

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Official Monthly Journal of the  Czechoslovak Philatelic Society
Recipient of Silver Bronze Award Praga 1968

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Vol. XXXII

October 1970

Number 306

SEPAD CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION



A late news release from the Department of the Treasury says that its Bureau of Engraving and Printing has scheduled participation on October 16, 17 and 18 in the Associated Stamp Clubs of Southeast Pennsylvania and Delaware show with philatelic exhibits and demonstration of intaglio printing on the hand press. This is the last reminder about your society's convention and exhibition, which will take place about the time that you will receive this. Details were in the September Specialist concerning our involvement in SEPAD.

Czechoslovak Printing History and Methods Related To Its Stamp Production

By J. P. Krouman

Reprinted from Linn's

The printing art has an old tradition in Czechoslovakia. The first Czech printed book "Kronika Trojanska, Troja chronic"—came into the world—about 500 years ago—in 1468, when Johann Gutenberg was still alive.

In contrast to the incunabula of the great letterpress inventor, this book was printed by ornamental letters—the so-called Bohemian . . . Type—and its beautiful, artistic refined initials disproved definitely pessimists' objections that the new, mechanical method of duplicating graphic works would entail a bad end of graphic art.

On the contrary, this book laid the foundations of what we call fine graphic art and industrial design which we admire at stamp exhibitions.

The present-day level, of course, is the result of hundreds of years' development and I am proud of the fact that my countrymen contributed so much to the permanent improvement of the printing technique and the artistic quality of imprint.

In Prague, the deft typesetter Jan Lobinger had his workshop supplying—among other things—Jewish printing houses of the whole Central Europe with Hebrew characters.

From Prague into exile, Vaclav Hollar—the outstanding master of chalcography—had to go in 1620, having made afterwards the Bohemian art famous far away from his native country's borders.

Prague was the birthplace of Alois Senefelder (1771-1834), inventor of the lithographic printing and stereotyping.

The modern photogravure intaglio printing is the invention of the Czech painter Karel Klic (1841-1926), whereas the collytype was discovered in 1869 by another Czech—Jakub Husnik. Also Kaspar Harmann (1871-1934), inventor of the offset-lithography, was of Bohemian descent.

Czechoslovakia cannot boast of a long tradition, however, as far as printing of postage stamps is concerned. Lack of political freedom in the 19th century deprived the collectors of what is called "classic" in philately.

Czechoslovakia's first postage stamps were issued December 18, 1918, celebrating thus coincidentally a 10 times shorter jubilee this year than that of the first Czech-printed books.

The large press run (the number of copies of some values having exceeded 100 millions) within a short time was due to Bohemian Graphic Union in Prague. The hasty print, copious reprinting and the after-war bad quality ink, paper and technical equipment stigmatized this first Czechoslovak set of stamps. Many slight deviations and imperceptible defects resulted—which are now subject of special studies by prominent collectors and philatelic authors.

At first, Czechoslovakia's postage stamps were made by the usual letterpress, afterwards by galvanoplastics and photogravure.

In 1926, Stickney machines were installed and one-color die stamping introduced. By this technique, Czechoslovakian postage stamps were printed till 1938, when operations were suspended for several years owing to World War II and German occupation.

The Slovak printing houses in Kosice and Bratislava restored the emission on their own initiative early in 1945, when the surroundings of these cities were still a battlefield. Of course, the provisional issues were affected by

difficulties of production. Only in 1946 or 1947 respectively, the Czechoslovak Postal Administration reassumed the tradition of graphically perfect stamps.

In addition to the aesthetic effect, each stamp had now to express the official ideology of its country as well. On May 30, 1951, the print of Czechoslovak postage stamps moved to Postal Administration's own Printing House in Prague 7. Since that time the majority of Czechoslovak stamps has been made both by rotary and planographic steel print.

The rotary steel print is performed on a WIFAG machine, either as die stamping or intaglio printing of their own, or as combination of rotary steel print and gravure respectively. Commemorative sheets and stamps are made by planography, in blocks of four to 10 copies.

The preparation for press differs a little from the usual polygraphic technique. According to the artist's design, a pen-and-ink drawing as a system of lines and points must be made, which in order to facilitate the engraver's further work is carried over on the photographic way, reversely and minimized to the desirable size, from the slide to a small steel plate. By means of a slight single-step etching a fine relief of lines and points is obtained, which is then engraved to the necessary depth and breadth.

Afterwards, the engraving is hardened to hold out the pressure by which it is stamped as positive on a cylinder-shaped steel moulded flong. From this matrix the stamp relief is carried over on the printing cylinder, which is then indurated too—by chromium-plating.

