

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Official Monthly Journal of the  Society for Czechoslovak Philately
Silver Bronze Award Praga 1968

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March 1974

No. 3, Whole No. 339

1974 BIENNIAL CONVENTION AND EXHIBIT
May 24-26

COMPLEX
'74



CHICAGO

The largest showing of Czechoslovak philately ever assembled in the Western Hemisphere will take place at COMPLEX '74, where the Society for Czechoslovak Philately, Inc., will hold its Biennial Convention. The Exhibit will open on Friday, May 24th at Chicago's landmark La Salle Hotel, where some 117 frames of Czechoslovakia will be shown in open competition. According to Convention and Exhibit Chairman for the SOCIETY, Charley Ches-

loe, the SOCIETY will have a hospitality lounge at the La Salle; a booth on the exhibit floor for sale of philatelic literature and membership drive; a banquet and other activities to make the three day week-end truly memorable.

COMPEX, according to Dr. J. J. Matejka, member of our SOCIETY and COMPEX President, came into being in 1957 when some eleven major stamp clubs organized a conglomerate show to be held over the Memorial Day week-end in 1958 at the La Salle Hotel. The name COMPEX was derived from its full name—Combined Philatelic Exhibition of Chicagoland. COMPEX '74 is the 17th in a line of successful philatelic events. Each show has featured a 200 page souvenir program containing many original stories of interest to the participating societies, which include such diverse groups as Germany, China, Precancel, Jack Knight Air Mail, Scandinavia and others. The COMPEX awards banquet will be held on Saturday night.

Since the first COMPEX, the U. S. Post Office has given the show the first day of issue of the 10c Pan American Games, 2½c envelope, 1c Andrew Jackson coil, 11c and 13c Kennedy aerograms, and the 6c Flag coil. The United Nations has also used COMPEX to mark the first day of numerous new issues. Foreign governments participating in COMPEX include Sweden, Canada, and the United Kingdom.

Some 52 dealers will participate, and with its 1000 frame exhibit, COMPEX '74 will be the largest philatelic show West of the Hudson River.

Let's have a turn-out to beat all records!

Write for application, prospectus and information to our Convention Chairman, Charley Chesloe, Box 237, Willow Springs, Ill. 60480.

Advertising Rates of the Specialist

Amount of space	One issue	Three issues	Five issues	Ten issues
Full page	\$13.80	\$39.20	\$61.60	\$115.00
Half page	9.20	26.20	41.40	73.60
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2. All cuts, mats, etc., will be furnished by the advertiser. Advertisers furnishing typed copy and requiring art work and cuts will be billed separately. The above price schedule applies to space only.
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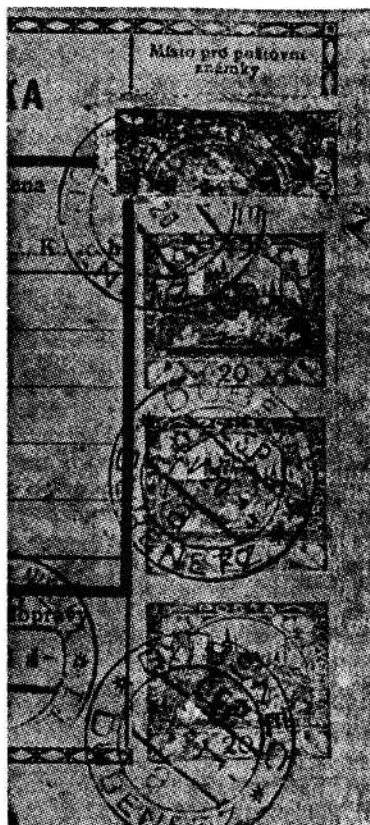
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From the Editor's Stock Book

A rather interesting question leading to a controversy between philatelic greats Jan Mrňák (who passed away in '68) and philatelic author-cataloguer Ladislav Novotný has reappeared in the pages of the Jan. 7th issue of *FILATELIE* (p. 17). The question concerns postal usage of the 1000h Švabinský Masaryk (Pof. 142, Scott 63) BISECT.

