

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Official publication of the  Czechoslovak Philatelic Society

Copyright 1966 The Czechoslovak Philatelic Society

Editorial Board:

Dr. Wm. Reiner-Deutsch, Editor, P. O. Box 24, Bayside 61, N. Y.; W. Fritzsche, Canandaigua, N. Y.; Henry Hahn, Fairfax, Va.; Frank J. Kosik, Delavan, Wis.; C. J. Pearce, Coalgate, Okla.; J. J. Verner, Zagreb, Yugoslavia.

Vol. XXIX

April 1967

No. 272

On Identifying Varieties of the 30h Violet, Definitive Issue

By Ing. Jan Karásek

Translated from Filatelie by Henry Hahn



Fig. 1

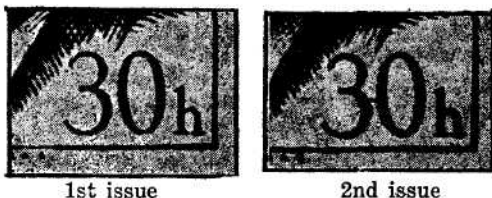
Fig. 2

An article by M. Protivensky published in *Filatelie*, v. 4, 1960, is concerned with the regular issue, 30h violet stamps bearing the portrait of the President of the Republic, Antonín Novotný. In his article, the author also cites "Věstník Spojů" of Dec. 17, 1960, dealing with the official issue of the 30h violet stamp.

All of these explanations are no longer entirely accurate or sufficiently exhaustive. Collectors are concerned primarily with distinguishing the first printing (Ist issue) from the second printing (IInd issue)—vigorously and without room for doubt.

I have examined a significant quantity of stamps, either from my own collection or from those loaned to me by others.

The stamp we are dealing with entails two printings, which we denote as issues; the first (originally appearing approximately in June 1959, first dis-



covered in Carlsbad) and the second issue (subsequently referred to as "official" of December 1959).

On examination of both mint and used stamps in daylight, I observed basic colors and shades, which in the majority appeared bright violet with hardly perceptible shading, the latter depending upon inking density. A minority of the stamps exhibited pronounced dark blue shading.

In a portion of the stamps there appeared somewhat less distinct contours. The latter was observed in portions of the portrait, in the title, "Československo" or in the numerals 30h (Fig. 1). The second portion of the stamps exhibited heavier contours, which were also fuller and more distinct (Fig. 2).

I also determined the dimensions of the stamps examined. Measured were the frame distances from the top horizontal to the bottom horizontal, and from the left vertical to the right vertical. When possible, I also attempted to identify the cancellations.

Since differences in dimensions (between the 1st and 2nd issue) as observed by me were in disagreement with those given in the POFIS catalogue, I took particular pains through the use of the following scales:

(a) Wooden rule "Albert Nestler" with special insert, subdivided to 0.5 mm (line thickness 0.07 mm), estimated tolerance ± 0.1 mm (using 2.5x magnification).

(b) A glass rule of Swiss manufacture, smallest subdivision of 0.25 mm (line width 0.08 mm), estimated tolerance ± 0.05 mm (a 5x magnifier lens is part of the rule).

(c) NSR with special lens—equipped rider, subdivided to 0.1 mm (line width 0.03 mm), estimated tolerance ± 0.05 mm (lens magnifies 7x); rule was used only as a check since the full length of the rule is only 10 mm.

(d) As a check of the accuracy of measurement, I used a 24x magnifier microscope "Meopta" with an ocular scale of 1 mm, having smallest subdivision of 0.1 mm, with an estimated tolerance of 0.02 mm.

These details are given since it is conceivable that collectors may employ different instruments having varying degrees of accuracy, as a result of which different values and results might be obtained. Rule lines themselves have specific widths.

All measurements were checked by methods (a) and (b). Method (b) proved somewhat more accurate, particularly on extension, since the rule has lines engraved into the glass, and the instrument includes two extension magnifiers, attached by means of ball joints, located at the proper focal distance, (one lens having 2.5x and the other 5x magnification). The accuracy of measurement including extension and subtraction resulted in an accuracy of ± 0.05 mm, i.e., 1/20 mm. (Ed. Note: This statement might be questioned if lines are .08 mm thick and errors are additive.)

I Issue

(1) Gum is yellowish, applied more heavily, design in gum (in form of grill) made by the gum application roller is not sharp.

(2) Under quartz lamp illumination, the blue-violet stamp appears bright red.

