

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

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New Counterfeit Overprint of 1920 Czech Airmails

By Ing. J. Karasek

From Filatelie



During my recent visit in Sweden, the leading Swedish collector of Czechoslovak stamps, Mr. G. Hedbom of Stockholm, showed me a 50 haléřů airmail stamp of 1920 (Pofis No. 4, Scott C7) with reversed overprint. (Pict. 1). He added that this stamp looked somehow suspicious to him and that he felt that this stamp was a counterfeit in spite of the fact that it didn't have all the characteristic differences of counterfeits of this issue as described in the *Padělky* book.

After some detailed study we could state unequivocally that Mr. Hedbom's find is indeed a counterfeit overprint in reversed position, but one which has only some characteristic signs of a counterfeit. The *Padělky* československých známek, as our readers are probably well aware, note three basic counterfeits (A, B, C) of this 50 haléřů air mail stamp. The counterfeit C is very primitive; the airplane is unclear and smeared and the counterfeit is easily identifiable. Overprint counterfeits A and B have some common features, among them, 1. the pilot's head is not joined to the wing and the white dot is missing, 2. Supporting strut does not reach the wing and the fuselage directly beneath is interrupted, 3. the three white dots are barely visible, 4. the landing gear wheels are rounded, 5. the upper portion of rudder is straight, 6. the right side of lower propeller is not rounded. Further, these counterfeits were found only on USED stamps.

For comparison, let's now look at the original overprint (pict. 3). Its typical features are: 1. The pilot's head is joined to the wing by means of a

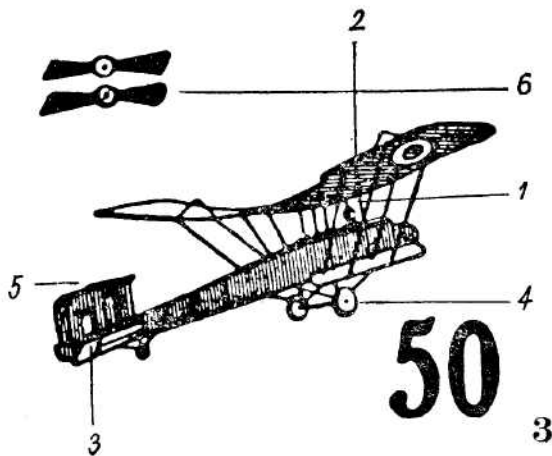


vertical line, and in the head there is a white spot (which might be often covered by ink), 2. supporting strut pierces four lines in the wing, 3. under the white area in the rudder there are three dots, 4. the wheels of the landing gear are oval in shape, the heavier left side forms a notch inside, 5. the upper portion of the rudder forms a step, 6. the right side of the lower propeller is rounded.

The newly found 50 haléřů counterfeit overprint has some features which we would not find neither on the original stamp nor on previously registered and identified counterfeits (see pict. 2). These are: 1. Pilot's head is not connected with the upper wing but has a white dot, 2. Supporting strut pierces four lines in the wing, 3. Three white dots are not visible, 4. the wheels of the landing gear are oval shaped, 5. The upper part of the rudder forms a step, 6. the right side of the propeller is not rounded.

Thus it appears that this counterfeit overprint is identical in $3\frac{1}{2}$ points with the original one while in remaining $2\frac{1}{2}$ points is identical with counterfeits type A and B.

However, let's note some other features of this new counterfeit in which it differs from the original and which at the same time are not identical as



those of other counterfeits. We shall list them under additional identification numbers. Thus, No. 7, the right edge of the wing is sharp, 8. the end of the two outside struts overlap into the center above the undercarriage, 9. the small back wheel under the rudder is not round but oval-shaped and slanted, 10. the size of the rudder is different, and basicly higher, 11. the number 50 is heavier, the lower half-circle of "5" differs from the original. Comparing again all these features with those of the original overprint we find the following: 3½ of these features are identical with the original while only 2½ remaining are different. And of course the remaining 5 features also differ from the original.

