

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

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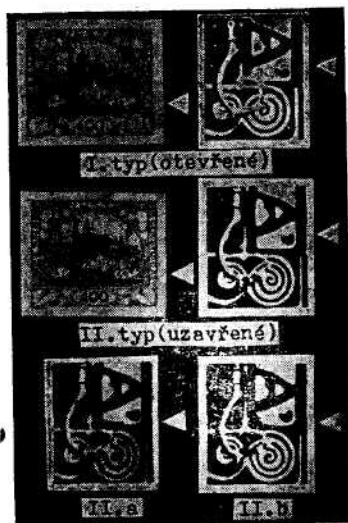
December 1967

No. 278

TWO TYPES OF HRADČANY 400 H STAMP

By Dr. Frant. Kubat

Cut courtesy of Filatelie



Owing to a special printing process of the Type II Hradčany stamps—these were issued in 100, 200 and 400 haleru denominations—the bottom bordering of the word “slovenská” on 200 and 400 haleru stamps was interrupted at two places in the right side of the text line and these two cuts remained open. This is similar imperfection which had occurred later in the left upper spiral of Type V Hradčany stamps.

This flaw on 200 haleru stamps which were printed simultaneously with the 100 haleru stamps on January 10, 1919, and put in circulation January 14, 1919, was not repaired, and the stamps were sold at the postoffices.

More care however was concentrated on the 400 haleru Hradčany stamp which printing started January 27, 1919, and the stamp released for postal use

on January 29, 1919. The above described flaw WAS repaired on this stamp but only on the FIRST printing plate (control number 40,—normal). The repair was done already in the preparatory stage before the actual printing. It is also apparent that the correction was made by a draftsman-engraver and that he used for this purpose a greasy black ink on the respective metal plate before its etching. This is obvious from the fact that all ten similar flaws appear on both printing plates, which again means that both these plates were produced from the same preliminary set-up and from the same negative. Also this mass-produced repair of the original design could not have been produced efficiently by adding the metal directly on the finished printing plate. The same method was evidently used again during printing of the 75 haleru Hradčany stamp; there horizontal bars were added to the number 7 on both printing plates.

However due to some oversight or haste, no repair was made on the printing plate II (control number 40 with "cut-off" decimal point) and as the result of repaired printing plate I, the second type of above described detail was created with only two slightly differing sub-types (sharp and circular closing): type IIa (80th stamp of a pane) with sharp closing, and Type IIb (46, 47, 48, 57 and 99th stamps respectively), with circular closing (see illustrations). It seems incredible that these type variations of 400 Haleru stamp remained unnoticed until 1962. This is but another example that even in the such thoroughly researched field as the Hradčany serifs we may still expect some new philatelic surprises and discoveries.

Adapted/translated by lhv from Filatelie

EDITORIAL

Some time ago member Verner asked us in a letter whether we would be interested in publishing a translation of the monograph which our Mr. Karásek has been working on for the 50th anniversary of the Czechoslovak postage stamps. Jerry said he would discuss the matter with us upon his return to the States. During his visit to our home recently he told us that he had already informed member Karásek that we would indeed be glad to publish that outstanding work. We assume that in the not-too-distant future the monograph will be in print as evidenced by the article in this issue.

There was a lengthy article in Harper's magazine on member Dr. Franz Pick who has been attending the meetings of the New York Branch regularly when in New York City. We were aware of the fact that he is an internationally known currency expert but we did not realize the extent of his activities until we read that most fascinating article. It is comforting to know that such an important money expert finds it worth while to collect stamps of Czechoslovakia.

Members Please Note: The amendment published in the September issue of the Specialist was passed and will be added to the constitution.

NEW YORK BRANCH OCTOBER MEETING

The October meeting was very well attended. We were all happy to see member Horechny who had not been able to take part in our gatherings for a number of months for personal reasons.

Member Reiner-Deutsch entertained the interested group by showing unusual items of his 1918-20 Field Post collection, some of it never shown before to any other assembly. This included various photographs of the units in France and in Italy as well as a number of original documents.