The printing cylinders for the classic photogravure are adapted by a photochemical process, of course, in which participate the photographer, the retoucher, and the etcher. The result is a "combination half tone," by means of which the drawing has been decomposed in series of fine depressions, wherein the ink is getting caught during the printing process.

The printing cylinders having been mounted in the web-fed printing press, a band of a special postage stamp paper with gum on its reverse starts to reel off over guide rollers towards them. The printing cylinders are supplied with ink by ink fountains, the superfluous ink being removed from their surface by the so called "squeegee" consisting of a textile band soaked by a special alkali solution.

A complicated apparatus is exerting pressure on the paper through a parallel felt band, so that the ink preserved in the depressions of the cylinders may print.

In the photogravure process, the cylinders dip into the ink fountain, the superfluous ink being afterwards removed from their surface by a steel blade (the so called doctor blade).

The stamps are separated from each other by a frame perforation within the "WIFAG" machine. The printed paper is cut in sheets, each of them containing 25, 50 or 100 stamps, according to their dimensions. Each sheet is provided with the respective production number and date of issue.

The planographic steel print is carried out on Waite-Saville sheet-fed printing machines. In case of multicolor stamps, there must be a special plate for each color. The paper is put into the press by hand. The perforation is made by means of a separate device.

During the last 15 years, no single year escaped without having increased the reputation of Czechoslovakia's postage stamps on the international philatelic forum.

This country's official exhibits earned, in 1953, a gilt plaque at Citex-Paris; 1954, another plaque at Centilux-Luxembourg and Milan; 1955, a silver Post Box at the Exhibition marking 100th anniversary of Indian postage stamps in Delhi.

In 1956, a medal at the Finlandia-Exhibition in Helsinki; 1957, a silver tray as "Premio Ettore Tavernari," two silver cups as premium by ENAL and Corriere dello Sport and a silver medal of the "Federation Motociclista" at the International Exhibition of postage stamps with sporting motifs in Rome; 1958, a silver plaque at Salomaggiore Parma and a medal at the Exhibition of postage stamps with musical motifs in Vienna; and 1959, a gilt plaque at the Exhibition marking 100th anniversary of Roumanian postage stamps in Bucharest.

Also, 1960, a gold medal at the exhibition marking 100th anniversary of Russian postage stamps in Leningrad (first Russia's postage stamps reprinted till 1917 were designed by Bohumil Haase and Sons in Prague); 1961, a gold plaque at Luposta—Vienna; 1962, Scott's Stamp Collectors Annual includes in the list of the year's ten best stamps two from Czechoslovakia—the only country to be represented more than once; and 1963, a gold plaque at Melusina-Luxembourg.

Further in 1964, another plaque at the International Exhibition in Budapest; 1965, medals and plaques at WIPA; 1966, Grand Prix at the International Competition of the European Stamp Creation EUROPE 66 in Naples (in addition to a medal at Lanciano and a plaque in Cairo); 1967, Karl-Marx-Stadt (a silver medal), AEROPEX (plaque) and AM-PHILEX (a gold medal); 1968, a silver medal at INTERPEX New York, two others in Rome; and 1969, medal in Sofia.

Prominent artists are responsible for the Czechoslovakia's postage stamp designs; their Nestor was the National Artist Professor Max Svabinsky, he himself philatelically honored in 1963. Another commemorative has been devoted to the designer of first Czechoslovak postage stamp—the outstanding artist Alfons Mucha. Its author (in 1960) was professor Svabinsky. But it would not be correct to classify Czechoslovakia's stamp designers as more or less talented. Each has his own inimitable style and individual approach to certain subjects which nobody besides him is able to master.

In this respect, exceptional qualities of Czechoslovak artists are documented by the fact that their works have been reproduced even on some foreign stamp (Vaclav Hollar in Great Britain, Vaclav Brozik in USA and Costa Rica, Jaroslav Vesin and J. V. Mrkvicka in Bulgaria) or that they were and continue to be invited to make stamp designs for foreign Postal Administrations. For example, the splendid set of Ethiopia's stamps of 1961 depicting animals has been made by outstanding Czechoslovak painter Vladislav Kovarik; that country's special emission of the same year marking Africa Day is due to Czechoslovak artist Jindra Schmidt. Another gala-emission, highlighting Tunisia's Independence, was designed by another Czechoslovak artist Vaclav Cerny.

Known all the world over in their branch are also Czechoslovak engravers (some of them well-tried as designers as well), as may be documented by their activity abroad. So for instance, the precise work of Czechoslovak engraver Bohumil Heinz can be admired not only in his own country's stamps, but also in those of Ceylon, China, Nigeria, New Zealand, Greece, Sudan, and Sweden, and in the islands Barbados, St. Lucia and Western Samoa, as well.

