

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

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THE STAMP DESIGNER'S SKETCHBOOK

To the members of our Society Jakub Obrovsky is well known as the designer of three early Czechoslovak stamps—Agriculture and Science (Scott A8), Lion Breaking the Chains (Scott SP1) and Mother and Child (Scott SP2). In Czechoslovakia he was much more appreciated as a painter and sculptor.

Jakub Obrovsky was born in 1882 near Brno, son of a small Moravian peasant. His artistic ability was soon noticed and Obrovsky left for Prague at the age of 14 to study first at an industrial arts school and later at the Czech Academy of Arts. As an outstanding graduate of the Academy, Obrovsky was given a chance to study and work in Italy. Upon his return home he devoted every ounce of his unbound energy to art—paintings as well as sculptures. Already in 1918 he was a full professor at the Czech Academy of Arts, member of the Czech Academy of Arts and Sciences and a honorary member of a number of foreign arts societies. He exhibited extensively at home and abroad and gained great acclaim in Europe. In 1932 at the Olympic Games in Los Angeles he was awarded second prize in art competition for his sculpture "Odysseus—The Killer." Obrovsky died in 1949.

Unfortunately very few of his original sketches of the Czechoslovak stamps were preserved. After his death only five pages remained in his sketchbook that were related to stamp designs. I consider myself lucky to have them all.

Figure 1 shows a very rough pencil sketch of what became eventually one of the three stamps by Obrovsky ever issued—Agriculture and Science. A rather interesting sketch (pencil and black ink) is in Figure 2. It contains a notation by Obrovsky: "Design submitted, not awarded, Bruner's chosen." The sketch—Republic Breaking Chains—bears strong resemblance to Bruner's design that was accepted. From this it would appear that the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications suggested the general motive when asking the artists to submit their specific designs. The design of this stamp as finally submitted by Obrovsky differed quite a bit from the sketch illustrated here. Photograph of the final design shows the woman (Republic) wearing a long, flowing headgear of the type used by Southern Slavs.

The next three water color designs were never issued as stamps. Figure 3 depicts "New Republic" as a fresh, happy looking child. Obrovsky, himself, did not think very highly of it as attested by a note on the bottom of the sheet: "Design of a Czechoslovak post stamp 1919, bad, not submitted. J. Obrovsky." In Figures 4 and 5 Obrovsky tried to incorporate into the design



Obrovsky in his studio



Figure 1: Rough pencil sketch of Agriculture and Science Issue



Figure 2: Sketch of Republic Breaking Chains



Figure 3: Sketch of New Republic
(continued on page 22)

EDITORIAL

Through our Mr. Blizil we have had news at all times about Dr. Alice Masaryk, the daughter of the first president of Czechoslovakia. This time we received the sad word from him and by reading an account of her life in the daily papers that Alice Masaryk passed away in Chicago at the age of 87. Another fine person has left this earth.

In a letter from England Capt. James N. Peace, 19 Cumberland Avenue, Grimsby, Lincolnshire, informed us that after much experimentation he thought he had finally designed a fine album, a four-ring binder with slip case, which can be handled with ease and will hold 150 pages for stamps or 75 pages for postal history items. We were very much interested in this and therefore ordered such an album. We have just received it with 75 very fine pages (lightly quadrilled) and find it not only suitable for us but also quite reasonable when compared with our costs here. Anyone interested kindly contact him directly.

Mr. Rosen, the Interpex head has requested that we change our meeting date from the Sunday date to SATURDAY, March 18, 1967, at THREE IN THE AFTERNOON. We were glad to comply since Saturday is a much more suitable day and it was our first choice anyway. We earnestly hope that there will be many members interested enough to attend this get-together.

The first article by Bohumin Matějka on the field posts of 1918-20 has been well received in England also, since we are told that the president of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain wrote about it to the author. A very interesting second instalment is now in the hands of the editor of the American Philatelist for publication. We are extremely pleased to have obtained the consent of Mr. Matějka to do research on the subject and to report on it to us in the form of continued articles.

We received word that Mr. Russell Bennett has been appointed Public Relations Officer for the Stanley Gibbons Group in England.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES? They are now overdue!! Do not neglect to do so because otherwise you will receive no Specialist.

WASHINGTON BRANCH NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER MEETINGS

At the November meeting member Dr. Fischmeister brought his Siberian post cards and covers which were enjoyed by all. In addition we had the opportunity to look over a large assortment of Hradčany covers sent to us by Mrs. Woodbury as well as some Slovak unusual imperforates received from Vienna.

