

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Official Monthly Journal of the



(USPS 808300)
Society for Czechoslovak Philately, Inc.

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

A.P.S. Unit 18

S.P.A. Branch 284

Vol. L

June 1988

No. 6, Whole No. 480

A SUMMER LETTER TO SANTA

(In this whimsical plea to Santa Claus — posted early in the year to assure early delivery and reading — author Henry Hahn is really hoping that some of our members possess examples of 18th and 19th century French military mail from Bohemia and Moravia and are willing to sell him their copies or send him photocopies and whatever other information they may have of this period. — Literary Editor)

Dear Santa!

This is absolutely the last time I shall write you. I assume you *must* collect stamps — with all the people in the world writing you — and since writing you is nothing new, you are sure to have some nice old covers, even duplicates. But you never brought me even *one*!

Since this is my last request to you, I might as well ask for something good. How's your stock of 18th and 19th century French military mail from Bohemia and Moravia? Since you must be a world-wide collector and probably don't specialize, I'd better describe what I'm asking for, and give you a bit of background. You may not remember what the French did way back then. So here goes:

The earliest material I know of are military covers from the 1741–1742 campaign. After the death of Charles VI, Maria Theresa succeeded to the throne on the basis of "pragmatic sanctions." Bavaria, Saxony and Prussia did not like it and marched into Bohemia from the south and southwest. In October 1741, the French were in Pilsen, and in November they got to Prague. They stayed about one year. In fact, they stayed in the town of Cheb (Eger) until December 1742. The French used two field post marks, differing only in size. I believe one is 27mm long and the other is 41mm long. All are in black. The illustration below comes from volume 13 of the *Monography of Czechoslovak Stamps*.

ARMEE DE BOHEME

You might have come across one of these originating from a soldier in Prague or Cheb. If you bring me one, I hope it's expertized.

Over half a century later came Napoleon. The napoleonic markings are from 1805 when Napoleon had the Austrians, Russians, English, Swedes, and Neapolitans on his back. He assembled his GRANDE ARMEE in Strassburg, supported by Dutch and Hannoverian units, and marched on Vienna via Munich and Linz. To do this he crossed Moravian territory (Znaim and Brunn) and for a time occupied two more towns in Moravia — Prostějov (Prossnitz) and Olomouc (Olmütz). There followed the battle of

Slavkov (Austerlitz) on December 2, 1805. Napoleon's command was then (or right after) in Brno and later in Mikulov. Both PORT PAYE and DEBOURSE marks are known. According to Monografie 13, fifty-six GRANDE-ARMEE markings are known, of which twelve could have been used in Moravia. Those used in Bohemia were from Hannoverian units. Illustrations and a listing of what are known is as follows:

BAU GAL
GRANDE ARMÉE

Nº 15
GRANDE-ARMÉE

Nº 9. PORT-PAYÉ
GRANDE-ARMÉE

Nº 5. DÉB.
GRANDE-ARMÉE

| | | |
|--|-------------|-----------|
| BAU.GAL./GRANDE ARMEE | red: 1805 | (Brno) |
| Bau.Gal. = Bureau general = Main (field post) office | | |
| No. 5/GRANDE-ARMEE | red: 1805 | (Olomouc) |
| No. 5 PORT PAYE/GRANDE-ARMEE | red: 1805 | (Olomouc) |
| No. 5 DEB/GRANDE-ARMEE | red: 1805 | (Olomouc) |
| No. 9/GRANDE-ARMEE | red: 1805 | (Slavkov) |
| No. 9 PORT-PAYE/GRANDE-ARMEE | red: 1805 | (Slavkov) |
| No. 15 GRANDE-ARMEE | black: 1805 | (Brno) |
| No. 15 PORT-PAYE/GRANDE-ARMEE | blue: 1805 | (Brno) |
| No. 15 DEB/GRANDE-ARMEE | red: 1805 | (Brno) |
| No. 18/GRANDE-ARMEE | red: 1805 | (Moravia) |
| No. 24/GRANDE-ARMEE | red: 1805 | (Moravia) |
| BAU.GAL./ARM. D'HANOVRE | red: 1805 | (Bohemia) |
| No. 4/ARM. D'HANOVRE | black: 1805 | (Bohemia) |
| No. 4 PORT-PAYE/ARM. D'HANOVRE | black: 1805 | (Bohemia) |

The last group of French markings used on future Czechoslovak territory is from French-German field posts in Bohemia and Moravia in 1809. This was when Napoleon, as an ally of Bavaria, assembled his army which in May occupied Vienna. After Vagram, the army occupied Brno (Brunn — incidentally my birthplace) and some other towns in Moravia. Some units were also in Bohemia — but that is still being researched. A table of what is in Monografie is shown below:

Nº 26
ARM.D'ALLEMAGNE

P.P.Nº 18
ARM.D'ALLEMAGNE

| | | |
|------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| No. 18/ARM. D'ALLEMAGNE | green: 1809 | (C. Budějovice) |
| | red: 1809 | (C. Budějovice) |
| No. 26/ARM. D'ALLEMAGNE | red: 1809 | (Brno) |
| | blue: 1809 | (Brno) |
| P.P. No. 18/ARM. D'ALLEMAGNE | red: 1809 | (C. Budějovice) |

P.P. = Port paye = post paid

The time frames for Bohemian and Moravian usage are not entirely clear. It is assumed that they dated from right after the Vagram battle (July 5 and 6) up to October 14, when the peace was signed.

