

# 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

Vol. XLVIII

March 1986

No. 3, Whole No. 457

## PYTLÍČEK ON FORGERIES

(Translated by Paul Sturman)

### THE LIBERATED REPUBLIC ISSUE

With this issue there also occurred an illegal reproduction of the stamp to the detriment of the post. The forgeries are known both mint and postally used. A total of five values were forged, including the 50h "Vejprty" forgery; the 60h "Teplice" and "Cheb" forgeries; the 100h, 185h and 250h "Košice" forgeries. The forgery names relate to where the forgeries first appeared or were made and distributed between the years of 1920 and 1923. The best similarity to the genuine was achieved in the 60h value, the so-called "Teplice" forgery. The forgeries are typographed, with the exception of the 60h "Cheb," which is lithographed. The majority are line perforated 11½, or, in some instances, 12½.

(Ed.: Thus, detection of these forgeries is made even easier by the fact that none was produced, as far as is known, in either of the two official perforation gauges, i.e., line 13¾ and comb 14. The perf 11½ examples, in particular, literally stand out like a "sore thumb.")

#### Description of Individual Forgeries

*The 50h green, forged in 1920.* The paper is dull and thicker than the original. Perforation is line 11½. The stamp is typographed. The size of the design is 17.9 × 22.0 mm. (See Illustrations 1 and 2.)



Illustration No. 1



Illustration No. 2

1. The letters in the inscription "Pošta Československá" differ from the original design.
2. Numerous deviations from the original design.
3. The line perforation  $11\frac{1}{2}$  is not distinct.

*The 60h blue, "Teplice" forgery.* Paper white or grayish, color of the stamp is greenish blue, typographed, perforation  $14\frac{3}{4}$ , size of design is  $18.4 \times 21.6$  mm. (See Illustrations 3 and 4.)

1. The letters in the inscription "Pošta Československá" are irregular.
2. Both shackles are shaded.
3. The right hand palm is without dots or lines.
4. The shadings of the skirt and the body are sparse.
5. The foot has but four toes.
6. The letters in the initials VHB are blurred.
7. Line perforation is  $14\frac{3}{4}$ .

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Illustration No. 3



Illustration No. 4



Illustration No. 5 shows a unique pair of the "Teplice" forgery which was discovered in 1947 by a Mr. Hanak of Brno.



*The 60b "Cbeb" forgery.* Yellowish paper, dull in color, printed by lithography, perforation  $13\frac{1}{2}$ , size of design  $17.4 \times 20.7$  mm.

1. Dull print of the entire stamp.
2. The letters of the inscription differ from the original.
3. Perforation irregular, unclear.

*The 100b, dark brown, "Kašice" forgery.* Paper white, color of design brown, typographed, perforation  $11\frac{1}{2}$ , size of design  $18.4 \times 21.7$  mm. (See illustrations 6 and 7.)

1. Inscription "Pošta Československá" is in straight but irregular lettering.
2. The stamp design is clear and sharp.

Illustration No. 6



Illustration No. 7



The forgery of the 100h stamp was soon discovered. In a confidential notice issued by the Directorate of Posts and Telegraphs in Prague and Bratislava, all post offices were notified and an example of the confiscated forgery was affixed to this bulletin dated December 23, 1922:



Also, through the efforts of Henry Hahn a translation follows, demonstrating how seriously the postal officials considered this attack upon their domain.

**DIRECTORATE OF POST AND TELEGRAPH IN BRATISLAVA**

139.

specimen  
stamp

**CIRCULAR**

No. 34165 — Illa-1922.  
**URGENT!**

Bratislava, Dec. 23, 1922  
**VERY IMPORTANT!**

**Forgery of the 1-crown stamp**

In Slovakia numerous persons were arrested and jailed for spreading forged Czechoslovak postal stamps of 100 heller value.

Also in other parts of Czechoslovakia attempts were made to distribute, in some instances to sell, forged stamps. It is quite reasonable to assume that the counterfeiters succeeded in distributing the forgeries in several areas of the Czechoslovak Republic to the considerable detriment and financial loss by the Czechoslovak Postal Directorate.

Consequently it is necessary to stop at once in a determined manner all further spread of the forgeries.

