

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Official Monthly Journal of the  (USPS 808300) Society for Czechoslovak Philately, Inc.

Silver Award Interphil '76 — Silver Award Capex '78 — Silver-Bronze Praga '78

A.P.S. Unit 18

S.P.A. Branch 284

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June 1984

No. 6, Whole No. 441

ANNUAL MEETING AT SEPAD '84

This year's annual meeting of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately will be held at SEPAD '84 in Philadelphia from September 21 to 23. This year the SEPAD Committee has chosen the Adam's Mark Hotel in an attempt to upgrade the quality of the facilities and the intimacy of the show, and we are looking forward to a bigger and better show than ever before. The quality of the exhibits at SEPAD has always been very high, since many philatelic societies participate and many prize-winning collections are displayed. In addition there will be a number of judges who are eminently qualified to evaluate Czechoslovak and related material, so those of you who are considering exhibition should do so now. Dust off those collections and let us see the results of your labors in the hobby. Many members are willing to coach and guide those of you who are exhibiting for the first time. We especially would like to see some junior exhibitors, since there is a special "Junior" category at SEPAD. A copy of the application for the exhibition was included with last month's SPECIALIST. Please fill it out as soon as possible, because the number of available frames are often subscribed very quickly, and we have only a limited number reserved for the Society's members.

As usual our Society will have its own functions in addition to the usual SEPAD schedule of activities. This year's S.C.P. participation will include special Society awards to exhibitors, a breakfast banquet, a general membership meeting high-lighted by a lecture on the "Pošta Československo 1919" semi-postal issues by the famous Czech expert and author, Ing. Jan Karásek, a meeting of the Board of Directors, a cocktail party, other talks by philatelic experts, and possibly even an auction of Czechoslovak specialized material.

We hope that many of you will attend so that you can renew old acquaintances and make new ones.

The details of the Annual Meeting at SEPAD:

Dates — September 21-23, 1984

Place — Adam's Mark Hotel, City Line Avenue at Monument Road, Philadelphia, PA 19131

Telephone — (215) 581-5000

Exhibition deadline -- August 11, 1984

The times and details of the Society activities will be published in the next issue.

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Wishes to trade post-war CSSR for other material. Can correspond in English and Czech.

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DRAWING REVISIONS ON 1 KČS TGM STAMP

From Filatelie dated April 4, 1983
By Ing. Jan Karásek and František Žampach
Translation Jiří F. Kovats

We submit new information herein, as a follow-up to our extensive study of the 50 h TGM stamp of 1926 (see article in Filatelie 82/20/620), this time regarding the 1 Kč value carmine from the same issue. The stamp, listed in the Pofis catalogue as number 208 (CS 191 B), was issued only on paper without watermark and with striped gum.

The execution of this value was also based on a modified drawing by Max Švabinský but the name of the engraver is not listed.

From the technical literature published to date we know that this value was printed on a rotary press (STICKNEY) in sheets of 200. The date of issue was not announced in advance, but an investigation of initial stamp circulation set the date on October 1, 1927. A total of four forms* were used for printing, each with two plates designated 13-13A, 14-14A, 15-15A and 16-16A with the plate numbers set in plain numerals for plates 13-13A and 14-14A. The remaining plates 15-15A and 16-16A had the numerals set differently — larger, wider and with horizontal cross-hatching. The total number of stamps printed is listed at 410,330,000.

Lately, many sources reported that this value may be found with some fine variations in stamp drawing details. The 1 Kč value sparked the interest of the collector-specialist although the stamp is common and inexpensive in both the mint and used condition.

The stamps do not show any major variation at first glance. Minor variations are discovered following more detailed examination; it is possible to identify two types of this stamp although this stamp is printed exclusively on paper without watermark in all cases.

More detailed analysis of a large number of used, but more particularly mint copies of this stamp included strips and blocks. Stamps from different plates made it possible to relate the earlier mentioned variations to the various plate numbers. Differences in size of the drawing were also found.

The stamps with plate numbers 13-13A, 14-14A measure 19.0-19.1 mm × 22.1-22.2 mm; plate numbers 15-15A, 16-16A measure 19.2-19.3 mm × 22.0-22.1 mm.