Mrňák, author of the pertinent section of *MONOGRAFIE II* states on p. 183: "In exceptional instances the 1000h stamp was used bisected in the vertical direction (Dubenec, Košice) . . ." In his recollections in *FILATELIE*, Novotný makes the somewhat rash assumption that Mrňák's basis for assuming the existence of this postally used bisect is based entirely on one item. A photograph of this item, shown here, was submitted to Novotný years ago by its owner Richard Bayer of Vienna. The item bears Mrňák's expert mark near the bisect. Study of this photograph by Novotný revealed traces of a fainter second postmark on the bisect, that the bisect is damaged, and that the paper to which the stamps are affixed shows traces of removal of what may have been another stamp. Though Novotný has never seen the original, he considered the item a fake. (No argument there). Novotný sent the photograph on to



Mrňák questioning his expert marking, but didn't get an answer for a long time. Eventually Mrňák wrote that he did not recall this item, and since he can't see the original he would assume that as long as he expertized it, it must be o.k. Since such bisects are indeed rarities, this answer surprised Novotný. Novotný apparently brought the subject up again after publication of the *Monografie II*, and this, according to Novotný, infuriated Mrňák. Novotný now suggests that the owner of the item, Mr. Bayer, submit the original for further study.

Granting that the item discussed is a fake, we fail entirely to follow Novotný's logic. The absurd conclusion and implication by Novotný must certainly not go unchallenged. First of all one can not assume that Mrňák's conclusion is based on this piece alone. Secondly, the piece appears to be such an obvious fake that it couldn't have confused Mrňák (Czechoslovakia's LEAST controversial expert of his day) even for a moment. Look at the postmark near the portrait, i.e. its transition to the stamp. The second postmark is clear as day. Thirdly, it would be far more likely to conclude that Mrňák indeed saw more pieces, for he did not refer to the bisect piece as unique in *Monografie II* and he would almost certainly have recalled the item had it been unique at the time of Novotný's inquiry.

Thus, in defense of Jan Mrňák's credibility, it is our hope that one of our readers will come forth with a postally used bisect, which would lay this question to rest forever.

Yvonne King, our England-based Editorial Board Member reports on the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain's forthcoming convention in Worthing (which is in sunny Sussex). Details will be available in next month's SPECIALIST, along with word on London's National Stamp Exhibition at which ARTIA will again be honoring the best exhibit of Czechoslovak material with a cut glass vase. Members interested in participation at either of the above events or wishing to purchase commemorative covers which will be issued at the Worthing convention are urged to contact Miss King (5 Alfriston Road, Worthing, Sussex BN 14 7QU, England) directly.

As we go to press we have learned that Mrs. Edward Lisy, wife of our conscientious and hard working Secretary is about to undergo a serious operation. Our wishes and prayers are with the Lisys for a full and speedy recovery.

We are pleased to report that our readers have a number of things to look forward to in the near and intermediate future. Our Editorial Board is busy working on numerous projects of lasting value to the SOCIETY and our hobby in general. These include Mrs. Henry Stollnitz's Index of the SPECIALIST, publication of the SPECIALIST Edition of the Higgins & Gage Postal Stationery Catalogue, Czechoslovakia Section (by Wolfgang Fritzsche) which will be distributed to members without charge, translation and publication in the SPECIALIST of Prof. Richert's book on Sudetenland issues, and republication of an illustrated translation of the PADELKY (forgeries) book now being worked on by Mrs. Jane Sterba. Ambitious you say?—You bet it is!

HH

RETURN POSTAGE — A COMMON COURTESY

Members of the Editorial Board of the SPECIALIST and numerous Committee Chairmen as well as the Officers of your SOCIETY give generously of their time and energy and of course love to receive your mail and inquiries. With the recent increase in our activities, particularly with respect to the LIBRARY, EXPERT COMMITTEE, the STUMPED ON STAMPS COLUMN, and the SPECIALIST the postage expenses are beginning to mount. You are therefore urged to enclose a stamped, self addressed envelope with all your inquiries. This courtesy on your part will be most appreciated.

SELL - SWAP - WANT

Every member is entitled to one free 15 word ad each year. Word count does not include name and address. Send ad to Wm. Shoenig, 20 Charles Ct., East Patchogue, NY 11772.

