

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

A publication of the Czechoslovak  Philatelic Society of N. America

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EDITORIAL

In his December Editorial, our friend Kovarik made mention that detailed reports on the meetings of the active Branches will be forthcoming. We wish to do this especially as we feel that many members of our Society will find interesting what philatelic material was shown and what discussion transpired in regard to the presentation at a particular meeting. Also, we cannot see how anyone can object to this because our publication is the official organ of our Society and we do not have a news letter to cover all such matters.

In this issue there is a brief note from our Sales Manager. We believe that there is no one in philately who has held that job so long in a society. Our Mr. Fritzsche is one of our charter members. He is an ardent philatelist who has received many national and international awards for his entries at exhibitions. He is always ready to give a helping hand whenever he is called upon to serve as a judge or to forward the interest of philately in any way. You will note that he is also on our Editorial Board and we may look forward to some articles from him.

Your new Membership Chairman is taking his assignment very seriously. We firmly believe that our membership can easily be increased. Of course, the primary job will be the attempt to recover some of the "lost souls." We have a strange feeling that many members who have not paid their dues may be returned to the fold upon an appropriate follow-up.

As you may have read in other philatelic publications, our President was elected President of the American Air Mail Society and at the time of the convention of the society he received an honor award for his entry at Curiosa, the highest award given for an entry at that exhibition. Your Editor has recently been elected President of the Postal History Society of the Americas.

We learned that Mr. David Lidman, one of our members, has been ill for a while and we hope that by the time this publication reaches him, he will be completely well again. We do not believe that we need to mention that Mr. Lidman is the Stamp Editor of the New York Times.

After careful study of the availability as well as the advisability, we decided to publish articles of general interest also. We will, of course, always give preference to articles dealing with issues of our specialty but some general articles are of great interest to specialists too and it would be a shame not to offer those to our members.

We wish our membership to know that our predecessor, Frank, offered to handle the mailing of the Specialist. We wish to thank him for this publicly

also. He wrote us a note quite recently saying that after a while he will supply us with articles.

We have a goodly number of members. We believe that there are many among you who could assist in the Membership Drive. We have a number of members who could assist also in writing articles for the Specialist. As a matter of fact, we could name a few without any effort. It is your Journal, folks, so why not go about it the right way and help along?

We recall how often requests appeared in the Editorials for ads in our Specialist. I suppose, we must do this, also. You or most of you, are connected with a dealer. Why not go after him to place an ad in our publication? It surely is cheap enough. Rates appear in another section of this issue.

OUR SALES DEPARTMENT

It is a very long time since I last had a notice in our paper. We have been in existence for over twenty years now and still going strong. Some of the original participants are still on our mailing list. This alone seems to show that one may be able to find new items all the time. Of course, specialized Czechoslovakia is sorely needed, as most of our members are always on the lookout for varieties. New Czech material does not sell too well and first day covers cannot be given away. We had them in circulation at prices lower than the individual stamps are priced, but there were no takers. Postal stationery seems to have become popular and such items, at least up to now, have always found a ready buyer.

This department has a large accumulation of mounted Czechoslovakia on hand. The stamps are mounted on Kobyłka pages and therefore are too large to circulate as part of our standard-sized circuits. Here is a listing of the items on hand. Anyone interested please contact your sales manager, Mr. Wolfgang Fritzsche, P. O. Box 8, Canandaigua, N. Y.

1. 1st Republic, 1918-1939, Kobyłka pages (no stamps).
2. Bohemia-Moravia, complete mint with extras, all mounted.
3. Bohemia-Moravia, specialty items mint, all mounted.
4. Slovakia, complete mint, 1st issue expertized, all mounted.
5. Czechoslovakia 1945-39, 128 stamps, cat. val. \$29.60, all mounted.
6. 1950-55, 178 stamps, cat. val. \$51.22, all mounted.
7. 1956-58, 103 stamps, cat. val. \$19.61, all mounted.
8. 1958, 26 stamps, cat. val. \$3.93, all mounted.
9. Complete sheets, Czecho newspaper stamps, P27-36.
10. Complete sheets of 100, officials, O8, 9, 11, 12, 15.

