

THE CZECHOSLOVAK **SPECIALIST**

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SPECIAL

SILVER

ANNIVERSARY

EDITION

CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETY
Silver Anniversary Exhibition-Convention
Nojex, Robert Treat Hotel, Newark, N. J., Oct. 9-11, 1964

P R O G R A M
Friday, October 9

NOON

Court of Honor (Cz. P. S.)

A set of photographs of sketches of stamps by Prof. Dr. h. c. Max Švabinský lent to the Editor of the Specialist by the Postal Administration of Czechoslovakia. These are from the Czechoslovak Postal Museum and have never before been sent to any exhibition outside of the country.

Information

Throughout the Show a table will be manned by members of the New York Branch where information pertaining to the Society and its publications will be available.

7 P. M.

Cz. P. S. Dinner at Zig's Restaurant, East Orange, N. J.

At this dinner awards of the Society adjudged to exhibitors will be presented.

President Horechny will hand a silver anniversary pin to every Charter Member present at the dinner.

Saturday, October 10

2 P. M.

Convention Meeting at the Hotel.

After the meeting Mrs. Edith M. Faulstich, Vice President of the Postal History Society of the Americas and a well known philatelic writer, will give a talk on the various Fieldposts in Siberia in 1918-20.

7 P. M.

Nojex Dinner.

Nojex awards will be presented to the winners.

Sunday, October 11

5 P. M. Show will close.

EDITORIAL

According to a letter from our honorary member, Ing. Jan Karásek, he was elected to regular membership in the Association Internationale des Experts Philatéliste. He is the third philatelist from Czechoslovakia so honored. We wish to congratulate member Karásek, whose articles we have been reading in our Specialist and we hope he will continue to write for us.

We wish to inform our members that Mr. Wm. Schoenig of 20 Charles Court, East Patchogue, N. Y. 11774, has taken over the mailing out of the Specialist. Any inquiries relating to the non-receipt of an issue should be addressed to him. Any error in the name or address of a member appearing in the September issue of the Specialist, should be brought to the attention of the Editor at Box 24, Bayside, N. Y. 11361. We wish to emphasize the latter very particularly because we would like to correct any error which may have slipped into the membership list published last month.

After much thought and consideration of all angles we have decided to publish a translation of the book on Forgeries for the sole benefit of our members. We have received numerous notes of encouragement in this from members and since we secured permission from the official agency in Prague to publish a translation serially in our Specialist, we shall go ahead on it.

In this issue you will find an interesting article by member Kutvirt, a list-

(continued on page 129)

Paper Study—Hradčany 25h (Scott #5)

Otakar Kutvirt



As a collector of the Czech classic stamp, Hradčany, I have always been aware of the mystery surrounding the paper used for these stamps. Almost every article dealing with Hradčany stresses the different kinds of paper used and attempts to describe them by general references to differences in thickness, color, smoothness, etc. Yet the only known fact about the paper used in printing Hradčany is that it came from "paper mills in Northern Bohemia."

In the process of plating Hradčany 25h blue, I have examined what appeared to be a mountain of these stamps. (Actually some 15,000 specimens went through my hands.) No wonder that I soon became interested in the question of paper differences and decided to try to throw some light on the subject. I was fortunate that, at the beginning of my study, I met a paper microscopist par excellence, Mr. Robert Stoll, without whose generous assistance I would have never finished this undertaking.

Paper Making

First a few words about paper making. The desired characteristics of paper are obtained by the use of a suitable combination of fibers and chemicals and by the application of appropriate manufacturing methods.

The most commonly used fibers have lately been made from wood pulp that comes from either softwood (pine, fir, spruce, etc.) or hardwood (poplar, aspen, birch, etc.). The first step in papermaking is to reduce logs (with bark already removed) to chips and to cook these under pressure in vats. The purpose of cooking is to remove organic impurities such as gums and resins. The cooking chemicals used are either caustic soda, sodium sulfide and sodium sulfate or calcium bisulfite. The product of cooking is pulp (Soda pulp, Kraft pulp or Sulfite pulp—the name depends on the cooking chemical used) that is washed, bleached, chemically treated and made into dry sheets for shipment to paper mills.

In the paper mill the pulp is beaten and suspended in water to form—with additional chemicals added—a slurry. From the beater the slurry usually goes on the Fourdiner machine. Here the slurry flows on an endless wire cloth belt through which the water rapidly drains out. The slurry turns into a thin sheet which is carried from the wire onto a moving belt from drying. Some kinds of paper go through additional treatments (calendering, coating and similar) depending upon future use.

Analysis and Identification of Paper

Positive identification of a piece of paper by the mill, machine and/or year

of manufacture is impossible unless the sample carries a unique identification in the form of, for instance, a watermark. On the other hand one can run two or more samples through a battery of tests to determine whether they are identical or not. Even this analysis is not always fruitful, especially if the samples used are small. In order to prove, without doubt, that two pieces of paper are exactly the same they may have to be subjected to a large number of tests. Some of these are destructive while others are non-destructive. At times it may happen that one runs out of material to test before all the conceivable tests have been applied. By the same token, the first test may prove that the samples in question are different and why.

In comparing samples of paper one is interested in the following components and characteristics:

- a. Reflection properties
- b. Fiber analysis
- c. Sizing chemicals
- d. Fillers
- e. Bleaching and brightness
- f. Physical properties (thickness, tensile strength, etc.)

Reflection properties. Differences between types of paper can be determined by analyzing the reflection properties of samples using ultraviolet and/or infrared photography. This approach is based on the fact that ultraviolet and infrared rays reveal brightness differences that are invisible under normal lighting.

The ultraviolet method most commonly used is called "fluorescent-light method." Some substances, when exposed to ultraviolet radiation, will fluoresce, i.e. they will produce new radiation of longer wavelength than the ultraviolet. The degree of fluorescence varies from substance to substance. In addition to emitting fluorescence of various intensity, the ultraviolet radiation is always reflected. Consequently, if "fluorescent-light method" is used it is necessary to filter out (absorb) the reflected ultraviolet with the help of a filter. Ultraviolet photography does not call for special films, papers or processing. Special illumination (ultraviolet lamp) and filters are, however, needed.

The importance of infrared photography is based on the ability of various substances to absorb or reflect the visible rays differently from the invisible infrared radiation. Some materials, for instance, absorb most of visible light but very little of the infrared rays. The infrared is, then, reflected and the reflection recorded on an infrared sensitive film. The materials which absorb little or infrared radiation show white on infrared photography and vice versa. For infrared photography special infrared sensitive materials and filters are needed.

Fiber analysis. Fiber analysis answers the questions about the cooking process used in making the pulp and about the kind of fiber or combination of fibers the paper in question contains.

