

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Official publication of the



Czechoslovak Philatelic Society

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Vol. XXVIII

June 1966

No. 264

The VZOREC Overprint on Czechoslovak Stamps

by Zdeněk Kvasnička
translated by J. J. Verner



The word SPECIMEN, VZOREC, MUESTRA, SAGGIO and so on appears on unused stamps of various countries and indicates that those stamps were

not intended for normal postal use, but rather as official samples. Similar overprints are also to be found on bank notes. The impression is widespread among philatelists that stamps bearing such overprints were intended for distribution, and indeed distributed, to members of the UPU and to the UPU Headquarters in Berne as documentary exhibits.

During the second congress of the UPU held in Paris in 1878 it was decided that every member nation should supply each postal authority, via the International Office (Bureau International) in Berne, one copy of each postage stamp issued. During the Third Congress held in 1885 the number of copies to be distributed was increased to three, the fourth meeting held in Vienna in 1891 again increased the number to five, while the Sixth Congress, held in Rome, again lowered the number of copies to three. New proposals, changes or clarifications of existing agreements appeared at each UPU Congress. For instance, at the XI Congress held in Buenos Aires in 1939, it was determined that authorities should exchange, with the International Bureau in Berne as intermediary, three examples of all new postal issues and samples of all franking machines in use as well as information on when earlier issues ceased to be valid. The International Bureau is responsible for control of these exchanges and also keeps one record copy. However, we know from experience that any kind of control becomes impossible during the current flood of new issues and so the stamp samples distributed are noted and become archival material.

Through this means of regular receipt of new issues, many postal museums have developed excellent and often fairly complete collections. For instance, in Prague while recently conducting several American collectors through the Postal Museum, one of their number, Mr. Wellman of Bookfield, wanted to see how regularly material is received from the Mexican postal authorities. The curator gladly brought the appropriate index cards to the guest who, much to his surprise, was able to determine that the Museum had everything issued by that postal authority. The Museum passed the test with flying colors.

Most of the postal authorities distribute the appropriate number of copies of each issued item without any overprints. Some of them overprint or perforate stamps which are intended to publicize a new issue and thus preventing such samples from being used for franking purposes.

Czechoslovakia was admitted to the UPU on May 18, 1920. In August 1920 the Ministry of Post sent the prescribed number of regular, special delivery and postage due stamps to Berne, but most of them without overprint. Stamps had been prepared with the VZOREC (specimen) overprint for this purpose, but it is not known why the Ministry decided not to send them. Subsequently, the entire small printing of the overprints was sold to the Club of Czech Philatelists in Prague which in turn divided them among its members.



It isn't without interest that one can find stamps among these overprints with various perforations, such as the 10½, which are not listed in the POFIS catalog or stamps with perforations that were only issued as imperforated stamps. Philatelists also obtained overprints on plain white or yellowish paper as well as on printer's wastes. These were on the 3h, 5h, 10h, 20h and 30h stamps.

It is not an easy task to put together a complete collection of stamps bearing the VZOREC overprint. It is also quite possible that the following listing may not be complete.

HRADČANY ISSUE

Imperforated: 1h, 3h, 5h I, 5h IV, 10h I, 10h IV, 15h IV, 20h I, 20h IV, 25h I, 25h IV, 40h I, 50h II, 50h IV, 60h, 75h, 80h, 100h, 120h, 200h, 300h, 400h, 500h, 1000h.

Imperforated with an inverted VZOREC overprint: 1h, 5h IV, 10h IV, 15h IV, 20h IV, 25h IV, 50h II, 50h IV, 60h, 75h, 80h, 120h, 300h, 400h, 500h, 1000h.

Inverted overprints on stamps bearing the 11½ perforation: 50h II, 400h.

Line perforation 13¾: 1h, 3h, 5h I, 10h I, 10h IV, 15h IV, 20h I, 20h IV, 25h I, 25h IV, 30h I, 40h, 50h II, 50h IV, 60h, 75h, 80h, 100h, 120h, 200h, 300h, 400h, 500h, 1000h.

Comb perforation 13¾x13½: 1h, 15h IV, 60h, 80h, 300h, 1000h.

Line perforation 11½x10¾: 5h I, 5h IV, 25h IV.

Line perforation 11½: 5h IV, 10h I, 15h IV, 20h I, 40h, 50h II, 400h, 1000h.

Line perforation 10½: 25h I, 25h I, 25h IV, 75h, 120h, 1000h.

NEWSPAPER STAMPS

Imperforated: 2h, 6h, 10h, 20h, 30h.

Line perforated 13¾: 2h, 6h, 10h, 20h, 30h.

The newspaper stamps were overprinted by the same plates that were originally used on the Hradčany issue. This is the reason the overprint on this issue is usually considerably off center.

SPECIAL DELIVERY STAMPS

Imperforated: 2h, 5h.

Perforated 13¾: 2h, 5h.

POSTAGE DUE STAMPS

Imperforated: all the stamps of this issue except the 25h, 400h, and 2000h normally have the overprint on left side which reads from the bottom up. The 100, 500, 1000h values also bear the overprint on the right side of the stamp which reads from the top down. The 25h has the overprint on the right reading from bottom up.

