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EDITORIAL

Thirtieth Anniversary of our Society

It is amazing when one stops to realize that so many years have passed by and we have reached this landmark. We have worked together for so long and in recent years we brought it so far that there was no concern about the issuance of this publication. We were able to secure the cooperation of the Czechoslovak agencies which increased our sources of information for your benefit. However, our more recent difficulties with a selfish and troublesome minority have been such that on this anniversary we cannot close on a cheerful note.

Nevertheless, we wish you all a very happy New Year!

THE EMISSIONS AND CANCELLATIONS OF SUBCARPATHIAN RUSSIA AND SOUTHERN SLOVAKIA

By Roger Richet (Bourges)

Translated by Ernst M. Cohn (Washington)

(continued from last issue)

The Typographic Overprint of Kassa

Our study of the Visszatért cancellations would be incomplete if we did not mention the typographic overprint of Kassa (in Hungarian; Košice in Czech; Kaschau in German) of November 11, 1938.

The Czechoslovak Republic issued a 50 h. green stamp on July 16, 1938, showing the cathedral of Saint Elizabeth of Košice (Yvert No. 344), very well done. This stamp was issued with a gutter ornamented with a bunch of grapes that are the delight of specialist collectors.

This stamp was overprinted on November 11, 1938, the "day of liberation" of Košice, with a very well done typographical overprint in thick capital letters, showing the word Kassa above or below the stamp. The overprint is 10 mm. long and 3 mm. high.



Furthermore, this gutter at the same time received the 4-line surcharge "Ismét/magyarok/vagyunk/1938. nov. 11".

The first three lines have thick lower-case letters of the same style as the word Kassa, and the fourth line is in thin characters.

The overprint means "We are Hungarians again! 11 November 1938".

In this typographic overprint of Kassa we find the same spirit in which the Visszatért cachets were prepared. Further, such cachets habitually were used to cancel the stamps of Košice and the gutter mentioned above.

We have the good fortune of having in our personal collection a piece showing this overprint and addressed to Budapest on that "solemn" day of November 11, 1938.

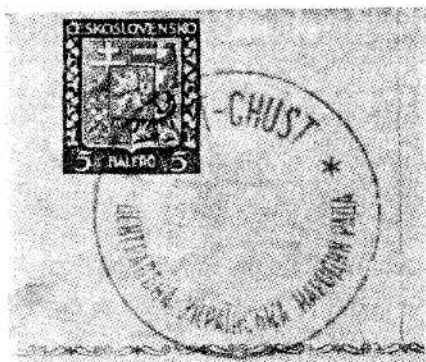
On January 21, 1939, the town of Chust was named the new capital of subcarpathian Russia, which called itself within a few weeks "Carpathian Ukraine." This date coincided with the 20th anniversary of the first official movement to incorporate Ruthenia into Czechoslovakia.

On that occasion, a bicolored obliteration, blue-gray and golden yellow, of 38 mm. diameter, was used to commemorate the event. It is reproduced here.

The text recalls the 20th anniversary of the existence of subcarpathian Russia in Czechoslovakia: 21 January 1919 / 21 January 1939. The cancel was little used and is difficult to find today.

It is found on the then current Czechoslovak stamps and, as a favor, on the stamps of the Ukraine of 1921 (Yvert Nos. 134 to 147). The cancel can also be found with the date 22 January 1939.

On March 2, 1939, the parliament of the remaining Czechoslovak territory was to convene and proclaim the autonomy of the country under the



name of Carpathian Ukraine. That is when the Czechoslovak stamp, Yvert 354, was issued. The new capital of the country was Chust, which had an important philatelic history, as we shall see. The former capital Užhorod had, of course, been incorporated in Hungary by the arbitration of Vienna.

A commemorative cancel in red and black was used for the opening of the parliament: (See illustration.)



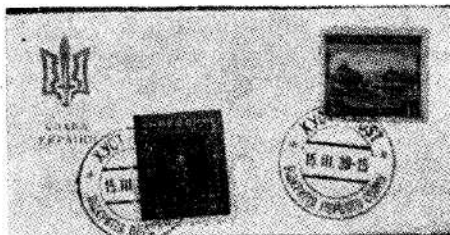
Only some 50 covers are known that were actually postally used with this very rare cancellation. The inscription says: Opening of the first parliament.

On that occasion an upright souvenir sheet was also issued, 82x115 mm., carrying in its center Yvert No. 354 and, below, the legend in Ukrainian characters "Opening of the first session of the Ukrainian parliament—2.III.1939". It was printed in gray blue, like the stamp, and carried the coat of arms of the Ukraine as shown in the cancel above (a shield with a red bear on white background on the right half, and 4 horizontal blue bands alternating with 3 gold bands on the left half). This un gummed souvenir sheet was printed in a very small edition and is almost unobtainable even in Czechoslovakia.

