

# THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST



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A.P.S. Unit 18

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## POSTAL STATIONERY FOR FRANK FREE USAGE

By Ing. J. Petrasek — Translated by Henry Hahn

In this article, I should like to concern myself with the unjustly omitted segment of postal stationery collecting, i.e., with the postally issued stationery for use in frank free communication. Consideration of these items as postal stationery is somewhat controversial, particularly for those who are uninitiated, because such items lack that which renders an ordinary stationery item a postal stationery item. Nevertheless, I believe that classification of such items as true postal stationery is justified since the items were used concurrently with regular postal stationery and for the same purpose. The difference lies only in that the users of frank free postal stationery were public institutions, which by an imperial order of October 2, 1865, were exempt from payment of postage.

The various types of frank free postal stationery are still seen quite frequently and, hence, their collecting and documentation may still be engaged in with relative ease. The above-mentioned decree authorized the usage of frank free postal stationery to members of the ruling family and imperial institutions. Shortly after introduction, the items began to be used by a number of other official and semi-official institutions such as the clergy, military offices, schools, local administrations, and so forth. All these institutions had appropriate stationery printed for their own use (post cards and envelopes) which always bore on the face the inscription "PORTOFREI DIENST-SACHE." It is natural the postal stationery thus created had varying appearance, differing in size, color, text, type of printing, and arrangement of the legend.

A special place among this stationery were envelopes for use as money letters and cards, free of postage because during a certain period these items were issued directly by the postal administration and distributed through the same means as regular postal stationery. In connection with these items, one must also include postal stationery for use in military field posts. In this instance, at the start of World War I, such stationery items were issued by the postal administration though later these were issued by additional organizations.

From the philatelic point of view, the subject is made more interesting by the fact that these mailings were not exempt from registry charges or special delivery fees. Such fees (registered or special delivery) had to be paid for by addition of regular postage

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I certify that the above statements made by me are correct and complete.  
 (signed) RICHARD M. MAJOR, Editor

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*Changes of address to the editorial office.*

stamps. Some of the smaller post offices, because of ignorance or for comfort, did not conform to this requirement and accepted registered and special delivery items without the required payment. Of the various postal stationery items, post cards were preserved in the greatest numbers and these have absorbed the greatest attention by collectors. Envelopes for money letters are, of course, no less interesting, particularly because of the high franking. Field post collectors, of course, devote the majority of their interest to the applied field post cancels and unit markings, though specialists are also interested in the postal stationery items by type. The use of frank free postal stationery continued into the period of the first Czechoslovak republic. While in Austria the use of such items was terminated on March 1, 1925, usage in Czechoslovakia continued into the German occupation period up to 1942. The stationery continued to be used for private communication (with addition of franking) up to several years after World War II.

## ENVELOPES FOR MONEY LETTERS

The use of such envelopes was introduced by the postal administration on April 1, 1874, for the mailing of currency. Their use was permitted for internal mailing within the monarchy and for mailing from Austria-Hungary to Germany. The first issue of these envelopes contained the title POSTAMTLICHES GELD-BRIEF-COUVERT. At the bottom left of the face was noted the amount of the mailing. In a circle at the upper left there was printed the dual Austrian eagle with a text in semi-circular form "KKHof u Staatsdruckerei" and below that "Preis pr Stück 1 Kr."

The subsequent issue contained a double eagle of somewhat larger dimensions, though without the circle, but instead with the title "Postwerthzeichen" and below that again the price per unit. This design continued with minor modifications and changes as to type, size, and arrangement of lettering and lines to the end of the Austria-Hungary monarchy, in several languages consistent with the nationalities of the minorities with the text in either German alone or in two or even three languages.