In the Ist issue, I have observed the existence of two basic shades, observable both by day and artificial light, which may be described as:

- (a) Violet color (observed in the majority of the stamps examined),
- (b) Dark blue-violet (observed in several stamps).

Under quartz lamp, the color appeared:

- (a) Bright red (with vermilion overtone),
- (b) Dense carmine (with greyish overtone).

Dates of cancellation are not determining. It is apparent, that we are concerned with a plate used extensively on previous occasions, which is confirmed also by the observation of M. Protivenský. This plate is probably the one used to print the former blue 30h stamp (Pofis 999 II) and only later used for the printing of the blue-violet.

The dimensions of the design are 18.3 to 18.4 mm (horizontal) and 22.8 to 22.9 mm (vertical). Thus, not 23 mm (vertical) as given in the catalogue. The uncertainty in the dimensions may be explained as being due to the use of a scale having maximum accuracy of 0.05 mm and also in that extension or subtraction is to a certain degree critical because the frame has a thickness of approximately 0.1 mm, or more precisely 0.08 to 0.11 mm. The average basic dimensions were derived on the basis of several tens of individual measurements. The dimensions for the 30h stamp, Ist issue, are 18.4x22.9 mm.

The Ist issue in the blue-violet color (quantities unknown) was placed on sale in early 1959. The stamps were printed in Bratislava.

II Issue

(1) Gum is white, applied more thinly, and the grid structure in the gum produced by the gum application roller is distinct.

(2) Under quartz light the color of the stamp changes to dark, dense, carmine.

The dates of cancellation are not determining.

The design has the dimensions 18.7 x 23 mm, and the printing was 500,000 stamps. The stamps were printed in Bratislava on a Stickney press.

In the IInd Issue, I have observed merely one basic shade, which in daylight is identical with the basic shade of the Ist Issue, i.e., violet.

Under quartz light the color changed to dark carmine, with some specimens exhibiting lower and some higher color density.

The design in these stamps is more pronounced and denser, which is again evidenced in the frame, in the title "československo" and in the value 30h.

Principal Distinguishing Features	Ist Issue (narrow)	IInd Issue (wide)
Date of Issue	June 1959	Dec. 7, 1959
Color	Violet	Violet
Gum	Dark Blue-Violet Yellow	White
Dimensions of Frame	18.4 x 22.9 mm	18.7 x 23.0 mm
Printing	Less Pronounced	Pronounced, Dense
Dimensional Tolerances of Frame—Width	18.3 to 18.4 mm	18.6 to 18.7 mm
Height	22.8 to 22.9 mm	22.9 to 23.0 mm
Color Using Quartz Lamp	Dense Red Dark Carmine	Dark Carmine
Canceled Stamps	Dated Between 23.VI.1959 and 30.XI.1959	Earliest Date 7.XII.1959

The foregoing may be observed upon magnification to a minimum of 3x.

The design of the stamp has the dimensions 18.6 to 18.7 mm (horizontal) and 22.9 to 23.0 mm (vertical). Within the tolerances of the instruments used these dimensions may be 16.7 x 23.0, which corresponds with those given for the II Issue in the Pofis catalogue.

Based on all studies conducted thus far, it is apparent that the 30h violet stamps were not only issued in two separate issues, but also in two shades, the latter having thus far been observed clearly only in the 1st Issue.

The principal distinguishing criterion cannot be the difference in color change under quartz light alone, but must also (and mainly) include the intensity of the printing and dimensions of the design. Horizontal measurement is most critical.

A table is presented to summarize the principal distinctions between the 1st and IIInd Issues. The 1st Issue is also referred to as the tall and narrow format, while the IIInd Issue is referred to as the wide format.



Cancelled Stamps

We refer to postal cards cancelled on the first days of the (unofficial) issue, since the official date of issue of this stamp in violet did not appear in the Bulletin of the Ministry of Traffic and Communications (Věstník Minst. Dopravy a Spojů) until the end of June. (M. Protivenský gives the exact date as June 23, 1959.) A postal card with the 30h stamp, violet color, (Ist Issue) is illustrated in Figure 3. The stamp was cancelled by means of a special text-cancel used at that time by the main post office of Carlsbad 2, (27. VI. 1959) bearing the three-line message: "12.VIII.1959 - Den Stavbařů (Builder's Day) - Karlovy Vary (Carlsbad)" The postal card was mailed together with nine others, by a worker vacationing at Carlsbad and addressed to the management staff of his company (Nationalized Industrial Construction Company) in Gottwaldov. Three of these postal cards have been preserved. The cards are receipt dated 29.VI.1959.