Post Offices of this area are sent this detailed description of these forgeries with the expert opinion of the Czech Graphic Union. The attention of the post office is especially called to items No. 1-4 in which are listed the irregularities which can be detected at once by the naked eye.

For greater ease in identifying the forgeries from the genuine stamp, one specimen (of the forgery) is displayed above. For the first class post offices two specimens, for other offices five specimens of these forgeries are submitted.

Offices to which more than one specimen of this forgery was sent should firmly affix each specimen to a sheet of paper and distribute them to pertinent desks or windows (as for example to windows for receiving and franking letter, to desks issuing money orders, etc.).

The distribution of these specimens shall be done by the officer in charge and carefully recorded, for after some time a demand will be made for the return of these forgeries.

Postal officials are instructed in strict earnestness to pay careful attention to all letters received and dispatched and ascertain very diligently the genuineness of the stamps used in franking mail.

Dispensers who lately sold fewer stamps or no stamps at all should especially be placed under thorough surveillance. If necessary, and for probable cause, a sudden inspection and audit of the dispenser's stock may be made. Under certain circumstances, when reasonable cause for suspicion exists, the participation of security forces or representatives of the Ministry of Finance may be advisable.

In large offices officers experienced in identifying forgeries should participate in such inspections and audits.

In all cases of discovery of verified forgeries the post office shall immediately prefer charges against the culprits and shall report the details of any action to the Directorate immediately.

Before the Bulletin was sent to post offices, the Directorate of Posts and Telegraph submitted examples of the counterfeit to the Czech Graphic Union for a detailed description of the points of difference between the genuine 100h stamp and the counterfeit. "For posterity" we present the report, although in truth the easiest way to detect this forgery is simply by its incorrect and highly obvious perforation 11½:

CZECH GRAPHIC UNION, A STOCK COMPANY,  
PRAHA II, SVOBODOVA STREET 1961

*EXPERT OPINION*

The 100-heller postal stamp submitted to us is an apparent forgery, in proof of which are the following deviations (from the genuine):

1. The forged stamp is nearly a millimeter narrower not only in design, but also in the format of the paper.
2. The color of the paper is different, is lighter and yellowish.
3. The perforation is sparser than in the genuine stamp.
4. The quality of the paper is somewhat firmer.

*Differences in design*

5. The legend "Pošta Československá" lacks uniformity in all letters, the letters "o" especially in the authentic stamp are lightly rounded out, while in several locations flattened on the forgeries.
6. Head: The face has a different appearance, the nose is flattened, the wavy hair on the right side has different waves.
7. Hands: The positioning of fingers is not as regular as in the original; the lines indicating the fold of the palm radiate in a different direction, the links of the broken chain are not as regular as in the original.
8. Arms: The width of the arms is greater, the forearm of the right arm is shorter, the three two-line arcs on the upper part of the arm are not as precisely indicated.
9. The breasts are flabby and do not have the fresh fullness; also with the lower arc the real form of the breast is not well defined in comparison with the original.
10. The shading under the breasts, that is above the waistband, is not very regular in the forgery, i.e., does not nicely wind around the body.
11. Skirts: The line shadings of the fold are of different length, especially those drawn vertically from the waistband. Also the gradual shading of the fold at the right folded knee is not as well depicted as in the original.
12. The edge of the skirt in the original stamp is more wavy, which is especially noticeable at the spot where the right foot toes protrude from under the skirt.
13. Hair under the left hand of the figure in strong waves is crudely drawn. The artist forger did not notice the grouping of the waves and therefore deviated grossly from the original.
14. The linden branch as if springing from the clothing on the right foot has leaves more rounded out but narrower. On the original every leaf is more heart-shaped and therefore more regular in form. Also the stems of the leaves are not well noted.
15. The blossom under the hill "Říp" has only three petals instead of four. Also on the other side under the second hill the blossom is wilted, as if dried out, and the shading of the terrain is not in agreement with the original neither to direction nor in form with the original.
16. The numerals "100" are not smooth in design, their edges are rough and therefore not regular enough.
17. The forgery is printed by typography with the aid of cuts made by an expert hand and a sharp eye is needed to notice the difference on first glance.

Praha, December 15, 1922.