## FRANK FREE POST CARDS

Frank free communication between imperial institutions was initiated as mentioned earlier after October 2, 1865. After the initial period when the stationery was printed by the various institutions privately, the printing was carried out by the postal administration itself. The issuance of the first printing was announced in the P.u.T.Vbl.Nr.67 of September 25, 1884 and the items were available for sale as of October 15, 1884. Their official title was "PORTOFREIE CORRESPONDENZ-KARTE" and the following directive concerning their use had to be obeyed:

"As frank free post cards one may only use postal stationery issued by the postal administration which are printed on white paper and are sold as single cards, 25 pieces for 4 kr and double post cards at 25 units for 8 kr." These are available at all post offices. All lines on the stationery must be filled out in accordance with the stated requirements. In particular, it is essential to indicate the reason why the mailing is exempt from postage."

Hence, these post cards were considered as official postal stationery. Later there occurred an expansion of authorized users which included local financial administrations, military establishments, central military warehouses, offices of the clergy, and others.

While the first issue which included the single and double (return) post card had only German inscriptions (Figure 1), the second printing, issued during the same year was printed in various languages in accordance with current language regulations which were valid throughout the empire after 1871. The stationery of this second issue were somewhat changed (Figure 2). The design of the cards was gradually altered and in a

later period, it was required by the sender to imprint on the stationery his own, i.e., the institution's own, marking (Figure 3).

Though originally these postal stationery items were for exclusive use in communication among official institutions, they were later used for communication between institutions and individuals. When the communication was initiated at the institution's own will, the communication was frank free. However, if the institution responded to a request by the addressee, the addressee was required to pay postage upon receipt, though without payment of postage due penalty. In such instances the sending institution was required to indicate at the lower left that the mailing is "Portopflichtige Dienstsache," i.e., official matter — subject to payment of postage. If the imperial institution used the stationery in an unofficial use or application, postage was required.

After the fall of Austria-Hungary in 1918 the postal stationery continued in use without any modification, except that sometimes the eagle was crossed off or blackened. Due to the shortage of current postal stationery, particularly post cards, some post offices apparently sold the frank free stationery to the general public which franked the items and used them as ordinary post cards. An exhaustive review of such postal stationery is covered in the postal stationery catalog by Franz Schneiderbauer which is regularly published in Austria.

The Czechoslovak Postal Administration continued in the issuance of such official frank free post cards. The first issue of the newly liberated republic appeared in 1919 (Figure 4). There appeared a single, as well as double, card in Czech as well as Czech-German heading, and supposedly there also exists an issue in Slovak. The second issue which appeared in 1920 is of approximately the same size and similar arrangement, though instead of the title "Úřední dopisnice" we find merely the title "Dopisnice" with a change in the lettering style of the monogram "ČSR" (Figure 5). Thus far cards with the titles in Czech or Slovak as well as an issue in Czech and German are known. Double cards are not known to exist.

A subsequent issue, which apparently appeared in 1924, is of the same size as the previous issue but instead of the monogram, there appears the Czechoslovak emblem. The sales price is not given and at the bottom left there is the letter "A." This issue is known only in the Czech language. The same design and size as the above was issued with a Czech-German text with the 10 hal given below the seal and the letter "B" appearing at the lower left. First known usage of the latter dates only from 1929 (Figure 6).

In 1926 there appeared an issue of the same size, only in Czech, with the price of 5 hal given and the inscription at the lower left of "A 1926."

A more basic change in the design appeared in 1931 when the size of the post card was increased to 147 × 103 mm, the state seal has thinner shading, and the printed price of 5 hal and the inscription "A 1931" at the lower left. Nearly the same card though in Czech-German was issued in 1939, as evident at the lower left (Figure 7). A subsequent issue, also appearing in 1939, was for use during the protectorate period and had the seal of the protectorate in place of the Czechoslovak seal. Apparently the last issue on Czechoslovak territory used only during the protectorate was one having a new design and appearing in 1940 with German-Czech title. There exist single and double cards. After liberation, official usage of the frank free postal stationery was not restored. The remainders of the protectorate issues were used up following liberation, at which time they were used with appropriate franking.