Line perforated 13¾: all values except the 25h, 100h, and 500h.

Line perforated 11½: only the 5h, 10h, 15h, and 25h values overprint reading bottom up on the 100h, 500h, and 1000h.

Line perforated 10½: only the 25h value.

Several questions have been received asking whether current Czechoslovak stamps were also overprinted with the word VZOREC. Mr. Böhm, answering these questions in the name of the foreign trade firm ARTIA, said in essence this:

The export of Czechoslovak stamps is a significant foreign currency earner and also is good propaganda for Czechoslovakia. We export to the entire world. We have good trade partners in the socialist states as well as in the Western and overseas trade circles. We try to insure that the cooperation of our designers, engravers and printing machines results in the creation of

a small artistic phenomena which our customers will greet with admiration and delight. We must supply stamps to the market punctually so that collectors abroad are able to mount the stamps into their albums about the same time that Czechoslovak collectors do. We therefore send out offers for new issues before release and accompany these offers with photographs of the new stamps or new issue samples which are protected against abuse by perforation or overprinting with either the word SPECIMEN or VZOR applied by a hand metal stamp. Timely information assures us of orders and our business associates are then better able to fulfill the collectors' needs.

These overprinted and perforated stamps have no philatelic value.

EDITORIAL

In the March issue of the Specialist we described the efforts of member Janecka regarding the issuance of a U. S. commemorative in October 1968 on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the signing of the declaration of independence of Czechoslovakia by Masaryk in Philadelphia. We asked our members for their support and to communicate with us. The executive committee of the Council had approved the support of the Society for this very valuable endeavor. To date not a single member has found the time to drop us a few lines in this regard. We are very much disturbed by this because we try so hard to give our members worthwhile information via our Specialist with the assistance of a number of individuals who are willing in this way to forward the interest of Czechoslovak philately. We are satisfied to know that many members are pleased with our job. But this matter of support of a commemorative stamp should be close to the hearts of all of you, whether you were born in CSR or USA of Czech descent or not, as long as you are sufficiently interested in the stamps to have joined our society. Why not give the cause a couple of minutes and express your interest. We should type it up with the entire list of names and mail it to member Janecka for forwarding the copy to the PMG. This issue will reach you in June. There is still time to send us the note—but do it!!!

We understand the Pan-Slavic Exhibition of the First Czechoslovak Philatelic Club of America, held in the C. S. A. Olympic Building in Cicero, was a great success. The show had 123 frames. Member Mrňák sent pages from his highly specialized Siberia and also wrote a brief account on the postal history of the Legion which was translated by member Janecka and published in the program booklet. Mrňák received the Grand Award and member Janecka was awarded a Gold Medal for his entry. We were told that slides were made of the pages of Mrňák to enable interested collectors who did not have the opportunity to view the exhibit to see at least the photographs. We feel this was an especially valuable step since we and others would be very much interested in seeing the reproductions. Congratulations are due to member Janecka who conceived the idea of the show.

Your Editor joined the ranks of APS accredited judges for Czechoslovakia, Austria, Hungary and Postal History.

Our member Pearce's father and sister passed away a few weeks ago and we wish to express our sincere sympathy to him.

Members please note this is the last call for payment of dues to the Society. Send treasurer Joseph Stein, 585 East 21st St., Brooklyn, N. Y. 11226, a five dollar check promptly for sustaining membership in the Society.

NEW MEMBER

847 John Pojeta, Jr., 4998 Battery Lane, Bethesda, Md. 20014

The 1939 Stamp of the Carpatho-Ukraine

By Viktor Indra

Reprinted from the Journal of the Rossica Society of Russian Philately

(continued)

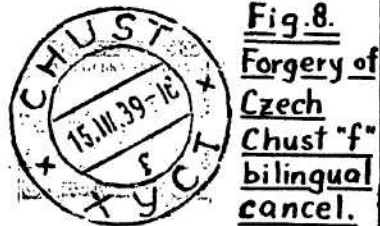


Fig. 8.
Forgery of
Czech
Chust "f"
bilingual
cancel.

Lauson H. Stone
Collection.

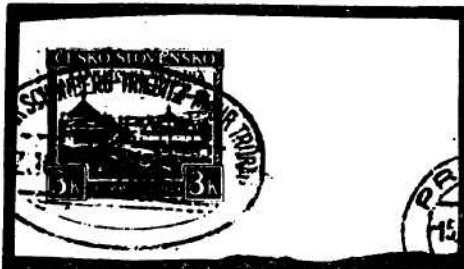


Fig. 11: Sudetenland R.P.O-Train 2186.



Fig. 12.

Fig. 9.
Moravian
R.P.O. No. 672
Olomouc -
Kostelec -
Prstějov.
March 22,
1939.



