

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Official publication of the



Czechoslovak Philatelic Society

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EDITORIAL

We are seriously considering attending WIPA in June to enable us to visit with many old friends there. When this matter first entered our minds, we wondered how to meet all our philatelic commitments here. At the last meeting of the Board of Directors of the Postal History Society of the Americas, we were elected Treasurer of that organization, after having served the maximum number of terms as its president. We will have to be back in the USA in July and this is also the date for our preparation of the September issue of the Specialist. We expect, of course, to visit Prague and Bratislava. This reminds us that late in 1945 we were to fly to Prague from Paris but our military orders for leave arrived at the same time as notification of arrangements for our return to the States. We naturally chose to go home.

In a recent issue of Linn's we noted with pleasure that our member #525 Major Richard S. Steffel served as one of the judges at the Turkish-American Stamp Club Show in December 1964.

We had a most enjoyable time with member Captain Benchik, who visited us during his Christmas leave. We talked for part of the afternoon about Czechoslovak philately and he was interested in our collection of Siberian Field Post as well as that of the 11th Czech regiment. Too bad that the time was somewhat too short for a more lengthy discussion on numerous matters of interest to both of us. He suggested, as had been mentioned quite some time ago in the Specialist, that we look into the matter of microfilming the issues of the Specialist which are no longer available, i.e., before 1946. We shall endeavor to consider how to deal with the problem. We wish to observe that the ladies (Mrs. Benchik and Mrs. Reiner-Deutsch) also had a good time though not with affairs touching on philately.

Our readers will note the interesting articles in this issue and the one on the 25 h Hradčany, started us on a hunt for determination of a more correct term than that used in certain instances, i.e., ribbed paper. Apparently such paper is not manufactured and has never been, whether by hand or by machine. It is rather a description of appearance and hence is in need of clarification.

We had some most pleasant minutes not long ago, when we received a warm letter from one of our rather new members. We quote, "Thank you for your good help, your good editorials and all the many things you do to make the Society worth while—and it is! God bless you, keep you well and happy." And a few more lines, "The back issues of the Specialist arrived (1964 issues) and brought many hours of interesting reading and study. Thank you for

sending them. I am so pleased with myself for having joined the Society! And am so pleased with it." I never had the pleasure of meeting this member and have had only correspondence with her. We actually felt a strong impulse to report on this letter because we have had many difficult hours lately with reading some not so delightful letters by members not addressed to us who just do not know how to work really selflessly for a society. It is much easier to be hypocritical. However we cannot be that and we shall not even try.

We believe we need not continue on this subject at this time. The methods used are truly very strange to say the least. And all is the result only of the sad fact that some individuals do not know how to be soldiers but want always to be generals

NEW YORK BRANCH NOVEMBER MEETING

At this meeting we were able to meet our valued member Arthur Kessler, who, we hope, will attend our meetings during his stay in the USA. Member Schoenig was the speaker of the evening, who showed us unusual commemorative and presentation sheets. There were some very interesting corner cards the members have not seen before. During the discussion, the members expressed their satisfaction over the reports from visitors that they had enjoyed the Nojex exhibition of the Society and had expressed their appreciation for the efforts of the Branch in connection with it.

Mr. Schoenig was congratulated at his re-election as President of the Patchogue Stamp Club, the largest one on the entire Long Island. We have just learned that member Koplowitz was re-elected President of the New York Chapter of the Scandinavian Stamp Club.

NEW MEMBERS

- 795 Savoy Horvath, P. O. Box 664, Beecher, Ill. 60401
- 796 Roy A. Dehn, 6 Ninhams Court, Norwich, Norfolk, Nor. 57 E, England
- 797 Elmer N. Lofland, 701 Storms Circle, Kettering, Ohio 45429
- 798 Judith A. Streiff, 556 St. Joseph Ave., Dayton, Ohio
- 799 Alma Hageman, 1841 Brookline Ave., Dayton, Ohio 45420
- 800 Martha E. Budd, 4316 Blue Rock Road, Dayton, Ohio

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

- 172 Albert Thivierge, P. O. Box 324, Whitestone, N. Y. 11377
- 66 C. H. Osbourn, 60 McLoughlin Blvd., Oshawa, Ont., Canada
- 483 Charles Maresch, Jr., 37 Power House Hill Road, Wilton, Conn. 06897
- 792 John M. Slanski, 164 Leavenworth Road, Shelton, Conn.

