

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

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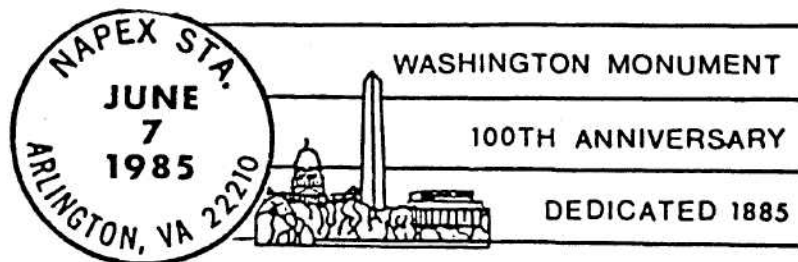
SOCIETY CONVENTION AT NAPEX '85

After a dozen years' absence, the Society for Czechoslovak Philately will once again meet at NAPEX. Based on early reports, some of the best known Czecho collectors will participate in the show and the events that are scheduled for the weekend.

The Society's exhibit is expected to comprise about 75 of NAPEX '85's 400 frames and include exhibits having received major international awards. These include those of Fred Hefer (Munich, Germany), Hans Klein (Wassenaar, Holland), Dominick Riccio (New York City), and others. The panel of NAPEX judges will include Henry Hahn, credited APS judge for Czechoslovakia.

The schedule of events planned for Saturday includes a meeting of the Directors of the Society, an open meeting, and a series of talks. The speakers include Dominick Riccio on Carpatho-Ukraine and Henry Hahn on the Transition Period. A third speaker is yet to be announced.

An Awards Breakfast is scheduled for Sunday morning. The Society table will be manned throughout the show, and books and publications will be on sale. There will also be a souvenir cover with "40 Years of Liberated Czechoslovakia" as the theme.



Guests of NAPEX '85 will be treated to both a new location plus a First Day ceremony this year. NAPEX has moved to the Sheraton National Hotel, Columbia Pike and Washington Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia. This new site has a spacious first floor layout adjacent to the main lobby. This layout is a vast departure from the previous year's third floor location and split exhibit halls. The 3.4 cent schoolbus coil stamp is also scheduled for release at 11:00 A.M., Saturday June 8 at this new hotel site.

The NAPEX '85 Sheraton Lobby location will be open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday (June 7, 1985), 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. Admission is free and parking is available in the hotel and surrounding streets.

Because NAPEX is an APS World Series of Philately qualifying event, the grand award winner will become eligible to compete in the Champion of Champions class at STAMPSHOW '85 in San Diego in August. The APS-accredited judging panel is led by Chief Judge and APS President William H. Bauer of Spring, Texas. The remaining panel includes Jesse D. Boehret, Virginia Beach; Leo John Harris, St. Paul; Henry Hahn, Fairfax, Virginia; and John M. Hotchner, Falls Church, Virginia. This year's apprentice judges are Patricia S. Walker, Springfield, Virginia, and Clarence A. Stillions, Washington, D.C.

A 44-dealer bourse will surround the exhibit area and flow across the assembly foyer to a second room. Visitors will enter the foyer area manned by society tables and have immediate access to the exhibit area and two rooms of dealers.

The NAPEX awards banquet will be held 7 p.m. Saturday night, preceded by the NAPEX Dutch Treat Cocktail Party. Tickets are available at the show. Each ticket includes dinner, entertainment and special philatelic banquet souvenirs.

The USPS issue of the 3.4 cent coil in the Transportation series will highlight activities available for cover collectors. The First Day Ceremony will be located in the foyer off the lobby and will include the usual free distribution of an official program. The program will contain the schoolbus stamp with FD cancellation. Additional cancellation services and stamp sales will be available to collectors all day Saturday for their own purposes.

The NAPEX '85 pictorial cancellation will feature the 100th anniversary of the Washington Monument dedication year. A different cachet envelope is available all three show days.

Milton Mitchell, Chairman, has discount hotel reservation cards for out-of-town visitors. Mr. Mitchell invites philatelists to bring spouse and family to tour our Nation's capital the week before or after NAPEX. The June weather in the District of Columbia is outstanding at this time to enjoy the sights (including the Washington Monument, of course). Philatelic researchers will also find literature in the BEP, National Archives, Library of Congress and the Smithsonian not available anywhere else in the world.

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Changes of address to the editorial office.

