

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

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Czechoslovak Philatelic Society

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Editor:

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Paper Study

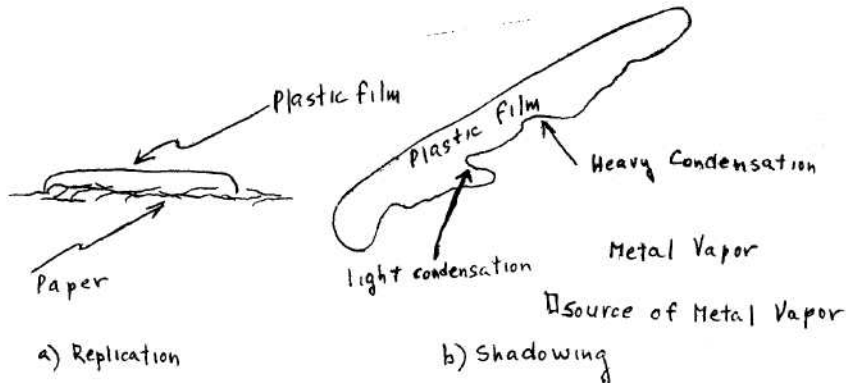
Washington Branch Czechoslovak Philatelic Society

Henry Hahn

Throughout the past winter and spring our group, consisting of Lada Rischmeister, Milan deLany, Jay Carrigan, Lada Vydra, Otakar Krejci, Jerry Verner, and myself have been meeting in a well equipped laboratory to learn and adapt some relatively conventional microscropy techniques to the observation of stamp papers. We would like to share the little we have accomplished with you and our fellow members, and at the same time solicit suggestions from those who have tried similar or related techniques, or those among our membership who are experienced paper technologists.

We all know that observation of papers through a microscope using reflected light at 50-100x is somewhat difficult due to the 3-dimensional nature of the paper and the limited depth of focus of the microscope. Transmission microscopy is even less rewarding due to the excessive thickness/density of the paper. The decision was therefore made to adapt a technique long used by electron microscopists (and even some visible light microscopists) known as replication microscopy.

This technique is generally used when one wishes to use transmitted radiation (electrons or light) but the object to be observed is too thick or dense. What one does instead is prepare a "replica" of the surface to be observed, this replica being a film through which electrons or light are transmitted. The replica is made by casting or pressing a film or plastic over the surface, letting it assume all the microscopic details of the surface, letting it set, and then peeling it off. Contrast is then introduced by a process called "shadowing," i.e., exposing the film to metal or carbon vapor which condenses upon the replica to a thickness which varies according to the contour of the replica. Schematically, the process looks as follows:

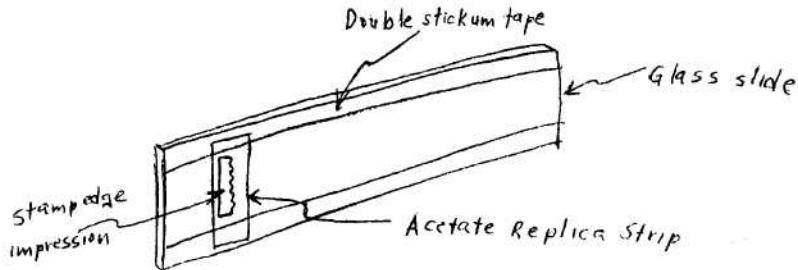


When the replica is subsequently viewed using either transmitted or reflected light, a positive or negative image of the surface is obtained.