NEW MONUMENTAL MONOGRAPH ON CZECHOSLOVAK STAMPS PLANNED

The recent issue of "Filatelie" (Sept. 28, 1967) published an interview with Dr. Jiří Bisek, Chairman of a special editorial board, established by the Federation of Czechoslovak Philatelists (ČSF) with the task to prepare the publication of a new monograph on Czechoslovak stamps. The publication of this monumental work is intended to be the important part of the coming 50th anniversary of the first Czechoslovak stamp which will climax in the PRAGA 68 International Stamp Exhibition next year. Dr. Bisek told the editors of Filatelie that the title of this many-volumed work will be "The great Monograph on Czechoslovak Stamps." The work will have FIVE volumes, with the first two published—hopefully—next year and with the last one coming out in 1971, thus including all the Czech stamps issued between 1918 and 1971. Anyway, according to Dr. Bisek, the first two volumes of this reference work should be in the hands of philatelists by the time of the opening of the PRAGA 68 exhibition in June 1968. The contents of the first two volumes were already decided upon by Dr. Bisek's editorial board. The first volume will have some 500 pages and in addition to the Hradčany issue, it will also include the immediate post-liberation period between October 28, 1918 until February 28, 1919, which, as any experienced collector of Czech stamps knows only too well, is philatelically a very interesting period. The authors of this volume are Dr. František Kubat and Zdeněk Kvasnička, with the latter also designated as its editor.

The second volume will be of approximately the same size and will include the following issues: a) POŠTA ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ 1919, b) T. G. Masaryk 1920, c) Allegories, Dove, Chainbreaker and Hussite issues, d) Economy and Science issue, e) Red Cross issues, f) list of prevailing mail rates during the postal validity of each above named issues. The authors of this volume are: Ing Jan Karásek, Antonin Michele and Dr. Bohuslav Svoboda, with Ing Karásek as the editor.

There will be some unusual treatment of the material included in the first volume. Dr. Bisek stated in his interview that while the second volume will present the material in usual monographic style, this presentation will be extensive and will go into hitherto neglected details of all these issues; the first volume, especially its part on the Hradčany issue will be presented as a special study which will go "far beyond the usual catalog style and listing." In this part of the volume, Dr. František Kubat, the leading contemporary Czech expert on the Hradčany issue, included everything that would certainly satisfy even the most demanding collector. The editorial board considered it particularly fitting to devote such extended treatment to the Hradčany issue since it is, first, the first Czech stamp issue which will have its 50th anniversary next year and also one of the Czech stamp issues which is also collected and best known abroad. Another consideration was the philatelic variety and uniqueness of many of its perforations, errors, etc. Dr. Bisek also stated that these first two volumes of the new monograph are completed in manuscript and are now undergoing final editing. Plans are being made to include in each copy some special souvenir sheet, preferably black reprints of some old stamps. The first volume obviously will have some black prints of a Hradčany stamp. The publisher of this 5 volume monograph is POFIS. In the editorial board which directs the project are in addition to Dr. Jiří Bisek, the following well-known Czech philatelic experts: Edward Herout, Slavomir Kaiser, Ing. Jan Karásek and Zdeněk Kvasnička.

(lhv)

POSTAL STATIONERY COLUMN

By Wolfgang Fritzsche

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Airletter Sheets.

1959. Crane in flight, 2 lines of instructions on back, first line longer than 2nd line.
 1a. 1.20 Kčs blue
 b. 1.20 Kčs gray blue
- 1961/62. Same as Nr. 1 but both instruction lines on back of the same length
 2a. 1.20 blue
 b. 1.20 gray blue
1962. Same as before but added imprint at bottom in red: PRAGA 1962 (stamp exhibition)
 3a. 1.20 Kčs similar to Nr. 1
 b. 1.20 Kčs. similar to Nr. 2
1962. Same stamp, Pigeongram size 145x55 mm.
 4. 1.20 Kčs. gray blue
1965. Same stamp, instructions on back in 1 long and 1 short line but now along the folds the words "Zde prelozte"
 5. 1.20 Kčs. blue
1966. Pigeongram with red stamp showing city of Brno, size 130x54mm, for the Allstate stamp exhibition in BRNO 1966.
 6. 60h red
1967. Stamp showing city of Bratislava, issued for the Aero Philatelic exhibition AERO-BRATISLAVA 67
 7a. 1.20 Kčs. Steel blue, on back 1 line long second line short
 b. 1.20 Kčs. Steel blue, on back both lines of even length AND along folds "Zde prelozte"

Please mention this publication when answering ads. Thanks!