This sort of summarizes the area I'm interested in. If you have any duplicate covers that fit, I'd be most interested. If you have some that are in your personal collection and you wouldn't part with, I'd love a reproducible picture since I may write this up for publication. Of course, any additional light you can shed on this would be most welcome.

On the other hand, if I again don't get a response from you, I shall be forced to conclude that none of those Frenchmen ever wrote you. They may not even have believed in you! But don't fret — they got their punishment in Russia just a few years later. Did you hear from them from there?

Still faithfully yours,
Henry Hahn

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UMĚNÍ A ZNÁMKA ART AND POSTAGE STAMPS

By G. M. van Zanten

Bohumil Kubišta
1884-1918

In the 1973 Art set there appears a miniature sheet calling attention to the Brno 1974 National Stamp Exhibition. The 2Kčs value of the sheet shows a clown "Pierot," painted in the year 1911 by Bohumil Kubišta. The original of this work, which measures 100×68 cm hangs in the Prague National Gallery. The subject of the miniature sheet was "ART AND THE POSTAGE STAMP EXHIBITION." The engraver for this particular stamp was Josef Herčík; the sheet itself was issued on November 27, 1973.

From an early age Bohumil Kubišta had a great talent for mathematics, geometry as well as draftsmanship and painting. However his life was one of poverty and hardship. He enrolled at the Industrial Art school in Prague and after a brief period there, he went to the Prague Academy; later on he studied in Florence and Paris where he also wrote articles on art and essays.

In desperation, he joined the Austrian Army in 1913 as a reserve officer. As can be imagined, the war utterly disrupted his art career. However his military duty on the Adriatic had a profound influence on the colors he used in his later works.

At the conclusion of the war, he returned to Prague in the autumn of 1918, but was struck down by the Spanish influenza epidemic that raged there at the time. And so at the age of 34 ended the life of one of the great painters of Czech art. His work has inspired younger generations of Czechoslovak artists. His name has coined the phrase "cubistic painting."

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REMEMBER!
PRAGA '88

REMEMBER!!
PRAGA '88!!

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Let me take this opportunity to thank all the members who voted for the various nominees to our Board of Directors and express my gratitude to the elected Board members who had faith in me to choose me as President of our Society.

We had a long and productive Board meeting on March 19 and many subjects were brought up and hopefully will be enacted in the near future.

First and foremost will be an auction for the benefit of our members. This will provide everyone a chance to sell and buy good, worthwhile Czechoslovak material. To make it a first-class auction, all items cataloging \$200 or more will be offered with a Society Certificate of Authenticity unless the item already has a current Certificate. This service will cost the seller one percent of catalog value and should help to elevate the realization price. Society Certificates are now being designed and holders will find them quite attractive.

The auction will be publicized in the philatelic press here and abroad so as to give us excellent exposure and participation by both buyers and sellers. An illustrated catalog will be prepared with most lots photocopied in order to stimulate bidding and keep sales at a brisk pace.

As our first Society auction, it will be held hopefully this fall. If it turns out successful, more auctions will follow.

Many of our collectors are approaching retirement and are looking for a good way to dispose of their material. This could be the ideal answer. As an adjunct to our circuit and sales division, collections or larger lots may be offered intact at a net price. If you have any material you would like to sell through a Society auction or by private treaty, please let me know. I will be the person in charge of running them. We hope to hold sales this fall and perhaps next spring.

In addition, we are looking to expand and implement our expertizing service. This is sorely needed because some U.S. auction firms are sending Czechoslovak material to Europe to be expertized. This should not be necessary. There are several members within our Society who could or do perform this service on a personal basis. As an organized Society activity, it will benefit the philatelic community at large as well as the Society treasury.

The Board also discussed the role of the SPECIALIST in the Society's fiftieth anniversary year. It was agreed there would be a general improvement in its format which is now taking shape and in its printed appearance, especially illustrations. Under consideration was getting more members involved in contributing articles for publication. To generate more widespread interest, a Question-and-Answer column will be initiated. So please fire away! Send your articles and/or your questions to the editor — Mirko Vondra, 1511 Clearview Ave., Lancaster, PA 17601.

With this issue of the SPECIALIST, we are beginning our Slovakia Study Section with an article on Slovakia no. 1, the 300 h/10 Kčs overprint.