Czech Graphic Union, stock company, in  
Praha  
President: Knotek, L.S.

Slovak Bookprintery in Bratislava, 11831/22.



We reproduce a reduced version of a later bulletin because of its probable interest to our members.

č. 379.020—X—1982.

Předmět: Padělky výplatních známek  
100-haléřových.

Velmi nutná a velmi důležitá!

## Oběžník

č. 114.



### Všem poštovním úřadům v obvodu zdejšího ředitelství.

Na Slovensku vyaktyly se padělky poštovních výplatních známek 100-haléřových, jež pravděpodobně rozšířeny byly i do svých oblastí čs. republiky.

Die posudku české grafické Unie v Praze odlišují se padělky od známek pravých těmito lehce rozeznatelnými odchylkami:

1. Známková padělaná je bezráma a jeden milimetr kratší než jsou v kresbě, ale i formátu papíru.
2. Barva padělků je odchylná, je světlejší a do žluta zbarvená;
3. perfovaní je šidli než u známky pravé;
4. kvalita papíru je o něco silnější.

Další podrobnější odchylky v kresbě jsou tyto:

5. Písmo „Pošta československá“ postrádá pravidelnosti u všech liter, zejména písmena „o“ jsou na originále hladce zaokrouhlená, na padělků nestějně sploštěná.
6. Hlava: tvář má jinou podobu, nos je sploštělejší, vlnící vlas po pravé straně má jiné zvlnění.
7. Ruce: rozložení prstů není tak pravidelné jako na originále, čárkami naznačené záhyby ve dlaních mají jiný směr, články roztržených pout nejsou tak pěkně pravidelné jako na originále.
8. Rámec šifra rámeč je větší, předloktí pravého rámeč je kratší, tři dvoulinkové obloučky na horní části rámeč nejsou přesně napodobeny.
9. Prsa jsou avistější a postrádají světlé plochy, také spodním obloučkem pravý tvar prsou není proti originálu náležitě vytištěn.
10. Také stínění pod prsy, tedy hned nad pažem, není na padělků dosti pravidelné, pěkně kolem těla se vlnoucí.
11. Sukně: čárkováním naznačené záhyby látky mají jinou délku zejména ony od pasu svisle kreslené, také stupňovitě kladené stínění záhybu je vlní pravé zvednuté koleno, není dle originálu vystřeno.
12. Levá ruka je u známky pravé více zviněná, ruce je nejlépe zmačeno ten, kde v pod šatu vyčnívá pravá noha s prsty.
13. Vlas pod levou rukou figury mohutně vlnící je hruběji nakreslen, kreslič-napodobitel nevytíhl seskupení vlasů a odchýlil se proto značně od originálu.
14. Ratoš listová jakoby ze šatu u levé nohy vzrůstající, má listy oblejší, užší, na originále má každý listek tvar srdcovitější a tudíž také pravidelnější, také stopky listků nejsou na padělků dosti zřetelné.
15. Kvítek pod horou Říp má pouze 3 listky namísto listků 4, také onen na druhé straně, pod druhou horou nacházející se kvítek, má tvar schůplý, jakoby zvadlejší, stínění terénu neshoduje se ve směru ani ve tvaru čárkování originálu.
16. Číslice „100“ a „100“ nejsou dosti v kresbě hladké, jejich kraje jsou drsné a proto také nedostí pravidelné.

Na oběžníku nalepen je padělek jako vzor, aby úřad snáze mohl posoudit odchylky padělků od pravé známky.

Poštovním úřadům se co nejdůrazněji nařizuje,

1. aby zkoumaly jak při podávání tak i dodávání zásilek pošty listovní a poštovních poukázek se zvýšenou a co nejdůležitější pozorností pravost nalepených známek,
2. aby si daly, zda prodávací poštovních cen v poslední době neodebírají neodůvodněné známek 100-haléřových buď vůbec nebo v množství nápadně menším,
3. aby dle potřeby vykoraly občasně náhle prohlídky u prodávaců poštovních cen, po případě vyžádaly si při těchto prohlídkách účast orgánů bezpečnostních nebo finančních, bude-li tato účast odůvodněna značným podezřením proti prodávací ceně.

