

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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The official handstamp "A" only appeared on original letters. The marking was to certify official papers or communications and was not intended for canceling delivered mail. Since all the handstamp devices were kept together in the same office, this official marking erroneously found its way to use on covers. This handstamp, together with the official metal NV device and the round rubber handstamps, remained in the hands of a National Council employee when the Scout Mail ceased operations. Subsequently, he manufactured a small number of additional letters. In most cases he used an envelope with the "Národní Vybor" imprinture, affixed a stamp, canceled it with the official handstamp, and then applied either one—or both—of the postal markings (Figure 21). These covers on which the manufacturer did not write an erroneous date (Nov. 25 or after) or an address which did not exist, are impossible to distinguish from ones actually delivered by the Scouts.

'Prijezd Presidenta Masaryka' Overprint

At the beginning of this article we mentioned that the Scout Post was again activated on Dec. 21, 1918, the day of President Masaryk's return to his homeland. To commemorate this event a three-line overprint "Prijezd Presidenta Masaryka" (Arrival of President Masaryk) was overprinted on Scout stamps. The overprinting was done by the Knapp printing plant in Karlin (Prague) on values of the first and second printing. The 10-heller blue stamps bear a brick red overprint and the 20-heller red a black one. It is estimated that only 600 10-heller blue and 1,000 20-heller red stamps were overprinted. The high market price of these stamps today indicates that the overprinted stamps not actually used were almost immediately destroyed.

Various varieties of the overprint are known: black overprint on the 10-



Figure 19. Official, non-postal, marking of the National Council.

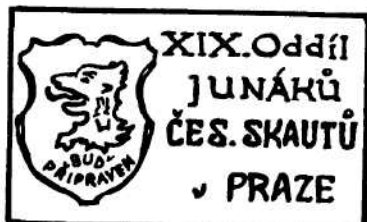


Figure 20. Scout unit marking.

