


THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Official Monthly Journal of the  Society for Czechoslovak Philately, Inc.
A.P.S. Unit 18 S.P.A. Branch 284
Vol. XXXVIII March 1976 No. 3, Whole No. 358

Specialization On A Budget

Paper and gum of the post-WWII period

By Richard Gray, editor

(Conclusion)

The immediate post-WW II period is the most interesting from the philatelic point of view because of an abundance of varieties, but it is already experiencing a steep rise in prices. Some of the issues like the Košice (Scott #307-314), Moscow (Scott #262A-265) issues and the Partisan S/S (Scott #292a) have been thoroughly studied and described in catalogs and specialized literature. Many of the post-1945 stamps and S/S have very interesting printing varieties and types (as many as 15) and some are listed and described in the 1975 Pofis and even more in Novotný. In my opinion there will be more in time.

The period from about 1950 to date has some of its stamps described in detail, but real meaningful study is still going on. The most striking variety can be found in the paper and the gum of these issues when you undertake earnest study. Few of the paper and gum varieties found a place in Novotný's Spec. Handbook as noted previously, but detailed study has not yet even been touched.

The paper varieties include thin, thick, hard, soft, semitransparent white, soft yellowish or grayish paper, and certain combinations of the foregoing. The gum is white, yellowish or brownish, thin or thick, smooth, glossy, ribbed or with a lozenge design. Not all the paper varieties exist with all the gum varieties. It seems that each issue has two or three different paper-gum combinations, which can be observed by comparing several samples of a single issue. I would like to point out some of the paper and gum varieties already listed in Novotný. As early as 1948, Scott #360 is listed as having the darker hue on grayish paper. You will note after a closer look that the gum is yellowish when compared to the lighter hue stamp on white paper which has a white gum. There is a definite correlation in all the issues between the hue and the color of the paper and the gum. Listed as a major variety is the quasi-granite paper of the 2.- + 1.- Kčs stamp (Scott #B164) in the 1948 "For The Child" issue. Scott #372 of 1949 is listed also with transparent paper in different color hue. Also in 1949, Scott #375 exists with a "white, brownish or 'creamy-yellowish' gum" as noted in Novotný's preamble to this issue. Under the color variety, "Dark" hue of the basic color is listed, and I do not doubt that it is closely correlated with the color of the gum. 1950 S/S Scott #434a exists in three types. According to Novotný's footnote the
(continued on page 35)

◆ ◆ EDITORIAL PAGE ◆ ◆

The Rising Cost: What Else Is New?

Our Managing Editor, Harlan W. Miller, writes in his Newsletter to all the clubs editors and officers: "...with postage rates going up tonight at midnight, my Scotch blood insists I get this off now...Address corrections from the PO will now cost 25c instead of 10c. Suggest you insert a notice in your next issue to urge subscribers to send their own address changes in. Foreign air rates are taking a drastic jump. For instance, most issues to Asia will run over \$1.25 a copy. You might want to revise your schedule of extra charges. If you are saying 'return postage guaranteed' you might be paying 40 to 50c each—probably more than the copies are worth...". Words of the wise. I present it here verbally to point out the full impact that the USPS rates increases have on the SPECIALIST. [I must mention that the "service changes" have been temporarily delayed; and a 16 page Specialist to Asia will "only" run to 86c.—H.W.M.] We do have members in Europe, Great Britain, Japan, New Zealand and Australia. We do lose money on the \$5 charge for Airmail Delivery. Our Secretary, Ed Lisy, informs me that at this time he does not accept applications for the SPECIALIST Airmail Delivery pending the Boards decision on new Airmail charges. Rumor has it that the USPS is planning further increases of some postal rates in the middle of this year. All this adds up, and our costs, despite the fast growing membership, are skyrocketing. I cannot help but repeat myself again in urging you to report promptly to us any change of address, to pay your dues or to increase them by becoming a patron member now, and to enjoy the many benefits the SOCIETY offers to its members free or at cost. For a lack of space I could not include in the last issue of the SPECIALIST my thoughts on one of the most important and beneficial services provided to our members, our truly outstanding Library. It is owned and serviced by the SOCIETY, and I urge you, the paid-up members, to use it as much as possible. It is important to your philatelic knowledge and development. I cannot think of any better way to enhance your growth and enjoyment as a stamp collector than by making use of our Library and other SOCIETY's services as a habit. For specific information write to the Librarian, Jay Carrigan or to the SPECIALIST.