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4. Provisorni Vlada II compl. to 10 K -----	25.00
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6. Scout stamps set mint -----	-----
7. Same used -----	-----
8. Cards and covers franked with Austrian stamps (or stationery) before 1918, 115 different -----	12.00
9. 118 picture postcards of Prague, all with stamps -----	10.00
10. Czechoslovak stationery about 100 mint or used -----	10.00
11. Emergency newspaper stamps, Česke Sl., Narodni Pol, etc., blocks of some, all told 15 -----	7.00
12. Covers with special cancels, also blocks, 44 different -----	10.00
13. Siberia overprinted set to 1 Ruble -----	-----
14. 25 kop. 50 kop and 1 Ruble perf. -----	-----
15. Cover with this set -----	20.00
16. 1 Ruble proofs -----	-----
17. Hradčany 1 h comp. sheet -----	1.00
18. Hradčany 3 h comp. sheet -----	3.00
19. Hradčany 3 h double sheet incl. 10 tete beche -----	30.00
20. 10, 20, 30 h Hradčany imperf., all signed -----	-----
21. Diff. Hradčany perf sets -----	6.00
22. Pošta 1919 Airmail set compl. -----	125.00
23. Pošta 1919 10 K signed -----	35.00
24. Pošta 1919 set of 50 diff. -----	8.00
25. Pošta 1919 8 diff inverted overprints -----	8.00
26. Pošta 1919 Hung porto red numerals compl set 1h-30h -----	30.00
27. Masaryk 1920 issue complete -----	2.00
28. Same imperf. -----	10.00
29. Congress compl. mint -----	20.00
30. Same used -----	20.00
31. Sokol compl. mint -----	17.00
32. Same used -----	17.00
33. Vertical watermark used set -----	5.00
34. Dove and Allegory, tete beche set mint -----	15.00
35. Same with gutters -----	-----
36. S. O. Masaryks mint (Scott \$75.00) -----	-----
37. Set to 1000 Hradčany -----	3.00
38. Same used -----	4.00
39. Covers of diff. periods of Czechoslovakia including Hungarian occupation, about 150 diff. -----	18.00
40. 200 cards and covers with spec. cancellations, many duplicates -----	10.00
41. Music Sheets, signed -----	120.00

Send your bids soon.

Books close December 31, 1967.

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EARLY, POSTWAR CZECHOSLOVAKIA OFFERS PHILATELIC EXCITEMENT

By Leslie Grover

Reprinted from Linn's

Any collector of Czechoslovak stamps can build for himself—quantitatively and qualitatively—a very impressive collection which may bring him a very imposing array of diplomas and other awards, when it is adequately presented and arranged. Both the prewar Czechoslovak Republic as well as its postwar continuation can pride themselves on some very outstanding philatelic rarities. It is, of course, the prewar Czechoslovakia which has some really outstanding philatelic material in all the specialized fields, including postal history.

In this area there occur many rarities which were either the result of some unusual postal event and circumstance, or some really unusual error—in design and/or during the actual printing.

Just to make it interesting for any true philatelist, there are also numerous forgeries and counterfeits from this period—some very clever—which would make an outstanding collection in themselves.

Which are the rarest of the rare Czech stamps? There are four of these, and three belong to the Austria-Hungary issue with the overprint "Posta Ceskoslovenska 1919" (Czechoslovak Post 1919).

A brief history of this set is called for: On March 1, 1919, the validity of Austrian and Hungarian stamps on the new Czechoslovak Republic's territory was cancelled.

Remaining stocks of these stamps were withdrawn from post offices and overprinted with the inscription: "Posta Ceskoslovenska 1919". The overprinted stamps were then reintroduced for postal sale on December 12, 1919, with a 50 percent surtax.

