

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Official Monthly Journal of the  Society for Czechoslovak Philately, Inc. (USPS #06300)

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

A.P.S. Unit 18

Vol. XLVII

September 1985

No. 7. Whole No. 451

PICASSO IN CZECHOSLOVAK STAMP DESIGNS

By G. M. van Zanten, SCP

Pablo Ruiz Picasso was born in Malaga, Andalusia, Spain, on the 25 October 1881. He died in Antibes, just east of Cannes on the Mediterranean on the 8 April 1973.

Several of Picasso's works have been shown on Czechoslovak stamps, the first one being Pofis numbers 571 and 572 of identical design; this was on the occasion of the 1st Czechoslovak Peace Congress, the date of issue was 20 January 1951, values 2 Kčs and 3 Kčs, numbers printed 400,000 and 2,200,000 respectively.

The stamps show the now famous dove, graphic work was by Jiří Švengsbír. The origins of the design for the Peace movement are interesting and worth mentioning.

It was in 1949 that the editor of the Communist weekly in Paris "Les Lettres Françaises," a Mr. Louis Aragon requested Picasso for a drawing for the Congrès Mondial des partisans de la Paix to be held in the Salle Pleyel on the 20, 21, 22 and 23 April 1949 in Paris.

On a visit to his studio Aragon noticed a series of drawings of pigeons and was very enthusiastic, exclaiming: "Those beautiful doves . . . that's just what is needed for peace." With that the dove took wing and was soon to be seen everywhere — reproduced on scarves in four different colors symbolizing the races of the world, on records by Paul Robeson, on stamps, etc.

Various of Picasso's pigeon drawings were adopted for Peace movement conferences.

However, hardly had Aragon left the artist's studio than Picasso was chuckling with glee: "Poor old Aragon! His dove is a pigeon, but then he doesn't know anything about pigeons. And as for the gentle dove, what a myth that is! There's no crueller animal. I had some here, and they pecked a poor little pigeon to death because they didn't like it. They pecked its eyes out, then pulled it to pieces. It was horrible. How's that for a symbol of Peace?" Meantime, later that same day Paris was coated with reproductions of Picasso's pigeon.

While the congress was in progress, a daughter was born to Françoise Gilot and Picasso. She was named Paloma (Spanish for dove).

Another dove was shown on Pofis number 700 on the occasion of the 2nd Czechoslovak Peace Congress held in January 1953, graphic art work was again by Jiří Švengsbír, value of the stamp 1.50 Kčs and quantity printed was 3,000,500.



CONGRÈS MONDIAL
DES PARTISANS
DE LA PAIX

SALLE PLEYEL
20-21-22 ET 23 AVRIL 1949
PARIS

On the 6th of June 1983 another stamp was issued for the World Peace Conference held in Prague (Pofis No. 2596), this time it was in the form of a small sheet of eight stamps, showing the Milanese pigeon with its distinctive feathery feet, which was the subject of the original Paris poster of 1949.

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

(USPS 808300)

Official Journal of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately, Inc.
A.P.S. Unit 18

Vol. XLVII September 1985 No. 7, Whole No. 451

Published monthly except July and August - \$15.00 per year
Second Class Postage Paid at Ord, Nebraska 68862
and additional mailing offices.

Editorial Office - 2936 Rosemoor Lane, Fairfax, VA 22031

Editorial Board: Chairman Richard Major, Henry Hahn,
Ludvik Z. Svoboda, Jaroslav J. Verner, Paul Sturman

President: Dominick J. Riccio, 235 W. 76th St. Apt 4D, New York, NY 10023

Vice President: Richard M. Major, P.O. Box 4074, Arlington, VA 22204

National Secy: Edward Lisy, 87 Carmita Avenue, Rutherford, NJ 07070

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

Librarian: Jay T. Carrigan, 12000 Fairfax Station Rd., Fairfax Station, VA 22039

Expertizing Chmn: Edwin W. Lehecka, 217 Hazel Ave., Westfield, NJ 07090

Circuit Manager: Wolfgang Fritzsche, Box 8, Canandaigua, NY 14224

Changes of address to the editorial office.

Also shown is an outline of the Prague castle complex and the legend: "Peace in Europe — World Peace." A total of 178,400 of these sheets were issued, the value was 8 × 2 Kčs, graphic work by V. Kovářik.