I will part with you this month with the reminder that time is running out on membership dues. As one of our members quipped when commended for the prompt payment in early December: "Even the criminals pay their dues to society, why shouldn't I, of my own free will, pay my dues to the SOCIETY?" Think about it!

—RG

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paper of that S/S is of varied quality, average-thick to thick, and has white or yellow gum, and these variations in paper and gum do not have any bearing on the type determination. These remarks reinforce by previous contention that much more study has to be made before any authoritative conclusions could be rendered and published. For the 1953 S/S, Scott #586, several paper and gum varieties are footnoted and, for the first time in Novotný, with the indication of the assumed scarcity: "Paper is 0,05-0,08 mm thick [considered "normal" thickness of a stamp paper—author's note], rarely also 0,10 mm thick. Gum is in general vertically ribbed, rarely horizontally ribbed or smooth, white or yellowish, rarely also of yellow-brown color." We could go on and on. Then we note that for the 1957 S/S Scott #831 Novotný actually lists a price for a paper variety, albeit the same as for the "normal" paper grade. Both known types of this S/S exist on rough, grayish paper or white, thick paper.

From the foregoing one can readily see that the study of the paper and gum varieties of the 1950-75 period is incomplete and very spotty. This area of specialization is begging for the right people to begin a thorough and exhaustive study. I am sure that the persistent collector specializing in this field will be rewarded with many hours of enjoyment, satisfaction and, last but not least, assured monetary gain in the near future. The material, still plentiful and cheap, can yield for the specialist valuable varieties when the catalogs begin to list them and "catalog" collectors start looking for and buying them.

For the collector with a very limited budget it is still possible to do the study using the CTO (cancelled to order) stamps of this period. They are extremely cheap and plentiful and have the full gum. For the used-stamp collector there is only one way to go. He has to concentrate solely on the paper varieties, because the gum on the postally used stamps in contrast to CTOs is destroyed.

The mint-stamp collector has to be careful about the quality of the stamps he selects for the study. The discoloration of the paper and especially the gum by "tropical stain" will result in the darkening of the gum and eventually the paper itself, usually to a brownish shade. This type of a stamp injury is not common in stamps of recent vintage. Such damage is possible though if the stamps were stored under constant humidity and above-average temperature conditions. The stamps look like they were vacationing in the South Seas and have the appearance of a healthy suntan or a lightly browned toast. The very strong sunlight not only bleaches the colors but browns the paper as well and causes the gum to be brittle and cracked. Any of these preconditions could throw the results of your study right out of the window, as will an improper and constantly changed light source under which you conduct your study. If you work one day by the North-side window in daylight, another day in a bright green painted study-room with the fluorescent light from which your wife will chase you the next day to the less bright, pink decorated child's room, where you will work under a 60 watt incandescent bulb, your study results will be worthless. All these pitfalls could be easily avoided by a conscientious collector.

The enjoyment, satisfaction and feeling of accomplishment will be your biggest reward for a job well done on a budget, no less, not to mention the recognition bestowed on you by your fellow collectors. With the possibility of monetary gain, the most important part will be the contribution to the overall general knowledge of Czechoslovak stamps and a base built by you as an individual for a broader study by others in the future.

By Air, Land or Sea • • •

2h. Special Delivery 1919

I have read with a great deal of interest the articles by C. J. Pearce in the *Specialist* for April and May 1975, and would like to add the following varieties to those mentioned in the articles in the hope that somebody can identify the positions and plates.