A second forgery has been noted on a cover held by Mr. Paul M. Steele of Westerville, Ohio, and purports to have been sent under registration No. 606 from CHUST to a Mr. Frantisek Hornick, House No. 127 in the village of Irshava, Carpatho-Ukraine. It is shown in Fig. 7 and its features are as follows:

- (a) The diameter is 32mm as against 31½ in the genuine type.
- (b) In the last word "SOIMU" at bottom, the accent "v" is up against the inner circle instead of sitting directly upon the "I/P" (English "N" reversed).
- (c) The asterisks are smaller than in the genuine cancel.
- (d) The last letter in this same word as given as the Latin letter "Y", instead of the Cyrillic "y", an elementary mistake implying that the forger was neither Ukrainian nor Russian.
- (e) The bottom segment of the inner circle, formed by the lower horizontal bar of the datebridge, is noticeably larger than the upper segment. In other words, the datebridge is not correctly placed. Moreover, the lower horizontal bar points towards the center of the letter "M" of "SOIMU", while in the genuine cancel it points towards the left arm of the "M."

It might be pointed out parenthetically here that although Mr. Steele's registered cover is also not backstamped on arrival at IRSHAVA, this alone would have been enough to cast suspicion on it, since at that time the Czech postal system did not sometimes backstamp registered mail.

In the Lauson H. Stone collection, there is an unregistered cover locally

addressed to Chust and bearing what appears to be a forgery of the Czech bilingual "f" type, dated "15. III. 39-16" and struck in gray-black on the commemorative stamp (see Fig. 8 for illustration). The subscript letter "f" has not as yet been seen by us applied during the Czech administration in Chust and it may therefore be a completely bogus cancel, rather than an imitation of an already existing type. Further comments would be appreciated.

Various first day covers and, collecting sheets featuring the commemorative stamp or the famous wooden church in Jasina (Yasinya), together with supporting texts in Ukrainian, were privately prepared in Chust for use on March 15, 1939. The commonest type of first day cover seen shows a modified and magnified version of the stamp design at the left, printed in blue. The same printer was apparently the producer of large collecting sheet containing a reproduction of the stamp in blue and yellow, below which the actual stamp was affixed and cancelled. Both the F.D.C. and collecting sheet have a blacked-out one-line inscription, interesting from the linguistic point of view and reading "VITVORENNYA SOIMU KARPATS'KOYI UKRAYNI" or "Opening of the National Assembly of the Carpatho-Ukraine." This was replaced by a modified three-line text below, reading "VIDKRITTYA/PERSHOHO SOIMU KARPATS'KOYI UKRAYINI/KHUST—1939", or "Opening of the First National Assembly of the Carpatho-Ukraine, Khust 1939", the second variant for the word "opening" being considered more correct. Another type of FDC, seen in smaller format, features an illustration at top left of the wooden church in Jasina, printed in blue together with a Ukrainian text reading "ZASIDANNYA PERSHOHO SOIMU 'KARPATS'KOYI UKRAYINI' KHUST—1939" or "Session of the First National Assembly of the Carpatho-Ukraine, Khust 1939".

The post office at Chust had available official cards measuring 12½x8cm with yellow and blue bars of color at top and bottom, the Ukrainian trident at left and below that the slogan "SLAVA UKRAYINI!" ("Glory to the Ukraine!"), both printed in blue: see Fig. 3. The commemorative was affixed to these cards and received the special cancel in red. Normally, these cards were not addressed or sent through the mails, but Mr. Stone has an interesting example sent by registered post to a local address under No. 1804 and also backstamped with red official cancel on the same date (March 15).

(to be continued)

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

- 339 Herbert J. Elliot, Jr., 1106 Atlantic Ave., Atlantic City, N. J. 08401
 713 V. J. Zika, 720 Fresno Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45240
 806 H. Hocke, 2 Bernaldby Ave., Low Cross, Guisborough, Yorkshire, England

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"Travel with the man who was born there".

Padělky Československých Poštovních Známek

Translated by Henry Hahn

Continued

Page 305

Postage due stamps—stock remainder issue

Overprint "DOPLATIT" on stamps with picture of Hradčany castle

60 h / 50 h

violet with dark violet metallic overprint, blue with dark violet metallic overprint.

During 1922-1927 due to economic reasons, the unused stocks of regular stamps were utilized after being suitably overprinted as "postage due" stamps.

Two-line overprint with a new value and the word DOPLATIT has a dark violet metallic color.

Validity: from February 2, 1926-July 31, 1928.

Catalog numbers listed.

Overprint by typography.

Overprint size: a) 6.7 mm
b) 3.3 mm
c) 23.5 mm

Illustration

Genuine

1. The inside oval of number 6 is circular.
2. The upper part of number 6 is more open.
3. The inside oval of number 0 is wide.
4. The letters D and O in the word DOPLATIT are of regular type and spaced evenly.

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Counterfeit overprint (to defraud collectors)

60 h 50 h

Violet with dark violet metallic overprint

Blue with dark violet metallic overprint

Both 50 h Hradčany issues, blue and violet with an overprint 60 DOPLATIT exist in counterfeits, both on used and mint stamps. The color of the overprint is dull (matt) thickly spread with typical metallic sheen. The engraving is coarser and thicker.

