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SOME MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE 30h NOVOTNY STAMP

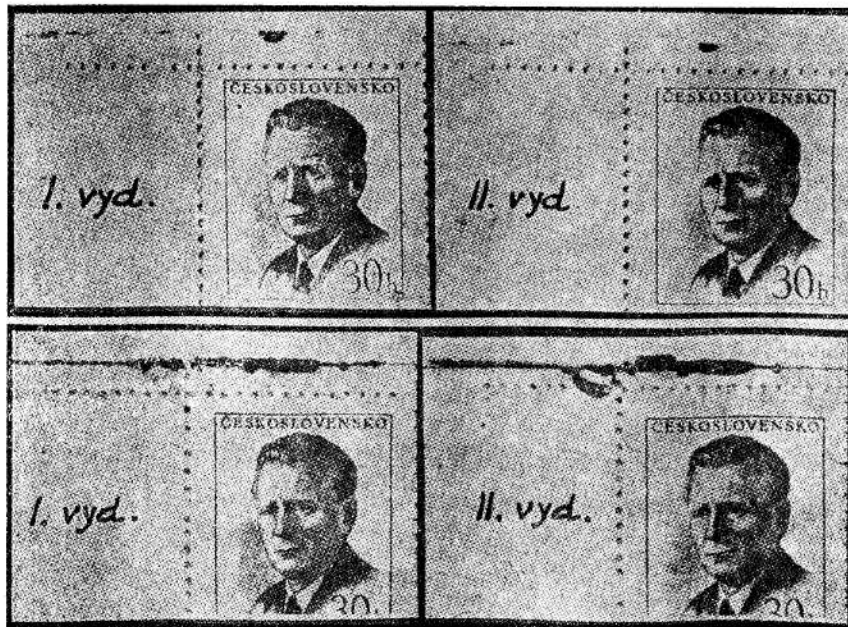
By J. Dykyj and V. Hečko

In spite of all the attention devoted by philatelists to the regular 30 haleru stamp with portrait of President Novotny, not all the details related to this stamp are yet clear.

This stamp was issued in two printings. The stamps of the first printing (I) appeared for the first time probably in June 1959. Then the stamp of the second printing (II)—so-called supplementary official issue—came out in December 1959. Stamps of both printings are easily identifiable, with the most important difference in the SIZE of the picture part of the stamp. Thus:

I printing size is 18.4 by 22.9 mm

II printing size is 18.7 by 23.0 mm



First printing

Second printing

Fig. 1

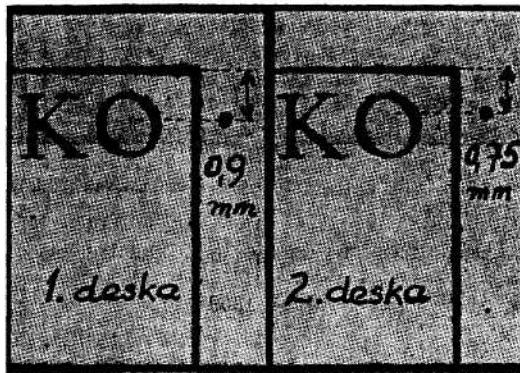


Fig. 2

The difference in size of the picture (II type wider by 0.3 mm) led some philatelists to theorize about the use of two different sets of plates for printing these two types of the stamp. To clear up this mystery, we made a thorough study of all available panes of these stamps. These stamps were sold in panes of 50 and 100 stamps respectively. Panes of 50 stamps of both I and II type printing were at our disposal from several private collections, while panes of 100 stamps were available to us only in II type. Panes of 100 stamps I type do not exist at all. It appears that these panes were, at the time of printing, immediately split-up at the source and then sold singly or in smaller blocks at the post offices.

Now even during the most casual inspections of fifty or so panes, we immediately noticed spots which appeared in the LEFT UPPER corner of each pane on the margin outside of the stamp. These spots appear in two different shapes (see ill. 1) and they show on panes of both I and II printings. They are related to the printing plate used. Therefore we designate the printing plate with a circular SMALL spot as printing plate I, and the printing plate with an ELONGATED spot as printing plate II.

However the shape of these spots is not in itself the definite evidence that all the panes with similar spots were printed with the same plate. We found a more accurate proof only after some more detailed study of the panes. This detailed study showed that there is a printing guide dot at the upper right corner and above the horizontal border line of the 10th stamp of each pane. The distance of this guide dot from the border of a stamp is the same on all panes (0.5 mm), but its height differs. On panes printed with Plate I (round spot) this guide dot is moved by about 0.9 mm under the horizontal border-line. However on pane of the Plate II this guide dot is moved down by only 0.75 mm (see ill. 2).