ATTENTION MEMBERS

We received the following poem from our Treasurer:

The Treasurer's Dream

by Anonymous

I fell asleep the other night and while I had my snooze,
I dreamed each member stepped right up and promptly paid his dues.
But when I found it was a dream, I nearly had a fit,
"It's up to you to make it true. Please remit."

Kindly send your dues to Joseph Stein, 585 E. 21st St., Brooklyn, N. Y. 11226.

Active membership \$3.00, sustaining \$5.00 and patron \$10.00. Do make it at least sustaining membership!

HRADČANY'S HORIZONTALLY RIBBED PAPER

O. Kutvirt

In almost every specialized catalogue a mention is made that a few Hradčany were printed on horizontally ribbed paper. Each one of these stamps is regarded as a hard-to-get rarity.

Mr. John Velek loaned me his pair of the 10h on horizontally ribbed (laid) paper for inspection. Working with two paper mill specialists I examined the pair by all the non-destructive tests available. The consensus of our opinion is that the lines are felt marks, i.e. the result of unintentional, accidental machine condition.

In the process of papermaking, the sheet leaves the wire with a definite pattern on one side, called the "wire mark." On the opposite side the wet sheet comes into contact with the felt which leaves a fairly smooth surface, although it may be distinct enough to pass as a felt mark. In most cases the wire and felt marks are, at least partially, obliterated in the subsequent wet-pressing and calendering operations. Dirty felts have a tendency to leave permanent marks on the sheet. So do the felts that were worn out in spots as a result of mechanical, bacterial or chemical degradation. In other words, a small area on the felt, either damaged or dirty, could have very easily created the appearance of "laid" paper.

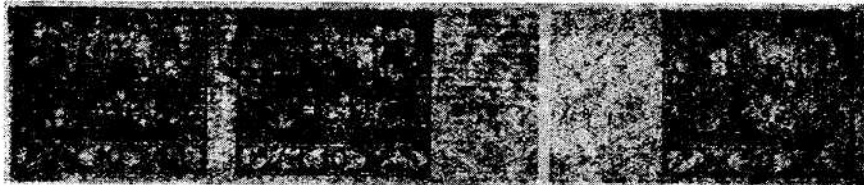
This conclusion may be supported by the following reasoning:

1. Only a few stamps are known to have been printed on paper in question. This eliminates the possibility that a full run of intentionally "laid" paper was used for printing of Hradčany. At the same time the paper with horizontal lines appears exactly the same as the rest of Hradčany paper. This rules out the possible contention that a few sheets of laid paper made to serve other purpose were accidentally mixed with regular Hradčany paper.

2. The paper used in Hradčany was of rather poor quality. This kind of paper was not expected to be intentionally watermarked (laid).

3. Until recently the paper was "laid" only by means of a dandy roll. It was impossible to run a paper machine with a dandy roll at full speed because of slippage between the dandy roll and the paper. Since, as it seems, there was neither need nor intention to print Hradčany on laid paper it would have been uneconomical to make such paper on a machine running at a low speed because of a dandy roll.

The above conclusion is nothing more than an educated guess. Can somebody throw more or different light on the subject?



The pair of 10h is printed on the "lined" paper. The lines show only in the upper part of the stamps. The 20h is on the regular paper. Both samples show very distinctly the wire marks.

POSTAL STATIONERY COLUMN

Wolfgang Fritzsche

New Issue postal stationery: Postal card, imprinted stamp 30 H showing space capsule over earth. At left picture of a city square with legend: Vystava poštovních znamek Chocen od 20. zari do 1. rijna 1964. Picture in brown, three address lines, 35 H sales price in lower right corner.

