

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

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

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EDITORIAL

All our members received "Press Release No. 1" from Praha anent the "Praga 1962 World Stamp Exhibition." This was mailed by the Central Federation of Czechoslovak Philatelists, and in reality is a prospectus for the Show. From it we learn that the U. S. Commissioner is Mr. Bernard Davis of Philadelphia who represents the American Philatelic Society. With the release came several sets of labels advertising the exhibition; these are in several colors and each strip contains five stickers, one each in Russian, German, English, French and Czech. We wish the exhibition a big success.

Our Compex 61 Show was not the financial success of other years. Our Society paid Compex \$180 to pay for all incidental expenses connected with it and at the final accounting we were returned \$166. But we had other income, such as rental of frames and a fine little sum from the Goodfellows. When the final figures are released we will show a slight profit.

Some may ask why, after all former big profits, this happened. There are many reasons. We have been accused that the only reason for Compex was to make money for the participating organizations. The directors lowered the price of admission from 50 cents to 25 cents and no \$2 registration fees. The Compex Directory was sold for \$1 and this year it was sold for 25c; while there are still 1958 and 1959 directories on hand, the 1960 was sold out on the morning of the last day and the 1961 on the morning of the second day of the show. The banquet tickets cost \$8 each the first two years and only \$5 this year; These were sold at a loss immediately because the hotel got more than the \$5 for every meal; Compex paid for the entertainment, the printing, publicity, etc.

During Compex we had a fine meeting of the Society in our hospitality room. Many of our members stopped to chat there and at most times the room was staffed by one or more of the following: Frank Kovarik, John Velek, Joseph Janecka, Joseph Jiranek and others. Our exhibition was well patronized by the visitors; many of our out of Chicago members exhibited, so that the local members were not asked to "fill in" the show. As you know, our Society had three exhibits from Praha and many of our members responded to the pleas of our exhibition chairman, John Velek. Our only hope for the future is they respond sooner so that our hair doesn't turn gray prematurely. We are sure this can be arranged.

Your editor has not yet received any report from the New York Chapter and its meeting. The Chicago Chapter feels as tho it is monopolizing pages in the Specialist with its almost monthly reports. We feel they are interesting and worth reading. Our October meeting was attended by only 13 members at which the members proposed suggestions for the Philadelphia meeting on Nov. 4. Most of the officers in the past were from the Chicago area and the Chapter

meeting was a place of discussion for the conduct of the Society affairs. As a result many members stopped attending the meetings and the leaders are confident the chapter's meetings will be attended by many more. In the October meeting, Frank Kovarik showed the engravings of our presidents (in three formats), all our Chief Justices of the Supreme Court, public buildings and a couple of government seals, prepared by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. He also showed enlarged photographs of subjects used for designs of United States stamps (among these the Brožik painting used in the Columbian series). These were had from the Smithsonian Institute. He showed a large collection of Seizinger proofs and die essays and in the entire showing he had only one stamp, the copy by Heinz of the original by Seizinger for the Sokol Issue of 1938 (Pofis 331 and 332). This has been written up in the Specialist in the past and was the subject of your editor's talk at Fipex in New York in 1956. The November meeting promises to be something special. Member Joseph J. Houda is the proud owner of a large collection of medals. He obtained medals of merit from foreign countries and became interested in both military and civil medals from around the world. We met at a wake and talked of his hobby and in the course of the conversation he expressed pleasure at just purchasing one of the scarcest medals: Knight of the Holy Sepulchre. During the October Compex meeting, the delegates were hosts to a friend who is a Knight Commander of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre. Mr. Kehr may be in Chicago at the next meeting of the Chicago Chapter and this would certainly add luster to member Houda's talk. We hope our members will avail themselves of this opportunity and come in larger numbers than to the last two meetings. Our December meeting will be host to the president of our Society, Dr. James J. Matejka, Jr., who will show his Newfoundland air mails. This collection includes copies of every stamp listed in the catalog, some in blocks of four, some in larger blocks and all on cover. Many of these covers are extremely interesting. We heard the good doctor talk on these on several occasions and we assure you the talk is very educational. As yet we have no schedule for 1962, but we are confident we'll fill the months with programs which will please all those who attend. You are requested to invite your friends to these meetings.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