In addition to that a miniature sheet of four stamps was issued with a separate image of just the pigeon, above and central to the four stamps this being in mono color only. Refer Pofis No. A2597, only 103,300 of these sheets were issued.

The 30th anniversary of the International Brigade in Spain was the subject of a large 60 h stamp, issued on the 5 July 1966, it shows the Guernica mural done for the Spanish pavilion at the Paris World Fair; refer Pofis No. 1543. The mural itself measures 12 ft × 26 ft; Picasso prepared 45 sketches for the work, 8 versions were painted before the final one was decided upon, the result is possibly the most terrifying image on the horrors of war produced by any artist. There were 15 stamps in each sheet together with 5 coupons, which show a detail of the work, Picasso's signature and the text Guernica 1937. A total of 1,278,000 stamps were issued, graphic work was by Josef Herčík.

U.N.E.S.C.O. "Cultural personalities of the 20th Century in Caricature" saw another stamp portraying a work by Picasso, this time, as the title suggests a caricature, refer Pofis No. 1726. The stamp is divided in two parts, the top part the head of Picasso and the lower part shows No. 6 of a series of 9 drawings. We shall have a closer look at these engravings and the story behind them.

It was in 1937 that Picasso gave vent to his feelings with Franco as his direct target, he engraved the savagery in two large copper plates, each divided in to 9 rectangles of about postcard size 13" × 15¼".

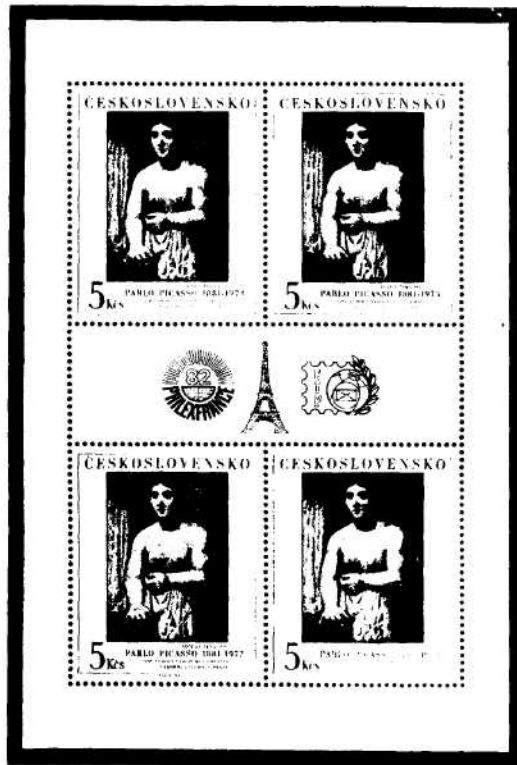
A poem of his own composing was added to the set, reflecting his loathing of an unnamed tyrant: "Fandango of shivering owls souse of swords of evil-omened polyps scouring brush of hairs from priests' tonsures standing naked in the middle of the frying-pan placed upon ice-cream cone of codfish fried in the scabs of his lead-ox heart. . . ."

The etchings and poem appeared as an album with the title of "The Dream and Lie of Franco." A total of 2,820,000 subjects were printed and the date of issue was 18 November 1968.



The Art set of 1972, issued on 27 November gives us a self portrait done in 1907. The value of the stamp is Kčs 2.40 and it was printed in sheets of 4 stamps, total number printed in this instance was 396,400, refer Pofis No. 1997.

To commemorate the 45th anniversary of the International Brigade in Spain and the 100th anniversary of Picasso's birth a souvenir sheet was issued on the 2 July 1981; it has a 10 Kčs value, refer Pofis No. A2496, a total of 408,300 were issued. It is a somewhat glorified version of the mural in that color has been added, whereas the original is in black, grey and white only. The sheet is again divided in a stamp part and three further sketches from the earlier mentioned sketches, this time Nos: 1, 7, and 9.



On 27 November 1981 we saw yet another of Picasso's works on a Czechoslovak stamp, and once again it was in the Art series of that year, refer Pofis No. 2517, it was the top value of 5 Kčs in the set and a total of 439,200 were printed in sheets of 4 subjects, which is a "Standing Woman," painted by the artist in 1921, which was in the period when he painted weighty, statuesque, often casually draped females, this period lasted from approximately 1917 to 1925.

The same sheet was later overprinted in the center gutter with the official emblem of "Philexfrance 82," a stylized drawing of the Eiffel tower and the official emblem of the F.I.P., it was put in circulation on the 11th June 1982 for the French International stamp exhibition, a total of 166,500 sheets were overprinted.