U úřadů eských a větších úřadů řídních nechtě pověří přednsta úřadu pouze zkušené úředníky provádním a kontrolou všech nutných opatření, směřujících k zjištění padělků.

V případech, kde zjištěno bude rozšívání padělků, nechtě úřady učiní ihned trestní oznámení příslušnému soudu a mimo to nechtě o věci podají okamžitě zprávu zdejšímu ředitelství pošt a telegrafů.

ŘEDITELSTVÍ POŠT A TELEGRAFŮ.

V PRAZE, dne 25. prosince 1982.



The 185h, orange, "Košice" forgery. Paper rough, heavier than in the original, typographed, perforation 11½, size of design 17.9 × 22.1 mm.

1. Perforation irregular.
2. Opposite perforation openings are not in registry.

The 250h "Košice" forgery. Indistinct printing, pale color, perforation 12½, typographed, size of design 19.0 × 22.0 mm.

illustration No. 8.



1. Irregular perforations.
2. Word "pošta" damaged.
3. Tilted last "k."
4. Numerous small irregularities in the entire design.

The occurrence of the forgeries of the "Liberated Republic" to the detriment of the post, with the exception of the 100h value, was altogether minimal and is estimated to be as low as 10 to 20 pieces in some of the values. Illustration No. 9 is a registered letter bearing a pair of forged 60h stamps, to which were added a genuine pair of 40h



and a genuine 100h value cancelled at PODMOKLY I-BODENBACK I on December 15, 1923. This is the first "find" to prove the forgery of Liberated Republic to be to the detriment of the post.

This concludes a very interesting and informative series from new member Ludvik Pytlíček. The Editor cannot resist the thought that while postal clerks were supposed to be on the alert for the 100h "Košice" counterfeit, the *registered letter* illustrated above slipped by with a pair of the 60h "Teplice" counterfeit in company with genuine examples of the 40h and 100h Chainbreakers. Who was the culprit — the sender or the postal clerk?

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#### LITERATURE

Forgeries of Czechoslovak Stamps — Ing. J. Karásek  
Monography II — Ing. Karásek

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## OUR SALES DEPARTMENT

This article is addressed to our members who do NOT receive our sales circuits.

We do have sales books with stamps suitable for beginners and also for very advanced collectors. At this time we have a large number of books on hand, the result of our appeal to send us sales books. Our members responded very well and know they can thus help our Society. After all, the Society gets part of the commissions. In the past 3 years about \$125.00 each year was turned over to our treasurer.

By receiving and buying from our sales circuits you help yourself by getting new material for your collections and indirectly give financial aid to our Society.

If you wish to receive our sales circuits, just write to us and let us know what you collect: stamps, mint, used, postal stationery, covers, cancellations, printing varieties, etc.

Recently an "old timer" received his first sales circuit and wrote that he had never expected to be offered so many different types of material; he had assumed that our sales books contained stamps only for very advanced collectors. He had seen that even a beginner could find good stamps for his collection.

Wolfgang Fritzsche  
Sales Manager  
P.O.B. 8  
Canandaigua, NY 14424

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#### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

1375 PRIBIL, Donald, 3060 Kentucky Ct. (Apt. 4), East Point, GA 30344  
1345 JOHNSON, Kristi, 9152 E. Lehigh Ave., Denver, CO 80237

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#### NEW MEMBERS

1443 CANTOR, Dr. Frederick R., P.O. Box 88, Titusville, NJ 08560-0088  
1447 DAWSON, William, 55 Strafford Ave., Clayhall, Ilford, Essex IG5 0TJ, England  
1448 KLEIN, Bram, 1111 N. Dearborn (Apt. 3102), Chicago, IL 60610  
1449 GRAU, Juan S., Traversa de Delt 11-13, Attico 2a Da, 08024, Barcelona, Spain  
1450 PARKER, B., 16 Eastfield Rd., Royston Herts SG87ED England  
1451 PYTLÍČEK, Ludvik, Na Vyhlidce 449Cs, 513 01, Semily, Czechoslovakia