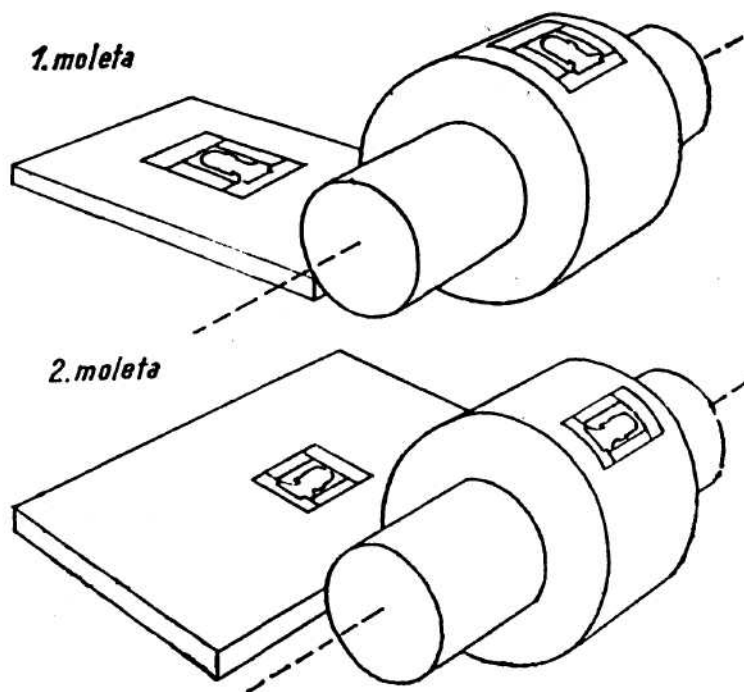
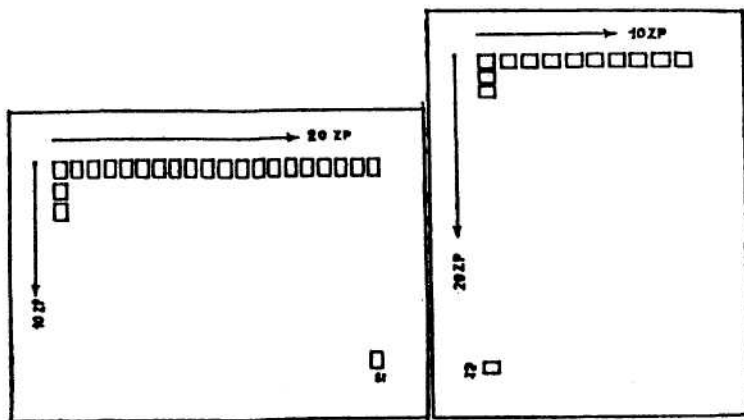
These differences in size are not obvious, especially when the quality of paper is taken into consideration. In spite of this it was found that plates were made differently, using two different transfer rolls.

The basis for rotary printing is always the original engraving which is often used to make a second original, especially when issuing the same stamp in different values. The transfer roll is made either from the original or the second original. This transfer roll is used on a special machine to make a steel printing plate, by rolling (rocking) it over the plate numerous times precisely spaced after each roll to create a plate with the requisite number of stamp frames.

In this case the printing plate had 200 stamp frames with 20 horizontal and 10 vertical frames (see illustration). Two plates were always made simultaneously and designated for example 13 for the first plate and 13A for the second plate.

In our case the original plates (first in sequence) were made by the first transfer roll. The stamps printed by these plates have a softer and less well-defined drawing owing to a fine line engraving. Individual stamp frames were made by rolling the transfer roll in a *vertical* direction from left to right with respect to the drawing of the original engraving.

In comparison to the second transfer roll, the individual stamps printed from the first transfer roll are imperceptibly narrower and higher. These differences are also present in the individual horizontal and vertical spaces between stamps.



There are noticeable imperfections: shallow engraving of the laurel branches, the right decorative panel color boundary is drawn up to the white outline under "...SKÁ" and others.

We can identify in this manner all stamps bearing plate numbers 13-13A and 14-14A. It is also possible to find traces of measuring points in some areas which were important for spacing of the transfer roll impression network.

Due to the fact that the printing from the first set of plates was not satisfactory and because it was impossible to make the required changes in the first transfer roll, the printer made a second transfer roll which had a more pronounced engraving.

Some of the faint printing details such as the laurel branches in the bottom part of the right decorative panel, top of the president's head, etc., were engraved deeper and retouched. However, the color boundary in the right decorative panel is drawn up to the white outline under ". . SKÁ."

The second transfer roll was thus made from the repaired original engraving and was rotated 90°, so that the stamp drawing was horizontal on the transfer roll. This necessitated different progression onto the steel plate which was vertical. The individual stamp frames appear somewhat wider and lower. We can identify all stamps bearing plate numbers 15–15A and 16–16A in this manner. Also, here we can find traces from the measuring points used for indexing the transfer in some stamps and characteristic points, which are different for each printing plate, in the right lower corner of each stamp in 181th position.