The Carlsbad cancel dates from the second half of June 1959 (Ist Issue). Other known cancels are of a later period (November 1959) which supports the belief, that the majority of the sheets were issued to the Carlsbad Post Office. Some used stamps bear the following post marks: Frýdlant nad Ostravicí, Frenštát pod Radhoštěm, Ostravice, Staré Hamry, Ostrava, and Přerov. In as far as could be ascertained, these post marks date primarily from September 1959. In particular, these include: Přerov, 3.IX.1959, Staré Hamry 4.IX.1959 and 11.IX.1959, Frýdlant nad Ostravicí 3.IX.1959, Ostrava 11.IX.1959 and also from November: Ostrava 5.XI.1959.

Some post marks bear an even later date, after the official issue date of the IIInd Issue (Dec. 7, 1959). Of these I refer to only those in which at least the place, month, and year could be deciphered.

These include post marks of Ostrava (no post office number): II.1960, i.e., February of the following year, Kunčice pod Ondřejníkem 15.I.60 and Frýdlant

nad Ostravici 5.IV.60 and 7.V.60. This indicates that stamps of the Ist Issue were used in these areas for franking from about 3.9.1959 to 7.6.1960.

Basically, there are fewer mint copies of the Ist Issue than of the IInd.

In the case of used copies, the contrary is true, since most copies of the Ist Issue were used up before there was knowledge of the color change. In fact, most such ordinary stamps on cover were destroyed or thrown away.

Stamps of the IInd Issue for the most part never reached post offices, and served mainly for the franking of philatelic mail.

The POFIS catalogue states that both issues (together) exceeded 500,000 stamps. This is a very small number for ordinary stamps, and accordingly the 30h violet of both issues represents the smallest issue of all Czechoslovak ordinary stamps.

Conclusion

Stamps of the dark blue-violet color have, in a short period, become much sought after. It is certain that a new plate was prepared for the IInd Issue even though the engraving remained unchanged. The Ist Issue has the narrower format, while the IInd Issue has the wider format.

From the above article it appears that the study of stamps issued after 1945 also yields many new observations.

EDITORIAL

Filatelic, the publication of the Federation of Czechoslovak Philatelists, commenced publishing its semi-monthly journals this year with the announcement that each issue will contain four pages of articles of research in the field of Czechoslovak Philately. We were indeed very much impressed with the two issues we have so far received and congratulate the president and his staff on this extremely fine beginning. However we wish to express our earnest hope that there will be no politics emphasized in the future in the philatelic publication because truly it simply has nothing to do with philately as a hobby! We realize that the emissions themselves are used for all types of propaganda in every country but this has no connection with political dissertations in a philatelic magazine, which tends to be boring to the general reader of other countries.

Our member Janecka has been continuing his efforts on the proposed commemorative for 1968. At the meeting on January 21st a formulating committee was established consisting of Dr. Anton Hrebik, Dr. Joseph Cada, Professor Frank Hvachovsky, Eng. Jan Chomutovsky, Alois Salamoun and Joseph J. Janecka as its Chairman. Two honorary chairmen were also asked to serve, Otto Kerner, Governor of Illinois and Roman Hruska, Senator from Nebraska.

We understand that the First Czechoslovak Philatelic Club of America held its exhibition on March 25th and 26th with emphasis on airmails.

We wish to direct attention of our members to a printing error which appeared on the 80 h stamp in the set depicting animals of Czechoslovak fields and woods, issued last November. The stamps were printed by offset in the Cartographic Institute in Bratislava, according to reproductions made in the Graphic Works there, in sheets of fifty—ten horizontally and five vertically. In every instance, the fifth and tenth vertical set has, in addition to the Czech name "Zajic Polni" (hare), the correct Latin term *Lepus europaeus*, while in all the other stamps the Latin term appears erroneously as *Lepus europens*. Since these stamps have been used routinely at all post offices in the country for several weeks, it is difficult to ascertain now how many of these mint stamps still remain. Actually the rarities from the collector's standpoint are the stamps with the correct Latin name, since their number is one fifth of those with the printing error.

We were greatly honored recently. The president of the Austrian Research Society for Philately and Postal History invited us to membership in this highly respected honor society. This society has the same standing as the French Academy of Philately and only a selected few are asked to become a part of it.

WASHINGTON BRANCH JANUARY AND FEBRUARY MEETINGS

Member Verner visited us at the January meeting and displayed his wonderful specialized collection of items of the Czechoslovak Legion in Siberia. The collection included examples of every known field post office. Dr. Fischmeister brought along his newly acquired gold coins of Bohemia from the 16th century.