Service has been rendered to the postal authorities of Ethiopia and Iraq by Czechoslovak engravers Jindra Schmidt and Ladislav Jirka, and Messrs. Housa and Goldschmied were active for those of Korea and Vietnam.

Many artists responsible for stamp creation abroad have been educated in Czechoslovakia. Among them are Josef Vrtel, USA; and Alfred Chmelowski, native at Olomouc (now active in Austria); the Roumanian engravers Avramescu and Mihailescu, Dr. Pavel Gavranic in Yugoslavia. Otte Walisu,

Israel's prominent stamp designer, was born in Znojmo (Moravia) and also the late Kurt Plowitz, author of several UN stamps, had completed studies in Prague.

The Czechoslovakia's printing office in Prague was the training place of a great number of stamp producers from the Soviet Union, United Arab Republic and Iraq.

Czechoslovakia's own Printing House in Prague has been modernized recently, having now the most up-to-date WIFAG web-fed printing press at its disposal. This makes it possible to print four-color stamps in wet-on-wet process by either steel print or photogravure, or in combination of steel print with one to three photogravure proceedings.

KOMENSKY PHILATELIC EXHIBITION

The Illinois Branch of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society and the First Czechoslovak Philatelic Club of America, on Nov. 14 and 15, 1970, will jointly commemorate the 300th Anniversary of the death of Jan Amos Komensky. The great educational works of Komensky, on which his principal claim to posthumous fame is founded, were written during his first stay in Lezsko, Poland, and later in Hungary where he wrote "Orbis Pictus" (The World in Pictures) known as the first picture book for children. This was a picture association type of study that is still used all over the world today by educators.

The two organizations will hold an exhibition on the above days combined with an interesting program to be held in the famed "LINCOLN CIRCLE" area of Berwyn, Illinois, at Lincoln Federal Savings in their "New Salem Meeting Room" and the Exhibition Rooms of the association.

The 48 clubs of the Illinois Federation of Stamp Clubs have been invited for the exhibition and commemoration program which will take place on Saturday Evening, November 14th at 6 p.m. Afterwards refreshments will be served Czechoslovak style. During the afternoon a "Czechoslovak Pecivo Contest" will be held open to men and women of the Berwyn-Cicero Czechoslovak community from 2 to 4 p.m. Pecivo means Czechoslovak pastries and they will be finished off during the refreshment hour in the "Mary Todd Lincoln" Social Center surrounded by what is probably the greatest collection of "Lincolniana" in the world.

On Sunday, November 15th at 1 p.m. the ten clubs of the Jack Knight Collectors Club Federation will hold a 464 lot Auction Sale. Catalogs can be secured from: Catalog, P. O. Box 145, Brookfield, Illinois 60513. for sending 12c in unused stamps. The sale contains 46 lots of rare Zeppelin material; 8 lots of Donier "DO-X" covers; over 60 lots of rare pioneer Space and Rocket items; and material for the specialist of Mexico, Canada, Latin America, Foreign Flight Covers, Aeronautica and literature.

A Special Post Office and cancellation from the U. S. Post Office Department has been requested, and all Chicagoland area collectors are invited to Lincoln Center in Berwyn, Illinois, November 14, 15, 1970, to kick off "National Stamp Collecting Week" in Czechoslovak style. Cacheted covers are being prepared and both the Special Post Office cancel and a Meter Cancel are expected to be available. Information on the program and exhibition can be had from Jos. J. Janecka, 7306 Ogden Ave., Riverside, Illinois 60546, President of our society and chairman of the Illinois Branch. The hours the exhibition are to be open are Saturday, November 14th, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; and Sunday, November 15th, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

AUCTION OF STAMPS BY POFIS IN PRAGUE, NOV. 7\$, 16, 1969

(continued)