With this there ended one of the chapters of our mail system, which we believe deserves more attention by students of postal history. I, myself, devote considerable attention to the collecting of this postal stationery, and I continue to find new items and new surprises. I invite those who are interested to cooperate with me and request new information in areas not published here. The borrowing of material for reproduction would be most welcome. I am particularly interested in the dates of earliest usage of each particular issue, and I look forward to hearing from many of you.\*

\*Editor's Note: Those readers interested in corresponding with Ing. Petrasek may write to him directly at the following address:

Zborovská 1025  
282 23 Český Brod  
ČSSR

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

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J. Nekvasil — Frank Free Austrian Post Cards (Filatelie 9/1980).

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S NOTEBOOK

At the board meeting held at SEPAD '84, a number of important decisions were made by the Board of Directors.

1. The Treasurer's report prepared by Ludvik Svoboda showed a balance of \$5,368.47 as of August 31, 1984. However, it should be noted that this does not yet reflect the costs of our annual meeting at SEPAD which are usually substantial. Nonetheless, the financial situation of the Society remains solvent. An 18-month audit was also ordered.

2. Member Joseph Cervený of Chicago, Illinois has been appointed Chairman of AMERIPEX '86 where our Society will hold its annual convention in 1986. Address all inquiries about AMERIPEX '86 to Joe.

3. The Board of Directors has noted Napex '85, which will be held during May 1985 in Washington, D.C., as next year's site of our annual convention. Henry Hahn has been appointed Chairman of Napex '85.

4. The Board has also directed me to urge all members to revitalize the local chapters and to reorganize active meetings on a monthly or bimonthly basis. This is the only way to develop new leadership, effectively disseminate philatelic knowledge and material and to keep our Society vital. Therefore, I exhort all members to take individual responsibility and contact other members nearby and to initiate monthly meetings. Elect a local chairman and secretary and send in quarterly reports of local activity and events to our Editors, who will publish the news in the SPECIALIST. We also need translators and study groups to take responsibility for various philatelic projects — any volunteers and/or ideas?

#### Special Notes

Ing. Karasek told me he had a wonderful time in the U.S. and Canada and said he was treated royally by all his friends from the Society in New York, Virginia, Chicago, and Toronto. He especially thanks Charlie Chesloe, Jane Sterba, Messrs. Kobyłka, Henry Samek, Henry Hahn, Hans Klein, Fred Hefer, and all the many others who made his trip and lecture tour flawlessly enjoyable. For me, I found him to be a true European gentleman who lived and loved philately and had a zest for life seldom matched. I only hope that he will return again so the whole Society can have an opportunity to benefit from his vast philatelic knowledge. Czechoslovakia certainly sent a true ambassador of good will and cooperation.

Best wishes for a winter full of quiet cozy evenings with your stamp albums.

D. J. Riccio  
President, S.C.P.

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## **Special Note: AMERIPEX '86 Exhibition Applications**

AMERIPEX '86 Chairman, Joe Cerveny informed me that the preliminary deadline for exhibit applications is December 31, 1984. This is *not* the final deadline but it would be wise to apply now. Mr. Cerveny indicated that you should write for application forms to the following address:

AMERIPEX '86  
5944 West Montrose Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60634

For future reference, Mr. Joseph Cerveny's address is:

Mr. Joseph Cerveny  
AMERIPEX '86 Chairman  
79 Monroe Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60605

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## **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.

From other airports:

FIRST FLIGHTS		
Date	Route	Pieces Carried
Jun 1, 1935	<i>Pieštany-Bratislava-Vienna</i>	
	Pieštany-Bratislava	
	Bratislava-Pieštan	254
	Bratislava-Vienna	251
May 1, 1937	<i>Brno-Zlín-Pieštany</i>	
	Brno-Zlín	
	Brno-Pieštany (Fig. 27)	
	Zlín-Pieštany	
	Pieštany-Zlín	
	Pieštany-Brno	

Where there are blanks under "Pieces carried," the number was not announced officially. Collectors able to contribute such numbers are requested to share this knowledge with us.



Figure 27. First Flight, Brno-Piestany, May 1, 1937.

