

# THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

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## THE CZECH SCOUT OFFICIAL MAIL DELIVERY SERVICE OF 1918

By Ivo Kvasnicka

Translated by J. J. Verner

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(continued from June issue)

There were two printings of these stamps. The first was on heavy paper with yellow gum, often unevenly applied, while the second on thinner paper with white gum. Stamps also exist that were printed on parchment paper. Unused stamps of the first printing are found less often because more of them were used up during their period of validity. Stamps of varying color shades and with uneven application of ink exist from both printings.

The 10-heller stamp is known to exist in a series of shades, ranging from light blue to violet blue, while the shades of the 20-heller run from rose to carmine. The printer delivered the stamps to the Scout offices in boxes of 500 and 1,000. Because of the great pressure of work, no control was established with regard to the number of stamps delivered and hence the exact quantity of the printings is not known. However, it is estimated that about 30,000 10-heller blue and 50,000 20-heller red stamps were issued.

Color trials were prepared in various colors and shades for both values. They were printed on thinner white paper which had either white or yellow gum. (The author also has a proof printed on yellow paper.) Color trials

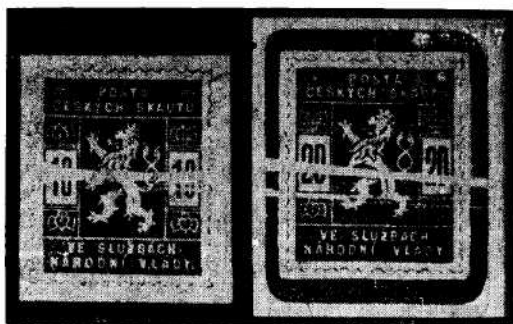


Figure 3. De-valued dies.

of the 10-heller stamp exist in various shades of red-brown, brown, purple and gray, and more rarely in red and turquoise green. The 20-heller color trials are known in shades of red-brown, brown, violet, purple, gray, grayish olive, orange—and less often in light blue and blue-green.

During the printing of the stamps the following flaws appeared: non-died-out or insufficiently died-out stamps (Figure 4); inaccurately aligned dies, negative perforations (Figure 5); double paper (Figure 6); folded paper, double impressions (Figure 7); unevenly applied or heavy inking (Figure 8); and various color spots, albino impressions, partial or complete set-offs (Figure 9). These printing errors are relatively uncommon even though the printing was done by a private firm. This fact tends to confirm the argument that originally the Scout stamps were prepared for use by the "revolutionary" mails and not for philatelic collections.

After the death of Rössler-Orovsky, Scouts stamps from his estate bearing the so-called Prague Revolutionary overprint came into possession of several collectors. The idea of using a Revolutionary overprint arose in the first days of the new state among the employees of the National Council and the overprint was applied to some Austrian stamps then in use. These overprints on Scout stamps have no practical significance. They were trial overprints which have value only as novelties. Three types of the first overprint, the so-called small seal, and one of the second overprint (large seal) are known on Scout stamps. The overprints were applied in red and black. Inverted and sideways impressions also exist.

The types of these overprint known to have been used are illustrated in Figure 10:

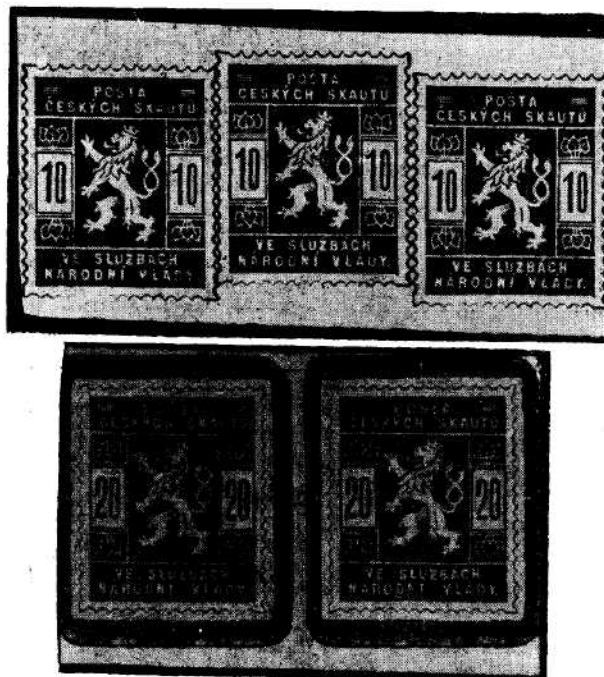


Figure 4. Incompletely "died-out" stamps.

