town they have a Slovak High School (up to 8 grades), 4 Slovak newspapers, a Slovak Museum. They live a strong patriotic and cultural life because the land there is rich and farmers are independent. South of Novi Sad is the city Beograd, capitol of all of Yugoslavia.

I shall try to explain where Slavonia is located, which is different than Slovenia and the language spoken is also different. In Slovenia they use Slovenian and in Slavonia it is mostly Croation; of course, both are Yugoslavs now. I also wish to point out a mistake which appeared in our vocabulary; in that part which explains the Slavonian language; as I explained before, Croation is used in that country.



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**THE NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR OVERPRINTS — 1939-1940**

**George V. Havlik**

"After the Tempest of Wrath Has Passed, The Rule of The Country Will Return to Thee, O Czech People"—these words uttered by Comenius, a Czech refugee from Germanic oppression three hundred years ago, were sculptered on the white facade of the Czechoslovak Pavilion at the New York World's Fair. When the Germans invaded Prague the Pavilion stood unfinished and only half filled with Czech products that arrived before the tragic events of 1939. For two years the Pavilion was maintained by donations not only of American-Czechoslovaks, but of thousands of freedom loving people from around the world. One of the money raising campaigns was the overprinting of souvenir sheets wholly donated by stamp dealers and sold at the Pavilion.

In 1939 Mr. Hudec, the Czech consul, contacted several New York stamp dealers questioning them as to the advisability of selling stamps to raise funds for the upkeep of the Pavilion. The dealers were of an affirmative opinion on this question. The next questions raised were these. We will need beautiful material to represent Czechoslovakia, what shall we use? What will take an overprint and where can we find a large holding? One of the dealers had approximately 6000 copies of the Bratislava Philatelic Exhibition souvenir sheets (Scott #239) and another dealer had about 1500 sheets of the same issue. Also some Prague Philatelic Exhibition sheets (Scott #251) were located, the amount being unknown. Still another item found in quantity was the Prague sheet overprinted for the Canadian National Exhibition held at Toronto. Due to the outbreak of the war in Europe the exposition was not opened and, in consequence, the overprint was obliterated with heavy black lines. Also located and submitted were the Bratislava Philatelic Exhibition Newspaper sheet (Scott #P26). These were the items decided upon to be sold at the Pavilion.

On June 10th, 1939, the officials of the Czechoslovak Pavilion at the New York World's Fair, with the consent of the Czechoslovak Government in exile and the authorization of the President of the Czechoslovak Republic, Dr. Edward Benes, overprinted the souvenir sheets which were printed in the old country and donated by the several stamp dealers. The overprint had a central design of the Coat of Arms of Czechoslovakia at the top of the sheet and the inscription "Czechoslovak Participation New York World's Fair 1939 Czechoslovak Pavilion" at the bottom of the sheet. The overprinted Coat of Arms were embossed in luminous black. These sheets were sold at the Pavilion for 75c per sheet. From time to time these were followed with the embossed Coat of Arms in different colors. The colors used were green, red, blue, gold, and silver. The issues of these was very small. The colored overprints were sold for \$1.50 and the silver and some others for \$5.00. The silver overprints are extremely scarce. All the sheets were sold out by 1940. The Bratislava 1940 in colors had an issue of only 100 sets.

Some errors and misprints exist in these sheets. These are official and were not made intentionally. Inverted overprints, bottom inscriptions omitted, double impressions, offset printing of Coat of Arms and inscription, and shifted inscriptions are some of the varieties extant.

Some of these sheets exist with the bottom inscription in red, blue and green. Sheets with the tabs between the stamps ornamented in black, blue, green, red and gold are also known to exist.

All of the overprints on the small miniature sheets, Scotts #B152, issued to commemorate the 88th anniversary of the birth of the late President Masaryk and Scott #B153, Symbol of the Republic issued in commemoration of the 20th anniversary of independence, can be classed as essays. These sheets had been prepared but not issued generally due to their very limited available

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supply, although some of these sheets were sold at the Pavilion for as high as \$100.00. The sheets are very rare and only a handful exist. These sheets were overprinted with The Coat of Arms in six different colors and bottom inscriptions in black, red, green and blue.

Most of the New York World's Fair Sheets were sent on registered First Day Covers, franked with U. S. (#853 and Famous Americans, etc.) to New York and also to foreign countries.