Postally valid until January 31, 1920, these stamps were for internal use only and their actual use on covers is scarce. The Scott Catalogue classifies these overprints as semipostals (Scott B1 to B123 inclusive).

The official Czechoslovak "Pofis Catalog" makes no such distinction, and these stamps are numbered in that catalog as Nos. 33-139 inclusive.

The rarest stamps which belong to this group are:

1.—The 4Kčs Austrian overprinted yellow green stamp, granite paper, (Scott B24).

2.—The same stamp but with a reversed overprint.

3.—The 10Kčs. Austrian overprinted deep violet, granite paper (B25).

The current Scott value of the former denomination is \$5000 although it does not list the reversed overprint of this stamp. The price of the 10Kčs listed by Scott is \$4500.

The latest official Czech Pofis Catalog does not put any specific value on these three items. There are so few of these stamps in existence that any valuation of them—at least according to the editors of the Czech catalog—would seem to be unrealistic.

Incidentally, the Czech Postal Museum has copies of all three of these rare stamps.

In addition to many rarities, this "Posta Ceskoslovenska 1919" issue has two extraordinary, even unique variations. The first is the 12 heller (Scott B6, Pofis 56) se-tenant strip with two different types of the overprint.

There is just one such strip reported so far. Another rarity of this issue is the green special delivery triangle stamp (Scott B33, Pofis K56a) with four overprinted coupons.

Allegedly, there are only two known copies of this combination. One of them was exhibited at the PRAGA 1955 International Stamp Exhibition.

The fourth biggest rarity among the prewar Czechoslovak releases is an error surcharge overprint on one of the postage due provisional stamps (Scott J52a, Pofis X49). Again the history of this stamp is interesting, even exciting for philatelic "gourmets."

These postage due provisionals represent a tremendous output of the Czech stamp production, as is evidenced by the fact that it took more than six years—from 1922 to 1928—until all stocks of these were completely exhausted.

The Czechoslovak postal authorities had decided to issue these overprinted provisionals because of thriftiness. They had now made a basic policy change regarding the printing of their stamps.

They switched from the original typography process which was used in the case of their first few editions after the liberation of their country in 1918 to a more modern rotogravure printing method.

However, the remaining stocks of their stamps were too large to be destroyed; so it was decided to use them for postage due provisionals.

Among these remainder stocks were also some stamps of the Chainbreaker issue (Scott J51-J56, Pofis 48-54). There were three denominations from this set selected for overprinting.

However, stocks of the 50h value were pretty small; so this stamp was eliminated completely from the operation. Yet in 1928, the first overprint error "50 heller on 50 heller" was discovered and created a real sensation among Czech philatelists.

After some very frantic "treasure hunts" these important facts were discovered: First, all the stamps with this erroneous overprint seem to come from just one post office branch in Prague.

Second, all were used on business mail. Third, not a single mint stamp with this error was ever found.

There are several theories as to the origin of this error:

(a) One complete pane of 50h. denominations was included by mistake or otherwise among panes of other denominations prepared for the surcharge overprint "50 Doplátit 50", or,

(b) incomplete panes of other denominations of these series were supplemented with a section or part of a 50h. stamp pane to make a complete sheet.

It is known that postal authorities requested all Czech post offices to return any amount of unsold panes, whole or in parts, of all these stamps for overprinting. There are 17 known copies of this error, all in used condition.

The current 1967 Scott Catalogue price of this stamp (Scott J52a) is \$1750. According to my information, one such stamp is available for sale in this country (at least it was at the time this article was written).

It showed up originally in 1957 when a New York stamp firm, The Cross Stamp Company, offered it among other Czech stamp rarities (the 10Kčs. "Posta Československa 1919" granite paper variety already mentioned was one of them) in an auction.

The auction catalog listed the price of this stamp at that time at \$100 to \$1250. Earlier this year, the same item was listed by Fritz Billig in his auction catalog with a suggested minimum bid of \$1400, but the stamp was withdrawn from sale.