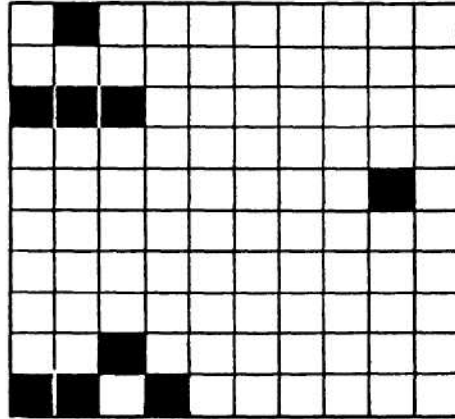
## CHARLEY'S CORNER

### Hradčany 15h — Plates V and VI

The largest printing of the Hradčany issue occurred in the 15h value. A total of six plates was prepared, of which the last two, Plates V and VI, were made in the spring of 1920. At this point in time the series of various values was almost exclusively being issued in perforated form.

Incidentally, the rare shades of the 15h — the fire red and red-brown — are not scarce in perforated form, but quite the opposite imperforate.

It was during the last printings of the Hradčany issue that a rarity was created: Plates V and VI were being issued in perforated form when a very small amount of imperforate sheets slipped by the inspectors and were shipped to a few post offices in Eastern Slovakia. These sheets printed from plates V and VI are readily identifiable because all positions in the plates are in *Type 1*, the "open scroll" variety. If one studies Ing. Jan Karásek's handbook on the Hradčany joined types, one can readily identify the horizontal *Type 1* pairs from positions 21-22-23 and 91-92 of Plate I (Illus. 1). It is



Illus. 1

15h — Plate I

obvious, therefore, that vertical pairs in *Type 1* cannot exist in the 15h value except from Plates V and VI (Illus. 2 and 3). By the same token, horizontal pairs in *Type 1*, other than those positions mentioned in Plate I, also must come from Plates V and VI.

These scarce imperforate sheets were found and used in Velké Kapušany and

Position 50



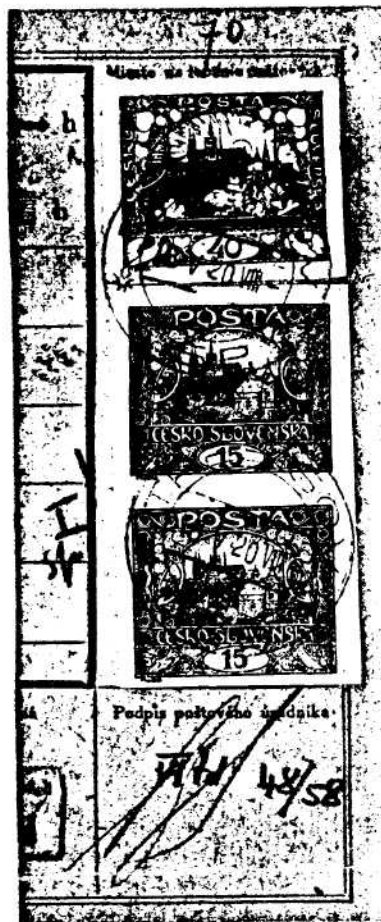
Position 60



Illus. 2

Plate V

Position 48  
Position 58



Illus. 3

Plate VI  
Cancelled in Trebišov  
May 18, 1920

Trebišov in May 1920. In June 1920 they appeared in Zalašice and in late August and September in Kosice. I know of no other towns that received these sheets. Good hunting!

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## AMERIPEX '86

We are pleased to announce that the following members of our Society will exhibit at this prestigious show in May:

- Charley Chesloe (selected Rarities)
- Dr. L. V. Fischmeister (Rarities)
- Henry Hahn (Specialized, including P.C., Masaryks, Transition)
- Fred W. Hefer (Rarities, rare perforations, etc.)
- J. L. Klein (Specialized POSTA 1919)
- Dr. E. T. Theimer (Classical Austria)

If this list is not complete, we would appreciate any additions to this group and will make the appropriate announcement in a future issue of the SPECIALIST. In any case, the above members are to be congratulated because we understand that requests for frames exceeded the number available by almost three times!

## NEW ISSUES

By G. M. van Zanten — Courtesy ARTIA, Prague

### WORKS OF ART ON POSTAGE STAMPS

Five stamps were issued on 25 November 1985, commemorating "Works of Art." All are multicoloured, printed by the flat recess process in sheets of four. The stamps measure 40×50mm and were produced by the Post Office Printing works in Prague.

