

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

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Vol. XXV

September 1963

No. 235

EDITORIAL

Enclosed the voting members will find the ballot for the election of officers for 1964-65. We wish to make only one pertinent remark. Our National Secretary, Mr. F. J. Kosik, has worked hard for the Specialist, as all of you were able to note during 1962-63. In addition the secretary has kept his records in top shape, as we understand it and information has been reaching us all along that he has always responded promptly to requests of all types by members. We have also evidence on hand substantiating our supposition that our society has one of its best national secretaries in Mr. Kosik. We have not had the pleasure of meeting our secretary but we earnestly hope that he will be able to continue his very fine work for the advantage of our society for many years to come.

On July 12th we attended a meeting of the Cleveland members. There were nineteen members and guests present. We believe it of interest to state that there were three past presidents of our society attending. The fourth past president, Mr. Secky from New York, was unable to travel to Cleveland though he had so intended. Before the meeting we had dinner downstairs in the Sokol-Tyrč Hall. Four ladies accompanied their husbands to this affair. Mr. Blizil opened the meeting and Mr. Zahradnicek spoke about the real active branch meetings in 1945-49. Your Editor said a few words emphasizing that this meeting is also a farewell to Mr. Blizil who was in the process of moving to Florida. We showed some of our Czechoslovak Postal History material. George Blizil showed us a complete collection of the stamps from 1949-1963 in a specially bound volume. Each set was on a special presentation sheet. Mr. Walther from Warren brought along one album containing many of the Pošta Československá 1919 issues as well as recently acquired music sheets. Mr. Prokupek collects first day covers and we saw a most marvelous collection of the Czechoslovak Army in Great Britain belonging to Mr. Matiaska. Member Dolak collects many countries and we saw some very fine Swiss items of his. All in all we had a marvelous time there, especially when we heard that the members were seriously considering meeting regularly again. The others present were Pata, Pesek, Klozar, Fiser, Kalal, Katab, Hradliek and Coyne.

We have benefitted greatly by this meeting due to the suggestion of member Klozar that we should insert an index every few months in the Specialist. Therefore from now on there will be an index for January-June in the September issue of the Specialist and for September-December in the February issue. We are sure that our members will be quite happy with this innovation. We

found that it did not entail too much work to organize the index in this issue.

In Columbus we spent an evening with our only member there, Mr. Verba, which we enjoyed very much.

Members may be interested to learn that W. Fritzsche received the silver-bronze medal at the International Exhibition in Luxembourg. Dr. Matejka received the Conrath award as the outgoing president of the American Air Mail Society and your Editor was elected honorary member of the East Pakistan Society of Philatelists.

NEW YORK BRANCH MEETINGS

At the May meeting Dr. Reiner-Deutsch described the trials and tribulations of the 11th Bohemian Infantry Regiment. The correspondence, in the form of lettersheets and quite some covers, reveals that there were many court cases involving individual soldiers of the Regiment. The speaker displayed items from 1832 to 1866. Many of the items were from Mainz where the Regiment spent nine years though the recruiting continued to be done from the Pisek and Jind. Hradec areas of Bohemia. In 1856 the Regiment was moved to Italy where it stayed for ten years.

In June the Branch had its annual dinner meeting. This was most successful. There were 32 members and guests present in the Sokol Hall which served most delicious food. Mr. Secky remarked that it was an excellent choice of a place to hold the dinner. The owner of the restaurant assured the membership that next year it will be even more efficiently arranged. There were brief speeches by Mr. Horesny, branch president; Mr. Stein, branch secretary-treasurer and Dr. Reiner-Deutsch of the Specialist.

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Anyone not receiving a ballot with his September issue of the Specialist (exception: foreign members) please communicate with the Editor.

PIGEON POST AT THE PRAGA 62 EXHIBITION



At the opening ceremonies of the Praga 1962 World Stamp Exhibition, 5086 postal pigeons were set free carrying in the capsule fastened to their leg an aerogramme with a message of peace to the people of various nations. 35 of these pigeons were from Poland, 25 from the German Democratic Republic, 26 from the German Federal Republic and the rest from the various parts of Czechoslovakia.

The Czechoslovak Postal Administration issued 2,100 pieces of these aerogrammes. Out of these 1200 were actually delivered by the pigeons, the rest were presented at the opening to the attending ambassadors and dignitaries of various countries, delegates of the foreign philatelic federations and members of the press.