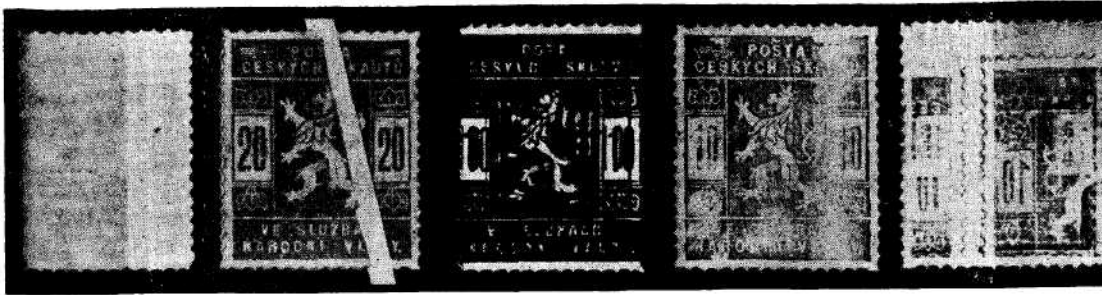


Figure 5

Figure 6

Figure 7

Figure 8

Figure 9

Oddities illustrated above: Negative perforations (Figure 5), double paper (Figure 6), double impression (Figure 7), uneven inking (Figure 8), and offset impression (Figure 9).

(a) The legend, "Provisorní Ceskoslovenská vláda" (Provisional Czechoslovak Government), with the Czech lion in a perpendicularly-lined field. The Czech crown appears above the seal.

(b) The words, "Ceskoslovenská státní posta" (Czechoslovak State Post) with the Czech lion and the Czech crown.

(c) The definitive overprint, bearing the legend, "Provisorní Ceskoslovenská vláda," the seal with the Czech lion. The crown above the seal has been filed off. When this overprint had been used several days for application on Austrian stamps, the Commission of the National Council was criticized because the Czech seal did not reflect the union of the Czech lands with Slovakia. Therefore this overprint was changed too.

(d) The definitive overprint with the words "Ceskoslovenská státní posta" and the joint coat of arms, the so-called Legionnaire coat-of-arms.

A small printing of 1,000 postal cards was prepared bearing the relief 10-heller blue stamp. The stamp was printed in the upper left corner of cards from white carton stock (Figure 11). The postal cards were intended for communication between Scouts or between the Scouts and the National Council. Genuinely-used postal cards are rarely seen.



A

B

C

D

Figure 10. "Revolutionary" overprint of Scout Stamps.