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RUDOLPH F. HAJICEK

One of our senior members, Rudolph F. Hajicek, died October 19, 1961, at St. Anthony de Padua Hospital in Chicago, following a long and painful illness. At the time of his death he was president of the board of the Lawndale National Bank with which he was actively connected since July, 1908. He soon rose to the position of cashier, director, later vice-president, president and chairman of the board. He was a very charitable man and held offices in several charitable organizations. He collected stamps from his early youth, delved in the stamps of Czechoslovakia from the first days of the Republic and joined the Society many years ago. His last official act with our Society was his participation at the Masaryk first day ceremonies in Washington in March, 1960. To his sons Rudolph and Robert and daughter Dorothy Smelz and also his sister Emily Pletka, most sincere condolences from the members and officers of the Society.

ANNOUNCEMENT

In connection with the 50 year anniversary September 17, 1961, when 50 years ago two Sokol Units, Sokol Havlíček and Sokol Tyrš, united and built the new Lawndale Hall with a gymnasium and meeting halls on south Lawndale Avenue, on the south-west side of Chicago, and in commemoration thereof have issued cacheted envelopes, one with the portrait of Havlíček, one with Tyrš without cap, one with Tyrš with cap, and one with both men, Havlíček-Tyrš, printed in several colors, with the 4c and 8c Masaryk stamps used and postmarked Sept. 17, 1961.

One envelope with 4c Masaryk stamp, each	35c
Four envelopes each with 4c Masaryk stamp, set	1.30
One envelope with 8c Masaryk stamp, each	45c
Four envelopes each with 8c Masaryk stamp, set	1.75
One envelope with 4c and 8c Masaryk stamps, each	50c
One envelope without stamp 15c each, 2 for	25c
Souvenir Sheet 8x11½ with a cluster of stamps, 4c and 8c Masaryk, 4c 50 star American flag and 5c Czech U. S. stamp overrun na- tions issue, each sheet	1.50

The cacheted envelopes and Souvenir sheet were done with the cooperation of the First Czechoslovak Philatelic Club of America, with Joseph J. Janicka, Jr., president, and the portraits of Havlíček and Tyrš were obtained from photos of Czechoslovak postage stamps, therefor the cacheted envelopes and souvenir sheets will have authentic imprints and will be a great sought-for item for our philatelic friends. For further information and orders write Mr. Anton J. Hladik, 5511 West 23rd Pl., Cicero, Ill. The proceeds will be used for the benefit of Sokol Havlíček-Tyrš, which is the only large Sokol unit in the Lawndale-Crawford area of Chicago, where hundreds of men, women and children obtained their gymnastics and physical fitness exercise, which made them better citizens with healthy bodies and sound minds. When ordering the envelopes or souvenir sheets, please send self stamped, addressed envelopes or add to your remittance to allow for postage—also please use commemorative stamps on your envelopes. Would like to advise that there will be a limited number of envelopes and souvenir sheets available, so please get your orders in as soon as possible, as this is a Sokol first—the issue will be limited.

—Anton J. Hladik, member of committee on Philately

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.

HAVE RETIRED

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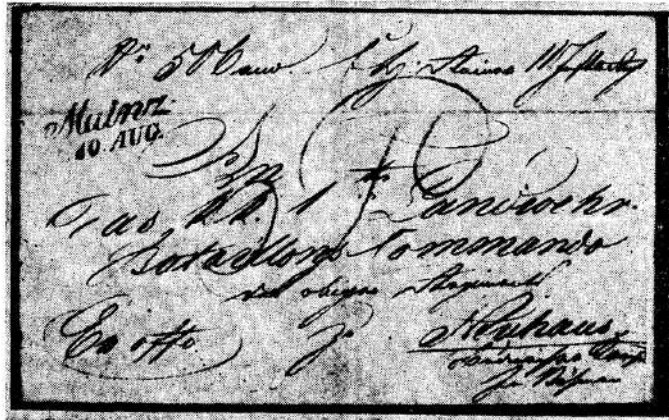
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Postal History of Czechoslovakia