Overprint by typography

Overprint size a) 6.8 mm
b) 3.4 mm
c) 23.8 mm

Illustration

Counterfeit

1. The inside oval of number 6 is egg-shaped.
2. The upper part of number 6 is bolder and more closed.
3. The inside oval of number 0 is narrower.
4. The letters D and O in the word DOPLATIT are wider and nearly touch each other, their inside ovals are much smaller.

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Postage due — Stock remainder issue

Overprint DOPLATIT on stamps with Hradčany castle

100 h 80 h

Olive. Overprint violet with metallic sheen.

There were several million copies printed of this stamp with blue and violet overprints. Collectors did not pay special attention to the colors of over-

By permission of the Czechoslovak Theatrical and Literary Agency, DILIA.

prints while purchasing these stamps and as it was later established, only a small number of mint stamps with violet overprint remained in stock.

Validity: Jan. 18, 1921—July 31, 1928

(Catalog numbers listed)

Overprint by typography.

Overprint size a) 6.5 mm
b) 3.3 mm
c) 23.4 mm

Illustration

Genuine

1. The number 1 has a little hook.
2. The letter P has a shorter ieg.
3. The letter L has its horizontal base curved up a little.
4. The upper line of the crossbar in the letter A borders on a half-circle white area.
5. The upper line of letter T is curved upwards.

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Counterfeit overprint (to defraud collectors)

100 h 80 h

Olive. Black-violet overprint.

The high price of this stamp very soon drew the attention of counterfeiters who copied the overprint rather well. Its color is blue-black. There are rather considerable differences in the picture. Regardless of this fact this counterfeit is dangerous. Among the dangerous counterfeits are the stamps which have the blue overprint painted over with a dark violet color.

Overprint by typography.

Overprint size a) 6.4 mm
b) 3.4 mm
c) 23.6 mm

Counterfeit

1. The number 1 has a longer and stronger hook.
2. The leg of letter P is longer and pointed at the end.
3. The base line of the lower arm of letter L is straight.
4. The inside opening of letter A is small and narrow.
5. The upper line of the first letter T is convex shaped.

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Postage due — Stock remainder issue

Overprint DOPLATIT on stamps with Hradčany castle.

30 h 15 h

Red. Overprint violet with metallic sheen.

There were 1,037,500 stamps of this value printed without listings of all different perforations. Comb perforation 11¼; 13¼, and line perforation 13¼ are common. The Comb perforation 13¼x11½ on mint stamps is rare. Existing counterfeits have line perforation 13¼x11½ which does not exist in this denomination.

(Catalog numbers listed)

Overprint by typography

Overprint size: a) height of number 7.00 mm
b) width of number 4.00 mm
c) 23.5 mm

Illustration

Genuine

1. The number 3 is higher and narrower, its lower part the same width as upper.
2. The number 0 is higher and narrower.
3. The letter L has its lower arm bent slightly upward.
4. The inside crossbar in A is slightly bent.
5. The first letter T has its upper arm bent slightly.

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Counterfeit overprint (to defraud collectors)

30 h 15 h

Red. Overprint dark blue.

The counterfeit is line perforated 13½x11½ which does not exist in the genuine. It was discovered in 1940. The counterfeiter made a specialty: "doublets" with only one stamp overprinted.

Overprint by typography.

Overprint size a) 6.5 mm
b) 4.5 mm
c) 23.7 mm

Illustration

Counterfeit

1. The number 3 is lower and wider, its lower half circle is narrower.
2. The number 0 is lower and wider and rounded on both sides.
3. The letter L has its lower arm straight.
4. The crossbar of letter A is straight.
5. The first letter T has its upper arm almost straight.

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Postage due — Stock remainder issue

50/50 h misprint Red

Overprint violet with metallic sheen.

For 50 h overprints of 20 h and 150 h denominations were both in red. By mistake one whole sheet of 50 h stamps—also red in color—was probably overprinted. This sheet was sent to the branch post office in Prague 14, Holešovice, where it was used. So far 20 stamps of this sheet have been discovered. Under the ultraviolet light the color of the genuine 50 h stamp is flaming red.

Validity 50/20 h Sept. 24, 1927—July 31, 1928

Validity 50/150 h Jan. 17, 1927—July 31, 1928

(Catalog numbers listed)

Overprint by typography.

Overprint size: a) 4.7 mm
b) 20.2 mm

Illustration

Genuine

1. The upper number 5 has the beginning and the end of its hook in the same plane.
2. The letter D is rounded in its upper part.
3. The lower arm of letter L is straight.
4. The upper part of lower number 5 is in the same plane with the base of the letter A.

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Overprint counterfeit (to defraud collectors)

50/50 h Red

Violet overprint.

The unavailability of 50/50 h misprints which became one of the rarest Czechoslovak stamps was a very obvious incentive for a counterfeiter however with slight chances of success since such a rarity would most certainly be placed in any collection only after a most careful check by an expert. The counterfeits of this misprint exist both in used and mint conditions.

Overprint by typography.

Overprint sizes: a) 5.1 mm
b) 20.8 mm

Illustration

Counterfeit

1. The upper number 5 has the end of its hook a little lower.
2. The letter D has a sharp upper end.
3. The lower arm of the letter L slants downward.
4. The lower number 5 is pushed a bit higher.
5. The neck of lower number 5 is longer and bent inward.