But actually, the Ukrainian parliament was not to convene because of the events provoked by the new dictate of Hitler, separating Slovakia from the remainder of the Czech territory. The parliament sat for only a few hours, until 3 p.m. on March 15, 1939. At 4 p.m. Chust was invaded and occupied by the Hungarian fascist armies who spread the next day over the whole territory of the Carpathian Ukraine.

The Ukrainian parliament was soon dissolved and its members dispersed. We can show below a reproduction of the last cancel, struck at 3 p.m. on

March 15, 1939, on a cover of the autonomous government and carrying the motto "Slava Ukraine" or "Glory to the Ukraine."



This photograph is a reproduction of one of the beautiful pieces in the tremendous and unique collection of Mr. Blaha, the eminent Czechoslovak philatelist at Zabreh (Czechoslovakia), who kindly gave it as well as other remarkable pieces to us, for which we thank him sincerely.

This red cancel was obtainable only at the special offices of the Ukrainian parliament.

But this piece has an unsuspected philatelic importance because of the presence of the stamp on the left, which we shall discuss later. Normal mail was obliterated by the normal black bilingua cancel. As unlikely as it seems, that cancel is still more rare than the official red cancel, because that day everybody wanted the commemorative cancel of parliament and neglected the current cancel of the ordinary post office. Hence we know only some 40 pieces cancelled in black. After the invasion of the Carpathian Ukraine on March 15, 1939, by Hungary, a new Hungarian name was introduced, "Kárpát Ukrajina—Kárpátalja." Naturally the stamps were Hungarian. But cancels, registration labels, and postal stationery remained bilingual (Hungarian and Ukrainian); while the three districts of Užhorod (Ungvár in Hungarian), Berehovo (Beregszász), and Mukačevo (Munkács), highly magyarized, used purely Hungarian cancels, registry labels, and stationery.

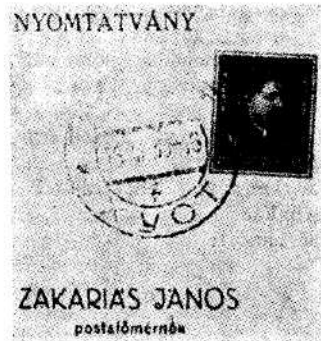


To celebrate the recovery of the area, Hungary issued a beautiful set of stamps (Yvert 519 to 522) in 1939, of which the two most attractive ones show the castle of Munkács and the cathedral of Kassa.



Previously, in 1938, Hungary had issued two other stamps (Yvert 504 and 505) to commemorate the recovery of these Czech territories, by printing "Hazatérés 1938" on stamps of the series of St. Stephen.

The last Czech cancel was used at Chust at 3 p.m. on March 15, 1939. At 4 p.m. the same day, beating all speed records, the Hungarian postmaster of Chust, Zakarias János, no doubt wanting to increase his notoriety and to make himself noticed by his government, put his personal stamp on correspondence as shown here, when parliament and the main post office had barely been occupied by Hungary.



This very rare document was photographed by our good Czech friend Blaha of Zabreh.

The occupation of subcarpathian Russia by Hungary, at the beginning of the recent world war, lasted to the end of 1944, when allied American and Russian troops advanced all over central Europe to aid the collapse of the greater German Reich: Liberation of southern Slovakia, January 1945; liberation of southern Moravia, May 2, 1945; liberation of Prague, May 5; German capitulation, May 8, 1945.

During the period 1939 to 1945, the stamps, cancels, and registration labels were Hungarian in all of subcarpathian Russia except for some towns like Rakošín, as we have seen, which preserved the bilingual Hungarian-Ukrainian cancels.

The Liberation of Kosice 1945

Košice (Kassa in Hungarian) which had celebrated with delirious enthusiasm its incorporation in Hungary in 1938 by numerous VISSZATÉRT obliterations, which we described above, was liberated by allied troops on January 19, 1945.

We must say something about this liberation. The local committee of liberation of the town, constituted right after the departure of Hungarian troops retreating from the allies, undertook to celebrate this historic event by issuing a postcard with a legal franking value of 1.50 Kc, shown here.

Of the usual 147x102 mm. format, it was sold to the public at 3Kcs. We know of three printings, one light chestnut on light green, one dark chestnut on light green, and one chestnut on cream.



On the left, the card shows the cathedral of Košice and, below it, the inscription "Pravda Vtazi / 19.1.1945 navrátila nám / Košice Červená Armáda" or "Truth Triumphs — 19 January 1945 — Košice liberated by red army".

On the right is the postage imprint showing a Slovak landscape with the three traditional Tatras, flanked by two fir trees. On top is the word ČESKOSLOVENSKO.