The sale of these overprinted souvenir sheets played an important role in the upkeep of the Czechoslovak Pavilion at the Fair. Even though these sheets were not valid for postage they are still a unique Philatelic item.

#### 1939 Overprints

- Bratislava Philatelic Exhibition Sheet (Bratislava 1937 on center tab)  
Coat of Arms in: Black, Blue, Green, Gold, Silver, Red
- Bratislava Newspaper Sheet  
Coat of Arms in: Black, Blue, Green, Gold, Silver
- Prague Philatelic Exhibition Sheet (Center Tab Blank)  
Coat of Arms in: Black, Blue, Green, Gold, Silver
- Prague Philatelic Exhibition Sheet ("New York World's Fair" on center tab)  
(Originally overprinted for the Canadian National Exhibiton at Toronto, and re-overprinted for the New York World's Fair.)  
Coat of Arms in: Black, Blue, Green, Gold

#### 1940 Overprints

- Bratislava Philatelic Exhibition Sheet ("Bratislava 1937" on center tab)  
Coat of Arms in: Black, Blue, Green Red, Gold Silver
- Bratislava Philatelic Exhibition Sheet (Green Pavilion on center tab over Bratislava 1937)  
Coat of Arms in: Black, Blue, Green, Red, Gold, Silver
- Prague Philatelic Exhibition Sheet (Green Pavilion on center tab)  
Coat of Arms in: Black, Blue, Green, Red, Gold

The inscription on the foregoing was printed in black. The inscription reading as follows: "CZECHO-SLOVAK PARTICIPATION NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR 1939 CZECHO-SLOVAK PAVILION".

#### Oddities

- #239—overprint with coat of arms in black, inscription at bottom completely omitted, very rare.
- #239—5 sheets overprint with coat of arms and inscription, tabs between stamps ornamented in black, blue, green, red, gold.
- #251—Praga sheet with coat of arms but inscription omitted, very rare.
- #251—Praga sheet overprint with coat of arms, obliteration lines at top omitted and inscription in center completely shifted, also year date 1939 omitted. Canadian Exhibition sheet.
- #251—5 sheets overprint with coat of arms and inscription, tabs between stamps ornamented in black, blue, green, red, gold.
- #P26—Bratislava newspaper sheet overprint with coat of arms in black, inscription at top omitted, very rare.
- #P26—Sheet as before, but with inscription inverted.
- #239—Bratislava sheets, distinct offset printing of coat of arms and inscription.
- #239—sheet with complete shifted inscription at bottom.
- #239—sheet with inverted inscription at top.
- #239—sheet with coat of arms at bottom and inscription at top, both inverted.
- #251—Canadian issue, Praga sheet, overprint, date and obliteration lines are double.

- #251—Praga sheet, inscription at bottom and between stamps inverted, very rare.
- #P26—Bratislava newspaper sheet, offset printing of coat of arms, also shifted overprint.
- #P26—sheet, coat of arms in black only partly printed.
- #P26—sheet, inscription at bottom and inverted.
- #P26—sheet, coat of arms at top, inscription at bottom, both inverted.
- Miniature souvenir sheet Masaryk and child overprint with coat of arms in 6 different colors, bottom inscription in black.
- Ditto as above but bottom inscription in red.
- Ditto as above but bottom inscription in green.
- Ditto as above but bottom inscription in blue. (B152)
- 20 Year Independence sheets (5) overprint with coat of arms in 5 different colors, bottom inscription in black.
- Ditto as above but bottom inscription in red.
- Ditto as above but bottom inscription in blue.
- Ditto as above but bottom inscription in green.

The above sheets had been prepared but not issued due to their very limited available supply. These sheets are very rare and only a handful exist. The catalog numbers used here are from the Stach Specialized Catalog of Czechoslovakia.

Editor's Note: Among the scarcest of these items are the overprints prepared for the Toronto Fair but never issued. We know of the existence of 3 sets (615-618 without obliterating bars and New York Fair inscription); one each went to the dealers who donated the various sheets for the maintenance of the Pavilion.