PLAN OF CZECHOSLOVAK POSTAGE STAMPS TO BE ISSUED IN 1985

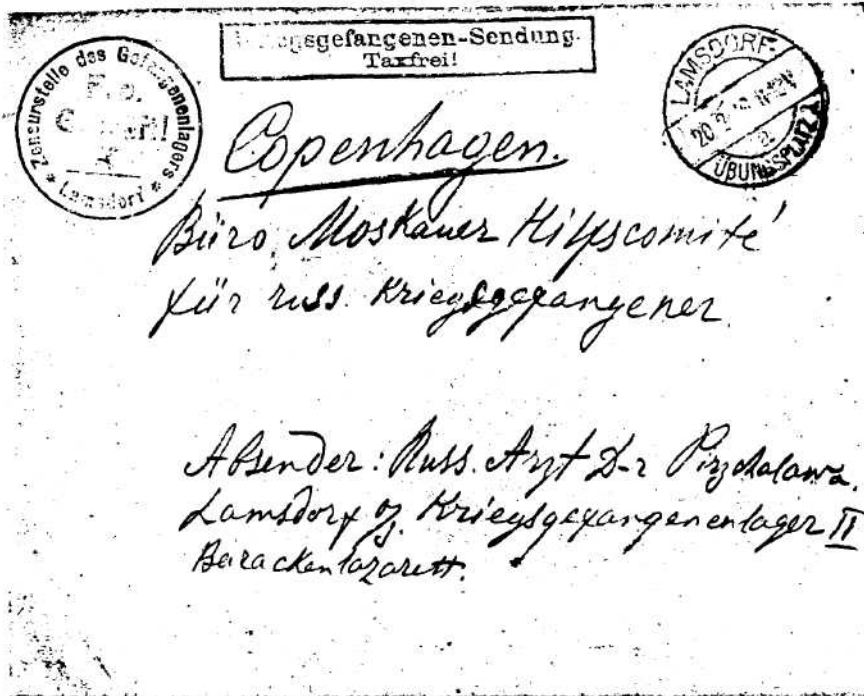
Month Day	Title of Set	Number of stamps	Face value in Kcs	Size of stamp picture /mm/	Method of printing
FEBRUARY 5	Municipal coat of arms of Czechoslovak towns	3	0.50 0.50 0.50	19 × 23	Rotary recess print
6	100th Anniversary of the foundation of the School of Applied Arts in Prague	1	3.00	23 × 40	Rotary recess print
7	350th Anniversary of the foundation of the University in Trnava Exposition of the Military Museum of Czechoslovakia	1	2.00	49 × 19	Rotary recess print
		3	0.50 1.00 2.00	40 × 23	Rotary recess print
MARCH 14	V.I. Lenin's 115th birthday in sheet of 6 stamps	1	6 × 2.00	23 × 30	Flat recess print in sheets of 6 stamps
15	40th Anniversary of UNO in sheet of 4 stamps	1	4 × 6.00	40 × 26	Flat recess print in sheets of 4 stamps
APRIL 5	40th Anniversary of the Košice Governmental Programme	1	4.00		
12	40th Anniversary of the National Security Corps INTERKOSMOS - Halley's comet research in sheet of 4 stamps	1	0.50	30 × 23	Rotary recess print
		1	4 × 5.00	23 × 40	Flat recess print in sheets of 4 stamps
13	World and European Championships in Ice Hockey, Prague 1985 80 years of the Chess Organisation	1	1.00	40 × 23	Rotary recess print
MAY 5	40th Anniversary of the May Uprising of the Czech People 40th Anniversary of Czechoslovakia's liberation by the Soviet Army	1	6.00	30 × 23	Rotary recess print
			1.00 1.00		

	15th Anniversary of Czechoslovak-Soviet Agreement		1.00			
JUNE	30th Anniversary of the Warsaw Treaty	4	1.00	49 × 19	Rotary recess print	
3	Czechoslovak Spartakiad	2	0.50 1.00	23 × 40	Rotary recess print	
4	Artists - Fighters against Fascism	3	0.50 2.00 4.00	40 × 23	Rotary recess print	
JULY						
1	10 Anniversary of the Helsinki Conference on European Security and Cooperation in sheet of 4 stamps	1	4 × 7.00	40 × 23	Flat recess print in sheets of 4 stamps	
2	XII World Festival of Youth and Students, Moscow 1985	1	1.00	40 × 23	Rotary recess print	
SEPTEMBER						
3	40th Anniversary of the World Federation of Trade Union	1	0.50	30 × 23	Rotary recess print	
4	Bratislava Historical Motives	2	3.00 4.00	50 × 40	Rotary recess print	
5	X Biennial of Illustrations, Bratislava	4	1.00 2.00 3.00 4.00	30 × 23	Rotary recess print	
23	Tradition of Handicraft	5	0.50 1.00 2.00 4.00 6.00	23 × 40	Rotary recess print	
OCTOBER						
28	Successes of Socialist Constructin in Czechoslovakia	3	0.50 1.00 2.00	40 × 23	Rotary recess print	
	Prague Castle	2	2.00 3.00	26 × 40	Flat recess print in sheets of 4 stamps	
NOVEMBER						
27	Art Works on Stamps	5	1.00 2.00 3.00 4.00 5.00	40 × 50	Flat recess print in sheets of 4 stamps	
DECEMBER						
18	The Day of Czechoslovak Postage Stamp	1	1.00	49 × 19	Rotary recess print	
TOTAL	Complete Year 1985	49	194.00			

A PRISONER OF WAR COVER FROM 1916

By Dick Major, SCP

In his article about STALAG VIII B (*The Czechoslovak Specialist*, January 1985) Dr. Vostatek mentions that the military training camp at Lamsdorf, Upper Silesia, had already been used for prisoners of war in World War I. It happens that I have found an interesting cover from that period and thought I might share it with our readers.