3a

3b

Fig. 3

The same guide dot we discovered on part of panes with 50 stamps printed with BLUE color. This fact, incidentally, also proves that this plate was also used for both printings (I and II) of the 30 haleru violet stamp.

The opposite guide-dot is placed near the first stamp of each pane. However it is scarcely visible since it is placed mostly right in the left vertical border line of the stamp. Since the location of printing guide-dots is typical for each printing plate, it should serve as conclusive and definite evidence that panes of both printings were printed with similar plates.

In addition to the above, there are some other typical marks and deviations:

I. printing plate: there is a heavy dark blot on Novotny's forefront on 45th stamp of each pane, this blot also appeared but to a lesser degree on 46th stamp. (See ill. 3a).

II. printing plate: 48th stamp of each pane has a small dot which is situated left of the portraits head and in the level of its forefront. (See ill. 3b.)

These imperfections appear on panes of both printings and this further confirms that the same plates were used for both printings of this stamp. Another interesting fact was discovered: although the stamps of the second printing are 0.3 mm wider than those of the first printing, they were printed with the SAME plates. How is this possible? Well, the answer is that under certain conditions during the printing process the paper changes its dimensions. This is especially true in case of rotary cylindrical press printing when the changes in size of the stamps are caused, among other things, by the degree of moistening of the paper before the printing, and also due to the intensity of drying it after the printing.

Finally, regarding the printing of this 30 haleru Novotny stamp, the Stickney rotary cylindrical press was used. There were two printing plates with 50 and 100 stamps respectively, bent to half-cylinders then joined and fitted on the press to form a cylinder. The color spots appeared during the printing along the juncture of both plates. Each turn of the cylinder printed 300 stamps in two panes of 50 stamps and 100 stamps each.

—translated/adapted by lhv

DR. REINER-DEUTSCH ELECTED TO HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

The Council of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society by the following resolution, has conferred honorary membership on Dr. Reiner-Deutsch:

Whereas Dr. William Reiner-Deutsch, Roster #27, charter member of the Society, has been an active supporter of the Society for the past thirty years, and

Whereas Dr. Reiner-Deutsch has served as president of the Society during 1941-42, and

Whereas Dr. Reiner-Deutsch has performed his responsibilities as Editor of the Czechoslovak Specialist for seven years to the great credit of the Society, and

Whereas it is appropriate to express the appreciation of the Society to Dr. Reiner-Deutsch upon his retirement as editor,

Be it resolved that Dr. William Reiner-Deutsch be and is hereby elected to Honorary Membership in the Society.

—Joseph J. Janecka, Jr.

April 1969

Chairman of the Council

ANOTHER NEW HRADČANY SPECIALTY (Right Dove Errors on Type E Hradčany Stamps)

By Dr. Frant. Kubat

from Filatelie —translated/adapted by lhv

The Hradčany series Type E (1918-20) stamps have a very often overlooked error although it represents a very important philatelic discovery. I mean the repaired error consisting of two "cuts" in the fan of the right dove's tail which appears on all denominations of Hradčany stamps of this type. These stamps—as the reader will recall—have in its design numerous white contour lines and fields which are typical of this series. However the etching of these lines was a very difficult job. Consequently all printing plates for these stamps had to be partially re-engraved and repaired before the actual printing. These repairs are of course part of the preparatory process of any stamp, but in this case, they had to be done more often than was usual for this kind of printing operation. The error was caused by an imperfect, dull copying of the original design which was incorporated into the basic engraving of the 25 haleru stamp and then—as the result of the new half-tone process employed in production of all respective printing plates—was also projected into all secondary sub-assemblies and reduced designs on glass negatives. Thus during the transfer on the printing plates and during their etching, both above mentioned indistinct parts of the original design did not come out at all and the contours of dove's fanned tail appeared cut in two places. First in the upper contour line under the words "SKÁ" and second, on top of the right contour line on all printing plates and on nearly all pane positions. This error had been noticed by a Mr. B. Klen (pen name of the late Mr. E. Hirsch, one of the leading Czech philatelic experts) who mentioned it in his article "The Czech Classic Stamps" published in the Vol. 10 of the philatelic magazine "Československá Filatelie" in 1948.