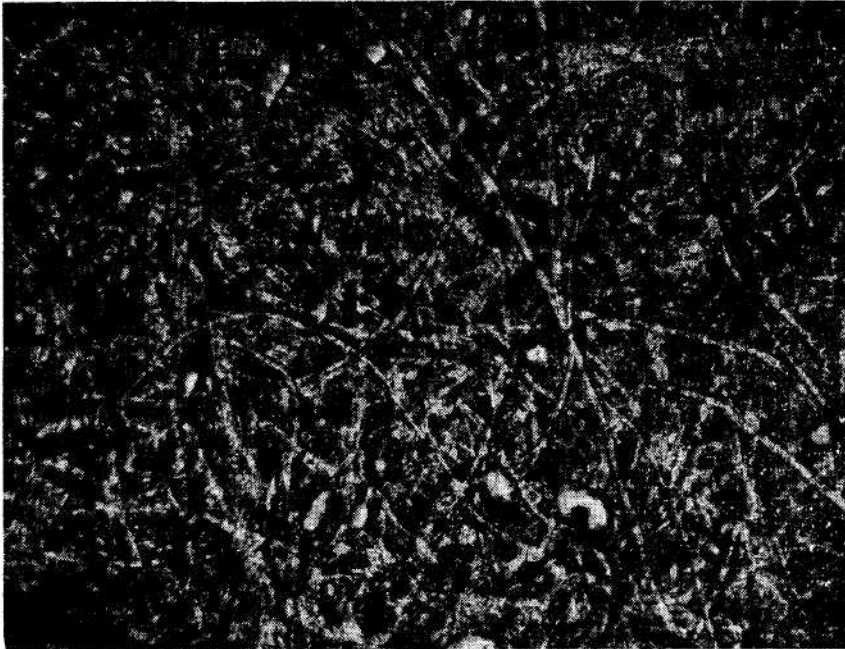
This relatively simple technique is unfortunately not without major hazard to the stamp. The plastic (replica) material must not only be inert to all of the paper constituents, but must also possess a critical degree of viscosity. An excessive amount will not faithfully reproduce the surface, while too little will cause excessive penetration of the paper, thus either staining it or damaging it when the replica is peeled off. Since the entire replica need not be more than 1-2 mm in diameter, and must obviously not be taken on the gum side of unused stamps, the replica is best taken on selvage or even off a single uninked perforation.

Replicas prepared by depositing a droplet of room temperature, quick-setting clear plastics almost invariably caused slight staining, or made removal (stripping) difficult. However, this did not appear to be the case when solid strips of cellulose acetate, softened slightly in acetone were pressed against the edge of stamps (along the perforation) using a small roller. The degree of softening of the acetate strip and the rolling to get the impression are rather critical and may require several tries to obtain a good one. However, the chance of damaging the stamp is not nearly as great as by the droplet method.

Once the acetate impression is obtained, the strip is pasted, impression up, on a glass slide, using double stickum tape at the ends of the strip. This is illustrated below.



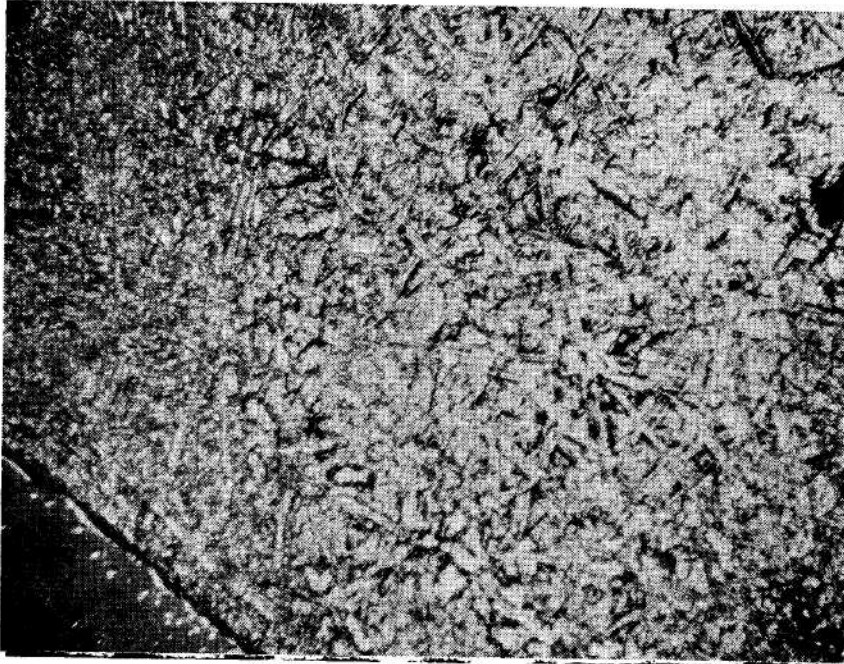
The next step, called shadowing, is accomplished in a vacuum glass bell-jar. The glass slide holding one or more replica strips is inclined at an angle of about 30° to the evaporation source, preferably chromium. The system is evacuated and evaporation continued until the condensate is readily visible on the replicas. The degree of shadowing determines the degree of contrast, and