FOOTNOTE

The Czechoslovak painter František Kupka was an almost exact contemporary of Picasso. He lived from 1871 to 1957. He has one Czechoslovak stamp to his credit,

refer Pofis No. 1686 in the Praha '68 series and shows the Cabaret Artiste.
G. M. van Zanten
New Zealand

THAT DARN SCOTT B18A

By Henry Hahn

Darn it if we don't have one — for it's a high-priced beauty, with a Scott catalogue price of \$3,500. But one really must go to more specialized catalogues to savor the rarity of this stamp, for those distinguish the even rarer narrow variety (25 × 30 mm) from the wide variety (25½ × 29 mm). One may further distinguish the so-called type I overprint with diacritical mark over "S" in "POSTA" joined to the "S" from type II, in which the diacritical mark is located well above the "S." All of this is "old hat" — as may be that which I'm about to write concerning expertizing. Nevertheless, based on my experience with this item over the past few years, this stamp and its forgeries may be worth re-examining.

Darn the expertizing of this stamp, for it is one of the more troublesome ones. This is mainly due to its dark color, which obscures the outlines of the black overprint. However, with a good binocular microscope, a home-made screen, some literature and a bit of experience, the task is not difficult.

I have recently received via our Society Expertizing Service a rather pretty, well centered copy of this rarity, shown in Fig. 1. The back shows fair gum, a couple of hinge marks, two indistinct backstamps and penciled initials that may have been placed there by a highly regarded expert. The overprint outline impression on the gum side is reasonably good.

Comparing the front of the stamp, i.e. the overprint with the standard outline shown in "Padělky,"* one is first drawn to the shape of the diacritical mark over the "S" in "POSTA" which differs a bit in shape. However, one cannot rely on that alone, since inking variations and small differences in stereotype abound in this overprint.

Besides my own genuine copy, my reference collection includes a full dozen



Figure 1. Specimen Examined.



Figure 2. Genuine Type I Overprint.

forgeries of this stamp. It may be coincidence — but nearly all of my forgeries are of the narrow type, and all but one is of type I, i.e. exactly as the copy submitted for examination!

A quick check of other common tell-tale marks (not easy in this dark copy) indicates one unmistakable discrepancy — the lateral displacement of the “V” in “ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ” relative to the axis of the “T” in “POŠTA.” The central axis of the “V” should be an extension of the central axis of the “T” above, as illustrated in Fig. 2, which shows the genuine overprint on the 3 K value. (This value is shown because the contrast is far better.)

A quick look through my forgeries indicates that the forger or forgers made this error more than once, as illustrated in Fig. 3. Interestingly, this lateral displacement of the “V” to the right is normal for type II of the overprint.



Figure 3. Known Forgery of Type I Overprint.

The moral of this story is that *each single feature* of this outline must be *right for the particular overprint type*. Don't accept lightly penciled expert marks which are easy to duplicate, and when in doubt, contact the Society's Expertizing Committee Chairman, Ed Leckecka, 217 Hazel Ave., Westfield, N.J. 07090. You will be glad you did!

*Padělky — Standard Handbook on Forgeries (Translation available from the Society).

SELL — SWAP — WANT

WANTED: U.S. Postal Stationery issued after WWII in exchange for Czechoslovak material of the same period.

Antonín Tachecí
Dlážděná 2
110 00 Praha 1-N. Město
Czechoslovakia

WANTED

Provisional newspaper stamps (Nouzové novinové nálepky) 1918–1919. Everything of interest: mint, used, blocks, used on entire wrappers, varieties, etc. Single items or collection. Kindly reply by AIR MAIL to Stig Asklund, P.O. Box 14604, Nairobi, Kenya.

NEW ISSUES

"The 40th Anniversary of the National Security Forces"

The 40th Anniversary of the National Security Forces

Value: 50 h

Engraver: Jan Mráček

Colors: black, blue, red, green, golden

Author of the design is painter and graphic artist Vladimír Kovářík.

Rotary recess print combined with multi-colored photogravure in sheets of 50 stamps. Dimensions of the picture section of the stamp 23 × 30 mm.

One First Day Cover.

Date of Issue: April 5, 1985.