#### THE GREATEST RIGHT FOR THE DESIGN OF THE FIRST CZECH POSTAGE STAMPS OF 1945 WAS HELD BY ALBERT PREISSIG

Translated from "Oběžník" Sept.-Oct. 1945

Written by Zdeněk Kvasnička — Translated by Joseph J. Jiranek

At present at the exhibition hall of Hollar in Prague, at the Masaryk Dock No. 8, there is the posthumous exhibition of an assortment of articles from the workshop of the artist-revolutionist Albert Preissig. Even after the first World War began Preissig performed a great many services and in World War II he, along with his daughter Irene (Mrs. Ink), gave his life.

In 1940 he designed a new Revolutionary stamp with the complete faith that that year would be one of victory. Before this dream of his could be realized he passed away. He drew many patriotic drawings for the Czechoslovak movement in America.

John Loris writes about Preissig in an exhibition catalogue "A Hero's ideas, a Hero's fortitude, a Hero's soul, a Hero's defence, to all those, who under the Revolutionary flag, thought, fought and died for Liberty, for which task they had to brace themselves, so that they could give the nation greater strength and security for the present and future generations. They lived—never thinking of themselves, they died—thinking of others."

When World War I started, Albert Preissig knew where his place was. As a revolutionist on the cultural level he joined with other revolutionaries engaged in the battle for the liberation of the Czechoslovak nation by becoming one of the leading workers in the Czechoslovak Overseas Liberation Committees. For the Czechoslovak National Alliance in America he designed twelve patriotic billboards. These billboards also were used as models for patriotic post card imprints which, when postmarked by the Field Post, are really the pride of specialized stamp collections.

On March 15, 1939, when Czechoslovakia was fully occupied by the Nazis, Mr. Preissig stepped into a new role, this time on the home front against the occupying enemy. It is not very widely known that the illegal printery which published "V Boj" (In Battle) was operated by Mr. Preissig and his daughter Irene. In September, 1940, he prepared the design of a Czechoslovak stamp depicting the Czechoslovak symbolic lion as he tears asunder the German Nazi swastika, symbolic of the certain and eventual liberation of Czechoslovakia and the total annihilation of the Nazi empire just five years later.

Albert Preissig died in 1944 in the infamous Dachau concentration camp and his daughter, Irene, was executed in Berlin. This is a story not often told, nor often remembered, because these people and people like them do not fight for their nation for glory, but in the true patriotic zeal which puts country above self.

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#### CHAPTER MEETINGS

The New York Chapter meets every third Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the Collectors Club, 22 East 35th St., New York City.

The Chicago Chapter meets every second Sunday of the month at 2:30 p.m. in the Lincoln Federal Loan and Savings Association Bldg., 6635 Cermak Rd., Berwyn, Ill.

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#### NEW MEMBERS

- 699. Joseph Cada, 2427 So. Lombard Ave., Cicero 50, Ill.
- 700. Philip Rapport, 1220 Grant Drive, University City 32, Missouri.
- 701. Hartle Nelson, 1930 East Main St., Galesburg, Ill.
- 702. Aldrich F. Velisek, Sr., 3117 Ralph Ave., Cleveland 9, Ohio.

#### CHANGES OF ADDRESS

- 515. Frank J. Kosik, Route 4, Box 287, Delavan, Wisconsin.
- 463. William Trnovsky, 38 View Road, Calistoga, California.
- 480. A. F. Wenham-Goode, Whitehaven, South Common All Saints, near Axminster, Devon, England.
- 426. Frank M. Stupka, 2818 Mohattan Lane, Lemay 25, Mo.
- 77. J. Leo Chapman, 1009 Comeau Bldg., West Palm Beach, Florida.
- 1. Hattie Lowey, 30 Clark Place, Bronx, New York.
- 666. George M. Collar, 399 Melmore St., Tiffin, Ohio.

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#### KŘIVOKLÁT

This is a castle almost as beautiful as Karlův Týn, located within easy distance of Praha and hidden deep in virgin forests, on the steep, slate bank of Rakovník Creek. A hideaway of the hunt loving Kings Václav I and Přemysl II, it was founded in the 10th century. Originally a timber structure, in the year 1110 it was rebuilt of stone by Vladislav I. Karel IV had it magnificently decorated for his wife, Blanche of Valois. Like many other castles, it has a checkered architectural history, prominent being two styles of Gothic. It contains many valuable paintings on its walls.