It is obvious that unlike the case of the 50 h green stamp of the same drawing, where two different engravings were made, in this case a new engraving was not made but instead the original engraving was repaired and retouched. This conclusion is also proved by the characteristically deformed right lower corner of the stamp design where the color line under the value designation is not horizontal but bears up a little so that the vertical drawing frame is shorter on the right side of the stamp and longer on the left side. If a new engraving had been made this imperfection would have been removed. The new engraving would also have to differ in other details.

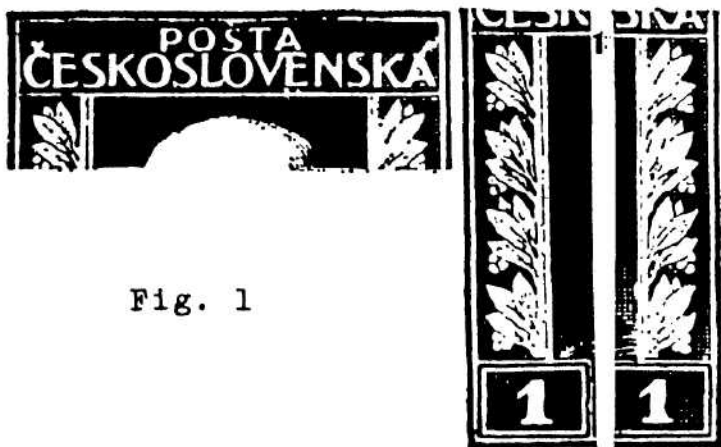


Fig. 1

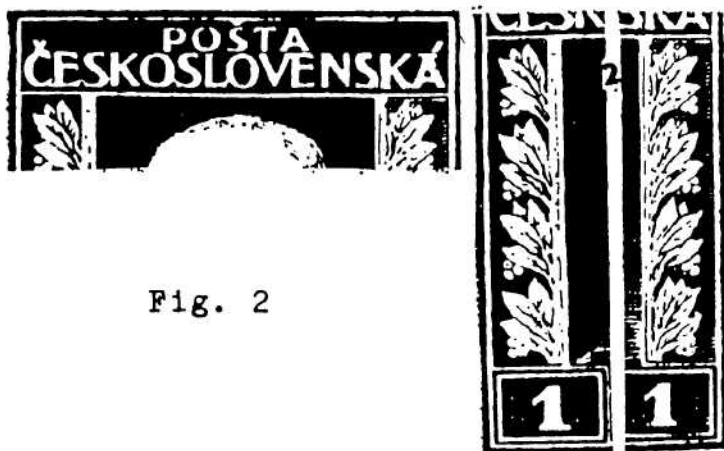


Fig. 2

Due to these findings we can justifiably identify two types of the 1 Kč carmine stamp. We shall use a designation "Type I" for stamps printed from plates 13-13A and 14-14A (see Fig. 1) and "Type II" for stamps printed from plates 15-15A and 16-16A (see Fig. 2).

It was found from the materials available that stamps from the first set of plates (Type I) exist in smaller quantities than stamps from the second pair of plates (Type II) either used or mint. It is possible and probable, as documented by the available material, that the differences in quantities are even greater in used stamps. It was not possible to determine a more exact ratio of stamps in existence for the time being.

In closing, it is necessary to consider why this finding emerged after so many years. It is a consequence of a known fact that collectors pay little attention to stamps which belong among the ordinary, least expensive and which are sold by the packet in used condition and belong to the most common stamps even in mint condition. This is also clearly suggested by the total number of copies printed.

This confirms a fact that even after many years it is possible to correct the present knowledge and persistent traditional opinions. The process is being helped by a small number of keen collector-specialists who from time to time disclose their discoveries and knowledge only to be received, many times, without understanding or response.

We need to thank all these collectors who shall forever remain anonymous. If we had to name but one it would be Jan Prchal from Polná u Jihlavy. His emphatic disclosure prompted further study, results of which are herewith submitted to collectors.

Finally, it must be noted that these new findings regarding 1 Kč carmine stamp and also substantiation of a new sub-type IIa of the 50 h value compiled by ing. J. Weissensteinn are recorded in the new specialized catalogue which is in the final stage of manuscript and technical modification.

*Sets of printing plates.