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Forgery B (to defraud collectors)

50/50 h Red. Overprint metallic violet.

This is a simple and, for the collector, dangerous forgery made by re-painting 50/150 h red postage due stamps, Pofis catalog no. D, into a forged 50/50 h postage due stamp, Pofis no. Dx49 with genuine overprint. In this case, the forger only needed to repaint, using a red color, the white number 1 on both sides of the stamp or just that part of the number which was not covered by the violet overprint. This forgery is easily identifiable from the genuine by a closer check of the number 50 on the basic genuine stamp of this issue. Under ultraviolet light the color of the 150 h stamp is dark-red and dull.

Illustration

Genuine (basic 50 h stamp of this issue)

1. The number 50 is wider with inside shading.
2. The space between the frame of the picture and number 5 is 1.5 mm.
3. The shaded number 0 is 2 mm wide.

Forgery (made by re-painting—covering up—the number 1 in the 150h stamp with red color)

1. The number 1 is narrow and without shading (in the 150).
2. The space is 2.5 mm.
3. The number 0 is narrower 1.5 mm and without shading.

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Revalued Postage Due Stamps 1919-1920

200/150 h Gray green. Overprint violet, glossy series.

This stamp of the stock remainder series, issued in 300,000 copies and in great demand by collectors. The color of its overprint is metallic violet as are all other values. The control numbers at the bottom of the sheets of this stamp are not covered up with a wide strip of the same overprint color as was done in the case of all other stamps of this series.

Validity: September 26, 1927—July 31, 1928.

(Catalog numbers listed)

Overprint by typography.

Overprint size: height 8 mm

Illustration

Genuine

1. The upper part of number 2 is open.
2. The lower bar of number 2 is slant-ended.
3. The zeros are both slim, of regular type with oval center.

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Overprint counterfeit (to defraud collectors)

200/500 h Gray green. Overprint violet.

This counterfeit is not dangerous for the collector since a crude, imperfect hand cancellation stamp was used. The color of the overprint was rather well chosen. However the shape of the numbers is considerably different from the genuine. This counterfeit exists on used stamps. The counterfeiters obviously wanted to complete a series of used stamps of this issue to satisfy a brisk demand for them abroad.

Overprint size: height 8.2 mm

Illustration**Counterfeit**

1. The curved upper part of number 2 is thicker and more tightly closed.
2. The lower bar of number 2 has a vertical end.
3. Both zeros are thicker and their inner oval is smaller.

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Blank and unnumbered

Pages 317-320

Plebiscite stamps overprinted SO 1920

Brief description and history of these stamps in English, Russian, French, German and Spanish.

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Plebiscite stamps overprinted SO 1920

On the advice of an Allied commission all valid Czechoslovak stamps were overprinted SO 1920 for use in Těšín, Spiš and Orava territories which were subject to a controversy between Czechoslovakia and Poland. These stamps were valid from February 13, 1920 until August 8, 1920. They came from regular stocks. Therefore there are the same differences and errors of issues in print, perforations, paper, color shades, etc. The overprinting was made by direct typography by the Czech Graphic Unie in Prague. There were four different kinds of plates of 100 stamps each for different sizes of stamps. These are designated as A, B, C, D.

A—for regular Hradčany issue and for newspaper stamps (3 plates)

B—for regular T. G. Masaryk issue (1 plate)

C—for special delivery stamps (1 plate)

D—for postage due stamps (1 plate)

Illustrations

Incorrect technical preparations of plates and large printings have caused frequent wearing out of types and required their individual replacements during the printing. Therefore many overprint errors, imperfections and faults are in existence. For example: inverts, partial overprints, different types of letters and numbers and many other errors. Some of these errors and imperfections are on all printings, some only on certain plates or in certain parts of the printings. The verification of these overprints requires considerable knowledge and experience. Therefore all single overprints on all six plates used for printing are reproduced here for the collectors to aid them in their verification checks.

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For further accuracy the different catalog numbers of all these officially issued stamps are included.

The regular Hradčany issue stamps

Imperforated

(Catalog numbers listed)

- 1 h dark brown (overprint black)
- 3 h violet red (black)
- 5 h blue green (black)
- 10 h yellow green (black)
- 15 h brick red (black)
- 20 h blue green (black)
- 25 h violet (black)
- 30 h yellow olive (red)

40 h orange red (black)
 50 h violet (black)
 60 h yellow orange (blue)
 60 h orange red (blue)
 75 h black green (brick red)
 80 h olive (red)
 100 h brown (black)
 120 h black grey (red)
 200 h ultramarine (red)
 200 h blue violet (red)
 300 h gray green (red)
 400 h blue violet (red)
 500 h brown (blue)
 500 h brown (black)
 1000 h red violet (blue)
 1000 h red violet (black)
 10 h yellow green imperforate appeared only in small numbers at the town of Karvinná, and 20 h carmine imperforate at the town of Frydek.