A 3.50K stamp was issued in 1932.



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## FAKES OF THE

**First Overprint Series of Czechoslovakia**

have discouraged many serious collectors but JAN KARASEK points out the varieties that can provide an interesting collection

Translated by Jaroslav J. Verner

(Reprinted with permission from The American Philatelist)

(continued from last issue)

**Overprint Class C**

The basic markings of the Class C overprint are: In Type I the diacritical mark touches the S and the K is open; Type II has a closed K and the top of the second S in CESKOSLOVENSKA is flattened; in Type III the diacritical mark of the S in POSTA is moved to the left. Again the perpendicular alignment of letters, as seen in Figure 6, is important in this class. Note that POSTA in Type III is moved an entire millimeter to the right.

Fakes are most common in the 2h and 5h Austrian special delivery stamps (see Figure 7) and in the higher values of the Hungarian parliament stamps (Figure 8). In addition to the basic markings, the alignment of letters is very helpful in spotting them.



Figure 6  
Types 1, 2, 3, left to right.

**Overprint Class D**

The basic differentiating characteristic among the types of Class D are the alignment of letters and distances between the words. In Type I the vertical bisector of T in POSTA will pass between the letters O and V; POSTA is 3.1mm above CESKOSLOVENSKA, which is 2.7mm above 1919. In Type II the bisector of T will pass through the left leg of the letter V; POSTA is 2.7mm above CESKOSLOVENSKA which is 3.0mm above 1919. In Type III the bisector of the T will pass just to the left of the center of the V; POSTA is 2.8mm above CESKOSLOVENSKA which is 2.8mm above 1919. Some additional constant details in this class are very useful in identifying good overprints. These are small spurs on spots on the first O and E of CESKOSLOVENSKA (see Figure 9) and the complete or partial connection of the first 1 and 9 in 1919 (see Figure 10).

Fakes of this class are most common on the 50h (large numbers) and the

10h (small numbers) postage dues, and the Mercury newspaper stamps (see Figure 11).

#### Overprint Class F

In the Class F overprint, the basic differences are again in the alignment of letters and the distances between words. In Type I POSTA is 3.1mm above CESKOSLOVENSKA, which is 2.9mm above 1919; the bisector of the T in POSTA passes through the right leg of V. POSTA is 2.9mm above CESKOSLOVENSKA; which is 2.9mm above 1919 in type II; the bisector of T passes between the V and E. In Type II the bisector of T, as in Type I, passes through the right leg of V while POSTA is 2.7mm above CESKOSLOVENSKA with 1919 3.1mm below. In Type IV, unlike the other three types of this class, the second 9 in 1919 is a full nine. The same spurs and spots occur in this class as are found in Classes D and G (see Figures 9 and 10). Fakes are most common on the "Turul" series and the 10f and 15f "MAGYAR POSTA" harvesters (see Figures 12 and 13).

Figure 7

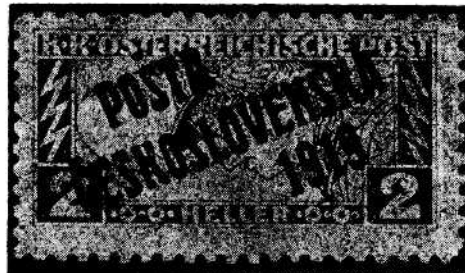


Figure 8

#### Overprint Class G

The basic differences between the types in the Class G overprint are: In Type I POSTA is 3.1mm above CESKOSLOVENSKA, which is 2.7mm above 1919; in Type II the second O in CESKOSLOVENSKA has a large break at the top; in type III POSTA is 2.8mm above CESKOSLOVENSKA, with 1919 3mm below; in Type IV the second 9 in 1919 is a full nine, whereas it is cut off in the other three types. Sometimes the break in the O in Type II is inked in so that the main distinguishing mark is missing. In this type the bisector of T in POSTA will also bisect the O and the 9 (see Figure 15).