To complete the story of this historic period, we show a very pretty cancel, issued in Hungary on November 20, 1944, at Munkács (Mukačevo) to commemorate the hundredth birthday of Michel Lieb Munkácsy, called Mihály, a Hungarian painter from Munkács.

Here is this remarkable cancel:



The above picture makes it unnecessary to give a more detailed description.

Michel Lieb who was a student of Fischer's, died at Bonn in 1900, passed his whole career in Paris, where he produced a large number of celebrated pictorial works, of which Hungary can be justly proud.

This black cancellation can be found on all then current Hungarian stamps as well as those of the territories occupied by Hungary, particularly on large commemorative stamps.

(to be continued)

Praga	Praha	Puletschnei	Pulečny
Prague	Praha	Pulgram	Pulgary
Prachatit	Prachatice	Pullitz	Police u Jemnice
Prakfalva	Praková	Pürglitz	Křivoklát
Praskowitz	Prackovice	Pürles	Brlozec
Pratsch	Pračice	Purschau	Pořežov
Pravno Nemecké	Nemecké Pravno	Pürstein	Perštejn
Pravno Slovenské	Slovenské Pravno	Puschwitz	Buškovice
Prerau	Pierov	Pustý Fedýmeš	Pusta Fedýmeš
Preselany	Preserany	Pusztafödemes	Pusta Fedýmeš
Preschen	Přeštany	Pusztavirt	Pustavirt
Pressburg	Bratislava	Putzeried	Pocinovice
Pressnitz	Přísečnice		
Pressnitz-Reischdorf	Přísečnice-Reischdorf	Qualisch	Chvaleč
Prešporok	Bratislava	Raabe	Hrabová
Pribilina	Pribylina	Raase	Rázová
Pribócz	Příbovce	Rabsca	Rabča
Priesen	Březno u Chomútova	Rabsicze	Rabčice
Priesen-Postelberg	Březno-Postoloprty	Rabenseifen	Hraběšice
Priethal	Přídolí	Rabenstein	Rabštejn nad Střelou
Primiswald	Přemýšlov	Rabersdorf	Rabořov
Prittlach	Přítluky	Rábi, žichovice-	Žichovice-Rábi
Privigye	Prievidza	Rabstein	Rabótejn ★
Pröding	Předín	Raclavice Velké	Velké Raclavice
Prödlitz b. Aussig	Předlice	Račistorf	Rastislavice
Prödlitz b. Nezam.	Brodek u Nezamyslic	Radaun	Radouň
Pröllas	Brody	Radbot	Radbot
Prosenice Malé	Malé Prosenice	Radčice Mariánské	Mariánské Radčice
Prosenice, Radvanice-	Radvanice-Prosenice	Radiměř, Grándorf-	Grándorf-Radiměř
Proschwitz a. d. Neisse	Prošovice	Radiměř Moravská	Moravská Radiměř
Proschwitz b. Arnau	Prosečné	Radl	Radlo
Prossmeritz	Prostoměřice	Radonitz	Radonice
Prossnitz	Prostějov	Radosna	Radošina
Protiwitz	Protivice	Radosócz	Radošovce
Pruk	Dunahidaš	Radowenz	Radvanice, Čechy
Pruncřov, Kadaň	Kadaň-Pruncřov	Radvaň Vyšná	Nižná Radvaň
Prusy Moravské	Moravské Prusy	Radvány	Radvaň nad Hronom
Prýsk Horní	Horní Prýsk	Radvany Dunajské	Dunajské Radvany
Předměstí Slezské	Slezské Předměstí	Radvaň Zbudská	Nižná Radvaň
Příbram Uhelná	Uhelná Příbram	Radvaň Zvolenská	Radvaň nad Hronom
Přichowitz	Příchovice	Ragyolecz	Radovce
Přílepy Velké	Velké Přílepy	Rahó	Rachovo
Příseka	Příseka	Rahovo	Hrachovo
Přívory, Všetaty-	Všetaty-Přívory	Rachová	Rachovo
Přívov Kamenný	Kamenný Přívov	Rachovo	Hrachovo
Přívov, Moravská Ostrava-Ostrava	Moravská Ostrava-Přívov	Raitz	Rájec na Mor.
Pschoblik	Pšovky	Raitzisdorf	Rastislavice
Psinice, Libáň-	Libáň-Psinice	Rajča	Rastislavice
Pšcolina	Pšolina	Rajecz	Rajec na Slov.
Pudlejn	Podolinec	Rajeczfürdó	Rajecké Teplice
Puhó	Púchov	Rákfalu	Rakovice
Pukantz	Pukanec	Rákócz	Rakovec nad Ondavou