The cover is addressed to the Office of the Moscow Assistance Committee for Prisoners of War in Copenhagen and was sent by a Russian doctor named Pirzchalawa from the Lamsdorf POW Camp II, Barrack Hospital. The postmark is "Lamsdorf Training Site" dated 20 February 1916. The rectangular stamp at the top reads "Prisoner of War Mail/Postage free." The circular stamp at the left says "Censorship Office of the Prisoner of War Camp/Lamsdorf." The "F. a." in the center of the stamp is the abbreviation for "Fristgemäß abgefertigt," which indicated that the censorship had been carried out within the time limits specified under the rules of the Geneva Convention. On the back is a Copenhagen received stamp dated 25 February 1916, which confirms this fact also.

CZECHOSLOVAKIAN COLLECTOR DESIRES EXCHANGE

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SOME REMARKS CONCERNING THE LARGEST AND BEST SPECIALIZED COLLECTION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA 1918– 1939 IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

By Jan Karásek — Translated by Henry Hahn

(continued from the February issue)

Of further issues we note the Liberated Republic (Chainbreaker) series, particularly the 40 h joined types I and II with horizontal comb perforation, unused and the 60 h forgery to defraud the post office, on cover in a strip of 2. Of course, in all of these, including the Dove issue, we find all significant plate varieties and major retouches.

In the Agriculture and Science of 1923 section we note an unused block of 4 of the 100 h denomination with two to vertically joined types II and III, comb perforated $13\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ (Fig. 17), and a further block of 4, used, in which the same types are joined horizontally (Fig. 18). Both these pieces are unique and are considered among the greatest rarities in Czechoslovak philately. Also noted are joined types used on a post card, which is considered as mixed franking (Fig. 18a).



Figure 17.



Figure 18.

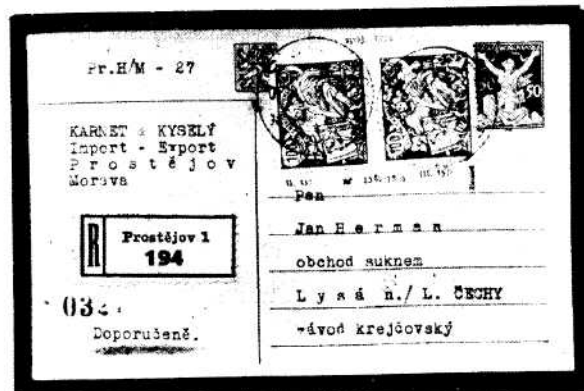


Figure 18 a

The collection continues with a complete array of the type I Masaryk stamps with vertical watermarks, including the rare 3 Kč with watermark position 3, all unused. The 2 Kč blue, type II used is represented twice with watermark position 1 (Figs. 19, 20), and with watermark position 3 by a strip of two (Fig. 21). Of the regular Masaryk issue of 1927, 2 Kč value both vertical watermarks 1 and 4 are represented by used copies (Figs. 22, 23). It must be noted that both of the foregoing are represented in only three collections in Czechoslovakia, and that only between 5 and 7 copies of each are known to exist.



Figure 19.



Figure 20



Figure 21.



Figure 22



Figure 23.



Figure 24.

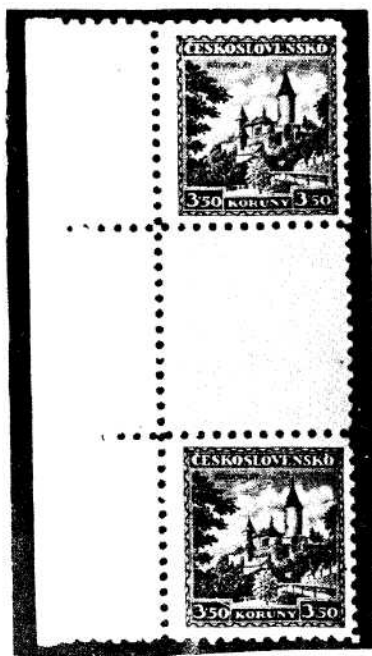


Figure 25.

Rarities are further represented by the well-known Nitra issue gutters; the 50 h with both plate numbers as well as a red 11 Kč gutter (Fig. 24). The 3.50 Kč Křivoklát gutter is represented by an edge piece (Fig 25).

The section of the first and second Air Mail issue includes all that may be expected in a highly specialized collection. This includes inverted overprints, trial printings in blocks of 4, flown covers of both issues, particularly first flights. We must particularly note varieties of singular significance. These include joined types of the 24 Kč/500 h (open and closed spiral) in blocks of 4, at first an imperforate corner block including the spiral type I located in the 32nd sheet position and secondly a line 13¾ perforated block (only 2 such known) in which type I is found in the 35th sheet position (Figs. 26, 27).



Figure 26.



Figure 27.

The issue for Eastern Silesia is represented by many impressive pieces, including blocks of 4 of the imperforate 10 h and 20 h Hradčany (Figs. 28, 29) as well as all known joined types including all known perforation varieties.

The portion of the collection selected for exhibit closes with the Scout issue overprinted "PŘÍJEZD PRESIDENTA MASARYKA" and also with both values on an extraordinarily beautiful cover.