The first step in fiber analysis is defibering, i.e. reducing a small sample of paper to fiber state in a test tube. A small quantity of solution of fiber and water is permitted to dry on a slide and is microscopically examined. An expert can readily determine (by shape and markings of cells) what fiber or fibers went into each piece of paper. Soft wood fibers are flat, long and ribbon like. On the other hand, hard wood fibers are short, rounded, have no markings and are characterized by vessel segments. If an examined sample was made of several different kinds of fibers, an expert can determine the relative amounts of each by means of a count.

The type of "cooking" process used is determined by stain analysis. A drop of Graff "C" stain will color the dry fiber solution on a slide. The color

so produced when compared with all possible colors on a standard color chart will distinguish between Soda, Kraft and Sulfite pulps. The stain also identifies the degree of bleaching the pulp has received.

Sizing chemicals. Higher grades of paper, i.e. papers that are stronger and less absorbent, are obtained by adding any one or a combination of a number of "sizing" chemicals. The difference between well and poorly sized papers shows in the speed with which they absorb a drop of water. Low grade paper (blotter) will absorb water immediately, whereas high grade paper (for inst. photographic) will take several minutes.

Sizing chemicals are either mixed with fibers at the mill when the pulp is dispersed in water and/or they are coated on a sheet of paper in one of the last manufacturing operations. Among the most commonly used sizing materials are starches, gelatin and rosin.

Starch analysis: A drop of diluted iodine solution will stain the paper blue if starch is present. **Rosin analysis:** A drop of concentrated sugar solution is applied to the paper and is allowed to stand for a few minutes. The sugar solution is then removed with filter or blotter paper. The same area is smeared with concentrated sulphuric acid. The development of a raspberry red color shows the presence of rosin. **Protein analysis:** First a drop of copper sulphate is applied and removed. Then a drop of sodium hydroxide is used. If the paper turns violet in color, the presence of protein (usually gelatin) is established.

Fillers (Loaded stock). Smoothness, texture, brightness and similar characteristics can be obtained either by mixing a pigment with fibers or by coating it on finished paper. The most often used fillers are clay and barium sulphate.

Scrapings of paper (loose fuzz) are treated with Canada balsam and are then visually inspected under reflected light in a microscope. The presence of filler is easily detected when the fibers show as if coated with loading material. Once a presence of filler is so established additional tests (X-Ray, chemical analysis, etc.) are needed to determine the kind used.

Bleaching. The objective of bleaching is the production of a white pulp of stable color. This is accomplished by removing impurities, not removed in cooking process, and by changing some coloring matters to a colorless form. The principal bleaching agents are chlorine, chlorine dioxide and hypochlorite. The Graff "C" stain, mentioned above, is used to identify the degree of bleaching.

Brightness. Any number of commercial chemicals are available to increase the whiteness of the paper especially if made of fiber of lower quality. The presence of brightener shows under ultraviolet light.

Physical properties. The physical properties are determined by measuring the thickness and tensile strength, analyzing the surface characteristics, establishing the weight—to mention only a few of the possible tests.

Tensile strength is a measure of paper's resistance to tension. It is defined in terms of force needed to break a piece of paper which has a specified length and a width of 15mm. The paper is clamped between two jaws and an increasing load is applied until the strip breaks. The load (in kg) at which the paper breaks is called the tensile strength.

Different surface characteristics result, for instance, from the fact that the paper is made on a wire screen. The bottom side of the paper shows wire marks which are different depending on the mesh of the wire screen. The surface of the paper is also affected by the types of rolls used, amount of pressure applied to the surface during the paper making operation and by calendering or lack of it.

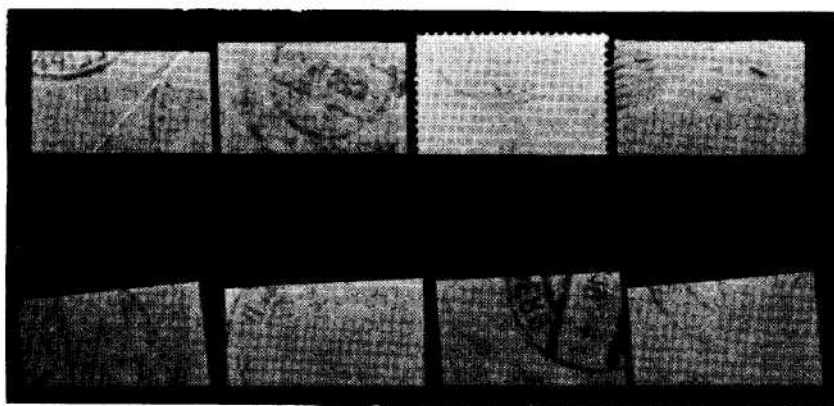
Analysis of Hradčany 25h blue

The tests described above (and there are many more) are time and effort

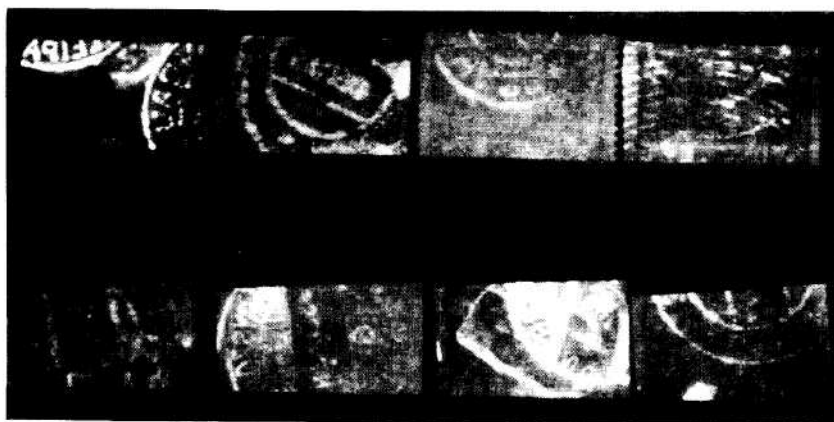
consuming and can be applied only to a small number of samples. My first problem was, therefore, to select from among the thousands of stamps a reasonable number of samples that promised to reveal the sought after differences. This was done by visual examination with the help of a magnifying glass and by measuring the thickness of the stamps.

Step number two was to photograph 250 selected specimens under: A. normal light, b. ultraviolet light and c. infrared light. As expected, the negatives made under normal lighting conditions did not reveal anything of interest. The infrared negatives were also inconclusive. However, the negatives taken with the ultraviolet light showed rather marked differences in the degree of emitted fluorescence. For the final tests I selected 30 stamps from the lightest to the darkest on the ultraviolet negative. Obviously not all of these stamps were subjected to all of the described tests because of the destructive nature of some of them.