DECEMBER CHICAGO BRANCH MEETING

One of the best attended meetings of the Chicago Branch took place Sunday December 10, 1961. Some skeptics were sure that a subject other than Czechoslovakia would deter many from attending, yet, despite the freezing weather and the icy streets, about thirty members and their friends came to see the outstanding collection of Newfoundland Air Mail stamps and hear its owner, Dr. James J. Matejka, Jr.

One often hears that stamp collectors "detest" anything they themselves do not collect. This meeting proved it is not so; certainly, no one other than the speaker, owned any of the rarities which were shown that afternoon. Dr. Matejka is a collector who makes sure before he speaks; he made several trips to Newfoundland to gather information first hand on the several historical flights which originated in that country and the background of every stamp. The collection consists of original designs, die proofs and plate proofs; of singles,

multiples, blocks and sheets; of covers, autographs, newspaper clippings, letters, etc. And the etc. covers much. Questions were asked and answered and those attending vowed they'll not miss another meeting.

The January meeting will be held on the 14th of the month and the speaker of the day will be Joseph J. Jiranek, who will show his collection of Field Posts of WW II. At this meeting an election of branch officers will take place and a plan for more interesting meetings will be discussed.

This report should have been sent to the editor sooner but because of the holidays and a houseful of guests it was delayed considerably. Your reporter expresses a hope that future reports will be dispatched earlier. At the same time, the Chicago Branch invites everyone in the Chicago area, as well as visitors to the Windy City who happen to be here on the second Sunday of the month except July and August, to visit with the members and enjoy an interesting afternoon.

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HRADČANY SPECIALIZED

by John Velek

This fine volume can be had for \$3.00 from the publisher, postpaid. Kindly send your orders to Fritz Billig, 168-39 Highland Ave., Jamaica 33, N. Y. By buying this book you are helping your Society; a percentage from the sales of this book is paid to the treasury. Be sure to mention you read this in the CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST.

Fakes of Czechoslovak Field Post Covers from Siberia

By Jaroslav J. Verner

(Reprinted by permission from the Postal History Journal)



Fig. 1. Fake Field Post Office cover from the author's collection. Fakes of this type of cover are very easily detected (see text).

We happened to be in Nurnberg last August when the impressive "Der Brief" exhibition opened and, naturally, we took the opportunity to attend on the opening day. This exhibition attempted, with great success, to show the development of the letter during the last five hundred years. It was well organized and well laid out. The organizers were not only conscious of the need for a traffic pattern at such an exhibit, but also were conscious of the overall visual impression conveyed by each frame and by each group of frames. Philatelists from all over the world had contributed material, and much more was borrowed from museums in an attempt to make the story of the letter as complete as possible. The only thing we did not like was that there was no way of knowing what material came from where. Two reasons were given for this: First, to protect the identity of owners of rare and valuable property, and, second, to simplify mounting as frames were difficult to mark because many contained material from several sources.

One can imagine then what a shock it was to find a philatelic fraud in such an exhibit! In the one frame of Czechoslovak material there was an item purporting to be a cover, sent by a Czech legionnaire from Siberia to Prague, which would be an interesting item if genuine. (This cover was an almost exact duplicate of one in my own collection, right down to the addressee, Fig. 1.)

Fakes Easily Detected

Not only are such covers fakes, but also they are the simplest of fakes to detect! Here is why: the stamps on the cover are perforated $13\frac{3}{4}$, a perforation cut in Prague after the return of the Field Post Office from Siberia. In

addition, there are a few other things about this cover that do not sit right: (1) the fact that there are three different cancellations immediately makes one suspect a philatelic cover; (2) the addressee, Rössler-Orovsky, is a name connected with charges of manipulation of the Scout and other Czechoslovak provisional issues; (3) the address does not include the name of the country to which it is destined, although letters from Siberia to Czechoslovakia were treated as International mail; (4) it might be noted that the most common arrangement of the address on genuine Siberian covers follows the Russian practice with country of destination first; (5) genuine covers nearly always have a return address or at least the stamp of the unit to which the sender belonged—this cover has neither; (6) and lastly, it is quite unusual to find typed envelopes coming from Siberia. Put all these little items together and the only conclusion that can be drawn is that what we see here is a cover manufactured in Prague sometime after the return of the Field Post in 1920.

It was possible to manufacture such covers because, for some time after his return to Prague, Lt. Anthony Novotný, director of the Field Post while it was in Siberia, retained the cancelling stamps in his personal possession. He, or some friend of his, made rather free use of them to satisfy the demands of various philatelists.