22	*	B	2 Kč souvenir sheet, stamp fine. Spot on edge of sheet, right bottom corner creased	A284	201a	2000	2550
23	***	AC	60 h tete-beche block 8, sig Gilbert	T157	73a	80	170
24	***	AC	40 h block of 6 and block of 4 corner, water mark pos. 3, signed Gilbert	A187	95	50	30
25	***	AC	50 h 2 blocks of 4, water mark position 2, 4, signed Gilbert	A188-B188	96var	60	90
26	***	AC	5 Kč 2 each corner blocks of 6	242	151	70	70
27	***	AC	20 Kč Air Post margin block of 9	A14	C17	180	210
30	***	AC	15 h SO-1920, corner block of 4, perf. 1 1/2:10 3/4, signed Mrňák	E5	25var	80	370
31	***	B	2, 5, 6 K, vertical and horizontal gutter pairs, 6 K with spot in selvage	M354-56	307-309var	200	330
32	***	AC	2, 5, 6, 6K, vertical and horizontal gutter pairs	M354-56	307-309var	230	400
33	***	AC	13 K corner block of 4, printing error "J. Ga"	359	313	50	220
34	***	AC	5 h corner block of 4, vertical perforation missing, rare	381	262Avar	80	540
35	***	AC	5 h corner block of 4, vertical perf. missing, rare	381	262Avar	80	300
36	***	AC	1 K corner block of 4, 2 K corner block of 4, 2 copies, horizontal perforation lacking, rare	385-86	264-265var	100	450
37	***	AC	Costumes, cpl miniature shts of 10	840-43	707-710	600	920
38	***	AC	same lot	840-43	707-710	600	400
39	***	AC	same lot	840-43	707-710	600	900
40	***	AC	Costumes, cpl miniature shts of 10	913-16	776-779	100	200
41	***	AC	same lot	913-16	776-779	100	160
42	***	AC	same lot	913-16	776-779	100	200
43	***	AC	Costumes, cpl miniature shts of 10	968-71	832-835	150	260
44	***	AC	same lot	968-71	832-835	150	250
45	***	AC	same lot	968-71	832-835	150	220
46	***	AC	Mushrooms, cpl miniature shts 10	1018-22	882-886	70	110
47	***	AC	same lot	1018-22	882-886	70	110
48	***	AC	same lot	1018-22	882-886	70	120
49	***	AC	Birds, cpl miniature shts of 10	1078-84	942-948	70	120
50	***	AC	same lot	1078-84	942-948	70	120
51	***	AC	same lot	1078-84	942-948	70	120
52	***	AC	Flowers, cpl miniature sheets 10	1148-53	1013-1018	70	150
53	***	AC	same lot	1148-53	1013-1018	70	110
54	***	AC	same lot	1148-53	1013-1018	70	110
55	***	AC	Praga 1962, 5 K miniature sht 4	TL1216	1080	180	480
56	***	AC	Butterflies, cpl miniature sht 10	1217-25	1082-1090	100	160
57	***	AC	same lot	1217-25	1082-1090	100	160
58	***	AC	same lot	1217-25	1082-1090	100	160
59	***	AC	30 h perms missing along bottom edge, rare	1219	1084var	100	400
60	***	AC	Praga, complete miniature sht 10	1263-67	1128-1132	160	240
61	***	AC	same lot	1263-67	1128-1132	160	240
62	***	AC	same lot	1263-67	1128-1132	160	240

63	*** AC Praga, 1962, souvenir sheets imperforate and perforated A1238-1268a	1134, 1134a	100	250	
64	*** AC Praga 1962—FIP cpl min shts 10	1269	1133	60	100
65	*** AC same lot	1269	1133	60	120
66	*** AC same lot	1269	1133	60	150
67	*** AC Crawling insects, min. shts of 10	1279-84	1144-1149	80	120
68	*** AC same lot	1279-84	1144-1149	80	130
69	*** AC same lot	1279-84	1144-1149	80	130
70	*** AC Unesco 1963, cpl min. shts 10	1331-36	1196-1201	100	150
71	*** AC same lot	1331-36	1196-1201	100	140
72	*** AC same lot	1331-36	1196-1201	100	160
73	*** AC Animals, cpl miniature sheets 10	1347-52	1211-1216	180	280
74	*** AC same lot	1347-52	1211-1216	180	280
75	*** AC same lot	1347-52	1211-1216	180	300
76	*** AC Flowers, cpl. miniature shts 10	1377-82	1241-1246	230	370
77	*** AC same lot	1377-82	1241-1246	230	350
78	*** AC same lot	1377-82	1241-1246	230	350
79	*** AC XVIII Olympic games 1964 complete miniature sheets of 10	1394-99	1258-1263	160	220
80	*** AC same lot	1394-99	1258-1263	160	220
81	*** AC same lot	1394-99	1258-1263	160	240
82	*** AC Art, 1966 cpl miniature shts 4	1574-78	1435-1439	160	480
83	*** AC same lot	1574-78	1435-1439	160	410
84	*** AC same lot	1574-78	1435-1439	160	440
85	*** 2AC Art, 1967, cpl miniature shts 4	1647-51	15077-1511	80	150
86	*** AC same lot	1647-51	1507-1511	80	150
87	*** AC same lot	1647-51	1507-1511	80	125
90	*** AC Art 1968, cpl miniature shts 4	1729-33	1555	50	140
91	*** AC same lot	1729-33	1555	50	140
92	*** AC same lot	1729-33	1555	50	140
93	*** AC same lot	1729-33	1555	50	130
95	** B First Airmail issue imperforate, signed Mrňák	Let. 1-3	C1-C3	300	470
96	** B First Airmail issue, Pofis 2A has short perforation signed Mrňák 1A,2A,3B		C4-C6	400	600
97	• B Second Airmail issue, on cover 247, Let. 4-6	163, C7-C9		100	240
98	** AC Air post 1 Kč perforated 12¼, signed Gilbert	Let. 8A	C11a	70	120
99	*** C Air post, 20 Kč perf 13¼:12½, signed Mrňák, Gilbert, repaired perf. Let 14C		C17b	800	850
100	*** AC Praga 1962, cpl min. shts 10	Let. 50-53	C53-C56	200	320
101	** B 500 h SO-1920, signed Mrňák	SO24	31	250	390
102	*** B 25 h SO-1920 off-centr, sig Gilbert	SO8C	27var	90	450
103	*** B same lot	SO8C	27var	90	220
104	* C Siberia 25, 50 kop, 1R (creased) 2A-4A	1-3		70	110
105	*** B Siberian, complete, small saber handle, 20 values, signed Gilbert	6-15	5-14	1000	1700
106	** B Scout Service 10, 20 h, signed Gilbert 3-4	not listed		3000	--
107	AC Praga 1962, Aerogram, Pigeon Post	not listed		120	180
108	*** AC Souvenir sheet, Montreal 3 Kčs imperforate, rare	A1606	1466var	1000	4650
109	AC Praga 1962, Aerogram pigeon post	not listed	not listed	120	160