- A) Vertical line on the wing of the left dove
- B) Dot on the wing of the right dove
- C) Dot on the left leaf of the bottom right group
- D) White dot after the C of Cesko; stamp with the 1926 overprint Noviny.
- E) In position 91, plate II (Pearce), the stamp in my collection, has, in addition, a dot on the middle leaf of the bottom right group, the A of Mucha underlined, and two small dots on the figure 2.

Sketches below.

Tom Austin, SCP #857, Costa Rica, C. A.



Ed. note: As the original stamps were not enclosed for examination, we do not have comments on this letter, and we are asking the readers to examine their copies and direct their findings to Tom Austin, SCP #857.

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Did you know

We learned with deep sorrow that our member Leonard Sobel passed away in his Brooklyn, N. Y. home. Our sincere sympathy to all members of his family.—Society for Czechoslovak Philately.

● Our branches are doing a fine job. The Midwest Branch member Peter Mayeux sent us the copy of a Newsletter issued periodically for the information of the twelve Branch members, seven of whom are also members of SCP. The Branch plans are for the participation and meeting during the CIAPEX Oct. 8-10, 1976. Board member Mirko Vondra reports about the well attended meetings of the N.Y.-N.J. Branch, where the mass-voting for our new Masthead took place. The Washington Branch holds meetings each month with a good attendance record. Let us hope that we will receive more good news from our other branches as well.

● Our member from the Chicagoland, Václav Vaník reports some interesting figures from his big (and successful) Mail Sale in the Dec. issue of the SPECIALIST. These figures only confirm the fact that the prices of the Czechoslovak stamps keep pace with the general price increases on the stamp market. Forty-seven bidders purchased stamps for a total of \$3,186, bidding on 60% of the listed lots. Some of the lots were covered with up to ten bids. The First Republic material in the lots #1-50 received at least three bids for each lot ranging from low of 50% to high of 200% of the listed prices. Slovakia Scott #2-23, signed, was sold for \$50, Czechoslovak Legion in Siberia (overprinted "Baličky do vlasti") \$200, same with overprint "Jugosl. puk" \$230, Scott C24 color error brown \$100, Scott C1-3 blk. of four \$100, Boh.-Mor. Scott #1-19 in blk of four \$54. Pošta Českosl. 1919 overprints were strongly bid and realized an average of 80% of the catalog prices. Especially strong interest was for Special Delivery material with realization of 50% above the listed prices. The Post-WWII issues after 1948 did not go at all, even the M/S of ten 1955 National Costumes (Scott #707-10) which were sold for \$76 mint and \$47 used. 1945 Košice issue gutter pairs realized higher than listed prices. The Scout set overprinted "Arrival of President Masaryk" was sold for a telephone bid from the East Coast for \$625!!! There is no sign of a market softening at this time; rather more price increases in the near future are seen in my crystal ball.

● The word from Prague is that more and more collectors are looking for the Košice issue material, but the picking is slim indeed and prices are rising. This issue, printed in unsettled end-of-the-war conditions of early 1945 is considered by many as the "modern Hradčany issue" with plenty of interesting varieties in paper, gum, and color shades and four types for each stamp. The Košice S/S is equally interesting and exists in fifteen types, with the "broken leg" variety already listed and priced in the Pofis catalog. A detailed study of this issue (Scott #307-14) was published in a book, which was sold out shortly after appearing on the market (incidentally, one copy is owned by our SOCIETY's excellent Library). The height of the interest is reflected in the want-ads. Every issue of Filatelie has two or three want-ads for stamps and S/S of this issue, especially in larger blocks for study purposes. The word is that the study is hampered by a lack of a sufficient number of larger pieces, not to speak of the full sheets, which are simply nonexistent. The extremely small number of trial printings and even printer's waste does not help to decide with authority some of the questions still unanswered for this issue.

—RG

From the President's Stock Book

By Henry Hahn, 2936 Rosemoor Lane, Fairfax, VA 22030



INTERPHIL '76 organizational activities have shifted into high gear. We, of course, refer to what promises to be the finest (and largest) philatelic happening under one roof in the U. S.—namely the Seventh U. S. International Philatelic Exhibition, to be held in Philadelphia, Pa., May 29 to June 6, 1976.