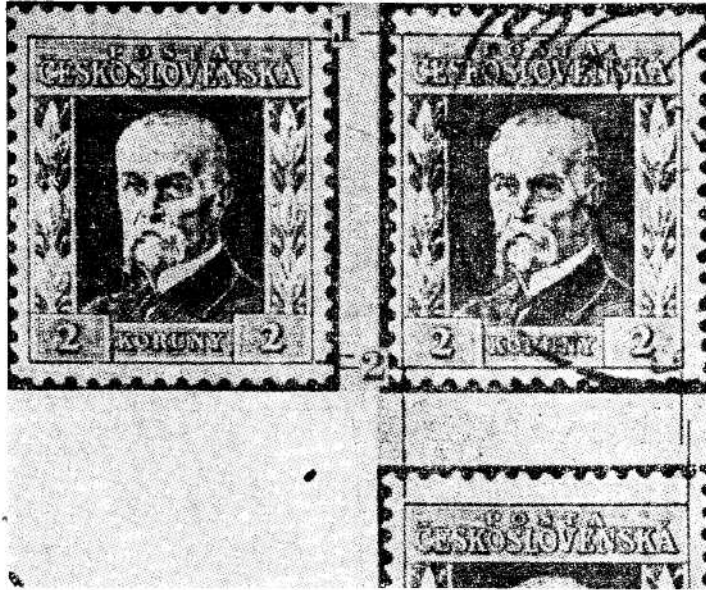
Rakonitz	Rakovnik	Réte	Réca
Rákosbánya	Rákoš Baňa	Revúca Velká	Velká Revúca
Rakošina	Rakošín	Ribény	Rybany
Rakovce	Rakovce nad Ondavou	Riegersdorf, Bhm.	Modrá v Čechách
Rakúsy	Rokus	Riegersschlag	Lodhérov
Ralboch	Rarbok	Riesdorf	Ruskinovce
Rampersdorf	Lanštorf	Richenburg	Rychmburk
Ramsau	Ramsová	Rimabánya	Rimavská Baňa
Ránkfűred	Herlany	Rimabrezó	Rimavské Brezovo
Rankovce	Herlany	Rimakokova	Rimavská Kokava
Ranzern	Ranciřov	Rimaráhó	Hrachovo
Rapp	Rapovce	Rimasimonyi	Šimonovce
Raslavice Slovenské (Uhorské)	Slovenské Raslavice	Rimaszécs	Slač
Raspenava	Raspenava	Rimaszombat	Rimavská Sobota
Raškov, Bohdíkov-	Bohdíkov-Raškov	Rinarec	Rynarec
Rátkó	Ratková	Ringelshain	Rynoltice
Ratschdorf	Rastislavice	Ripňany Malé	Malé Ripňany
Ratzersdorf	Rastislavice	Ripňany Velké	Velké Ripňany
Raudnitz	Roudnice	Risenburk, Osek-	Osek-Risenburk
Rausenbruck	Strachotice	Rišňovce Dolné	Dolné Rišňovce
Rautenberg	Roudno	Ritschka	Ríčky
Réocce	Rastislavice	Ročov Horní	Horní Ročov
Réca	Rastislavice	Ročov, Solopisky-	Solopisky-Ročov
Redenitz	Radnice u Kadaně	Rohó	Rohov
Regens	Rehořov	Rohrbach b. Gr.	Hrušovany u
Rehberg im Böhmervalde	Reberky na Šumavě	Secl	Zidlochovic
Rehdörfel	Srnčí Vesnička	Rohrbach na Slovensku	Rarbok
Reichenau a. d. K.	Rychnov n Kněžnou	Röhrsdorf b. Hainpach	Röhrsdorf
Reichenau a. d. Maltzsch	Rychnov nad Malší	u Haňšpachu	Röhrsdorf u Cvikova
Reichenau b. Gablonz	Rychnov u	Rochlitz	Roketnice nad Jizzerou
a. d. N.	Jablonce n. Nisou	Röchlitz b. Reichenberg	Rochlice
Reichenau, Mähren	Rychnov na Mor.	Roketnice Dolní	Dolní Roketnice
Reichenberg	Liberec	Roketnice Horní	Horní Roketnice
Reichstadt	Zákupy	Rokitnitz	Rokytnice
Reichstadt Forstlehr- anstalt	Zákupy les- nické učiliště	Roks	Rokús
Reichwaldau	Rychvald	Rolava Nová	Nová Rolava
Reinowitz	Rynovice	Rolava Nová-	Nová Rolava-
Reischdorf, Přísečnice-	Přísečnice-	Bošišany	Bošišany
Reitendorf a. d. Tess	Reischdorf	Role Stará	Stará Role
Reitzdorf	Rapotín	Römerstadt	Rýmařov
Rejštein Dolní	Prenčov	Ronsperg	Ronšperk
Remeta	Dolní Rejštein	Ropica	Ropice
Remeta	Turjanskija Remeta	Rosavice	Podmokly 2
Remeta	Turjanskija Remeta	Rosenau	Rošňava
Turjanskija		Rosenberg, Bhm.	Rožmberk
Remetevasgyár	Rybnické Hámre	Rosenberg (Slov.)	Ružomberk
Remety Hámre	Rybnické Hámre	Rosenthal I. b. Reichen- berg	Rúžodol I. u Liberce
Remety Turjanské	Turjanskija Remeta	Rosenthal-Graupen	Vrchoslavy
Remjaty Hámre	Rybnické Hámre		Krupka
Renč	Renčov	Rosenthal im Böhmer- walde	Rožmitál na Šumavě
		Rosenthal (Slov.)	Rošindol
		Rosshaupt	Rozvadov
		Rossein	Rozhraní