The mass plate error of Type E (V) series



Two contour cuts in the dove's fantail (the top and right side of right dove's tail on the stamp). (Subtype symbol — —)

Since this error appears on ALL denominations of the Type E Hradčany series, it is a so-called PRIMARY printing plate error, thus an extraordinary phenomenon in history of postage stamps.

This fault has always been repaired by an engraver on finished printing plates by re-engraving the faulty left upper spiral and the interrupted (cut) contour of the upper fantail, and sometimes, the right contour of the fantail as well. The proof that these mass produced repairs and also some other minor adjustments (for example some left connecting lines, etc.) have been effected only after the etching of plates is clearly visible on the black proof prints of 5h, 10h, and 20 haleru panes with unfinished border margins in the archives of the Prague's Postal Museum. All these proof prints show the above described faults still unrepaired. Another evidence is in the fact that there are no corrected or uncorrected copies of stamps in existence originating from the same printing plates.

Thus we do find an interesting phenomenon that in addition to the faulty

plate error with two interrupted (cut) contours (symbol: —) we do find after the pre-printing repair the following variations:

- a) the upper contour closed, the right one left open (symbol: + —)
- b) both contours closed (symbol: + +)
- c) the upper contour left open, the right one closed (symbol: — +)

Print plate after the reengraving



Re-engraving (repairs)

- a) upper contour b) both contours c) right contour

Repair variations



- b2) slanted line b3) overdrawn line

The differences in repair are not so distinct so we could be able to eliminate entirely a possibility of the influence of printing itself. These are more distinct only in case of the repair of the right contour, where it goes over the line, and also on the 25 haleru stamp where it is more clearly slanted. The crudely executed repair on 20 haleru and 50 haleru stamps created many imperfections like double white lines, dots and spots. These repairs were never careful or systematic. They skipped over many pane positions entirely; repairs were often made partially or even incorrectly, with the result of many combined variations. To add to the confusion, the repairs were made on all stamp denominations—including those with unrepaired left upper spiral. **However not all printing plates of all denominations were repaired!** On the unrepaired plates we find occasionally such combinations as for example + —; + +; and — +; which again are never found on the same pane positions.

These repairs were made so illogically that in case of the 25 haleru stamp, the II printing plate was repaired by + — combination, the III plate by + + combination, but plates I and IV were left in the original condition. In case of the 10 Haleru stamp with unrepaired spiral, the printing plate I was repaired with + + combination and the side contours made more distinct. However the printing plate II was ignored completely. In case of 15 haleru stamp the first two printing plates were repaired, the next two left unrepaired, and out of the third doublet, with the open spiral only one of these printing plates was repaired. Of course there is one consolation though, since this repair operation allows a philatelist—in connection with the left spiral—an instant identification of each single printing plate, or at least printing plate doublets, used for printing stamps of this E series of Hradčany. And this identification could be even made from a single stamp.

Since the influences of printing process itself have to be taken into consideration, it is advisable to make the proper identification of all the described faults and imperfections and their subtypes and variations from the cleanest stamps possible. The discovery of this new error and its variations gave an important impetus to the specialized field of the Hradčany issue.

Occurance of reduced repair of the fantail error

Subtype (symbols)	Imperforate stamps	Perforate stamps	Remarks
a + —	5, 15, 25, 50, 75, 120, 500	5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 120	also full panes
b + +	25	10, 25	also full panes
c — +	25	10, 25	also
retnants (occasionally)	25	10, 25	occasionally
a in panes b	5, 15, 35, 75, 100	5, 15, 20, 25	a+b, b+a
b in panes a	25, 75	25	b+a, a+b
c in panes a	25	10, 15	a+c
d in panes b	a 5, 25, 75, 120, 500	5, 15, 20, 25	b+c
plate fault			a+dv, dv+a
in panes	b 25	25	b+dv, dv+b

x) 10h, 20h and 30h are considered unissued, likewise 5h imperforate from printing plates V and VI, also brick-red 15h stamps from printing plates III to VI which were all perforated.