We may therefore conclude with confidence that this is then another type of the counterfeit overprint, which obviously could be considered as the best of all the counterfeits of this overprint. In addition, the overprint was made in reversed position and used on a mint stamp. Thus the counterfeiter utilized the known fact about the scarcity of these reversed overprints which is reflected in their catalog valuation, some 10 times HIGHER than the value of stamps with NORMAL overprint. It is very likely that also two other stamps (Pofis 5, 6, Scott C8, C9) of this issue were overprinted with this counterfeit overprint. So far none of these were yet found and identified. Finally I suggest that this new counterfeit overprint should be classified as counterfeit overprint type D.

(by—lhv)

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Praga 1968 — January 29, 1968



On January 29, 1968 the Czechoslovak Post and Telecommunication Administration issued a set of three commemoratives with aeronautical-historical motifs dedicated to the World Stamp Exhibition Praga 1968.

60h—Charles' Bridge and balloon. Colors, yellow, red, blue, black.

1Kčs—Belvedere Royal Summer House with fountain and airplane. Colors, yellow, red, blue, black.

2Kčs—Prague Castle and airship. Colors, yellow, red, blue, black.

The stamps were designed by Josef Liesler and engraved by Jindra Schmidt. They were printed by the Prague Post Printing Office by four-color flat recess print in sheets of ten. The dimensions are 23x40 mm.

A First Day Cover with allegorical motif of a bicycle was issued with the set. It was designed by Josef Liesler and engraved by Jaroslav Goldschmied.

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EDITORIAL

There is a very interesting brief article by the Hungarian Philatelist, Dr. Steiner László, in the Hungarian Philatelic paper *Filatéliai Szemle* in which he says:

FIP ruled some time ago that Exhibitions under the patronage of FIP may not accept entries containing sport stamps issued on the occasion of an Olympic game if such country did not participate in that particular event.

Though we love stamps depicting art pieces, nevertheless there is need for a similar directive in connection with certain stamps issued representing famous paintings. For example Burundi issued stamps depicting Rembrandt art pieces located at Rijks museum in Amsterdam, Picasso's work which can be found in the Moscow Puskin museum, Césanne, Daumier, Renoir and other French artists' work located in the Paris or Amsterdam museums and Panama proudly presents art works of Rembrandt, Velasquez, Raphael and Dürer.

It is indeed fine when artpieces are reproduced for the purpose of information or study. However it is our opinion that no country should issue a stamp reproducing a painting or other art pieces when its original cannot be found in the issuing country.

Your editor must first state that we have translated the above text freely and not verbatim. Our reporting has a very definite purpose. We wish to ask whether all those birds, flowers, animals, mushrooms, etc., which our topical collectors so very much enjoy and which are found on stamps of a number of countries are actually indigenous to the issuing country? We must express our doubts in this respect. We believe FIP should rule on this also.

In this issue members will note that an increase in dues is proposed. This increase when approved will of course not take effect until January 1, 1969. We believe that it is just to raise the membership dues in consideration of the increase in the cost of production and mailing. A very important factor in this decision was also the desire by the council to have more original articles requiring cuts for illustration.

When the Council was asked to vote on the proposals, we had received a letter from one of our most distinguished members remarking that the addition in parenthesis of "other than nominees" was completely unnecessary as such was the plain meaning of the constitution, but it seems every detail must be spelled out to avoid any possible difficulty.

We are indeed very much pleased that our esteemed friend Howard Hotchner has joined the ranks of our society. The Washington Branch now has many more members in attendance which is to the credit of the organizers of that Branch.

NEW YORK BRANCH MARCH MEETING

Member Michaelson gave us a brief historical background regarding events leading to the declaration of separation of Slovakia from Bohemia-Moravia in 1939. After this introduction he showed us his extensive collection of stamps of Slovakia with two very interesting covers franked with Czechoslovak stamps with inverted overprints of Slovensky štát.