Rosswald	Rudoltice ve Slesku	Řečkovice	Brno 21
Rostein	Rozstání, okr. Plumlov	Ředice Horní	Horní Ředice
Rostein	Rozstání ☒	Řepčín, Hejčín	Olomouc 6
Rosternitz	Rostěnice	Řepora	Řeporyje
Roth . . .	Červený, -á, -é . . .	Řetová Velká	Velká Řetová
Rothau	Rothava	Říše Nová	Nová Říše
Rothava, Annathal-	Annathal-Roth-	Říše Stará	Stará Říše
	ava	Řivčice	Dřivčice
Rothenstein	Červaný Kameň	Saan	Sány
Rother Berg	Červaný Vreh	Saar b. Duppau	Ždár u Doupova
Rothřečitz	Červená Rečice	Saar Schloss	Zámek Ždár na Mor.
Rottenschachen	Rabšachy	Saar Stadt	Město Ždár na Mor.
Rousinov Nový	Nový Rousinov	Saaz	Žatec
Routka Velká	Velká Routka	Sablat	Záblatí, Čechy
Rovne	Rovňany	Saitz	Zaječí
Röwersdorf	Třemešná ve Slezsku	Sajógömör	Gemer
Royau	Rájov	Sakschen	Zakšín
Rožgoňovce	Rozhanovce	Salanč Velký	Salanc
Rozgony	Rozhanovce	Salánk	Šalanki
Rózsahaegy	Ružomberck	Salbnuss	Dolní Sokolom
Rózsahaegyfonogyár	Rybárpole	Salesel	Zálezly
Rózsavölgy	Rošindol	Salgócska	Šalgóčka
Rozsnyó	Rožňava	Saliby Dolné	Dolné Saliby
Rozvegovo	Rozvigovo	Salnau	Zelnavá
Rožen	Ružomberok	Salzburg	Solnohrad na Slov.
Rožinka Dolní	Dolní Rožinka	Sanct . . .	Svatý, -á, -é . . .
Rožmitál	Rožmitál pod	Sanct Benedikt	Hronský Sv.
	Třemšínem		Beňadik
Ruda železná	Železná Ruda	Sanct Benigna	Svatá Dobrotivá
Rudelsdorf	Rudoltice	Sanct Georgen	Svätý Jur
Rudelzau	Rudoltovice	Sanct Georgenthal	Jiřetín u
Rudig	Vroutek		Varnsdorfu
Rudno nad Hronom	Hronské Rudno	Sanct Joachimsthal	Jáchymov
Rudolec český	Český Rudolec	Sanct Katharina	Svatá Kateřina
Rudolec Německý	Německý Rudolec	Sanct Margarethenbad	Lázně Svaté
Rudolfstadt	Rudolfov		Markéty
Rumburg	Rumburk	Sandau b. Böhm.	Žandov u Čes.
Runars	Runářov	Leipa	Lipy
Ruppersdorf	Ruprechtice	Sandau bei Eger	Žandov u Chebu
Ruszkín	Ruskinovce	Sandhübel	Sandhubel
Ruttká	Vrútky	Sándorfa	Šandorf
Ružbach Vyšný	Vyšné Ružbachy	Sárfő	Šarfia
Ružbachy Vyšný	Vyšné Ružbachy	Sárosfa	Šárošfa
Růžodol Horní	Horní Růžodol	Sarosmáriavölgy	Blatnica (Šárišská)
Ružomberok textilka	Rybárpole	Sárosszentimre	Meretice
Rybná Nebeská	Nebeská Rybná	Sarva Velká	Velká Sarva
Rybná Německá	Německá Rybná	Sasvar	Šaštín
Rychnov Dolní	Dolní Rychnov	Sásy	Sása
Rychnov Německý	Německý Rychnov	Satkau	Sádek
Rychnov Nový	Nový Rychnov	Sattel	Sedloňov
Rychvald Spišský	Richvald, župa	Saubernitz	Zubrnice
	spišská	Saubernitz-Tünscht	Zubrnice-Týniště
Rychwald	Rychvald (Slez.)	Saubsdorf	Supíkovice
Rzimitz	Rimice	Saufloss	Souvlastní
Řečany, Kladruby-	Kladruby-Řečany	Sázava Nová	Nová Sázava
Řečice Červená	Červená Řečice	Sebastiansberg	Bastianperk
Řečice Kardašova	Kardašova Řečice		