- 1Kčs Shows a portrait of a young woman in a blue dress 1826 by Jozef Ginovský, who lived from 1800–1857. The original is housed in the Slovak National Gallery. Engraving and graphic lay-out by Jan Mráček.
- 2Kčs Shows Lenin on the Charles Bridge; this painting dates from 1952 and recalls the stay of Lenin in Prague in January 1912, where he attended the "Prague Conference." The painting is by Martin Sladký, who was born in 1920. The original is housed in the Lenin Museum, Prague. Engraving and graphic lay-out by Miloš Ondráček.
- 3Kčs An "Avenue of poplars" dating from 1935 by Václav Rabas, a painter, graphic artist and sculptor who devoted much of his works to the Czech countryside. He lived from 1885–1954. The original is housed in the Prague National Gallery. Engraving and graphic lay-out are by Václav Fajt.
- 4Kčs The "Beheading of St. Dorothea in 1516" by Hans Baldung Grien, who lived from 1484/1485 to 1545; his works are among the highlights of medieval art. The original work can be seen in the Prague National Gallery. Engraving and graphic lay-out by Václav Fajt.
- 5Kčs "Portrait of Jasper Schade van Westrum," dated 1645 by Frans Hals, who lived from 1581/1585–1666. The original of this work is housed in the National Gallery in Prague. It is interesting to recall that this work was stolen from the Gallery in 1972. It was retrieved in 1976 and returned in 1977 after restoration. The stamp was engraved by Miloš Ondráček, who also did the graphic lay-out.

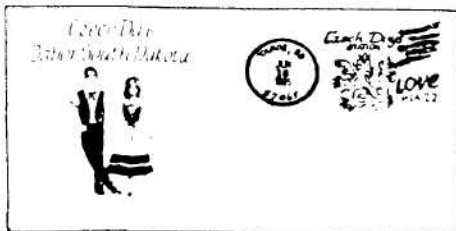
Five First Day Covers were issued with this set. The themes portrayed on these form with the stamp and the obliteration a harmonious whole.

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## 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.

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### CZECH DAYS STATION

CANCELLATION CACHET ENVELOPE

SPECIFY JUNE 16 and/or 17

\$1.00 each addressed, mailed;  
\$1.25 each, mailed in separate  
envelope.

TABOR COMMUNITY CLUB

Box 21, Tabor, South Dakota  
57063-0021

**REPORT ON  
THE THIRD POFIS PUBLIC STAMP  
AUCTION**

**23-24 November 1985**

By Fred W. Hefer, BPP

The Third Auction took place in the PALÁC KULTURY. The modern building with good underground parking facilities (otherwise a rarity in Czechoslovakia), large rooms and good lightning is located on the super highway to Brno near the "Klement Gottwald Bridge."

The large room on the second floor where the auction took place offers a splendid view over the old city of Prague with the Hradčany in the background. The auctions are conducted by the state-owned POFIS Company. POFIS is represented in foreign countries by "ARTIA" Philatelic Dept. The auction catalogue contains 1364 lots of Czechoslovak material and 1794 lots from Andorra to USA. Description and starting prices were in Czech in Kčs, but on request and for seriously interested parties a special catalogue with the description in German and starting prices in German Marks (DM) was available. The conversion rate of Kčs to DM was DM 1,- for 10Kčs. A handling fee of 3% is added by ARTIA to the knockdown price. The conversion rate of 1:10 is of course considerably better than the normal rate of exchange (approx. 4.5Kčs for DM 1). At the normal exchange rate the prices for stamps in Czechoslovakia are completely unreasonable and not attractive. However, by offering a 1:10 exchange rate, foreign collectors and dealers are attracted in addition to the Czechoslovak collectors. This yields better prices for the seller and attracts more and better material for the prospective purchaser. The Czechoslovak seller to POFIS receives Czech Crowns (less a 15% commission to POFIS). The state will receive from the foreign buyer hard currency and the foreign buyer can take his purchase without any worry across the border. For those who do not know: the export of any philatelic material from Czechoslovakia without going through the official agency "ARTIA" is strictly forbidden. If caught, stiff jail sentence must be expected.