— Charley Chesloe

President Chesloe has announced that the Board of Directors has approved his appointment of J. L. (Hans) Klein to replace Fred Hefer on the Board effective immediately. Fred Hefer recently tendered his resignation from the Society.

Non-member Jaroslav Ošanec writes us that he would like to trade and exchange stamps of Czechoslovakia for United States stamps. Those interested, please communicate with him at:

Ing. Jaroslav Ošanec
Čechová 1380
765 02 Otrokovice
Czechoslovakia

REMEMBER!
PRAGA '88 IS JUST TWO MONTHS AWAY!!

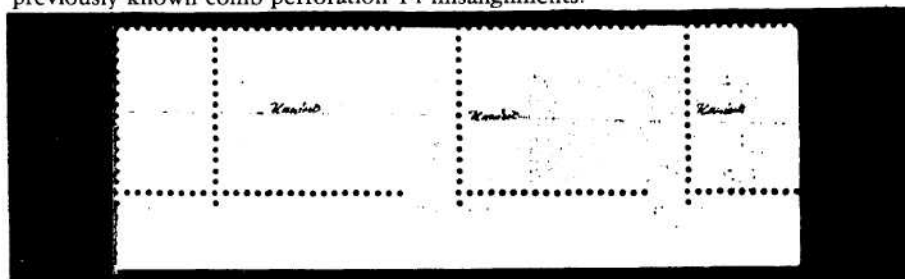
MISALIGNED COMB 14 PERFORATIONS - III

By Frank W. Julsen

In the February 1987 issue of the *SPECIALIST*, I wrote about the incidence of "blind perfs" in the lower corners of the Dove and Chainbreakers stamps, caused by the carelessness on the part of the operator of a comb 14 perforating machine.



In the October 1987 issue I mentioned that although this gap involves space normally occupied by one perforation hole, member J. L. Klein had shown me a vertical strip of three of the 10h bistre Dove stamp that possibly surpassed all previously known comb perforation 14 misalignments.



In this issue the October article is repeated for two reasons: first, the illustrations were omitted from the first printing; second, the publication of V. Králíček's translation of the Dove chapter has just reached that point where the subject is treated in this month's installment of the *SPECIALIST*. The two can therefore be cross-referenced.

Returning to J. L. Klein's strip of three, this is from a late printing as indicated by the year designation "28" in the margin. The mistake apparently slipped by an inspector, ending up in some post office and thence to an interested collector.

The unique part about this strip is that it shows so clearly the format of the comb: 18 perforation holes vertically which, when properly aligned for the next strike, will blend with the lower hole from the preceding punch or strike.

As I mentioned in the February article, these varieties are not so rare (I have even seen them on Hradčany comb perforations) that a nice representation of all Dove and Chainbreaker values can be assembled without straining the wallet.

26.8.-4.9.1988 SVĚTOVÁ
Praga VÝSTAVA
88 POŠTOVNÍCH
ZNAMEK
PRAGA 1988



THE DOVE

Seventh Installment

This is the continuation of the Allegory Chapter of Monografie II as translated by Vladimír Králíček.

(Page 214):

HORIZONTAL COMB PERFORATION

Noteworthy is the comb perforation 14 progressing horizontally — the so-called horizontal comb perforation. Many articles in specialized magazines and journals have been written about this perforation oddity. We introduce only the main characteristic signs which are typical of this type of perforation for identification purposes.

Horizontal comb perforations of the Dove issue are found in two denominations — the 5h violet and the 10h olive. Because the perforating machine employed in 1921 was used only for a very short period and because the early collectors have not paid much attention to the different types of perforations, stamps of the 14 perf variety were discovered much later. That is why the used 5h violet and the 10h olive are more common. With time, these stamps were in greater demand not only mint, but even in used condition.