Sebeskellemes	Šebeš	Scheles	Žihle
Sebinov	Sabinov	Schelesen	Želizy
Sebrowitz	Brno 16	Schelletau	Želetava
Sebusein	Sebuzín	Schelten, Parchen-	Parchen-Schelten
Sedlec, Heřmaničky-	Heřmaničky-	Schemnitz	Haňská Štiavnica
	Sedlec	Schibitz	Šibice
Sedliště Nové	Nové Sedliště	Schidrowitz	Čidružice
Sedliště Staré	Staré Sedliště	Schichowitz	Žichovice
Sedlnitz	Sedlnice	Schildberg	Šilperk
Sedlo Nové	Nové Sedlo	Schillersdorf	Šilheřovice
Sedlo Staré	Staré Sedlo	Schiltern	Štitary
Sedmihorky Lázně	Lázně Sedmi-	Schimitz	Brno 15
	horky	Schindau	Šintava
Seestadt	Ervěnice	Schlackenworth	Ostrov u Karl. Varů
Seewiesen	Zejbis	Schlag	Šlák
Segen Gottes	Zástavka	Schlaggenwald	Horní Slavkov
Sehuschitz	Žehušice	Schlakau	Slavkov u Opavy
Seidenschwanz	Vrkoslavice	Schlan	Slaný
Seidowitz	Židovice	Schlappenz	Šlapanov
Seifersdorf	Vratislavice	Schlatten	Slatina ve Slezsku
Seitendorf b. Zauchtel	Životice u	Schlausewitz	Služovice
	Suchdola na Moravě	Schloss Saar	Zámek Ždár na Mor.
Sejfy Heřmanovy	Heřmanovy Sejfy	Schlotten	Slotov
Sekelnica	Sokyrnica	Schlotten-Kukus	Slotov-Kuks
Selčan	Sedlčany	Schluckenau	Šluknov
Seldín Madarský	Madarský Seldín	Schlüsselburg	Lnáře
Selletitz	Želetice	Schmeil	Smílov
Sellnitz a. d. Biela	Želenice nad	Schmiedeberg	Šmideberg
	Bělou	Schmiedeshay	Tužina
Selmezbánya	Baňská Štiavnica	Schmitzheisz	Tužina
Semerovce Horné	Horné Semerovce	Schmöcks	Starý Smokovec
Semněvice Velké	Velké Semněvice	Schmögen	Smižany
Sempte	Šintava	Schmole	Zvole, okr. Zábřeh
Semse	Šemša	Schmolenitz	Smolenice
Senftenberg	Žamberk	Schmölnitz	Smolník
Sentmihályfa	Szentmihályfa	Schmölnitzer Hütte	Smolnická
Seredné	Serednoje		Huta
Serowitz (Böhmen)	Žirovnice	Schnedowitz	Šnedovice
Serowitz (Mähren)	Syrovice	Schneekoppe	Sněžka
Seslávky, Rosice-	Rosice-Seslávky	Schnobolin	Slavonín
Settetz	Řetenice	Schöllschitz	Žilošice
Setzdorf	Zighartice	Schönau	Šanov (p. Hrabětice)
Sch . . .	Š . . .	Schönau	Šenava (p. Zelnaval)
Schaab	Pšov	Schönau b. Braunau	Šonov u
Schaboglück	Žaboklíky		Broumova
Schabschitz	Žabčice	Schönau b. Mährisch	Šanov u
Schaffa	Šafov	Rothwasser	Červené Vody
Schaiba	Okrouhlá	Schönau b. Neu-	Šenov u Nového
Schakwitz	Šakvice, p. Fryšava,	titschein	Jičina
	již. Morava	Schönbach, Bez. Asch	Schönbach,
Schallan	Žalany		okr. Aš
Schamers	Čiměř	Schönbach, Bez.	Schönbach, okres
Schatmansdorf	Častá	Eger	Cheb
Schattau	Šatov	Schönbach-	Schönbach-Vrati-
Schattawa	Šatava	Seifersdorf	slavice
Schatzlar	Žacléř	Schönberg	Krásná Hora u
Scheibenradisch	Okrouhlé Hradiště		Sedlčan

THE OVERLOOKED RARITY IN TGM 1925 ISSUE

By Ing Jan Karasek
from Filatelie



We read in the Pofis Catalog on page 68 (1968) and in a paragraph under the heading "Type II general issue, T. G. Masaryk stamp," the following note: "Exceptionally, the stamp No. 195 was printed on paper with a vertical watermark."