(to be continued)

HISTORICAL FIREARMS

By M. Michálek

This Czechoslovak stamp series is a "first" in the philatelic world. Despite the fact that historical firearms are a subject of great interest, studied and collected by many, they have not yet been the topic of a stamp series in any country. The reason of their selection for stamp issue in Czechoslovakia is two-fold: firstly, collections of firearms are an important part of that nation's cultural wealth and secondly, over the past centuries Bohemian countries were home to a number of master gunsmiths whose products of outstanding technical and artistic quality are among the prize exhibits of public and private collections till our days.

To select from the vast quantity of available material six samples that would form a whole comprising typical examples of the foremost local and world craftsmen was not easy. Nevertheless, it can be said that the new series will satisfy both historians concerned with the history of firearms, lovers of cultural relics as well as stamp collectors. The weapons depicted on the



HISTORICAL FIREARMS

In February 1969 the Czechoslovak Post and Telecommunications Administration issued a new series of six stamps entitled "Historical Firearms."

- 30h—Pistol with wheel lock, Cheb, ca. 1580. Colors: Shaded black, red, pink and gold.
- 40h—Pistol with wheel lock, Italy and Holland, ca. 1600. Colors: Shaded black, brown, pale blue and gold.
- 60h—Rifle with wheel lock. M. Kubik, Praha, ca. 1720. Colors: Shaded black, red, green and silver.
- 1 Kčs—Pistol with flint lock. G. Devieux, Liege, ca. 1760. Colors: Shaded black, brown, pink and gold.
- 1.40 Kčs—Percussion duelling pistol. A. V. Lebeda, Praha, ca. 1835. Colors: Shaded black, nut brown, violet, pale blue.
- 1.60 Kčs—"Derringer" pistol, USA, ca. 1865. Colors: Shaded black, brownish red, pale blue and yellow.

The stamp series was printed by rotary recess print combined with photo-gravure in sheets of 50. The stamp dimensions are 33x33 mm. Three First Day Covers and a special postmark of the day of issue with design pertaining to the subject of the series were issued along with the set. The stamps were printed by the Prague Post Printing Office.

stamps date from the years 1580 to 1865, i.e. from the Renaissance, through the Baroque and Rococo to the Biedermeier period, and are the work of Bohemian as well as famous world gunsmith works. The first is a Renaissance pistol from the year about 1580. The stamp of the town of Cheb (germ. Eger) on the lock plate bears witness to the fact that this is a product of that town, renowned in the Renaissance and Baroque for its outstanding gunmakers' shops. The motif is supplemented by a detail of the richly decorated lock of another similar weapon. The second pistol, from ca. 1600, is distinguished by metal parts made in Italy and richly inlaid stock made in Holland. The third stamp depicts a long-type firearms, the only one in this series. It is a rifle with a wheellock and richly engraved, made in the workshop of Matěj Kubík, one of the foremost gunsmiths of Baroque Prague, who in his days supplied the leading Bohemian aristocracy and the Imperial armoury. His work was not only of high artistic grade but was distinguished by several technical novelties. The Rococo is represented here by a flintlock pistol from the famous G. Devieux workshop in Liege, one of Napoleon Bonaparte's court suppliers.

The romantic days of duels are represented in the stamp series by dueling pistols made by the best Prague gunsmith of the 19th century Antonín Vincenc Lebeda (1797-1857), who in his days supplied most of Europe's ruling families and by 1840, already, was also exporting his products to Russia and the United States. Dueling pistols were his specialty and belonged to the best of their kind in the world.