SELL—Prague 2nd Revolutionary issue, complete, 21 values, all signed Gilbert fresh-very fine. \$70.00. Srobar issue 30 values complete, signed 13 by Franěk, 15 by Stecny, 3 by Lešetický, 1 unsigned, 2 inverts signed Lešetický, Stecny, and 3f Turul signed Stach, Lešetický \$95.00. J. Adam, 24 Rossland Rd., East Oshawa, Ontario, Canada I1Q 2V9.

WANT—Hradčany plate numbers, blocks, proofs, printers waste, gutter pairs, rare perfs, cancellations, provisionals, any varieties. Om Mayeda 4-25-1 Higashi-Rinkan, Sagamihara, 228 Japan.

PC 1919-Overprint F from Second Plate on Hungarian Special Delivery Stamp

By Jan Kraus

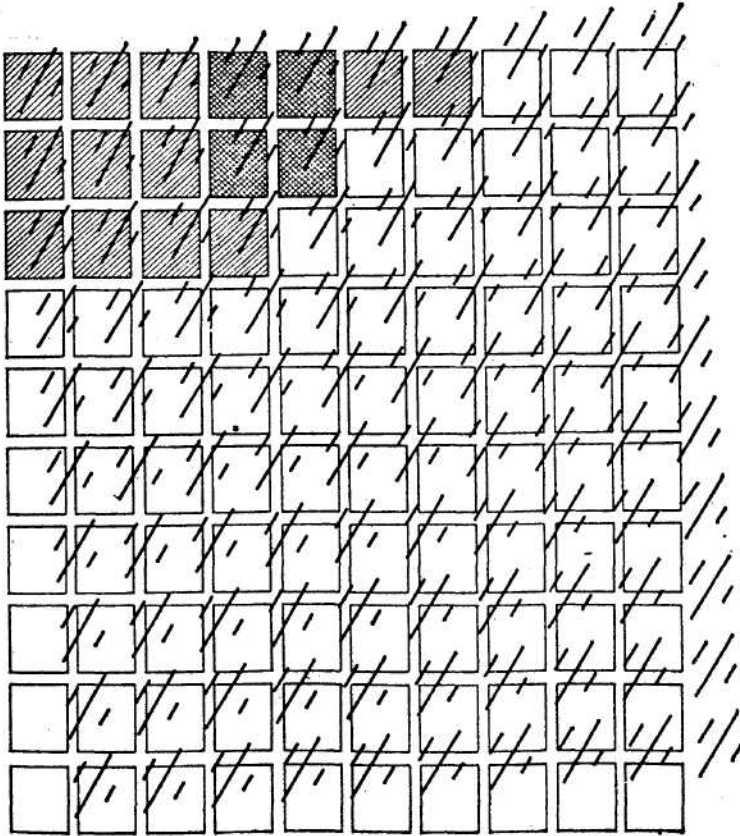
(Condensed and translated from Filatelie (720), 1973 by H. Hahn)

The second overprint plate, PČ 1919, of type F was assembled exclusively for a single Hungarian value, the imperforate 2f Newspaper stamp (Scott B98, Pofis 125). The horizontal dimension of the full sheet is 5mm wider in comparison with other Hungarian stamps of similar size.

The suggestion that the second plate was possibly used in overprinting other Hungarian stamps of the small format was already expressed elsewhere.¹ Finally, the suggestion was supported by means of a submitted block of four (4) of the 2f Special Delivery stamp (Scott B99, Pofis 124).

Conclusions expressed on the basis of the discovered block of four are, however, not objective. I quote from an article by Dr. F. Dvořák:² "In my judgment, this block of four proves that the second overprint plate of type F, prepared especially for the somewhat larger sheets of Hungarian Newspaper Stamps, was used not only for the overprinting of the Hungarian Newspaper stamps but also in the overprinting of Special Delivery stamps . . ."