Recently, another New York stamp firm, the Alcon Company, offered the same issue to one prominent collector of Czech stamps in Washington, D. C. and the price tag then was \$1950, thus some \$200 over the Scott Catalogue value.

The latest official Czech Pofis Catalog, while listing registering this rarity, again does not put any value on it.

So far I have mentioned only the top rarities among Czechoslovak stamps. Of course there are dozens of others which do not command such high prices, but many of these come quite high in both the current American and European catalogs.

Many of these are among the semipostals of the "Posta Ceskoslovenska 1919" series. But there are some varieties in the Hradčany series which are extremely rare and highly valued among Czech specialists.

Then, of course, there are the watermark positions of several issues of the T. G. Masaryk commemoratives which also command extremely high prices and which are known to exist in very limited amounts—for example, the 2Kčs. blue T. G. Masaryk denomination, Type II (Scott 103, Pofis 195) with vertical watermarks.

Stamps of this type are found only in used condition and with watermarks in positions one and four. The conservative estimate of the known numbers of this stamp speaks of about only ten copies.

The Silesian plebiscite issue (SO 1920 overprints) is a veritable unexplored mine for specialists. Due to a very hasty and sloppy job of preparation and bad printing of these overprints, there are many dozens of faults and imperfections.

Out of these overprint defects one could build himself a very specialized collection around only this single issue. The job of reconstituting the whole panes of each overprint plate could be a real challenge to anyone.

Postwar Czechoslovakia offers less exacting challenges to a specialist or collector. The advances in stamp printing and designing techniques eliminated the frequency and multitude of errors and misprints of the prewar Czech issues.

This of course is true of the majority of postwar items. There are exceptions, however, and curiously these are tied up mostly with the various Czech souvenir sheets rather than with singles.

For example, souvenir sheets Scott Nos. 310, 637, 368, 434, and 586, and Pofis A360a, A435, A492, A497, and A564—to name a few—were printed with several different plates, and each of these had several small varieties and changes in its design.

Thus, some of these souvenir sheets have up to a full dozen small differences in comparison with the original design (Scott 368 and 434, especially).

Undoubtedly, a more thorough study of the postwar Czech stamps will uncover other errors, varieties, and imperfections in due time.

If we realize that from 1956 until the present more than 1000 stamps and souvenir sheets have been issued by the Czechoslovak postal authorities, the law of averages is definitely on the side of some interesting philatelic discovery among this multitude of new postal paper issued every year.

Even the prewar Czechoslovaks are still a repository of unexpected philatelic surprises. Only recently a completely new error has been discovered among one group of the Hradčany issue which opened up an entirely new specialized group of these stamps.

This article cannot, of course, enumerate or describe all the rich philatelic material in the Czechoslovak area. My intention was to draw the attention of both collectors and experts to these stamps, to point out some of their rarities, and thus to entice more American collectors to this very rewarding, and I think neglected, field of specialization.

This is an area which in time will be duly acknowledged, even more than it is now, at some future international exhibitions in the form of diplomas and awards to collections of this unusual philatelic material.

GERMAN MILITARY MAIL IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, 1938-45

By Benjamin R. Beede

Reprinted from Linn's

A study of military mail sent through German postal agencies in connection with the German domination of Czechoslovakia during the Second World War falls into several categories, depending on the areas involved and the beginning of the German occupation of them.

A logical and quite convenient division shows five distinct areas and periods of interest, as follow:

I—Occupation of the Sudetenland, 1938.

II—Occupation of Bohemia-Moravia, 1939.

III—Protectorate of Bohemia-Moravia, 1939-45.

IV—Slovakia, 1939-45.

V—Units of Czechoslovak nationals in the German armed forces or using German postal channels for other reasons.

Now, to consider them in proper depth and in the same order, we find:

I—The troops who entered the Sudetenland in October 1938, to occupy the areas granted to Germany by the Munich Agreement were given free franking privileges. The first trials of the Feldpost (military mail) system took place in the fall of 1937 and during the occupation of Austria in 1938.

The Sudetenland occupation was therefore the second practical test of the system. Cancellations used were the type used extensively during World War II, a circle with the word: "Feldpost," the date and an eagle and swastika—the national symbol of Nazi Germany.