In February member Sandrik showed some of his recently obtained rare cancellations including errors, like Lombardy-Venetia used in Austria and a very scarce Triest cancel. —W.A.S.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

John Pojeta, Jr., 1492 Dunster Lane, Rockville, Md. 20854

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 1966

Income:		Expenses:	
Dues -----	\$ 1,057.55	Print. "Spec." Jan.-Dec. '66	\$ 1,088.90
Gifts -----	5.00	Postage Specialist -----	127.43
Advertisements -----	108.00	Dues, APS, SPA, Federation	12.00
Sale of books -----	37.11	Bindings, "Spec." 1965 -----	69.00
Circuit Commission -----	40.20	Expenses "Sipex" Convention	44.30
Interest on Savings Acct. --	23.52	Postage -----	22.75
		Misc. -----	3.00
	<u>\$ 1,271.38</u>		<u>\$ 1,367.38</u>
Transfer from 1965 -----	\$ 1,144.31		
Income in 1966 -----	1,271.38		
			\$ 2,415.69
Expenses in 1966 -----			<u>1,367.38</u>
IN TREASURY -----	\$ 1,048.31**		
**In checking account -----	\$ 445.27		
In savings account -----	603.04		
	<u>\$ 1,048.31</u>		

This is a report for the whole year of 1966.

As of this date there are absolutely no obligations outstanding.

During the year we had 275 paid up members and 5 honorary making it a total of 280 members.

This report will be verified and if found correct, published in the "Specialist."

Czechoslovak Philatelic Society

Joseph Stein, treasurer

Dec. 31, 1966

The detailed report was found to be in agreement with the summary of transactions and balances.

Patrick L. Flynn, Edward J. Benchik, Auditors

Febr. 17, 1967

▼ ▼ Pošta Československá 1919

By Jan Karasek

This study is based—after consultation with Messrs Jar. Kracik of Prague and Frant. Sramek of Hradce Kralove—on all presently known facts about the Overprints “Pošta Československá 1919” issue as well as on my own article entitled “Joint subtypes and their correct identification in connection with types of Overprint A.” This article appeared originally in the 1966 April issue of the special Bulletin published in connection with the planned 1966 Brno National Stamp Exhibition.

Some newest facts about Overprint A

After careful study of considerable amounts of philatelic material—both in sheets, panes and blocks—I have discovered some new facts which modify some previous knowledge and conclusions about this issue. The general prevailing theory so far related to several plates of Overprint A and also several corrected overprint plates with basic two overprint types I and II and also sub-types Ia and IIa.

Let's however turn now our attention mostly to the overprint plates 1, 1a-corrected, 1b-corrected, 2 and 2a-corrected respectively. Other plates in this group, namely overprint plates 3, 4 and 5 are to be disregarded since no new facts have been discovered about them. Thus all the previous knowledge about these three plates remains valid. Also the configuration of the basic overprint plate 1 remains unchanged (table 1). This plate consists of only two basic overprint types I or II and these differ only in shape of the hook over the letter Š in word Pošta and in the mutual positioning of letters T and V, and finally, in the “cut-off” shape of the second number 9 in the year date 1919 (Fig. 1). This plate has been used for overprinting of a part of 3 haleru stamps (Pofis No. 33). During the printing some of its cliches were damaged or replaced. It should also be noted all stamps of this issue were printed in panes of 100 stamps.

Overprint plate 1a-corrected

On this plate, the first replacement of damaged cliches was made at the 50th, 90th and 100th pane positions respectively. Cliches with undamaged

1	1	2	2	1	1	2	2	1	2
2	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1
2	1	2	2	1	2	2	1	1	1
2	2	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	2
1	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	2
2	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	2
2	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	1	2
2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	1
2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
1	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	2

Table 1
Overprint plate

1	1	2	2	1	1	2	2	1	2
2	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1
2	1	2	2	1	2	2	1	1	1
2	2	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	2a
1	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	2a
2	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	1a
2	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	1	1
2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	1
2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2a
1	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	2a

Table 2
Overprint plate 1a corrected

1	1	2	2	1	1	2	2	1	2
2	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1
2	1	2	2	1	2	2	1	1	1
2	2	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1
1	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	2a
2	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	1a
2	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	1	1
2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	1
2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2a
1	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	2a

Table 3
Plate 1b corrected

1	1	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2
1	1	2	2	2	1	2	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	2
2	2	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	1
1	2	1	2	2	1	1	1	2	2a
2	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	1a
2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	1	1
2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	2	1
2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2a
1	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	2a