A sampling of some additional First Flight cancels listed above is illustrated in Figure 28.

The following paragraphs illustrate additional means of expanding our collections of the third Air Mail issue. Much still remains to be done in some of these areas.



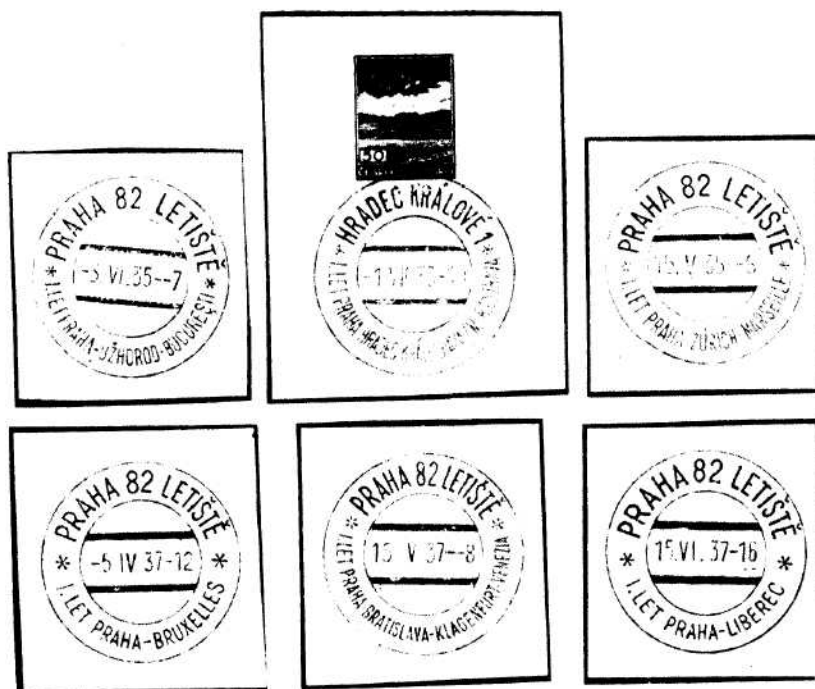


Figure 28. Additional Typical First Flight Postmarks.

#### Dirigible Flights

Items originating in Czechoslovakia and carried by the German dirigible Graf Zeppelin have become much sought after. These are listed in foreign catalogues at prices mostly beyond our reach.\* Several of these covers are illustrated in Figures 29 through 32.

#### Postmarks of Origin

Items could be mailed at any post office. Upon receipt by local post offices, regular cancellations were applied, and the mail forwarded by the most rapid means to the appropriate air mail dispatch stations. In Prague such an air mail dispatch station was the most office PRAHA 7-CIZINA (Prague 7-Foreign) which applied a special postmark, illustrated in Figure 32. Postal stations at airports, on the other hand, used special frame postmarks with cut corners, as shown in Figure 33.

#### Commemorative and Propagational Postmarks

On special occasions (expositions, celebrations, etc.) temporary post offices were set up to accept air mail. These post offices used special cancelling devices with appropriate texts, examples of which are illustrated in Figure 34.

For longer term propagation of air-related activities, slogan postmarks of the type illustrated in Figure 35 were used. These form an excellent supplement for specialized and thematic collections.

\*Currently between \$200 and \$400 per flown cover — Editor.





Figure 29. First South American Flight, 1933.