Bibliography

- Monograph of Czechoslovak Stamps, 3rd part, NADAS 1979
- Specialized Catalogue of Czechoslovak Stamps, 1978
- Article by J. Weissensteinn entitled: TGM 50 h in *Filatelie* 1982/20/620

OLD MEMBER REJOINING

848 DVORSKY, David C., RFD 1, Box 69, Holmes, NY 12531

THE THIRD AIR MAIL ISSUE OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA, 1930-1939

By Zdeněk Kvasnička — Translated by Henry Hahn

The next four pages, (centerfold) contain a continuation of the above titled work, which is being published serially. Publication began in the March issue.

The 4 Kč value includes two types of which the first type has two perforation dimensions.

Type I — The lower right corner has open white lines, i.e., the lines above and below "ČESKOSLOVENSKO" extend to the end of the design. The dimensions of the design are 31.5 × 21.5 mm.

Type II — The above white lines do not extend to the end of the design and the dimensions of the design are 30.7 × 21.8 mm.

Type I was printed from plates of 100 subjects marked "1" beneath the 91st stamp, as shown in Figure 12. To the left of the denomination tablet there are three colored dots. The first printing is of light, steel-blue color (1930) and has smooth, clear gum. The second printing is of a darker shade (1935) and contains frequent blemishes in the picture. The third printing is dark blue, the paper is frequently stained by the printing ink, and the printing is unclear when the inking is heavy. A part of the printing is on thinner, more transparent paper. The gum is clear or yellowish. The protective frame contains eight (8) vertical lines and is located on the right edge of the sheet. The perforation is line 13¼, though in a portion of the printing it is 12¼.



Figure 12. Type I, showing plate number and colored dots to right of denomination tablet.

Type II was printed from new, fifty (50) subject plates marked "2" and "3" below the 46th stamp. At the lower left corner of Plate 2 there are two colored marks and one small dot. At the lower left of Plate 3 there is only one colored mark. The color is bright and there are several shades. The perforation is only 13¼.



Figure 13. Type II, Plate 2, showing three colored marks at lower left.



Figure 14. Type II, Plate 3, showing one colored mark at lower left.

The 5 Kč Denomination

The entire issue consists of printings from a single, 100-subject plate marked "1." There were fewer printings of this value, all in reddish-brown except for one in brown (1936). After a time of printing in brown, the printing returned to the reddish-brown shade on somewhat thinner paper. To the left of the denomination tablet there is one larger and one smaller colored dot. Another colored dot is found near the upper left corner, as shown in Figure 15. The gum is clear or yellowish, smooth or lightly cracked. The protective border consists of eight (8) vertical lines and is located at the right edge of the sheet. The dimensions of the design are 31.5 × 21.5 mm.

The specialist distinguishes:

1. Printing of 1930, reddish-brown,
2. Printing of 1936, brown, dark shade,
3. Later printings, reddish brown, printing less distinct.

The original perforation was only line 13¾, though perforation 12¼ (rare) was discovered in 1939.



Figure 15. The 5 Kč denomination, showing colored markings at lower and upper left.

The 10 Kč Denomination

The picture of Hradčany Castle and Charles Bridge in the foreground, and selection of the color made this value the most attractive of the entire set. This is further due to the excellent drawing of the State Seal on the left, rendered by the engraver Karel Seizinger. The relatively low number of stamps produced required the use of only one printing plate, marked "1" beneath the 91st stamp. A printer's mark (small circle) may be found at the lower left corner, as shown in Figure 16. The dimensions of the design are 32 × 21.5 mm.

The first printing (1930) is in light violet-blue. The second printing (1935) is predominantly blue to bright blue and ultramarine. In the further printing (1938) the

color returns to the original shade. The perforation throughout the issue remained $13\frac{3}{4}$. The protective border of eight (8) vertical lines is again found at the right side of the sheet.