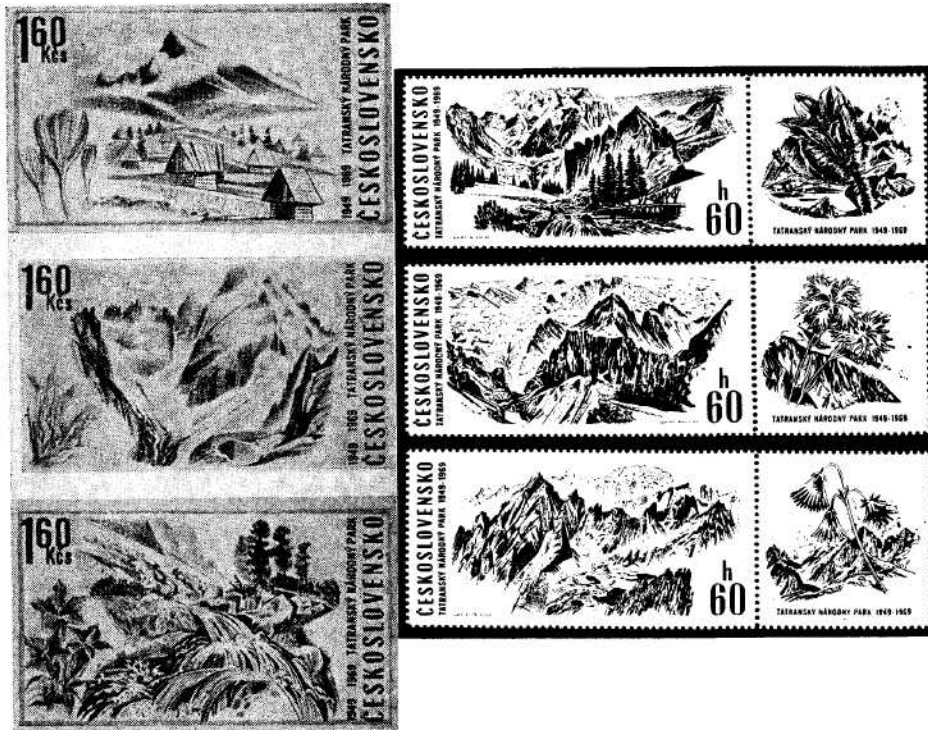
The last of the weapons in this series is the American Derringer pistol, which gained world fame for its role in that tragic event of 1865—the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States and champion of the rights of the negroes, by W. Booth. The second specimen, depicted on the 1.60 Kčs stamp, has one point of technical interest—it has an automatic magazine for metal primers which served to fire the pistol. The entire series thus forms a selection of artistically and technically unusual weapons of Czechoslovak and foreign make.

This Czechoslovak stamp series "Historical Firearms" is the work of two leading Czechoslovak artists. The designs are by Vladimír Kovářík (b. 1921),

author of a number of stamps with sports themes and more recently of the Czechoslovak "Bird" set. He also designs stamps for other countries, e.g. several for Ethiopia. Besides this, V. Kovářik is also a painter in his own right. The engraving of the new stamps was done by Josef Herčík (b. 1921)—one of Czechoslovakia's leading engravers, whose work in this field has won him several awards both at home and abroad. The subject of the present series is one with which he is well acquainted, having at one time worked as a gunsmith and gunsmith's engraver.

NEW ISSUES

TATRA NATIONAL PARK



On September 8, 1969, the Federal Committee of Czechoslovak Posts and Telecommunications issued a set of commemorative stamps entitled "Tatra National Park 1949-1969."

60h—Panoramic view of part of Ganek. Color: dark violet.

60h—Panoramic view of Malá studená dolina (valley). Color: dark blue.

60h—Panoramic view of Bielowodská dolina (valley). Color: dark olive green.

The stamps were engraved by Bedřich Housa and printed by rotary recess print in sheets of 15. On the right hand side of each sheet beside the vertical column of five stamps are coupons measuring 33x33 mm and bearing motifs of Tatra flora.

A First Day Cover, worked up by Housa and engraved by J. Goldschmied, is being issued with each stamp. The picture motifs comprise an eagle, chamois and bear printed in a single color.

- 1.60 Kčs—Velk zmrzlá dolina (valley) and gentian flower. Colors: dark blue, blue, yellow, brown, grey.
- 1.60 Kčs—Mountain stream in the Malá studená dolina (valley) and gentian flower. Colors: dark blue, blue, yellow, green, grey.
- 1.60 Kčs—Below Kriváň Mountain and colchicum, herb. Colors: violet, dark violet, green, grey, blue-green.

These stamps were engraved by Ladislav Jirka and printed by multicolor flat recess print in sheets of 10. The dimensions of the stamp picture are 41x23 mm.