Review of variations
(according to printing plates)

Denomination	Print Plate	Spiral (basic)	Sub-type (prevailing)	Plate error un-repaired	Repair variations subtypes			Remarks
					a	b	c	
5	I	II	a + —	3x	14x			Occasional combinations
	II	II	a + —	1x				
	III	II	dv — —					
	IV	II	dv — —					
	V	I	dv — —					
	VI	I	dv — —					
10	I	I	b + +		5x		b3	7x
	II	I	dv — —				9x	12x
15	I	II	a + —			2x		
	II	II	a + —			1x		
	III	I	dv — —					
	IV	I	dv — —					6x
	V	I	a + —	5x		4x		
	VI	I	dv — —					4x
20	I	II	a + —	1x		2x		
	II	II	a + —	5x		1x		
25	I	II	a + —	8x		2x	6x	
	II	II	dv — —					b2 4x
	III	I	b + +	2x	2x		8x	b3 3x
	IV	I	dv — —					occ. 6x
50	I	I	a + —			36x		
	II	I	a + —			6x		
75	I	II	a + —	6x		1x		
	II	II	a + —	3x		6x	1x	
120	I	I	a + —	1x		1x		
	II	I	dv — —					occ. 12x
500	I	I	a + —	11x				
	II	II	a + —	4x		3x		

CZECHOSLOVAK FIELD POSTS: 1918-20

By Bohumil Matejka
Prague, Czechoslovakia

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(continued from last issue)

Termination of Field Post Activities

Conforming to the "calming down" of the political situation in Slovakia, the Czechoslovak Army was converted to a peace status and with it the functioning of the various field posts ended in succession. On Sept. 5, 1919, Field Post No. 75 was closed; on Sept. 15, Field Post No. 50 ceased to exist; on Sept. 23, Field Post No. 10 stopped functioning, and so on until the last of the field posts definitively stopped functioning on July 8, 1920.

In May 1920, the Commander-in-Chief, Ministry of National Defense, issued Order No. 51945, reading (translation):

"During the partial demobilization of the military forces in Slovakia and Carpatho-Ukraine, it is being considered by the General Staff to completely demobilize the existing Field Posts towards the end of June 1920. The order for cessation of the Field Posts will be issued by the General Staff in due time by a telegram. On the day so appointed, all Field Post Offices will stop the reception of mail and for several days after that, will work up only the material received to that date. The various formations and army offices hitherto appointed to some of the Field Posts, will use the civilian post offices

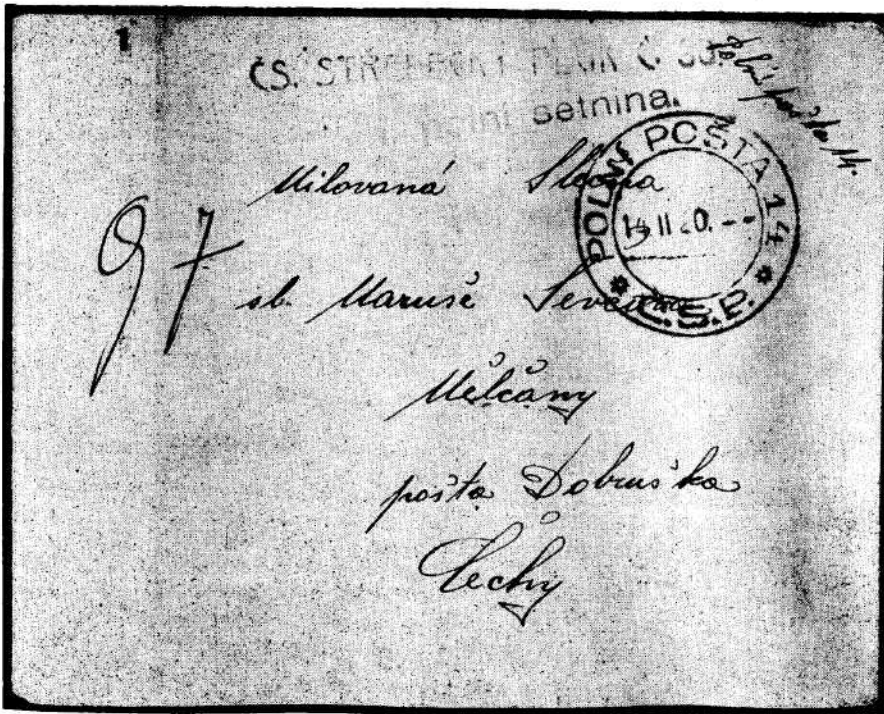


Figure 9. Postmark of Field Post No. 14. Date marking shows the day, month and last two figures of the year, followed by two dashes.

of their garrison. Free franking privileges for private mail cease from this date on . . . The Sorting Office in Zilina will function about 14 days further until all the postal material coming in will be worked up. Finally the Field Post Sorting Office in Zilina and the Field Post Management at the Fourth Office of the General Staff will also close down . . ."