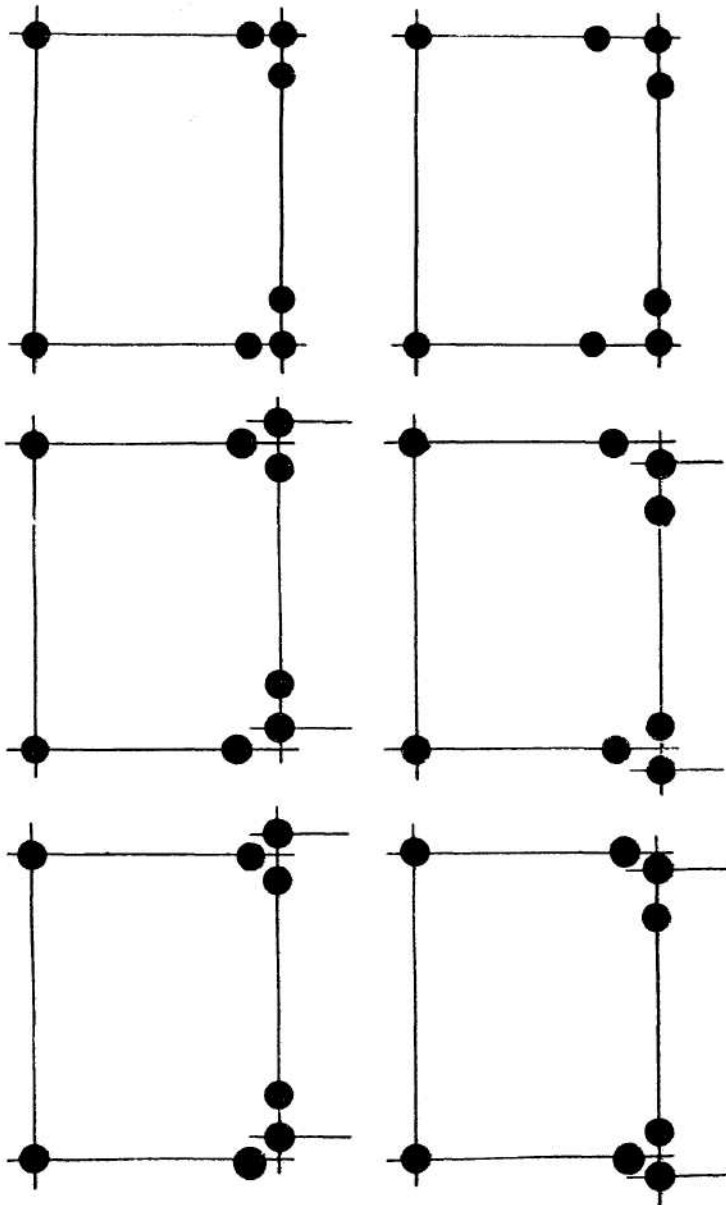
In order to recognize the horizontal comb perforation, it is necessary to know how the normal comb perforation was produced. These perforations were made from top to bottom (sometimes from bottom to top) and always in eleven strikes. Horizontal perforation lines always extend into the left or right margins of the sheet with one perforation hole. In this way there are three margins of the printed sheet without perforations except for the bottom one which is perforated with the last or eleventh strike of the perforating machine up to the margin between the individual row control numbers. At the same time the length of the perforating comb is exactly 21.4 mm across a single stamp (from the center of a perforation hole on one stamp to the center of the equivalent perforation hole on the next stamp).

With the horizontal comb perforation, the perforating action moved from left to right (or from right to left), the first strike of the perforating comb began at the left (or the right) margin of the sheet and the last or eleventh strike ended at the right (or left) margin. It is therefore obvious that the stamps in the margins are the ones which correctly identify the perforations used.

(In distinguishing individual stamps with horizontal comb perforations where the regularity of the perforations seems to be precise from those whose perforations are not so exact, it is possible to carry out accurate measurements and comparisons of individual perforations using a method developed in 1964 by František Šrámek. Subsequently a number of retouches were discovered of the 5h violet, namely the 45th stamp on sheet VI/5R and the 100th stamp on sheet VII/1R, with the horizontal comb perforation. Also known to exist in that perforation is an unused bottom strip of the 5h violet with row control, numbers where the 100th stamp is retouched.)

It is somewhat more difficult to determine the perforations of stamps which are located on the inner part of the sheet. Here to a large extent we have help from frequent inaccuracies in the comb perforations. In the regular course of operation of the comb perforating machine, the perforation lines always meet in a precise position and produce square corners at the center of which is always a single perforation hole. In the event the perforating machine is incorrectly set, the regularity of subsequent perforations is disturbed. This may happen if the moving table of the perforating machine shifts slightly away, causing the perforations to be further apart from each other (regular extended comb perfs) or if the moving table shifts slightly closer, causing smaller gaps between perforations (shortened comb perfs). It may also happen if the perforating machine shifts slightly to the left or slightly to the right with no other discernible movement or in combination with the above two mentioned movements (the origin of considerable perforation distortion).

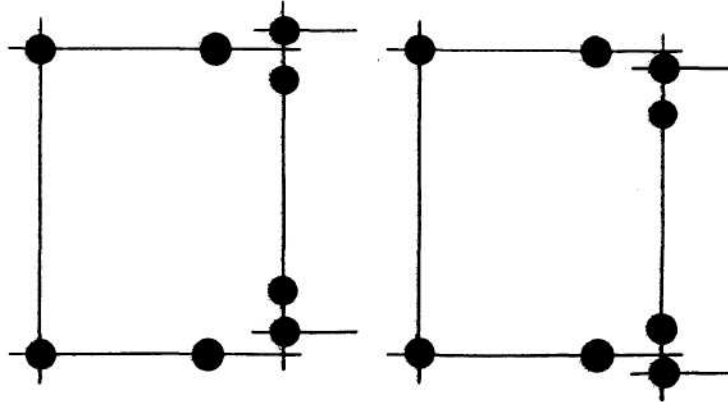
(Page 215):



(Illustration 336)

Note: Detailed elaboration and analysis of the horizontal comb perforation was carried out by František Šrámek in *MERKUR* magazine, number 11/1970.