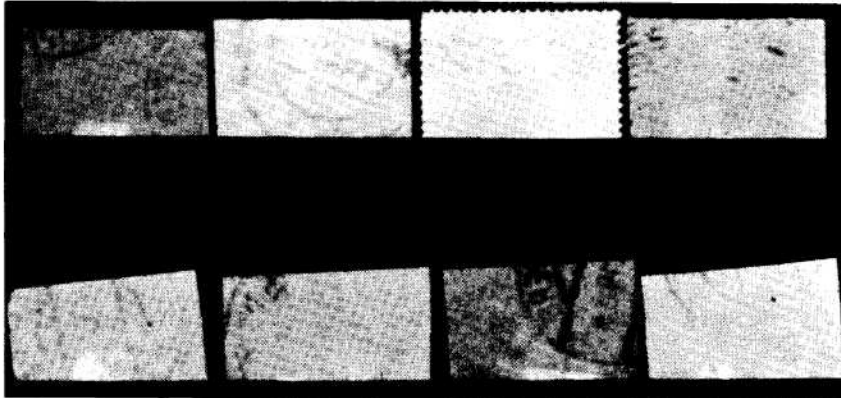
Reflection properties.



Normal Photograph



Photograph by Infrared Luminescence



Photograph by Ultraviolet Fluorescence

The various degree of fluorescence shown under ultraviolet light may have been caused by any one of a number of factors. Use of more or less bleaching chemicals, the duration of pulp cooking, residue of gum, fading and discoloration due to natural causes—these are some of the possible explanations. The exact cause cannot be pinpointed.

Fiber analysis. The following combinations of fibers were found in tested stamps:

1. 65% Soft Wood Bleached Sulfite
35% Soft Wood Bleached Kraft
Trace of Groundwood
2. 70% Soft Wood Bleached Sulfite
30% Soft Wood Bleached Kraft
Trace of Groundwood
3. 80% Soft Wood Bleached Sulfite
20% Soft Wood Bleached Kraft
Trace of Groundwood

In all three cases the Sulfite-Kraft furnished is substantially the same, i.e. within accuracy of fiber analysis and mill formula. Even at the present time differences of this magnitude occur at any paper mill for most grades of paper.

Sizing Chemicals. Qualitative spot tests for starch, rosin and protein were negative in all instances.

Filler. Tested stamps were all made of loaded stock. X-Ray analysis showed that the loading material was clay.

Before 1918, however, the clay loading was put in probably not to increase the quality but as an adulterant to increase the weight of paper per square foot. Clay was much cheaper than the pulp.

Bleaching. All samples tested were bleached. The determination of the exact nature of the agent would require additional extensive testing.

Brightness. No brightener was found in any of the samples.

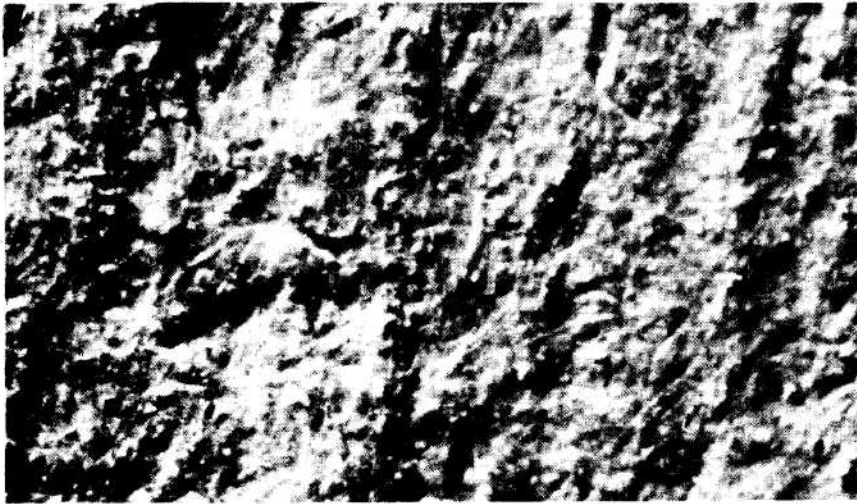
Thickness. The thickness of some 6,000 stamps measured varied from .0019 inch (.048mm) to .0039 inch (.099mm).

The most likely explanation is the use of various machines. Some of the variation, however, may have been caused by lax quality control of paper making and may have still been accentuated by soaking of stamps at the time they were removed from the covers.

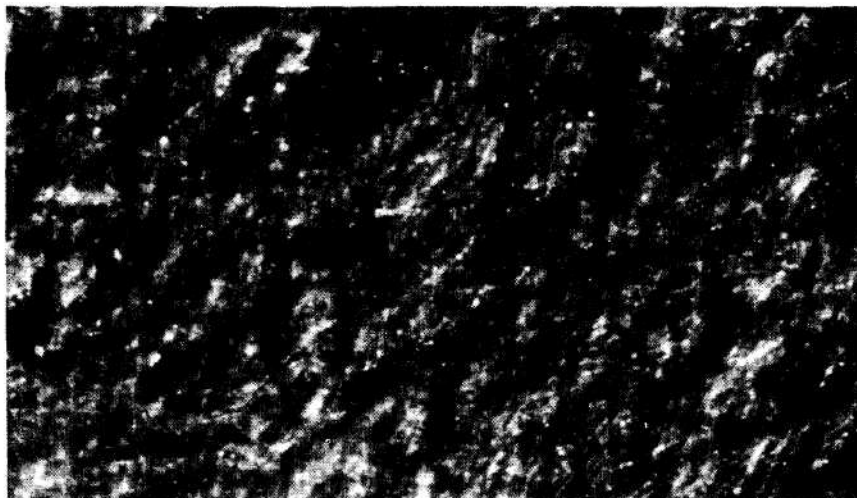
Weight. Based on weighing of individual stamps, the weight of paper used was anything between 11 lbs to 18 lbs per 1,000 square feet. Weight of paper is mostly the function of its thickness and presence or absence of adulterants.

Tensile strength. The tensile strength of the 12 samples ranged from 0.85 kg to 3.8 kg for strips 15mm wide and 10mm long. The significance of this test may have been impaired by the lack of knowledge of the paper's machine direction, which affects the tensile strength. Otherwise the differences may be attributed to the different paper machines, length of cooking and bleaching, amount of fiber hydration and the length of fibers used.