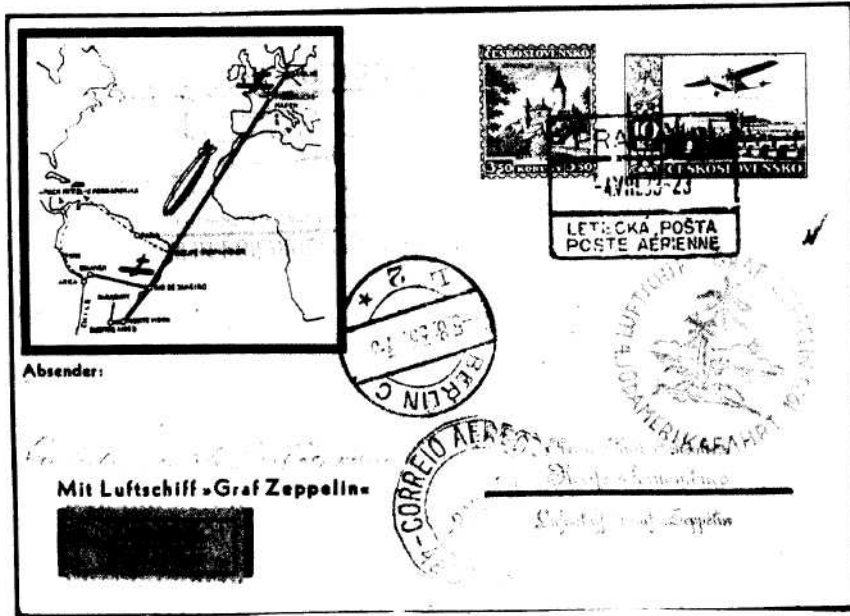


Figure 30. Fourth South American Flight, 1933.



Figure 31. Regular Zeppelin Flight, 1934.

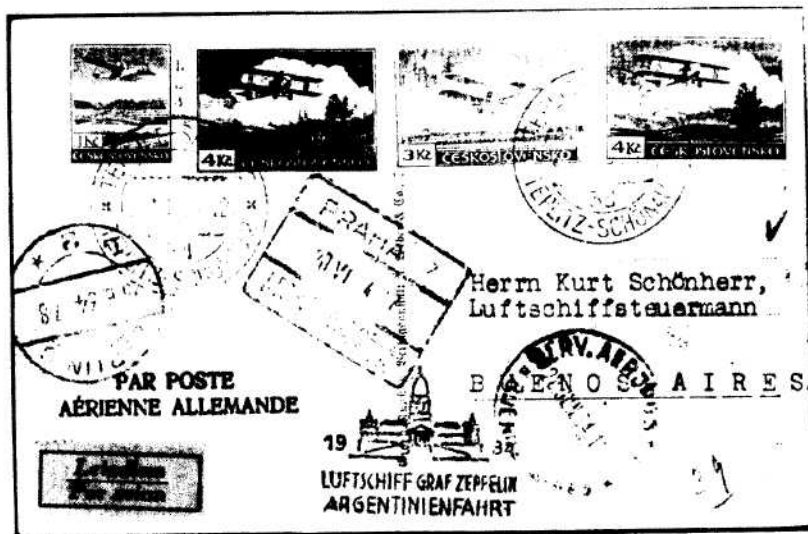


Figure 32. Argentina Flight, 1934.

To be continued

## HRADČANY 30 h

By Ludvík Pytlíček — Translated by J. J. Verner

The Hradčany is one of the most interesting issues of Czechoslovakia. This issue provides possibilities for all the specializations that collectors may desire. In this article, however, I shall try on one hand to compile all the known facts concerning usage of the 30 heller value and at the same time provide some information that has only recently come to light. It is clear to me that this article cannot be the final word regarding where all the 30 h stamps were used. Determining other locations where the stamp was used will expand this list.

The last values to be printed in the Hradčany series were the 10, 20 and 30 heller stamps. The printing did not meet either the production nor delivery deadline. Consequently, the day of issue wasn't even announced. The 30 h value was prepared by a different production procedure and was the least successful of the last three values. Finally, the date of issue of these stamps was announced for April 12, 1920, which date was missed and it was only on April 17, 1920 that the stamps were finally issued. The 11½ perforator that had been put into operation at the beginning of 1920 had a structural defect which, in spite of several breakdowns and attempted repairs, could not be corrected. Hence, improvisation became necessary. Only a few sheets of the 30 h heller Hradčany stamp were issued with the "unimprovised" perforations. Just how many is impossible to determine today. All of these stamps appear in unused condition and belong among the true rarities. The same situation pertains to used copies even though a large number of them is known. Poorly perforated bottom rows were perforated by improvisation (another perforator) and thus arose the compound perforations. The rest of the sheets were put into circulation as imperforate stamps. Opinions differ even on the number of these sheets. It is believed that there were somewhere between 20 and 50 sheets. Collectors know that this imperforate value was partially used (non-philatelic usage) only in Janské Lázně where it appeared in insignificantly small numbers. For this reason any cover bearing this stamp used in Janské Lázně must be considered a rarity of the first order.