At this meeting two very important matters were taken up. First it was decided to hold the annual June dinner meeting at the Praha restaurant where we had a most delightful time last year. Mr. Stein will make all the final arrangements. In addition, upon the suggestion of Lolly Horechny, it was voted to hold a branch members' exhibition at the Collectors Club on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the declaration of independence of Czechoslovakia. We hope to secure permission for Saturday, October 26, 1968. A committee was appointed by the chairman consisting of members Koplowitz, Beede, Hanish, Horechny and Reiner-Deutsch. Member Reiner-Deutsch will take the matter up with the Collectors Club.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Pursuant to Articles X and XI of the Constitution of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society the following amendments are proposed by the Council—

Constitution:**Article III**

Omit "sustaining members"

Article VI

Add after "at least five member in good standing" in parenthesis "(other than nominees)"

By-Laws:**Paragraph 1**

Omit "sustaining member five dollars"

Change "active member three dollars and associate member three dollars" to read "active and associate member five dollar"

Paragraph 2a

Omit all reference to sustaining members

The Constitution requires that these proposals be published in the Specialist and that members shall vote on them. Send your vote to Mr. Frank J. Kosik, National Secretary, Route 4, Box 286, Delavan, Wisc. 53115. The amendments will become part of the Constitution and By-Laws 30 days after receipt of this issue unless a majority of voting members disapproves.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Reprinted from STAMPS

In May 1967 Czechoslovakia issued an attractive set commemorating 1000 years of Jewish culture in that country. Shortly afterwards the six-days war broke out between Israel and its neighboring Arab countries, which was extremely embarrassing to Czechoslovakia when Russia threw its support to the Arab side and expected its satellites to go along with her. According to the French magazine "Le Monde des Philatelistes" the following events took place:

Immediately after the outbreak of hostilities, the Czech postal authorities in Prague telegraphed all of its government-owned stamp shops and Government post offices where these stamps were for sale to stop selling them and return their stock to the main post office. Use of these stamps for postage inside Czechoslovakia was permitted for a short time, but letters bearing these stamps addressed to foreign countries were returned to the sender stamped with the words: "Stamps not authorized." The post office did not cancel the stamps, but used ball points or other markers to cross them out. Naturally, the price for this set inside Czechoslovakia immediately rose to ten times face value.

Under pressure from numerous large new issue dealers all over the world who had contracted for this set, the Czech Government decided on the 20th of September 1967 to release this set again. Noting the strong demand abroad, they decided to take advantage of that fact, and raised their price from the face value of 6.10 Kronen to four times face, namely 25 Kronen. Even the cancelled to order sets were raised to 13 Kronen and first day covers to 16 Kronen.

Nevertheless, Czech philatelic outlets are not permitted to display that set in their windows, and the stamps are not good for postage for domestic use or on mail to foreign countries, so their "change of heart" was strictly for their own benefit to reap the dollars. The set is most pentiful in this country, so you should be able to get it if you feel it has a place in your collection.