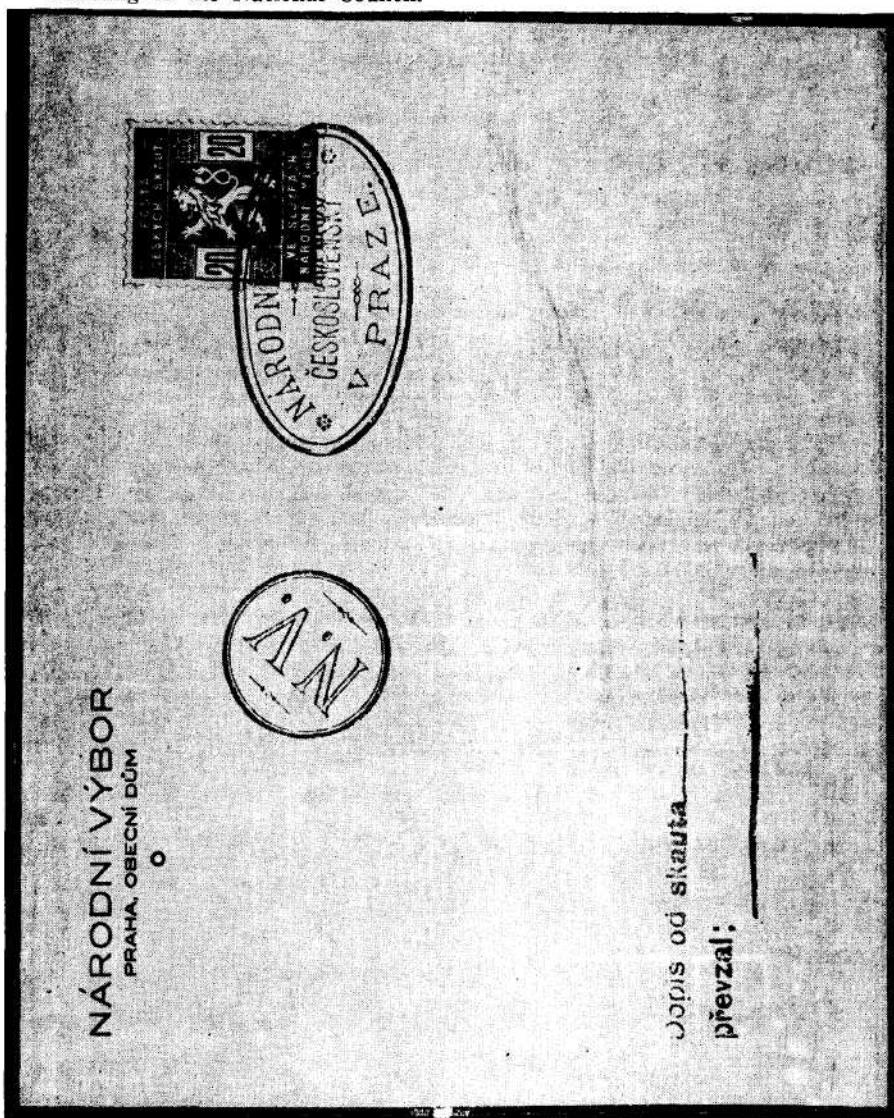


Figure 21. Manufactured cover with genuine markings.

heller blue; inverted overprint; overprint printed at a greater than usual angle; and very rarely, a light blue overprint on the blue 10-heller stamp.

All genuinely-delivered covers that include the overprinted Scout stamp were canceled with the round "Posta Skautu—Praha 1918" and marking "C" in black (Figure 23). For an exception to this rule, we must note that letters sent from the Presidium of the Council of Ministers were canceled with a round unofficial (non-postal) marking in purple that read "Presidium of the Council of Ministers of the Czechoslovak Republic (Figure 24). Some Scout postal cards had overprinted Scout stamps pasted on and also were used during this day.