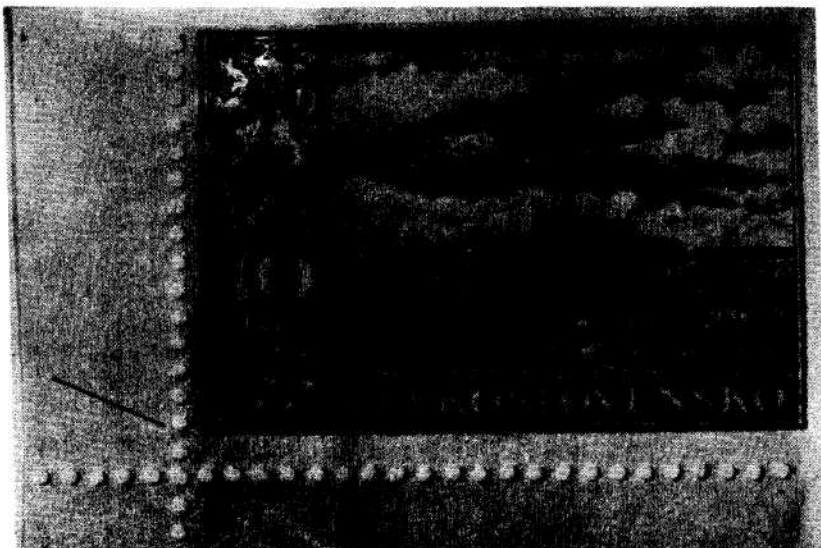


Figure 16. The 10 Kč denomination showing a printer's mark at lower left.

The 20 Kč Denomination

At time of issue it was claimed that this high value was not needed. However, it was found quite useful for the correspondence of large exporting firms. The entire issue was printed with a single, 100-subject plate, marked "1." The plate was made from a second original engraving of the 10 Kč denomination, appropriately altered by the engraver. A small printer's marking, a small circle, is found near the lower left of the design of the 91st stamp of the first printing. This is illustrated in Figure 17. The second printing is identified by two skew lines at the lower right corner of the sheet, as shown in Figure 18. In sheets having fairly wide selvage, this marking is readily visible.

The first printing (1930) is gray-violet, lighter shade. The selvage is narrower. The second printing is of a darker shade, with the selvage somewhat wider. A shade seen occasionally appears more bluish and is printed on somewhat more transparent paper. In the major part of the issue the paper is white and the gum colorless and smooth.

In this value, as stated earlier, there appeared in 1930 some stamps perforated line $12\frac{1}{4}$ rather than $13\frac{3}{4}$. This discovery led to perforation of $12\frac{1}{4}$ in a part of a later printing. Double perforation is sometimes found in the first left vertical row, and blind perforation holes are often found in the 7th, 8th and 9th horizontal rows. Perforation faults may also appear in succeeding rows. The protective border of eight (8) vertical lines is again found at the right edge of the sheet. The dimensions of the design are 32×21.5 mm.

NEW ISSUES

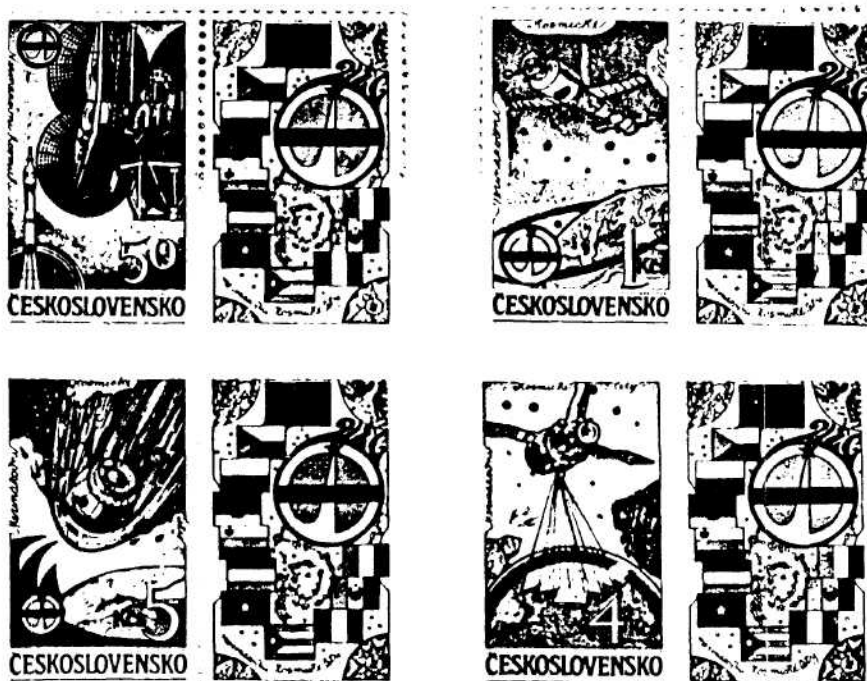
On 12 April 1984 a commemorative set of four stamps was issued. This set consists of:

- 50 h — International Space Flights
Engraver: Václav Fajt
- 1 Kč — International Space Flights
Engraver: Miloš Ondráček
- 4 Kč — International Space Flights
Engraver: Miloš Ondráček
- 5 Kč — International Space Flights
Engraver: Josef Herčík

In all postage pictures the official INTERKOSMOS emblem can be found. Author of the graphic design of the entire series is Artist of Merit prof. Josef Liesler.