I believe, that the submitted block of four does NOT solve the question



as to whether the Special Delivery stamps were overprinted with the second plate, and in any event it is not proof of the fact. It is impossible to demonstrate that the submitted block of four originated through the overprinting of a full sheet or even a larger block. Supporting my position for example, is the shift of the overprint to the right and toward the top, as well as the observation that the overprint has an incorrect inclination (steeper). In view of that, one must conclude that the overprint is faulty, i.e. one must consider it as printer's waste.

One must seek an explanation why the overprint has the incorrect positioning. Only two possibilities exist. The first, (assuming that a full sheet or at least a half sheet was overprinted) is that the sheet was inserted into the press improperly. The illustrate schematic is a reconstruction of this assumption; so would look a sheet, from which the block of four could have originated. It is apparent that such a sheet would be considered printer's waste, since the overprint over most stamps in the sheet is not in registry with the stamps and numerous stamps in the sheet remained without overprint altogether. The misregistry is of such magnitude that it is not likely that such a sheet existed. It is therefore necessary to seek an explanation within a second possibility.

It is generally known that individual stamps and blocks of stamps were used for overprinting in such a way, that they were pasted on paper and overprinted or they were used to complete partial sheets. The practice was such that, if possible, incomplete sheets were completed without regard as to the type of stamps, though stamps added were generally of the same denomination. That was so because the submitting of the stamps for the overprinting and the consequent accounting was carried out on the basis of the addition of full sheets of a single denomination; the combination of different denominations in one sheet would have made the accounting considerably more difficult. It is possible to assume that the block of four may have originated by the addition of a small number of such Special Delivery stamps to an incomplete sheet of newspaper stamps, in this instance a left upper block of four. This assumption is supported by several circumstances. For one, a small block is difficult to add to or paste onto a sheet precisely, which leads to the overprint shift and incorrect inclination of the overprint. Furthermore, an improperly positioned small block would result merely in a shift on a local scale with the misregistry not extended to the rest of the sheet to an ever increasing extent (as would be the case were this plate used for the overprinting of an entire sheet) is further reason why such an addition might have been justified.

In a previous article, Dr. F. Dvořák requests collectors to examine their collections in the hope of finding another block coming from the (possibly only) sheet.

Even though the probability of the origin of the overprint in an entire sheet is very unlikely, let us assume for a moment that the block of four actually comes from an entire hundred-stamp sheet. Even in this instance the search of the hypothetical additional blocks would be futile because such blocks would be almost unidentifiable. It is true that it would suffice to find a horizontal pair with parts of both overprints, which would in fact identify this plate since the difference in horizontal dimension, 0.5 mm in comparison with the first plate would be measurable. If, however, we look at the reconstruction of the sheet where the stamp fields are shaded in which one could identify the overprint type together with the sheet position, we see that this condition is met by only 16 stamps, i.e. only 16% of the sheet of which a block of 4 has already been discovered (the discussed block of four being

shaded in squares). The other stamp positions, because of the shifting of the overprint are topologically unidentifiable since the overprint does not correspond by its type to the sheet position.

Similarly, and purely by chance, we are familiar with printer's waste occurring in various denominations and it is often obvious that they originated through the addition of small blocks to incomplete sheets or large blocks. For that reason such waste is never considered proof of any particular practice and we can make no exception in the instance of the block discussed herein.

One must therefore conclude with the observation that the above mentioned block of four, which undoubtedly has the overprint originating from the type F second overprinting plate, is not necessarily proof of such use of the second plate or of the regular overprinting of the Special Delivery stamps, because one cannot equivocally eliminate the possible origin of the piece by an occasional and unrepeated means.

Ref.:

1—Monografie Československých Známek II, Prague, Pofis 1971.

2—F. Dvořák, Filatelie, 12/73, pp 369-70.