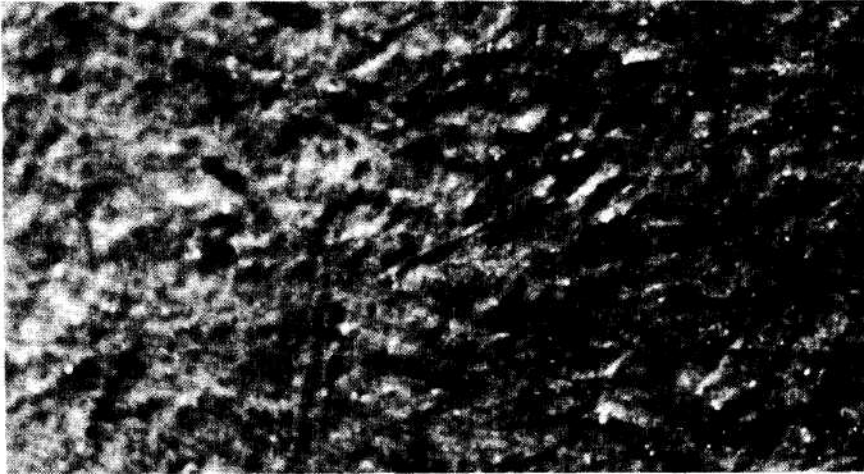
Surface characteristics.



Rough surface



Medium surface



Smooth surface

The above photographs are 40 times enlargements at low angle light. The specific cause or causes of shown differences cannot be determined.

Summary. The results of the above-described tests are such that only a few positive conclusions can be drawn. The mystery of the Hradčany paper has not been penetrated. Considering that the 25h stamps were always printed in combination with other Hradčany values, the printing of 51,220,000 of 25h (and an equal number of the other denominations) required some 900,000 square feet of paper. Assuming 60" (1½ meter) paper machine and some waste, this number of stamps would call for about 190,000 linear feet of paper. The average speed of paper machines around the turn of the century was about 100 feet of paper per minute. In other words, the paper used to print 25h was turned out in approximately 30 to 35 hours of production. The paper in question was made very crudely for its end use since its relatively rough surface gave poor print quality. Stock was most probably shipped to the printer in sheets since roll stock for continuous printing is a modern development. If this was the case, then the quality control at manufacturer's sheeting operation was very sloppy. Some of the stamps appear to have been printed on the wire side of the paper instead of the face side.

To conclude: The differences in reflection properties and the amount of paper used definitely eliminate the possibility that the entire stock was made of one batch of slurry. On the other hand, the fiber analysis and the similarity of chemicals used would indicate strongly that only one general formula was used in making the slurry. A conclusion might be drawn that all the slurry came from one manufacturer. Looking, however, at the physical conditions of manufacturing (equipment and/or techniques) the conclusion is obvious. The stock was made on different machines as evidenced by differences in weight, thickness, tensile strength and surface characteristics.

HRADČANY 25h BLUE (TYPE I)

Completing a comprehensive study of this stamp. Interested in examining and—possibly—acquiring the following: Gutter Pairs, Control Numbers, Printers' Waste, Blocks, Vzorec, Essays, Forgeries, Perforations, Unusual Paper or Color Shades, Covers, etc. If interested will buy or exchange.

Otakar Kutvirt #453

161 Branford Road

Rochester, N. Y. 14618

The Allegory Study Group

Frank J. Kovarik, Chairman

Early this year some members in Chicago embarked on a new project. The least studied yet fascinating group of Czechoslovak stamps is the Allegory issue. At that time the Unie was still groping as to how to produce stamps of Czechoslovakia. Four designs were chosen; commonly known in the United States as the Allegory issues. These four designs are: the Dove, the Chain-breaker (also known, especially in Czechoslovakia, as the Liberated Republic), the Hussite priest and finally the Agriculture and Science group. The latter is most interesting, although the other designs do not lag far behind. The only time Czechoslovakia planned booklets was during the life of this issue. Stamps for this were actually printed and put on sale but in sheet form, so producing the tete-beche stamps. It was soon discovered that some of these tete-beche stamps were quite scarce and the counterfeiters went into action. The Hussite priest stamps were not popular but the 100h to 600h stamps are subjects of study both here and in Czechoslovakia. Varieties of perforations, some very scarce, add to their interest. Overprinting of some of the stamps changed them from postage stamps to postage dues or airmails.

Between the Hradčany series and the Allegories are three stamps designed by Max Švabinský and issued for the birthday of the first president, Thomas T. Masaryk (500h and 1000h and later the 125h value). The latter was also overprinted as a semi-postal. It was logical to include the 1920 Masaryks in our study. This was the end of a printing era.

About a month ago, member Slivon came to my house and together we started to index all the material on the 1920 Masaryks and the Allegories found in the various publications in my library. Because Mr. Slivon could not visit me again for about three weeks, I decided to continue the task to completion.

The books, pamphlets and periodicals in my library are far from complete. At present we list all publications essential to this study (including short items) and ask members to complete the index where necessary. The additions will be published later.

The listing in this article is practical even though we omit the title of the article, its author or its translator. It is designed only as a working model for the study. To conserve space we abbreviate as much as possible using the following code:

1. Cz S — The Czechoslovak Specialist
2. C C F — Časopis Českých Filatelistů
3. Ces — Československo, Vol. 5, May 1950
4. C F — Český Filatelista
5. Fil — Filatelie
6. F R — Filatelistická Revue
7. Forg — Padělky Československých Známek (Forgeries of Czechoslovak Stamps)
8. H F — Hirsch-Franěk Handbook (Czech Edition)
9. Mus — Studie ofilatelistických sbírkách poštovního musea (Studies of Czechoslovak collections in the postal museum)
10. N S — Národní Sbératel
11. Nov — Novotný Catalog 1949
12. Tri — Tribuna
13. 30let — Třicet let Československé známky (30 years of Czechoslovak stamp)
14. Z F — Zpravodaj Naší Filatelie

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It is our plan to revise the listing of varieties translated by member C. H. Osbourn from the Novotny catalogue of 1949 and published in the Specialist. We hope to employ a point system to show the approximate values of different varieties. We also plan to translate such information as may be pertinent to the study. We ask the cooperation of all members, even those who may not be very interested in these particular issues.

If anyone cooperating in this effort desires a personal reply we beg him or her to please enclose a stamped addressed envelope. Please address all this mail to the author at 8748 Rockefeller Ave., Brookfield, Ill. 60513.

Editorial (continued from page 117)

ing by member Kovarik and article by Kvasnička-Verner. We also intended to write an article ourselves but instead of writing a brief one on a subject of interest to us we will write a detailed account of it to appear in the Czechoslovak issue of Linn's in August. This will enable us to use an appropriate number of illustrations and we will be able to reprint it all in our publication.