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|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Koškovce | Kožkovce | Krima | Křimov |
| Koštěnice, Dašice- | Dašice-Koštěnice | Krima-Neudorf | Křimov-Nová Ves |
| Kotešová Zemianska | Kotešová | Kristálfalu | Richvald (Spižský) |
| Kotliny | Kotlyna kúpele | Kritschen | Podolí u Brna |
| Kotrba | Koterbach | Krivány-Gyetva | Kriváň-Detva |
| Kottiken | Chotíkov | Krnsko, Stranov- | Stranov-Krnsko |
| Kottwitz | Chotévice | Krochwitz | Chrochvice |
| Kotzobendz | Chotěbuz | Krombach | Krumpach |
| Kounice Dolní | Dolní Kounice | Krönau b. Mährisch | Křenová u Mor- |
| Kounov, Milostín- | Milostín-Kounov | Trübau | avské Třebové |
| Kováčpalota | Tužina | Krönau b. Olmütz | Křelov |
| Kövagás | Kamenná Poruba | Krondorf Sauerbrunn | Krondorf |
| Kóvár | Koláre | | Kyselka |
| Kovarcz | Kovárece | Kronsdorf, Schles. | Kronsdorf ve |
| Kövecses | Štrkovec | | Slez. |
| Kövecsespuszta | Kevečeš | Kronstadt, Böhmen | Kunštát v |
| Kövesfalva | Kamionka | | Čechách |
| Kövesliget | Drahovo | Kropáčova Vrutice | Vrutice Kropáčova |
| Kövi | Kameňany | Kroschau | Chráštiny |
| Kozarovce Hronské | Kozarovce | Kroschau-Herrndorf | Chráštiny- |
| Középpapsa | Srednaja Apša | | Kněževes |
| Kozma | Kuzmice | Krškany Malé | Malé Kršknay |
| Krajna | Krajné | Krtiny Velké | Velké Krtiny |
| Krajnópolyana | Krajná Polana | Krtýš Malý | Malý Krtýš |
| Kralován | Kralovany | Krucemburk, | Ždírec-Krucemburk |
| Králova pri Modre | Modra 2 na Slov. | Ždírec- | |
| Králové Dvůr | Dvůr Králové nad | Krumau | Český Krumlov |
| | Labem | Krumlov Český | Český Krumlov |
| Králové Hradec | Hradec Králové | Krumlov Moravský | Moravský |
| Králové Městec | Městec Králové | | Krumlov |
| Kralovice Dolní | Dolní Kralovice | Krumlov v Čechách | Český Krumlov |
| Královo Pole | Brno 12 | Krumpisch | Chromeč |
| Královský Chlumec | Helmec | Krupá Dolná | Dolná Krupá na Slo- |
| Kralupy Německé | Německé Kralupy | | vensku |
| Kraml, Novosedlice | Novosedlice- | Krupá Dolní | Dolní Krupá |
| | Kraml | Krupka, Vrchoslav- | Vrchoslav-Krupka |
| Krásné Dvory | Senov ve Slezsku | Kruty Horní | Horní Kruty |
| Krasznahorkaváralja | Krásnohorské | Krzeschitz | Křešice |
| | Podhradie | Křic | Chříč |
| Kratenau | Kratonohy | Křidlovice, Božice | Božice-Křidlovice |
| Kratzau | Chrastava | Kříže Svaté | Svaté Kříže u |
| Krausebauden | Krausebouda | | Břas |
| Krawarn | Kravaře ve Slezsku | Kříž Svátý | Svatý Kříž u Plané u. T. |
| Kreibitz | Chřibská | Kšely Dolní | Dolní Kšely |
| Kreibitz-Teichstatt | Chřibská-Teich- | Kubice Česká | Česká Kubice |
| | statt | Kubn Dolný | Dolný Kubín |
| Krempach | Krompachy | Kubín Vyšný | Vyšný Kubín |
| Kremnitz | Kremnica | (Horný) | |
| Krems | Křemže | Kubra Velká | Velká Kubra |
| Kremsier | Kroměříž | Kuglhof | Kuklov |
| Kreuzberg (Böhmen) | Krucemburk | Kubmach | Kubachy |
| Kreuzberg b. Wigstadt | Krucberk | Kuchelbad Rennplatz | Chuchle |
| Kriegern | Kryry | | závodiště |
| Kriegershay | Handlová | Kuchelna | Chuchelná |
| Kriegsdorf | Vojnovice | Kukau | Kukonín |
| Kriesdorf | Křížany | Kükemezö | Kuková |

A Study of the 100h Hradčany Stamp

By Josef Hanák

(Translated by G. P. Skopecek)



Of all the HRADČANY stamps, groups A and B are the most interesting by reason of their perforations, defects, plate retouches, and paper varieties. Some information about these matters has been made known from time to time, but much is still to be ascertained.

FILATELIE is publishing the following study by J. Hanák in the hope that collectors with a flair for research will expand it.

The differences between groups A and B are color, shape of letters, and a colored line at the bottom of the frame, which was replaced by a white line under all the words. Some changes in the design of the later groups are also known. These changes include shape of sunrays, which were long in the first group. In groups A and B the rays were not retouched, except in a few instances on the 10h red, 25h blue, and 400h violet stamps. The remaining 21 values are considerably retouched, especially the 100h.

Dr. J. Munk claims that the 100h Hradčany was printed with a retouched plate. This bit of information could lead to further study of this stamp and result in new discoveries. The retouched rays on the 5h green Hradčany were mentioned by some older collectors, particularly J. Kálal. This study is concerned only with the 100h Hradčany.

The sunrays are located on the inside of the curved line separating the vignette from the upper part of the design. They begin on the left side and are interrupted by the linden bough on the left. This group is the largest. The rays of this group are often damaged, broken, shortened, or at times, missing. The second group is to the right of the linden bough, above the small spires. It is not positively known if both plates of both groups of the 100h were retouched, but their differences help to pinpoint the types and thereby the retouches under the word POŠTA. The 25h blue Hradčany, on which the rays were not retouched, is very helpful in deciding whether the rays on the 100h Hradčany were retouched or not.