Prices Realized

The 357th auction sale by the Cross Stamp Company (551 Fifth Ave., N.Y., N.Y. 10017) took place January 12th. The major rarity auctioned off was the 2h P.C. 1919 Postage Due, large numeral (Pof. '73 10,000 Kčs) which brought \$675. While prices of good items showed considerable strength, none of the hysterical buying of rarities at full Scott catalogue prices which occurred in a N. Y. auction several months ago is evident. Prices realized for Czecho as reported by Cross and sent to us by Joe Stein are presented in full:

Lot	Description	Scott Price	Price Realized
531 ★	1919-20, 20h rose, wide margins, o.g., v.f. ---- (45a)	65.00	27.00
532 ★	— 30h red violet, wide marg, sig Gilbert, o.g., v.f. (47a)	85.00	31.00
533 ★	1925, Vert. wmk., 1k carmine, signed Kessler, rare, o.g., v.f. ----- (101A)	100.00	55.00
534 ★	— 2k deep blue, signed Kessler, rare, o.g., v.f. (101B)	130.00	80.00
535 ★	— 3k brown, margin copy, cent. to R, signed Tribuna, extremely scarce, o.g., fine ----- (101C)	350.00	185.00
536 ★	1934, Nat. Anthem souvenir sheet in original folder, scarce, v.f. ----- (200a-201a)	385.00	210.00
537 ★	1955, Souvenir sheet of 5, imperforated, o.g., v.f. (719)	20.00	8.00
538 ★	1919, Semi-Postal, 6h deep orange, black ovpt., rare, signed Bloch, etc., o.g., v.f. ----- (B4)	500.00	190.00
539 ★	— 1k carmine, black ovpt., sig Bloch, etc. og, vf (B17)	30.00	13.00
540 ★	— 3k claret, signed Bloch, etc., rare, well cent., og, vf ----- (B19a)	375.00	175.00
541 ★	— 3k claret, signed Bloch, etc., og, vf ----- (B19a)	375.00	130.00
542 ★	— 10k violet, sign Bloch etc., well cent., og, vf (B21)	150.00	55.00
543 ★	— 10k deep violet, signed Bloch etc., og, vf (B21a)	175.00	65.00
544 ★	— 10h carmine, signed Bloch etc., a rare stamp, og, vf ----- (B26)	525.00	225.00
545 ★	— 2h claret, 5h green, signed Bloch, well cent., og, vf ----- (B32-33)	415.00	215.00
546 ★	— 2h claret, signed Bloch, etc., og, vf ----- (B35)	55.00	23.00
547 ★	— 1.50k on 2k, 2.50k on 3k, 4k, each signed Bloch etc., a very rare set, og, vf ----- (B37-39)	600.00	230.00