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Revolutionary Overprints on Austrian Stamps

By Zdeněk Kvašnička

Translated by J. J. Verner

Reprinted from SPA Journal

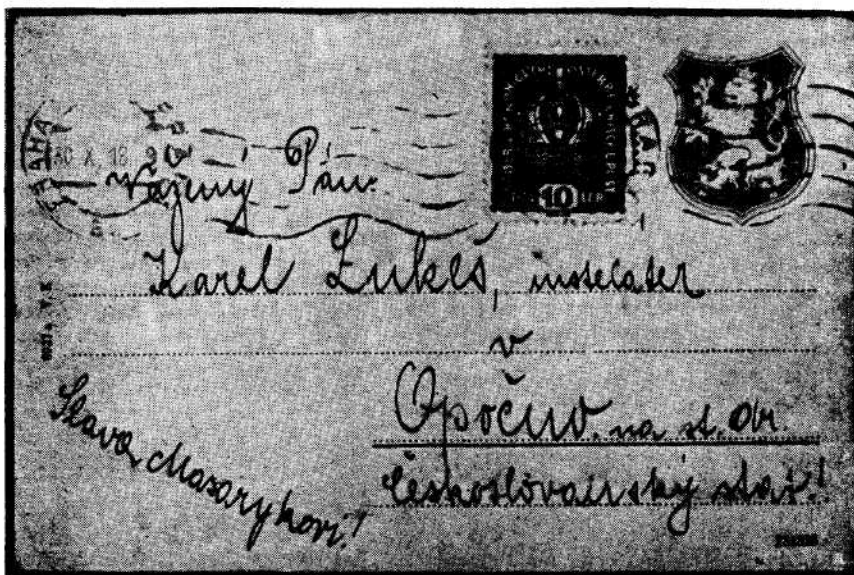


Figure 1 — Cover with Czech coat-of-arms affixed and manuscript "Glory to Masaryk" in lower left corner.

It is rather difficult to properly evaluate the various views of the Czechoslovak overprint issues of 1918. While collectors of the "new school" oppose them altogether, older collectors tend to value them and look for support of their position to early philatelic literature and catalogs which describe the revolutionary issues in detail and assign high values to them.

Specialized albums of Czechoslovakia have space provided for them and even the current POFIS catalog published in Prague lists them and continues to assign them high values. The existence of the post-revolutionary overprint issues and their actual postal use can not be denied, so we must approach this entire question reasonably.

We find many similar "semi-official issues," as we like to call them, among the stamps of other countries. Collectors, following personal inclination, may either collect them or disregard them and collect only stamps and postal paper officially issued by the postal authorities.

Unofficial issues should not be highly valued because they are always the creation of philatelic elements who are mainly interested in financial profits. In defense of these revolutionary Czechoslovak issues we can only point out the chaotic period in which they were conceived and be thankful that it left us such an interesting branch of postal history.

According to Austrian and Hungarian postal regulations, which were valid in Czechoslovakia until the issuance of new Czechoslovak regulations, no private overprinting of valid postal paper was allowed. This principle was reiterated by a new postal directive of December 13, 1918. However, during the interim period, that is between October 29, 1918 and December 13, 1918, letters

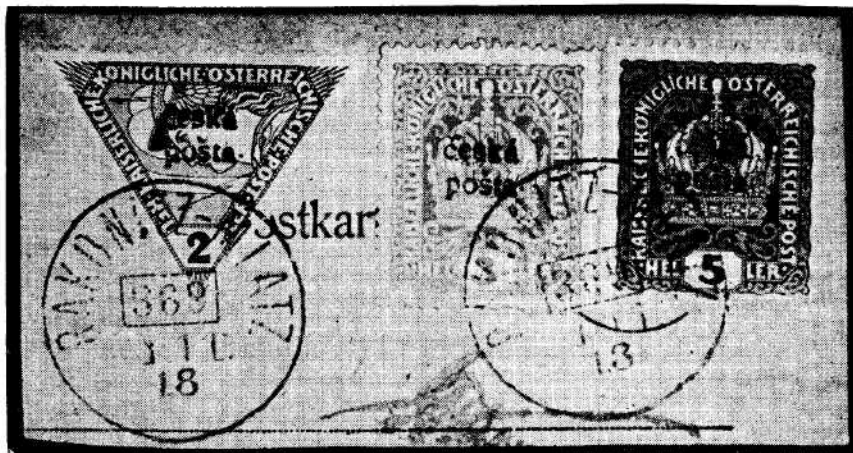


Figure 2 — Rubber Kralovice hand overprints.

and parcels franked with privately overprinted stamps or bearing other items indicating the new form of governmental organization were not rejected by the Post.

Let us again examine, from the philatelic point of view, the period during which the revolutionary issues appeared. The Czechs and Slovaks declared their independence on October 28, 1918 and simultaneously established a provisional Czechoslovak government with its seat in Prague. Contact was broken with all central administrative offices in Vienna which meant that deliveries of stamps from the Viennese central printing office also ceased.

The Czechoslovak Ministry of Posts did not intend to overprint its small stock of Austrian stamps to reflect the change in governmental organization, preferring to issue its own stamps as quickly as possible. This goal was very quickly attained, for on December 18, 1918, post offices received the most badly needed values of the first Czechoslovak stamp series. However Austrian and Hungarian stamps also remained valid for franking until February 28, 1919. This period is very interesting philatelically and has left us many documents on the origins of the Czechoslovak Post.

Austrian and Hungarian stamps and postal paper are to be found used in the form of mixed franking, halved stamps, and with nationalized and provisional postmarks. There was also revolutionary encroachment on the postal prerogative in the form of private alteration of Austrian and Hungarian stamps.

The joy of the Czechs and Slovaks during the first days of independence was expressed even by stressing the name of the new state in various ways on correspondence. The letter shown in Figure 1 is an example of this joy and nationalistic enthusiasm. It was sent from Prague on October 30, 1918. Next to the Austrian stamp the Czech coat-of-arms was affixed, the address contains the new name *Československý stát* (Czechoslovak State) and also carries the motto in the bottom left corner "Glory to Masaryk."

Another letter in the author's collection that was sent on the same day from Prague to *Česke Budejovice* also carries the handiwork of the sender, who simply blacked out the text on the stamp with ink.

The first private overprints on Austrian stamps originated in Manetin and carried the Latin text *FINIS AUSTRIA*, indicating the squaring of accounts with the Austro-Hungarian Empire. This black overprint was placed on low value stamps and was used mainly on private correspondence.