Let's turn our attention to this brief note and record some known facts and circumstances related to it. As is well known, the above relates to the 2 Kč blue TGM stamp Type II (Pofis No. 195) which exceptionally exists also with a vertical watermark. It is of course practically impossible to describe all the circumstances connected with the issuance of stamps of this type. We wish to record the known facts only and possibly to update them and make them more precise. We, too, hope to alert the collectors to the above mentioned rarity and finally to clarify for them that brief remark about it in the Pofis Catalog. Except for this cryptic note, no other catalog outside of Czechoslovakia ever mentioned it. Consequently the overwhelming majority of collectors of Czech stamps never realized or even comprehended the importance of this remark to their hobby. Of course the specialists are constantly on the lookout for this stamp—alas mostly in vain—because its philatelic value is extremely high in spite of the fact that it had never been adequately appraised or evaluated in any specialized philatelic literature.

Now here are some particulars: In 1925 the Czechoslovak postal authorities came out with the new general issue for which both the flat recess and rotogravure printing processes were utilized. In this series there were 7 different types of stamps with President Masaryk's portrait. The first three types were printed by intaglio method from the flat galvano plates (Types I, II, III)—incidentally the same process which was used for the 1923 Jubilee series.

Stamps of Type II

These differ from the stamps of Type I mainly by the size of the picture which is considerably smaller. In addition, other main distinguishing features are shaded letters and numerals on a horizontally lined background and a grilled left shoulder coat. Finally this type appears on stamps of 1 Kč, 2 Kč and 3 Kč denominations. The 5Kč stamps lack this type. For stamps of Type II the American rotary printing press—a Stickney—was used. The plates were made with supplementary equipment. However the printing of Type II and Type III stamps was at the same time made from flat plates with their pictures also reduced in size as compared with the stamps of Type I. For this printing, another engraving of all 3 denominations was necessary. Therefore the engravings of 1 Kč, 2 Kč and 3 Kč stamps differ somehow from those of Type I stamps, especially in the size of their pictures.

The stamps of Type II were printed in panes with 200 stamps while the stamps Type I were set up in panes with 100 or 150 stamps. The paper used for printing had the horizontally continuous watermark (similar to the watermarks on Type I stamps). The paper used for printing had the horizontally continuous watermark (similar to the watermarks on Type I stamps). There were 4 horizontal watermark positions (Nos. 5, 6, 7, 8) on all 3 denominations of Type II. The paper was in big rolls with watermarks always placed horizontally) vis-a-vis to the position of the picture).

As far as totals of stamps printed, these are available. However no breakdown as far as each different type is known. The totals are as follows:

- 1 Kč total printed: 58.1 million (Type I-III)
- 2 Kč total printed: 34.0 million (Type I-II)
- 3 Kč total printed: 17.8 million (Type I-III)
- 5 Kč total printed: 7.7 million (Type I)

The stamps of Type I were also printed in another set-up (in panes with 100 stamps)—with a vertical watermark and in a different size. While this watermark appeared in a lesser degree (it was originally discovered on used stamps) than the horizontal one, these stamps can be found frequently in collections. However mint copies are very much sought after. For example the 3 Kč stamps with all 4 varieties of watermark positions belong among rarities with the watermark position No. 3 leading the list.

Compared with stamps with horizontal watermark, these stamps have a different size; they are narrower and higher, with the difference very probably due to the shrinkage of stamps after printing. Also before the printing the moist paper did shrink more lengthwise than sidewise.

Now the stamps of Type II are known predominantly with the horizontal watermark positions only. In used condition we could classify them among the "packet type material." Likewise, mint stamps of this type are rather common except for the so called "shoulder" variation.

The Hirsch-Franěk Monograph of the Czech stamp (published 1935) noted that there exist some 2 Kč TGM used stamps with vertical watermark. Judging from the size of these stamps (see pictures) one may conclude that there was in this case a similar development as it occurred in case of stamps of Type I when the paper shrank after printing more lengthwise than sidewise. So the discovered stamps of this variety are also narrower and higher.

However other details and circumstances related to the production of these stamps will very probably remain undiscovered. It will be also impossible to establish even the approximate number of panes of stamps which were printed on paper with the vertical watermark. We may presume though—owing to their rare and delayed occurrence after so many years—that the number of sheets and panes of these stamps must be extremely low. Perhaps

not more than one pane of stamps with each watermark position which were discovered so far.