Speaking at a recent Director's meeting, INTERPHIL Director Col. James T. De Voss said: ". . . we are particularly pleased with the quality and scope of foreign entries.

This proves that philately's appeal knows no geographic boundaries. International friendship through philately transcends racial, religious and political barriers." The final count of foreign applications showed that 387 entries for 2502 frames were requested from 44 different countries—including Czechoslovakia. By contrast, U. S. requests totaled 336 for 2452 frames. Applicants from nine of the foreign countries requested 100 or more frames each. This list was headed by Great Britain (212 Frames), followed by West Germany, Switzerland, Canada, Japan, South Africa, France, Italy and Sweden.

Even with INTERPHIL'S mammoth capacity to exhibit just under 3,000 frames, about 2000 had to be rejected—either by turning down complete exhibits or by reducing the number of frames allowed nearly each successful applicant. This was a long and arduous task, particularly since 113 of the collections entered had already won small and large GOLD medals at other INTERNATIONAL exhibitions.

Our own SOCIETY participation plans are beginning to take form, though not as rapidly as we had hoped. Though we are INTERPHIL '76 guarantors, donors of an award and are represented by a number of our members at the "top," we have not as yet been successful in securing a table on the floor of the show. But we are still trying.

The date of our major activities has been set for the SECOND week-end of INTERPHIL '76—i.e. Saturday and Sunday, June 5th and 6th. On that week-end we will operate a hospitality suite at the Bellevue Statford Hotel in which we will have our "table" (in the event that we will not have one on the floor of the show)—and to which we hope our visiting members, families and friends will flock to renew old acquaintances and make new friends. A luncheon or a banquet is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, with INTERPHIL '76 judge and Czechoslovakia's INTERPHIL Commissioner, Ing. Ladislav Dvoráček, as our invited guest. A meeting of the SOCIETY followed by a Board meeting is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, June 6th.

Since our last writing we have learned that Mrs. Kay Goodman of Great Britain will be exhibiting 4 frames of "Czechoslovak Army in Siberia," bringing the reported number of Czechoslovak and SOCIETY exhibitors to 8—with more surely to come. Word on Mrs. Goodman has reached us through our active member and staunch supporter, Yvonne King of Worthing, England, who will herself be exhibiting at the British National.

In order to help us estimate the number of attendees at our banquet and other activities, everyone planning to attend INTERPHIL '76 at ANY time is requested to contact me.

The Issues, Surcharges, Cancellations and Vignettes of the Sudetenland

(1880-1970)

By Roger Richet, SCP — Translated by Anne Vondra

Note: The original French edition of the book contains some 300 illustrations which greatly enhance the enjoyment and understanding of this unillustrated, serialized translation. Serious students of this topic are urged to purchase the original, paper bound French edition from the SOCIETY. Please see advertisement appearing elsewhere in this issue.

(Continued)

There are actually two types of overprints in this issue, both definitely found in the various towns mentioned above and to be described in detail shortly. The two types are believed to have been in use at the same time because of the big demand for stamps. The rubber stamp had to be duplicated many times to put out enough overprinted stamps and no two were exactly alike.

Type I: This smaller overprint is generally clearer and more neatly applied than the Type II. Its first line measures 13 mm. and its second line 6 mm. The small letters are 2mm. high and the capitals are 3 mm. The arms of the swastika measure 5 mm. across and $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. thick. From top to bottom the overprint measures 15 mm.

(Pictures)

For the most part, the overprints, whether of Type I or Type II, were applied at the post office on the stamps before being sold, but when a user presented a piece of mail with Czech stamps already on it, the overprint was applied on the spot, with the result that very often the cover as well as the stamp got some of the overprint.