(Figure a) 50x



(Figure b) 50x



(Figure c) 50h Hradčany. 50x



(Figure d) 200 Hradčany 50x

is therefore quite critical. Many quantitative methods for doing this reproducibly exist—though we merely eye-balled it.

Actual observation was carried out using a Reichert metallograph, using reflected light. Most observations were made at 50x, though some were made as much as 1500x.

At present we are still far too inexperienced to identify minor paper variations, nor do we know enough to distinguish true characteristics of papers from artifacts relating to our technique. Some features, however, are quite obvious.

Starting with the grossest differences, we compare replicas stripped from (a) a current U. S. Commemorative, (b) a recent Mexican Air Mail, (c) a 50h Hradčany blue (Type 5) and (d) a 200h Hradčany. All are shown at 50x.

The first (a) replica shows the fibers to be rather fine and long, very uniform in thickness and having a rather homogeneous distribution. The Mexican stamp, replica (b) appears to show a two-component structure, somewhat coarser than (a) and a somewhat less locally homogeneous distribution. Of about a dozen or so stamps examined, this one alone showed the two-component structure. The replica of the 50h Hradčany appears to be the poorest in that it shows least detail. In spite of this, one observed the relatively coarser, single component structure of the paper. Replica (d) of the 200h Hradčany is somewhat better, and shows a possibly higher degree of inhomogeneity in fiber thickness than the 50h. The black spots in the replica, particularly toward the right bottom of the photograph are probably gas bubbles or holes in the replica, while the thin lines near them are probably cracks in the replica.

We obviously have a long way to go—and our going will be rougher than it should be since we don't have a paper technologist to guide us. Hence, if this report accomplishes nothing except to bring such a technologist to our aid (or at least brings us some constructive advice from the membership) the space won't be wasted.

P.S. Members willing to spare us interesting paper varieties of Hradčany or anything else are encouraged to write us. Bear in mind we are only playing with expendable (preferably damaged) stamps—so don't send your 4K Žilkoventý Papír.

APPEAL AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

An appeal for funds to support the continued publication of the Czechoslovak Specialist was made to all members of the society in a letter calling for voluntary contributions by the Finance Chairman.

Those who responded were generous in their donations and the society is grateful to them. Up to the end of September, twenty-two members responded with contributions totalling \$265. However, this represents less than one-tenth of the membership.

Since these donations are strictly for the support of the Czechoslovak Specialist, the only monthly publication of its kind in America, all members must feel a sense of personal pride to have the Specialist represent their philatelic interests. This makes it a wholly non-partisan undertaking.

The object of this drive is to sustain the Specialist throughout the entire year of 1972. Since its costs \$140 per month for printing and mailing an issue, and our year from January to December covers ten issues, that means we must collect at least \$1,400 to assure uninterrupted publication for 1972. Only your individual generous help can accomplish this objective.

To those who have not yet sent in their contributions, this appeal is made

that you write out a check or money order for as much as you can spare as soon as possible. Mail it to Mr. Mirko Vondra, 132 Stanmore Pl., Westfield, New Jersey 07090.

To those who have already contributed, the society extends its heartfelt thanks and appreciation. The following is the list of contributors compiled during and up to the end of September 1971.