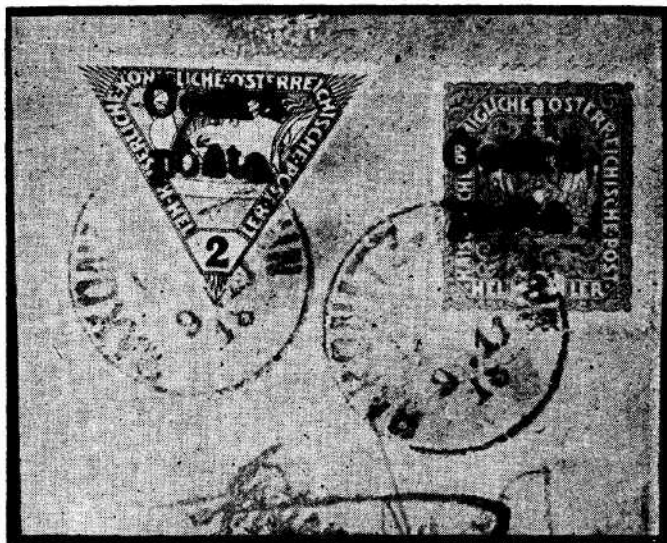


Figure 3 — Metal Kralovice hand overprints.

At about the same time Fontan, the county secretary of Kralovice near Pilsen, overprinted part of the local supply of Austrian stamps with a rubber hand stamp bearing the text "Česka pošta" (Czech Post) (Figure 2). Later he used a metal hand stamp with the same text in larger letters (Figure 3) and also one with the text "SLAVA MASARYKOVI" (Glory to Masaryk). The majority of these overprints appear on common low denomination Austrian stamps, most of which were used for franking.

Letters that have been saved with these overprinted stamps carry the postmarks of Kralovic, Plzně, Mladotic, Čistě, and Rakovníka. Similar strictly local, isolated overprints are also known. These overprints have been preserved only in small quantities, but they remain an interesting reminder of the first days of Czechoslovak Independence.

The Hluboka Overprints

Another, and more widely known, producer of early overprints was Mareš, former head gardener at Hluboka Castle. He had the engraver Hory of České Budejovice prepare a metal hand stamp for him with the drawing of the Czech lion and the words ČESKO-SLOVENSKÝ STÁT. At the beginning his overprinted stamps were used by himself and his friends for franking only. However, as soon as collectors manifested significant interest in his stamps, Mareš began overprinting whole series of stamps in red and black which he sent to both collectors and dealers—for a fee. He did not forget to create inverted overprints and other philatelic oddities. Registered letters franked with these stamps passed through the mails without difficulty and originated from various post offices, i.e. České Budejovice, November 5; Hluboka, November 8; Praha, November 7; Dřiten, November 7, 1918. Collectors call this the "Hluboka" issue.

The Hluboká overprint (Figure 4) has the following distinguishing features:

1. The lion's crown is narrow on the left side.
2. Above the eye there is a clearly distinguished eyebrow.
3. The claws are distinct and sharp.



Figure 4 — Original Hluboka overprint.

4. The center claw of the back leg lines up between the letters E and S.
5. The letter Č in Česko is lower than the other letters.
6. The diacritical mark above the letter Y in SLOVENSKÝ is in the wrong direction, slanting left instead of right.
7. The line above A in the word STÁT is not clear.
8. There is a small dot after the word ČESKO.
9. The text does not have a period at the end.

The Horner Overprints

The stamp dealer Horner had a hand stamp prepared by the same engraver in České Budejovice, based on the Mareš design. With it he overprinted for speculative purposes a whole series of regular and postage due Austrian stamps. Horner also prepared inverted overprints, tete-beche pairs, and so on. Letters with these stamps apparently also had no difficulty in passing through the mails. They were mailed from various post offices around November 10, 1918 (Figure 5).

The Horner overprints (Figure 6) are distinguished by the following features:

1. The crown on the lion's head is smaller and not very precisely drawn.



Figure 5 — Austrian postal card and adhesive stamp overprinted by Horner.

Figure 6 — Original
Horner overprint.

Figure 7 — Counterfeit A



Figure 8 — Counterfeit B

2. The eye is longer and without an eyebrow.
3. The claws are shorter and dulled.
4. The middle claw of the back leg bisects the upper curve of the letter S.
5. The letter C is wider and the mark above it larger.
6. The mark above the letter Y in the word SLOVENSKÝ is normal, that is, slanting to the right.
7. The diacritical mark above A in the word STÁT is larger.
8. After the word ČESKO is a dash.
9. The text ends with a period.

Both of these overprints—the Mareš and Horner—are recognized by specialized collectors as valid issues and are examined and expertized by Dr. Gilbert and Jar Mříák. The Mareš overprint appears on 42 values and the Horner only on 39. The colors of the overprints are black and red.

Easy disposition of these overprinted stamps, the simple design and, perhaps most important, a gap in the law (there was no law in Czechoslovakia protecting collectors from counterfeiters of philatelic material), were the main reasons for the appearance of "copies" of overprints in later years. In addition, Horner himself manufactured more overprints later for which he was subsequently prosecuted. Counterfeits were produced on individual values as well as in whole sets. Only the most common ones are described below.

Counterfeit A (Figure 7)

1. The crown on the lion's head is wider and misformed.
2. The eye is wider than the eyebrow and the mane is more pronounced.
3. The claws are shorter and remind one of a cross.
4. The center claw aims at the left edge of the letter edge, is wider, and comes closer to the letter.
5. The letter C is wider and the mark above it is formless.
6. The diacritical mark above the Y is heavier.
7. The diacritical mark above the A is heavier.
8. A bigger dot follows the word ČESKO.
9. The text ends with a dot.

Counterfeit B (Figure 8)

1. The points of the crown are sharp.
2. The eye is smaller and is connected with the mouth.
3. The claws are wide, almost branch-like.
4. The middle claw of the lion's back leg touches the letter E.
5. The letters in ČESKO are lower and closer together.
6. The letter Y in SLOVENSKÝ almost touches the O in ČESKO.
7. The diacritical mark above A is sharp and heavy.
8. Following the word ČESKO the dot appears immediately after the O.
9. The dot is missing following the text of the overprint.



Figure 9 — Counterfeit C Figure 10 — Counterfeit D Figure 11 — Counterfeit E

Counterfeit C (Figure 9)

1. The crown on the lion's head is formless and smeared.
2. The eye is generally not discernible.
3. The claws are short and resemble a cross.
4. The middle claw of the back leg is very short.
5. The diacritical mark above C lies on the letter.
6. The upper end of the lion's tail is horizontal.
7. A horizontal dash appears after the word ČESKO.

Counterfeit D (Figure 10)

1. The crown on the lion's head is formless.
2. The eye is significantly larger.
3. Claws are short, thick, and resemble a cross.
4. The center claw of the hind leg almost touches the letter S.
5. The point of the diacritical mark above C is dull and set higher.
6. The drawing of the lion was made with thick lines.
7. No dot appears after the overprint's text.