(Page 216):

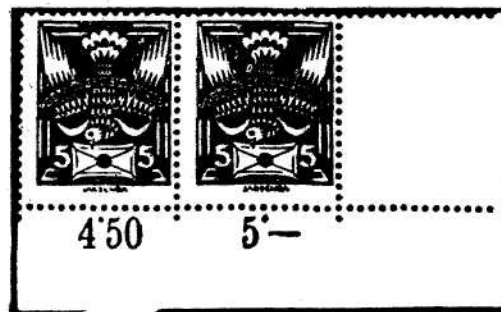


(Illustration 336)

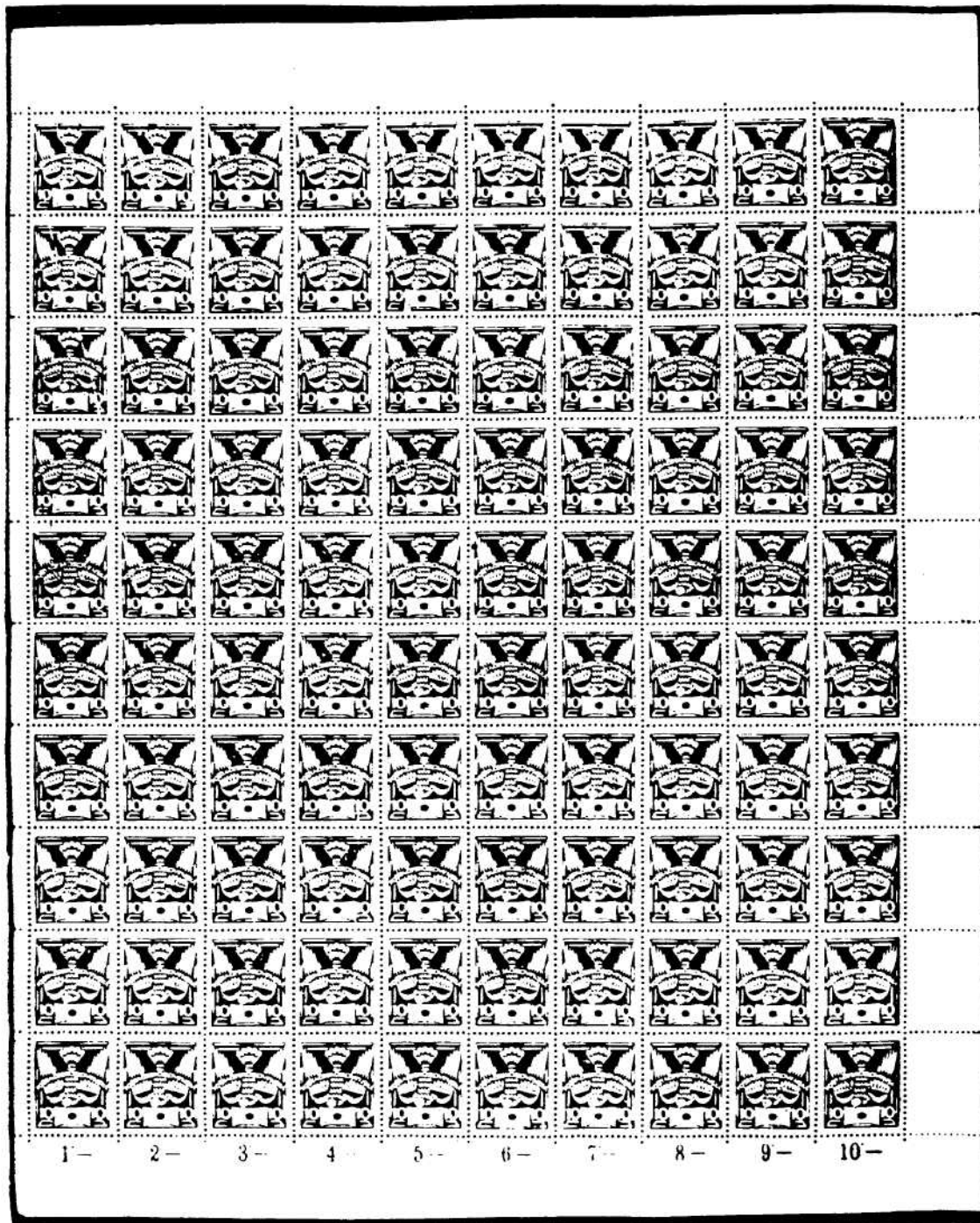
From these illustrated examples, it is clear that the distance between the vertical perforation lines is always slightly greater or slightly less than 21.4 mm.



(Illustration 337a)
Horizontal comb perforation.



(Illustration 337b)
Horizontal comb perforation.



(Illustration 337c)
A sheet of 100 stamps with horizontal comb perforations.