REGISTRATION PRACTICES IN USE DURING PERIOD OF THE FIRST ISSUE

By John Velek

Reprinted from the Postal History Journal

Registration of letters was a common practice during the period of the first issue of the Czechoslovak Republic (these are the stamps known as the Hradčany) even as it is in more recent times. In the United States only valuable letters generally are registered, but in Czechoslovakia almost all letters of any importance had some form of inscription requesting registration, and the postoffice usually applied a registration label and number. Even postcards often were registered. The differential in the registration rates of the two countries during the early 1920's may account for the wider use of this post-office service in Czechoslovakia. For where the U. S. rate was 15 cents the Czechoslovak registration rates were as follows:

From Oct. 28, 1918 to May 14, 1919—.25 crowns.

From May 15, 1919 to July 31, 1920—.50 crowns.

From Aug. 1, 1920 to Dec. 31, 1921—1.25 crowns.

Since the Czechoslovak crown (koruna) of this period was worth about four cents in U. S. money, the registration rates were only one cent, two cents and five cents, respectively.

Beside the registration label, most registered letters bore an inscription or handstamp requesting the extra service. In Czech this was "Doporučne" (Fig. 10), "Doporučeno" or "Zapsati" (Fig. 1). "Eischreiben," "Rekommandiert," "Rekomando" (Fig. 4), or merely "Rek." was the German form. In the Slo-

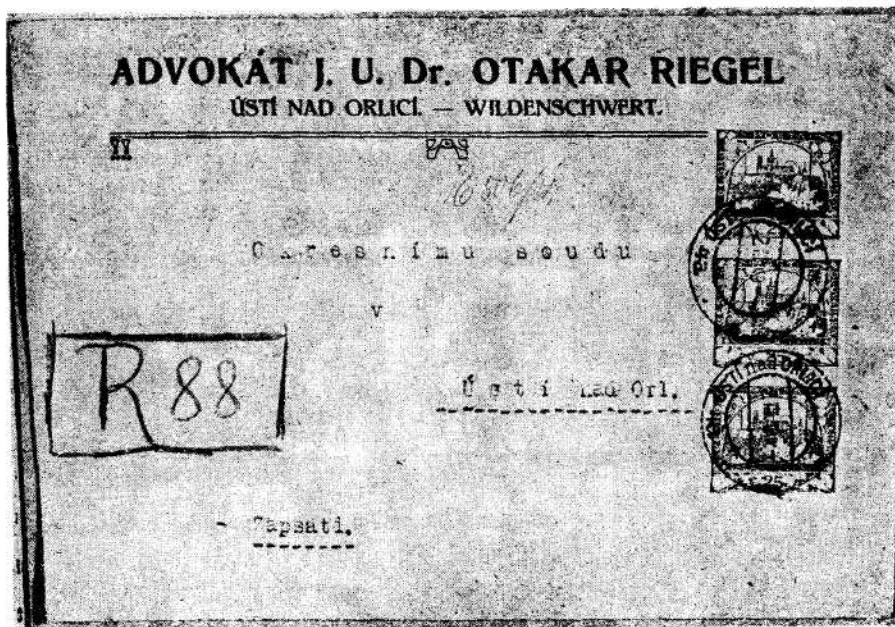


Fig. 1. Manuscript registration in red crayon. Notation: "Zapsati" (literally "to write down"). Three 25 heller stamps paying the 50 heller registration charge and the 25 heller postage rate of this period.



Fig. 2. Manuscript "R", "Felbar" in black. Stamps totaling 140 hellers paying the 30 heller postage, 50 heller registration and 60 heller special delivery (express) fees.



Fig. 3. Manuscript "Ajanlott" in red crayon framed in blue crayon A letter originating in the Slovakian town of Uzor and addressed to Bratislava. The 185 heller registration fee and the 60 heller first class rate effective after August 1, 1920.