"The 40th Anniversary of the Košice Government Plan"

1945-1945 the Košice Government Plan

Value: 4 Kčs

Engraver: Josef Herčík

Colors: dark blue, blue, green, red, yellow

Author of the design is painter and graphic Merited Artist Ivan Schurmann.

Rotary recess print combined with multi-colored photogravure in sheets of 50 stamps. Dimensions of the picture section of the stamp 23 × 30 mm.

One First Day Cover.

Date of Issue: April 5, 1985.

"INTERCOSMOS — Research of Halley Comet"

INTERCOSMOS — Project VEGA

Value: 5 Kčs

Engraver: Miloš Ondráček

Author of the design is painter and graphic artist Rostislav Vaněk.

Rotary recess print combined with multi-colored photogravure

Dimensions of the picture section of the stamp 40 × 23 mm.

One First Day Cover.

Date of Issue: April 12, 1985.

"The World and Europe Ice-hockey Championship Praha 1985"

The World and Europe Ice-hockey Championship Praha 1985

Value: 1 Kčs

Engraver: Václav Fajt

Colors: black, green, yellow, red, blue

Author of the design is painter and graphic artist Petr Míšek.

Rotary recess print combined with multi-colored photogravure in sheets of 50 stamps. Dimensions of the picture section of the stamp 40 × 23 mm.

One First Day Cover.

Printed by the Posts and Telecommunications Printing Works in Prague.

Date of Issue: April 13, 1985.

"Eighty Years of Chess Organisation"
Eighty Years of Chess Organisation

Value: 6 Kčs

Engraver: Václav Fajt

Author of the design is painter and graphic artist Anna Podzemná.

Rotary recess print combined with multi-colored photogravure in sheets of 50 stamps. Dimensions of the picture section of the stamp 30 × 23 mm.

One First Day Cover.

Date of Issue: April 13, 1985.

"The Czechoslovak Spartakiade"

50 h — The Czechoslovak Spartakiade 1985

Engraver: Václav Fajt

Colors: black, blue, light blue, red, yellow

1 Kčs — The Czechoslovak Spartakiade 1985

Engraver: Václav Fajt

Colors: black, red, blue, yellow, green

The stamps were designed by academic painter and graphic artist Zdeněk Filip.

Rotary die stamping combined with multicolored gravure printing.

Size of pictorial part of the stamps 23 × 30 mm (50 h) and 49 × 19 mm (1 Czechoslovak crown). Printed in sheets of 50 stamps.

One First-Day Cover.

Date of Issue: June 3, 1985.

"Artists — Fighters Against Fascism"

50 h — Josef Čapek 1887–1945

Engraver: Ladislav Jirka

Colors: black, blue, brown, pink

2 Kčs — František Bidlo 1895–1945

Engraver: Ladislav Jirka

Colors: black, blue, ochre, red

4 Kčs — Antonín Pelc 1895–1967

Engraver: Ladislav Jirka

Colors: black, blue, green, ochre

The artistic designs are the work of academic painter and graphic artist Zbyněk Kočvar.

Rotary die stamping combined with multicolored gravure printing.

The dimensions of the pictorial part of the stamps are 40 × 23 mm.

Printed in sheets of 50 stamps.

Three First-Day Covers.

Date of Issue: June 4, 1985.

"The 10th Anniversary of the Helsinki Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe"

7 Kčs — The 10th Anniversary of the Helsinki Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe

Engraver: Miloš Ondráček

Colors: black, blue, gold, red, ochre background

The artistic design of the stamp are the work of the academic painter and graphic artist Alfred Fuchs.

Special arrangement of the printed sheet with four stamps and graphic decoration. Size of the pictorial part of the stamp: 40 × 23 mm.

One First-Day Cover.

Date of Issue: July, 1, 1985.

PERFORATION OF CZECHOSLOVAK POSTAL STAMPS (1918–1939)

(continued)

2.6. Practical measuring of perforations and perforation gauge

As we noted in the preceding chapter it is necessary for measuring perforations to have an accurate gauge.

The use of perforation gauge was current for more than sixty years. Numerous publishers of catalogs, philatelic literature and stamp firms manufactured for use by collectors gauges of differing quality and of different material (glass, plexiglass, sheet metal, or artificial material, mostly, however, on cardboard). Accuracy was not the purpose. The gauges served mostly as advertising. Some firms abroad later endeavored to produce more accurate gauges of various forms and size. The accuracy was better but still not to desired by standards required for accurate measurements. Some of the best gauges (mostly of thin metal of various quality) reached an error of +0.2 mm in 40 mm. In larger perforations such error did not make a difference, but in closer perforations (such as with Czechoslovak stamps — 13½, 13¾ and 14) it was not possible, even with the use of a magnifying glass, to reach a satisfactory conclusion and accurate rating.