A First Day Cover engraved by Ladislav Jirka was issued with each stamp. The picture motifs are partial views of the stamp motifs and are printed in two colors.

All the stamps, coupons and First Day Covers were designed by Jaroslav Lukavský. The series was printed by the Post Printing Office in Prague.

No matter whether one approaches the Tatra giants from the town of Poprad by the electric railway or by car via the highway the sense of fascination is the same. Above the slightly undulating and gradually rising landscape the mounting mass towers like a stage setting. And on a clear morning—say in the month of September—one has a breathtaking view of the green, brown and grey clad mountain range veiled in a faintly pinkish mist and topped with white peaks covered with snow and ice. There are far higher mountains than these in the world, but the High Tatras are the highest in Czechoslovakia, the topmost elevation being 2,655 meters (8760 feet) on Gerlach Peak. Lomnice Peak (height 2,632 meters, 8685 feet, above sea level) is the terminal station of the cable railroad and the site of the highest placed meteorological station in Czechoslovakia as well as of the Astronomical Observatory of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences. The High Tatras have a granite core, sedimentary cover and Mesozoic mantle. In the Quaternary they were covered by a thick layer of ice. The region of this mountain range embraces fields, pine forests, dwarf pine belt, alpine meadows and bare rocky peaks, the home of rare fauna as well as rare flora. It is not surprising, therefore, that Czechoslovakia has for many years past made special efforts to preserve the scenic beauty and natural wealth of this region for all time. This year is exactly two decades since the law creating the Tatra National Park came into effect. This national park embraces the mountain region of the West Tatras, High Tatras and Belany Tatras. The whole encompasses a total of 48,000 acres of which 2,000 form a natural reservation under the strict protection of the state. Here one will find magnificent land formations dating primarily from the Ice Age—e.g. valleys which were filled by glaciers, morainic lakes and multiangular rock masses.

The territory of the Tatra National Park permits the undisturbed growth of plants and animals which are protected as a whole for the two belong together. Amidst the rare Tatra and alpine flora one will find chamois, marmot, lynx, bear, eagle and many other rare animals. Even the wolf is to be seen here on occasion. The Tatra National Park has its own administration with headquarters in Tatranská Lomnica, there being also a research center and museum here. The purpose of these institutions is not only to conserve and investigate the wealth of this region but also to preserve and expand it.

The High Tatras are also of importance from the viewpoint of health and recreation. Scattered throughout are numerous sanatoria, hotels and chalets, cable railways, chair lifts, difficult downhill runs and ski jumps. The mountain lakes are frequented by hardy swimmers and sports divers. The High Tatras had the 1970 World Ski Championships. The region has a permanent

rescue service made up of volunteers on call and ready to help save the lives of tourists at all times. In this connection it is necessary to point out that the endangering of a person's life or his death in the High Tatras is almost always caused by carelessness and non-observance of the rules of safety. A memento for all is the well known symbolic cemetery that honors the memory of all the victims of these mountains, for the mountains are beautiful and attractive but also cruel and harsh with the ever present threat of summer and winter storms and avalanches. Even a group of experienced mountain climbers will abandon a planned tour when the warning of bad weather is flashed through the mountain valleys.

The two decades of the Tatra National Park's existence are commemorated by the issue of a set of six stamps designed by Jaroslav Lukavský, well known author of Czechoslovak postage stamps. This series is remarkable for several reasons. First of all for the unusually clear and clean line both in the panoramic view as well as in the details of the given subject, which can be presented from many different aspects. A further remarkable feature is the format and technical execution. Three of the stamps are of exceptionally large dimensions and some have a coupon attached; they are printed by flat recess print in a single color. The other three stamps are of standard size and are printed by multicolor flat recess print. This is the first time that a series of this make-up has been issued in Czechoslovakia and it has been received with interest on the part of philatelists, especially those who collect nature topics.

CATHOLIC STAMP ALBUM

By Ernest A. Kehr

Reprinted from The Brooklyn Tablet

The 10-koruna, indigo stamp issued for airmail service by Czechoslovakia in 1955, is a most remarkable one. Dr. Newman, minister of communications, wanted it to be especially attractive so for a design he copied an engraving made many years before by C. Bouda, and a Gobelin tapestry by Professor Teinitzer. It shows a general view of the Czech capital, Prague.

Most unusual is the fact that this stamp, authorized by the Communist administration, actually includes pictures of ten of Prague's most famous Catholic churches. At the top of the hill stands the St. Vitus Cathedral, and just to its right, the Church of St. George.