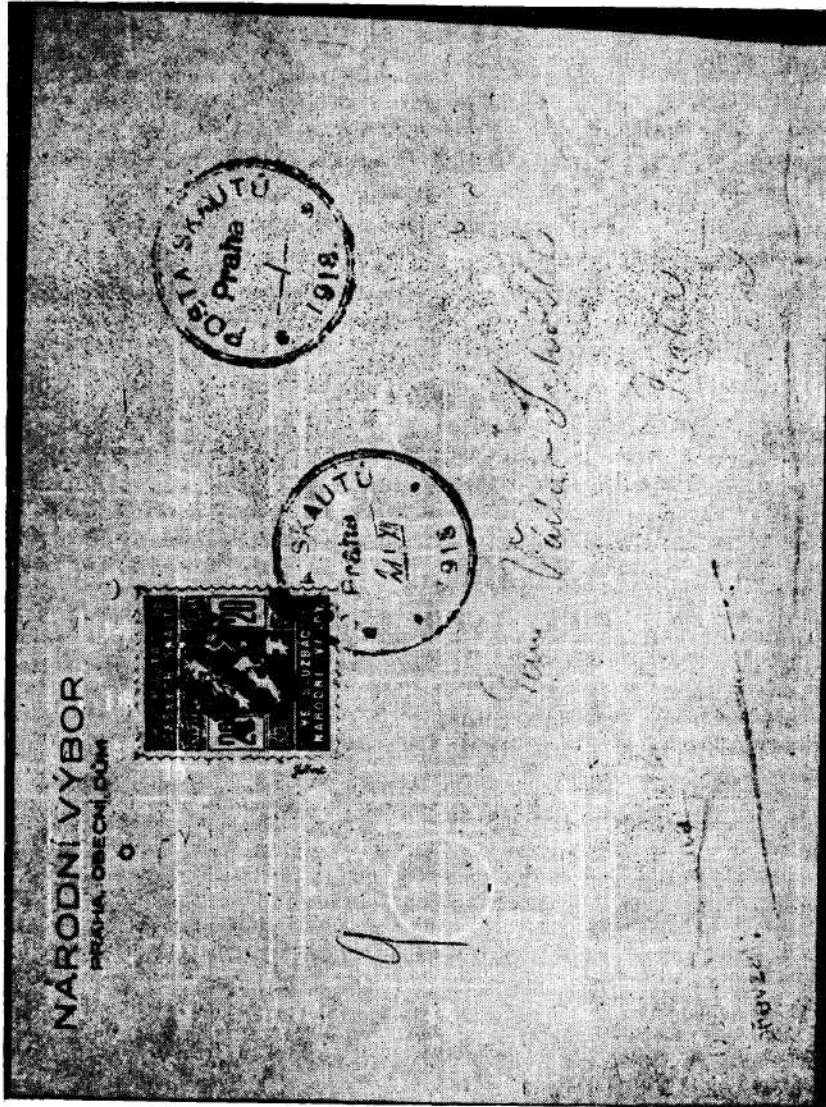


Figure 23. Letter delivered on December 21, 1918 bearing the "Prijezd" ovpt.



Figure 22. Genuine overprint.



Figure 24. Marking used on letters sent from the Presidium of the Council of Ministers on Dec. 21, 1918.

Counterfeits of the Scout Stamps

Even though Scout stamps do not belong among really rare stamps, they nevertheless were counterfeited several times. Counterfeits are not known used on cover or on piece. All counterfeits of these stamps were produced to defraud collectors.

(1) Blue 10-Heller Stamp

Counterfeit A. (Figure 25)

As his pattern, the counterfeiter used the 20-heller stamp on which the lion's right leg is nicked. This nick and the wrong configuration of the letter S in the text identify this otherwise good-appearing counterfeit. It was relief printed with the appropriate die-out. The hollows of the die-out "perforations" are shallow.

The author has several of these counterfeits which testify to the development of the final color and gum used.

The counterfeiter began with a gray color and yellowish, cracked gum. Then came counterfeits with a gray-blue color and coarse yellow gum, and finally a blue stamp with smooth yellowish gum.

Counterfeit B. (Figure 26)

The design and perforations are the same as counterfeit A, but the nick in the lion's leg has been touched up. The color of the counterfeit is blue or blue-violet and the gum is smooth, white or yellowish.

Counterfeit C. (Figure 27)

The design differs considerably from the original. They were printed in relief with simultaneous dieing out of the perforations. The hollows between the perforations are deep and round, the teeth are flat rather than pointed, and each side has two more teeth than the original "perforations" (13%). The color is light blue or blue, and the gum is smooth and slightly yellowish.

(2) Red 20-Heller Stamp

Counterfeit A. (Figure 28)

This counterfeit was probably produced by the same man that made counterfeits A and B of the 10-heller stamp. The distinguishing marks are the wrong configuration of the letter S in the stamp's text and the absence of the nick in the lion's right leg.



Figure 25
Counterfeit A (10 heller).



Figure 26
Counterfeit B.

Individual counterfeits vary in the sharpness of the relief, but never is it as deep as the original. The dimensions of the perforations are uneven and the hollows between are shallow. The color is red or light red and the gum is smooth, white or slightly yellowish and sometimes coarse white.

Counterfeit B. (Figure 29)

This counterfeit varies considerably from the original. The letters and numerals are smaller. The lion fills the center up to the border. It was relief printed with died-out "perforations."

A distinguishing feature of this counterfeit is its small teeth and shallow hollows. Each side of the counterfeit has three more teeth than the original. The color is carmine; the gum is clear and white.



Figure 27
Counterfeit C.



Figure 28
Counterfeit A (20 heller)



Figure 29 Counterfeit B.

(3) "Prijezd presidenta Masaryka" Overprint

The small print run and high prices of the Scout stamps bearing this overprint has led to several counterfeit tamperings of the overprint.

Counterfeit overprints exist on genuine and counterfeit stamps, but they never completely match the original. The counterfeit overprint also was applied to stamps used on genuine letters. These covers often bear the NV cancellation which was not used on Dec. 21, 1918.