Counterfeit E (Figure 11)

1. The drawing of the crown is sharp and clear.
2. The eye is placed lower and a bit to the right.
3. The head and mane seem to have been drawn separately.
4. The center claw of the hind leg is aimed at the S.
5. The diacritical mark above the C lies directly on the letter.
6. The drawing of the entire lion differs in that he appears to be thinner.
7. Larger letters are used for the words SLOVENSKÝ STÁT.
8. No dot appears after the text of the overprint.

First Prague Revolutionary Issue

Collectors attended the birth of all these revolutionary overprints and were largely responsible for their issuance. In an attempt to copy the other succession states (Poland and Yugoslavia), a group of people connected with the National Council and led by J. Rossler-Orovsky had the Wiesner printshop in Prague prepare sample plates for overprinting (Figures 12, 13, 14, and 15). These plates were to carry the text "PROVISORNI ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ VLÁDA" (Provisional Czechoslovak Government) and "ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ STATNÍ POŠTA" (Czechoslovak State Post) with a drawing of a small coat-of-arms, with and without a crown, together with the Czech lion.

Low value Austrian stamps with these overprints were submitted to the National Council for approval. Action, however, was postponed because of the questions concerning the suitability of the text, and also because of the movement to issue indigenous Czechoslovak stamps as soon as possible. The group which submitted these proposals continued to make preparations for the issue, however, by publishing an announcement in the daily press that Austrian



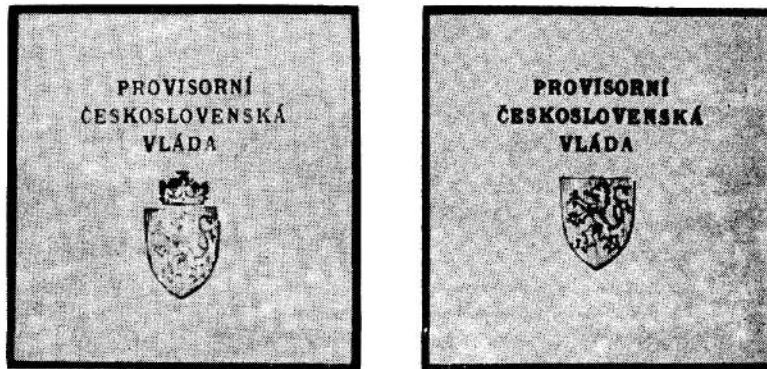
Figures 12 and 13 — Two trial overprints with "Czechoslovak State Post" and crown.

stamps were to be overprinted and put into circulation. Following this announcement, inquiries by philatelists began coming in which were handled, on a commercial basis, by J. Rösler-Ořovský and his group (Figure 16).

The first day of use apparently was November 1, 1918, for this is the first date that is to be found on registered letters, which were, in the main, mailed by members of this group. A metal stamp was prepared and a small number of low denomination, and even a few whole sets of, Austrian stamps were thus overprinted. From this, plates were made to overprint whole series of stamps in the Knap Print Shop. Whole series of regular, and the two Austrian special delivery values were overprinted. All in all, 21 values appeared with these overprints.

Regular issues overprinted were the following: 3h, 5h, 10h, 12h showing the crown, 15h, 20h, 25h, 30h, depicting Emperor Karel, 40h, 50h, 60h, 80h, 90h, 'K picturing the Hapsburg coat-of-arms, small format, 2K, 3K, 4K, 10K also with coat-of-arms, but the stamps have a larger format, and the 2h and 5h stamps of the 1917 Austrian special delivery issue

The coat-of-arms with the lion in the stereotype came from the stock of the Provincial Committee, which had used it in the headings on various types of stationery. For use in the overprint, the crown was filed off. Various trial overprints, with and without the crown, on various kinds of paper and various



Figures 14 and 15 — Trial overprints with "Provisional Czechoslovak Government" with and without crown.

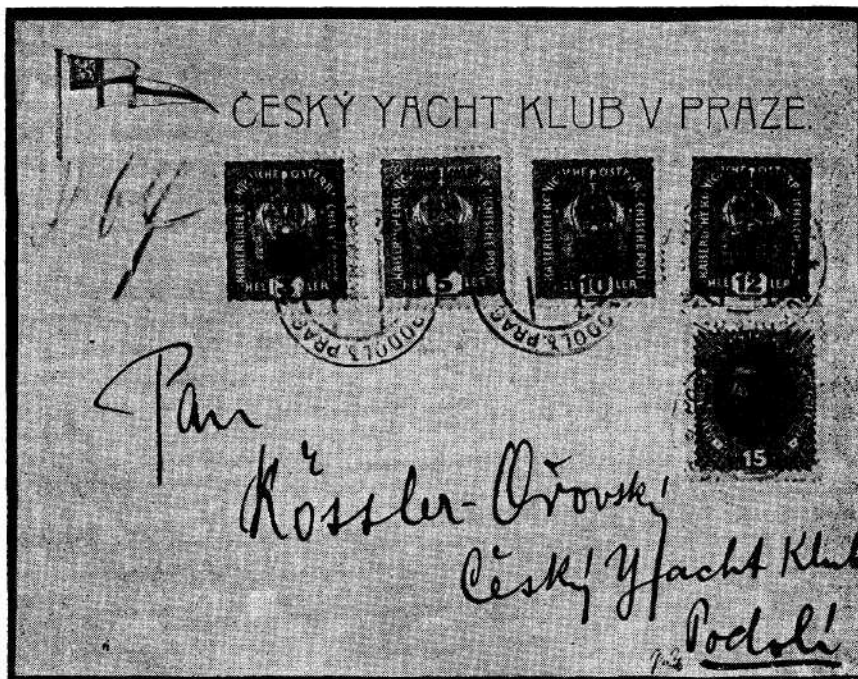


Figure 16 — Original cover with five stamps of the first Prague Revolutionary issue postmarked Praha-Podoli November 10, 1918.

Austrian stamps are known.

The original hand-set overprint has two types:

Type I

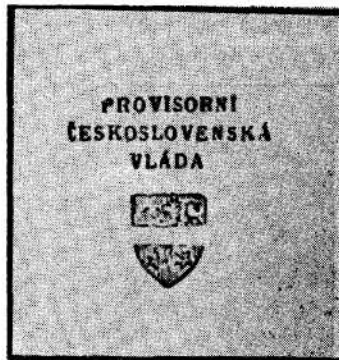
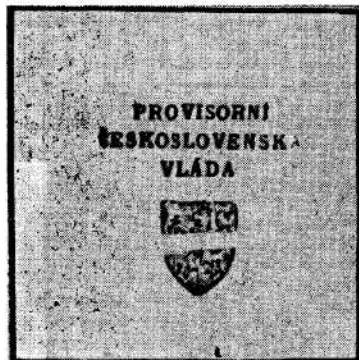
1. The right corner of the coat-of-arms is damaged, the upper part is humped.