The rarity of these stamps adds to difficulties in their studies. According to unofficial information, so far stamps with watermark vertical positions 1, 3 and 4 are known. But these stamps are generally unavailable to Czechoslovak philatelists, since with a few exceptions, they are concentrated in collections abroad. In spite of this handicap, here are the basic measurements of the picture:

- a) Stamps with **horizontal** watermark, positions 5, 6, 7, 8
 Horizontal side of the picture is 18.7 to 18.8 mm
 (Hirsch measurement: $18\frac{3}{4}$ mm)
 Vertical side of the picture is 21.4 to 21.3 mm
 (Hirsch measurement: $21\frac{1}{4}$ mm)
- b) Stamps with **vertical** watermark (see pict. 2)
 Horizontal side of the picture is 18.3 to 18.5 mm
 (Hirsch measurement: $18\frac{3}{4}$ mm)
 Vertical side of the picture is 20.0 to 22.1 mm
 (Hirsch measurement: $22\frac{3}{4}$ mm)

In the latter case, unfortunately, I had only 2 stamps available for measurements.

However it is obvious that the picture on stamps with vertical watermarks is clearly narrower and higher. Since this difference is not large, it isn't clearly visible at first cursory check-up of a single stamp. But once you have an opportunity to look over more copies of these stamps, the different size of this particular type is clearly discernable. Naturally a check of the reverse side of these stamps will make the identification of their watermark positions quite easy.

It can be stated that so far we have no idea—and most likely we will never know—how many of these TGM Type II stamps with the vertical watermark do exist both in Czechoslovakia and the rest of the world. According to our oldest living specialists only several of these stamps with watermark positions 1 and 4, and only a few copies with watermark position 3 were discovered. All were in used condition and most of them with unintelligible postmarks. The remainder was cancelled either in Praha or in Bratislava.

Personally we had the opportunity to check several of these stamps with watermark positions 1 and 4 but none with position 3. As far as we were able to trace them down, all these accidental finds were discovered in "mixtures," "dead letters" and general philatelic material dating before the World War I. Due to the time consuming methods of checking watermarks, which are never popular with philatelists, especially if a large amount of stamps is involved—many stamps of this rare variety must surely have escaped the detection. Also many philatelists missed the brief note about these unique stamps in the Pofis catalog. This we consider most unfortunate for several seasons. First, the existence of these vertical watermarks is in its own right, a unique rarity. Second, this is attested by the fact that so far no single mint copy of these stamps was discovered. Thus we know that this rarity was created unintentionally and without any outside interference. This we could hardly state in clear conscience about some other Czech stamp rarities. Likewise another interesting fact is that so far no stamp of this type with the vertical watermark position 2 was discovered.

On the other side of the picture, it wouldn't be fitting to blow up—unintentionally—the rarity of stamps of this type. However if we bear in mind the tremendous amount of these stamps printed (the combined total of Type I and Type II stamps is 34 million copies) and compare it with the small

number of Type II stamps with vertical watermarks discovered so far, we may rightly state that these stamps with watermark positions No. 1, 3 or 4 ARE philatelic rarities. We may further make this claim despite the difficulty of proper evaluation of them in terms of money, since these stamps are unavailable in the philatelic market.

Very often we hear bitter complaints and polemics among our philatelists about the scarcity and unavailability of rare and unique Czech stamps. A typical example is the Pošta Československa 1919 issue, which has now some very high priced stamps and which is practically unobtainable with a good majority of these rare stamps "frozen" in hands of collectors here and abroad.

The case of the TGM Type II rare vertical watermarks is different. Here any collector still has the chance to discover these stamps in a very large supply of TGM stamps of this type presently available in mixtures and other similar mass sources. Naturally the chance of such a lucky find will remain minimal, perhaps 1 to 100,000 ratio. But still worthy to try for it. The reward of such a backbreaking and frustrating search might be the discovery of vertical watermarks on 1 Kč and 3 Kč TGM Type II stamps and eventually even a stamp without watermark. This would be a sheer luck, but it could "touch" anyone. So we can only recommend to all philatelists to continue in their unending and exhausting search for these and other rarities and differences among the regular stamp issues.

In closing, here are some other Czech stamps with varieties in their watermark positions:

Pofis Cat. 180x 40 haleřů TGM stamp (1925) with horiz. watermark
 Pofis Cat. 188x 50 haleřů TGM stamp (1925) with horiz. watermark
 Pofis Cat. 188y 50 haleřů TGM stamp (1925) no watermark
 Pofis Cat. 203x 1 Kč TGM stamp (1927) Type VII watermark pos. 8
 Pofis Cat. 225z 2 Kč Hradčany-Praha stamp 1926/27 vertical watermark

—Translated/adapted by lhv

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