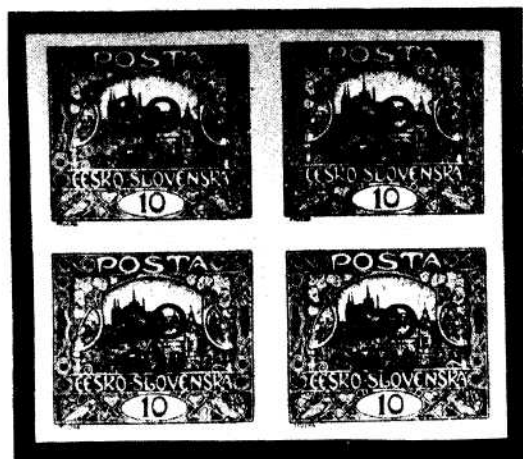


Figure 28.

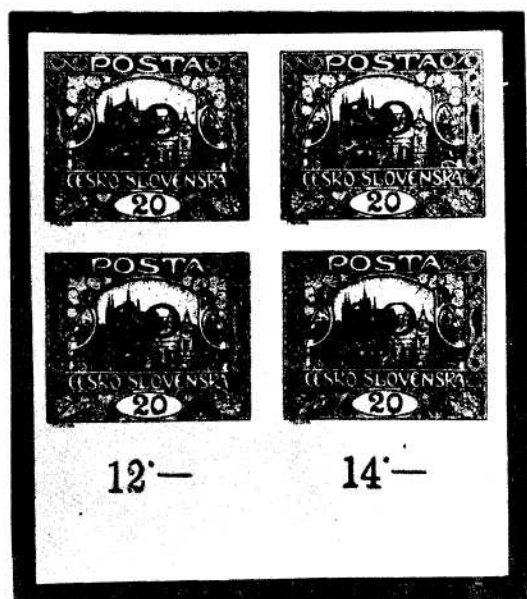


Figure 29.

Eng. Jan Karásek

**PERFORATION
OF
CZECHOSLOVAK
POSTAL STAMPS
(1918–1939)**

Collaborators: Ferdinand Petrželka (photos)
Eng. Paul Pittermann

Published on occasion of the All State Philatelic Exhibition BRNO 1984

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 - 4.2 Evaluation of occurrence of individual perforations (tables)
 - 4.3 Examples of the rarer types of perforations (appearance of individual examples)
 - 4.4 Review of literature

Two years ago the philatelic public, but especially the collectors of Czechoslovak stamps, were pleasantly surprised by a handbook by the publicist and regular member of the Board of Experts of the Society of Czechoslovak Philatelists, Engineer Jan Karásek, which dealt with the problem of the Hradčany issues.

Even a slightly specialized collection and exhibition set in the area of territorial philately must, in a suitable and purposeful proportion in addition to other principal specialized varieties of basic stamps, give documentary proof to existing methods, variants, differences and varieties in their classification.

The new handbook of Eng. Karásek "Perforation of Czechoslovak postage stamps for years 1918–1939" which has a high specialized value and is published on the occasion of the All State Philatelic Exhibition in BRNO 1984, is interesting primarily because it deals exclusively with the theme of perforations of Czechoslovak stamps. It is published for the definite needs of collectors for the identification of germane philatelic material, and brings to the reader practical knowledge and experience, which will be valued not only by the beginner, but also by the advanced and with its methods the expert. The greater part of the handbook is, of course, devoted to stamps of the 1918–1939 period which were printed by typography, and a special attention is devoted to popular issues from the collectors' viewpoint, that is Hradčany, Doves and Liberated Republic series.

Laudable is the author's effort to consider purposes of planning, system and conclusions, which are omitted in the Handbook for collectors of Czechoslovak stamps and entires.

Alois Dušek, member Central Committee
of SCSF
and president of the Czechoslovak Stamp
Club in SCSF

1. Introduction

To the philatelic public we are submitting another publication of practical nature, this time on the perforations of Czechoslovak stamps employed in their production during the years of 1918–1939 especially in the printery of the Czech Graphics Union in Praha.

The handbook contains all the known perforations which were utilized officially and are recognized by collectors in their collections. Therefore it does not contain privately made perforations which appeared especially during the years 1918–1939. In individual chapters we desire to note the chief types of perforations, their practical differentiations and at the same time indicate the method of measuring perforations of Czechoslovak origin.

The handbook is not written as instructions to judge the authenticity of perforations. That part will remain the domain of the expertizers. In this handbook primarily, the objective is to classify knowledge and its interpretation in a way which will enable the collector to differentiate and measure perforations, especially in instances which are available for the direct and simple measuring without special aids. Those instances which may lead the collector to erroneous conclusions are especially discussed, because reasons for correct interpretation are now in abundance.

Among others, emphasis is made on the horizontal perforations in the issue of Dove and Liberated Republic, and its practical differentiations from normal, vertical comb perforation.

Most of the reproductions and illustrations are made in the actual size of the stamps and perforation, only larger blocks of stamps or sheets are reproduced in a reduced size. In the handbook we mention horizontal and vertical positions of perforations, and in this orientation it is born in mind for holding the sheet or stamps in normal, natural position.