548	★	—	2h carmine, signed Bloch as well as 5 other signatures, one of the rarest Czech overprints, well cent., og, vf ----- (B40)	1,200.00	675.00
549	★	—	30h carmine, signed Bloch etc., well cent., og, vf ----- (B45)	175.00	57.50
550	★	—	50h carmine, slight crease, perfectly centered, signed Bloch, etc., og, fine ----- (B46)	340.00	152.50
551	★	—	50h rose red, signed Bloch etc., og, vf -- (B54)	225.00	82.50
552	★	—	10k ultramarine, signed Bloch etc., og, vf -- (B57)	175.00	60.00
553	★	—	15h on 2h violet, sig Bloch, well cent., og, vf (B59)	65.00	31.00
554	★	—	10h on 24h blue, signed Bloch etc., well centered, og, vf ----- (B60)	65.00	26.00
555	★	—	1f slate, sig Bloch and others, rare, og, fine (B64)	500.00	190.00
556	★	—	3f orange, 60f green, signed Bloch, og, vf (B66, 69)	47.50	20.00
557	★	—	70f red brown, signed Bloch and several others, rare, og, vf ----- (B70)	500.00	190.00
558	★	—	10f rose, signed Bloch etc., og, vf ----- (B71)	110.00	42.50
559	★	—	15f violet, sign Bloch etc., well cent., og, vf (B72)	85.00	35.00
560	★	—	5k, 10k, signed Bloch, etc., og, vf ---- (B88, 89)	77.50	34.00
561	★	—	10k viol. brown and violet, signed Bloch and several others, og, vf ----- (B90)	425.00	150.00
562	★	—	50f green and black, signed Bloch, cent. to B., still vf, og ----- (B107)	100.00	25.00
563	★	—	1f green and black, signed Bloch, Tribuna, etc., og, vf ----- (B110)	200.00	80.00
564	★	—	2f green & blk, sig Bloch & others, og, vf (B111)	140.00	67.50
565	★	—	5f green & black, signed Bloch and many others, well cent., og, vf ----- (B112)	350.00	160.00
566	★	—	50f green and black, signed Bloch and others, well centered, og, vf ----- (B114)	85.00	42.00
567	★	—	1f green & red, sig Bloch & others, og, vf (B115)	100.00	40.00
568	★	—	1925, Olympic, 50h, 100h, 200h, cpl. set, og, vf ----- (B137-39)	63.50	32.50
569	★	—	1926, Sokol, 50h-300h, cpl. set, og, vf ----- (B140-43)	59.25	16.50
570	○	—	Sokol, 50h-300h, the 50h is unused and og, light cancel, vf ----- (B140-43)	43.50	12.00
571	★	—	1920, Air Post, 14k-28k, imperf. cpl. set, signed Mrnak, og, vf ----- (C1-3)	38.00	20.00
572	★	—	1939-61, Complete Air Post sets on album pages, og, vf ----- (C18-52)	39.20	8.00
573	★	—	1918-20, Postage Due, 5h-2000h, cpl. set, og, vf (J1-14)	34.60	8.50
574	★	—	1922-55, Compl. issues on album pages, og, vf (J15-94)	76.40	25.00
575	★	—	1939, Bohemia & Moravia, First issue, 5h-10k, cpl. set, og, vf ----- (1-19)	24.25	14.00
576	✉	—	Same set tied lightly to regis. cover, vf --- (1-19)	32.30+	17.50
577	★	—	Slovakia, 5h-10k, scarce overpt. set, og, vf (1-23)	105.00	41.00
578	★	—	Postage Due, Complete set, og, vf ----- (J1-2)	25.00	11.00
579	★	—	1939-45, Slovakia, the country epl. except No. 2, J1-23, P1-9, 20-30, maj. nh, og, vf ----- (3)	50.00	27.50
580	★	—	1920, Eastern Silesia, 5h blue green, sheet margin copy, og, vf ----- (3)	25.00	12.00
581	★	—	500h, 1000h, black ovprt., latter signed Tribuna, og, vf ----- (20a, 21a)	120.00	40.00
582	★	—	10h yellow grn., impf., wide margins, og, vf (24a)	200.00	55.00
583	★	—	20h rose, imperf., wide margins, og, vf ---- (26a)	250.00	70.00

584	★	—	Masaryk, 50h, 1000h, scarce set, og, 500h has slight crease, other vf ----- (31-32)	120.00	20.00
585	★	—	As before, signed Kessler, well cent., og, vf (31-32)	120.00	35.00
586	★	—	Balance of collection, og, vf (1, 2, 4-30, 41-50, E1-2, J1-11, P1-5)	37.90	16.00

NEW MEMBERS

- 1027 Jerry Kotek, 424 Corbin Road, York, Pa. 17403
 1028 Fred J. Kolecz, 25 W. 657 Prairie Ave., Wheaton, Ill. 60187

RESIGNATIONS

- 697 Regina Reiner-Deutsch (Mrs.), P. O. Box 24, Bayside, N. Y. 11361
 744 William A. Sandrik, 1221 Massachusetts Ave. N.W., Apt. 825, Washington, D. C. 20005
 966 Florence Mixa (Mrs.), 3001 Branch Ave., Apt. 514, Washington, D. C. 20031.

NEW ADDRESSES

- 5 Frank J. Kovarik, 2439 So. Grove Ave., Berwyn, Ill. 60402
 924 Marvin Albinak, 717 Hillen Road, Towson, Maryland 21204
 900 Richard G. Cirka, Rt. 1, Edna Drive, Grand Island, Nebraska 68801
 936 Robert T. Cassaboom, 240 Tamarack Dr., Berea, Ohio 44017
 338 B. J. Miller, 104 E. 40th Street, Room 705, New York, N. Y. 10016

"MLADÁ FRONTA" ONCE AGAIN OFFERS FREE SOUVENIR

The 11th annual contest for the selection of the best stamp issued by Czechoslovakia in 1973 is now in progress. The lovely souvenir offered by the Editors of the Czechoslovak daily "Mladá Fronta" to all who send in their vote consists of a piece of fine graphic art created by one of the most outstanding creators of Czechoslovakia's postage stamps. To qualify, the following two questions are to be answered: Which Czechoslovak postage stamp issued in 1973 do you like best a) due to the artistic conception of its design, as far as creation of stamps with original subjects is concerned, and b) due to the artistic level of the engraving, if another artist's work has been used as the subject of the stamp and why?