They combine rotary recess with multi-color recess printing. Size of the picture section of the stamp is 23 × 40 mm. The printing sheet contains 25 stamps and 25 coupons of the same size.

Three First Day Covers. Printed by the Communication Printing Works in Prague



On 26 April 1984 the Federal Ministry of Telecommunications issued a commemorative postal envelope with an imprinted stamp of a value of Kčs 6.-, to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the service opening of the satellite communication terrestrial station in the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.

The initial engraving of the stamp, issued on 30 April 1974 on the occasion of the inauguration of the station service, has been used for the imprinted stamp.

The pictorial part of the envelope utilizes the engraving from the FDC of the same

emission, and, further, the new text "The 10th Anniversary of the Service Opening of the First Czechoslovak Satellite Communications Terrestrial Station — the Radio-communication Centre of Czechoslovak-Soviet Friendship."

The envelope was printed in the Post Printing Office in Prague by flat recess print in blue, red and carmine.

The sales price of the aforesaid envelope is Kčs 6.50 and the latter is valid in inland and international postal rate from 26 April 1984, until revoked.

On 9 May 1984 a commemorative set entitled "Heroes of the Resistance Movement Against Fascism" was issued. This set consists of:

- 50 h — Vendelín Opatrný
Engraver: Josef Herčík
Color: black, red, blue
- 1 Kčs — Ladislav Novomeský
Engraver: Ladislav Jirka
Color: black, red, blue
- 2 Kčs — Rudolf Jasiok
Engraver: Josef Herčík
Color: black, red, blue
- 4 Kčs — Ján Nálepka
Engraver: Václav Fajt
Color: black, red, blue

Author of the design: Academic painter and graphic artist Dušan Kállay.

Printed by the rotary recess printing process combined with two-color photogravure. The print sheet contains 50 stamps. Dimensions of the stamps picture are 23 × 30 mm. Two First Day Covers. Printed by the Post Printing Office in Prague.

On 1 June 1984 special set entitled "Bratislava Historic Motifs" was issued. This set consists of:

- 3 Kčs — Coat of Arms of the Winegrowers, 19th Century, Municipal Museum of Bratislava
Colors: brown-black, red gray, ochre
- 4 Kčs — Shooting Target of 1827, Municipal Museum of Bratislava
Colors: black, gray, blue, red ochre

Graphic rendition and engraving by Miloš Ondráček. Printed in multi-color recess printing from flat plates. Each sheet contains four subjects. Design measures 50 × 40 mm. Single FDC. Printed by the Federal Ministry of Communications in Prague.

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NEW "FIRST DAY" DISCOVERED

(Based on article appearing in FILATELIE 10/1984 p. 297, Tr by H. Hahn)

It hasn't been long ago — actually in 1972 — that postal historian and SPECIALIST author Jaroslav Ježek of Prague alerted us to the "first" day usage of the world's first post card.

This card, of which there are many reposing in old shoe boxes or at best in post mark collections, was issued in Austria on October 1, 1869. Its first day of usage remained in relative obscurity until some lively written discussion appeared in FILATELIE a dozen years ago, which inspired some collectors to search their accumulations for the "truly earliest" post mark. The discovery of a card post marked October 2, 1869, caused quite a stir, particularly among Austrian postal stationery collectors.

A subsequent discovery, in 1977, which was reported to Mr. Ježek by a collector from Ostrava named Jiří Jučera bore a post mark dated October 1, 1869. Ježek commented on this important find, referring to it as a "Postal Stationery Mauricius."

Nevertheless, lightning struck twice. The same Jiří Kučera of Ostrava (by no means eclipsed by Ivan Lendl of that city) has discovered a brand new "first" — one dated unmistakably SEPTEMBER 30, 1869! Hence, if his earlier discovery was a "Mauricius," we now have a "Mauricius Printing Variety." *Where will all this end?*



FOR SALE THROUGH THE SPECIALIST

The following books are offered for sale through the SPECIALIST. Please send your remittance payable to *The Czechoslovak Specialist* to Richard Major, P.O. Box 4074, Arlington, VA 22204. Add 90¢ postage for the first book and 50¢ for each additional book. If you desire insurance (only in the USA) please add 50¢ up to \$15, 85¢ up to \$50.

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