**PRELIMINARY PROGRAM
for the WORLD POSTAGE STAMP
EXHIBITION PRAGA 1988**

(Main events)

| | |
|---|--|
| August 26th, 1988 Friday 10 a.m. 1 p.m. | DAY OF THE WORLD POSTAGE STAMP EXHIBITION PRAGA 1988 *Opening Ceremony Opening of the Exhibition to the public |
| August 27th, 1988 Saturday 9 a.m.—12 noon 3 p.m.—4 p.m. 4 p.m.—6 p.m. 6 p.m.—8 p.m. | DAY OF CZECHOSLOVAK POSTAGE STAMPS International Symposium of the Commis- sion for Czechoslovak Postage Stamps *Public Platform for Questions and Answers on the topic "Czechoslovak Postage Stamp and its Creation" *Giving of autographs by creators of Czechoslovak postage stamps Meeting of Commissioners |
| August 28th, 1988 Sunday 9 a.m.—4 p.m. | DAY OF YOUNG PHILATELISTS International auction sale of postage stamps in the Palace of Culture, organized by POFIS |
| August 29th, 1988 Monday 9:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. 4:30 p.m. 9 p.m.—11 p.m. | DAY OF THEMATIC PHILATELY ASCAT, Meeting of the Executive Com- mittee ASCAT — Cocktail party Meeting of delegates to the IATM Con- gress in the National Technical Museum |
| August 30th, 1988 Tuesday 9 a.m.—5:30 p.m. | DAY OF POSTAL HISTORY IATM Congress |
| August 31st, 1988 Wednesday 7 a.m.—10 p.m. 9 a.m. 9 a.m.—10 a.m. 9 a.m.—12 noon 9 a.m.—12 noon 10 a.m.—1 p.m. 2 p.m.—5 p.m. | DAY OF AEROPHILATELY Congress IATM — guided tour to Vyzsi Brod — Postal Museum *Balloon Flight II Championship Czechoslo- vakia — Tabor Commission for Aerophilately of the FIP — Board meeting Commission for Maximaphily of the FIP — Board meeting Meeting of the AIEP Commission for Aerophilately of the FIP — Annual Conference Commission for Maximaphily of the FIP — Plenary session |

September 4th, 1988 DAY OF THE UNITED NATIONS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPER-
ATION

Sunday
11 a.m.-6 p.m. 57th Congress of the FIP
5 p.m.-5:30 p.m. *Concluding Ceremony of the Exhibition
PRAGA 1988

September 5th, 1988
Monday
9 a.m.-6 p.m. 57th Congress of the FIP

September 6th, 1988
Tuesday
9 a.m.-12 noon 57th Congress of the FIP
2 p.m.-12 midnight Excursion for the participants of the 57th
Congress of the FIP to Konopiště

*Activities with free admission
For further information on PRAGA '88 contact the US Commissioner:
Mr. Henry Hahn
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2901 Telestar Court
Falls Church, VA 22042

For travel and information regarding availability of special tours and flights contact:
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1489 Second Avenue
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(212) 744-6185

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT — PRAGA '88

An international Czechoslovak Collector's Dinner hosted by our Society will be held during PRAGA '88. Tickets for dinner will be available through Charley Chesloe, President, 8300 S. Wolf Road, Willow Springs, IL 60480, or through Jane Sterba, Secretary, 6624 Windsor Ave., Berwyn, IL 60402. The Society will endeavor to arrange a get-together station which will enable you to get full information regarding this and other activities. Otherwise check with your hotel information desk.

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER CHANGES

| <i>New Members</i> | <i>Address</i> | <i>Membership Number</i> |
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| W. D. Asher | 1110 West Maryland Phoenix, AZ 85039 | 1505 |
| Eugene W. Friedrich | 'MIDCLIFF', Ruggles Ave. Newport, RI 02840 | 1506 |
| Dr. A. A. Sterns | 1009 North Ocean Blvd., Apt. 504 Pompano Beach, FL 33062 | 1507 |
| Frank Danek | 25-30 14th Place Astoria, NY 11102 | 1508 |
| Arthur Segal | 7561 Battersly St. Philadelphia, PA 19152 | 1509 |
| T. Davidek | 34 Dundalk Drive 422 Scarborough, ON M1 P4 W3 Canada | 1510 |

September 1st, 1988

Thursday

9 a.m.—10:30 a.m.

9 a.m.—12 noon

9 a.m.—12 noon

10:30 a.m.—1 p.m.

2 p.m.—5 p.m.

2 p.m.—5 p.m.

7 p.m.

September 2nd, 1988

Friday

9 a.m.—10 a.m.

9 a.m.—10 a.m.

9 a.m.—11 a.m.

9 a.m.—12 noon

10 a.m.—1 p.m.

2 p.m.—4 p.m.

6 p.m.—7 p.m.

7 p.m.—1 a.m.

September 3rd, 1988

Saturday

8 a.m.—10 a.m.