Type II: In general appearance the second type of overprint resembled the first, but there were easily recognized differences, as follows:

1. The first line of the overprint is 15 mm. long, and the second, 8 mm. This difference derives chiefly from the much larger size of the first letter, the "W", which is not only distinctive in its size but also especially rounded in its parts, or strokes.
2. From top to bottom the overprint is 17 mm.
3. The small letters are the same 2 mm. high, but the capitals are $3\frac{1}{2}$ mm.
4. The swastika is much smaller since the entire spread of the arms is no more than 4 mm.
5. A final point of difference is in the final "d" of the first line of the overprint. In Type I this letter ends in a straight line with a clear inclination towards the left, in Type II the letter ends in a slight curve with a kind of tuft pointing to the right.

Here are some examples of this second type of overprint:

(Pictures)

This last cancellation pictured is part of the marvellous and extremely rare issue made up of three values 75 to 77 on cover in the personal collection of Monsieur F. Daulard, engineer, of Strasbourg, who is world famous and a recognized specialist in German philately.

The Rumburg Overprints

Rumburg (Rumburk) is a border town of 10,000 population of whom an overwhelming majority of 90% were German. It is located in northern Bohemia on the N.N.E. border, 92 km. from Prague. This town is famous for its textile and metallurgic industries.

The Rumburk overprints are typographic, printed in a beautiful shining black, bordering upon gilt. Produced in the workshops of the Rumburk printer, Heindrich Pfeiffer, the issue consists of a total of 56 values, of four different types, as follows:

Type I Overprint (Picture)

Coat of Arms 1929-31:	(Yvert Nos.)	issued
1—5 h. blue	(252)	2,790
2—10 h. brown	(253)	29,800
3—20 h. red	(254)	61,800
4—25 h. green	(255)	3,680
5—30 h. lilac	(256)	48,900

Of course, all the color varieties of the Czech stamps exist.

Portraits and views 1931-39:

6—40 h. blue	(308)	33,800
7—50 h. green	(309)	107,900
8—60 h. violet	(310)	7,550
9—1 Kč. carmine	(302)	13,050
10—1.20 Kč. lilac	(311)	33,700
11—1.50 Kč. carmine	(312)	21,800
12—1.60 Kč. olive	(312a)	124,200
13—2 Kčs. green	(313)	9,400
14—2.50 Kčs. blue	(314)	8,600
15—3 Kčs. brown-lilac	(315)	4,300
16—3.50 Kčs. lilac-violet	(316)	4,350
17—4 Kčs. lilac	(317)	4,384
18—5 Kčs. dark green	(318)	9,100

Various issues 1938:

19—50 h. green (Plzeň)	(343)
20—50 h. green (Košice)	(344)

This Type I overprint of Rumburg is identical in all details to the hand stamp overprint of Reichenberg (Liberec) described above. Two different typographic impressions were made for this overprint. Impression A:

1) The last letter of the first line of the overprint, the "d" of "Sind," points upward in a curved line.

2) The letter "i" of "frei!" (second line) is directly under the letter "s" of "sind" of the first line, and the exclamation point is directly under the "i" of "sind".

3) The top point of the swastika which is below the legend is clearly to the left of the vertical part of the straight part of the letter "e" of "frei!" (second line).

Impression B:

1) The final "d" of the first line ends in a straight line leaning clearly towards the left with no curvature.

2) The "i" of "frei!" and the exclamation point of the second line are slightly to the left of the vertical from "si" in "sind".

3) The top point of the swastika is right under the straight part of the letter "e" of "frei!"

Besides the two impressions A and B cited above, the 1 Kč red portrait of Masaryk (No. 9) was stamped with two different overprints of the "Wir sind frei!" legend: in one the final exclamation point is positioned farther away from the words of the legend than in the other.

This variation may also be found in other values of the above series. The swastika under the legend "Wir sind frei!" measures 7½ mm. across and its arms are 5 mm. long.

Type II Overprint

This overprint was composed of three horizontal lines from top to bottom. On the first line is "Wir sind frei", on the second, the swastika, and on the third, the change in value (50 or 100 h. franko). The components of this overprint have the same dimensions as those of Type I.