Your answers, together with a 7x5 inch self addressed envelope and two (2) International Reply Coupons should be sent by air mail to:
 MLADÁ FRONTA, Philatelic Poll
 Fanská 8,
 112 22 PRAGUE, Czechoslovakia

Your answers must arrive by April 15 1974.

VERY SPECIAL OFFER CZECHOSLOVAKIA

MINT NH Tête-Bêche, Gutter Pairs
 (Expertized Gilbert, Karasek, Mrnak)

SCOTT Description	POFIS	1973	\$
1a against	M2	I (2)	2.40
2a against	M3	I (4)	23.50
2a against	M5	I (4)	25.50
4a against	M8	I (2)	54.50
5b against	M10	I (2)	49.50
1a direct	M2	II (4)	195.00

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

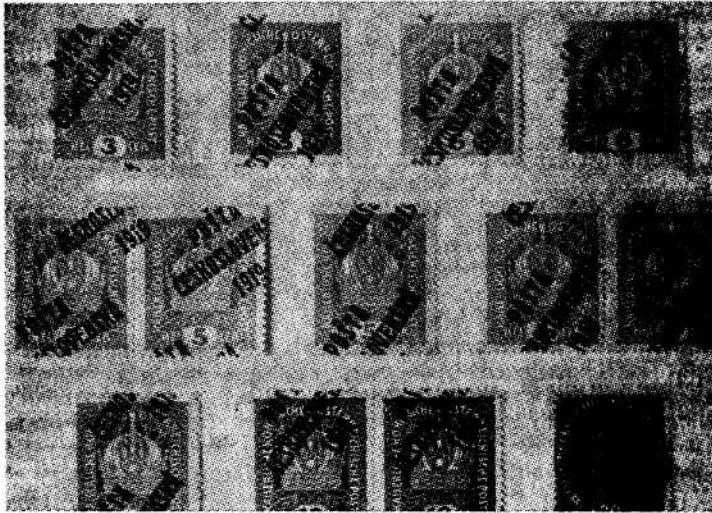


Fig. 1

This month we will continue our discussion of the Pošta 1919" series which appeared in the November corner of last year.

We will concern ourselves with the overprint varieties applied to the face and again only the Scott nos. B1-B17.

The most common overprint varieties are the shifted overprints. (Fig. 1 and Fig. 2). Many dealers call these double overprints because of the split overprint that shows in Fig. 1 on the single 5 heller copy. This is only a **SHIFTED OVERPRINT** and does not command a high premium. These varieties are legitimate errors.

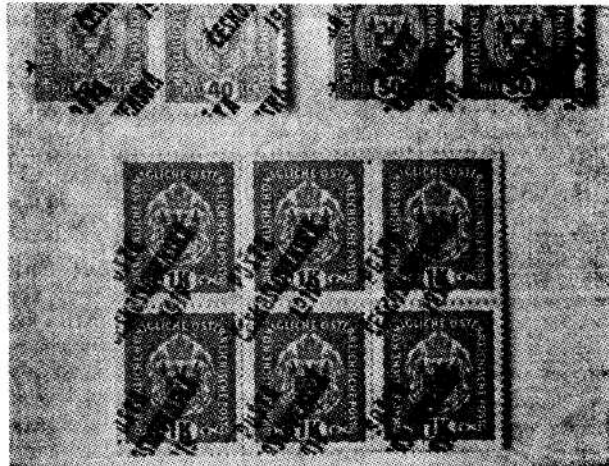


Fig. 2

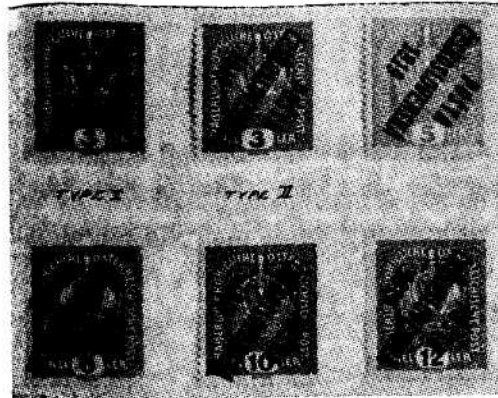


Fig. 3

Figures 3 and figure 4 show copies with the overprint inverted. This variety is scarce and commands a premium. Certain values are quite scarce.