On some values the rays of the left group were not retouched, as on the 20h green in the 46 position, (Fig. 1—Retouch of the rays near the spire) or on the 30h yellow-olive. (Fig. 2—3rd position on plate I). On the 5h green, in addition to the retouched rays, is also a very significant retouch of letters TA in POŠTA. This is on the first stamp in a sheet printed with Plate I. (Fig. 3).

To distinguish the retouches from each other, they are divided in groups:
Group 1. Below the letter P in POŠTA are two rays in the original shape

or retouched. There is a trace of part of one ray or its retouch and one, two, or three shortened rays.

Group 2. The greatest amount of retouching was done on rays under the letter O in POŠTA. Originally, there were six rays of various lengths. The second ray was very close to the point of the main spire, and following it are three curved dashes. Without realizing it, the retoucher created a new group of rays on each stamp in a sheet, differing from each other by number, length, and slant of rays. This group is very conspicuous, especially when compared with the 25h blue Hradčany.

Group 3. In the center of the curve, under the letters ŠT in POSTA were three short rays, originally. Later, we find new rays of different lengths and spacing, sometimes combined with the neighboring group. Some of these are even produced above the curve under the letter S of POŠTA. (On the 5th stamp rays are combined with a "second sun").

Group 4. The same change was made to the four rays under the letter T in POŠTA. Originally, these rays were spaced evenly.

Group 5. Below the A in POŠTA should be four short rays following the curve, but separate from it. These were noticeably changed in retouching. Some were lengthened, spaced farther apart, or made to touch the curve.

Group 6. This retouched group is located beneath the linden leaves on the right side. There were six rays, but sometimes one is partly or completely retouched, demonstrating how arbitrary the retoucher was in his work.

Group 7. Behind the right linden bough, under the word Československá, the damaged and separated rays were not retouched.

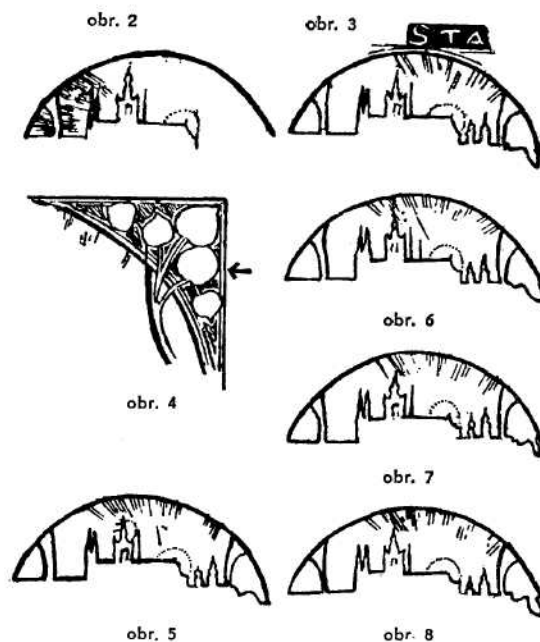
In retouching, the long ray under 3 in POŠTA, pointing to the center of the sun, was sometimes shortened. For instance, on the 5h light green and the 100h brown we can tell by the slant, shifting up or down, the length or the distance from the fourth spire, that it was retouched.

The sun was originally drawn with 17 dots on all stamps of groups A and B. Occasionally, one or two of these dots are broken out. Retouches of the sun are very noticeable, being retouched with 15, 16, or even 18 dots, or being made oval, pointing to the left. (On the 6th stamp it is oval or reduced.) Other times, the correction is done by dashes instead of dots, and on some stamps, the rays are as originally drawn, but the sun is retouched.

Retouches of some rays are encountered on all stamps of the first group. Nothing has ever been written about it; so collectors have not noticed it. Also, up to now, no one has paid any attention to the retouch of the 4th leaf of the right group of linden leaves. For some unknown reason, it was retouched in such a way that it is as large as the middle one, to the detriment of the adjoining part of the design. (Fig. 4.) This is the only known retouch of this kind on the Hradčany stamp in the 68th position on metal plate II (according to V. Nejedlý) with unretouched rays which are damaged. This does not show on any other plate. Another oddity is the signs of retouches to the tallest spire on the 5th stamp, which shows on all plates. It is called a "second sun." (Fig. 5.) The rays on this and following stamps were retouched by a few dashes on the left and dots on the right, with the result that it looks like the armorbearer on the 40h dark brown Free Republic stamp.