Newspaper Stamps 1929 (with revaluations):

21—100 on 10 h. brown-violet	J.4	9,700
22—100 on 20 h. blue	J.5	
23—100 on 30 h. dark-brown	J.6	
24—100 on 50 h. red-orange	J.7	
25—100 on 100 h. red-brown	J.8	

Newspaper Stamps 1937:

26—50 h. on 2 h. ochre	J.17	
27—50 h. on 5 h. light blue	J.18	
28—50 h. on 7 h. red	J.19	
29—100 h. on 2 h. ochre	J.17	
30—100 h. on 5 h. light blue	J.18	
31—100 h. on 7 h. red	J.19	
32—100 h. on 9 h. emerald green	J.20	8,500
33—100 h. on 10 h. carmine brown	J.21	11,200
34—100 h. on 12 h. dark ultramarine	J.22	16,200
35—100 h. on 20 h. dark green	J.23	36,000
36—100 h. on 50 h. dark blue	J.24	45,300
37—100 h. on 1 Kc olive green	J.25	10,000

Type II Overprint

Postage Due Stamps of 1928:

38—100 h. on 5 h. red	T.55	9,900
39—100 h. on 10 h. red	T.56	3,750
40—100 h. on 20 h. red	T.57	2,749
41—100 h. on 30 h. red	T.58	6,200
42—100 h. on 40 h. red	T.59	1,919
43—100 h. on 50 h. red	T.60	1,800
44—100 h. on 60 h. red	T.61	4,800
45—100 h. on 1 Kc ultramarine	T.62	4,200

The number of stamps issued was provided by Dr. Dub in 1942, shortly after their date of issue.

(Pictures)

46—100 h. on 2 Kcs ultramarine	T.63
47—100 h. on 5 Kcs ultramarine	T.64
48—100 h. on 10 Kcs ultramarine	T.65
49—100 h. on 20 Kcs ultramarine	T.66

These four last values, of the greatest rarity, do indeed exist as I have seen them myself, but most specialized catalogs don't mention them. They were revalued but were never put in service because of the small number issued—200 to 300 in all.

The overprint consisted of three lines. On the first line was the legend "Wir sind frei!", on the second line the number "100" in large figures and on the third the word "franko" with a swastika on either side, the arms measuring 5 mm.

In this series of overprinted postage due stamps, there were quite a few which were very large, 30 mm. high, whereas the ordinary dimension was 25 to 26 mm. This is not so surprising since these oversize stamps were part of the Czech issue of postage dues well-known to all collectors

Type IV Overprint

- 50—50 h. green (Sokols—333)
- 51—50+50 h. green (Children in art—335)
- 52—1 Kč+50 h. claret (Children in art—336)
- 53—50 h. green (Bachmač—337)
- 54—50 h. green (Legionnaires—338)
- 55—50 h. green (Legionnaires—339)
- 56—2 Kčs dark grey-blue (Fügner—342)

It is especially curious that no specialized catalog, even in German, makes note of the existence of this overprint although it is so characteristic and recognizable at first glance because of its size and even more by the appearance of the Gothic lettering employed.

(Pictures)

It is 15½ mm. wide and 17 mm. from top to bottom. The Gothic lettering used for this overprint is the classical type but artistically stylized in the straight and angular parts, in particular, the first letter of the overprint, the "W" of "Wir", is characteristic with its slanting straight strokes and its angles rounded as in Roman lettering.

In general, the application of the various Rumburk overprints was very carefully done, especially the smaller values of the Coat of Arms series. However, some defects are apparent, the principal ones being as follows:

- a) Swastika bevelled on the edges on account of a worn-out typographic cliché or else because of some defect of composition.
- b) The different sections of the swastika are badly joined. This defect is particularly prevalent in the postage-due overprints.
- c) The dot at the bottom of the exclamation point is rounded from wear, instead of being squared off.

This was truly a regional issue, used not only at Rumburg (Rumburk) but also in neighboring towns such as Warnsdorf (Varnsdorf), Schlukenau (Šluknov), Leipa (Česká Lípa), Philippsdorf (Filipov), Umgebung, etc.—where the issue served as postage and actually went through the post.