In December Mr. Perry of Washington was a guest of the Branch. He brought with him some very interesting material, much of which was purchased by the members. We were able also to look over a large shipment from Mr. Stach. There were three guests at this meeting, among whom there was one prospective member.

NEW YORK BRANCH NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER MEETINGS

In November member Koplowitz displayed his specialized collection of Hradčany including essays, proofs, color trials and printer's trials. There was lively discussion on the subject and George was complimented on his good study of the material.

At the December meeting Lolly Horechny was to bring the Scout slides about which many of you might have read in the philatelic press. They constitute the same set of slides which was presented at a meeting of SPA at the ASDA show. Mr. Horechny acquired the second set of those slides when they were made from the material sent to USA some years ago to an exhibi-

tion. Unfortunately Lolly took ill on the meeting day and hence this showing had to be postponed. Since Dr. Reiner-Deutsch had some new material on hand he showed us cards and covers chiefly from an Italian Legionnaire during his stay in Italy and during his activities in Slovakia when his regiment was sent there. We do not usually meet in December but since the date of the meeting day was far enough from Christmas we decided to hold this additional meeting.

THE 35th FIP CONGRESS IN MUNICH

The 35th FIP (the International Philatelist Federation) Congress was held in Munich September 26th to September 28th 1966. The organizational meetings of the FIP Executive Committee and the FIP Planning Commission were held on September 25th. The Czechoslovak Federation of Philatelists as represented at the Congress by a delegation led by its President, Ing. L. Dvořáček, and Mr. J. Cimrhakl its Secretary, also Mr. L. Novotný, member of the FIP Executive Committee and Mr. A. Dušek, member of the Executive Committee of the Czech Federation and Chairman of its planning Commission. Both meetings were devoted to organizational and planning matters. The decisions of the Planning Commission will be printed in several languages and distributed to all FIP members.

The 35th FIP Congress was attended by delegations from 31 countries. After reading the respective reports of all officers and commissions, these were approved and the meeting elected new officers. The present FIP President, Mr. Lucien Berthelot (France) was re-elected to his office as well as to the Executive Committee.

Regarding the election to the FIP Council the following present members were re-elected: Mr. Brandt (Turkey) and Mr. Deninger (West Germany); in the place of the late Chairman Mr. Yörger, Mr. O. Gram (Norway) was elected.

To the FIP Executive Committee were again re-elected the Messrs. Berthelot (France), Rivolta (Italy), Schulz-Steinheil (Sweden). The present American representative in the Committee, Mr. Sol Glass was replaced by Mr. J. Johnson, also from USA, and Mr. M. Werner (Yugoslavia) was replaced by Mr. Fraccaroli (Brazil).

The present Chairmen of other FIP commissions as well as financial controllers were re-elected.

After some spirited discussions new FIP statutes, rules on international stamp exhibits under FIP auspices and exhibition rules for topical collections were approved. A new FIP commission for aero-philately was established and approved by the Congress.

Mexico was accepted as a new member of FIP. The membership application of Cuba has been rejected by 20 against 5 votes; five more delegations abstained, and one vote was declared invalid. Guatemala, India, Iceland, Canada, Columbia, and Costa Rica also applied for the FIP membership and applications are expected from Japan and SSER as well as the re-application of Cuba.

The Congress further approved the FIP patronage for the coming PRAGA 1968 and also decided to hold its 1968 37th Congress in Praha. The FIP auspices were also accorded to the Tel-Aviv Exhibition in May 1968 and to the EFIMEX Exhibition in Mexico in November 1968.

For 1969 there were requests received for FIP patronage of International Stamp Exhibitions in Sofia, in Brussels and in Luxembourg (this one for the International Exhibition of young philatelists). The only International Exhibition during 1967 to be held under the FIP auspices will be in Amsterdam (AMPHILEX 1967) jointly with the 36th FIP Congress.

—lhv



Figure 4: Design never submitted



Figure 5: Design never submitted

both the Czech lion with its two tails and the leaves of the traditional symbol of all Slavic nations—linden tree. There is no likelihood that either one of the two latter designs was ever submitted to the Postal authorities.

Obrovsky produced many more designs for Czechoslovak stamps as documented by existing photographic prints. It is not known whether these prints were made by a private photographer at the request of Obrovsky or by the Postal authorities or the printer.