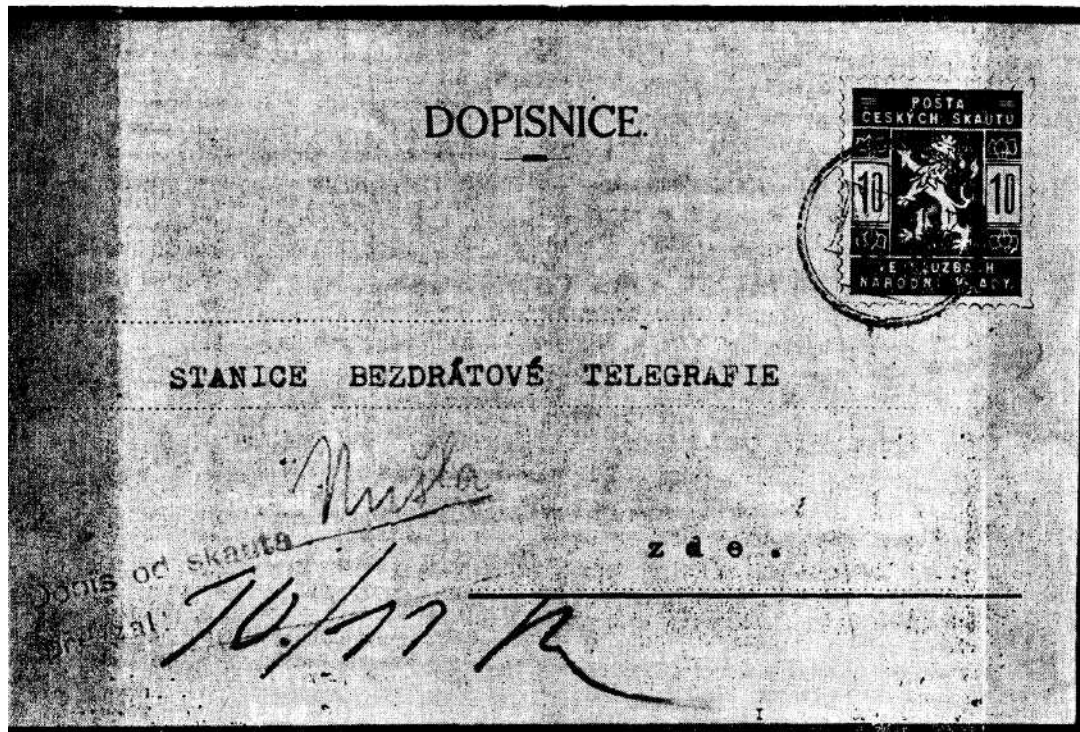


Figure 11. Genuinely-used postal card.  
(to be continued)

#### IN MEMORIAM

It is with great regret that the membership be informed of the passing of the following members:

**Dr. Irvin Neufeld 122**

He was one of the faithful members of the New York group who never failed to attend the annual functions in New York. Besides having been a good friend of the founder of our society, Joseph Lowey, he was always ready to give professional advice to members in the area.

**Col. John G. Knauer, M.D.**

A long and faithful member of the society whose presence will be missed. He had one of the finest collections of Czechoslovakia in his area.

**Dr. Kenneth D. Miller 583**

An enthusiastic collector, who was able to inspire his wife to carry on his collecting activities. Mrs. Miller has joined the society and she has taken her husband's membership number.

**Charles A. Patzelt 794**

An attorney who is survived by his wife Joan and four young children: Thomasine, Charles John, Joan Patricia and Anthony, a budding philatelist.

The officers and members of the society wish to express our sincere and heartfelt sympathy to their families.

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The ballot for your society's biannual election is enclosed. All members in good standing, except Honorary and Associate (foreign) members, are entitled to vote. Exercise your choice—vote now! Don't wait until the last minute as your ballot has to be in the Secretary's hands by Oct. 31. This year let's have a 100% response. Remember to use the official ballot enclosed with this issue. If you didn't receive one, inform your editor immediately. Sign the envelope in which you are mailing your ballot, but not the ballot.

For President:	Joseph J. Janocka*	John Velek
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For Councilor, Central:	Charles A. Matiaska	Charles Chesloe
For Councilor, West:	John Knollmueller*	A. J. Cifka

\*Denotes incumbent.

Those named in the left column were nominated by the duly appointed society nominating committee composed of: Patrick L. Flynn, Chairman (New York), Mrs. Edna B. Cummins (California) and Alex Sisson (Michigan). The opposing slate in the right column were nominated by five members from Illinois.

To the Editor:

I did not intend to comment further on the activities of some members of this Society in spite of the fact that my predecessor in the post of editor and colleague on the roll of Honorary Members has been very active indeed, writing personal letters to members urging them to vote for the opposition to the official slate. My reason for writing you is mainly to point out that the Constitution sets certain procedures in the method of society elections but for the first time in 30 years members were mailed one slate by the opposition in July just to circumvent that method. I also want to point out that the June 5th letter by the opposition mailed to former and present members contained a couple of remarks which really require answers. First how can one expect "effective leadership" to be manifested in three months time, because that is all the present president had available from March to June after the court certified his election? In addition, how could an election be by "unethical methods" when conducted by a court selected by this same opposition?

Note the type of opposition slate, Mr. Editor, which includes a candidate for office who recently wrote a letter to a present officer containing veiled threats of physical injury! Did you ever hear of such a thing before in a philatelic society?

I know you are not a Harvard graduate, Mr. Editor, but on the other hand I also know that you are the holder of a degree in science (Notre Dame Dean's List Graduate) and that soon you will receive a Master's degree in Engineering. Though I firmly believe that not even a college degree is re-

quired for turning out the Specialist, I think you do measure up quite well to your opposing number!

Members most likely will receive another letter or two from the opposition filled with vituperation but just throw them into the waste basket in which they belong.

Finally may I say that whereas in my note to the members last year I urged them just to vote for anyone, THIS TIME I MOST EMPHATICALLY URGE THEM TO VOTE FOR THE ENTIRE SLATE OF THE PRESENT PRESIDENT AND THEY WILL NOT GO WRONG.

William Reiner-Deutsch

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### EDITORIAL

This being my first editorial, allow me to introduce myself, especially to those of you who don't know me. A short biography appears on page 137 in the September 1966 issue of the SPECIALIST, accompanying my article entitled "Czechoslovakiana." This and briefly bringing you up to date from 1966 with a short account of my recent activities, will tell you what manner of man your new editor is.