Altered Cover

While we are on the subject of manufactured covers, let's examine another and more interesting item. Figs. 2 and 3 show both sides of a cover that, perhaps, should not be classed as manufactured but rather as altered. Basically, it is a genuine Siberian cover. Note the return address, the unit stamp, and the form of the address. It has been ruined, however, by someone who tried to in-



Fig. 2. To a genuine cover, a postage stamp and three hand cancellations were surreptitiously added.

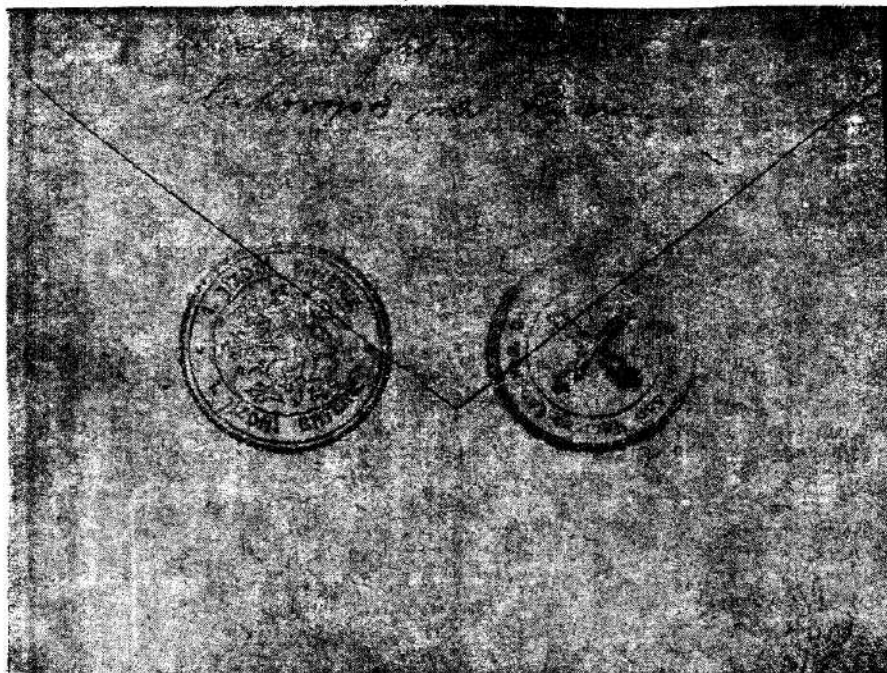


Fig. 3. Back of cover shown in Fig. 2.

crease the philatelic value of the item. The stamp and the three hand cancellations on the face of the cover were added in Czechoslovakia. In his 1949 catalog, Novotný warns of covers with the round black cancellation with the 1919 center and classes them as fakes. When last in Prague I talked to two well known Czech experts about this very cancellation and they maintained that this cancellation stamp never reached Siberia.

The culprit again seems to be Lt. Novotný. It seems quite certain that after returning to Prague, Novotný, either alone or with others (some people say Rössler-Orovsky was in on this one, too), gathered normally used covers from Legionnaires and proceeded to alter them. Basically, then, this cover is genuine, but as we see it here it is a fraud.

The author would be interested to know how many American collections contain items of this kind. Names will of course remain confidential.

ADVERTISING RATES IN THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

	One insertion	10 insertions
FULL PAGE	\$10.00	\$8.00
HALF PAGE	6.00	5.00
QUARTER PAGE	4.00	3.25
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Parade Of New Issues

Edited by Frank Kosik

Special Emission for "The PRAGA 1962 World Exhibition of Postage Stamps"
(Part One)



To give publicity to the Praga 1962 World Exhibition of Postage Stamps, the Ministry of Transport and Communication has issued on October 25, 1961, the first part of a new emission of stamps featuring Czechoslovakia's artistic and scenic points of interest and the construction work of socialism.

The stamps are of the following denominations, themes and colors:

- a) 20h Orlik Dam; grey and blue.
- b) 30h View of Prague showing the Prague Castle, the lesser town, and Old Town; blue and red.
- c) 40h Hluboká Castle; blue and green.
- d) 60h Karlovy Vary (Carlsbad); gray and yellow-green.
- e) 1.20 Kčs North-Bohemia landscape; green and pink.
- f) 3.— Kčs Brno; blue and yellow.
- g) 4.— Kčs Bratislava; blue and violet.