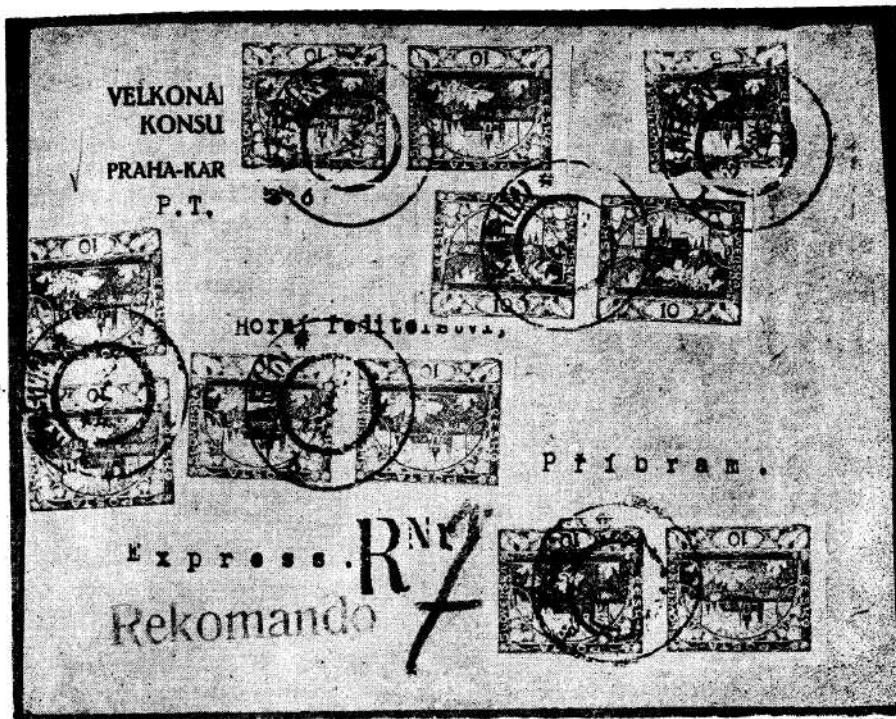


Fig. 4. Handstamped "R Nr." in black with #7 in blue crayon, also "Rekomando". The 105 hellers in postage pays the rates of the first rate period, postage 20, registration 25 and special delivery 60 hellers.



Fig. 5. Handstamped "R. No." on a postcard with the number 402 in pencil. The Austrian postcard is overprinted "CSR 10" and the stamps pay the registration fee only.

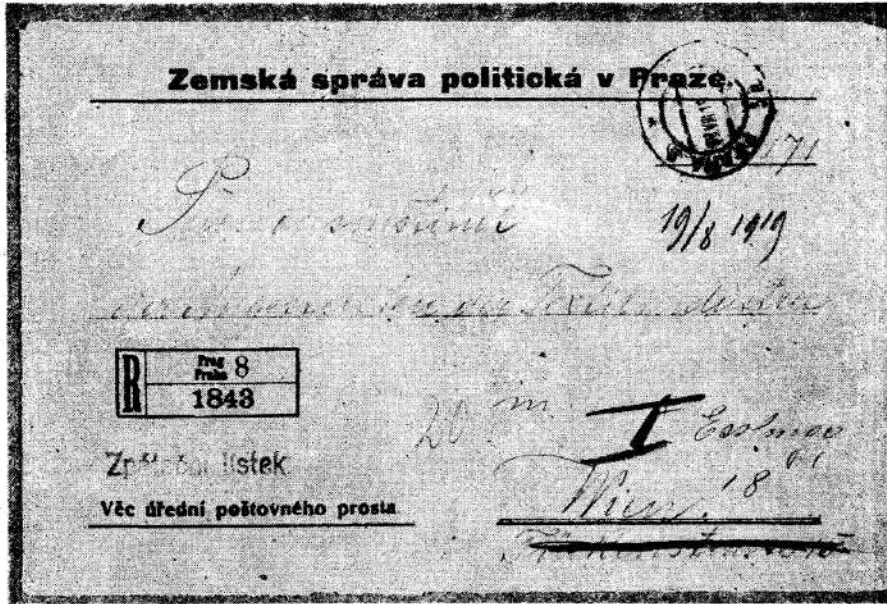


Fig. 6. The Austrian registration label on an official letter not requiring postage. The "Zpateční listek" is a request for a return receipt (From the Dr. Reiner-Deutsch collection).