For this reason in Czechoslovakia, in 1974, an accurate gauge of aluminum was produced which became standard for perforation gauges. This gauge (in a newer version of 1984) is made of aluminum sheet with a special surface treatment. On the gauge a basic measurement scale is maintained, assuring accurate measures, differing only +0.05 mm in a length of 40 millimeters. With this a reliable gauge was given to the collecting public. The volume of perforation sizes not only cover Czechoslovak sizes but is good for European and overseas standards.

The gauge begins with perforations size "7," continues with numbers 8 and 9, and then in quarters, that is, 9¼, 9½ up to 15, then continues in halves, that is, 15½, 16, and 16½. The latitude from 7 to 16½ fills all the requirements for Czechoslovak stamps and the majority of foreign perforations. For additional measuring, the gauge on one edge has a line for accurate measurements for a length of 67 millimeters with ½ millimeters marked off, and other minimal helps. The 8 basic positions of watermarks on Czechoslovak stamps and the positions of expertizers' initials is indicated; along the edge spacing of perforations in a space of 30 millimeters from 9¼ to 16.

For practical measurements it is necessary to know how a stamp is to be positioned on the gauge for accurate reading.

Basically a simple magnifying lense should be used (double magnifying is sufficient). The stamp is so positioned that the perforation tips be touched by the lines between perforations (see pertinent illustrations). It is not proper to match the perforation dots with corresponding openings on the stamps. It is always necessary to start from the left and keep on matching and moving the line until the radial lines perfectly line up with the radial lines of the perforation tips. This method must be observed unconditionally.

On the following examples the process of taking measurements is illustrated, up to the accurate identification of the perforation.

3. Perforations of Czechoslovak stamps for years 1918–1939

3.1. Individual dimensions of harrow and mixed perforations

First of all let us introduce perforation scale 11½, which was the very first one employed on Czechoslovak stamps, issue Hradčany, on some of the basic values in

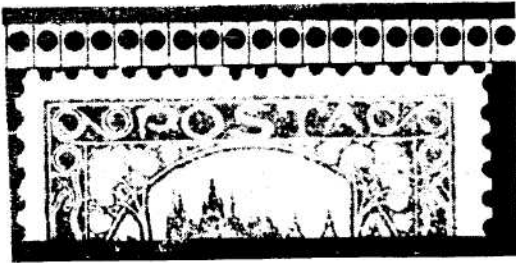


Illustration No. 21. Scale $11\frac{1}{2}$,
stamp horizontally $11\frac{1}{2}$.

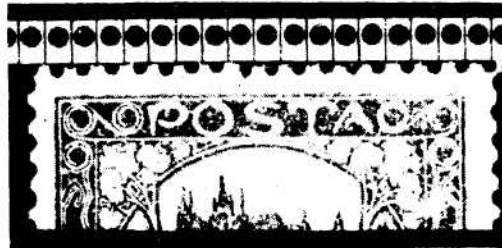


Illustration No. 22. Scale $11\frac{3}{4}$,
stamp horizontally $11\frac{1}{2}$.

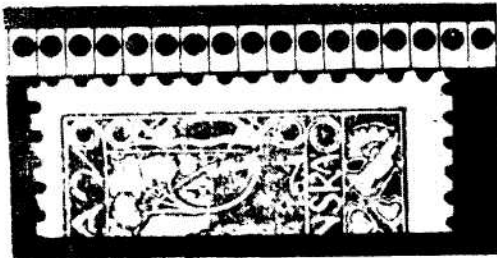


Illustration No. 23. Scale $10\frac{3}{4}$,
stamp vertically $10\frac{3}{4}$.

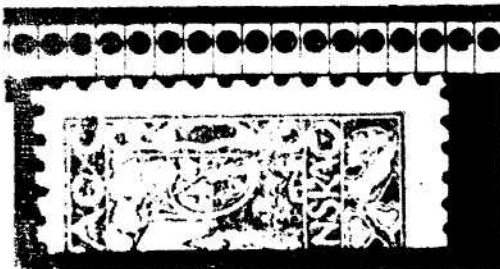


Illustration No. 24. Scale $10\frac{1}{2}$,
stamp vertically $10\frac{3}{4}$.