These stamps alone are very much prized but on cover with a postal cancellation or propaganda postmark they increase greatly in value, going up to \$20 apiece.

Completing this Rumburk issue is a group of ten pieces of postal stationery—one letter-card and nine post cards, three of which have return cards attached—all of which were overprinted in black:

- 1.—Letter-card 1 Kč red, Coat of Arms type, blue-green paper.
- 2.—50 h green post-card, Coat of Arms type. Copies of this are known with the swastika inverted.
- 3.—Same 50 h. green post-card as above, but with an answer card attached, 50+50 h.
- 4.—1.50 Kč red post-card, portrait of President Masaryk in linden leaf frame.

(To be continued)

Stumped On Stamps? ? ?

By Richard Gray. Drawings by M. V. Schubert

The question submitted concerns the Prot. Boh. & Mor. stamps issued in panes with a checkered pattern arrangement, which consist of alternating stamp—label—stamp, etc. The question was what combination(s) of stamp—label would be considered as a COMPLETE set.

This checkered pattern arrangement is not unique to the issues of Prot. Boh. & Mor. Such an arrangement was used recently in printing the Czechoslovak stamp Scott No. 1768, Highways and Bridges, and label printed with the continuation of the stamp design. The drawing in Fig. 1 and 2 is based on the pane arrangement of this stamp. St denotes the stamp, L denotes the label.

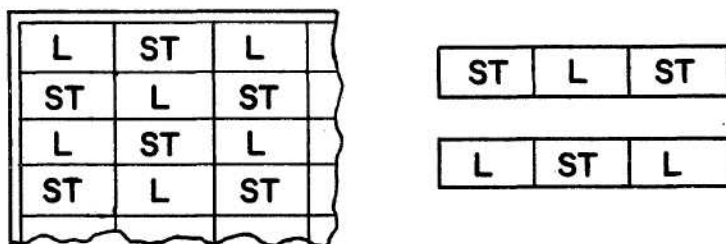


Fig. 1.

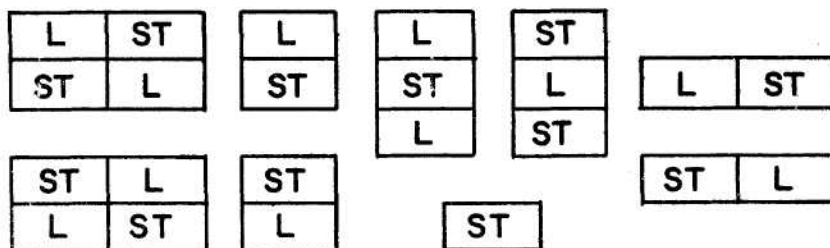


Fig. 2

The very first drawing in Fig. 1 depicts the left-hand, upper corner of the fifty subjects pane, 25 stamps and 25 printed labels. For the complete set one needs to have two blocks of four, two horizontal strips of three, two horizontal strips of two, two vertical strips of three, two vertical strips of two and a single stamp, as shown in Fig. 1 and 2. Inclusion of the single label is superfluous and unphilatelic, and will cause the purist to fly into a white rage. Some collectors claim, that because the number of the stamps and labels is the same, the stamp by itself without the label is incomplete. I do not agree with this logic and it is entirely up to you to decide which way to collect these "checkers." You can even go to the extreme and collect the stamp-label combinations depicted in the Fig. 1 and 2 in such a way that each combination will have the pane margin from top, bottom, left and right, but it is "overkill" in the cuckoo class, not specialization. For a general collection a single stamp is adequate.

Charley's Corner

Box 237, Willow Springs, Ill. 60480

Many perforations exist in the overprint "S O 1920" on the stamps of the Hradčany design. No less than nine trial perforations are listed in the Czechoslovak Specialized catalogs, ranging from $10\frac{1}{2}$ to $13\frac{3}{4}$ in various combinations. Five official perforations exist, namely in line perforation $13\frac{3}{4}$, $13\frac{3}{4}:11\frac{1}{2}$ and $11\frac{1}{2}:10\frac{3}{4}$; in comb perforation they are $13\frac{3}{4}:13\frac{1}{2}$ and $11\frac{1}{2}$.