Fig. 7. Austrian label on an official letter from "Landgendarmarie Command for Bohemia, Division Trautenau, Post Politz a/m No. 18". The inscription beneath the label translates: "Free of Postage, Official Matter." (From the Dr. Reiner-Deutsch collection).



Fig. 8. A Hungarian type registration label with stamps paying the 50 heller registration fee and 25 hellers postage.

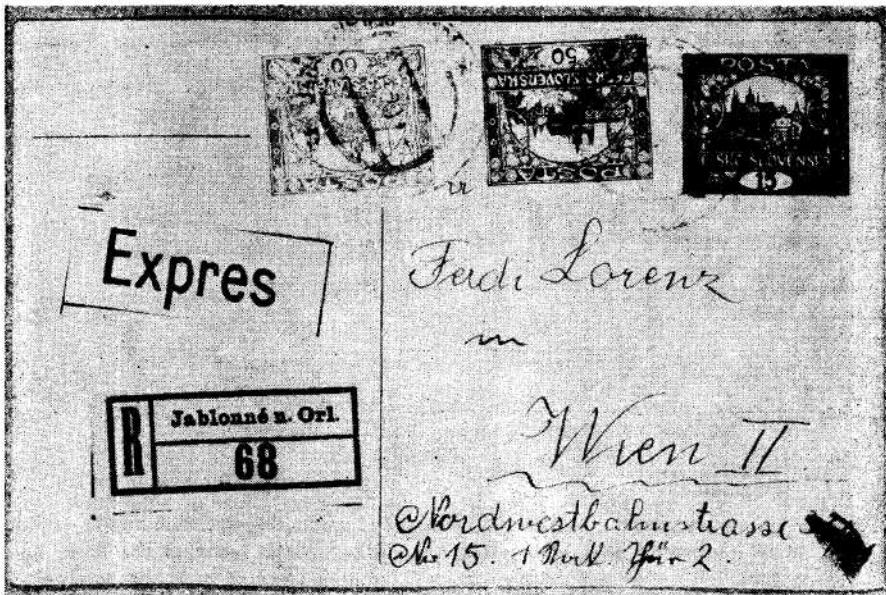


Fig. 9. A postcard with the imperforate label of the Czechoslovak Republic. The 50 heller stamp pays the registration fee; the 60 heller stamp is for special delivery.

vakian section of the country the Hungarian "Ajánlott" was often encountered (Fig. 8). Occasionally the Universal Postal Union language form was used with the French word "Recomandee".

The registration labels themselves took several forms especially in the transition from the Austrian-Hungarian Monarchy to the Republic. I have not seen the red framed, blue lettered label of the Republic dated before the end of May, 1919, and so the period between then and the founding of the Republic utilized either the Austrian-Hungarian remainders or various substitutes. The Austrian labels are the most common but some postoffices apparently ran out of, or perhaps patriotic postmasters refused to use the bilingual Czech-German labels (Fig. 7). In such instances manuscript or handstamp labels were substituted. Manuscript markings are usually in colored crayon; the rubber stamps consist of a large "R" without mention of town name. Austrian labels appear on yellow or yellowish paper and come imperforate, but are more often found perforated 9, 10 or 11½. The town name is usually bilingual and all lettering and numbers is in black. Hungarian labels I have seen only perforated. On these the "R", "Ajánlott" and the frame were in red with the town name and registration number in black (Fig. 8).

Labels of the Republic were printed in red and blue, the town and numbers being in the latter color with the balance in red. These came both perforated and imperforate. Several special labels are known, such as the PSP label of the Postal Savings Bank (Fig. 11), and a blank label for railway cancellation (Fig. 12).