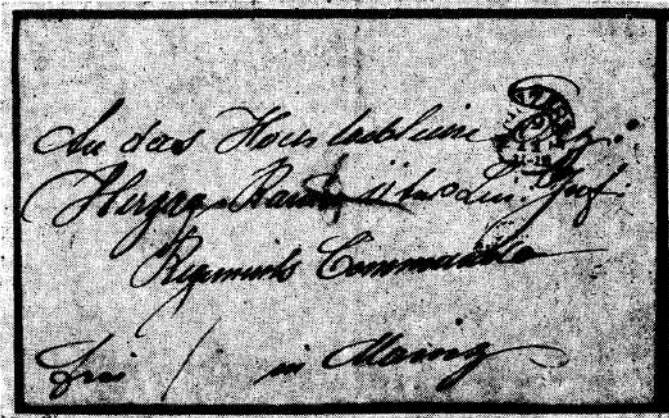
by Dr. William Reiner-Deutsch

Reprinted with permission from Compex Directory 1961

Early in 1958 I was asked to attend a meeting at the Collectors Club of the Metropolitan Chapter of the Postal History Society of the Americas to hear Peterman's talk on the early Trans-Atlantic mail service. He had a most marvelous display of first trip covers of the different ships in service. I was so fascinated by the talk and by what I was able to study in the frames that I decided to join the society then and there. Two members who had watched my signing up asked me what my philatelic interests were. I responded that I was a collector of Czechoslovakia. When I was asked what postal history material could be assembled from that country, my answer was quite non-committal. They



This letter mailed by the 11th Regiment on August 10, 1850, has the Austrian double line postmark used as field postmark at Mainz.

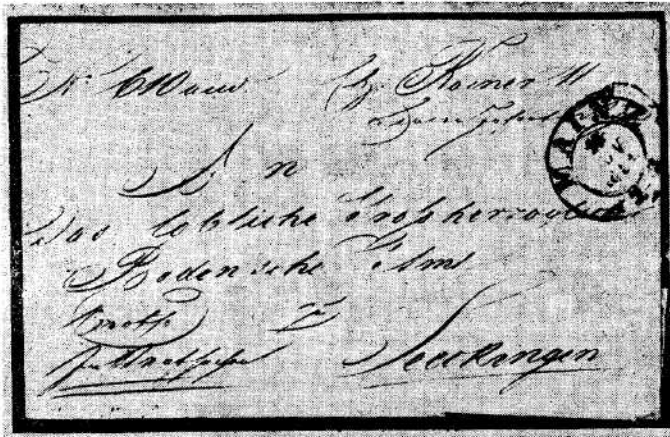


This cover mailed at Mainz on Nov. 9, 1851, has the small Thurn and Taxis postal service postmark.

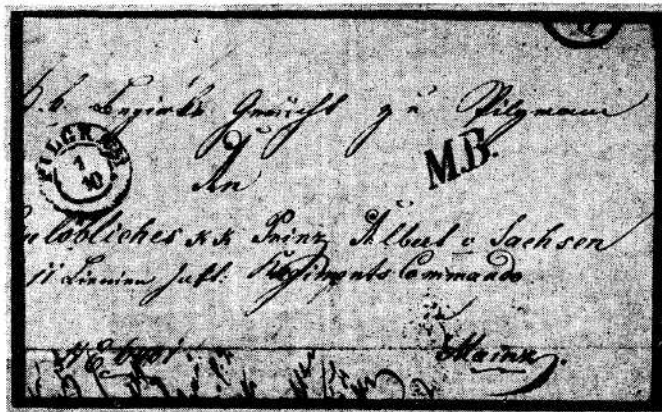
then suggested that much Austrian and Hungarian material could be collected as "forerunners" and I, of course, agreed with them. My knowledge of provisionals, stampless covers and numerous other features of postal history was, at that time, limited to my reading the specialized catalogues of Czechoslovakia.

It is not my object to describe all the possible items which could be collected as Postal History even without looking for "forerunners." The period 1918-20, 1938, 1939 and 1945 have many fascinating features. The Fieldposts of the Czechoslovak Army in Russia and Siberia 1918-20, in France, Italy and Slovakia 1916-20, in Czechoslovakia 1938 and in France and Great Britain 1940-44 are also extremely interesting.

I wish to speak about a venture which turned into a very unusual and extremely pleasant pastime. About one and a half years ago a European friend informed me that the widow of one of his friends had offered him a collection of covers of Mainz and Rastatt. He thought that I might be interested in them and recommended that I acquire the collection. The idea appealed to me because



This cover mailed by the 11th Regiment on Nov. 14, 1851, has the large Thurn and Taxis postal service postmark instead of the field postmark.