All stamps were designed by Professor Cyril Bouda. The engravings were carried out by Jiri Švengsbír (a, e, g), Ladislav Jirka (b), and Jan Mráček (c, d, f), respectively. The photogravure ground tint for all stamps was executed by Jaroslav Goldschmied.

All stamps were printed by the rotary print combined with photogravure in the Communications Printing Office in sheets of 50. Dimensions of the stamps are 41x23 mm.

The stamps are valid in internal and international postal use from October 25, 1961, until further notice.

With this emission three First Day Covers were issued, designed by Professor Cyril Bouda and engraved by Jaroslav Goldschmied. The stamps on the first covers will be in denominations of 30 h and 4 Kčs, the second 60 h and 3 Kčs, and the third 20 h, 40 h and 1.20 Kčs.

Butterfly Issue



On November 27, 1961, the Ministry of Transport and Communication issued a series of 9 postage stamps with butterflies as their theme in the following values and colors:

- 15 h Anthocharis Cardamines L., in blue, yellow, orange and brown.
- 20 h Zerynthia hysipyle Sch., in blue, yellow, orange and brown
- 30 h Parnassius Apollo L., in blue, green, red and brown
- 40 h Papilio Machaon L., in blue, yellow, red and brown
- 60 h Nymphalis Antiopa L., in blue, red, yellow and brown
- 80 h Nymphalis Io L., in blue, dark red, yellow and brown
- 1.— Kčs Catacola Fraxini L., in blue, brick red, yellow and brown
- 1.60 Kčs Vanessa Atalanta L., in blue, brick red, yellow and brown
- 2.— Kčs Gonepteryx Rhamni L., in blue, lemon yellow and brown.

All the stamps in this series were designed by the National Artist Prof. Max Švabinský and were engraved by Jindra Schmidt.

The stamps have been printed by the Printing Office of the Ministry of Transport and Communications in 4-color, steel-engraved, printed sheets of 10 pieces each. The dimensions of the pictorial portion of the stamps are 22x38 mm.

Dating from November 27, 1961, the stamps will continue to be valid for inland and international communications until further notice is given.

The issue included 3 First Day Issue envelopes designed by Prof. Max Švabinský and engraved by Schmidt.

Vth World Trade Union Congress in Moscow



On the occasion of the Vth World Trade Union Congress—which took place

in Moscow between the 4th and 16th of December 1961—the Czechoslovak Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications issued on November 27th a single stamp in the denomination of 60 h.

The stamp was designed by the academic artist Mirek Juna and engraved by Jaroslav Goldschmied.

It was printed by rotary recess print combined with photogravure in the Post Printing Office in Prague in sheets of 50. The color is red and blue. The dimensions of the stamp picture are 41x23 mm.

The stamp is valid in internal and international postal use from November 27, 1961, until further notice.

Mirek Juna is also the author of the cachet on the First Day Cover, Jaroslav Goldschmied is the engraver.

COMPEX TO HOST THE BUREAU OF PRINTING AND ENGRAVING SYMPOSIUM

COMPEX, (The Combined Philatelic Exhibition of Chicagoland) will be the host to a symposium featuring the Bureau of Printing and Engraving together with the officials of the United States Post Office Department. At the Hotel La Salle's Grand Ballroom on February 16th, 1962, at 8:00 p.m. Chicagoland philatelists are welcome to attend interesting lectures by these distinguished personnel, which is to be the first of its kind to have been given west of our Nation's Capitol.

A premiere slide program will also be shown for the first time under the sponsorship of the Post Office Department while members of the Bureau's engraving, designing and artists staff will be present. Admission is free.

To those philatelists who are not familiar with the Giori press and the actual engraving and printing of the stamps of the United States this will be an opportunity to see first hand how our stamps are made. Questions from the floor will be welcomed. This program will simplify the subject of the manufacture of postage stamps so that those unfamiliar will find this much easier than the study of same from any handbook.

Mr. James F. Kelleher, Special Assistant to the Postmaster General will be present as will Mr. Franklin R. Bruns, Jr., Director of the Division of Philately. Many of the newer stamp panels pertaining to the birth of a postage stamp will also be shown.

As there will be a Citizens Stamp Advisory meeting held at the La Salle during the day, many of the members of this committee will also be present.