Let us return, however, to the "improvised" perforation of the 30 h Hradčany stamp. From a basic comb 11½ perforation a further six (6) perforations evolved. Line 11½, 13¾ and 11½:13¾, as well as additional comb perforations 13¾:13½ and compound perforations comb 11½:line 11½ and comb 11½:13¾ are known. A very few of the 30 h Hradčany stamps with improvised perforations were distributed by the post office to various parts of the country, and apparently they were all used in 1920.

F. Šrámek discussed the locations where the 30 h line 11½ was used in the journal *Merkur*, issue 70/10. I am of the view that the 11½ perforated stamps and those with a 13¾:13½ comb perforated are the most common of this value. The attached table indicates where the variously perforated 30 h Hradčany stamps were used.

Each of these perforated stamps belongs among the sought after rare stamps of this issue. Pairs, strips and blocks are some of the greatest rarities of Czechoslovakia. It is therefore only logical that these stamps have not been neglected by the counterfeiters. We can assume that scores of these stamps exist with fake perforations created either by re-perforation, or by altering imperforate stamps. It is therefore very important that such stamps be submitted to appropriate experts for certification of genuineness.

In closing I would like to thank Dr. Kubát and Dr. Lamač for helping me determine the localities where the 30 h perforated Hradčany stamps were used. It is now up to other collectors to help expand the list.

USAGE BY LOCALITY OF 30 h HRADČANY VARIOUSLY PERFORATED STAMPS

line 11½	date line 13¼	date comb 13¼:13½	23.6.
Mariánské Lázně	6. Bohušovice n. Ohří	7.6. Čistá u Rakovníka	6.
Praha 1	6. Brno 2	9. Markovice u Nezamys.	
Roudnice n. Lab.	11.7.-20.8. Plzeň I	23.6. Horní Ves u Chomut.	16.4.-5.6.
Sušice	10.7.- 7.8. Pacov	Planice	12.6.
Želiv	3.8.	Blatno u K. Var	8.6.
Železný Brod	21.8.		
Bohušovice n. Ohří	7.9.		
line 11½:13¼	date cpd. 11¼:11½	date cpd. 11¼:13¼	date
Brno 9	6. Rýnarec	15.7. Nová Paka	
Týniště n. Orlicí	11.8.	Zámorsk	28.6.
		Zlín	12.6.

NOTE: Where no date is given, available post mark was illegible. Day given first, then month, all in 1920.

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All stamps are unused, unless otherwise stated.  
NO minimum bids. Please make your own bids. (KEIN Ausrufpreis).