Illustration No. 25. Scale $13\frac{3}{4}$,
stamp vertically $13\frac{3}{4}$.

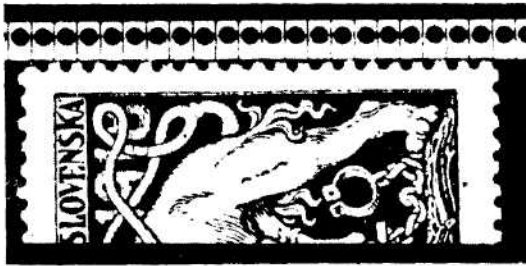


Illustration No. 26. Scale $13\frac{1}{2}$,
stamp $13\frac{3}{4}$.



Illustration No. 28. Scale 14,
stamp horizontally 14.



Illustration No. 29. Scale $13\frac{3}{4}$,
stamp horizontally 14.

December 1918 (5 haléřů light green, 10 haléřů red), and on other values in 1919 and 1920.

This, known as the rough or large perforation, was later used in the case of the four Legion stamps of 1919. It was not, however, used later as a lone perforation. It appeared only in combination with other scales, as dual or even triscale perforation (on the two examples and illustrations of smaller entire sheets). On the first illustration, 15 haléřů orange red, it can be seen that the perforation was not done perfectly. This perforation is evaluated as less current.

Perforation on $10\frac{1}{2}$ scale was employed, as noted in literature, only on Legionary stamps of 1919, on all six values. It may be considered as exceptional. With the 15 and 25 haléřů values the occurrence is somewhat scarce; in the next four values this variety of perforation is very scarce. From this it can be deduced that this scale of perforation was used only on a few sheets. In a much larger quantity the $10\frac{1}{2}$ perforation was used in combination with other line perforation.

Perforations in the scale of $10\frac{1}{2}$ were also used for some values of Hradčany, but only for the private use of some firms. In this instance we are speaking of a perforation not officially issued, but a perforation applied by private arrangement.

Perforation on scale $13\frac{3}{4}$ was first used in July 1919 and then with other issues of Hradčany in 1920. This perforation was also combined with line perforations $10\frac{3}{4}$, $11\frac{1}{2}$ and $10\frac{1}{2}$ (Legionary stamps) although in smaller quantities. As to perforated sheets of the Hradčany issue scale $13\frac{3}{4}$ is in the first place among the current stamps.



Illustration No. 30. ŘZ 11½.

The 13¾ perforation, so called fine, was from the practical standpoint at the post office the most suitable for the ease in separation of stamps. Also in following issues from 1920 the same scale of perforations was used quite often. Perforations in the same scale were used at the beginning of the thirties with the airmail stamps of the III issue (1930). In that year the printery ceased using the steel engraving method for stamps on flat plates, and all work was done (except for miniature sheets) definitively on Stickney rotary press.

A special note should be made with this scale of perforations with the jubilee stamps of 1923 (T. G. Masaryk) which in the following years were also used as overprinted for the Olympic Congress in Praha (1925) and the VIII Sokol Slet of 1926. The perforation plates for the Jubilee issue were constantly repaired and adjusted, so that the scale ranged between 13¾ to 14¾ vertically and horizontally. Most often the occurrence is scale 14, 14½, 14½; both side lines 13¾ and 14¾ sometimes occur. In such instances the perforations are irregular; spacing between the needles, even though insignificant, differ. In the detailed illustrations the vertical and horizontal differences in spacing are noticeable and these are typical for the stamps shown.

As we mentioned in the introduction, in year 1925 a new perforation method was introduced, as auxilliary equipment to the Stickney rotary press. On it, perforation on the scale RZ 9¾ (so-called rough perforation) was utilized, the largest scale on Czechoslovak stamps, until the year 1935. Later the perforation machines were adjusted and the scale was changed to EZ 12½, which made the stamps easier to separate for retail sales. With both scales a better quality perforation is noted, especially with establishment of the 12½ scale.

For the line perforation of stamps we add the 12¼ scale, which at the beginning of the thirties was employed with some of the 1930 airmail stamps, in a larger quantity with the 20 koruna stamp of grayish violet issue, and exceptionally with a few sheets of the 1928 Jubilee stamps. This perforation was basically used only with steel engraved stamps on flat plates.