Figuring on the face side of this small aerogramme is the 1.20 Kč stamp, the same design being used as that printed on the regular aerogrammes. It was struck with the Exhibition cancellation "Praha 18. VIII. Praga 1962. Světová výstava poštovních známek". Further it had the following wording in Czech on it: "A message of friendship and peace to the peoples of the world." "Delivered by a postal pigeon."

The reverse side had the following message in Czech: "In these festive and happy hours of the opening of the World Stamp Exhibition Praga 1962 on August 18th 1962 in Prague, the people of Czechoslovakia send their greetings to all men of good will. Let us unite to create a world without wars and conflicts! Let us advance hand in hand to reach the goal of lasting peace and peaceful co-operation between nations! With the aid of general disarmament and peaceful competition, for the happier future of mankind!"

For friendship among nations and the strengthening of peace in the world!
The Federation of Czechoslovak Philatelists.

FIP member.

Praha, Aug. 18th 1962

the ceremonial opening of the World Stamp Exhibition PRAGA 1962."

(submitted by George A. Blizil)

A STUDY OF DESIGN ALTERATIONS OF THE 75h HRADČANY VALUE

By Wilbur D. Knox



While attending the Compex show at Chicago this spring, Mr. John Velek suggested that the 75 h value of the Hradčany issue might be worth some study which could add to our knowledge of these stamps, already well known among specialists because of the missed scroll retouch in plate II, position 82. Most collectors also are aware that black prints exist in which the "7" of the numeral of value resembles an inverted "2", as shown in figure "A" on the accompanying chart.

Since I happen to have some large pieces of this value, plus numerous singles, and also a magnifier equipped with a micrometer eyepiece which permits accurate measurements as small as 0.1 mm, I started a series of measurements with results which I believe will be of interest to all collectors of this issue.

It might be well at this point to review briefly, the method of preparing the printing plates for this stamp. The first step is to make a printing plate by reducing the size of the artists original design to double the size of the finished stamps. From this plate a quantity of black prints are made which are then pasted up in 10 rows of 10 on heavy cardboard, the control numbers are then added, and this 100-subject "mock-up" is then photographed and reduced to stamp size and the negative is used to prepare the final printing plates.

It is immediately apparent that this procedure would result in black prints which would be exactly alike, with no variations in dimensions in any part of the design.

Even the most casual glance at the five examples shown indicate that there is a considerable variation in the length of the bar and the angle at which the bar crosses the stem of the 7. Figure "A" is, as stated, a double-size reproduction of the so-called "inverted 2", while "B" shows the long bar which is the identifying mark of position 82 with the missed retouch in the upper left scroll. Compare this with the short bar in figure "C". In figure "D" the bar is almost horizontal with respect to the top of the 7, while in figure "E" it is at a definite angle. Measurement of these angles show that the bar in "D" crosses at approximately a 10-degree angle, while in "E" the angle is at least 30 degrees.

Recalling the fact that no variation is possible in the double-size black prints, the only conclusion which can be made is that the original artist's drawing had no bar, and that the bars were added by hand after the printing of the double-size black prints, thus resulting in these differences. The foot of the 7 was not altered at this time, and a plate was made from the 100-subject mock-up and a quantity of black prints (stamp size) were printed. It is one of these black prints which was used as copy for making the plate for the illustration which accompanies this article.

The addition of the bar evidently still failed to receive approval of the design, so a further alteration was made and a portion of the foot of the 7 was removed. This could have been accomplished either by whitening out the portion to be removed on all copies on the mockup, or by opaquing out on the negative from which the inverted 2's were printed, a hand operation in either case, an. resulting in more variations in the design.

If you will take a magnifying glass and look at figure "B" you will note that there is a slight upturned point on the foot of the 7. This resulted from removing less of the foot and consequently lessened the distance between the foot of the 7 and the numeral 5. It is visible to the naked eye and can be easily seen by comparing the space on figures "B" and "C". There are also differences in the tip of the 7 itself which show plainly in the photographs from which the plate for this article was made, and it is hoped that they will also be apparent in the illustrations which appear in the Specialist. You may be able to see that the tip on figure "E" is almost flat, whereas it is rounded on the other figures. Some of the tips were "v" shaped, but as they were part of my large pieces they could not be reproduced without cutting up the blocks.