Perforated

Perforations: A comb $13\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$, B line $13\frac{3}{4}$, C comb $11\frac{3}{4}$,
 D line $13\frac{3}{4} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$, E line $11\frac{1}{2} \times 10\frac{3}{4}$

(Catalog numbers listed)

1 h dark brown (overprint black)
 5 h blue green (black)
 10 h yellow green (black)
 15 h brick red (black)
 20 h carmine (black)
 25 h violet (black)
 30 h light red violet (red)
 60 h yellow orange (blue)
 200 h ultramarine (red)
 200 h violet blue (red)

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Stamps with T. G. Masaryk

(Catalog numbers listed)

500 h dark grey (overprint carmine)
 1000 h dark brown (violet)

These stamps did not reach the plebiscite region and were sold at the Prague philatelic Post Office branch. If used, post-cancelled stamps were made on request only. Imperforate copies of these stamps belong to the category of unissued stamps.

Special Delivery stamps

Imperforate, yellow paper

(Catalog numbers listed)

2 h red violet (overprint blue)
 2 h red violet (black)
 5 h yellow green (blue)
 5 h yellow green (blue)

Imperforate, white paper

2 h red violet (blue)
 2 h red violet (black)
 5 h yellow green (blue)
 5 h yellow green (black)

No perforated special delivery stamps issued

Newsprint stamps**Imperforate**

(Catalog numbers listed)

- 2 h green (black)
- 6 h vermilion red (black)
- 10 h violet brown (black)
- 20 h blue (black)
- 30 h light brown (black)

No perforate stamps issued

Postage due stamps**Imperforate**

(Catalog numbers listed)

- 5 h brown olive (blue)
- 5 h brown olive (black)
- 10 h brown olive (blue)
- 15 h brown olive (blue)
- 20 h brown olive (blue)
- 25 h brown olive (blue)
- 30 h brown olive (blue)
- 40 h brown olive (blue)
- 50 h brown olive (blue)
- 100 h dark brown (red)
- 500 h gray green (red)
- 1000 h violet (red)

Perforate stamps were not issued. There exists a grey-blue overprint of 5 h stamp frequently offered as a black overprint.

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Whole page devoted to a reproduction of overprint plate no. 1.

Overprint plate no. 1 (regular Hradčany and newsprint series)

Individual overprints arranged according to the original positions.

Illustration**Page 325**

Typical variations of the Overprint plate no. 1 for regular postage and newsprint stamps.

Illustration

- Stamp no. 4: the letter O deformed
- Stamp no. 5: the number 2 has rounded end
- Stamp no. 8: the letters SO close together
- Stamp no. 14: the letter O is of narrow type
- Stamp no. 24: the letter O is damaged
- Stamp no. 26: the letters SO close together, year date numbers moved to right
- Stamp no. 27: the letter O is of narrow type, number 2 damaged
- Stamp no. 40: the letter S damaged
- Stamp no. 42: the letters SO close together
- Stamp no. 55: the letters SO close together and letter O moved up
- Stamp no. 56: the letter S cut, number 1 damaged
- Stamp no. 74: the letter O cut off
- Stamp no. 80: the year date numbers moved to right
- Stamp no. 82: the numbers 20 close together
- Stamp no. 83: the year date numbers moved to right
- Stamp no. 84: the number 2 deformed and 0 (zero) cut
- Stamp no. 87: the number has shorter base line
- Stamp no. 91: the letter O damaged on top, number 1 lower part missing

Page 326**Illustration**

Overprint plate 2 (Hradčany, newspaper)

Page 327

Typical characteristics of overprint plate 2 for ordinary and newspaper stamps

Illustration—5th stamp, small indentation in letter O on top

Illustration—11th stamp, sliced-off letter O on the right, shorter serif in the number 1

Illustration—21st stamp, Roman instead of Arabic number 1

Illustration—26th stamp, interrupted letter O on top

Illustration—42nd stamp, termination of number 2 rounded at bottom

Illustration—62nd stamp, interrupted number 9 at top

Illustration—71st stamp, wider spacing between the letters S and O

Illustration—72nd stamp, damaged letter O at right

Illustration—85th stamp, damaged zero in yeardate

Illustration—89th stamp, damaged O at top

Illustration—100th stamp, damaged zero in yeardate

Overprint color is black and gray-black, blue, carmine or vermilion red. In a portion of the newspaper issue (6h, 30h) the yeardate is omitted, the overprint considerably damaged, etc. These major defects were eventually removed. Stamps and overprints in differing colors, inverted overprints, and overprints of a different type belong among not officially issued stamps.

Page 328**Illustration**

Overprint plate 3 (Hradčany, newspaper)

Page 329

Typical characteristics of overprint plate 3 for ordinary and newspaper stamps (Sheet positions with illustrations at left of page)

10th stamp, dot in upper curve of letter S

12th stamp, interrupted number 2 in yeardate

17th stamp, left heel lacking in number 1 of yeardate

21st stamp, upper serif in number 1 is shorter

26th stamp, yeardate 1920 is foreshortened (the numbers in yeardate are close together)

35th stamp, damaged letter O

36th stamp, letters SO close together

50th stamp, number 2 sliced-off at bottom right

53rd stamp, damaged zero in yeardate

63rd stamp, yeardate shifted to left

66th stamp, letter O has small indent at top

71st stamp, center portion of 0 in yeardate damaged

81st stamp, number 20 in yeardate close together

100th stamp, left bottom heel in number 1 of yeardate is lacking

Page 330**Illustration**

Overprint plate for stamp with portrait of T. G. Masaryk. The overprints are arranged in original sequence.