On the 15th stamp a long vertical ray was added to the roof of the church, between the fifth spire and the sun, making it look like an "antenna." (Fig. 6.) There are other examples of careless retouching: long rays were left out on stamp 7 (Fig. 7), and the retouched rays are decidedly different on the 91st stamp (Fig. 8).

It is likely that the stamp with omitted rays was used as a pattern for the forgeries of the 100h and 200h Hradčany. A detailed description is given in the Hirsh-Franěk Monografie Československvch Známek. The authors dis-



cuss the differences between the genuine and forgeries, where the long ray is missing, but overlook the differences in the drawing and number of rays on both stamps. (Fig. 9.) These forgeries (Vejprty) were detrimental to the postal receipts. The forgeries of the 100h Hradčany seem to be quite rare.

The following table supplements the Monograph by comparing the number of rays on the genuine 100h, 200h, and 300h stamps, and on the forgeries.

100h, 200h Hradčany

| | Genuine No. of rays | Forgery No. of rays |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|
| Rays behind and below the left linden bough | 11 | 10 |
| Left group of rays alongside the spire | 13 | 11 |
| Rays under the letter Š | 4 | 3 |
| Rays under the letter A | 4 | 5 |
| Long ray | 1 | 0 |
| Rays behind the right linden bough | 14 | 13 |

300 Hradčany

| | | |
|-----------------------|---------|--------|
| Upper left group | 12 | 10 |
| Group under š | 6 | 4 |
| On right linden bough | 3 short | 5 long |

The rays below the letter O in POŠTA differ in length and slant. A Vienna printing establishment, which printed postal cards (in violet) for the Czechoslovak Postal Department made the same mistakes. On the stamps, the long ray is missing, making them similar to the forgeries. Other forgeries, dangerous to collectors, are the 10h, 20h, and 30h Hradčany. The most noticeable differences between the genuine and the forgeries of the 10h green, 20h red, and 30h violet are groups D and F. To attain at least a resemblance to the genuine, the forger changed the design of the 20h and 30h stamps by crudely shading both doves and hearts, overlooking the clean lines of the original design. Trial printings in black and in color are a good hunting ground for collectors whose "hobby" is searching for defects on plates and prints of the 100h Hradčany.

1st stamp—Not retouched, a white dot under the first spire. Sometimes an imprint of a tack holding the plate shows up above the right corner.

2nd stamp—Letter P in POŠTA is damaged at the bottom of the curve.

4th stamp—Colored dot in the rays below A in POŠTA, a colored dash on the neck of the left dove.

5th stamp—Two suns.

6th stamp—retouched sun is oval, the letters LO in ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ are connected by a dash.

7th stamp—the long ray is missing, two rays added alongside the left spire.

9th stamp—Two long rays.

10th stamp—Frame line above C in ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ is broken, long ray is shorted, sun is retouched by shading, imprint of a tack over right ray, a longer ray added to the left of left spire.

11th stamp—Bottom of the wing of the left dove is broken, letters ČESKO are damaged, and letter A in MUCHA is broken.

15th stamp—Long ray "Antenna."

22nd stamp—A white dot over right wavy line in upper scroll.

25th stamp—Three rays under letters P and T in POŠTA with a dash.

40th stamp—Sun retouched with only 15 dots.

47th stamp—A line in the oval on some plates.

46th stamp—Rays not retouched, letter Č in ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ is broken.

49th stamp—A white spot under the upper wavy line.

50th stamp—A white spot and a break in the frame above letter E in ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ.

51st stamp—The curve of letter P in POŠTA and the roof behind the sun are damaged.

63rd stamp—Bushes on the right side below letter KA in ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ are spotted. This is the greatest plate defect on the 100h stamp.

68th stamp—Rays are not retouched. Fourth leaf on the right side is retouched.

80th stamp—White spot on letter A in POŠTA.

81st stamp—White spot after letter A in POŠTA, rays are not retouched.

84th stamp—Long ray under A in POŠTA, frame line above letters V and K in ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ are damaged.

86th stamp—Right upper corner is very light, white spot on letter Š in POŠTA.