The following counterfeits are in the author's collection, but it is possible others exist:

Counterfeit A. (Figure 30)

The most distinguishing feature of this counterfeit is that the center point of the letter M does not come all the way to the base as in the original. Also, the center of the letter "d" is too rounded and not oblong as in the original. The counterfeit appears on genuine stamps (Figure 30) as well as on counterfeit type C of the 10-heller and type B of the 20-heller (Figure 31) and on what were originally genuine covers. The red counterfeit overprint on the 10-heller has a mat finish.

Counterfeit B. (Figure 32)

This counterfeit varies from the original by the different shape of the



Figure 30

Figure 31

Figure 32

Figure 33

Above four items are counterfeit of "Prijezd" overprint

letter "S" and the tail of the letter "t" in the word "presidenta." The letters do not have sharply defined edges.

It also exists in black on the blue 10-heller value.

Counterfeit C. (Figure 33)

The letters of this counterfeit are completely different from the original and several of the letters are incompletely printed.

The colors of this counterfeit match the original.

Cancellations Commemorating Scout Congresses and Celebrations in Czechoslovakia

To complete the record of Czechoslovak postal recognition of Scout activities, we submit the following check-list of cancellations commemorating Scout celebrations, Jamborees and Congresses in the Republic.

1931 PRAHA-SLOVANSKE SKAUTSKE TABORY 1931 (Slavic Scout Jamboree): Circle handstamp (Figure 34a); Machine cancellation (Figure 34b). In addition to commemorate the 20th anniversary of Czechoslovak scouting, two labels were issued (figure 35) and a postal card bearing the same design.

Figure 34 — Commemorative Scout Cancellations



- 1934 KUTNA HORA-ZUPNI SJEZD JUNAKU SKAUTU (Regional Congress of Young Scouts). Figure 34c.
 1934 BANSKA BYSTRICA—XII. SVETOVY TABOR SKAUTSKEJ ESPERANTSKEJ LIGY (XII World Jamboree of the Scout Esperanto League) Figure 34d.
 1936 PRAHA 14—ZEMSKY SKAUSKY SJEZD (National Scout Congress). Figure 34e.
 1937 JAROMER—OTEVRENI SKAUTSKEHO DOMOVA (Scout Lodge Opening). Figure 34f.
 1945 ZILINA 1—1. SNEM SLOVENSKYCH SKAUTOV (1 Congress of Slovak Scouts). Figure 34g.
 1945 KLATOVY—SKAUTSKE SLAVNOSTI (Scout Celebrations). Fig. 34h.
 1946 KARLOV YVARY 1—SKAUTSKE DNY (Scout Days). Figure 34i.
 1946 PRAHA 1—II. JUNACKY NEM (II Scout Congress). Figure 34j.
 1948 ZLIN 1—JUNACKY SNEM (Scout Congress). Figure 34k.



H



I



J



K



Figure 35. Label issued to commemorate the 20th anniversary of Boy Scout movement in Czechoslovakia

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 J. Karásek, Z. Kvasnicka, B. Paulíček: Padelky Českosloveských postovních známek (Forgeries of Czechoslovak Postage Stamps), POFIS, Prague, 1963.