In the concluding chapters a table is published containing a review of perforations of individual issues of stamps, and that according to their dimensions and also according to the rareness of their occurrence; furthermore, some of the rarer examples of Czechoslovak stamps are illustrated with the different types of perforations either as individual stamps, or in larger blocks (blocks of four, etc.).

At this opportunity I thank all philatelists for their friendliness, the Association of Czechoslovak Philatelists in Praha for active help in the preparation and publishing of this handbook, and with the readers that the hints contained herein will help them in enlarging their field of knowledge in specialized philately.

Jan Karásek

2. Fundamental information on perforations

Czechoslovak stamps issued since 1918 were, with the exception at the initial stage of emission, perforated.

To the exception belong the first Czechoslovak Hradčany issue, the newspaper stamps of all issues, first postage due stamps and special delivery issues.

The perforating machine is an English invention (Mechanic Archer), made at the beginning of fifties, last century. The first British stamps, already perforated, were the two issues of penny postage in 1854. This very practical invention gradually made the distribution of stamps, stripping from whole sheets, a very fast operation in British Post Offices. Gradually the invention was introduced in every state of Europe and the world. The principle remains the same to this date. Only the operation was speeded up to make the production of stamps faster.

The perforation is made so that the round openings on the sheet between the individual stamps make the division of individual stamps easy so that the design of the stamp, and the stamp itself, is not marred or torn.

The principle of the perforation machine is based on a row of needles with special points which are rigidly held in perforation plates, and which can be moved in a vertical position. The needles are set in the plates rigidly spaced. Opposite the row of needles is another plate with opening in the same exact spacing. In a vertical move the needles penetrate to these openings so that if a sheet paper is put on the plate it is perforated. In regulating the movement of the paper, rows of perforations can be accomplished.

Any arrangement of needles for the different perforations can be made. According to how they are arranged, basically three methods of perforations from a philatelic standpoint are made:

Line perforation
Comb perforation
Harrow perforation

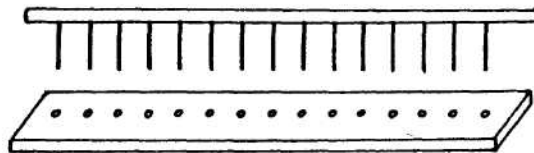


Illustration No. 1

2.1 Line perforation

Line perforation, formerly known as linial perforation, belongs to the most frequently utilized method. The perforation disk is equipped with a straight line of needles which is longer than the width, respectively, the length of the sheet. Usually we find that the perforation runs past the stamps and entails part of the margin of the sheet (selvage). The perforation is made first horizontally, then the sheet is turned at a 90° angle, and the vertical perforation is made. It means that in each direction two or even more perforations are made in addition to the number necessary. Specifically for Czechoslovak stamps in a sheet of 100 (10 × 10), for the operation 12 lines are needed, in each direction, or a total of 22 lines. In another arrangement of the perforation procedure, for example for a sheet of 10 × 5 rows, again an extra line is needed for each direction, in this case 11 + 6, or a total of 17 lines.

In the case of Czechoslovak stamps usually the line perforation is so made that the lines of perforations reach the edge of the sheets, and their horizontal and vertical crosspoints are usually irregular. In illustration No. 2 a haphazard grouping of perforation crossings is perceived. It is necessary to state that this haphazard crossing of perforations is a fundamental criterion for recognition and evaluation of line perforation in the case of larger blocks and also of single specimens. The characteristic irregular grouping of perforation holes in crossings or their fractures on the corners of stamps is usually well noticed at double magnification. It may be said that only in rare instances the perforation would be performed so perfectly that the corner perforations would be entirely regular, which fact would lead one to reach an erroneous conclusion in classifying or identifying the type of perforation.

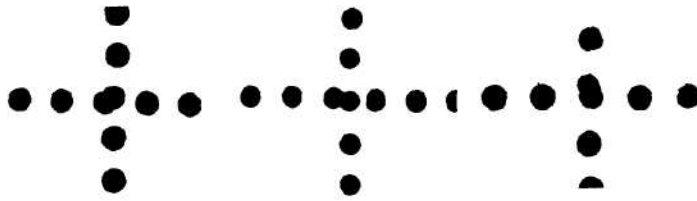


Illustration No. 2

It may perhaps happen that at a pair of stamp corners the perforations would show perfect alignment of the perforation holes, then the other corners would show an express anomaly, or at least an irregularity differing from the alignment of the first two corners. This is also proof that the perforation is a line perforation of stamps.

After production of stamps by steel engraving in the Stickney rotary press in 1925 the perforations were made on a new perforating machine which was attached and made part of this rotary press.