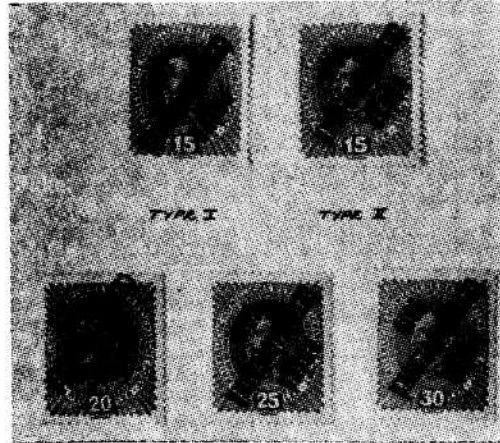


Fig. 4



Fig. 5



Fig. 6

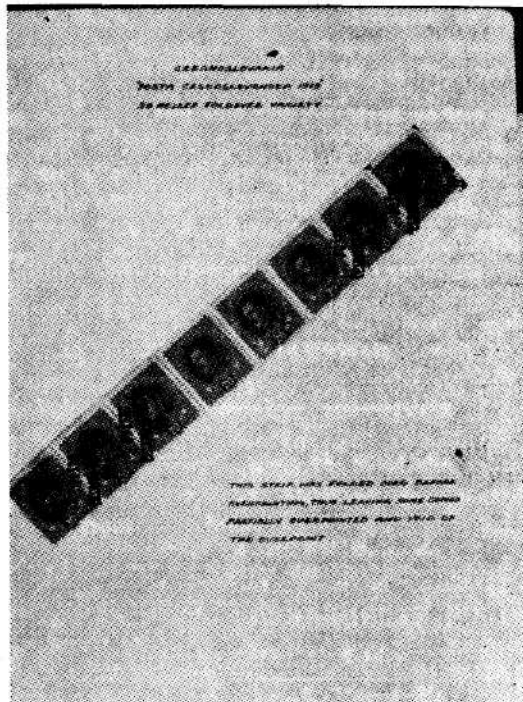


Fig. 7

Figure 5 shows copies with the double overprint and these varieties are not easily found. In our opinion, the inverted and double overprints were made on purpose for philatelic purposes.

Figure 6 shows a vertical pair, only the bottom copy overprinted Type II. These combinations are desirable items for one who specializes in this issue.

Figure 7 shows an interesting fold. The strip was folded over through the middle, therefore when it was unfolded the center copies are without the shifted overprint.

Finally figure 8 shows two other interesting foldover varieties. The 25 heller at the left shows the year date 1919 in the lower right corner and deformed. This was due to the corner being crimped up. The 30 heller at the right shows the stamp being folded over, when unfolded it shows the split overprint.

In future corners, we hope to show other types of paper folds, paste-ups and other interesting material in the "Pošta 1919" series.

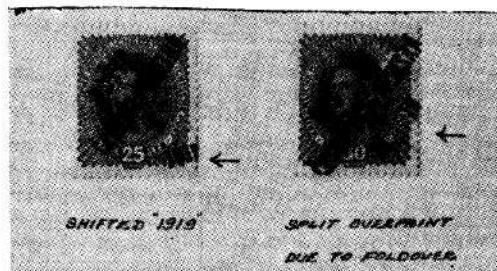


Fig. 8



Interior view of two of our 4 floors at 3 East 57th Street

we're more than just a pretty face or the world's most beautiful stamp store

Our activity in the editorial management of the Scott's Catalogs and our unique tradition as the world's first major stamp auction house, are your assurance of unparalleled expertise and integrity.

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