This is a brief but general idea of the practices of the Czechoslovak Postal Department used in guarding important mail of its patrons during the period of its first stamp issue.



Fig. 10. A perforated label of the Republic on an official letter of the State Land Office. Note the handstamp: "Doporucene". On this class of mail the postage was paid by the recipient. The clerk marked the letter with a blue crayon 1— (Koruna) and the 100 heller postage due stamp paid the fee.

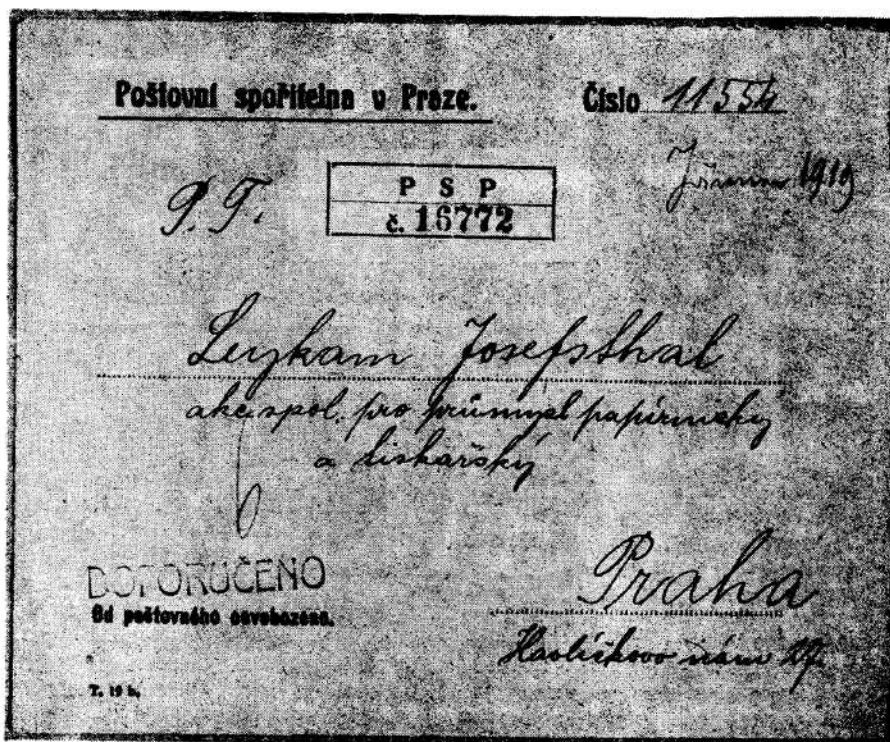


Fig. 11. A PSP label of the Postal Savings Bank. Note the handstamp "Doporučeno", and beneath it the notation meaning "free of postage".

1965 STAMP DISPLAY PLANS NOW FINALIZED

Domestic and foreign postal administrations, philatelic museums, security printers and eminent philatelists on five continents presently are readying a wide variety of displays for a stamp exhibition which will be opened to the public during the month of February at the Pepsi-Cola Exhibition Salon on Park Avenue in New York City.

The showing is designed to acquaint visitors with the lure of postage stamps from the time of their creation until they are affixed to mail to render every conceivable kind of transport over, across, under and beyond the earth's surface.

A supplementary section will dramatize the kinds of persons who collect, and the varied ways in which albums can be built.

For months now, those institutions and individuals who own treasures which most impressively represent the various aspects of the "Postage Stamp Story," have been working on their exhibits.

Entirely non-commercial in purpose, but educational in scope, the show has been planned by Ernest A. Kehr in cooperation with a committee of philatelic leaders.

It is being designed by executives and the Art Department of the Pepsi Cola Corp. as another of its regular Public Service Projects. Except for the fact that the firm's salon will be used, no advertising will be introduced in or through the exhibition.