9 a.m.—12 noon

9 a.m.—12 noon

10 a.m.—6 p.m.

2 p.m.—4 p.m.

2 p.m.—4 p.m.

5 p.m.

DAY OF THE FIP

Section for Astrophilately of the FIP —
Board meeting

International course on the experiences
achieved by applying the Regulations for
the Composition and Evaluation of Exhibits
Congress of IATM

Section for Astrophilately of the FIP —
Plenary session

Commission of the FIP for Traditional Phi-
lately — Meeting

Commission of the FIP for Thematic Phi-
lately — Meeting

Cocktail BULGARIA 89

DAY OF THE WORLD POSTAL UNION

Discussion of the working group of the FIP
on the application of the Regulations for
the Composition and Evaluation of Exhibits
Commission of the FIP for Postal History
— Board meeting

IATM Congress — Conclusion

Commission for Youth Philately of the FIP
— Board meeting

Commission of the FIP for Postal History
— Plenary session

Commission of the FIP for Postal Station-
ery — Board meeting

PALMARES — Palace of Culture

Announcement of Results

PALMARES Banquet — Palace of Culture
(Entrance tickets to the Palmares Banquet
can be obtained through the Travel Agency
ČEDOK. Price of ticket about 100 SW.
FR.)

DAY OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK NA- TIONAL FRONT

Commission of the FIP for counterfeits —
Board meeting

Meeting of the Working Group of the FIP
— Railways

Commission of the FIP for Literature —
Meeting

Commission of the FIP for Postal Station-
ery — Meeting

Festive session of the Central Committee
and Control Board of the Federation of
Czechoslovak Philatelists, and Associations
of Czech and Slovak Philatelists

*Giving of autographs by Creators of
Czechoslovak postage stamps

Meeting of the representatives of the Exhi-
bition PRAGA 1988 and FINLANDIA
'88. Evaluation of their cooperation

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| T. Davidek | 34 Dundalk Drive 422 Scarborough, ON M1 P4 W3 Canada | 1510 |

CALENDAR SCHEDULE OF CZECHOSLOVAK STAMPS ISSUED IN 1988

| Day/ Month of Issue | Title of Set | N u m - ber of Stamps in Set | Face Value of Set in Kčs | Size of Stamp mm. |
|---------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1.1 | 70 Years of Czechoslovakia | 1 | 1.00 | 40×23 |
| 10.1 | 75th anniversary of birth of Gustáv Husák Current stamp | 1 | 1.00 | 19×23 |
| 1.2 | Olympic games and sports, with left and right hand tabs | 3 | .50 1.00 6.00 | 19×23 19×23 49×19 incl. tabs. |
| 25.2 | 40th anniversary of Victorious February 1948 *Souvenir Sheet with 2 val. 0.50 perf 2 val. 0.60 imperf. *Souvenir Sheet with 2 val. 0.50 imperf. 2 val. 0.60 imperf. | 1 | .50 2.20 2.20 | 30×23 |
| 25.2 | 40th anniversary of the revived Czechoslovakia National Front. | 1 | .50 | 30×23 |
| 1.3 | Historical Automobiles | 5 | .50 1.00 2.00 3.00 4.00 | 40×23 |
| 10.3 | 70 years of the Postal Museum (PRAGA '88) | 4 | .50 1.00 2.00 4.00 | 40×23 |
| | Souvenir sheet with 2 val. of 2.00 Kčs and with 2 values of 4.00 Kčs (PRAGA '88) | | 12.00 | 49×19 |
| 29.5 | 125th anniversary of Matice slovenská | 1 | .50 | 23×30 |
| 14.4 | 40th anniversary of the Young Pioneers Organisation | 1 | .50 | 30×23 |
| 12.5 | State care for Historical Monuments and Nature Conservation— Museum of National Literature in Prague (PRAGA '88) | 4 | 1.00 2.00 5.00 7.00 | 30×23 |
| 1.6 | every value in sheet of four, perforated Souvenir sheet with complete set, imperf. Prague Fountains (PRAGA '88) | 4 | 1.00 2.00 3.00 4.00 | 49×19 |