On July 16, 1920, the Ministry of National Defense published the following announcement in the Official Gazette under Ref. No. 53338/8940-N. O. pres.:

"All Field Posts in Slovakia and Carpatho-Ukraine were closed down on July 8, 1920. Only the F. P. Sorting Office in Zilina still remains active for

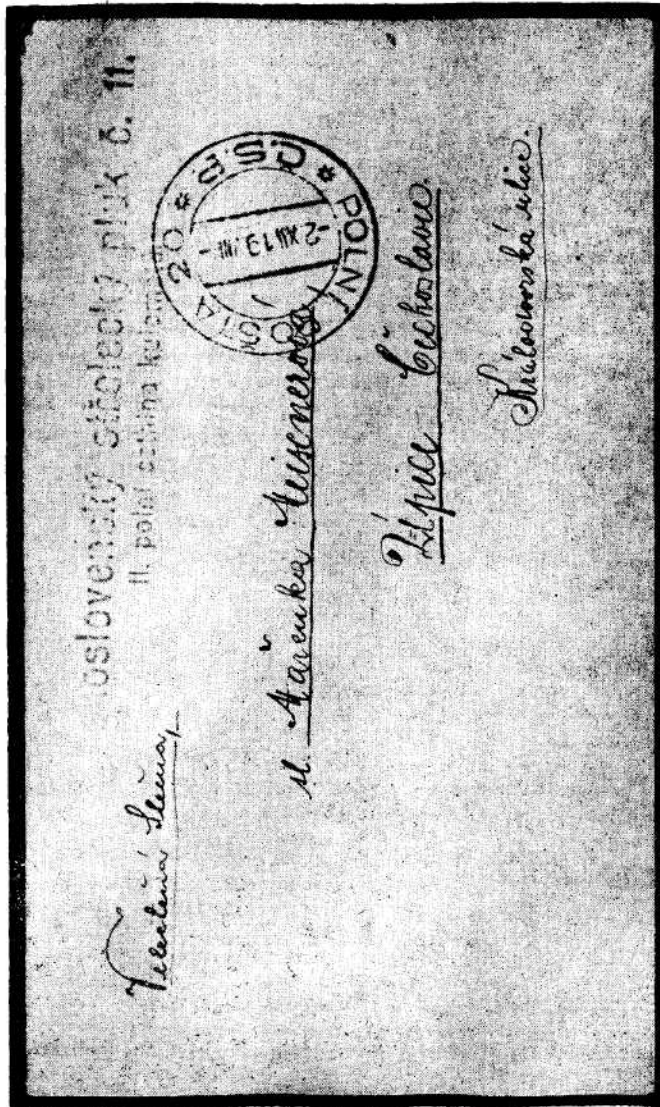


Figure 10. Postmark of Field Post 20. Size and text same as used by Field Posts Nos. 5 and 8.

a short time to work up the additional material still coming in. All civilian post offices have been advised to refuse acceptance or return mail intended for Field Posts from July 16, 1920."

Finally, on July 23, 1920, the Ministry of National Defense published in the Official Gazette the following commendation to the workers of Army Field Posts:

"On July 8, 1920, the Czechoslovak Field Posts in Slovakia ceased to exist. For 20 months these Field Posts serviced the postal connections between the Army in Slovakia with the hinterland. They performed this task excellently, notably during the heavy fighting from May to July 1919, at which time it was their duty to take care of not only the Army mail but also the official civilian mail for the various government and county offices. The Ministry of National Defense, therefore, expresses its thanks and full appreciation to all the postal officials, clerks and servants that served at the Cs. Field Posts for their quiet devotion to duty which made possible the successful execution of their tasks. It wishes them, upon their departure from the Army every success in their further civilian vocation. The Army will gratefully remember their merits."

This was, indeed, a splendid recognition of the work performed by the postal personnel of the Field Posts in the first years of independent Czechoslovakia.