Table 4
Overprint plate 2

number 9 of the basic type II overprint, identified as subtype IIa (Fig. 2) were used. In addition a cliché for 60th pane position with the original type II overprint has been replaced with a cliché with subtype 1a ("full" 9). On the 70th pane position, the cliché with type II overprint was replaced with a Type I overprint. Next replacement was the cliché for 40th pane position where the basic type II overprint has been replaced with a new cliché with a "full" second number 9 of the year date 1919. However this number 9 shows a typical damage in its lower part. Thus one must conclude that the replacement cliché was not perfect and soon after the start of printing became somehow damaged. This damaged number (Fig. 3) has been discovered on all available panes of stamps overprinted with this corrected plate. Therefore we must classify this subtype as **subtype IIa-damaged**. There were only two stamps of this series—the 3 haleru and 15 haleru—which were overprinted with this overprint plate 1a-corrected.

To sum-up: On 100-stamp panes overprinted with the overprint plate 1a corrected, we therefore find: 54 stamps with Type I overprint, 1 stamp with subtype 1a overprint, 41 stamps with Type II overprint and 4 stamps with subtype IIa overprint, with one of these stamps with damaged subtype IIa overprint.

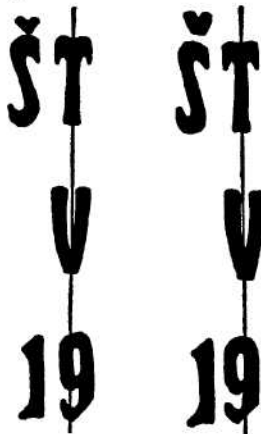


Fig. 1



Fig. 2

Fig. 3

Fig. 5

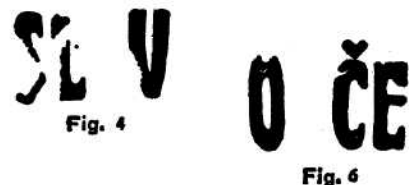


Fig. 4

Fig. 6

Overprint plate 1b-corrected

The second exchange of a damaged cliché was again made at 40th pane position, where the damaged cliché with subtype IIa overprint was replaced with a cliché of Type I overprint. Later during the printing this good cliché also became damaged. This damage is especially typical and noticeable on the following letters: S, L and V in word ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ (Fig. 4). This damage is found on all 15 haleru stamps from the 40th pane position of the corrected overprint plate, which we classify as plate 1b-corrected (Table 3). Additional corrections remain the same as with the plate 1a corrected.

This plate was used only for overprinting the 15 haleru stamp. All finds so far confirm, first, that the 15 haleru stamps were overprinted only with corrected overprint plates 1a and 1b, and, second, that more panes of this stamp were overprinted with the plate 1b than with the plate 1a.

The overprint plate 2

According to the late Mr. E. Hirsch, the prevailing Overprint theory related to basic overprint plate 1 and to the plate 1 corrected. However doubts if this was not an oversight, resulting from the error on the 67th and 77th pane positions respectively, now became real, since no material has been found yet to confirm the above Hirsches' theory. Therefore the original reconstruction of the plate 2, which originated from the basic plate 1, and 1b corrected, respectively, and which always used clichés of overprint Type I at the 67th and 77th pane positions, must obviously be completely erroneous. All finds of this material have confirmed that clichés of Type II overprints were always used for these two pane positions (up to the present this set-up was classified as plate 2a-corrected).

Thus we may definitely state that for this overprint plate only one set-up of clichés has been used (Table 4—Overprint plate 2). This overprint plate then can be classified as Overprint plate 2.

After the overprinting of 3 and 15 haleru stamps, the upper portion of the plate was probably remade so that its whole upper part was newly re-arranged. These replacements were made in 16 pane positions. On the other side, changes in the lower part of the plate were made in two places only, the 67th and 77th pane positions respectively.

The overprint plate 2 was used in overprinting the following stamps of this series: 3h, 5h, 25h, 50 haleru and probably also the 12 haleru stamps, as already noted in the past studies of this issue.

The distribution of various types of overprints on overprint plate 2 is as follows: 52 stamps with overprint type I, 44 stamps with overprint type II, 1 stamp with overprint subtype 1a and 3 stamps with overprint subtype IIa.

Since these subtype overprints and the set-tenant combinations of these subtype overprints with other normal overprint types are very much in demand among the philatelists, I shall now describe in more detail some typical characteristics of these adjoining "neighbor" stamps.