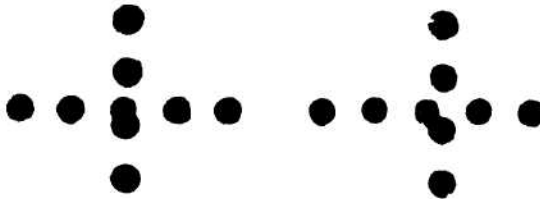


Illustration No. 3

Its main part, as is shown on Illustration No. 5, was a rotating perforation cylinder (from which circumstance the rotary line perforation designation is used) whose selected surface lines equipped with perforation needles in selected rows created horizontal rows of perforations, while needles on other selected rows created perforations in vertical lines, always in coordination with the movement of roll of paper in the press. This circumstance must be borne in mind because the arrangement of stamps in the Stickney rotary press differed in accordance with their format. It is noted in this connection that some coil stamps were also issued under these circumstances. Their perforation originated by omitting the needles on pertinent cylinders. This perforation machine substantially speeded up the production of stamps even though at the beginning the perforations were not perfect. This was also caused by large gaps between the perforations since its gauge was $9\frac{3}{4}$; a melioration of the perforation was accomplished by changing to $12\frac{1}{2}$ perforation.

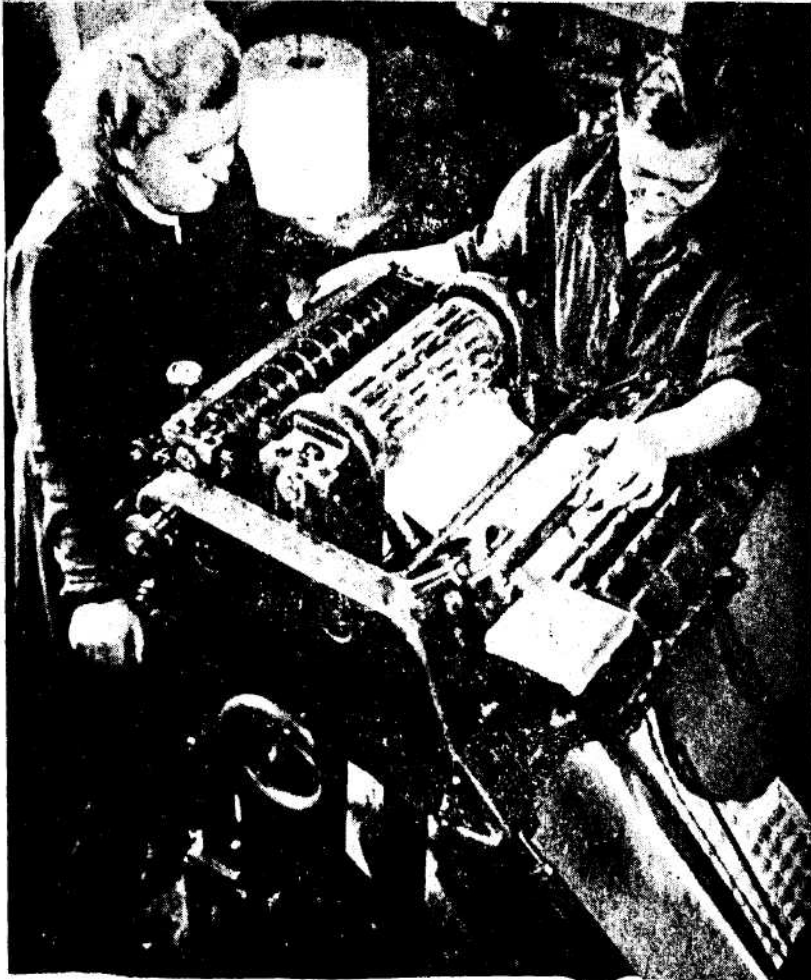


Illustration No. 5. Perforation machine added to the Stickney rotary press.

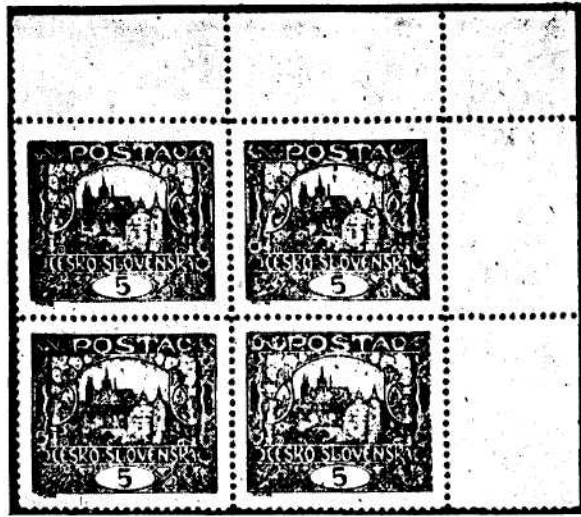


Fig. 4.



Fig. 6.

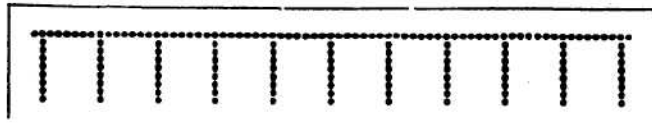


Fig. 7.

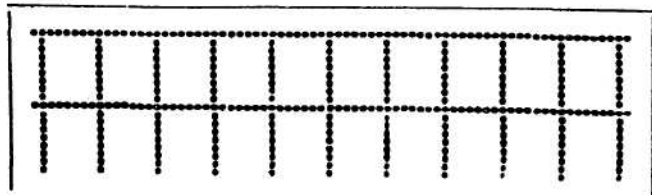


Fig. 8.