Through this evening of lecture it is hoped that these COMPEX members will become actively enthused and will get their individual exhibits ready well in advance of the forthcoming mammoth exhibition, May 25-26-27 featuring the theme TOWARD UNITED NATIONS.

This symposium is another featured service of the members of COMPEX to the philatelists throughout the middle west.

BRANCH MEETINGS

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

Horizontal Comb Perforations on Czechoslovak Stamps

By Jan Karásek

Translated and Edited by Jaroslav J. Verner

In philately we sometimes come across the term "horizontal comb." This term refers to a method of perforating differing from the usual comb perforation in that the comb proceeds from left to right or right to left rather than from bottom to top or top to bottom.

On Czechoslovak stamps this type of perforation is to be found in two values of each of two issues of 1920. They are the 5h violet and 10h olive of the "dove" issue (Pofis No. 144A and 146A; Scott 82 and 83) and the 40h red-brown and the blue 60h of the "chainbreaker" issue (Pofis 154 IA and 157A; Scott No. 71 and 73). Other values of the "dove" or "chainbreaker" issues are not known to have been perforated with the horizontal comb.

The Czech catalog Pofis says of these stamps: "These stamps have a comb perforation moving horizontally (the so-called 'lying comb')." This perforation is quite rare and is sought by many specialized collectors of Czechoslovak stamps. However, many collectors do not know how it is possible to differentiate stamps with this perforation from those that have the regular perpendicular comb perforation. The following comments set down several means of identifying this perforation in these issues.

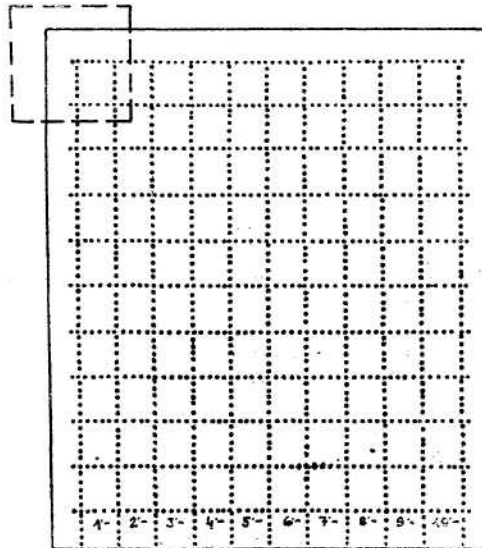


Fig. 1—Sketch of the normal perpendicular perforation of a sheet of 100 stamps.

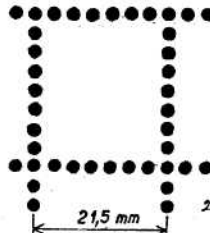


Fig. 2—Upper corner (left) perforation.

Normal Comb Perforation 14

Most of the stamps of the "dove" and "chainbreaker" issues were perforated by a comb perforator proceeding from top to bottom and making 11 strikes in all (fig. 1) The rows of horizontal perforations proceed one perforation hole into the margin on both the right and left sides of the sheet. (fig. 2) Only one margin on a sheet, the bottom one, is perforated through by the last, or the eleventh, strike of the perforator. In these stamps the perforation cuts between the accounting numbers at the bottom of each sheet. (fig. 3)



Fig. 3

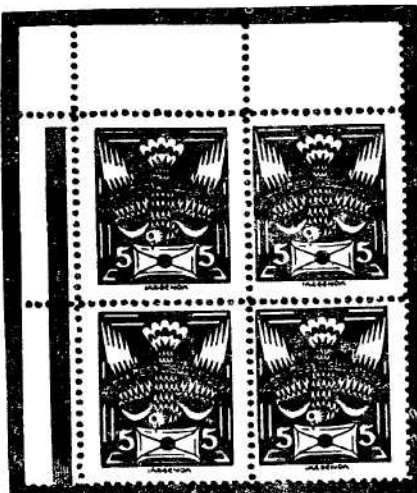


Fig. 4

Fig. 3—Lower left block of four with a normal comb perforation. (Comb perforations can also proceed from bottom to top, depending on how the sheet of stamps was fed into the perforator.)

Fig. 4—Block of four with a $13\frac{3}{4}$ line perforation that clearly shows the difference between comb and line perforations. Note that in line perforations the perforations extend through both the horizontal and perpendicular margins.