First there are errors (due to various damaged cliché parts) on overprinted plates 1a-corrected, 1b-corrected used for 15 haleru stamps:

39th pane position, overprint plate 1a-corrected: Partially damaged original cliché of Type I overprint with typical damage of the upper part of the



Fig. 7



Fig. 8



Fig. 9

Fig. 10

Fig. 12

Fig. 11

Fig. 13

Fig. 14

letter O and the letter T with its right side of horizontal bar cut, both in word POŠTA, and a small white dot in the letter Č of ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ. This plate damage is found left of the stamp with subtype IIa overprint (40th pane position (Fig. 5).

39th pane position, overprint plate 1b-corrected: Similar damage to the cliché as in preceding paragraph but with some small variations. The damage in the letter O is approximately the same, the letter T is undamaged, but on some stamps there is a damage. The size of the white dot in the letter C is smaller. In addition, there is a slight indentation of the upper corner of the letter E. This damage is found left of the stamp with damaged overprint subtype Ia (40th pane position) Fig. 6.

49th pane position, plate 1a-corrected, overprint type II: Damaged letter P in word POŠTA and the first letter Č in ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ, its upper part and the hook above the letter. The damage is left of the stamps with subtype IIa overprint (50th pane position) (Fig. 7).

49th pane position, plate 1b-corrected: Damaged letter P same as on plate 1a-corrected, the letter Č in ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ undamaged. On same stamps, there is additional damage of the first number 9 in year date 1919. Fig. 8.

59th pane position, plate 1a-corrected, overprint type II: Damaged letters P and C again, but in different parts than preceding descriptions. This is to be found left of the subtype Ia overprint (60th pane position). Fig. 9.

59th pane position, plate 1b-corrected: Typical damage of letter P in POŠTA and Č in ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ. Fig. 10.

70th pane position, plate 1a-corrected, Type I overprint: Partially damaged second letter E in word ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ. Also in the second number 9 of the year date 1919, part of lower leg is missing. Fig. 11.

79th pane position, plate 1b-corrected: The letter P in POŠTA indented; also considerable damage to the number 9 (lower part) and damaged base of number 1. Fig. 12.

89th pane position: Typical damage of letter P in POŠTA and letter Č in ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ. Fig. 13.

99th pane position: Letter P and O in POŠTA damaged, also letters Č and E in ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ. Fig. 14.

These typical errors appear with some small variations but nearly always in the same parts of these letters on overprint plates with subtypes and on three other overprint plates which used in overprinting 3h, 5h, 15h, 25h and 50 haleru stamps (plates 1a, and 1b corrected and plate 2).

These typical plate errors on single stamps—caused by damaged clichés of various overprints—will aid us with identification of overprint subtypes Ia or IIa vis-a-vis normal types of overprints and thus will also confirm proper classification of each respective subtype.

As far as the value of these subtypes is concerned, the damaged subtype

IIa overprints appear rather rarely mainly because this subtype has been used only on 15 haleru stamps overprinted with plate 1a-corrected. On the other hand, subtype Ia overprints appear on all overprint plates, 1a-corrected, 1b-corrected, and plate 2.

So far NO damaged subtype IIa overprint on 3 haleru stamp has been found (40th pane position, overprint plate 1a). Such find though would confirm the opinion of Mr. E. Hirsch quoted at the beginning of this study, namely, that the 3 haleru stamps were overprinted also with the overprint plate 1a-corrected.

Adapted/translated by lhv

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

For the past decade I have been your librarian. During that time I have answered many, many questions from members and others concerning all phases of Czechoslovak philately. Some of the more interesting and unusual questions submitted to me I have kept note of. Here I record some, with answers which I am sure will interest our members. I hope it will bring in those further questions to me which you always wanted to ask.

Q. On early ČSR covers the postage due stamp denomination is usually twice the amount of underfranking. Is this unusual or am I computing the postage rates incorrectly?

A. This was the correct post office department procedure. The penalty for underfranking was double the amount due. As an example—it takes four cents to mail our Specialist. If our mailer gets it back for incorrect address—he has to pay eight cents due.

Q. Where can I get a complete listing of ČSR stamps overprinted WIR SIND FREI and their respective catalogue prices, if any?

A. Michel catalogue of Europe is your best bet. It's in the German language but this should not faze anyone. It has a complete listing. The prices for elusive items will stagger you!

Q. When were the first postage meters used in ČSR and who used the first one?

A. The ČSR Ministry of Post and Telegraph allowed the use of an experimental postage meter by announcement in its Journal No. 44, September 9, 1926. The first experimental postage meter was used by the Czech Industrial and Economic Bank of Prague in 1926. (How many of our members have collections of ČSR postage meters?)