In August 1966, I received military orders sending me from Wurzburg, Germany to the position of Post Engineer for the Army Pictorial Center, Long Island City, N. Y. To digress for a minute, being a native born American, one of my life time ambitions was to go to Czechoslovakia. During my tour of duty in Germany, one of my assignments was to design some of the NATO fortifications along the Iron Curtain. This resulted in a trip to the West German-Czechoslovak border. While performing an engineering geology study of the area, it was necessary for me to trace a geological formation of rock to the border and beyond as geology doesn't stop at political boundaries. In the process of following this formation, I stepped over a border demarcation stone a few feet into Czechoslovakia and came right out back into West Germany. True, I didn't get to see much of the country, but the important thing was that I actually was in Czechoslovakia. Someday I'd like to go back, stay longer and visit the towns of Breza and Lokca, from where my paternal grandparents came.

The following September (1967), I became the proud father of twin daughters. In February 1968, I received my discharge from the U. S. Army, stayed on Long Island and am a geologist for Grumman Aerospace Corp. Having worked for over a year on the Apollo Lunar Module, I watched the moon landing with more than casual interest.

In regard to philately, I tried to maintain a general world wide collection and specialized in U. S. A., Czechoslovakia and Zululand. This proved to be more than I could handle, so now my stamp collection has been narrowed down to the countries just mentioned and Ireland, Vatican City and Bermuda.

Besides collecting stamps for 21 years and a society member for 19 years, my postal experience varies from having been a letter carrier during the Christmas holidays while in college to being the unit postal officer for an engineer construction company in Korea and a battalion postal officer in Germany.

As far as editorial policy is concerned, I have no axes to grind with anyone. The guiding principle of my editorship is objectivity. I will do the best for the society that I can as your editor. There won't be any long editorials. This one will probably be my longest, as I think the members would rather

want most of the space in the SPECIALIST taken up with articles on Czechoslovak philately.

Speaking of articles, if any of you have written original articles or saved clippings from other philatelic publications, send them to me because each or every item received will definitely be considered to be printed or reprinted, whichever the case may be, in the SPECIALIST. All constructive suggestions are always welcome, but not trite or petty complaints. For all original written articles please have them legibly typed and double spaced on only one side of a sheet. The printed copy of a previously published article is just fine.

In order to give you members the best and broadest coverage possible, translators are needed for the following languages: Czech, Slovak, Spanish, German, French, and Russian. Even if you don't have much time but can work on two or three pages at a time, it's perfectly all right. Any and all assistance will be greatly appreciated because it will benefit the entire membership. Those with this capability please contact me.

Like almost everything else now days, your society is making use of a modern handy tool—the computer. This is being done at no cost to the society due to the generosity of our treasurer, Tom Meeks. The first tangible use is the membership list, which is in this issue. It was compiled through Tom's efforts. A new innovation resulting from this, is at the end of the alphabetical listing you'll find a geographical listing. It's interesting to note that we are 235 strong in 30 states (including the District of Columbia) and 9 foreign countries.

If members desire, you can obtain bound lists of town post office equivalents, German or Hungarian followed by Czech or Slovak. These are reprinted pages in consecutive numerical order of the list that appeared serially in the SPECIALIST for the past year or so. The price will be approximately \$1.75 for spiral binding and about \$4.00 for case binding, which is the regular book type binding. Postage is included in the above amounts. Of course the profit, if any, will be given to the society treasury. This is true with all the society publications, which are offered for sale. Those interested contact the editor. Don't send money at this time, just tell the editor which type of binding you prefer, and if you want more than one, indicate how many.

In closing, I wish to pass on a significant decision Judge Charles Fulton of the U. S. District Court, Southern Dist. of Florida, stopped a Bahamian development corporation from building an island and gambling casino-hotel complex on a group of submerged coral reefs in the Atlantic not far from Miami beyond the three mile limit. The promoters want to establish a sovereign nation. What would be of interest to stamp collectors is the following testimony upon cross examination concerning their intentions:

- Q. and referring to the last page of Intervenor's, Exhibit No. 20 under item 8, you had allotted \$1,500,000 for a radio and television station and tower.  
 A. Yes, sir. We had a man who wanted to buy that right off of us.  
 Q. And No. 9, post office, building offices, stamp department and foreign offices, \$2,500,000?  
 A. Yes, sir.  
 Q. Is that correct?  
 A. That was for printing stamps and everything else, sir.

#### ILLINOIS BRANCH APPROVED

Upon petition by five members, the council has approved the formation of the Illinois Branch, Czechoslovak Philatelic Society. Chairman is Joseph J. Janecka, our society president.

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