(to be continued)

NEW YORK BRANCH MEETINGS

At the February meeting member Stein showed his collection of engravers' marks on Czech stamps. These were primarily made by B. Heinz, K. Seizinger, J. Schmidt and J. Goldschmied, on issues on which no names are officially listed. Several new items with engraver markings were shown which provoked an interesting discussion. Members reported on their forthcoming visit to SIPEX.

In March member Schoenig entertained us by showing stamps, sheets and other collateral material dealing with a stamp exhibition in Czechoslovakia. We were amazed to note how extensive such a collection can be. There were numerous extremely interesting items among those shown us. Present at this meeting were Horechny, Hanish, Flynn, Koplowitz, Kessler, Dr. and Mrs. Reiner-Deutsch, Dr. Arnold, Stein, Meeks and of course the speaker.

Member Stollnitz gave us a most outstanding talk in April on U. S. Supplementary mail which was used in New York from the early days of transatlantic mail service. There are a number of covers available from the early adhesive period but only a few are known to exist from preadhesive times. There were 14 members attending this meeting. We enjoyed seeing Dr. Pick again who takes time during his brief sojourns in the city to attend our meetings.

WASHINGTON BRANCH MEETING

Word has reached us that officers of the branch were elected at the organization meeting at the home of member Hahn. The first chairman to be chosen is Henry Hahn and the secretary of the Branch is William A. Sandrik. We understand that in the near future we shall receive further information regarding the plans of the group. The regular meeting will be held the first Saturday of the month at the home of member Hahn.

Our very best wishes to the branch which in our opinion will definitely be a very successful undertaking.

NEW POFIS CATALOG POSTPONED INDEFINITELY

The January (1966) issue of *FILATELIE*, the official organ of the Czechoslovak Federation of Philatelists, reported the indefinite postponement of publication of the new POFIS Catalog of Czechoslovak stamps. At least this is the conclusion after reading the Editor's answer to a reader in the magazine's column "Questions and Answers". In this case a reader's inquiry pointed out that the last Pofis catalogue had been published in 1962. Reader himself inquired regarding the new edition about a year ago and he was told by Pofis employees that the new catalogue was to be out and available in April 1965. "However—continues reader's inquiry—the publication has been postponed several times and even the last date of coming publication, December 20, 1965, was not kept." So—asks the reader—will the new Pofis catalogue be ever published? The Editorial board answered this inquiry that the POFIS Director, Mr. Cegrincev has informed the board that "the printing house in charge of this task had been entrusted with emergency official assignments of most urgent nature and priority, which could not have been postponed. And Director Cegrincev obviously wised-up by his previous experience with the printing house did not volunteer any new publication date for the new POFIS catalogue." And the Editors wryly add that this answer of Mr. Cegrincev will not satisfy many collectors.—(L. H. V.)

POSTAL STATIONERY

Wolfgang Fritzsche

LETTER SHEETS

- a. Size 290 x 200 mm opened, 145 x 100 mm closed.
- b. Size 300 x 180 mm opened, 150 x 90 mm closed.

1953, June 30

- 1. Size a
60 h red violet on white (Scott #595 design)

1953, October 17

- 2. Size b
60 h red on white (Scott #597 design)

1953

- 3. Same as #2
At left picture of Brno city hall tower with inscription for stamp show
 - a. 60 h red on white, Czech language
 - b. 60 h red on white, Hungarian language added

LETTER CARDS

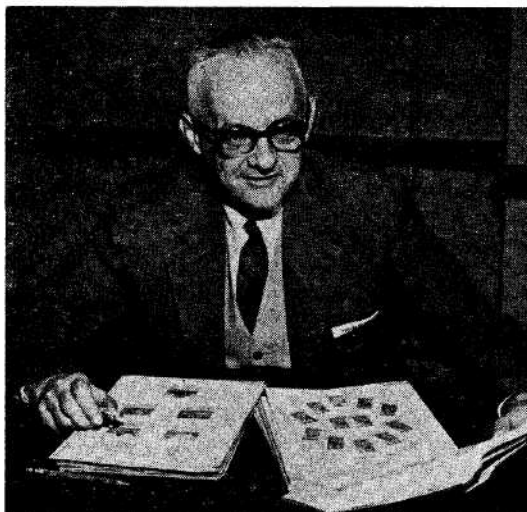
1945

- 3. Hand overprint Československo
 - 1.— (1.10) orange (Slovakia A20 design)
- 4. Like #3
1.30 dark purple

1946

- 5. 2.40 (2.80) red (Scott A107 design)

Wolfgang Fritzsche



Our Sales Manager since 1940 has been a steady reporter on Postal Stationery to the Specialist. He is, we believe, one of the most active members of our society in organized philately. Founder and director of the Germany Philatelic Society, very active in the Rochester as well as the Finger Lakes Stamp Societies, in the Canal Zone Study Group and in many European societies. In the American Philatelic Society he is Chairman of the important International Relations Committee. He has won many international and national awards and has served as judge on a great

number of panels at exhibitions. His hobby includes photography which was responsible for the greatest number of APS slides as lecture material. We must not omit to state that he is manager of the State Employment Office at Canandaigua, N. Y.