Duration Time of Various Czechoslovak Field Posts

Field Post No.	Opening date	Closing date
POSTA MILITARE 52	1- 1-19	6- 2-19
F. P. Sorting	1- 1-19	7-30-20
22	1- 1-19	11-10-19
46	1- 1-19	5-29-20
75	1- 1-19	9- 5-19
50	1-25-19	9-15-19
38	3- 1-19	7- 8-20
63	4-20-19	12- 8-19
44	4-22-19	6-30-20
Bratislava	6- 2-19	7-15-19
12	6-25-19	6-30-20
25	6-26-19	10- 3-19
10	6-27-19	6-23-19
35	7-11-19	10-28-19
8	7-16-19	7- 8-20
5	7-30-19	7- 1-20
14	8-30-19	6-30-20
20	10-20-19	7- 8-20

Y. M. C. A. Markings

Usually all mail from Czechoslovak soldiers to the hinterland after mailing, first went through the Army censorship. After that it was affixed by a round or a line unit marking. An exception to this rule was the correspondence mailed through the Y. M. C. A. Soldier Homes. (Figures 11 and 12). On Jan. 13, 1919, the Ministry of National Defense announced, under Ref. No. 708/1919, the establishment of Y. M. C. A. Soldier Homes behind the front where the soldiers could spend their free time. They could obtain hot and cold drinks without charge and read books and newspapers in nice, comfortable surroundings.

Because correspondence mailed from these Y. M. C. A. Homes was con-

sidered official, it went with free franking privilege. Soldiers took full advantage of this and sent their private correspondence through these Homes. Letters mailed there were impressed with a red or blue triangular Y. M. C. A. mark and then delivered in bulk to the nearest Field Post.

Y. M. C. A. Soldier Homes were established in April and May 1919 in the following cities of Slovakia and Carpatho-Ukraine: Bratislava, Komárno, Nové Zámky, Nitra, Trencin, Zilina, Lucenec, Presov, Uzhorod and Kosice.

Point Evaluation of Field Posts, 1918-1920

In working out this point evaluation system, several criteria were taken

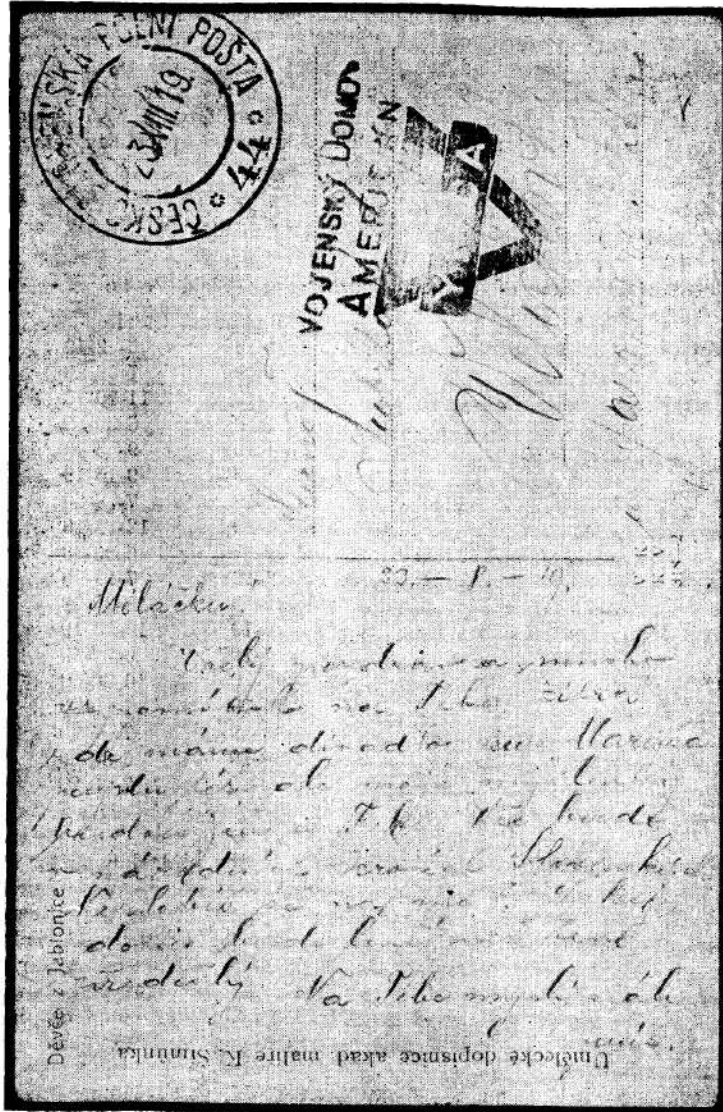


Figure 11

into consideration. Not only the length of time each Field Post existed but also the size of the formation it served, i.e., whether it had been set-up for a group, brigade, division, base command—or had a special assignment.