(Advertisement)



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- 5) You'll learn of the characteristic fauna and flora of Central Europe
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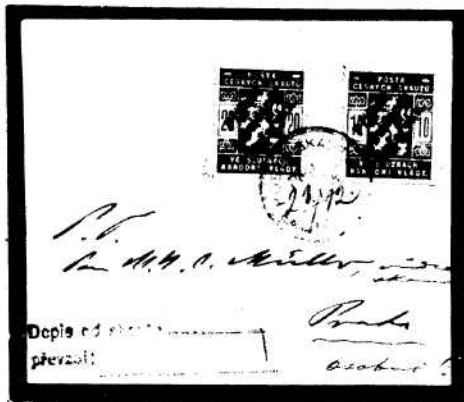


Figure 30.

A collection of this degree of completion has never before been exhibited. We believe that it will offer strong competition to collectors from abroad and will represent the degree of philatelic maturity achieved in Czechoslovakia.

COMMENTS FROM READERS

"By God, they must have struck oil!!!"

Oilslick, Texas

"A bit of pre-AMERIPEX advertising can't hurt — but will us others get equal space in the SPECIALIST?"

Fairness, Alaska

"Is Mr. Ptylíček also a chauffeur? Where does one apply?"

Toronto, Ontario

"Eat your heart out Fred, Hans, Lada, Henry, Charley, Jerry and Gösta."

Gluttonburg, Georgia

"The Czechs should give US some pointers on how to reverse the gold flow."

Washington, D.C.

"Did he buy all this in POFIS?"

Dreamland, Wisconsin

CHARLEY'S CORNER

By Charles Chesloe, 8300 So. Wolf Rd., Willow Springs, Ill. 60480

Among the three classics in the Hradčany series have to be the 10h, 20h, and 30h type V imperforates.

These values were issued normally perforated but a number of sheets remained imperforate and were distributed to various post offices in 1920.

A collector should exercise extreme care when purchasing these stamps, to make sure that the margins are at least one-half the distance between the stamps *on all four sides*. Sheet margin copies and stamps in pairs are definite assurances of imperforate condition. Many of the large-margined, perforated values have been clipped to make them appear imperforate. (See illustrations)



The 10h yellow-green was issued January 3, 1920 and a total of 20,000 imperforate copies are recorded. Imperforate sheets were found and used at the post offices of Brno, Opava, Košice, and according to the Velek handbook in Bratislava. Illustrated is a parcel clipping of the 10h cancelled in Košice on July 22, 1920.

The 20h red was also issued January 3, 1920 and a total of 12,500 imperforate copies are recorded. Imperforate sheets were found and used in the post offices of Brno, Opava, and according to the 1978 Czech specialized catalog in Frýdek.

The 30h red violet was found only in the post office of Jánské Lázně. This is one of the scarcest stamps with a proper cancel known from the 1st republic. The 30h red violet was issued on April 12, 1920. John Velek lists the imperforate total at 10,000 which seems a little high, but one has to assume that this total reflects all the shades starting with the light red violet to the deep or dark red violet.

The correct cancel of the 30h is only from Jánské Lázně. The color has to be the *light* red violet, "světle červeně fialová." The cancel is bilingual "Jánské Lázně-Johannisbad" and must carry also the letter "C" in the cancellation. (See illustration) The parcel clipping is cancelled on June 23, 1920.

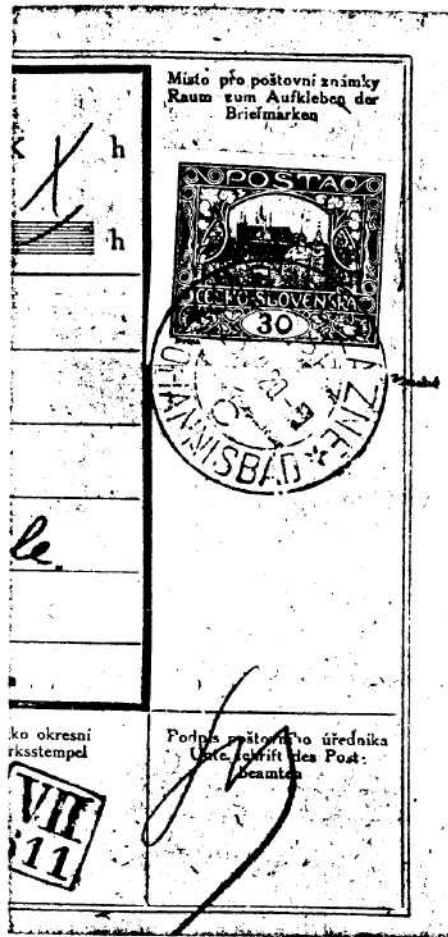
Parcel post entires or clippings are perhaps the most foolproof way to collect these imperforates properly cancelled. With parcel post, only the post office clerks handled these stamps and posted them on the parcel forms. Note the irregular cutting of these stamps on these clippings.

Illustrated also is a philatelic cover showing these imperforates. Note the even cutting and all the values with sheet margins.