**H. R. HARMER AUCTION OF THE ANTHONY SCHWANDERLA
COLLECTION**

September 18th, 1969

Sale No. 1912

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Lot No.		Cat. Value	Prices Realized
1181	✉ 3 stampless folded covers, 1852 KOLLIN (Bohemia) octagon framed town pmk., 1853 PRAG, fancy framed town pmk., 1853 WALLACH-MESERITSCH (Moravia), single-circle dated town pmk., all addressed to ANDRUCHOW (Galicia), diff. transit and arrival canc., fresh, fine to very fine -----		\$7.00
Provisional Revolutionary Issues 1918			
1182	★ 1st Prague Issue. "Provisorni Ceskoslovenska Vlada" opt., 21 diff. compl., l. h., 10kr natural crease, others fine to very fine (Mich. I) -----	DM 900	38.00
1183	★ 2nd Prague Issue. "Ceskoslovenska Statni Posta" opt., 21 dif. cpl., l. h. to o. g., f. to very fine (Mich. II) -----	DM 900	42.00
1184	★○ 3rd Budweis Issue. "Ceskoslovenska Stat" opt., 21 diff. the low values o.g., 2m, 3m, 4m and 5m, each lightly tied on separate pieces by full "BUDEJOVICE I" pmk., 6h round corner, others fine to very fine (Mich. III)--- unpr.		105.00
1185	★ — Red. opt., 39 diff., cpl. plus 6 diff. unlisted values, l.h., few minor faults, generally fine to very fine. Sold "as is" (Mich. III vars.) -----	unl.	42.00
1186	★ 1918 Boy Scouts Issue 10h dark blue, 20h red, l. h., very fine (Mich. I, II) -----	DM 120	10.00
1187	★ — 20h scarlet, l.h., small stain on reverse, otherwise very fine (Mich. II var.) -----	unl.	10.00
1188	✉ — 10h blue, 20h dark red, each tied on separate cover by diff. special pmks., v f. Scarce on cover (Mich. I, II) unpr.		33.00
1189	★ 1918-19 Hradcany, 5 diff. gutter-pairs, 3h, 5h, 10h, 20h, 25h, o.g., last two folded between stamps, 5h and 25h gum disturbances, fine to very fine (1a-5a) -----	121.00	28.00
1190	★ 1919-20 10h, 20h and 30h, imperf. copies, l.h. to o.g., nice margins all around, very fine (43a, 45a, 47a) -----	95.00	24.00
1191	★ 1925 Masaryk, Wmkd. vertically, 2k deep blue, o.g., perfs cut into at T, fresh, very good (101B) -----	85.00	22.00
1192	★ — 3k brown, o.g., perfs just touch frame-line at R, fresh, very good (101C) -----	200.00	48.00
1193	★ — Second Engraving, wmkd horizontally, 1k carmine, l.h., fresh and fine (102) -----	50.00	13.00
1194	★田 1934 National Anthem 1k and 2k Souvenir sheets of 15 with folders, unused as issued, thinnings and crease in margin, very fine appearance (200a, 201a) -----	290.00	46.00
Sem-Postals 1919			
On Austrian stamps			
1195	★ 2k dark blue, o.g., BL corner perf. missing, slightly soiled, very good and scarce (B18A) -----	1,000.00	150.00
1196	★ 3k claret, o.g., very fine (B19A) -----	324.00	87.50
1197	★ Opt. on Air Post stamps, 1.50k on 2k, 2.50k on 3k, 4k, l.h., 1.50k and 4k thin spots, fine to very fine appearance (B37-39) -----	395.00	42.00