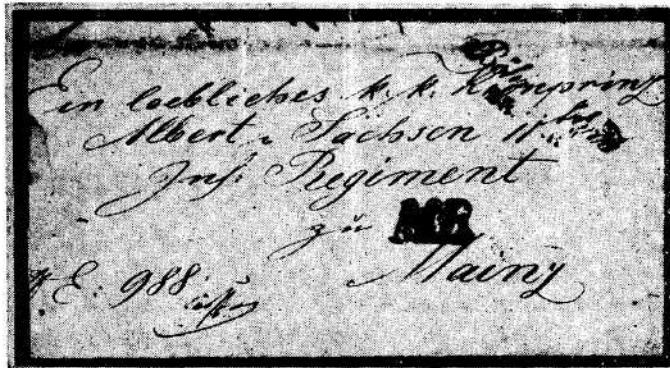


M. B. marking placed on cover at Praha (Prag).

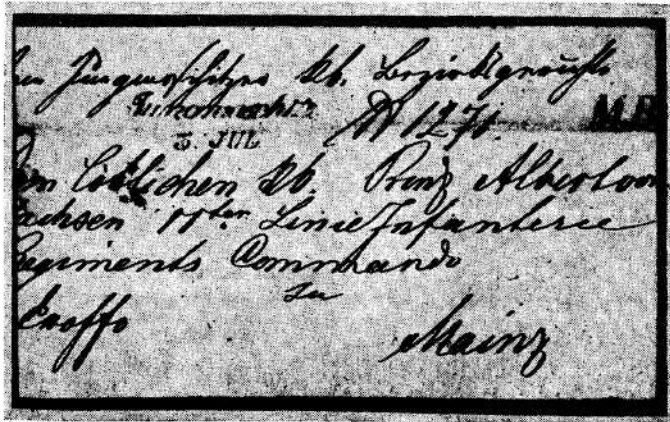
I felt that it would be important for me, as a slight diversion from my Czechoslovak specialty to work with German covers. Hence trusting my friend's judgment I bought them sight unseen. The original owner had amassed the extensive material during his forty years of collecting but had never found the time to work up the individual items in a proper fashion. When the collection arrived I found to my great amazement that 95% of those covers were official mail of Czech Army Units. I wish to emphasize here that though it was a great surprise, it was not a disappointment.

The study of the material took more than six months and I had the help of many outstanding people, i.e., Edwin Mueller, Alfred Clement of Graz, Hermann Deninger, president of the German Philatelic Society, of Frankfort, Prof. Zatschek, Director of the Military Historical Museum of Austria, of Vienna and the Ministry of War of Austria. However I still do not have complete answers to questions concerning certain items.

The largest number of items consists of official mail of the 11th Line Infantry Regiment. After the Congress of Vienna, 1815, this regiment was named the Imperial Royal Archduke Rainer 11th Line Infantry Regiment and the name was changed to Crownprince Albert von Sachsen in 1854.



M. B. marking placed on cover at Podmokly (Bodenbach).



M. B. marking placed on cover at Cheb (Eger).

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The regiment had its recruiting commands in Pisek and in Jindrichuv Hradec (Neuhaus). When the regiment was first organized in 1801 it was called the 11th Bohemian Infantry Regiment and was one of the oldest regiments of Austria.

The various garrisons were located at the following places:

1802 -----	Praha	1818 -----	Praha
1804 -----	Pisek	1830 ----	Jindrichuv Hradec
1806 -----	Praha	1842 -----	Josefov
1810 -----	Kolin	1847 -----	Mainz
1814 -----	Praha	1856 -----	Venice
1816 -----	Elsass	1866 -----	Linz

The covers on hand date back to 1832 and the greatest number is from Mainz and to Mainz, 1847-56.

Field Post markings in Mainz of this regiment were those of the regular Austrian postmarks; two straight lines giving the city in one line and the day and month in the second line. This was discontinued on October 1, 1852 when the Thurn and Taxis postal service took over the postal administration of the Austrian regiments. However, during the period of Austrian postmarks, letters addressed to the regiment from Mainz possess a small single circle Thurn and Taxis postmark with full date and time given. In addition, it is of interest to note that letters mailed by the regiment to offices in German States were also handled by the Thurn and Taxis postal service and not by the field post office of the regiment. This was the double circle postmark with full date and time given. It is apparent that only mail addressed to Austria was managed by the field post office.