Mail also occurs with cancellations of civilian post offices in the Sudetenland. Not all fees were waived, so Feldpost letters exist with Czech or German stamps with military cancels.

II—When the Protectorate of Bohemia-Moravia (embracing western Czechoslovakia) was established in March 1939, the German forces carrying out this momentous task were given special postal privileges. As in the Sudetenland, mail exists with both military and Czechoslovak civil cancels.

A special ring cancellation reading: "Feldpost" was used at Bruenn. The postal concessions for the troops lasted from mid-March through April 1939.

III—On September 3, 1939, all military forces in Bohemia-Moravia and Slovakia received free postal concessions, although fees had to be paid for packages between 250 and 1000 grams and for postal money orders.

Treatment of mail, however, was quite different from that given during the two earlier periods of Feldpost service in Czechoslovakia. In those instances mail from German servicemen had been processed by either 1) Feldpostamt (military post offices) or 2) civilian post offices.

From September 1939, however, all military mail was to be forwarded through a number of special civil post offices that had been established for exclusive use by the occupation authorities in the Protectorate.

No requirement existed for Feldpostamt, since these Deutsche Dienstpostamt (German Official Post Offices) were already available. Similar situations existed in many, but not all the occupied countries, including Poland, Russia and Norway.

Military mail soon made up the bulk of material handled by the Deutsche Dienstpost system. Additional post offices in fact were often solely because of the needs of military units.

The Protectorate was an important staging area for the Russian campaign. Moreover, a great many schools and other specialized military installations were moved from Germany to Bohemia-Moravia, to escape air attacks from England.

Besides Army and Air Force Units, there were also numerous Waffen-SS and police formations. Mail from the latter received a special marking: "SS Feldpost," but otherwise was subject to the same regulations as other military mail.

Due to the presence of so many SS and police units, mail with the "SS Feldpost" marking is more common from Bohemia-Moravia than from most of the other occupied territories.

No Feldpost mail was supposed to be carried by the civilian postal system operated by the Czechs for the population of Bohemia-Moravia. Errors were often made, however, and Feldpost mail does occur with bilingual Protectorate cancels.

Dienstpost cancellations can easily be recognized by the inscription: "(town name) Deutsche Dienstpost Boehmen-Maehren". Not all Feldpost received this cancellation, however. Town name cancels could be applied only to mail from units with a fixed location.

Field units were also based in Bohemia-Moravia and their location had to be protected through the use of five-digit Feldpost numbers to take the place of town names and unit designations.

When mail from such a unit arrived at a Dienstpost office, cancels without town name were used.

Another method was introduced in 1943, when some feldpost mail began to receive a small circular cancellation: "Deutsche Reichspost" with date, but no town name. Such cancels were extensively used only in 1944-45 when more field units came into the Protectorate.

IV—The Feldpost system in Slovakia was rather different from that in Bohemia-Moravia. Although Slovakia was not considered an occupied country, there were thousands of German troops there by September 1939, since it was one of the bases from which the attack on Poland was launched.

There was also a sizeable military mission from Germany which helped train the Slovak Army.

According to Dr. Schultz, Feldpost mail in Slovakia was not carried by the Slovak national postal system, but was dispatched by courier to a Dienstpost office near the border in Bohemia-Moravia or to a civilian post office in German-occupied Austria.

Since Slovakia and Germany were allied, special provision was made for correspondence between Slovaks and German servicemen. According to an agreement of October 1940, mail in both directions was permitted free of charge up to 250 grams in weight.

This permitted a Slovak to mail a letter or postcard at any post office in the country addressed to a German soldier without payment of postage. Any German serviceman anywhere in Europe could send mail through his military post office to Slovakia.

A more generous set of concessions was later given to Slovak German volunteers in the Waffen-SS. This will be discussed in more detail below.

V—During the course of the war, several categories of Czechoslovak nationals came to have Feldpost privileges:

1—Czechs who resided in the Sudetenland were subject to German conscription and served in ordinary military units.