Frank J. Arnold, Francis J. Auermuller, Mary Bigos, Thomas Buresch, Mrs. E. Lee Collins, Henry Hahn, Charles Hiller, Joseph Janecka, Harold L. Keith, Peter Kleskovic, Rudy Kutak, Dr. George Mandler, Thomas Meeks, Franz Pick, Milos Polivka, Dr. Wm. Reiner Deutsch, Leonard Sobel, Joseph Stein, Henry Stollnitz, Glen R. Straka, G. R. Skopecek, Hartley Smith, Richard S. Steffel, Alfons Stach, Phyllis H. Thompson, Mirko Vondra, Oliver Yanko, and Frank Zaviska.

Since you are now being called upon to help support the continued existence of the Specialist, it is only fair that you have a share of participation in the publication. The editorial staff wants to know what kind of subject matter you like to read about so that future issues will contain a broader appeal to a specialized and limited reader. Too many subscribers often read no more than one or two pages of the Specialist and then file it away for reference or merely as a souvenir. This is not the purpose of the Specialist. This unusual publication offers a wealth of material on Czechoslovak philately and it takes many hours of concentrated work and research to compose most of the printed material. Unless these articles are of interest to its readers, the work is being done in vain.

In order to meet the demands of its reading public, the Specialist encloses a questionnaire with this issue which you are requested to read and answer carefully. Please return it to William Schoenig, 20 Charles Court, East Patchogue, N. Y. 11772.

Our Treasurer has on hand 3 copies of Padelky Ceskoslovenskych Postovnich Znamek (Forgeries of Czechoslovak Postage Stamps) at \$5.00 each plus 75c postage. Order from Thomas Meeks, 532 West 145th St., Apt. 6, New York, N. Y. 10031.

We would like to remind the members who have not paid their dues, to do so as soon as possible.

The Officers wish all the members and their Families "A very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year."

ELECTION RESULTS

Listed below are the officers elected for 1972-73, as certified by Mrs. William Reiner-Deutsch, Chairman of the tallying committee.

President	Mirko L. Vondra
Vice President East	Wolfgang Fritzsche
Vice President Central	Edward J. Jirousek
Vice President West	Emil L. Cuhel
National Secretary	Edward Lisy
International Secretary	George A. Blizil
Treasurer	Thomas Meeks
Editor	William V. Schoenig
Councilor East	Edwin J. Hanish
Councilor Central	Charles A. Matiaska
Councilor West	Mrs. Edna B. Cummins

We wish all the incoming officers a very pleasant term of office.

**HANDBOOK OF CZECHOSLOVAKIAN POSTMARKS
OF AUSTRIAN AND HUNGARIAN ORIGIN**

By Frederick Leitenberger — Translated by C. H. Osbourn

(continued)

II. CIRCLE POSTMARKS

(a) ONE CIRCLE POSTMARKS

A) Place Postmarks

a1) Thimble Postmarks

Their existence reaches back to the year 1868. There are different kinds of writings (antique and grotesque), but that will not be dealt with here. In the list of places and postmarks, a note relating to the forms of writing will be given. Thimble postmarks are the one circle postmarks up to 20 mm diameter. This small size confines them to single language postmarks.

F1 Single circle postmark

Inscription one language at the top.

a2) Single Circle Postmark

The language order of 1871, was the entrance of the double language postmark, and since the size of the Thimble Postmark which had been in use, did not permit the bringing in of an increased inscription, there was a general changeover to the bigger single circle postmark.

E1 Single circle postmark

Inscription one language at the top.

E2 Single circle postmark

Inscription one language at the top.

With the hour of issue,

(a) Under the year figure

(b) Over the year figure

E3 Single circle postmark

Inscription one language, divided above and below.

E4 Single circle postmark

Inscription one language, divided above and below, with hour of issue.

E5 Single circle postmark

Inscription two languages, above.

E6 Single circle postmark

Inscription in double language, divided above and beneath.