Comb Perforation Proceeding horizontally

Beside the normal comb perforation, a smaller number of the four values mentioned above were perforated on another perforating machine. These were perforated horizontally from left to right or right to left. (fig. 5).

The first strike of the perforating comb began at the left of the left column of stamps (or right of the right column) and ended to the right of the right column (or left of the left column) of stamps. The direction of the comb depended on how the sheets were fed into the perforator. It is obvious, therefore, that it is easiest to tell on margin stamps whether they were perforated by a regular or horizontal comb. It is much more difficult to identify the type of comb perforation on stamps that were in the body of the sheet. Fortunately we are helped here by the irregularities typical of comb perforations.

During the normal and accurate progression of a comb perforator the perforations meet precisely and thus form exact corners with one perfect perforation hole at the intersection point. However, in instances when the perforating machinery does not function exactly right, the perforations caused by succeeding strikes of the perforator may vary in several different ways:

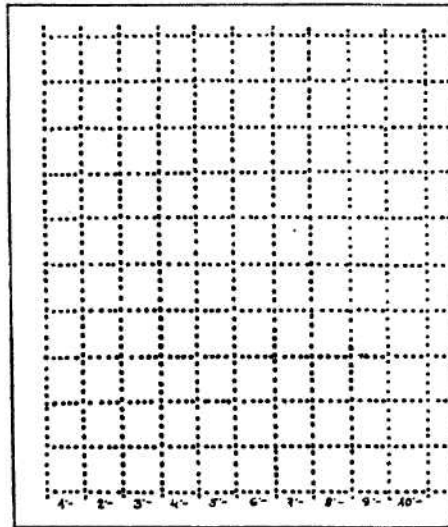


Fig. 5—Sheet of 100 stamps perforated left to right by a horizontal comb.

1. When the moving table of the perforator moves too far, a slight gap will appear in the perforation at the point where one strike should succeed another, forming the so-called extended comb perforation. (fig. 7).
2. When the moving table of the perforator does not move far enough, less space occurs between two successive strikes and the so-called shortened

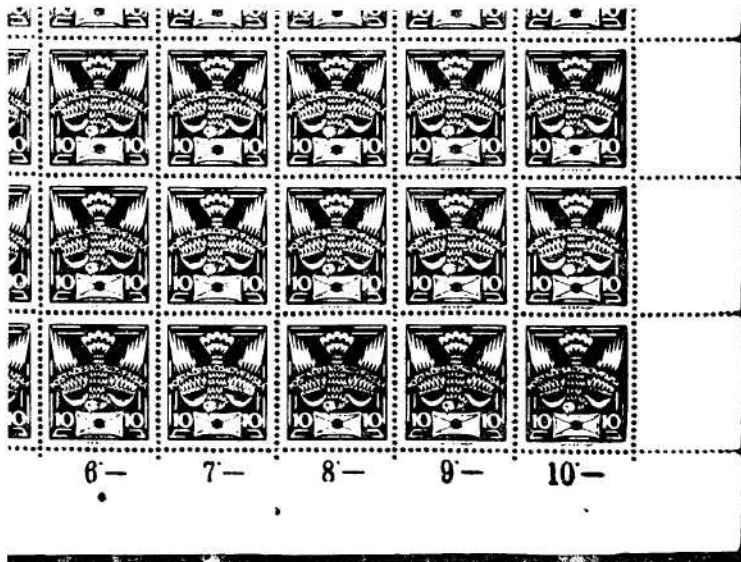


Fig. 6—Part of a sheet that clearly shows horizontal comb perforations. The right margin of the sheet is perforated and therefore no perforation appears between the numbers at the bottom of the sheet.

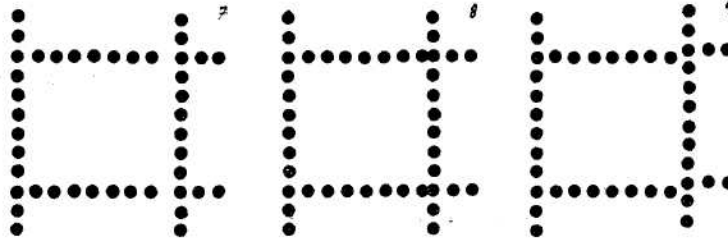


Fig. 7—Extended comb. Fig. 8—Shortened comb. Fig. 9—Upward deviating perf.