In my collection I have small prints of three additional designs by Obrovsky. They are all typical of his technique and use of symbolism. One shows a child, protected by the Czech lion, decorating a small tree. The second depicts a young boy, running and holding a streamer of laurels. And finally the third contains a face of a woman adorned with Slavic folk decorations.

TERESIENSTADT — A Philatelic Study

By Theodor Möbs

Translated by Dr. Carl M. Praeger

FOREWORD:

Permit stamps and souvenir sheets from Theresienstadt show up at auctions and also at dealers', offered under all possible and impossible descriptions. One reads of "proofs," "reproductions," "color proofs," "essays," "miniature sheets," and the like. It follows that a share of the offered stamps and sheets is forged, and that dealers and collectors are unaware of or have incorrect knowledge of postal history of Theresienstadt Camp.

This is the sole reason why I wish to clarify, with this research study, what is especially on my heart, to inform dealers and collectors so that they themselves may recognize forgeries. This will make the dirty work of the forgers and distributors of forgeries more difficult.

It neither is nor was my intention to write a history of the Theresienstadt ghetto; rather, I chose the task of so depicting the whole philatelic story, in the briefest of form, so that collectors, researchers and specialists would have something with which they could begin.

1. The Locality Theresienstadt

Theresienstadt was founded by Joseph II in 1780, as a fortress. It is situated 60 kilometers north of Prague, near the confluence of the Eger and Elbe Rivers. The city is encircled by ramparts and moats, and served as a fortress until 1882, particularly where political prisoners were concerned. After that, the beer and milling industries were primary in the city, and in 1930 there were 7,181 residents—primarily Czechs, with 673 Germans.

In 1930, the city held a city hall, a church, three hotels, a theater, a military hospital, the Sokol hall and a post office. At that time, the city encompassed 411 hectares (approximately 1,027 acres). Theresienstadt is not directly serviced by rail; the Bauschowitz (Czech: Bohusovice) station is three kilometers from Theresienstadt (Czech: Terezin).

2. The Postal System

From 1858, under the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, the Theresienstadt post office used a single circle cancellation, with the German designation "Theresienstadt," and with day and month only, i.e., without the year (see Photo 1). Later cancellations gave day, month and year, with the city name in German above and Czech below. In 1919, the Czechs filed off the German designation ("nationalized" cancellation), and such a cancellation on a post-

ally used cover is today a rarity. Later came circle cancellations with day, month and year, with Czech city designations left and German right. Still later, we find similar cancellations with date-line and with numbers and letters 2a, 3b and 4a. During the period of the protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, the Theresienstadt post office utilized a round cancellation with date bridge, with German city designation above and Czech below.

3. The Ghetto of Theresienstadt

The camp was opened on November 20, 1941. On January 20, 1942, a 16-member conference took place which included Adolf Eichmann. The participants met in Wannsee, and it was agreed that Theresienstadt should be an old people's ghetto for Jews over 65 years of age. Details on the formation of the camp are found in the Reichsprotektor's Ordinance, dated February 16, 1942, which was published in the Official Gazette of February 28, 1942.

It is no longer possible to state how many Jews were deported to Theresienstadt, since the SS burned all documents upon their withdrawal from the camp. It was probably 141,000, to which should be added the 205 children born in the camp between November 24, 1941 and April 20, 1945. The greater share of the inmates came from Prague—40,000 Jews. 33,000 Jews died in the camp of sickness or exhaustion and 88,000 were deported to other camps.

A great number of Jews lived in Bohemia and Moravia, a number however which was reduced between 1939 and 1941 by legal and illegal emigrations. Registration figures were:

March 15, 1939	-----	118,310
December 31, 1939	-----	97,961
December 31, 1940	-----	90,041
June 30, 1941	-----	88,686

Streets and buildings in Theresienstadt were provided with capital letter and Roman numeral designations, such as "A II", "H IV", or "Q III" and "QZ IX". In July 1943, these letters and numerals were replaced with street names, such as "Postgasse," "Lange Strasse," "Seestrasse," "Marktplatz," "Parkstrasse," "Wallstrasse," and others.

The ghetto administered itself. The leadership had a Council of Elders with an advisory body, and in addition there was an internal administrative body. At the head of the leadership stood the Jewish Elder, who had two representatives. The first Elder was Jakob Edelstein.