AEROGRAMMES

150 x 295 mm

Stamp: Crane in flight

In upper left: aerogramme, letadlem, par avion

1959

Two lines of instructions on back, first line longer than the second line.

1. 1.20 Kčs blue
- 1a. 1.20 Kčs gray blue

1962

Same as 1 and 1a but imprint on bottom in red:

Praga 1962 stamp exhibition

2. 1.20 Kčs blue
- 2a. 1.20 Kčs gray blue

1963

Same as 1 but both instruction lines on back of same length

3. 1.20 Kčs gray blue, paper gray blue inside
- 3a. 1.20 Kčs gray blue, paper gray green inside

1965

Instructions on back: First line shorter and second line longer than in #1.

Zde preložte and folding lines, light gray paper.

4. 1.20 Kčs gray blue

PIDGEONGRAM

#1 Aerogramme cut down to size of 145 x 51 mm, with red printed message on back and heading on front: "Poselstvi Pratelstvi a Miru", etc. This was issued for Praga 1962 stamp show to send out peace message. Issue: about 500.

1. 1.20 Kčs gray blue

ENVELOPES

Sizes: a. 157 x 126 mm, b. 159 x 114 mm, c. 164 x 96 mm

d. 164 x 116 mm, e. 175 x 126 mm, f. 177 x 127 mm

1950

1. Size d without watermark
 - 3.00 (Kč) carmine (Scott A135)
- 1a. Same, but with watermark Standard
 - 3.00 (Kč) carmine
2. Same as #1, but with picture at left mining tower, miner and inscription
 - 3.00 (Kč) carmine
- 2a. Same as #2, issued in 1952
 - Inscription higher, color darker
 - 3.00 (Kč) carmine

1951

3. Same as #1
 - 3.00 (Kč) red

1952

- 3a. Same as #1a with watermark
 - 3.00 (Kč) red
4. Same as #1, stamp in rotogravure
 - 3.00 (Kč) red brown

1954

5. Size d
 - 60 h red (Scott A244)
- 5a. 60 h red brown

1955

6. Size f
60 h red (Scott A279)
7. Size C
Picture at left in red, Praga 1955 stamp exhibition
60 h blue (Scott A292c)

1956

8. Size e
60 h green (Scott 734)
8a. Brown picture at left, 700 years city of Prerov
60 h green
9. Size e
60 h red (Scott A251)
10. Size a
Inside of envelope blue
60 h steel blue (Scott A306, No. 760)

1957

11. Size a
Inside envelope with color print by PAPCO or WATTAR DAMAS
60 h red (Scott A251)

1958

12. Size e
60 h red (Scott A351)

1962

13. Size f
At left Praga Stamp Exhibition seal in red
60 h blue (Scott 1134)

1965

14. Size b
60 h red, same as #12
15. Size b
Stamp vertical, 1000 years Praha castle
At left seal in red: Praha 30-5-1965
60 h blue

POSTAL COLLECTION ORDERS

all with attached money orders

Sizes (folded) a. 115 x 107 mm
b. 149 x 105 mm
c. 180 x 125 mm

Czech heading: Poštovny vyberka
Slovak heading: Poštova vyberka

1945

Slovak order card, hand overprinted:

Československo, size c.

Printing dates 1939, 1941, 1942

12. Now imprinted Czech stamp similar to current postage dues.
80 h purple
13. 2.60 purple on buff, size b.

1946

Czech card

14. 2.60 purple, size b.

1949

Slovak card, size a

15. 2.80 violet-gray

- Same as #15 but fold with colored roulette
16. 2.80 brown-violet on green
Same as #16 but Czech text
17. 2.80 purple on gray
- 1950**
Slovak card like #16
18. 2.80 purple on pink
- 1951**
Slovak card like #17
Heading: Vyberka
19. 2.80 purple on pink
- 1952**
Stamp now in upper right corner
Czech card
20. 2.80 gray-violet on gray
Czech card, fold with colored roulette
21. 2.80 gray-violet on gray
- 1955**
Czech card, size b
22. 3. Kčs purple on gray
Slovak card, size b
Printing dates on front I (1955) KBZ 29055
- 23a. 60 h purple on gray
Printing date (IV-1955)
- 23b. 60 h purple on gray
Without printing date
- 23c. 60 h purple on gray
- 1953-64**
Same as #23, size b
Czech cards
24. 60 h purple on gray (shades)
- 24a. With printing dates inside of return card
(II 1955, III 1955, etc.)
60 h purple on gray (shades)
- 1965**
Same as before, address now "Pošta" instead of poštovnímu uradu
Printing date III, OTK 11-14-4969-64
25. 60 h purple on gray

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