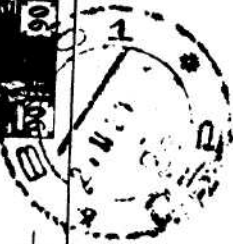
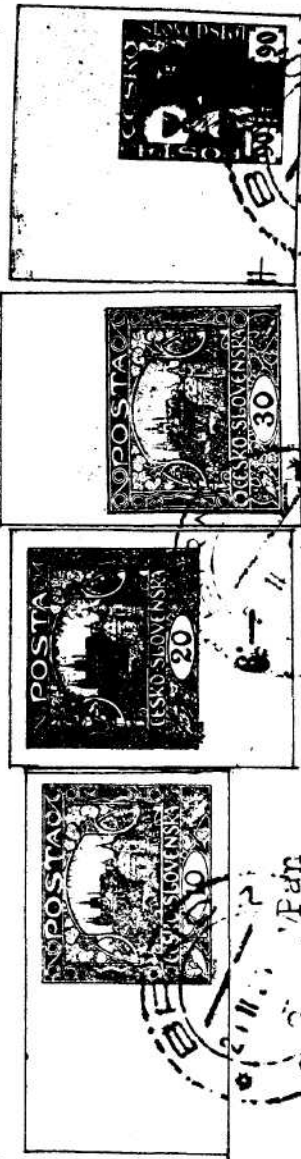
Good hunting.



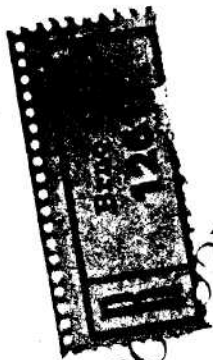
CANCELLED IN KOSICE, 22 JULY 1920



CANCELLED IN JANSKÉ LÁZNĚ
ON 23 JUNE 1920



Bon. S p e r l i n g ,



Erno.

U Solnice č. 3.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

30h. HRADČANY

Dear Editor,

In the SPECIALIST for November 1984, the article on the 30h. Hradcany ended with the remark that "it is now up to other collectors to help expand the list."

I have two covers with this stamp, line perf 11½ as follows:

– from the Zivnostenka Banka v Praze addressed to Dunaj všeobecná pojišťovací ako.spol. v Praze postmarked 7 vi 20-11 Praha 1.

– from Doksy/Hirschberg Bhm. (double language postmark) to Haselbach on 14th August 1920. This cover also has a 10h. and 20h. stamp to make up the correct postage.

Sincerely,
Tom Austin

NEW MEMBERS

1429 HORNICK, Thomas H., 230 Chenango St., Binghamton, NY 13901

1430 PUHLICK, Peter S., 4923 S.W. 127th Place, Miami, FL 33175

1431 CHAMBERLIN, David R., Box 426, Station E, Victoria, BC, Canada V8W 2N8

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

573 VONDRA, Mirko, 1625 Santa Barbara Drive, Lancaster, PA 17601

1170 SAZAMA, Robert, Army Education Center, Storck Barracks, APO New York 09140

1359 VACLAVIK, Peter, Landsberger Str. 455/5, Nr. 40, D-8000 München 60, West Germany

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Have nearly all issues #588 to #1741, and C40-C74, unused, no gum, at one-third 1982 Scotts. Also some earlier, none later. Indicate sets you want on Approval.

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Other countries on approval.

Have early issues of Russia, Austria, Roumania, Greece, Switzerland, Scandinavia, etc.

U.S. mint and used, mainly pre-1910.

Covers, early first days, CAMs, FAMs, misc. Cacheted.

Miller's, 821 Vermont, Lawrence, Kansas 66044

DOUBLE ISSUE

In an attempt to overcome the tardiness of the SPECIALIST which has unfortunately come about this year, the Editorial Board has decided to combine the April and May issues under one cover, doubling the size of it. The June issue is already in preparation, and we sincerely hope to resume publication on schedule with the September issue. There are regularly no issues for July and August.

DUES NOW PAST DUE

While we are pleased to report that most of our members are conscientious in paying their dues, some have missed the dues statement and envelope in the December issue and have not as yet sent in their dues.

As you know, almost all of the dues payment goes to pay for *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, the Society publication, and we have managed to keep our expenses quite well in line for 1984, so there will be no need to raise dues for 1985. Dues therefore remain at \$15.00 for Regular Membership, \$25.00 for Patron Membership (which includes a bound volume of the SPECIALIST every two years) and \$3.00 for Junior Membership (under 18 years of age). Members outside the USA are required to add \$4.00 for surface postage or \$8.00 for airmail postage for the SPECIALIST.

Please make your check payable to the SOCIETY FOR CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELY and send it directly to our Treasurer:

Col. Ludvik Z. Svoboda
1476 S. Wheeling Circle
Aurora, CO 80012

As you well know, there is no paid help in our Society, and each letter required to remind a delinquent member takes precious time from your volunteer staff. Please send off your dues now and know that your SPECIALIST will continue to come throughout 1985

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To: THE SOCIETY FOR CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELY, INC.

Secretary: Edward Lisy
87 Carmita Avenue
Rutherford, NJ 07070

No. _____

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