In addition to the foregoing postmarks (E6), the following postmark from Znaim—Znojmo, must be included. Now however this one shows in the date and hour of issue, the characteristics of the wheel postmarks, which leads to the conclusion that it is a question of a Renationalized Postmark. This renationalization appears in the Znaim—Znojmo, and also in the wheel postmark R26—where the Czech inscription was cut out, but later, with much stronger type was again set in. In such a manipulation it is not impossible that the inner circle should be omitted. The type of the foregoing postmarks, of course, show no variations. In order to avoid a false classification, we will not give this postmark a definite place, but will describe it, until we have more information:

E6a Inscription divided above and below,

Star decoration, between, at the top, Post office number,

Hour of issue, Date and hour of issue in wheel form.

(b) RAILWAY STATION POSTMARKS

The name "Railway Station Postmarks" serves to distinguish from the "Railway Station Letter Box Postmarks," (in this Handbook called "Box Postmarks," indicated by the letter K), the postmarks used by the station postmaster. They may be recognized in their earlier form by the word "railway station." In later forms and places, where the post office was designated, simply by a number, the true railway station postmarks cannot be distinguished, since in the place of the name "Bahnhof" (Railway Station) a post office number appeared.

- B1 Single circle postmark
Inscription one language, divided above and below.
- B2 Single circle postmark
Inscription one language, divided above and below,
With the hour of issue.
- B3 Single circle postmark
Inscription one language, divided above and below,
With the hour of issue.

(c) TRAVEL POSTMARK

The development of the amount of traffic brought already, in the year 1850, the introduction of the TRAIN POST OFFICE, in railway trains, where purpose bears the line marks around the number of the train post office concerned.

- Z1 Single circle postmark
Inscription one language above,
Train post number in square above the line, two line date.
- Z2 Single circle postmark,
Inscription one language above,
Train post number in square above the one line date.
- Z3 Single circle postmark,
Inscription one language above,
Train PO number in square under a single line date.
- Z4 Single circle postmark,
Inscription one language above,
Train PO number in square under a single line date,
Star decoration between the square and the inscription.
- Z5 Single circle postmark,
Inscription one language above,
Train PO number in the date line,
Post horn decoration beneath.
- Z6 Single circle postmark,
Inscription one language above,
Train PO number between star decorations in the date line,
Post horn decoration beneath.
- Z7 Single circle postmark,
Inscription in two languages, divided left and right,
Train PO number in the square, above the two line date.
- Z8 Single circle postmark,
Inscription in two languages, divided left and right,
Train PO number in the square, under Single line date.



+ D21 a



D27



Z9.



R6



D22



D28



Z10.



21



D23.



D24



R1.



22



D24



D4



R2.



R9



D25



D25



R3.



R10



D26



D26



R4



R11

(d) OFFICIAL POSTMARKS

Although not used like the other postmarks for the cancellation of stamps, nevertheless, they were used on stamps, and therefore deserve to be introduced here.

- A1 Single circle postmark,
 Inscription in two languages, divided left and right,
 With the Post Office number, middle piece—eagle, without date.

2. DOUBLE CIRCLE POSTMARKS

If one wishes to pay exclusive attention to the form of the postmarks, then the double circle postmark will be seen as the successor to the long postmark; so far as these carry a date mark. While these however, in the pre-philatelic time, were seen only in part, with the year of issue (and then only in the under arc of the circle), the official introduction of the year of issue, first in 1868, was ordered in the appointed form, and in this study we are taking notice only of the later, or philatelic period type.

(a) PLACE POSTMARKS

- D1 Double circle postmark,
 Inscription one language above, star decoration in the lower arc.
- D2 Double circle postmark,
 Inscription one language above, postmark letter in the lower arc.
- D3 Double circle postmark,
 Inscription one language above, star decoration in the lower arc.
 With the post office number.
- D4 Double circle postmark,
 Inscription one language above, postmark letter in the lower arc.
 With the post office number.
- D5 Double circle postmark,
 Inscription one language above, star decoration in the lower arc.
 With the hour of issue.
- D6 Double circle postmark,
 Inscription one language above, postmark letter in the lower arc.
 With the hour of issue.
- D7 Double circle postmark,
 Inscription one language above, postmark letter in the lower arc,
 With the hour of issue, with the post office number.
- D8 Double circle postmark,
 Inscription divided, above the place of issue, below the P. O. designation
- D9 Double circle postmark,
 Inscription one language, divided above and below
- D10 Double circle postmark,
 Inscription one language, divided above and below
 With a post office number.
- D11 Double circle postmark,
 Inscription one language, divided above and below
 Postmark between at the left.
- D12 Double circle postmark,
 Inscription one language, divided above and below
 With the hour of issue.
- D13 Double circle postmark,
 Inscription one language, divided above and below
 Postmark letter between at the left, with the hour of issue.