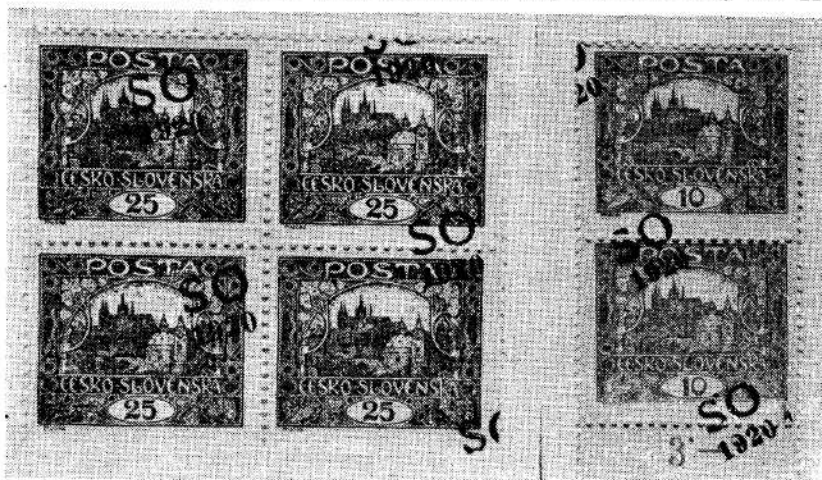


Fig. 1

This month we will discuss the varieties of some of the large hole perf. Fig. 1 shows badly shifted overprints on a block of four of the 25h value and strip of two of the 10h value with the bottom margin inscribed with the counter number. Both items are comb perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$.



Fig. 2

Fig. 2 shows a block of three stamps with a double overprint on the 25h

value and a strip of two with a shifted overprint on the bottom and missing overprint on the top stamp. This strip is from a lower right corner of the pane and the counter number is inscribed on the bottom margin. Both items are comb perforated 11 $\frac{3}{4}$.

This series had many such defects, and this type of material should have been destroyed at the printing office. With loose security in those days, much of this material was smuggled out. The visual control in the hectic days of the Republic's first wobbly steps in the stamp printing venture was not always perfect, and some of the defective material actually did turn up at the post offices. It is impossible for us to state with authority the path out of the printing plant of these items.

See you next month.



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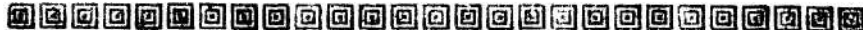
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New Issues

The two stamps depicted below were scheduled for release on Oct. 29, 1975, but were issued already on Aug. 29. This set of two 40x50 mm size stamps were designed and engraved by Miloš Ondráček and printed by multi-color flat recess print in M/S of four. The set contains two values, 3 Kčs and 3.60 Kčs, on which the tapestries preserved in Bratislava primatial (archbishops) palace are transcribed. The 1975 set is the second in the prepared series of three sets, the first set being issued in Sept. 1974 and the third scheduled for release in 1976. When completed, the series will depict the ancient Greek story about the tragic love of Hero and Leander as told on the six tapestries, woven from silk and wool by a group of Flemish artisans at the Royal British Mill in Mortlake in the years 1630-32. These six tapestries are the only complete set preserved today out of the many created at Mortlake. Another smaller and incomplete set is in Sweden.



On Oct. 28, 1975, the traditional Czechoslovak Independence Day, a set of two regular issue stamps with the portrait of the ČSSR president Dr. Gustav Husák was released in the denomination of 30h (blue) and 60h (red.) Designed and engraved by Josef Herčík, they were printed by rotary recess print in panes of 100. On the same day, a set of six stamps for the 30th year of Liberation depicting the progress of the Socialistic Republic was released. Values of 30h, 60h, 1.20 Kčs, 1.40 Kčs and 1.60 Kčs were printed with labels by rotary recess print and photogravure. —RG





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