In the lower left and just below the cathedral, one can distinguish the St. Nicholas Church (with the rounded dome), Mary of Victory Church, Malteser, St. Joseph's and St. Thomas' Churches. On the right bank of the Danube River, is the Tyne Church (with the twin spires), St. Maria Schnee (Our Lady of the Snows), and the two Lutheran churches, St. Trinitatis and Adalbert, in the lower-right foreground.

With the exception of an Italian stamp, which consists of a montage comprising fourteen churches of Rome, this Czech issue depicts more Houses of God than any other ever issued in the more than 120 years since postage stamps were first introduced!

Please mention this publication when answering ads. Thanks!

TALLY OF EUROPEAN STAMPS ISSUED 1957-1966

Reprinted from Stamps

F. G. Eggenburg in "Die Briefmarke," an Austrian philatelic publication, has prepared a tally of ordinary, commemorative, and airmail stamps issued by the countries of Europe during the years 1957 through 1966, which should be of interest to collectors. This list does not include postage dues, service, parcel posts, and similar issues.

	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	Average	
											1957-1962- 1961	1962- 1966
Albania	14	15	19	28	23	72	88	109	111	108	20	98
Austria	10	19	14	11	19	25	17	32	24	30	15	26
Andorra	2	1	—	14	5	1	7	19	4	8	4	8
Belgium	41	52	35	61	34	37	40	36	45	52	45	42
Bulgaria	41	47	67	47	83	78	66	83	84	98	57	82
Berlin, West	15	7	10	6	21	9	8	12	20	25	12	15
Czechoslovakia	60	58	60	65	74	62	70	56	88	83	63	72
Cyprus	—	—	—	18	—	18	13	19	14	26	4	18
Denmark	3	1	7	11	12	10	10	7	12	11	7	10
Germany, West	32	21	24	20	29	15	22	42	36	31	25	29
Germany, East	70	65	81	70	62	65	85	125	75	91	70	88
Finland	15	14	13	16	12	13	34	9	15	9	14	16
France	58	55	48	65	47	42	41	40	50	38	55	42
Hungary	29	78	79	76	90	82	93	98	112	106	70	93
Gibraltar	—	—	—	14	—	—	3	3	4	15	3	5
Greece	17	28	27	24	38	15	35	35	27	39	27	30
Great Britain	6	28	9	18	6	4	14	18	24	36	13	19
Ireland	7	6	2	5	5	5	6	6	10	14	5	8
Iceland	9	8	8	8	12	9	9	11	11	9	9	10
Italy	32	33	34	27	38	21	19	17	22	27	33	21
Jugoslavia	31	36	42	36	53	49	39	36	39	59	40	44
Liechtenstein	12	12	12	15	11	12	10	12	11	14	12	12
Luxembourg	14	20	17	19	18	11	24	19	14	23	18	18
Netherlands	22	21	16	16	12	18	27	19	20	15	18	20
Norway	14	7	16	15	16	22	27	14	11	14	14	13
Malta	3	6	3	9	3	4	4	15	32	17	5	14
Monaco	19	16	26	43	22	31	38	42	14	36	25	32
Poland	50	41	62	70	71	81	87	104	92	87	59	90
Portugal	7	14	4	25	7	23	21	20	26	26	11	23
Romania	71	66	64	115	99	84	104	140	109	81	83	104
Russia	132	144	122	122	137	139	152	150	161	145	131	149
San Marino	24	20	29	48	23	46	51	28	25	30	29	36
Sweden	13	12	9	12	18	17	13	16	13	24	13	17
Spain	3	29	16	70	80	75	60	90	65	71	40	72
Turkey	62	86	99	100	32	26	56	45	58	48	76	47
Vatican City	14	23	29	31	28	32	19	29	19	27	25	25

STAMP MARKET TIPS by John G. Ross

IRON CURTAIN STAMPS

While in Europe recently I came across an article in the International Edition of the Herald Tribune which sheds some light on why most Iron Curtain new issues are way overpriced in the U.S.A. The biggest money market in Iron Curtain currencies is in Vienna. Although anyone living behind the "iron curtain" is strictly prohibited from exporting money, huge quantities continually reach Vienna, where it is absolutely legal to deal in these currencies. The rate of exchange varies daily, depending on supply and demand. While the collector has to buy new issues of stamps from Czechoslovakia at the official rate of 17 Crowns to the Dollar, one can buy all the Czech Crowns he desires in Vienna at 40 to \$1.00. The Russian Ruble is pegged officially at \$1.12, but in Vienna you can buy five Rubles for \$1.00. The Polish currency does not fare much better. The official rate is 25 Zloty to \$1.00, but in Vienna you can get 112 Zlotys for \$1.00. The Yugoslav currency is the only one that is sold practically at the official rate. It is interesting to note that there is no quotation in Vienna, however, for the Albanian Lek. Albania is shut off from the Western World so tightly that no one is allowed in or out.

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