Official mail from various towns and cities of Bohemia and Moravia to the 11th regiment command were all marked M. B. (Militaer Brief, Military Letter). This marking was affixed at different sorting or transit points, i.e., Praha (Prag), Podmokly (Bodenbach) and Cheb (Eger) and therefore they vary slightly from each other.

This most interesting collection could well fit into an Austrian one since the 11th regiment was politically Austrian but nationally a true Czech regiment.

All the items to Mainz and from Mainz, of course, could be considered part of a German collection.

I am placing it in my Postal History of Czechoslovakia. I suppose I must call it "forerunners" especially as that term covers so well many a sin committed in philatelic classification.

PERFORATIONS OF CZECHOSLOVAK CHARITY STAMPS OF 1919

By Jan Karásek

Translated by Joseph J. Jiraneck

This issue, in six values, was not received with much joy by collectors. The issue was 5 million copies, valid for only eight days—Oct. 27 to Nov. 3, 1919, so not very many were sold, the majority being left on the postoffice shelves. Even the commemorative overprint did not increase sales.

One very interesting facet of this issue is the perforations. Because of such a large issue, perforating was done on more than one machine. A large portion of the "Mother and Child" stamp was comb perforated $13\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$. The Lion stamp was perforated $13\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$. Another portion of both stamps was line

perforated $13\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ and $11\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{1}{4}$. These two perforations are most common, except on the 50 hal. blue, with perforation $11\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{1}{4}$. When some of the perforating machines broke down, many partially perforated sheets were shifted to another machine, thus creating compound and mixed perforations.

So far, five types of perforations have been found—one type of comb perforation, three types of compound perforations and one type of line perforation. Four types are rather rare, and in comparison with some of the Hradčany rare perforations, are rather underpriced. We know of only one collector who has a complete collection of all perforations in mint stamps, and another with mint and used stamps. It seems that the stamps with the mixed perforations were overprinted with the commemorative overprint. There are a number of collections complete except for four of the rare perforations. Centering is poor, showing that the job was done in a hurry and without much supervision, many sheets being only part perforated or double perforated and passed by the inspectors. Sometimes the last line of perforations, vertical or horizontal, was missed and when discovered, put through another perforator, producing compound perforations such as $11\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{1}{4} \times 10\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{1}{4}$ on the 15 hal. stamp or $11\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{1}{4} \times 11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ on the 25 hal. stamp. There is no doubt that some of this stuff was smuggled out for sale under the counter.



PRAGA 1962

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**A STUDY OF POSITION 78 OF THE 20 HELLER STAMP
OF THE FIRST ISSUE**

By **John Velek**

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In an article published in STAMPS of April 2, 1949, I reported a newly discovered retouch of the large period after the numeral on the 20 heller stamp of the "Hradčany" issue of Czechoslovakia. Of the many prominent plate varieties on the first issue, this "period after 20" has been one of the best known. I had succeeded in plating the first two plates of this stamp and in my study of the plate markings, had discovered the retouch.

Over the years I have acquired more material, and later study indicated that altogether four plates were used in producing the 20 heller stamp, and that the dot after the 20 had existed on all four plates.

Czechoslovakia was declared a republic on October 28, 1918, and the Graphic Union of Prague was pressed into service to print its first stamps. With no previous experience in stamp production and with wartime materials and conditions prevailing, a rather crude job resulted. Many glaring plate varieties exist and in the rush to get stamps into circulation, not much effort was made to retouch them.

The first 20 heller stamps were issued on December 30, 1918, and they were valid for postage until April 30, 1921. Four plates were used and following is a description of position 78 and its retouches from each plate.

Plate I—Unknown unretouched. I have never seen a stamp from Plate I with the dot after the value figure. As far as I know it was retouched before going to press.

Plate I Retouch—All that remains of the dot after the 20 is a thickening of the lower right side of the tablet line. In the retouching, a small piece was broken out of the upper right tablet line. The Plate I stamp is identified by a break in the upper left heart and in the right side of the sun. There is a nick in the panel between the "P" and "O" of POSTA. (Fig. 1).

Plate II—This plate had the large dot after the 20 throughout most of its life. The break in the top frame between the "S" and "T" of POSTA and the two small breaks in the sun identify this plate. (Fig. 2).

Plate II Retouch—The dot must have been retouched near the end of the life of the Plate, as the retouch is very rare. A crude job was done, leaving a short line where the dot had been. (Fig. 3).