(To be continued)

Charley's Corner

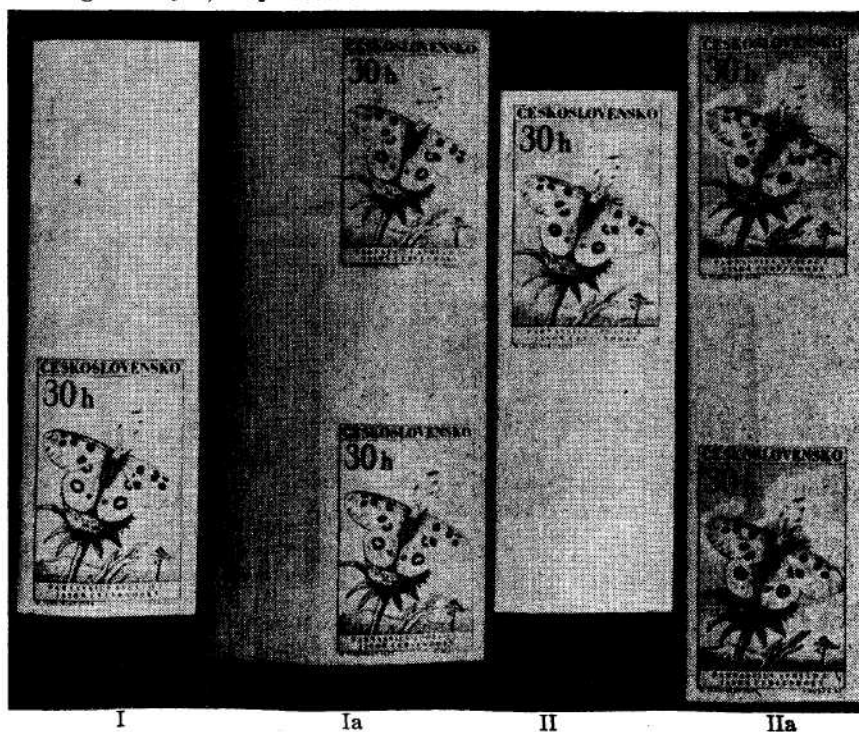
By Charles Chesloe, Box 237, Willow Springs, Ill. 60480

The butterfly issue of 1961 (Scott #1082-1090, Pofis #1217-1225) designed by the master engraver Max Svabinsky, has to be classified as one of the most artistic and truly most beautiful emission ever to be issued from Czechoslovakia. All values in the set were issued in miniature sheets of 10 perforated. The printing was done in two stages engraved and then by the photogravure process.

A while ago I was able to view and photograph some interesting varieties, of the 30 heller value. Plate number I and Ia show only the engraved portion of the printing in a sheet margin single and a gutter pair imperforate.

Plates II and IIa show the completed printing also in a sheet margin and gutter pair imperforate.

These examples are printed on gummed stamp paper. I have also seen an imperforate gutter pair of the 63 heller value in the full printing as issued. These copies apparently came from misprinted or damaged sheets and instead of being destroyed, they were somehow saved.



I

Ia

II

IIa

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

David J. Kaup, 17 Morgan St., Norwood, N. Y. 13668.