| | | | | |
|-------|--|---|-----------------------------|-------|
| | Souvenir sheet with 4 values - complete set | | | |
| 1.7 | Present-day Prague (PRAGA '88) | 4 | .50 1.00 2.00 4.00 | 20×30 |
| | 1. sheet with 2 values of 0.50 Kčs and with 2 values of 4.00 Kčs | | | |
| | 2. sheet with 2 values of 1.00 Kčs and with 2 values of 2.00 Kčs | | | |
| 18.8 | 70 Years of Czechoslovak Postage Stamp (PRAGA '88) | | 15.00 | |
| | Souvenir sheet with 2 values of 5.00 Kčs | | 10.00 | 40×26 |
| 19.8 | Works of Art at the Museum of Postage Stamps Vávra's House (PRAGA '88) | | | |
| | Souvenir sheet with 2 values of 5.00 Kčs | | 10.00 | 50×40 |
| 26.8 | National Gallery of Prague (PRAGA '88) | | | |
| | Souvenir sheet showing Bacchus and Ariadne by Sebastiano Ricci 2×10.00 Kčs | | 20.00 | 40×50 |
| | Souvenir sheet idem with inscription F I P DAY | | 20.00 | |
| 26.8 | *Peace project of Czech King George from 1462/64 | | | |
| | Souvenir sheet (PRAGA '88) with 4 stamps of 1.60 Kčs imperf. | | 6.40 | |
| 26.8 | *Souvenir sheet INTERKOSMOS imperf. (PRAGA '88) with inscription DAY OF TOPICAL PHILATELY | | 40.00 | |
| 28.9 | Prague Castle | 2 | 2.00 3.00 | 26×40 |
| 19.10 | Historical motives of Bratislava | 2 | 3.00 4.00 | 40×26 |
| 17.11 | Art on Stamps | 3 | 2.00 6.00 7.00 | 40×50 |
| 18.12 | Day of the Czechoslovak Postage stamp | 1 | 1.00 | 49×19 |

*PRAGA '88 issues to be sold to holders of entry ticket.

*(New Issues supplied by G.M. van Zanten,
courtesy Artia of Prague through Adolf Hujer.)*

A NEW FIND SURFACES FROM THE DEPTHS

By Prof. Karel Koníček

Harold McHenry looked through his 1200 power nuclear magnifier and exclaimed "Holy Hradčany!" Never had he seen anything like this before.

Picking up his telephone, he dialed Slavkov in Eastern Moravia, rousing Jaroslav ReKlein from a deep sleep. "Guess what I just discovered?" he yelled.

"Two forgeries in your 'Pošta 1919' collection?" was the response.

"No, no! Listen — you know the vermiel 27½ heller Allegory with the lioness breaking the chain over her head? Well, I've been counting the fibers in the paper and I noticed that each of those stamps contains between 38,004 and 38,392 fibers."

"And you woke me up to tell me that?"

"No, no! Listen — after counting fibers in 262 copies of that stamp, I just happened to discover one that has 41,709 fibers."

"Harold, if that bothers you, take a pair of tweezers and remove 3,300 fibers from that one and let me go back to sleep."

"Jerry, you don't understand. We could be on the verge of a new find! All 262 stamps show the fibers to be of the same variety — jagged comb edges with oblique lines and circles. This one stamp contains a second variety — spongy stems covered with tiny protrusions."

"Sounds to me like the printer got some oversexed paper mixed in with that one!"

Harold paused a moment and then said, "I think I better get a second opinion."

Jerry offered a suggestion. "I know a Hungarian dealer named Bill Svobudapest. But he's in Hong Kong right now attending an auction. I think he's staying at the Hotel Tri-Continental. I may have his phone number. Yes — here it is. Dial PR 88/PTT-13½ × 13¾. If no answer, try 555-1212."

"Good!" Harold acknowledged. "I'll call him right now."

As he hung up, there was a knock on his door. He peered through the eye hole and saw another eye. Opening the door cautiously, he recognized the form of Jane VanZandra.

"Come in quietly," he whispered.

He did not want to open the door wide lest the breeze might blow his paper find out the open window.

Jane slithered in and Harold carefully explained to her what he had discovered.

"Repeat that slowly" she said. "I have to take that down in my Minutes."

After he repeated it seven times, Jane had it all down in her notebook and said, "Let me run this past Charley Kobylowski and see what he thinks."

Harold admonished her, "Not a soul must know about this!"

"Since when has Charley had a soul?" she replied.

Placing the stamp in a glassene envelope inside a manila folder bearing an Artcraft label with an Artia logo, Jane retreated into the darkness of the night. The die had been cast!

Ten days later, Harold's phone rang five times. On the sixth ring, his wife, Meribeth, answered.

"This is the Commissioner's office. Can I help you?"

"Is this you, Meribeth? This is Jane."

"Hello, Jane, what can I do for you?"

"I have something to tell Harold about that allegory stamp of his. Is he there?"

"No," Meribeth replied. "He had to fly down to Mexico City. The Mexican Government is issuing a new stamp worth 10 million pesos. Harold will be helping the printing office fitting all the numerals on the stamp."

Jane listened attentively, then said, "Would you please tell Harold that we had a litmus die test done on the stamp at the Samsonian Institute. They concluded that a centipede had been asleep on the plate. When the press came down on the paper, it squashed the centipede creating a second variety of spongy fibers with tiny protrusions."

After a pause, Jane added, "By the way, tell Harold I think it's strange that the vertical perforations on that one stamp vary in measurements from 9 to 12 while the vertical perfs vary from 1 to 5."

Warning: Any similarity between the characters in this story and those in real life is purely intentional! Have a pleasant and restful summer, everyone!

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

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