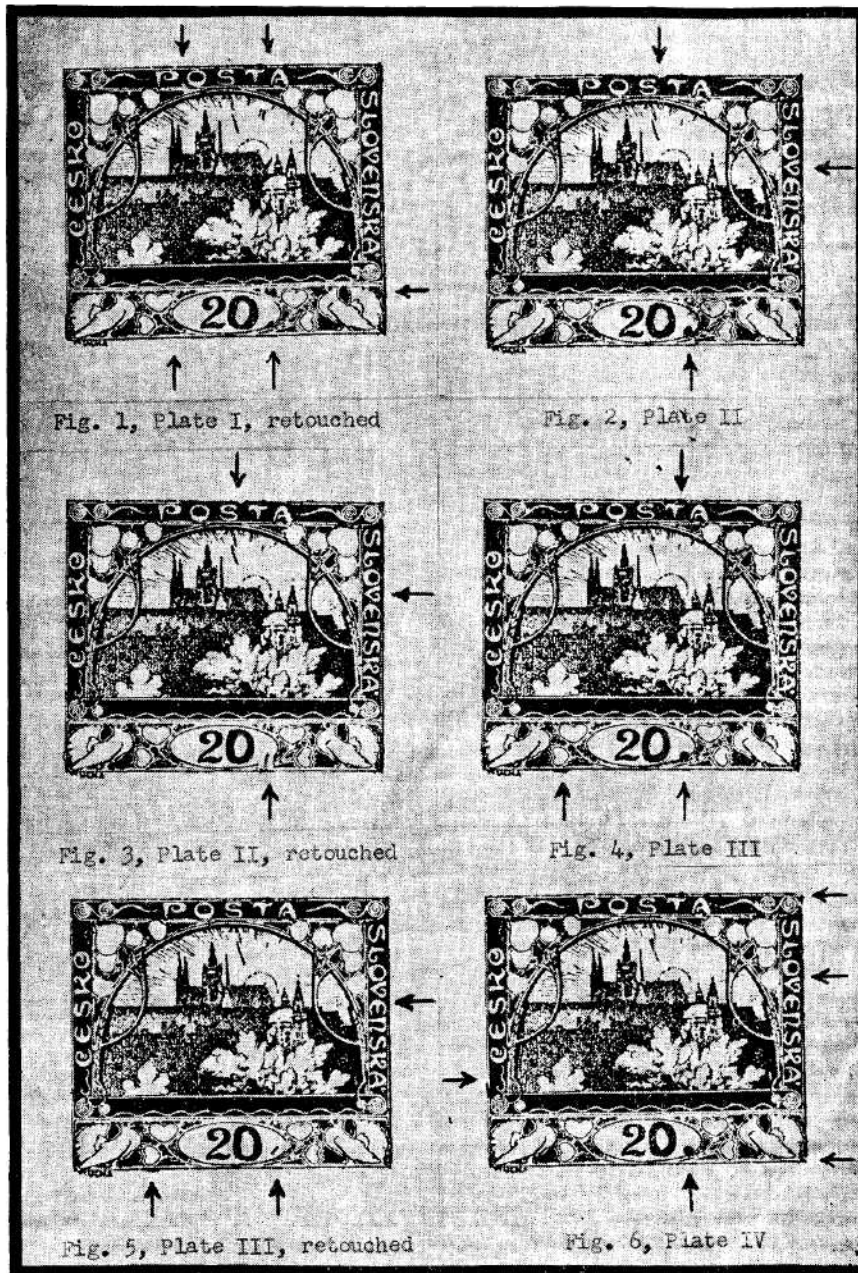
Plate III—This plate is identified by a small break in the right side of the sun and a thick spot in the bottom frame line below the left heart. (Fig. 4).

Plate III Retouch—In this case the retouch is found as often as the variety so the work must have been done about midway in the life of the Plate. Here again a short line was left where the dot had been and the right side of the tablet line was damaged. (Fig. 5).

Plate IV—Position 78 on this plate is identified by breaks in the left frame and in both right corners. Of course, it also has the dot after the 20. (Fig. 6).

PLATE IV Retouch—I have never found a copy of this stamp with the dot unretouched and would be interested in seeing a stamp with the plate marks of this position but without the dot.

One point of interest remains. Plates I and II were used together and Plates III and IV were also used as a pair. The variation in the timing of the retouches possess a real mystery.