1198	★	Opt. on Postage Due, 10k ultramarine, o.g., centered slightly to R, fresh and fine. Signed Kessler (B57)	100.00	22.00
On Hungarian stamps				
1200	★	"Parliament" 10k violet brown and violet, o.g., centered to L, perfs clear, fresh and fine. Signed Kessler (B90)	300.00	90.00
1206	★	1925 Olympic Congress set of three, o.g., fine to very fine (B137-39)	72.50	17.00
1207	★	— 4 compl. sets, diff. wmk. positions, o.g., fine to very fine (B137-39)	290.00	57.50
1208	★	1906 Sokol Issue, 4 compl. sets, diff. wmk. positions, o.g., fine to very fine (B140-43)	260.00	47.50
Air Post Stamps, 1922				
1209	★	50h on 100h, 100h on 200h, inverted surch., l.h., very fine (C7a, 8a)	50.00	52.50
1210	★	50h on 100h green, dble surch., o.g., fresh & fine (C7b)	30.00	13.00
Military Post in Siberia				
1211	★	1918 Cheljabinsk Issue, Russian Postage stamp 10k dark blue (#79) overprinted Czech Post (in Cyrillic), l.h., very fine and rare. Signed Franek (Mich. I)	DM 2,200	77.50
1212	E	Military Post in Siberia, 1919 Essays, lot of 25 diff. essays in 5 diff. designs and various colors (on white un-gummed wove paper), (approx. 45x29mm), compl. set, large margins all round, very fine, scarce	unl.	230.00
1213	★	— Similar lot, but few minor thins		32.00
1214	★	1919 Irkutsk Issue 25k to 1r, perf. 11½ and imperf. sets compl., l.h., fine to very fine (1-3, 1a-3a)	57.00	13.00
1215	★	Locals 1918, opts. on Hungarian stamps, SKALICKE Issue, 9 diff., SROBAROVA Issue, 11 diff., l.h., few rough perfs, fresh, generally fine (Mich. IV, V)	unpr.	11.00
1216	★	1918-1968, balance of an extensive coll., many thousand stamps mounted in 7 albums and 2 binders, carefully annotated, o.g. except few used, incl. an excellent range of compl. issues, many Souvenir and Miniature sheets, essays, proofs, vars., reference copies, Bohemia and Moravia, Slovakia, Siberia, etc. Also an "English-Czech and Czech-English Vocabulary" by G. R. Skopecek, 1953 (for philatelic purposes) and few special Catalogues, condition above average. A very interesting and valuable lot. Est. Cash Val. \$500-750		725.00

EDITORIAL

Last issue there was a notice about the appointment of the Assistant Editor for the Specialist, William Schoenig. Since not all of you know him, a few words about him would be appropriate.

Bill was born 69 years ago in Brooklyn, N. Y., where he attended parochial and high school, as did his wife and their two sons. His two sons graduated from the same parochial school as he did. He has ten grandchildren, nine boys and one girl. He has been retired for the past six years from the American Bosch Arma Corp., where he had worked for twenty-one years as a machinist and assembler. He had started to collect stamps as a boy with a general collection, and then stopped for some time until his sons revived his interest. At that time he specialized in U. S., Canada, and Newfoundland. In the late 1940's he became interested in Czechoslovakian stamps and started to specialize in that country. Bill is a member of the American

Philatelic Society for 28 years and a member of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society for 19 years. He organized a stamp club at American Bosch Arma Corp. and was the President for 2 years. He also organized a stamp club in Patchogue, N. Y., of which he is now president.

Another service for the membership as a result of the first phase of the study for want and exchange advertisements, is the further subdivision of space and rates so that a member can place an ad for less than a dollar. See the advertising rates of the Specialist in this issue. For example, a 32nd page ad (2 lines) for one issue is 90c (\$1.00 regular rate minus 10% membership discount of 10c equals 90c). There are more beneficial possibilities for members under consideration in this study. You will all be kept informed as developments occur.

It has been noted that the September issue was somewhat slow in reaching the membership. That issue was printed and mailed on time as was confirmed by the date on the postmark. Believe it or not, it took three to four weeks for some copies to reach their destination less than 100 miles from the location which the Specialist entered the mails. Because neither the society president nor the editor have any control over the U. S. Post Office Dept., it's suggested you direct your inquiries about slow postal service to the Postmaster-General and your congressman. Your society officers are trying to do what we can to correct this condition within our capabilities. We think we might have a solution but some ramifications have to be checked before we can be sure.

STAMP MARKET TIPS

By John C. Ross

Reprinted from Stamps

CZECHOSLOVAKIA — The protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia was created by Hitler after he occupied Czechoslovakia. You will recall that during the war in 1943 Czech Patriots assassinated Heydrich, who was head of the dreaded S. S. in the Protectorate. A single stamp showing Heydrich's death mask was issued in memory of that event. A miniature sheet with the picture of that stamp in the center was given to all high officials attending his funeral. They were numbered and only 1,000 were minted. Theoretically, this sheet was good for postage, and therefore is being sought after a great deal by the German collectors. I recall buying several after the end of the war and selling them for \$40.00 each. But now, twenty-five years later, many German dealers are anxious to buy this souvenir sheet and are paying almost 2000 Marks, which is around \$500.00. Very often you will find this stamp mounted on a small piece of carboard and usually with a special cancellation. Do not confuse this with the rare souvenir sheet; the stamp has to be printed right ON the sheet and naturally is imperforate.