All camp inmates over 16 years of age had an obligation to work, including the women. The work was quite varied; inmates were employed in the bakeries, butcher shops, kitchens, laundries, with the post office, at court, in garbage removal or in sewage disposal, in farming, in the shops, as opticians, shoemakers, jewelers, in cardboard and box production, in sack repair, on construction projects, etc.

Payment was made according to a graduated scale. Non-workers were also paid, at the lowest scale.

On January 1, 1943, the Reichsdruckerei in Berlin printed notes of 1, 2, 5, 10, 20 and 50 Kronen for the camp, in various sizes and colors. They circulated in the camp from May 1, 1943, as "Ghetto Kronen," and portrayed on their face the picture of Moses with the Ten Commandments, and the statement (in German) "Whoever forges or reproduces this receipt or circulates forged receipts will be severely punished." Thus, the notes were not considered as banknotes, but rather exclusively as "receipts." The value was shown on the reverse, and in addition the reverse carried the signature of Jakob Edelstein as Elder of the Jews in Theresienstadt. The notes were valid only in Theresienstadt, and served as payment of wages (Photos 2 and 3).

4. Postal Service in Theresienstadt Ghetto

The post office in the camp could be used by inmates daily, from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. Postal regulations contained requirements for incoming and outgoing mail, but were often changed. There was a general mail embargo until September 16, 1942, which was lifted on that date. Then, in specified sequence, the camp inmates could write postcards of not more than 30 words. Then on September 24, 1942, the regulation was amended and each inmate could write and send one postcard (one side only) each month. Letter writing required special authorization. Receipt of postcards was authorized, and packages were also authorized if sent from within the territory of the Greater German Reich. On January 5, 1943, paragraph 8 of the Camp Regulations stated that each ghetto inmate was allowed to write once monthly. On June 1, 1943, it stated that each inmate was allowed to write only one postcard every three months.

Postcards from the Protectorate could only be sent to Theresienstadt via the Jewish Council of Elders in Prague. Once each six months the sender could mail a postcard-size photo of himself.

Postcards from the camp were collected and taken by the censor, but only if he had no complaints. The cards then went to central offices in Prague, Vienna, or Berlin, there were franked by Jewish offices and were sent through postal channels to the addressees. Mail to Theresienstadt travelled the same route in reverse.

The first parcels arrived in Theresienstadt in October 1942. The Bauschowitz post office brought the incoming mail to the camp, where the Jewish post office in the camp sorted it and sent notices of arrival to the addressees. The addressee then picked up his parcel with the notice. Upon receipt of the parcel, the addressee was given a statement-of-receipt card which he filled out and sent to the package sender. These cards were white in 1943, and grey, yellow and brown in 1944. In 1943, the cards could be sent directly to the parcel sender, through the Bauschowitz post office (see Photo 4), later, they could be sent only through Prague. It took a minimum of four weeks from the issuance of the card until its passage through Prague, and it often took much longer (Photos 5 and 6).

When the German troops departed, a number of statement-of-parcel-receipt cards were found in Camp Theresienstadt. Forgers filled in these cards with ink and franked them with 60 Heller Hitler stamps. Backdated cancellations were applied in Prague with hand and machine cancelling devices, so that the forgery can only be determined through examination of the cancellation ink color. The forger(s) used phantasy names as senders, so that forgeries may also be recognized in this manner.

Receipt of registered letters and packages required certification by the inmates. A delivery certificate served this purpose, which appeared as follows:

	Delivery Certificate Nr.-----	
Item -----	Arrival Number -----	Value -----
Weight -----	From -----	
Sent from -----		
	To -----	
Postage Due -----		Received
		Jewish Self-Administration
		Theresienstadt
		Post and Communications
		Post Acceptance

Camp inmates could receive parcels and packages from all countries.

There were no formalities to be observed other than certificate of receipt on the delivery certificate.

5. Permit Stamps

On July 5, 1943, the Czech Postal Ministry brought out a regulation according to which a permit stamp for parcels and packages would be introduced on July 10, 1943. However, this applied only to mail sent from within the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia to camp inmates in Theresienstadt. Mail from all other countries did not require the affixing of permit stamps. It was originally planned that permit stamps would be given to inmates through the Camp Commandant's office, which they could then send to their relatives in the Protectorate through the Jewish Elders in Prague. The regulation stated that the permit stamps must be affixed to the parcel itself and "are to be stamped with the cancellation of the day by the post office." Parcels and packages without permit stamps could not be accepted by the post office and could not be handled. Inmates could only receive one parcel every two months. However, the permit stamps were not given to the inmates, and the practice more often was that camp inmates filed an application in the camp. This application had to give the exact address in Bohemia and Moravia of the parcel sender, and on that basis the Jewish Council of Elders in Prague mailed the parcel sender a printed form to which the permit stamp was affixed. Parcel senders residing in Prague received word through the post that they could obtain the permit stamp at Josefstädtergasse 5, Prague V (Photo 7).