Q. I am sure that the 100h denomination of the ČSR newspaper stamp, Scott No. P8, differs slightly in the value tablet design from other denominations of this issue. Has this been recorded in any philatelic literature?

A. You are referring to the "leaves" in which the numeral 100 is inserted. I have found this recorded by Mr. Hirsch in his ČSR Monograph of 1935. He states that the leaves were somewhat enlarged so that the three digits of the 100 would fit properly.

Q. What was the name of the manufacturer of the printing press used to print the first ČSR issue? Do you know where an illustration of such a press is available?

A. There were several printing presses used by Unie to print the first ČSR issue, the Hradčany. Unie press #33 (L. Kaiser & Sons, Vienna (1895) #1596); #34 (Augsburg Machinery (1891) #3614); #35 (König z Bayer Kloster-Oberzell bei Würzburg #2922); and #11 (König-Chromo-Format VII 84/120 (1917)). There may have been others. I know of no illustrations of these presses. I have contacted our members in ČSR about such illustrations but they could not help.

Do send your questions, comments, opinions and also criticism to your librarian. Share your knowledge with other members by writing an article for our Specialist. The Editor, the editorial board or your librarian will gladly help you put it over.

Frank J. Kosik, Librarian, Rt. #4 Box 286, Delawan, Wis. 53115.

BEDRICH HOUSA AND HIS CZECH STAMPS

By Otto Hornung

Reprinted from LINN'S

People are different. Everyone has his interests, his hobbies. That, of course, applies also to the creative artist and, perhaps, even more so. Josef Hercik, engraver of Czechoslovakian stamps, loves Gothic art but his colleague, the four-year younger Bedrich Housa, swears by Baroque art.

Beautiful Baroque statuettes, old copper engravings and a huge variety of his own drawings, adorn his studio. And as regards Baroque art you will not be able to find another city in the world where it would exist in greater abundance and lovelier forms than in Prague.

I inquired into the reasons of his love for Baroque art. "I simply love it, although I do not underestimate Gothic art. But Baroque art is full of excitement. It is a bit theatrical, it is true, but it suits me!"

Housa's road to engraving was quite natural. At fourteen he started working in one of the large Prague printing houses, the Unie, where postage stamps were also printed.

He served his apprenticeship under an old professional, Mr. Goldschmied, who engraved many a Czechoslovak stamp. Of course, he studied his art only after the war, for five years, beginning in 1945.

Bedrich Housa engraved his first published stamp in 1949. At present he is an experienced engraver who has dozens of successful stamps to his credit.

They include the Hradčany sheet (1964), the stamps issued on the 500th anniversary of the first Bratislava university, the Academia Istropolitana (1965) and many others.

But Bedrich Housa works not only on Czechoslovak stamps. He showed me some which he has engraved for Albania, for the Vietnam Democratic Republic and for the Korean People's Republic. Apart from these he has also engraved designs for Czechoslovak and Iraqi revenue stamps.

Towards the end of 1964 a five-cent stamp issued by the United Nations to commemorate the agreement on the cessation of atomic tests and based on the design of the Danish artist, Ole Hamann, was printed in Czechoslovakia.

This stamp was printed by photogravure. However, philatelists do not generally know that recess print was considered at first.

It was Bedrich Housa, who was entrusted with this task, who made the engraving.

It is a pity that recess print was not used for the stamp would have undoubtedly looked better.

But Bedrich Housa's artistic activity, however, is not limited to stamps. He loves copper plates. Thus, when he designed the book cover to Gulliver's Travels, the personality of Jonathan Swift captivated him so much he has engraved his portrait in copper.

But the most charming are Housa's drawings of Prague Baroque houses, old fountains and monuments. This young and versatile artist will yet have great influence on the creation of Czechoslovak postage stamps.

When I visited him he was working on the engravings of three stamps of a series which were issued on the occasion of the 1966 European Championship in Figure Skating.

MOSCOW ISSUE—T. G. MASARYK

By Charles Chesloe



Fig. 1. Top perforations missing



Fig. 2. Bottom pair imperforate.

The Moscow printed issue with the portrait of T. G. Masaryk was brought into the country by the Soviet forces coming in from the eastern front. The stamps are Scott's 262A-265, perforated line $12\frac{1}{4}$, photogravure print and issued in panes of one hundred.