OMITTED FROM MEMBERSHIP LIST

- 479 George Pearson, 19 Exford Ave., Westcliff-On-Sea, Essex, England
- 908 E. Gorge, 11 Manor Way, London, England
- 457 Eric H. Rogers, 21 Nevin Drive, Chingford, London E4 L11, England

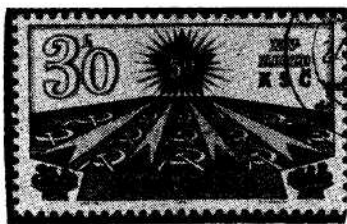
STAMP MARKET TIPS — By J. G. Ross

Reprinted from Stamps

Ever since the end of World War II Czechoslovakia has issued more than enough stamps, but occasionally some of the earlier issues seem to be less plentiful nowadays. Dealers in Europe, especially in Vienna, are advertising to buy some of these issues, as they can trade them for a good profit in Czechoslovakia for stamps they need. One set to watch for is the 1954 issue of three values which was used to promote sport activities for Czech youth, Scott Nos. 642-644. The 80 haleru was a "blocked" stamp, which means that it was not available to the public. One had to belong to a stamp club in order to get a single copy at face value, but if you paid in dollars you could have all you wanted at a much higher price than face value. Mintage of that value was 260,000 copies, while the other two were issued in several million copies. As most of these were sold abroad, there is a great shortage of that set inside Czechoslovakia. As I understand it, if you figure the Czech Crown at the official rate of exchange, that set sells for about 10.00 in Prague. Dealers in Austria are paying about 2.00 per set, which is more than the set used to sell for in this country at your dealer. If you collect Czech stamps or sports on stamps, make sure you own this set, it will surely cost more in months to come.

New Issues

14th Congress of Czechoslovak Communist Party



The Ministry of Telecommunications issued on 24th May, 1971, two commemorative stamps, "14th Congress of Czechoslovak Communist Party":

- 30h — "14th Congress of KSC"—Symbolic drawing with the five-corner star. Engraver: Miloš Ondráček. Colors: black, red, yellow, gold.
 60h — Symbolic drawing with sickle and hammer. Engraver: Jindra Schmidt. Colors: black, red, blue, gold.

The set was designed by Jos. Liesler and printed at the Post Printing Office in Prague by rotary recess print combined with three color photogravure in sheets of 50. The dimensions of the stamp picture 41x23 mm and 23x41 mm.

A First Day Cover was issued with these stamps. It was designed by Jos. Liesler and engraved by Jar. Goldschmied.

The stamps are valid in internal and international postal use from 24th May, 1971 until further notice.

The Sudetenland Story

By George A. Blizil

Reprinted from the German Postal Specialist



The 20th anniversary of the independence of Czechoslovakia was celebrated late in 1938, but it was a mournful mockery. Hitler had already taken the Sudetenlands and the country was in the process of disintegration. Yet the design of the "20th Anniversary of Independence" stamps (Fig. 1) was an allegory of Peace. A 2 Kčs and 3 Kčs were issued, plus a miniature sheet.

The Anschluss with Austria on April 10, 1938—a bloodless victory at the time—led Hitler to believe that further conquests would prove equally simple, if tackled in the right manner—the Nazi way. The Anschluss was commemorated by the Third Reich with a special stamp (Fig. 2). The border inscription reads "One people, One country, One leader" and shows a Nazi "taking in" his Austrian brother under the Nazi banner. There were two printings of this stamp, one in Berlin and the other in Vienna. The Berlin print (Michel 662) in dark green was printed on swastika watermarked paper, size 23.5x28 mm, perf. 14 x 13½. The Vienna printing (Michel 633) in dark blue-green was printed on unwatermarked paper, size 21.5 x 26 mm, perf. 12½.

Apparently at one time it was Hitler's proposal to "take in" Czechoslovakia like Austria. So the full strength of the German propaganda machine was turned against Czechoslovakia. It seemed as though Europe was on the verge of war; there was intense diplomatic activity; Britain's Prime Minister Chamberlain flew to Germany and, finally, after a critical period which will always be remembered, came the Munich Pact, or Agreement. Mr. Chamberlain returned to London, jubilant.