The permit stamp (Photo 8) depicted an insignificant landscape, and the stamps were printed at the government printing office in Prague in sheets of 25 (5x5). They were line perforated 10½, and printed on white glazed paper, with a white, shiny gum. There were no other perforations used, and any others are forgeries.

As previously stated, parcels and packages could only be handled by the post when the permit stamp was placed directly on the parcel, i.e., not on the card accompanying the parcel. However, cases are known where the permit stamp was affixed to the accompanying card and the post forwarded the parcel which was then received by the addressee. There are four such pieces known with normal franking plus the permit stamp (Photos 9 and 10).

The issue printed in Prague totaled 165,000 by 1945. 76,000 of these were issued as permit stamps and were used, and 69,000 were found in stock upon withdrawal of German troops and at the government printing office in Prague. These remainders were sold in large quantities to philatelic associations and to collectors by Czech authorities.

Used stamps are generally poorly, often illegibly, cancelled. This is not surprising if one considers that the parcels would give when cancelled by hand and the cancellations would thereby become smeared. A cleanly struck cancellation on a permit stamp is often sign of later cancellation with a backdated device; a cleanly struck cancellation is not the definitive sign of such a manipulation, for naturally there were some few true clean cancellations which are however the exception. With such clean cancellations, an expert should examine the cancellation color; this is the only sure method, which of course requires that the stamp bears an adequate amount of cancellation ink.

Permit stamps display many types of damage which occurred en route to the addressee or occurred in the addressee's possession. The Jewish Council of Elders stuck the stamp by one edge, more or less firmly, to the form, and the recipient of the stamp tore it more or less sharply off, causing thin spots and missing teeth. These damaged stamps, later used on parcels, were often repaired on thin spots, teeth added, or the stamps were re-perforated. Uncancelled stamps with gum defects were regummed, or, if partially gummed,

the gum was moistened and brushed evenly over the back of the stamp. These "repairs" are easily detectable by experts. Damages to used permit stamps occurred, and continue to occur, when they are inexpertly removed from the attached parcel paper. The wrapping paper that was produced and used towards the end of the war dyes water and stamp a dark brown if soaked off. Treating the brown-dyed stamp with bleach is sometimes effective, but as a rule some brown dye remains, and at the least any success is dubious because the stamp then fluoresces differently under the UV-lamp than non-treated stamps. It is always proper to leave used stamps on piece.

Prior to giving the recipient in the camp any parcel, the parcel was opened and contents examined. Then parcels were given out, the permit stamps were generally cut out by the Theresienstadt post office, so as a rule the recipient never came into possession of the cancelled permit stamp. Since they were not postage stamps, they were not generally given particular attention, and thus many permit stamps may have been thrown away. Philatelists outside of Camp Theresienstadt had no indications of the existence of the permit stamps and thus trade or sale was hardly possible. Michel Catalog first mentioned the permit stamp in 1950, and not until 1953 did it show an illustration of the stamp. But even thereafter the stamp was not in demand from collectors, and only because almost nothing was known of Theresienstadt and postal conditions there.

In contradiction to the above, it must however be pointed out that there were a few people in the camp who did a brisk trade in the permit stamps. This was particularly so in 1945, and is not surprising when one considers that the SS officers could particularly easily get possession of these stamps.

Under UV, true permit stamps fluoresce deep black, with white paper. There are forgeries with white-blue fluorescing paper, and counterfeiterers have especially used this paper to produce strips of four.

There are also individual stamps which forgers have cut from souvenir sheets. The paper of these stamps does fluoresce similar to the paper of true permit stamps, but can be identified readily as forgeries because the forgers did not consider that the souvenir sheets were issued on unsized paper. The next section will discuss the souvenir sheets in detail.