1. 1918. Essays RIJACEK, Art paper, 1h-10K (15val.), Est. \$120.-
2. —, Ales, 200h blue, Jiri z Podebrad, Est. \$20.-
3. —, SCOUTS. Set of mint or used, Est. each \$25.-
4. —, 20h PRIJEZD PRESIDENTA MASARYKA, VF, RRR, ATTEST, Est. \$800.-
5. —, HRADCANY, 10h green IMP.
6. —, —, 20h carmine, IMP.
7. —, —, 30h violet, IMP.
8. —, Gutter 3h, VF
9. —, —, 5h, VF...
10. LEGION. BLACK PRINT ON ART PAPER, 15-50(3), Est. \$20.-
11. —, 50h art paper, GOLD essays, est. \$20.-
12. —, 50h on gray paper, perf. & imp.(2), est. \$12.-
13. —, 75h 9 diff. colors, est. \$70.-
14. —, 100h, 6 diff. colors, est. \$40.-
15. —, 120h, 5 diff. col., est. \$30.-
16. PC 1919. Large cover, reg. \$ express, with 16 stamps (3h-2K compl.), est. \$50.-
17. —, 3h-1K, type I & II, 2 compl. sets (30), est. \$20.-
18. —, 3K granite
19. —, ROSE, B 19
20. —, 3K, CLARET, B 19 A
21. —, 47.-, 4K, green, B 20
22. —, 10K LIGHT violet, B 21, R
23. —, 2h triangle
24. —, 5h, triangle, B33, RRR
25. —, PORTO, 6h, B42
26. —, 25h, B44
27. —, 50h, B 46, RRR
28. —, 50h, B 54, R
29. —, 5K, B 56
30. —, 10K, B 57, R
31. —, 1h, B 58
32. —, 15/2, B 59, R
33. —, 10/24, B 60 R
34. —, 20/54, B 62, R
35. —, TURUL, 1 f, RRR B 64
36. —, —, 70 f, RRR B 70
37. —, Parlament, 5K, B 89, R
38. —, —, 3 K, B 88
39. —, Porto, 1 fil., B 115 R
40. —, —, 30 f, B 123
41. 1920. MASARYK. Essays 50h in green, ultramarine, each est. \$8.-
42. —, 125h, Essays in ultramarine, est. \$35.-
43. —, 125, essays in violet, est. \$25.-
44. —, 500h, essays in black on colored paper, est. \$30.-

45. —, 1000h, BLACK ON ART pap., est. \$30.-
46. —, 1000h, neotypie in PURPLE, est. \$30.-
47. —, 125 IMPERFORATED, 61b
48. —, 125 ULTRAMARINE, 61a
49. DOVE. 5-25, IMP.(6), essays \$50.-
50. —, 50h green, IMPERFORATE, est. \$120.-
51. —, COMPLETE SET OF TETE BECHE(12), USED, est. \$150.-
52. HUSITA. IMPERFORATE SET. est. \$15.-
53. —, Essays 90h in 10 diff. colors, est. \$60.-
54. OLYMPIC, set
55. SOKOL, set
56. MASARYK 1925. 2 Kc, WZ 1 & 4, LUXUS, each \$30.- USED
57. —, 3 Kc WZ 4, LUXUS, USED, est. \$30.-
58. 1932. Orlik, 4 kc, Upper or lower coupon, each est. \$25.-
59. 1933. NITRA, Gutter 50h
60. 1934. KDM, Sheets, as usual minimal border wrinkles, est. \$700.-
61. 1939. Protektorate. complete, est. \$60.-
62. 1943. LONDON sheet. est. \$30.-
63. 1945. Belgium, 2 sheets, est. \$30.-, Special cancellation.
64. TEREZIN KZ., green, R, est. \$300.-
65. —, Presentation sheet in BLACK, R, est. \$350.-
66. 1939. Ukrajina. 3 K, upper or lower coupon, each est. \$20.-
67. SLOVAKIA. TISO 10 k gutter, est. \$11.-
68. —, Scott 108-9, B25-6(4 & 4), IMP. pairs, RR, est. \$320.-
69. 1945. KOSICE. SMALL CROSS, RR...est. \$350.-
70. —, Partyzan sheet.
71. 1957. ZAPOTOCKY sheet, TYP II, USED...est. \$45.-
72. 1955, Costumes. 60h typ 11...est. \$40.-
73. —, 160 h, typ 11, est. \$45.-
74. SIBERIA. ESSAYS, large type, compl., 5 diff. col. sets, est. \$200.-
75. —, First set, perf. 11½, est. \$80.-
76. SO 1920. Hradcany 10h, green, IMPERFORATE, RR
77. —, 1000h, Black overprint, R
78. —, Masaryk set(2)
79. AIR MAIL. FIRST SET, imp.
80. —, First set, perf.
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