Many fake overprints are to be found on the Hungarian postage due series with black numbers (Figure 14); in fact the fakes are more common than

# OVE 1919

Figure 9

Figure 10

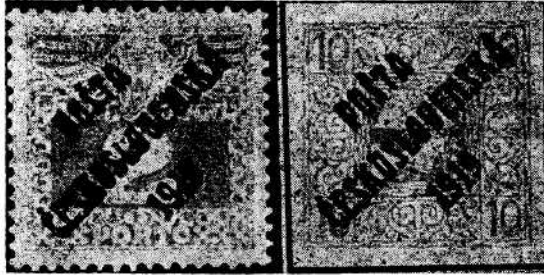


Figure 11



Figure 12

Figure 13



Figure 14

genuine overprints. The 1f postage due with a red number may also be added to this category. Many of the lower values also have fake overprints since the fakes were introduced in sets and thus making it easier to deceive

the collector because there would be no obvious difference in the overprints in the set.

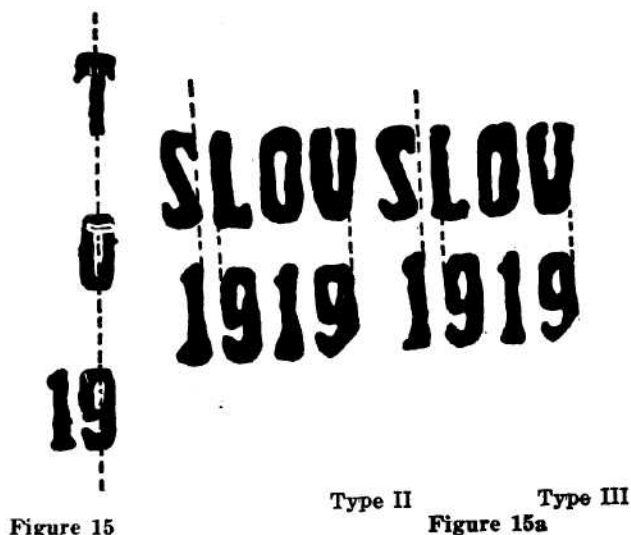


Figure 15

Type II      Type III  
Figure 15a

#### Overprint Class B

The overprints in Class B are the smallest in size and greatest in number of types. Group A is found on triangular and special delivery stamps and has three types. Type I is distinguished by a deep nick toward the top of the second S in CESKOSLOVENSKA. In Type II and Type III 1919 is located 1.2 and 0.9mm respectively below CESKOSLOVENSKA. An additional aid in differentiating between Types II and III is that the 1919 in type III is moved slightly (0.2mm) to the right in relation to CESKOSLOVENSKA (see Figure 15a) which can easily be seen through a strong magnifying glass. Also the A in CESKOSLOVENSKA has a more open center in Type III and the diacritical mark does not touch the A (see Figure 16).

(Group B overprints were used on the Austrian provisional postage dues of 1916-1917 (with the exception of the 1h) and the air mails. In Type I the second S in CESKOSLOVENSKA is again nicked and the top of the second K is fully open. In Type II there is no nick and the K is more closed. Since these marks are slight and are frequently inked in, a check of the various letter positions will again be useful. The bisector of T in POSTA passes between O and V in Type II while in Type I it cuts into the right part of O (see Figure 17).

Group C was used only on the Austrian 1h provisional postage due stamps and has two types. The bisector of the T passes through the left leg of the V in type I while in type II it passes between the O and V. Fakes of this overprint class (see Figure 18) are fairly common, especially on the 5h triangle, the air mails and the provisional postage dues, but they are relatively easy to identify even when carefully made.

It must be remembered that a genuine overprint will always have all the constant markings of its class and type. A careful examination of any stamp of the "POSTA CESKOSLOVENSKA, 1919" series will assure the collector of what he really has and will insure him against fraud in the future. It is



Apparently another correction was made in the plate. However we do not have enough material to determine what really is the case. Collectors who own even parts of sheets of the 3h, 5h, 25h or 50h values of these overprints could help clear up this interesting point.



Figure 18

#### ČESKY KRUMLOV

Located not far from České Budějovice, is a beautiful transformation of a castle into a chateau. Founded in the 13th century by the nobles of Vítkovice, it was at various times owned by Czech kings, Rožmberks, Švarcenberks and Eggenberks. During their ownership it was transformed into a Renaissance castle, in the 17th century into a baroque chateau and between 1620 and 1720 a wonderfully landscaped park was added. The chateau contains over three hundred rooms and five courtyards.

A 5K stamp was issued in 1932.

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