2—In the summer of 1939 a few refugees from the Carpatho-Ukraine were joined with Ukrainians from Poland in several small German military units. They participated in the Polish campaign, serving later as policemen in areas where there was a Ukrainian population.

3—A force known as the Regierungstruppe was established in July 1939, to support the puppet government of Bohemia-Moravia. Its strength was limited to 7540 men.

While theoretically under the control of the Hacha regime, it was also in the German chain of command. In July 1944, this factor resulted in the transfer of about two-thirds of the force to Italy for security duties behind the lines. Later in the war, evidently, it was intended to employ this force at the front, because on March 1, 1945, it was given Feldpost unit numbers.

The troops who remained in Prague went over to the Underground during the May 1945 uprising that freed the city.

4—Members of the German minority in Slovakia served in the Waffen-SS as early as 1939 and 1940. By late 1943 there were approximately 5500 men in the German forces, almost all in the SS. In June 1944, Slovakia even permitted conscription of minority members by the German government.

These volunteers participated in the privileges under the 1940 agreement between Germany and Slovakia. A more extensive agreement was made in February 1943, for the benefit of the SS volunteers.

Weekly packages were allowed from the front to Slovakia at a weight of 250 to 1000 grams; the fee was the normal 20 pfennigs.

Each package had to carry an officer's certificate that he had checked the package for possible violations of Slovak postal regulations.

All mail to and from Slovakia bore a route marking: "Ueber SS Zweigfeldpostamt Pressburg" (Through SS Branch Military Post Office Pressburg) and the SS runes, both in red. These markings were effaced by the Pressburg office.

5—Slovak troops on the Eastern Front had their own postal system, entirely distinct from that of the Germans. After the reduction of Slovak forces there in 1943, airmail service was undertaken by the Germans. Slovak troops received airmail control labels (Scott MQ 1); to receive letters, they had to send some of these labels home. Therefore, these stamps occur with Slovak civil and military cancels.

6—In October 1943, part of the Slovak force on the Eastern Front was sent to Italy for engineer duties. These elements were widely scattered over German-held territory and were counted as part of the German forces. Therefore, they received German Feldpost privileges and were given Feldpost unit numbers.

An interesting twist is indicated by official German postal records. By 1943, there were labor battalions of Czechs and French in Germany for the purpose of clearing rubble from bombed cities.

Despite the fact that the members of these units were clothed in German uniforms, they did NOT receive free-franking privileges, because they were not stationed in an operational area.

This appears to have been an instance of discrimination against the Czechs for all German soldiers and many labor servicemen in Germany had Feldpost privileges.

A word should be said on the subject of Feldpost labels in the Protectorate. A Sicherheitspolizei (security police) unit issued a set of four imperforate labels bearing the inscription: "Feldpost Nr. 30 433".

The denominations were 5, 10, 15, and 20 pfennigs. Their designs showed Hitler and the three branches of the armed forces. Each stamp had an issue of 4000 copies. Such labels were totally unnecessary, but were tolerated. Presumably, these seals were issued in 1939 or 1940, or perhaps early 1941, because the unit later went to Russia.

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The 500 HALERU HRADČANY STAMP

Some Identification Aids of Type I and Type II Pairs of these Stamps

By Jan Karásek

From Filatelie

A few years ago several brief articles on 500 haleru Hradčany stamps of Type I and Type II appeared in our philatelic press authored by Messrs Kvasnička, Bastl and Karásek, all well-known Czech experts. However, in spite of all the facts published so far no adequate identification of Type I of these stamps (open spiral) originating from a pane with majority of Type II stamps (closed spiral) was ever described. But the correct identification and registration is necessary especially in case two stamps of this denomination, namely on a pane where the 32nd and 35th stamps are of Type I while the remaining 98 stamps are of Type II.

It is of course generally known that there exist much larger amounts of stamps of Type I because the first printing plate of this denomination is composed entirely of Type I stamps. In addition, it was this printing plate which was used in printing most stamps of this issue.