Forgeries as such can generally be readily identified, if one only considers the printing process used on the stamps. Authentic stamps are always very cleanly printed, forged stamps show poor printing. Thus, in the forgeries, corners of the frames are rounded, the frame lines themselves unclear and with irregular contours; authentic pieces have sharp frame corners and line contours are equally sharp and clear. In authentic stamps, the horizontal shading lines adjoining the clouds are extraordinarily regular and clean, while those of forged stamps are irregular and "dirty." This applies also to shading within the clouds. There are also forgeries in which the colors were not matched exactly by the forger, where a printing was made in gray or in several tones lighter than the authentic permit stamps.

Forgeries are also offered in pairs or blocks of four. There are also imperforate permit stamps in circulation, and it is always adviseable to have the "unique" piece specially expertised. Not all imperforate stamps are necessarily forgeries, although the majority are, for after the capitulation, imperforate stamps and strips of imperforates were found at the printing offices in Prague (Photos 11 and 12).

Permit stamps in colors other than green are forgeries. There are no trials, color proofs or essays known.

Editor's Note: We received permission to publish the major section of the booklet on Theresienstadt translated from the German original. The last

Chapter contains various illustrations with text describing them. The original and counterfeits are given in great detail. Anyone interested in securing this fine dissertation on the subject may obtain the booklet by writing directly to Mr. Theodor Moebs, 6 Frankfurt/Main, Ludwig Landmann Strasse 54 II, Germany, and enclosing a \$1.00 bill.

TOWNS IN SLOVAKIA—SLOVAK, HUNGARIAN, GERMAN, RUTHENIAN
(continued)

Jilnice	Ilonca	
Kajal	Nemeskajál	
Kálna	Nagykálna	
Kalník	Beregsárrét	
Kamendín	Keménd	
Kamenica nad Hronom	Garamkövesd	
Kamenné Ďarmoty	Kőhidgyarmat	
Kamoča	Kamocsa	
Karva	Karva	
Kerecky	Kerecke	
Kert	Kürt	
Keszegfalva	Keszegfalva	
Ket'	Érsekkéty	
Kevjažd	Beregkövesd	
Kežmarok	Késmárk	G. Kasmark
Kliška Nemá	Kolozsnéma	
Kobolkút	Kobolkút	
Koylecká Polana	Gyertyánliget	
Kolta	Kolta	
Komárno	Komárom	G. Komorn
Komjatice	Komját	
Kosino	Mezőkaszony	
Kostolná Gala	Egyházgelle	
Kostrina	Csontos	
Košice	Kassa	G. Kaschau
Košúty	Nemeskosút	
Králov Brod	Királyrév	
Králova pri Senci	Királyfa	
Královicove Lorčany	Királyfiakorca	
Královo nad Tisou	Királyháza	
Královsky Chlumec	Királyhelmeč	G. Helmeč
Krásna nad Hornádom	Abaszéplak	
Krásnohorské Pohradie	Krásnahorkaváralja	
Krátke Kesy	Kurtakeszi	
Kremnica	Kormosbánya	G. Kremnitz
Krupina	Korpona	G. Karpfen
Kunova Teplica	Kuntapolca	
Kvasy	Tiszaborkút	
Kysucké Nové Mesto	Kiszuczatiújhely	
Ladmovce	Ladamóc	
Lalovo	Beregleányfalva	
Legišna-Michalany	Legemve-Alsómihályi	
Lekýr	Lekér	
Leles	Lelesz	
Levice	Léva	G. Levenz
Levoča	Lőcse	G. Leutschau

(to be continued)

Parade Of New Issues

Edited by Frank Kosik

Medicinal Plants

On December 3, 1965 the Czechoslovak postal authorities issued an interesting new series. The first of its kind, as its subject "medicinal plants."

The series consists of seven stamps, all of them carrying bright, colorful designs. Each of the flowers depicted on them has been found to be beneficial to human health in one way or another, some by providing health-giving substances and others by helping to cure various diseases. Coltsfoot leaves are used to make curative teas, while the colchicin contained in meadow-saffron, the opium of the poppy, the glycoside of the foxglove, the arnicin of arnica, and so on, have all been used as drugs since time immemorial. They should, of course, not be prescribed by laymen, even though it is true that the wisdom of the old herbalists and their great experience, passed on from generation to generation, very often gave rise to medicines that much later came to be scientifically corroborated. Thus for instance the false fruit of the wild briar—dog-rose—used in Czech kitchens long ago for the making of tea, sauce, jam and wine, is one of the richest sources of vitamin C. And although in those days vitamin C was quite unknown, the usefulness of the dog-rose was widely acknowledged. And while on the subject of medicinal properties, perhaps we ought also to point out the uses of the precious rose oil which plays an important part in cosmetics.