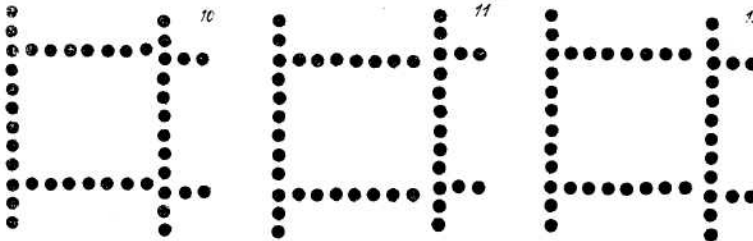


Fig. 10—Downward deviating perforation.

Fig. 11—Extended comb with upward deviation.

Fig. 12—Extended comb with downward deviation.

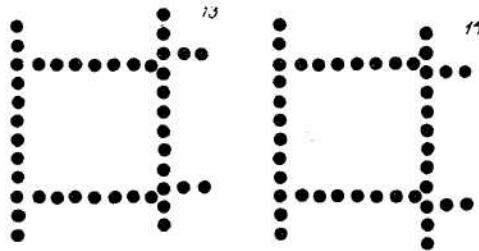


Fig. 13—Shortened comb with upward deviation.

Fig. 14—Shortened comb with downward deviation.

comb is formed. (fig. 8).

3. If the moving table deviates slightly to the right or left during the perforating process, the regularity of the perforation will also deviate to the right or left. (figs. 9 and 10).

4. In the issues under consideration, both the extended and shortened combs are known to exist in combination with the comb that has deviated either to the right or left. (fig. 11 through 14). Obviously all of these variations can occur during any comb perforation, be it horizontal or vertical.

The above mentioned variations of the comb perforator are our main aids in identifying horizontal comb perforations if we have pairs, strips, or blocks of these stamps. These perforation variations are much more difficult to identify on individual stamps. However, it is possible to identify any of these variations by comparing the right and left top and bottom corners of a single stamp under a 4 to 6 power magnifying glass.

The most difficult horizontal comb perforation to identify occurred when the table of the comb perforator did not deviate to either side. This caused a normal comb perforation, though even in these cases a shortened or extended comb

often occurred. Stamps with a shortened or extended comb can be identified by measuring the distance between the perpendicular perforations of the stamp. The perpendicular teeth of the comb used were exactly 21.5 mm apart. Any deviation from this distance indicates an extended or shortened horizontal comb perforation.

The author submits this table of relative value. Though the values are listed in Czechoslovak crowns, the table will be of value to the reader because



Fig. 16—40h red-brown stamp that indicates the first strike of a horizontal comb perforation.



Fig. 15—Perforation does not extend through the margin. Comparison of the top and bottom of the right perpendicular perforation indicates a shortened comb. The width of the stamp is 21.5 mm.



Fig. 17



Fig. 18

Fig. 17—Stamp with right margin perforated by horizontal comb (11th strike).
 Fig. 18—60h blue stamp also with right margin perforated by 11th strike.

it shows comparative value of the stamps under consideration.

Value	Perpendicular comb		Horizontal comb		pairs	margin stamps	corner stamps
	perforation	14	perforation	perforation			
"dove"	* o		* o		* or o	* or o	* or o
5h violet	.20	.10	70.—	30.—	+10-20%	+20-30%	+50%
10h olive	.10	.05	60.—	25.—	+10-20%	+20-30%	+50%
"chainbreaker"							
40h red-brown (9 leaves)	43.—	.05	80.—	35.—	+15-20%	+20-30%	+50%
40h (10 leaves)	.80	.05					
60k blue	.80	.05	100.—	40.—	+15-20%	+20-30%	+50%

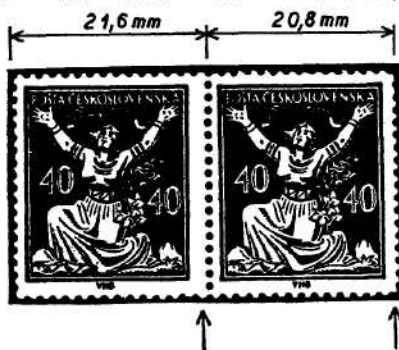


Fig. 19—Left stamp has an extended comb and the right a shortened comb. The distance between the perpendicular perforations indicates a horizontal comb perforation.

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