It would be interesting to know if any plate was made (stamp size) of the black prints prior to adding the bars. I have never seen any reference to such an item, and Mr. Velek does not have one in his collection, and after looking over a small part of his enormous collection I have about decided that if he does not have one, then it is nonexistent. However, if any reader has information indicating that stamp-size prints exist without the bar I would appreciate hearing from them.

To summarize, the artist's drawing had no bar and the 7 was shaped like an inverted 2. A double-size plate was made and black prints were made therefrom. The design was rejected and the bars were added by hand. The mock-up was made and a plate was made for the full sheet. This was also rejected and the bottom of the 7 was then altered, also by hand, and a final plate made from which the stamps were printed.

HRADČANY SPECIALIZED

by John Velek

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654 * Zenchina, Edward J., 3936 W. Montrose Ave., Chicago 18, Ill.
713 Zika, Vaclav Jan, 1426 Monte Sano Blvd. S.E., Huntsville, Ala.

Parade Of New Issues

Edited by Frank Kosik

10 Years of Czechoslovak Television



To commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Czechoslovak Television, the Czechoslovak Board of Management of Telecommunications issued on April 25, 1963, a set of two stamps of the following denominations, designs and colors: 40 h Television camera, aerial mast, television set. Dark blue and red-brown 60 h Aerial mast of television transmitter. Red and light blue

Both stamps were designed by the academic artist Fr. Hudeček, and engraved by J. Goldschmied.

They were printed in the Post Printing Office in Prague by the rotary recess print combined with photogravure in sheets of 50. Dimensions of the stamp pictures are 41x23 mm and 23x41 mm.

The stamps are valid in internal as well as international postal use from the release date until further notice.

The cachet on the First Day Cover was also designed by the academic artist Frant. Hudeček and engraved by J. Goldschmied.

4th Congress of Czechoslovak Youth



Issued on April 18, 1963, face value 30 h.

Designed by Z. Bílková and engraved by J. Herčík.

Print: rotary recess combined with photogravure in sheets of 50. Dimensions of stamp picture, 23x30 mm.

The cachet on the First Day Cover was designed by the academic artist Bedřich Votruba, and engraved by J. Goldschmied.

Space Research 1963



The Czechoslovak Board of Management of Telecommunications issued on April 25, 1963, a set of six stamps depicting various space crafts and rockets.

30 h Sun, Mercury and Venus. Rocket around the Sun. Red-violet and yellow

50 h Earth. Rockets and Sputniks are started from the Earth. Blue and green

60 h Moon. Space crafts plying between the Earth and the Moon. Blue-green and blue

1 Kčs. Mars with an automatic interplanetary station. Black and orange-red

1.60 Kčs. Jupiter with an atomic rocket. Dark brown and green

2 Kčs. Saturn. An interplanetary rocket on its return flight from Saturn to the Earth. Dark-violet and yellow-green.

Design by Frant. Hudeček, academic artist. Engraved by J. A. Švengsbir, J. Herčík, B. Housa, J. Goldschmied.

Print: Rotary recess combined with photogravure in sheets of 50. Dimensions: 23x41 mm.

Two First Day Covers were issued with this emission, designed by Frant. Hudeček and engraved by J. Goldschmied.

On the occasion of the First Space Research Exhibition which took place in Prague at the end of April, a Souvenir Special Sheet (face value Kčs 3.—) was issued.

40th Anniversary of Czechoslovak Radio



May 18, 1963:

30 h Studio of a Broadcasting station with a radio set. Brown-green.

1 Kčs. Globe with map and an aerial mast, four doves, inscription: "40 Years of Czechoslovak Broadcasting—Radio Prague—the voice of peace."

Peace (in German, Russian, English, French, Polish and Spanish). Light green.

Designed by František Hudeček and engraved by J. Švengsbír and B. Housa. Dimensions of the stamp picture: 23x41 mm.

Print: rotary recess combined with photogravure in sheets of 50.

The cachet on the First Day Cover was also designed by F. Hudeček and engraved by J. Goldschmied.

40th Anniversary of Czechoslovak Airlines



May 25, 1963:

80 h Jet airliner. Blue-violet and blue.

1.80 Kčs. 4 motor airliner. Dark blue and light green.

Designed by František Hudeček and engraved by J. Herčík and J. Mráček.

Dimensions of the stamp picture: 41x23 mm.

Print: rotary recess combined with photogravure in sheets of 50.

The cachet on the First Day Cover was also designed by F. Hudeček and engraved by J. Goldschmied.

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