The seven medicinal plants chosen for the new series of Czechoslovak postage stamps can be found in meadows and on hillsides, they grow among corn and on rocky slopes from early spring right until the chilly autumn. The first to turn its yellow face to the sun is coltsfoot, the last to display its violet beauty is the slim meadow-saffron. These flowers grow in Europe as well as in the Orient, where some of them originated, in Africa, America, as well as in Australia. Never of course, all in one spot—inventive and sometimes even spendthrift Nature having scattered them wherever they have the best conditions for their existence. We humans have learned to make good use of them, deriving much pleasure as well as benefit.

30 h—Coltsfoot (*Tussilago farfara* L.) Colors: yellow, green, dark red, brown.

60 h—Meadow-saffron (*Colchicum autumnale* L.) Colors: yellow, violet, olive green, brown-black.

80 h—Corn Poppy (*Papaver rhoeas* L.) Colors: light red, green, dark red, blue.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

For the More Advanced Collector

GUTTER PAIRS

209-11 St. Cyril — \$5.00	(and one set only with Pl. 1a ----- 10.00)
	(and one set only with Pl. 1 ----- 10.00)
218-23 Castles — \$4.00	230-1 Entente — \$4.00
240 Castle — 75c	(1 only Pl. 1 2.00) (1 only Pl. 1a 2.00)
249-50 Scenes — 1.00	307-09 Reds (vertical gutters) 11.50
Back in stock—Padělky—Czecho Forgery Book \$3.96 plus 60c packing-shipping	

B. J. MILLER & SON

264 East 180th Street

New York, N. Y. 10457

1 Kčs—Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea* L.) Colors: light violet, green, dark violet, blue-black.

1.20 Kčs—Arnica (*Arnica montana* L.) Colors: orange, light green, red, dark green.

1.60 Kčs—Corn-flower (*Centaurea cyanus* L.) Colors: green, violet, blue, black.

2 Kčs—Dog-rose (*Rosa canina*) Colors: yellow, pink, green, brown.

The "Medicinal Plants" series was printed by four-color recess print in sheets of ten by the Post Office printing house in Prague. The dimensions of the picture area are 23x37mm. Three First Day Covers were issued.

The stamps were designed by Professor Karel Svolinský, the most outstanding Czechoslovak stamp designer. They were engraved by Ladislav Jirka. The two artists are also the joint authors of the First Day Covers.



Sports Issue

On January 17, 1966, the Czechoslovak Post and Telecommunication Administration issued a series of six SPORTS stamps designed by Karel Pekárek and engraved by Bedřich Housa and Josef Herčík. The stamps were printed by rotary recess print combined with photogravure in sheets of 50 at the Prague Printing Office. The dimensions of the stamps pictures are 23x41mm.

Three First Day Covers, designed by K. Pekárek and engraved by Jaroslav Goldschmied, were issued with the set.

European Figure Skating Championship—Bratislava:

- | | |
|----------|--------------|
| 30 h | Pair Dancing |
| 60 h | Man Skater |
| 1.60 Kčs | Woman Skater |
| 2.00 Kčs | Pair Skaters |



Karel Pekárek (1917), member of the Union of Czechoslovak Creative Artists, is a graphic artist, who studied under Peter Dilinger and Zdeněk Grossmann in preparation for his career. He has close ties with the world of Sports, being an active sportsman himself and one-time member of the National Ski Team. These six stamps with sports motifs mark his debut in the field of stamp design.

On February 1-5, 1966, Bratislava, capital of Slovakia, was once again the scene of the European Figure Skating Championship. It was first host to this important event of the winter season in 1958.

winter stadium.

World Volleyball Championship—1966:

60 h Volleyball Player

1 Kčs Volleyball Player

On August 29th to September 16, 1966, 24 teams met in Czechoslovakia to pit their skill in the Men's World Volleyball Championship. The championship games were played in four qualification groups in Nitra, Gottwaldov, Jihlava and Prague.

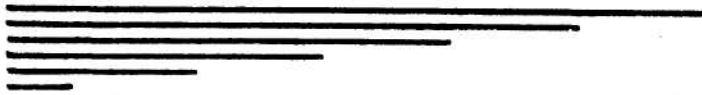
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