The Munich Agreement of 1938 provided for the ceding to Germany of the Sudeten (German speaking) districts, which were mainly in Bohemia and Silesia, but the Agreement was broken by Germany almost as soon as it was signed. Germany wanted Czechoslovakia and without very much fuss started to take it.

The carefully timed revolts in the Sudeten areas adjacent to the German borders were engineered by Nazi agents in September 1938, and quite naturally, to protect their "blood-brothers," the Germany army would be forced to occupy these areas. And so began the rape of Czechoslovakia!

One immediate effect was that local Nazi authorities in the Sudeten area seized supplies of Czech stamps and overprinted them with swastikas and var-



ious inscriptions such as: ASCH IST FREI, HEIL HITLER, WIR SIND FREI, and the like. In some instances new values in Czech and German currency were also surcharged, and instances also occur on German stamps being overprinted and used in the Sudetenland at this time.

Figs. 3, 4 and 6 are examples of provisionals prepared at Rumberg, where everything in sight was overprinted "We Are Free." These not only included regular and commemorative postage stamps, but dues and newspaper stamps as well. New values were also applied to some values. Michel lists 46 varieties.

Figure 5 is a used rubber stamp overprinted "Karlsbad, 1.X.1938" and swastika (Michel 54). Fig. 7 is a 50h rubber stamp provisional from Neuhammer (not listed in Michel). Fig. 8 is a 1 Kc light green ink rubber stamp



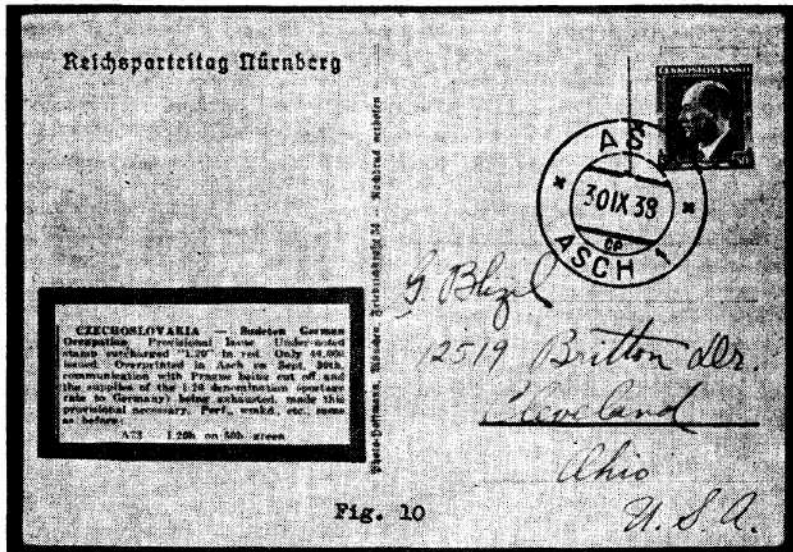


Fig. 10

overprint from Karlsbad (Michel 9).

To commemorate the Nazi "grab" at Aussig and other communities certain low denomination German stamps were overprinted for use in their respective areas. The block (Fig. 9) is typical, commemorating the occupation at Aussig October 16, 1938. The larger block is illustrated to show the overprint arrangement on the 3Pf Hindenburg stamp.

At the city of Asch (As) a shortage of the 1.20 Kc value developed. Current 50h and 1 Kč values were overprinted with a new value. Hence another type of Sudetenland provisional was created. An example is shown on cover in Fig. 10. This 1.20 overprint appeared on four other Czecho values, 10h, 20h, 50h and 1 Kč. These Asch provisionals were only used during a nine-day period—September 21 to October 1, 1938.

(to be continued)



Fig. 11

WANT TO BUY

MINT **MINT**
CZECHOSLOVAKIA

ISSUES 1923-1926
(Scott Nos. 92-118)

Full Sheets

Part Sheets

Blocks

Die Proofs

Color Trials

Plate Proofs

Rare Perforations

Varieties

Rare Watermark Positions

ARTHUR I. KESSLER

221 East 78th Street

New York, N. Y. 10021