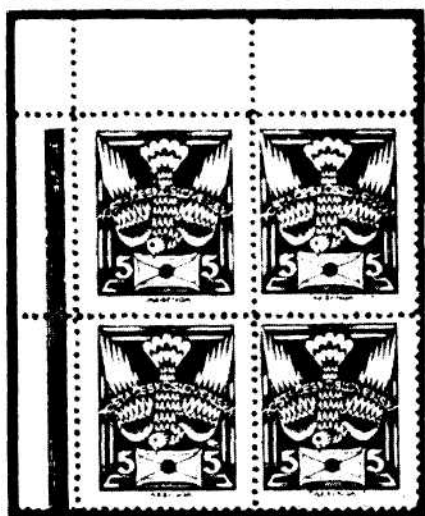


Illustration No. 31. ŘZ 13¾.

WHAT DO YOU HAVE?

Please let me know just what you have in covers of the Red Cross issue, Scott numbers B130-132, and date of cancellation. In order to compensate you for the time and postage, I will send you a full sheet of the 1h Hradčany issue. If you care to sell, please send me Xerox copy with price desired.

C. J. Pearce
Box 32 Coalgate, Okla. 74538

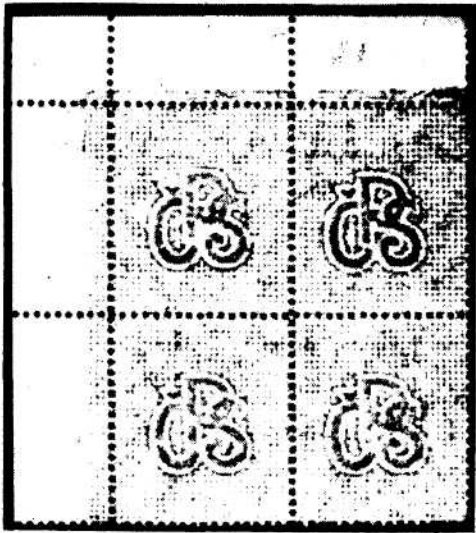


Illustration No. 32. ŘZ 14 (ŘZ 13¼ to ŘZ 14¼)



Illustration No. 33

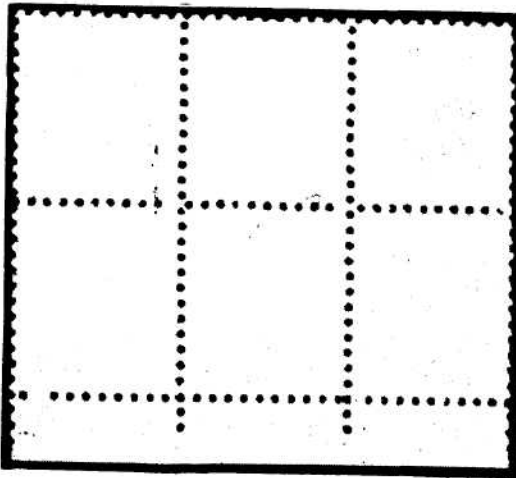


Illustration No. 34. ŘZ 9¼.



Illustration No. 35. 20 haléřů coil stamps with ŘZ 9¼.

(Advertisement)



**OF PRAGUE INVITES YOU TO
Collect CZECHOSLOVAK STAMPS**

And Gives You Ten Fine Reasons Why:

- 1) They'll give you a glimpse into the heart of Europe
- 2) You'll make friends with a people who, in peace, are building a new life for their country
- 3) You'll marvel at the beauty of Czechoslovakia's countryside, extolled by its artists and poets
- 4) You'll become acquainted (or reacquainted) with the old cultural tradition of the Czech and Slovak peoples
- 5) You'll learn of the characteristic fauna and flora of Central Europe
- 6) You'll keep up with the latest in Czechoslovakia's industrial and scientific development, including advanced research
- 7) You'll love their motion — like illustrations of the colorful world of sport
- 8) You'll see why Czechoslovakia has gained international recognition for its advanced techniques of stamp reproduction, harmony of color and outstanding artistry
- 9) They represent the work of their finest artists and engravers
- 10) Czechoslovakia's stamps are neither too large or small — just stamps as stamps should be!

ASK YOUR FAVORITE DEALER!

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

(USPS 806300)

2936 Rosemoor Lane
Fauquier, VA 22030

Second Class
Postage Paid
Our publications depart
and additional
mailing offices