Evaluation also is based on the clarity of the stamp on the card or cover. Registered letters, postal receipts, collective advice of delivery slips, covers and cards with adhesives, and other entires (subsidiary F.P. markings of the Italian and French Legions, postal money and package waybills, newspaper bands, etc.) are, according to their state of condition, rarity and interest, evaluated many times higher.

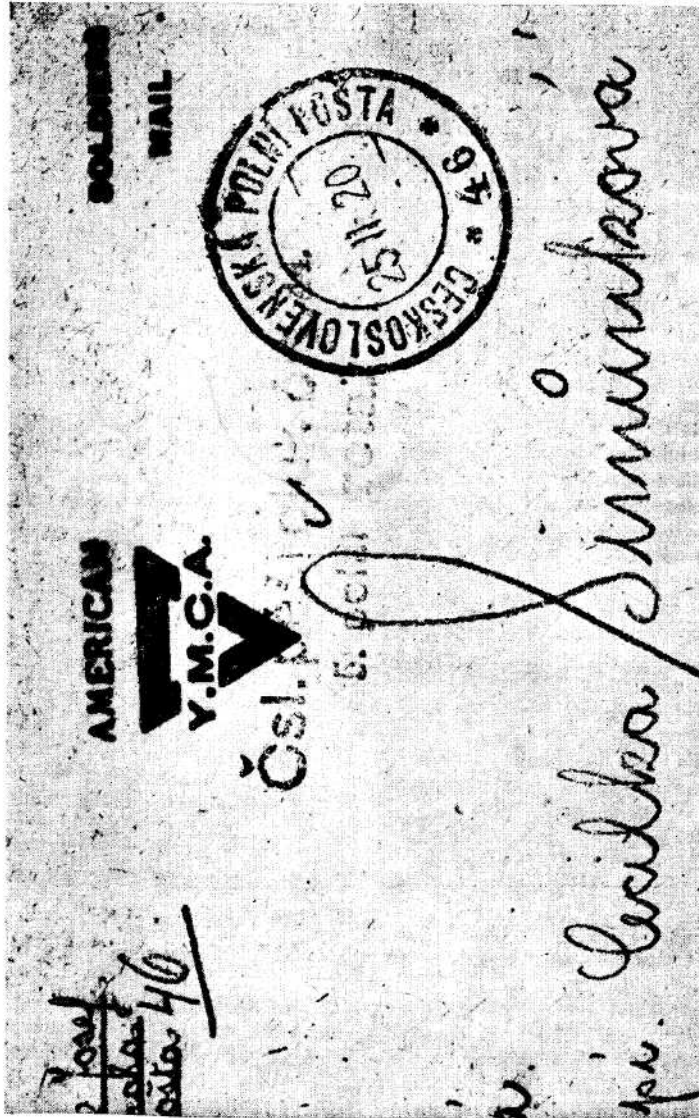


Figure 12. Covers illustrated in Figures 11 and 12 show Y.M.C.A. markings.

Field Post Number	Number of Months Operation	Points	Remarks
46	17	5	Stamped with text "POLNI POSTA," 30 points
38	16	5	Stamped with text "CESKOSLOVENSKA POLNI POSTA", 30 points
44	14	5	
75	8	5	
22	10	8	
50	7	10	Stamped with text "POLNI POSTA", 30 points
8	12	15	
5	11	15	Stamp with dash between "POLNI-POSTA", 30 points
63	7	15	
14	10	20	
12	12	25	Both types have same evaluation
20	8	30	
35	3	30	
25	3	30	
10	3	30	
Field Post Sorting Office	19	40	
POSTA MILITARE			
52	5	60	All four types have the same evaluation
Bratislava post. odd.	1	80	

Cards and covers with mailing date between 2.XII. to 31.XII.1918 which bear, in addition to the unit marking, the stamp "TRENCSEN" or some other postal cancellation, are evaluated at 20 points. Cards and covers of this same period with the mark "Od Cs. Legii Postovného prosta" receive 40 points.

Parade Of New Issues

Edited by Frank Kosik



120th Anniversary of Slovak Rising in 1848 & First Slovak National Council

A commemorative set of two stamps was issued last September 9th, 1968. The design is the work of Prof. V. Hložník.