I hope that POFIS and "ARTIA" will continue this exchange-rate practice, since some of the very special Czechoslovak material is very hard to find in West European or US auctions. In this third auction the inexpensive to middle-priced special Czechoslovak material sold very well; the higher-priced Czech material sold hardly at all. Some examples:

Lot No.		Start/DM	Knock-down price/DM
128	Mixed franking Hradschin with 15 Pf. - Germania on letter from Hlučín 7.11.1920	120,-	290,-
178	2Kč Poštá d. Blue, Mi. No. 51 wide	4000,-	not sold
186	Poštá Československá 1919 overprint on triangular spec. del. in block of four Mi. No. 67 xx	250,-	410,-
207	Poštá, on blue Merkur, not issued xx	160,-	260,-
228	Poštá, 2 F. Reaper corner block of 10 with shifted overprint, 4 stamps not overprinted xx	40,-	75,-
233	20 F. Magyr-Poštá Mi. No. 144	5500,-	not sold
264	T. G. Masaryk 1920, 125 H. ultramarine block of four, both types (broken frame) xx	200,-	310,-
342	40 H. Chain breaker corner, horizontal comb. perf. joint types o	2500,-	3000,-
355 b	50 H. Chain breaker corner pcs. without head xx	2500,-	not sold
362	50 H. retouched egg xx	100,-	185,-
368	Postcard 50 H. green with egg xx	400,-	440,-

448	Science - 100 H. Mi. No. 202b vert. strip of 3 joint types o	120,-	220,-
451-2-3	Proofs, Science issue 100-100-200-300- 400 Heller, diff. colors on sheet xx	ea. 200,-	ea. 260,-
488 b	200 H. Masaryk proof, blue-green imperf. on paper pcs. with small date	1000,-	1000,-
812	Spec. Del. Mi. No. 11SZ + 12SZ 2 + 5 H. gutter pairs xx	170,-	260,-
835	Newspaper Mi. No. 13SZ + 15SZ gutter xx	400,-	660,-
924	10 H. "Příjezd Pres. Masaryka" light blue - on Scout stamp xx	5500,-	not sold

o = used    xx = mint

The auction was attended on the first day by approx. 300 Czechoslovak and 5 foreign bidders and on the second day by some more Czechs and approximately 15 foreigners. Highlight of the second day was the bidding for a very nice collection of German colonies with almost all high-ships-values in o and xx; Michel value approx. DM 110.000,-. It was knocked down after a starting bid of DM 25.000,- at DM 27.900,- to a West German collector. For ease of conversion, the DM to US\$ value is presently (Dec. 85) DM 2,50 for US\$1.-.

The auctions are very well organized. As in most West European auctions, each lot is displayed on a color video-screen; however, the description is in Czech. Admittance is by invitation from ARTIA or by a small fee (10Kč) at the entrance. A bidding number can be obtained against a "deposit" of 50Kč. Czech bidders are required to fetch their lots immediately. For foreign buyers POFIS will turn over the lots to ARTIA for processing. For larger purchases and for buyers with established credit, ARTIA will take cheques and prepare the lot in 2 to 3 days so that one can take one's purchase with him.

The package is sealed by the Prague Customs Office and a customs invoice attached. On the border one must declare the package for inspection and turn the invoices over to the border customs.

The next auction will take place in June-July 1986. For members of the Society the writer can act as an agent if so desired.

### LATE 1986 DUES

This is a reminder that membership dues for 1986 are very slow in reaching the Society. I, as Assistant Treasurer, have the unenviable job of making the Society budget match expenses, and I need your help.

Because we do not enjoy the luxury of large amounts in our treasury, each and every member's dues are very important in keeping the Society going. For example, the cost of publishing *The Czechoslovak Specialist* uses up most of the funds raised.

We are very much aware that publication of the *SPECIALIST* has been running late in the past; however, I am sure that you can agree that under our new management, we are just about back to regular on-time delivery. So, we really need you to send in your 1986 dues. If you can help me, I would very much appreciate it. The December issue showed the dues structure. Send your checks to:

Colonel Lou Svoboda  
1476 S. Wheeling Circle  
Aurora, CO 80012

Thank you.



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