Now the reason for identification of these two stamps is clear. It is essential in case of proper identification of joint pairs of these two types, both in mint or used condition. Further it is necessary to make sure if such a joint pair is genuine or a forgery of the second stamp was made by partial color retouch of second stamp's spiral, thus creating a very rare combination pair of these two stamps.

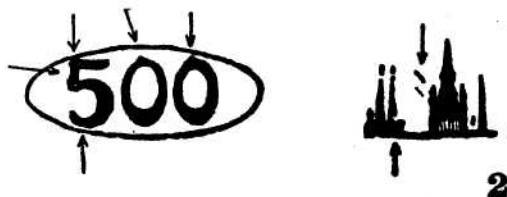
Let's now describe some basic and secondary identification aids and features of Type I stamps from 32nd and 35th pane positions respectively. It must be noted that some of these features are more or less distinct and clearly outlined, but some others—in case of used stamps—could be obstructed in part or fully by cancellations. Also we shall not attempt to describe the identification aids and features of stamps of Type II, i.e., those of stamps from 22, 25, 31, 33, 34, 36, 42 and 46th pane positions because these features are insignificant and frequently undistinctive.



32nd Stamp Type I

(see fig. 1)

The basic feature: the left spiral is clearly open. The number 5 in the oval shield is positioned slightly higher, touching the upper border line, which at this point is open. The horizontal leg of number 5 is slightly wavy. The border line in the left lower corner above the letter A (of the name MUCHA) is open. Further, one line of sun's ray is missing alongside of one (left) smaller tower of St. Vitus Cathedral (it is visible on majority of other stamps), and the main cathedral tower is seemingly connected with the right smaller tower. A small color spot (dot) about 0.1 mm width appears in the right upper corner of the stamp.



35th stamp I type
(see fig. 2)

The basic feature: the left spiral obviously open. The number 5 in the oval shield has a different shape in its upper part, its top touches fully the border line of oval shield and also nearly reaches with its bottom to the lower border line of the shield. Both zeros (00) have small extrusions on their upper parts. One right small tower is considerably damaged, and there is additional sun ray line near the left side tower of St. Vitus Cathedral.

Further careful observation under a magnifying glass may reveal some more different features but these are too small to be considered at typical.

In conclusion we may say that joint pairs of both types of this Hradčany stamp are a rarity to be found very seldom in collections of Czechoslovak stamps, especially in used condition. Mint pairs of these two types are really unique. And the same could be stated about these pairs overprinted for air mail use, (Pofis C1-C3). So far as we know there is no used joint pairs of these two types in the air mail version in existence. And as far as mints of these joint air stamp pairs are concerned, their existence is a mere theory. The new 1966 Pofis Catalog again in its price evaluation doesn't reflect the extreme rarity of joint pairs of these two different types of the 500 haleru Hradčany stamp.

Adapted/translated by lhv

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Parade Of New Issues

Edited by Frank Kosik

International Tourist Year 1967—February 13, 1967



- a) .30 Kčs—Jihlava—View of the town. Dark violet
- b) .40 Kčs—Brno—View of the town. Color, dark red
- c) 1.20 Kčs—Bratislava—View of the town. Color, dark blue
- d) 1.60 Kčs—Praha—View of the town. Color, blackish brown

All these stamps bear the official symbol of this international tourist year.

The designs of the stamps of Kčs .30 and .40 are the work of the academic artist prof. Cyril Bouda, the engravers are Jan Mráček and Ladislav Jirka.

The design of the stamp Kčs 1.20 is the work of the academic artist Albin Brunocký, the engraver is Bedřich Housa, who is also the author and engraver of the stamp of Kčs 1.60.

The stamps were printed by the Post Printing Office in Prague by rotary recess print. The size of the pictorial part of the stamps of Kčs .30 and .40 is 41x23 mm. They are printed in sheets of 50 stamps. The size of the pictorial part of the stamps of Kčs 1.20 and 1.60 is 75x30 mm. The stamps are printed in sheets of 15 stamps.

Together with the stamps 4 First Day Covers were issued. They were designed by the authors of the stamps. The First Day Cover in the value of Kčs 1.60 was engraved by Bedřich Housa, the others by Jaroslav Goldschmied.

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