The original issue had only three denominations. The first day of issue was July 16th 1945, in Slovakia August 16th 1945. The denominations and

numbers issued were: 50h 4,000,000, 1K 4,140,000, 2K 2,000,000. Additional denominations were issued March 5th 1946. 5h 1,880,000, 10h 2,000,000 and 20h 2,035,000 (from POFIS 1966 catalogue). The issue was accepted for postage until December 31st 1948.

Although this issue is relatively low priced and easily obtained, there are certain missing perforation varieties which are a challenge to a specialist to obtain. The illustration showing the 50h and 2K have the top perforation missing. Fig. 1. I have also seen this variety in the 1K denomination. It is logical to assume that the complete top strip from the pane exists in this manner. The other illustration shows the 5h lower left hand corner block of six. The bottom pair are imperforate horizontally. Fig. 2.

It would be interesting if such items as described above were reported to me for a future follow-up article in the Specialist. Any further information on this issue would be also appreciated. No. 609, Charles Chesloe, P. O. Box 96, Willow Springs, Ill. 60480.

(Charles Chesloe, 34, is married and has three children. He has been interested in Czechoslovak philately for many years. His other interests include symphonic music, fishing and he is also a coach of the swimming team at the local YMCA.)

TOWNS IN SLOVAKIA—SLOVAK, HUNGARIAN, GERMAN, RUTHENIAN

(cont.)

Lipča	Lipcse	
Liptovský Swatý Mikuláš	Liptószentmiklós	
Ljutá	Havasköz	
Lok	Garamlök	
Lót	Ujlót	
L'ubovna	Ólubló	G. Altľublau
Lučenec	Losoncz	
Mad'arsky Bel	Magyarbél	
Majdan	Majdánka	
Malacky	Malaczka	
Málaš	Málás	
Malý Berezný	Kisberezna	
Mederč	Megyercs	
Medve	Medve	
Medzilaborce	Mezőláborsz	
Michalovce	Nagyimihály	
Moča	Dunamócs	
Močola	Macsola	
Modra	Modor	G. Modern
Modrý Kameň	Kékkő	G. Blaustein
Moldava nad Modvou	Szepsi	G. Moldau
Mostová Kert'	Hidaskurt	
Mulačevó	Munkacs	R. Mukochevo
Mužijovo	Nagy muzsály	
Mužla	Muzsla	
Myjava	Miava	
Nádseg	Nádszeg	
Námestovo	Námesztó	
Nasvad	Nászvad	
Neded	Negyed	
Nekyje nad Ostrove	Csallókoznyék	
Nekyje nad Ipl'om	Ipolynyék	

Nenince	Lukanénye	
Neresnice	Nyéresháza	
Nitra	Nyitra	G. Neutra
Nížní Verecky	Alsóverecke	
Nižnia Myšľa	Alsómselye	
Nová Baňa	Ujbánya	G. Konigsberg
Nová Straž	Orsujfalu	
Nová Ves nad Žitavou	Zsitvaújfalu	
Nové Mesto nad Váhom	Vágújhely	G. Neustadt a. d. Waag
Nové Zámky	Érsekujvár	G. Neuhausel
Nový Tekov	Újbars	
Oros	Nemesoroszi	
Oroska	Oroszka	
Ožd'any	Osgyán	
Palanok	Várpalánka	
Parkan 1	Párkány	
Parkan 2	Párkány-Nána	
Pastovce	Ipolypásztó	
Perbeník	Perbenyik	
Perbete	Perbete	
Perečín	Perecsény	R. Perechin
Pered	Pered	
Petrovo	Tiszapéterfalva	
Piešť'any	Postény	
Pláňt'ovce	Falást	
Plavé Vozokany	Fakóvezekény	
Plešivec	Pelsoc	
Polana u Svalany	Poléna	
Poprad	Poprád	G. Popper
Poroškov	Porosko	
Prešov	Eperjes	
Prievidza	Privigye	G. Priwitz
Púchov	Puhó	
Radovce	Ragyolc	
Radvaň nad Dunajom	Dunaradvány	
Rachov	Rahó	R. Rakhov
Rákošín	Beregrákos	
Rakovce	Rapp	
Réca	Réte	

(to be continued)

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

WANT TO BUY

MINT MINT
CZECHOSLOVAKIA

ISSUES 1923-1926
(Scott Nos. 92-118)

Full Sheets

Part Sheets

Blocks

Die Proofs

Color Trials

Plate Proofs

Rare Perforations

Varieties

Rare Watermark Positions

ARTHUR I. KESSLER

551 Fifth Ave.

New York 17, N. Y.