90th stamp—Letter A in POŠTA is very light, the curve of letter A in POŠTA is damaged.

91st stamp—Long ray is missing.

92nd to 98th stamp—Bottom part is printed faintly (white spot).

99th stamp—Upper left frame above the second spiral and numerals 1 and zero are damaged.

100th stamp—Rays are not retouched.

It is also necessary to know how many plates were used in printing the 100h stamps. V. Nebeský, in his description of plates, claims that four plates were used. After examining used stamps, mint sheets, and trial printings, I came to the conclusion that the plates were made from a single glass negative on which, according to the original design, the rays were retouched (on about 86 stamps). However, there are also differences in prints of some stamps in the same position. This would indicate that there were differences between the plates from which the stamps were printed. This is shown positively on the 91st and 100th stamp in the sheet. Fig. 8 shows rays on the 91st stamp which could be assigned to Plate I. Retouched rays, minus the long one, are

not in any way disturbed. On other stamps in the same position, the rays under POŠTA are alike, but shorter, or only dots, or missing altogether. Furthermore, in the left corner, a part of the vertical frameline and the tail of the dove are missing. These same differences were noted on a sheet of 100 mint stamps. Each 100th stamp (Plates 1 to 4, Nebeský) has a color spot on the right side of the main spire. This could be a printer's mark, similar to the white dot under the left spire on the first stamp. On all these plates the rays on the 100th stamp are not retouched, but with some notable differences on the 1st, 3rd, and 4th plates (Nebeský). On Plate 1 the rays are broken along the whole curve or are very short. Difference A.

Other differences in the plates are:

B—Design defective on the left. (Leaves).

C—Frame has a large nick over Č in ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ.

D—The right upper wavy line is interrupted by a white dash.

E—The numeral ONE and the first ZERO in the 100 are damaged.

F—On Plates 1-2-3 are white spots on the last curve of the bottom wavy line. Plate 4 is without it.

These facts point to a conjecture that the 100h stamps were printed by only two plates, the same as the 3h Hradčany. A definite evaluation of all the information we now have about the 100h Hradčany and its retouched and unretouched rays cannot be made now, because a similar situation exists on the 15h, 75h, 120h, and other Hradčany values as described by J. Kálal and which do not coincide in the shape of the numerals. There is an abundance of used 100h stamps, but mint ones are scarce. Very rare is the retouch of the leaf on the 68th stamp. Also scarce are the 5th, 7th, 10th, 91st, and 100th stamps because of printing differences.

AWARDS FOR THE BEST CZECHOSLOVAK STAMPS OF 1967

As reported in the "Filatelie," a special official 11-member jury composed of the official representatives of the Union of Czechoslovak Artists, The Czechoslovak Philatelic Federation, the Czechoslovak Journalists Association and the Czechoslovak Ministry of Communications recently evaluated the 1967 Czechoslovak stamp issues—86 stamps and 2 souvenir sheets—from the standpoint of design and excellence of production. After a "long and thorough discussion" the jury decided to award TWO first prizes of 3000 Kč each. One to Joseph Herčík for his souvenir sheet in the annual series of Prague Castle, and his engraving of the 1.60 Kč stamp in the second series of reproductions of art treasures from the Czechoslovak National Gallery. The second first prize was awarded to Jaroslav Lukavský for his air mail stamps issued to publicize the coming Praga 68 International Stamp Exhibition. The third prize of 1000 Kčs was awarded to Mr. Albin Brumovský for his 1.20 Kč Bratislava stamp in the series issued for the International Tourist Year. Mr. Michael Romberg was accorded an honorable mention for his design of a series of 3 stamps commemorating the 50th anniversary of Bolshevik Revolution. However the representatives of the Czechoslovak Philatelist Federation—as reported by the Filatelie—filed a formal protest against this award claiming that "the Czechoslovak philatelists did not receive these stamps favorably due to relative incomprehensibility and incommunicativeness of their designs." Another "honorable mention" award was given by the jury to designer-artist Karel Vodák for some of his designs for the Expo 67 series and his design of the stamp for the Czechoslovak Stamp Day 67. In conclusion the jury also stated that the 1967 Czech stamp production was quality-wise definitely on a higher level. In this connection the jury advised against the use of offset printing method which it termed "inadequate."

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