2. The letter P in PROVISORNI is somewhat lower than the other letters.

3. The lower part of the letter S in PROVISORNI is damaged.

Type II

1. The right corner of the coat-of-arms is sharp, with the upper part



Figures 17 and 18 — Overprints reproduced from defaced plates now in the archives of the National Council.



Figure 19 — Original stereotype overprint of first Prague issue.



Figure 20 — Counterfeit overprint of first Prague issue.

somewhat hollow after the filing away of the crown.

2. The letters V and I in PROVISORNI are a bit higher than the rest of the word.

Some years later these plates were again used to overprint stamps. It was not until 1930 that the plates were defaced and placed in the archives of the National Council (Figures 17, 18).

Overprints printed by the stereotype (Figure 19) are more common. Two types are found in this printing and are known as type III and IV.

Type III

1. Right corner of the coat-of-arms is dulled and the upper part has bumps.
2. The letter C in ČESKOSLOVENSKA is normal, that is, wide.

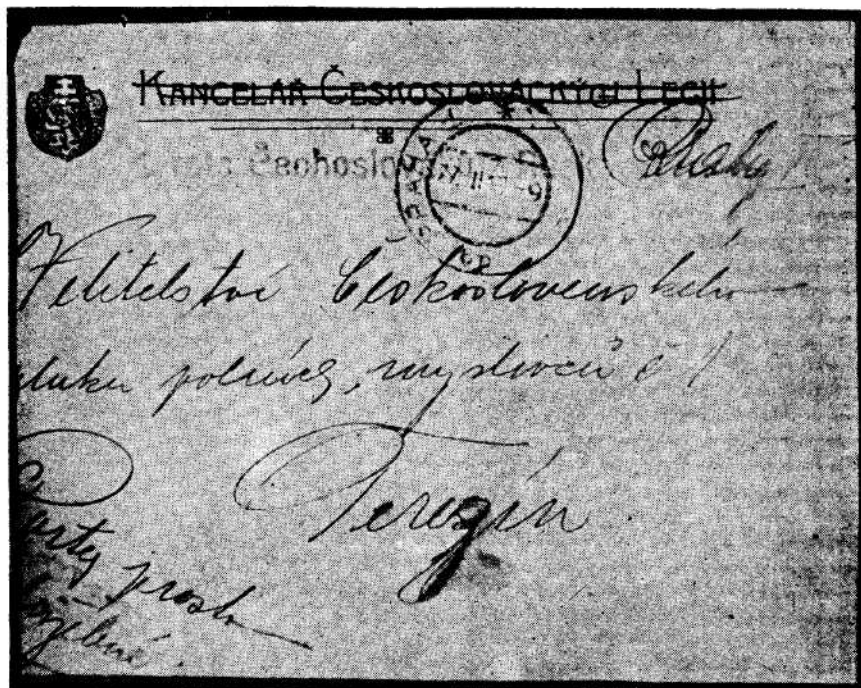


Figure 21 — Letter with "Legionnaires coat-of-arms" imprinted on envelope.



Figure 22 — Original Type I overprint, second Prague issue.

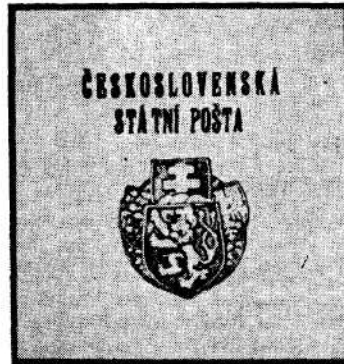


Figure 23 — Original Type II overprint, second Prague issue.

Type IV

1. Right corner of the coat-of-arms is damaged and the upper side has a projection.
2. The letter C in ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ is narrow.
3. Letters V and I in PROVISORNI are somewhat higher than the rest of the word.

Supplementary printings with original plates are characterized by heavy black color and also reveal wear of the plates. Stamps from such later printings have no philatelic value.

Counterfeits

Various counterfeits of the First Prague Revolutionary overprint issue are known. One of the counterfeits which was often sent to foreign countries (Figure 20) is described below:

1. The drawing of the coat-of-arms had lighter lines and the outline is broken on the right side. The right corner is sharp.
2. The word ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ is a half letter wider.
3. The letters SO in PROVISORNI are very close together.

Second Prague Revolutionary Issue

The text and coat-of-arms used to print the First Prague Revolutionary Issue were criticized because, it was charged, they did not reflect the union of Czechs and Slovaks in one state. And since J. Rossler-Orovsky was a resourceful man, he arranged for the issuance of a Second Prague Revolutionary Issue which carried the text "ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ STATNÍ POŠTA" (Czechoslovak State Post) and the large so-called Legionnaires coat-of-arms. The cut for the coat-of-arms was borrowed from the Office of the Czechoslovak Legions where it was used for letter heads and other printed matter. The envelope in Figure 21 carries this coat-of-arms and also has a very interesting address in that the military unit addressee is still referred to by its original Austrian title of "First Field Forester's Regiment" in Terezin.

The preparation of this issue was very similar to the First Prague Revolutionary Issue. The overprint was set by hand and used to prepare a small number of complete sets and a whole series of trial overprintings on various Austrian stamps, scout stamps, and on plain paper. The overprint was also applied to a small quantity of post cards. This hand overprint has two types which have the following characteristics:

Type I (Figure 22)

1. The distance between the bottom of the text STATNĚ POŠTA to the top of the coat-of-arms is 2¼ mm.
2. A break appears in the middle of the coat-of-arms.
3. The diacritical mark above the A's are not firmly placed.

Type II (Figure 23)

1. The distance between the bottom of the text STATNĚ POŠTA to the top of the coat-of-arms is 2¾ mm.
2. The outline of the coat-of-arms is not broken.
3. Diacritical marks above the letters A are not firmly affixed.

A stereotype was made from this metal hand overprint and resembles Type II described above with the difference that the diacritical marks above the A's are set closer to the letter. This stereotyped overprint is the most common and usually is to be found in complete sets. This issue, like the First Prague Issue, consists of 21 values. The registered letters that the author has seen were mailed in Prague from the following post offices: Praha 1, Praha Zemsky snem, Praha Kr. Vinohrady. The earliest known postmark is November 7, 1918. Used stamps are usually those overprinted with the hand stamp. It is very unusual to find a cover bearing mixed franking from the First and Second Prague Revolutionary issues.

In our December issue we will give a detailed report of our Convention and Exhibition with the list of participants, their entries and the awards presented.

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