Kčs 0.30—Color, blue. The text on the stamp "Slovenská národná rada 1848-1918, 1943-1968" (Slovak National Council)

Kčc 0.60—Color, red. The text on the stamp "120. výročie Slovenského povstania 1848" (Slovak National Rising)

The engraving is the work of Jindra Schmidt. Printed by rotary recess

print in sheets of 50. The dimensions of the stamp picture are 41x23 mm. A First Day Cover was issued with the set. The design is the work of Prof. Hložník, the engraving by Jar. Goldschmied.



30th Anniversary of the Treaty in Munich

- Three stamps showing the drawings of the children interned in Terezín.
- Kčs 0.30—The text on the stamp, "Jiří Beutler, age of 10, Concentration Camp Terezín"—Colors, black, violet, ochre, brown. Engraver, Jan Mráček. Dimensions of the stamp picture, 30x23 mm.
- Kčs 0.60—The text, "Kitty Brunnerová, the age of 11, Concentration Camp Terezín". Colors, black, yellow, blue, red. Engraver, Jan Mráček. Dimensions, 30x23 m.
- Kčs 1.00—"Jiří Schlessinger, the age of 10, Concentration Camp Terezín". Colors, black, yellow, blue, red. Engraver, Ladislav Jirka. 41x23 mm.
- Printed by rotary recess print combined with photogravure in sheets of 50. A First Day Cover was issued with the set and bears the text "Irka Krausová, the age of 12, Concentration Camp Terezín."
- The engraving is the work of Jaroslav Goldschmied. All these stamps, as well as the First Day Cover show the same text "Munich 1938." The graphic lay-out is the work of Jaroslav Lukavský.



"50 Years of Czechoslovakia"

On October 28, 1968, two postage stamps and a sheet were issued to commemorate "50 Years of Czechoslovakia."

Kčs 0.30—1918-1968—The Czechoslovak Flag with Linden Leaf. Colors: dark blue, red, blue.

Kčs 0.60—1918-1968—The silhouette of the Republic of a tricolor with a symbol of Prague and Bratislava and with Linden Leafs. Colors: black, red, blue, golden.

The stamps were designed by Milan Hegar, engraved by Jindra Schmidt. Printed by rotary recess print combined with three color photogravure in sheets of 50. Dimensions are 41x23 mm.

Kčs 5.00—A stamp on a perforated sheet. A Lion tearing the chains, dimension 24x30 mm. The topic of the stamp is the commemorative stamp devoted to the First Anniversary of the Foundation of Czechoslovakia, designed by the painter Jakub Obrovský. On the white part of the sheet (dimensions 75x100 mm) there is an inscription "Československo—50 rokov 1918-1968" (Czechoslovakia—50 years 1918-1968), a silhouette of the Prague Castle and of the Bratislava Castle with Linden leaves. Design and engraving by Josef Herčík. Printed by flat recess print in red and blue.

Two First Day Covers, designed by M. Hegar, and engraved by Jaroslav Goldschmied, featuring a text devoted to this anniversary and a Linden Leaf.



"Emblems of Czechoslovak Towns"

A set of 10 commemoratives was issued October 21, 1968.

First nine were all Kčs 0.60:

Banská Bystrica. Colors: black, red, golden, silver.

Bratislava. Colors: black, red, blue, silver.

Brno. Colors: black, golden, silver, red.

České Budějovice. Colors: black, golden, red, silver.

Hradec Králové. Colors: black, red, golden, silver.

Košice. Colors: black, red, blue, golden.

Ostrava. Colors: black, red, blue, yellow.

Plzeň. Colors: black, red, green, golden.

Ústí nad Labem. Colors: black, red, golden, silver.



Kčs 1.00—Praha. Colors: black, red, blue, silver, golden.

The stamps were designed and engraved by Josef Herčík. Those of Kčs 0.60 by the rotary recess print combined with three color photogravure in sheets of 50, and the Kčs 1 by five color flat recess print in sheets of 10. Dimensions are 30x23 mm.

Ten First Day Covers were issued, designed and engraved by J. Herčík, showing historical emblems of each of the mentioned towns.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Due to an unexpected situation beyond his control, Col. Joseph M. Sousa felt it necessary to resign as Editor of the Czechoslovak Specialist. This is very much regretted.

We are indeed fortunate to secure instead the services of member Edward J. Benchik whose election to the post by the Council will follow. Considering the fact that Member Benchik's wife Rosemary studied journalism in college we may look forward to teamwork in editing our publication.

Address of new editor: P. O. Drawer 1, Pt. Jefferson Sta., New York, N. Y. 11776.

—Joseph J. Janecka, President

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

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