MEMBERS RECEIVE RECOGNITION

Honorary member William Reiner-Deutsch, who is co-editor of the Postal History Journal, has just learned that his publication earned the Grand Award at the APS '69 BALPEX in Baltimore. Also it is interesting to note that Will's biography is now appearing in serial form in Filatelie.

Word has just been received that Frank Steiner's exhibit of "Postal History of Theresienstadt" won honorable mention at the Sescal Exhibition in Los Angeles. Congratulations to member Steiner not only for his award but also for the resulting promotion of Czechoslovak philately at a regional stamp show.



(illustration reduced slightly in size)

February 1967—Water birds. 30h—Blacktailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*); 40h—The Shoveler (*Spatula clypeata*); 60h—Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*); 80h—Penduline Tit (*Remiz pendulinus*); Kčs 1—Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*); Kčs 1.50—Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*); Kčs 1.60—Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*). Designer, Ota Janeček. Multicolor offset at the Svoboda Printing House in Prague in sheets of 50. 23x41mm. FDCs also issued.



(illustration reduced slightly in size)

August 30, 1967—Flowers of Botanical Gardens: 20h—*Miltonia spectabilis* Lindl.; 30h *Cobaea scandens* Cav.; 40h *Lycaste deppei* Lindl.; 60h *Glottiphyllum davisii* L. Bol.; Kčs 1 *Anthurium andreanum* Lindl.; Kčs 1.20 *Rhodo-*

cactus bleo Knuth.; Kčs 1.40 *Dendrobium phalaenopsis* Fitzg. Designed by Ludmila Jiřincová. Multi-color offset at the Svoboda Printing Office, in sheets of 25. 26x33mm. FDCs issued.



May 22, 1967—"Judaica"—30h Torah curtain—detail (1593). State Jewish Museum. Dark red and pale blue. 60h—Prague Printers' Emblem (1530). Black and pale green. Kčs 1—Jug from Mikulov (1804) Dark blue and violet. Kčs 1.20—Old-New Synagogue in Prague (1268). Dark brown and red. Kčs 1.40—Pinkas Synagogue (1535)—Memorial (1939-1945). Black and yellow. Kčs 1.60 Gravestone of David Gans (1613). Dark blue-green and pale green. First 3 engraved by Jiří Švengsbír, 4th by Jan Mráček, last 2 by Josef Herčík. Designed by Švengsbír and Karel Vodák. Rotary recess print and photogravure in sheets of 50. 30x41mm. FDCs issued.



(illustration reduced slightly in size)

September 1967—Animals of National Parks of Slovakia—30h Common squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*). Dark brown, red, olive. 60h Wildcat (*Felis silvestris*) Dark brown and ochre. Kčs 1—Common ermine (*Mustela erminea*). Black and blue. Kčs 1.20 Common dormouse (*Muscardinus avellanarius*). Dark brown, pale blue, ochre. Kčs 1.40 Common eadle (*Erinaceus europaeus*). Black, yellow, pink. Kčs 1.60 Pine Marten (*Martes martes*). Black, yellow, brown. 1st, 2nd and 4th engraved by Bedřich Housa, others, Jindra Schmidt. Designed by Jozef Baláž. Rotary recess print in sheets of 50. 41x23mm. FDCs issued.



Oct. 6, 1967—"Day of the Czechoslovak National Army." Kčs 30. Design by Milan Pessel, engraved by Jindra Schmidt. Rotary recess print in sheets of 50. 23x41mm, dark-green. FDC issued.

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(4 lines across page)				
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1954-55	3	6.50
1955	8	4.50
1958-59	1	6.50
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1960	5	4.50
1961	2	4.50
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