—From Linn's Weekly Stamp News



Fig. 12. A blank registration label with a railway cancellation of Route #754. (Herm. Milotice to Vrbo) (Erbersdorf-Wurbenthal). Stamps on the reverse pay the 1.25 crown registration fee and the 1.25 crown foreign rate to the U. S.

JUDGES PROGRAM BEGUN BY APS

The American Philatelic Society has established a system to screen and certify the qualifications of those who serve as judges at philatelic exhibitions so that collectors and the general public will have even greater confidence in their decisions.

The program to improve yet another phase of philately was announced at the recent annual convention in Washington, D. C., when President Fred E. Thomas of Oakland, Calif., revealed the "Accredited Judges Program."

"We feel that engaging 'Accredited Judges' will enhance any exhibition and tend to bring into public competition collections which have been withheld because of a lack of confidence in the acting judges," President Thomas said.

The simple, yet effective, method of evaluating the ability of those who wish to act as judges requires that they serve as judge in at least five regional shows, three national shows or international show to qualify as an Accredited Judge. It will be necessary for a judge to serve as an "apprentice judge"

until these qualifications are met.

To add further stature to the program, a person will be accredited to judge only the countries or categories which he is certified competent to judge and these countries or categories will be listed on his certificates. Additions to a judge's field may be made any time acceptable evidence of competency in a field is submitted, and when approved, a new certificate will be issued.

While the Accredited Judges Program was inaugurated primarily for the benefit of the many chapters and specialty groups of the APS, it is believed that it will rank with the now famous "Black Blot" program of evaluating new issues in benefits to philately of upgrading, clarifying and unifying the judging procedure.

—From Linn's Weekly Stamp News

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Parade Of New Issues

Edited by Frank Kosik

Commemorative stamps "XVIIIth Olympic Games in Tokyo"



- 60h—cycling. Colors: violet, orange, green and black
 80 h—track and field athletics. Colors: yellow, green, violet-brown and black
 1 Kčs—football. Colors: green, red, blue and black
 1.20 Kčs—rowing. Colors: yellow, grey-blue, red, dark blue
 1.60 Kčs—swimming. Colors: yellow, red, brown, blue-green and black
 2.80 Kčs—weight lifting. Colors: yellow, red, blue and black

Dimensions of the stamp pictures are 37x23 mm.

These were printed in four colors by the flat recess print in sheets of ten. The inscription is printed on the border of each sheet in both Czech and Japanese.

Issued with the stamps will be three First Day Covers bearing symbolic drawings designed by Anna Podzemná and engraved by Jaroslav Goldschmied. The inscription on the covers is also in Czech and Japanese.

20th Anniversary of the Slovak National Rising



30 h—colors: dark-brown and red

60 h—colors: dark-blue and red

Designed by Jozef Baláž, engraved by Jiří Švengsbir

Printed by the rotary recess print combined with photogravure in sheets of 50. A First Day Cover, designed by Josef Baláž and engraved by Jaroslav Goldschmied, will be issued with the series.

20th Anniversary of the Battles at Dukla

60 h—colors: black and red

Designed by Albin Brunocský, engraved by Jindra Schmidt.

Printed by the rotary recess print combined with photogravure in sheets of 50. A First Day Cover, designed by Josef Baláž and engraved by Jaroslav Goldschmied, will be issued with the series.



The Prague Castle

The sheet stamps:
60 h value. Size 23x41 mm. Color: Black and red. Printed in the rotary die stamping combined with intaglio process.

Author of the design: Joseph Liesler; engraver: Ladislav Jirka.

The First Day Envelope was also designed by Joseph Liesler and engraved by John Mráček.

The souvenir sheet: value 5 Czechoslovak crowns. Size 97x75 mm. Color: dark red-brown. Printed in planography die stamping.

Author of the design: Jaroslav Lukavský, engraver: Frederick Housa.

The special envelope also was designed by Jaroslav Lukavský and engraved by Joseph Herčík.

Just received shipment of Forgery Book, cost \$3.96 postpaid

TRAVELING?

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František Ales

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