IN MEMORIAM BOHUMIL HEINZ

By Karel Basika

Translated by Joseph J. Jiranek

It was a beautiful month of May in Turnov, when Eduard Karel, Karel Vik and Karel Kinský were awaiting with pleasure the arrival of Bohumil Heinz. He also was looking forward with anticipation to his vacation in the Šeský Ráj with his friends. Alas, it was not to be, because he suddenly passed away May 22, 1940, ending an early and very promising life. It has been said that the Nazis worked him to death.

After graduating from the high school in Rakovník, Heinz enrolled in the Ceramic School in Bechyn. During World War I he was inducted into the Austrian army and saw action on the Russian and Italian fronts. After the war, he attended the Industrial Arts Institute in Praha, studying with Prof. J. Schusser and V. J. Brunner and attending a special class of Prof. F. Kyselý. He received instructions in engraving and other graphic arts from Prof. Eduard Karel, the grand master of Czech engravers. After graduation Heinz made his living designing posters, book plates, etc., but kept improving himself in engraving, his main objective.

The first, and to him, important, order for engraving, was from the Czech Bank for a Christmas card, based on a design of Mánes. In 1932 Heinz received a trial order from LaRue of London, for a banknote engraving for Siam, featuring the portrait of the King of Siam. The work was so well accomplished that LaRue contracted with him for other work and also asked him to move to London. Heinz was unwilling to do that, because his great desire was to engrave Czech stamps and banknotes. For LaRue he engraved the portrait of George V for the Jubilee stamp, banknotes and stamps for Greece, Uruguay, Sweden and China. In 1934, on his own time, he designed and engraved a stamp for the anniversary of B. Smetana and offered it to the Postal Department. However, the engraving of this stamp had been given to Seizinger, so the engraving was not used until 1949 for the 125th anniversary. Jindra Schmidt completed the engraving. His first commission from the Postal Department was for a stamp with the portrait of A. Dvořák, from a design by V. Fiala. From then on Heinz was given more and more work on Czech stamps of his own design or of designs of other artists.

Although his total production is small in comparison with some other engravers, it nevertheless raised the artistic value of Czech stamps to unusual heights. His love for stamp engraving was well expressed in a radio broadcast, in which he said in part—"remember how they are created, that every line and dot is a result of patient, slow work. The time is not considered in this work which may take days. Look at the stamp with a magnifying glass, as the engraver has looked at the steel for hours and days! You will love it, even if you are not a stamp collector."

The Kolín Philatelic Club awarded him in 1943 the Honorary Kolín Award, the highest philatelic honor, for his work on Czech stamps.

Heinz's motto was—

"Design for bread—
Engraving for honor—"

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JAN ŽIŽKA OF TROCNÓV

By Lad. Kropáč

Translated by George R. Skopecek

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Jan Žižka hailed from Southern Bohemia, the cradle of the Husite movement. Micoláš Aleš vividly depicts the Husites—"God's Warriors"—and the reign in his painting "Taborsko" as a part of a series of paintings "Vlast" which he produced for the new National Theater. (Scott, Czechoslovakia Nos. 562-563).

Žižka gained his military knowledge in Poland, where with some other Czechs, he took part in the battle of Grunwald. The Crusaders were decisively defeated in this battle (Poland No. SZ1 of 1945). In Poland he acquired a taste for the native dress and wore it thereafter (Czechoslovakia Nos. 552, 555).

When Žižka returned to Bohemia he became an eager follower of Jan Hus and an adversary of Emperor Zigmund. After Hus was martyred, Žižka, to avenge him, assembled a great army of peasants, mostly from the Tábor region. Many of them were armed with iron-shod flails.

In his forays and campaigns he successfully defeated all enemies of the movement, and at one time actually reached the Baltic Sea. At the head of the army were always the Husite priests (Nos. 74-75). The 30h. stamp of 1953 (No. 614) shows a Husite warrior with a sword and shield.

On the hill of Vítkov, from which Žižka directed a great battle and defeated the Zigmund army and the Crusaders, stands his equestrian statue (Russia 20kop 1951, No. 1605). Here Žižka lost his remaining eye, having already lost the other when about 24 years old. Undefeated, he died September 11, 1424.

In his death, the Husites lost not only a great general, but also a great leader, and thereafter the movement began slowly to disintegrate.

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